



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Mexican Tree Ocotillo

Fouquieria macdougalii

DESCRIPTION: This relative of our local ocotillo can be found growing from the desert around Hermosillo into the tropical deciduous forests of southeastern Sonora. In habitat it can grow into a tree of 20' or more, but in pot culture it can easily be kept at a manageable size. Flowers are bright red, and in clusters at the ends of the stems.

RECOMMENDED USE: Can be kept in a large pot, or use as an accent, or in rock gardens.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: It is frost tender, suffering damage as low temperatures dip below 25°F. Grow it against a protected south-facing wall or boulder, or keep it in a container that can be moved indoors during freezing weather if you live in a colder section of Tucson.



Sun tolerance: This plant thrives in full sun. In filtered light it may grow leggy and bloom less.



Watering and feeding: When in leaf (in warm weather) in a container, treat it almost like a leafy shrub, watering in 2 or 3 times a week. Feed three times yearly if in a container.



Soil requirements: Use a fast draining potting soil.



Pruning: As needed to shape or control.