



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Purple Beavertail or Nopal *Opuntia basilaris* × *O. santa-rita*

DESCRIPTION: This is a very vigorous, fast growing hybrid, forms mounds to about 2 feet tall and several feet across. Its parents are the Beavertail Prickly Pear from western Arizona and north-western Sonora, and the Santa Rita Prickly Pear from the grasslands of southern Arizona and northern Sonora. Pads are similar in shape to the Beavertail but have the rich, purple color of the Santa Rita Prickly Pear. It is extremely floriferous, with deep pink blooms in late March or early April.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use as a small accent, for its form, for its stem and flower color, in an enhanced desert landscape or xeriscape, or in a patio container.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: At least down to 20°F.



Sun tolerance: Full sun is vital for good growth and bloom.



Watering and feeding: Water once a month between April and June (more often if kept in a container). No feeding is necessary in the ground.



Soil requirements: Does best in sandy, well-drained soils.



Pruning: None necessary, but with its glochids (tiny spines) it should be planted away from paths.