



ARIZONA-SONORA
DESERT
MUSEUM

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PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Devil's Tongue Barrel or Biznaga
Ferocactus latispinus

DESCRIPTION: An attractive barrel cactus with an extensive natural distribution in central and southern Mexico is the Devil's Tongue Barrel. It normally remains a solitary plant and is modest-sized for a barrel cactus (around a foot in diameter). Of several central spines on each areole one is conspicuously wide and flat and hooked or curved at the end. This prominent spine is usually red, but may be yellow. Most species of *Ferocactus* flower in spring or summer, but Devil's Tongue Barrel consistently blooms in the late fall through mid-winter. Flowers are about an inch and a half across and rich-purple, providing a welcome burst of color at a time of year when not many cacti are in bloom.

RECOMMENDED USE: Can be planted out in the garden for landscaping or used as a patio plant. It makes for a nice accent or potted specimen.

(over)



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CULTURE:



Hardiness: Devil's Tongue Barrel is hardy in Tucson down to at least 17°F.



Sun tolerance: It does best, having the most natural growth and best spines, when grown in full sun to very light shade.



Watering and feeding: In a pot, water weekly during the warm weather. In the ground, it may require less, but may benefit from at least twice monthly watering. Water can be cut off in the cold, damp times of winter. Twice yearly fertilization is needed in containers, but not in the ground.



Soil requirements: Any soil that drains is fine for ground culture. For containers, it requires a porous cactus soil with additional drainage as can be supplied by perlite, pumice, or coarse sand.



Pruning: None necessary.

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