



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Senita or Sinita

Pachycereus (Lophocereus) schottii

DESCRIPTION: Senita has a slow to moderate growth rate to 6' or more (15' tall or more plants have been seen in habitat). It forms clumps by branching, usually near the base. Stems are few-ribbed and short-spined. New growth may appear to have a purple tint, maturing to a powdery light-green color. Long, shaggy spines occur on the upper reaches of older plants, and it is among these spines that most flowering occurs. The flowers are greyish-white and about 1" across. They have a slight fragrance and attract moths, their primary pollinator. Flowering usually occurs any time from April to October. Plants rarely bloom until they are 3' or taller. Senita is native throughout the Sonoran Desert in Sonora and Baja California, and in thornscrub and tropical deciduous forests in lower Sonora. The species just makes it into Arizona in Organ Pipe National Monument.

RECOMMENDED USE: Accent, background, xeriscape, enhanced desert revegetation, containers.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Senita can take short durations of temperatures of 24°F with little or no damage. Protect the recent year's growth if a hard freeze is expected.



Sun tolerance: It does best in full sun.*



Watering and feeding: In pot culture, water thoroughly at least once a week during warm weather, and feed twice a season with a complete plant food. In the ground, it can subsist on rainfall once established, but grows faster when given occasional waterings.



Soil requirements: Most soils are fine, as long as there is good drainage. Use a cactus mix with a small percentage of desert soil for a potted specimen.



Pruning: None necessary.

*Please note if there is an "S" marked on the container. This denotes which side has been facing south in our nursery. Keep this orientation to prevent sunburning. Whether or not there is an "S", we recommend that you acclimatize your plant gradually to the sun. Ask for the care sheet entitled "Hardening Greenhouse-Grown Succulents for the Garden".