



# ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

## PLANT CARE INFORMATION

### Golden Prickly Pear

*Opuntia aurea*

**DESCRIPTION:** Although referred to commonly as a type of Beavertail Cactus, this prickly pear is more closely related to Great Plains or Grizzly Bear Prickly Pear (*Opuntia erinacea*). It forms small, low clumps with trailing branches. The greenish-blue pads are spineless, but are armed with tiny glochids. Flowers occur in late winter to early spring and are golden yellow (sometimes magenta if of hybrid origin with *O. erinacea*). This species comes from all desert regions from Nevada, California, NW Arizona, and northwestern Mexico.

**RECOMMENDED USE:** Use in an enhanced desert landscape or xeriscape, or in a patio container.

#### CULTURE:



**Hardiness:** Down to 10°F.



**Sun tolerance:** Can be adapted to full sun, but may do better under very light shade.



**Watering and feeding:** Once established water once a month in the ground (more often if kept in a container). No feeding is necessary in the ground.



**Soil requirements:** Does best in sandy, well-drained soils.



**Pruning:** None necessary.



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**Yellow or Creeping Beavertail**  
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