



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Desert Night-blooming Cereus or Saramatracca *Peniocereus greggii*

DESCRIPTION: This unusual cactus has an aura of mystery about it, as it is rarely seen in the wild. Looking like dead creosote branches, it is not until it blooms that the Desert Night-blooming Cereus becomes obvious. Most of its mass is in a tuber below the ground. Twiggy finger-thick stems can grow up to 5' long. Flowering happens at night, usually occur in June, and blooms are large, white, and fragrant. Golf ball size bright red fruit follow. This species occurs naturally in Arizona to Chihuahua, Zacatecas, and Sonora.

RECOMMENDED USE: Because of its twig-like appearance, Desert Night-blooming Cereus does not show well alone. Use it in a decorative pot or plant in your landscape to enjoy the summer flowers.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Hardy to lower 20's.



Sun tolerance: Does best in full day filtered light.



Watering and feeding: In containers, water 3-5 times a month in the warm months. Keep fairly dry in the winter. Fertilize two to three times a year. Once a month watering is needed when established in the ground.



Soil requirements: Does best in sandy or silty soils with few rocks and little caliche.



Pruning: None necessary.