



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Diamond Cholla *Cylindropuntia ramosissima*

DESCRIPTION: Relatively thin, green stems with diamond-shaped tubercles outlined in tan mark the Diamond Cholla. Central spines are pink or yellow and sheathed. It can grow to 4-ft tall, but often stays smaller. With the diamond-shaped stem markings, right-angled stems, and glistening spines, this species' form is quite striking. Diamond Cholla is native to Joshua Tree woodlands of the Mohave Desert and creosote bush scrub in the Sonoran Desert. It is found on dry slopes, mesas and washes at elevations to 4000'. The blooming period is from April to May. Flowers are yellow-orange to red. It requires dry soil and can tolerate drought.

RECOMMENDED USE: Can be used in desert or xeriscape landscaping, rock garden, or as a potted accent.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Frost hardy to at least 20° F.



Sun tolerance: It cannot grow in the shade. Keep in full sun or light shade to maintain good growth and flowering.



Watering and feeding: Once established, it can get by with little or no water. In containers, water up to once a week during the hottest months. Fertilizing is not necessary unless kept in a pot.



Soil requirements: In the ground, Diamond Cholla prefers light, sandy to sandy-loam soil that is well-drained. Use well-drained potting mix for containers.



Pruning: None necessary.



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