



ARIZONA-SONORA
DESERT
MUSEUM

ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Santa Maria Barrel Cactus *Ferocactus santa-maria*

DESCRIPTION: Santa Maria Barrel is native to Mexico, around Santa Maria Bay in Baja California Sur. In habitat it is a massively spined barrel cactus, usually unbranched, growing to 2½ feet tall. Blossoms occur in August or September. They are yellow or straw-yellow with a pale-red center line on the petals and pleasant-smelling. Fleshy yellow or yellowish green fruits follow. It is slow growing to start, but it does well under cultivation.

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

CULTURE:



Hardiness: It can tolerate sporadic light frosts of the mid-20's, especially if kept dry.



Sun tolerance: Full sun to very light shade



Watering and feeding: Don't hesitate to water it well during warm weather to encourage growth and flowering. But it's necessary to avoid wetting the bodies of these plants while they are in sunlight.



Soil requirements: Use very well-drained soil.



Pruning: