



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Sensitive Plant or Dormilona de Agua

Neptunia plena

DESCRIPTION: This plant can be a sprawling or erect perennial herb or small shrub. Its flowers are rich yellow "Mimosa-like" pompoms. The name refers to the leaflets reaction to being touched. As with the well-known sensitive plant (*Mimosa pudica*), they close when lightly touched. Greater disturbance causes the petioles to droop as though wilted and ready to fall from the plant. If left undisturbed for about ten minutes, the leaves rise and open again, giving it another common name of Water Dead or Water Awake. The leaves also fold and droop at night, and when exposed to cold. This Sensitive Plant is native to moist areas in the coastal thornscrub of southern Sonora, Baja California, Mexico, and in southern Texas, south to South America and in India.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use in a container, along the banks of a water feature, or free-floating in a pond.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Hardy down to around freezing. If frozen, it may resprout or return from seed.



Sun tolerance: Prefers full sun, but can take light shade.



Growing conditions: High water use. Plant on margins of stream or pond, in the shallows under few inches of water, or unpot and allow to float freely (see the Aquatic Plants information page; microhabitats #2, #3, and #4). This species fixes its own nitrogen, so fertilizing is not recommended.



Pruning: To control size or to remove frost damage.