



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Feather Cactus

Mammillaria plumosa

DESCRIPTION: Feather Cactus are clumping plants forming low, dense mounds to 16" wide. The interlacing feathery spines of this cactus are also usually a very pure white color but they are prone to staining from watering from above or becoming dusty. The growth of the spines is not just attractive but it serves a purpose, they've adapted to grow out in this manner to provide shade for the plant. The cute and cuddly appearance of the Feather Cactus is a bit deceiving as it has sharp spines below the innocent looking surface. The colors of the flower for this cactus vary from white to ivory or pink. Some say they have a strong sweet scent. *Mammillaria plumosa* is native to Nuevo Leon, Mexico.

RECOMMENDED USE: This species may be hardy enough to use as an accent in a shaded rock garden, but it performs better in a container.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Protect below freezing.



Sun tolerance: Can tolerate full sun, but does best in light afternoon shade. Too much shade will cause new growth to be less spiny and white.



Watering and feeding: *Mammillaria plumosa* is a rot prone species when it gets too much water. It needs regular water in summer but for best appearance, keep water off of the spines. Once to twice a year feeding with a complete fertilizer, or monthly with a weak solution will keep them healthy.



Soil requirements: A good fast draining cacti and succulent soil mix is needed to grow this plant.



Pruning: None necessary.