



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Slipper Flower or Candelilla *Pedilanthus macrocarpus*

DESCRIPTION: Slipper Flower has a moderate growth rate to 3' tall or more, forming clumps of erect, blue-green stems a foot or more across. The flowers are quite unusual looking and red in color. Hummingbirds are its pollinator during the May through September flowering period. Even the fruit is strikingly interesting; knobby and red. It is native to the Viscaíno Desert in Baja California, and along the coast of Sonora, Mexico, south of Guaymas. The Sonoran populations tend to have long, curvy, green-colored stems.

RECOMMENDED USE: Rock or succulent garden, container, accent.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: This plant is hardy to around 22°F. Options for cold sites could include covering it on freezing nights, planting it in a warm microclimate, or keeping it in a container that can be moved.



Sun tolerance: It can be grown in light shade, or part-day sun, but may not keep the tight, upright form that it has in full sun.



Watering and feeding: Water use in the ground can be minimal, although it responds to regular water in the warm seasons. Fertilization is recommended twice a year in containers.



Soil requirements: It can be grown in any well drained soil. In a pot, use a cactus mix with a small percentage of desert soil.



Pruning: Prune floppy or broken stems or frost damage.