



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

African Milk Tree

Euphorbia trigona

DESCRIPTION: Although it resembles one, the African milk tree is not a cactus at all. It is a succulent spurge with 3-angled branches that are deeply scalloped with short spines. It grows to heights of six to eight feet with tightly held branches. Small leaves cover the edges and ends of the actively growing stalks and arms. It is a lush green plant with lighter green striations through the stalks. A well-known crested, variegated form is the infamous 'White Ghost'. African Milk Tree is native to Africa.

RECOMMENDED USE: Because it is not frost hardy, it is best kept as a containerized patio plant or a low-maintenance, beautifully exotic houseplant with a tropical look about it.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Protect from freezing temperatures.



Sun tolerance: The green form can take filtered sun to partial shade. However, variegated forms will burn with afternoon sun and do best in all-day filtered shade.



Watering and feeding: The plant should be allowed to dry thoroughly between waterings. In the winter months, water should be restricted. Fertilize once a month during warm weather.



Soil requirements: Use a fast-draining potting soil.



Pruning: As needed to shape. **Note:** All plant parts are considered poisonous; especially the white, milky sap. It is irritating to the skin, eyes and mouth.