



ARIZONA-SONORA
DESERT
MUSEUM

ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

‘Old Mexico’ Prickly Pear *Opuntia* species

DESCRIPTION: *Opuntia* sp. ‘Old Mexico’ appears to be a spineless selection of *Opuntia gomei*, a native just barely to the southernmost coast of Texas and more abundantly in Mexico down into Tamaulipas. The cultivar name comes from Helen Wynans, a cactus dealer in Brownsville in the 1970's and 80's. This spineless form is very tolerant of heat and sun, but will also grow well in partial shade. The pads have an undulating, wavy edge that is quite attractive. It can grow to 4-6’ tall. Yellow blooms are produced in the late spring and early summer. This plant will perform well in the ground or also in containers.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use as an accent, specimen, for its form, as a screen or barrier, or in an enhanced desert landscape or xeriscape.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Winter hardy to at least 20⁰F.



Sun tolerance: Full sun to very light shade.



Watering and feeding: Little needed once established, but extra water during the dry summer months is encouraged to lessen desiccation. Fertilizing is not needed.



Soil requirements: Any soil will do.



Pruning: Prune off pads at the joints as needed.