



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Candelabra Spurge

Euphorbia lactea

DESCRIPTION: Also known as Mottled Spurge and Dragon Bones, Candelabra Spurge is a cactus-like plant with 3- or 4-angled branches that are deeply scalloped with black spines. This many-branched succulent shrub grows to 20 or more feet tall in habitat, but in cultivations is usually 7 feet tall at most. It is a native of India and Sri Lanka (also naturalized in the Caribbeans). Like cacti, to which they are not related, they have developed similar compact forms with reduced surface for less water loss. Also, green stems replacing leaves in food manufacturing. A well-known crested, variegated form is the infamous "White Ghost"

Note: All plant parts are considered poisonous, especially the white, milky sap. It is irritating to the skin, eyes and mouth.

RECOMMENDED USE: Because it is not frost hardy, it is best kept as a containerized patio plant.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Protect from freezing temperatures.



Sun tolerance: The green form can take full sun to partial shade. However, variegated forms will burn with afternoon sun and do best in all-day filtered shade.



Watering and feeding: The plant should be allowed to dry thoroughly between waterings. In the winter months, water should be restricted. Fertilize once a month during warm weather.



Soil requirements: Use a fast-draining potting soil.



Pruning: For crested plants, remove any stems which revert to normal growth.