



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Sonoran Tree Beargrass or Palmilla *Nolina matapensis*

DESCRIPTION: Although, at first glance it may be confused for a yucca, this fantastic accent plant is actually a Beargrass. Like many yuccas, Sonoran Tree Beargrass will eventually form a trunk and can reach a size up to 15 feet in the garden. The dark green leaves are about 1 inch wide and up to 5 feet long. New leaves are upright while older leaves spread out and cascade over the trunk. The leaf edges are sharp and can cause paper cuts if one is not careful. The branched flower stock is about 4 feet tall. The seeds form inside papery fruit. It is found in woodlands from 3500 to 6000 ft. elevation in Sonora and Chihuahua, Mexico.

RECOMMENDED USE: Sonoran Tree Beargrass can be used as an accent plant or as a focal point in a landscape. Several plants can be massed together to create an impressive grouping. It can also be planted among other desert plants.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Hardy down to 15°F.



Sun tolerance: Full sun to very light shade.



Watering and feeding: Growth rate can be increased by monthly, thorough irrigations during the summer months. It is quite drought tolerant once established, surviving on 11 inches of annual rainfall.



Soil requirements: Well-drained soil.



Pruning: Dead leaves will persist on the trunk, but they do not need to be removed unless you object to the "shaggy" appearance. The old leaves will eventually fall off by themselves.