



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Moon Cactus

Harrisia pomanensis

DESCRIPTION: Moon Cactus is a clambering or mat-forming tropical cactus group native to tropical America. It grows quickly, several feet a year, and can be trained to climb trellises or trees. The large flowers open at night. Blooms are funnel shaped and white or pink, with a tinge of white. They grow singly near the ends of the stems and are several inches in length, attracting numerous moths. Round red fruits up to 2” across have scattered bumps with hairs and spines and are sweet and edible. Numerous small black seeds are embedded in the white, juicy pulp of the fruit which splits open when ripe.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use as an accent climbing up in a tree or on a trellise for its form. Impressive with its colorful flowers and fruit.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Winter hardy to around 22-25°F.



Sun tolerance: Full morning sun to moderate shade.



Watering and feeding: Low water use, but best growth and flowering if given regular watering. Fertilization not necessary.



Soil requirements: Any soil that drains.



Pruning: As necessary to control.