



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Passion Flower or Ojo de Venado *Passiflora mexicana*

DESCRIPTION: This species of Passion Flower vine can be found scattered throughout the desert grasslands in southern Arizona and Sonora in those uncommon spots where soil stays moist much of the year such as springs and wet canyons. It is a rapid grower and climber, especially once the humid summer monsoon period begins. This vine can grow to 15 feet or more in a season, but is never aggressive to the point of damaging a support plant. It is perennial, but may die back to the ground if stressed. It is an irresistible attraction to Gulf Fritillary and possibly Zebra butterflies, which use it as larval food. The blooms are only about an inch across, and are dark green with maroon filaments. Unfortunately, the odor of the flowers is pungent and unpleasant to most of us.

RECOMMENDED USE: A good summer cover for trellises. It will also climb into shrubs and trees. Note: You may want to plant this Passion Flower away from, and downwind of patios, because of the flower odor.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Evergreen unless frozen or dried out; roots are hardy to at least low 20's.



Sun tolerance: Light to moderate shade



Watering and feeding: Moderate water use. Feed in the spring and summer.



Soil requirements: It will tolerate a variety of soils, but well-drained is best.



Pruning: In early spring prune to remove frost damage.