



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Woolly Jacket Prickly Pear *Opuntia* species

DESCRIPTION: This is a beautiful prickly pear of mysterious origins. Little is written about it. Many prickly pears begin life covered in hair, but grow out of that stage in a few weeks. Woolly Jacket appears to be stuck in that juvenile stage; always furry and never blooming. Its gray-green pads are decorated with persistent tufts of white woolly hairs. Without flowers, it is unknown what species (or hybrid) it really is. Growth is upright at first, but long pads will lean over, touch the ground, and root.

RECOMMENDED USE: This amazing cactus can spread to form a shrubby fence. Grow as an accent or specimen. The white hairs make it a good choice for a night-garden.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: We've tested it down to mid-20'sF.



Sun tolerance: Best form is in full sun.



Watering and feeding: After establishment, water infrequently, but on a regular schedule. No fertilizing is needed.



Soil requirements: Any soil that drains.



Pruning: Any time; as needed to shape.