



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Prairie Zinnia or Zinia

Zinnia grandiflora

DESCRIPTION: This herbaceous perennial with threadlike green foliage is native to southeastern Arizona grasslands above 4000 feet. From May through October the plants are covered with 1-inch yellow daisies with darker centers. Flowers are used as a nectar source for butterflies. The plants spread about two feet a year by underground rhizomes. Above 4000 feet elevation it forms neat 6" high and wide mounds. In desert heat it has a looser growth form, but is still very attractive.

RECOMMENDED USE: One of the few drought-tolerant ground covers that perform well in desert climates. It is low enough that many other plants such as bulbs can grow up through it.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Hardy to below 0°F, but dies back to ground in winter. It will resprout in the spring.



Sun tolerance: Full sun is best; tolerates part shade but will be leggy and flower less.



Watering and feeding: Very deep rooted and drought tolerant, but flowers only with rain or irrigation. Once per two weeks is sufficient for continuous flowering; much less for maintenance.



Soil requirements: Does best in heavy, hard soils, where it needs the least water. It gets very leggy in rich soil.



Pruning: Remove dead material each winter for more vigorous regrowth.