



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Cochal

Myrtillocactus cochal

DESCRIPTION: This beautiful candelabra cactus is native to the Pacific coast and Vizcaíno region of the Sonoran Desert of Baja California, Mexico. There, plants can grow a hundred branches or more and achieve a size of 6' tall by 10' across. In cultivation they remain smaller. Flowers are white, about an inch across, and somewhat fragrant. The fruit are purple, pea-sized, and very sweet. Flowering occurs throughout much of the warm season.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use as an accent, for its form, or potted specimen.

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CULTURE:



Hardiness: Cochal can take temperatures of 32°F, but should be protected if forecast are for extended freezes, especially 30°F or below.



Sun tolerance: It can take full sun to moderate shade. Too much shade will reduce flowering and cause an open branching habit.



Watering and feeding: Low water use. In a container it will need water about every week. In the ground it may take less, but better growth can be achieved with regular waterings. Container grown plants need yearly fertilizing in the spring.



Soil requirements: Potted plants need a fast-draining potting soil. Most well-drained soils will do for one grown in the ground.



Pruning: Not necessary if planted with room to grow.

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