



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Torch Cacti

Trichocereus hybrids

DESCRIPTION: *Trichocereus* resemble giant hedgehog cacti; most of the parent species are native to Argentina. Clusters of stems grow to about two feet tall before sprawling on the ground. The large flowers come in a wide range of brilliant color combinations rivalling those of orchid cacti. They appear in great profusion (50 or more on a big specimen) two or three days a year and in ones or twos an additional 5 to 30 days a year depending on the particular hybrid and its age.

'**Apricot Glow**' Like a spring sunset: two shades of luminous pastel orange.

'**Bomb Diggity**' Bright yellow.

'**Epic**' A large florescent hot-pink and red flower.

'**First Light**' Soft dawn colors: two shades of pink plus yellow.

'**Flying Saucer**' (aka "B & B's Giant" & given cultivar name by Mark Dimmitt. Glowing pinkish-orange with yellow throat – to 8" diameter or more!

'**Glorious**' Color variable with the weather and difficult to describe. A radiant blend of pink, orange, and lavender. An old hybrid but still one of the best.

'**June Noon**' Hot as the summer sun: petals white with yellow stripes.

'**Lavender**' Large lavender flowers.

'**Mango**' A beautiful yellow-orange.

'**Neon Dawn**' Dazzling pink and lavender. This somewhat smaller plant is more suitable for a pot.

'**Oh, Wow!**' That's what people say when they see it. Incandescent red-pink.

'**Orange Ade**' Rich orangish flowers.

'**Volcanic Sunset**' Like the sunsets on magazine covers: glowing red-orange. Very large, open flowers with recurved petals, and they last two days each.

RECOMMENDED USE: These plants perform much better in the ground, but will do well in a large container (at least 14" for mature clumps). The plant form is an attractive accent even when they are not in bloom. When in bloom they are the center of attention.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Hardy to near 0° F. May require near freezing temperatures to initiate flower buds.



Sun tolerance: They can be adapted to full sun with some difficulty, but light afternoon shade is recommended. The ideal location is under the east edge of a thin-canopied desert tree such as palo verde or mesquite. They will not flower with less than 4 to 5 hours of direct sun a day.



Watering and feeding: Torch cacti prefer more water than Arizona native cacti. For most vigorous growth and flowering water once a week from April to October and feed two or three times a year. Water every two weeks or so.



Soil requirements: Good drainage essential, otherwise not particular.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: These plants will need protection from afternoon sun for the first summer. Placing a few desert broom or creosote branches on the west side of the plant is sufficient.