



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Madagascar Palm *Pachypodium* species

DESCRIPTION: This Madagascar Palm is a species originating from Southwest Madagascar, where it is one of the largest of the Madagascar Palm species. It is a spiny succulent shrubs (or tree) known for its swollen, twisted stems and beautiful flowers. It usually forms a single metallic grey trunk to 8 feet or more tall with a tuft of leaves at the top. It has a. Leaves are thin and grey-green, with a bright pink mid-rib. Fast growing, at up to a foot a year, it loses its leaves in winter if dried out. It flowers only when around 10 years old and 5-8 feet tall; flowers are white and in clusters.

RECOMMENDED USE: Beautiful conversation pieces for large containers. For a very bright room or seasonally on a patio.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Very frost tender; must be brought indoors for winter.



Sun tolerance: Adaptable to full sun if not rotated during summer; watch for sunburning of stem by late summer afternoon sun and protect if necessary. Part shade is acceptable but stems will be thinner.



Watering and feeding: Water and feed generously in hot weather; little or not at all when dormant. Madagascar Palm grows so tall it may topple in the wind unless it is in a very massive pot. Grow in a sheltered spot or tie it to a stake hidden behind the plant. It is safest to dry the plant out and let the leaves drop in the winter to prevent crown rot.



Soil requirements: Any well-drained potting mix.



Pruning: Do not prune unless the stem becomes leggy. Topping *P. geayi* usually results in two to four branches; a good solution for plants that have grown too tall.