



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Fishhook Barrel or Biznaga de Agua *Ferocactus wislizeni*

DESCRIPTION: Fishhook Barrel is found throughout the Arizona Upland portion of the Sonoran Desert, and higher into the grasslands and Chihuahuan Desert. It has a slow to moderate growth rate, up to 5' or more tall, and 2' wide. It has a deeply pleated surface with stout, hooked spines which start red and fade to gray. Blooming begins in July or August and continues for up to 8 weeks. Flowers vary within the species from yellow, orange, red, to coppery. Many insect species visit the flowers, but bees are the main pollinators. Fruit ripen in late fall and winter. The rind is edible and has a lemony taste. The seeds are high in oil. An unusual form, CSSA Yellow Fishhook Barrel, is now available. Not only does it have bright yellow flowers, but the spines are yellow also.

RECOMMENDED USE: Accent, container, desert enhancement or revegetation

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Fishhook barrel is hardy to at least 15°F.



Sun tolerance: Full sun or light shade produce the healthiest plants and best flowering. Please note if there is an “S” marked on the pot or box. This denotes which side has been facing south in the 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.



Watering and feeding: For potted plants, regular watering during the warm season is required. It can be adapted to unwatered desert conditions in the ground, but will grow faster if given occasional soaks. Fertilization is not necessary in the ground, although once or twice per year feeding is recommended for pot culture.



Soil requirements: Fishhook Barrel is adaptable to any soil, as long as it is fairly well drained.



Pruning: None