



ARIZONA-SONORA
DESERT
MUSEUM

ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Candle Cactus *Cleistocactus candelilla*

DESCRIPTION: *Cleistocactus* is a popular cactus genus containing between 50 and 100 species. Candle Cactus is the descriptive common name of several species with long, narrow upright stems. They are often topped with bright pink, orange, or red, tubular flowers. *Cleistocactus candelaria* can grow 3' on its own, and taller if growing against a shrub or tree for support. It forms thickets by branching from the base or leaning over and taking root. Flowers are brilliant red-orange tubes and occur throughout the warm season. They attract hummingbirds. Most *Cleistocactus* are native to high mountain regions of Bolivia and Argentina.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use in a landscape for its form, beautiful spines, and flowers. It can also be grown in containers; staked upright or allowed to drape.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Very hardy, down to at least 15F.



Sun tolerance: Strong sunlight is fine, but not reflected heat.



Watering and feeding: In its natural habitat it receives plenty of water during the summer, but almost none over the winter. In cultivation, watering too much in winter often leads to root rot. Fertilize yearly during the growing season.



Soil requirements: The cactus prefers free draining soils,



Pruning: None necessary.