



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Desert Zinnia or Zinia

Zinnia acerosa

DESCRIPTION: Desert Zinnia is found throughout our region from the desert floor up into the grassland zone. It is often common on limestone or caliche. It is a small, woody, evergreen perennial, reaching as much as 2' across, but usually smaller. It grows at a moderate rate. Flowers can occur any time, but the best blooms seem to be in late spring and late summer. The flower heads are made of white rays and yellow disks. They are utilized as a nectar source for butterflies such as the Orange Skipperling. The flowers dry and remain on the plant for a number of weeks.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use Desert Zinnia as a mounding ground cover, border, in an enhanced desert landscape or xeriscape, or to attract butterflies.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Desert Zinnia is very hardy in Tucson; to at least 20°F.



Sun tolerance: Best flowering and growth form when grown in full sun.



Watering and feeding: Can be weaned from irrigation, but will do best with occasional watering. Feeding is not necessary.



Soil requirements: Most soils are okay; even caliche.



Pruning: None necessary.