



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Tall Slipper Plant or Candelilla *Pedilanthus bracteatus*

DESCRIPTION: Tall Slipper Flower is a great succulent that can thrive in a variety of exposures. This is a thicker, more substantial cousin of *P. macrocarpus*, has a moderate growth rate to 5' tall or more, with erect green stems forming clumps a foot or more across. Unlike its cousin, this species has ovate leaves, with a thick prominent mid-vein on the lower surface, that occur just near the branch tips. In full sun it will stay in leaf through the warm season, although they will produce more leaves in the shade. Tall Slipper Plant is also a great bloomer. You can expect to have the red-orange flower bracts grace your plants from late spring through the fall. Hummingbirds are its pollinator. Even the fruit is strikingly interesting; knobby and reddish. It is native to dry deciduous woodlands in Mexico from Sonora to Guerrero.

RECOMMENDED USE: Great choice for containers or in the ground in a rock or succulent garden.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: This plant is hardy to around 20-25°F. Options for cold sites could include covering it on freezing nights, planting it in a warm microclimate, or keeping it in a container that can be moved.



Sun tolerance: It can be grown in full sun to light shade. In more shade it may not keep the tight, upright form that it has in brighter locations.



Watering and feeding: Water sparingly in the ground depending on drainage and weather. Fertilization is recommended twice a year in containers.



Soil requirements: It should be grown in well-drained soil. In a pot, use a cactus mix with a small percentage of desert soil.



Pruning: Prune floppy or broken stems or frost damage.