



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Pincushion Cacti

Mammillaria species

DESCRIPTION: Southwestern United States and Mexico is a region rich with species of Pincushion Cacti; over 50 in just the Sonoran Desert region, according to some taxonomists. The plants vary from solitary stems to clumps of 50 or more. Individual stems can vary from marble sized in some species to grapefruit sized or larger in others. Flower color varies by species although blooming times are often simultaneous. Fruit are usually round or elongated and orange to red.

RECOMMENDED USE: Many are hardy enough to use as an accent in a rock garden or enhanced desert revegetation, but most perform better in containers.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Hardiness is quite variable for Pincushion species. Those we offer are hardy from mid-30's down into the upper 20's here in Tucson.



Sun tolerance: They all do best in light shade, at least protected from afternoon sun.



Watering and feeding: In a pot, water 3-6 times a month during the warm season. Soil should be a cactus mix or potting soil with added pumice or coarse sand. Once to twice a year feeding with a complete fertilizer, or monthly with a weak solution will keep them healthy. No feeding is necessary in the ground and it will tolerate most soils that have adequate drainage, but don't neglect watering in those cases.



Soil requirements: Any soil which drains for ground culture. Use a cactus mix in containers.



Pruning: None needed.