



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Dwarf Organ Pipe Cactus or Pitaya Dulce *Stenocereus thurberi* var. *littoralis*

DESCRIPTION: This is a diminutive relative of the large organ pipe cactus that is found throughout the Sonoran Desert. This variety is found at the southern tip of Baja California Sur. It forms clumps that resemble a large hedgehog cactus, reaching from 3 to 6 feet tall. Flowers differ from the larger organ pipe cactus in being smaller and brilliant purple. Fruit are also purple, the size of a large grape, and very sweet.

RECOMMENDED USE: Should be kept in a large pot, unless planted in a warm site.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: It is somewhat frost tender and can suffer damage as low temperatures dip into the 20's. In the ground, grow it against a protected south-facing wall or boulder, or preferably, keep it in a container that can be moved indoors during freezing weather.



Sun tolerance: This plant thrives in full sun or filtered light. Too much shade will make it grow leggy and bloom less.



Watering and feeding: Watering is approximately weekly in warm weather. Fertilize twice during warm weather for containerized plants.



Soil requirements: Use a fast draining potting soil for containers.



Pruning: None necessary.