



ARIZONA-SONORA  
DESERT  
MUSEUM

## ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

### **Boojum or Cirio** *Fouquieria columnaris*

**DESCRIPTION:** The boojum grows throughout the Vizcaino region of the Sonoran Desert in Baja California, and in a single mountain range on the coast of northern Sonora, Mexico. In habitat it can grow to 25' tall or more, with occasional giant reaching 80'. Side branches can spread out 3 feet or more in all directions. Growth rate is painfully slow in the early years, picking up to moderate as the plant reaches a foot tall. It is adapted for cool weather growth, putting on leaves around September, achieving stem growth in February to early April, and dropping leaves in late April for its summer dormancy. Flowering occurs on older plants (5' and taller) in August. Flowers are small and white and appear on small, twiggy inflorescences at the top.

**RECOMMENDED USE:** Use as a landscape accent or rock garden specimen, or in container culture.

#### **CULTURE:**



**Hardiness** Young plants (< 1' tall) should be protected against freezes below 25°F. Larger plants can take temperatures down in to the lower 20's.



**Sun tolerance:** Full sun is best, as too much shade can lead to leggy growth and poor health\*.



**Watering and feeding:** Give very little water when deciduous. In the ground, give deep waterings every 2-3 weeks when in leaf. In containers, water thoroughly about once a week. It is possible to keep them in leaf later into the spring, but watering should be cut back to about once every 3-4 weeks once leaves drop. Fertilize between November and February.



**Soil requirements:** Sandy, well-drained soil in the ground. They do their best in the wild in deep soils of decomposed granite. In containers, use a loose potting soil with sand or pumice added.



**Pruning:** None needed.