



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Long-spined Prickly Pear

Opuntia macrocentra

DESCRIPTION: This attractive prickly pear grows in clumps, up to about 3' tall and wide. Pads can vary from grey-green to purplish, often becoming more violet with cold temperatures. These pads are also covered with large, black and white spines. Flowers appear in late spring, and are yellow with red centers. Blooming occurs from April through June. Long-spined Prickly Pear is native from south-central Arizona to western Texas.

RECOMMENDED USE: Long-Spined Prickly Pear makes a good small accent, for its form and pad color, and for enhanced desert landscaping or xeriscaping.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Down to at least 15°F.



Sun tolerance: Growth form, pad color, and flowering is best in full sun.



Watering and feeding: Long-spined Prickly Pear is very drought tolerant, needing little to no water once fully established.



Soil requirements: It will tolerate poor soils that are well drained.



Pruning: None necessary.