



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Mexican Night-blooming Cereus

Peniocereus serpentinus

DESCRIPTION: Also known as Snake or Serpent Cactus, this species is native to tropical areas of southern Mexico and it is widely cultivated because of its flowers. It is a fast-growing slender, shrubby columnar cactus that grows often in groups. It is erect at first, but will lay down without some support. Mexican Night-blooming Cereus bears large, nocturnal flowers. They are funnellform, white with pinkish outside segments up to 3” in diameter. The flowers are said to be very fragrant, like gardenias. Edible, red, egg-shaped fruit may be produced.

RECOMMENDED USE: It is best planted where it can clamber up a tree or tie it to a trellis. It would be good for a large hanging basket. It blooms readily and makes a great night-garden accent.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Sustains damage below 24°F but can regrow readily from the large tuberose roots.



Sun tolerance: Best in light shade; at least for the afternoon.



Watering and feeding: Low water use, but appreciates regular irrigation. Fertilization not needed in the ground.



Soil requirements: Any soil in the ground; in pots use a fast draining potting mix.



Pruning: Any time as needed.