



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Organpipe Cactus or Pitaya Dulce

Stenocereus thurberi

DESCRIPTION: Organpipe Cactus is a striking Sonoran Desert plant found growing from south-east Arizona to Sinaloa and through most of the Baja peninsula. It has slow growth to 10' or more tall, and branches from near the ground (unlike Saguaros). It can form a clump as wide as it is tall. Other notable differences between this plant and the Saguaro are that it has dark green skin with reddish-black spines. Organpipe Cactus blooms from late April through September or October. Whitish-violet flowers are 1½" side by 3" long, waxy, and have a musky scent that attracts nectar feeding bats, their pollinators. Plants don't usually bloom until 4' tall.

RECOMMENDED USE: Organpipe Cactus makes a great accent plant or for an enhanced desert landscape.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Young plants are tender below 30°F. Can tolerate 26°F on maturing, although tips of older plants may still need protection.



Sun tolerance: Does best in full sun. (See care sheet for transitioning cacti to sun)



Watering and feeding: Can be left to rainfall after established, but will do better if given twice-monthly supplemental water during the growing season. Fertilizing is not necessary.



Soil requirements: Does fine in most well-drained soils.



Pruning: None necessary. Be sure to plant it away from walkways so that removal of branches is not needed.

(over)



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