



## ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

### Baja Strawberry Hedgehog or Casa de Rata *Echinocereus brandegeei*

**Description:** While nearly all other hedgehog cacti species flower in spring, Baja Strawberry Hedgehog blooms for a month between late June and September. The three-inch ruffled flowers are brilliant magenta or deep pink with red centers. The clumping stems start out erect, but soon lay down and trail for a foot or more. The spines on the new growth are particularly beautiful, varying in color and texture from plant to plant. It is native to the Vizcaíno portion of the Sonoran Desert in central Baja California, where it often grows with and looks much like devil's club cholla, *Grusonia invicta*, which grows with it.

**RECOMMENDED USE:** Grow in a container, down low or hanging, or in the ground.

#### CULTURE:



**Hardiness:** In pots, protect from freeze damage at 25-28° F. Plants grown in the ground are not as frost sensitive.



**Sun tolerance:** Best in full sun to light afternoon shade.



**Watering and feeding:** Water plants, in the ground, every one to three weeks during hot weather. For pot culture, watering needs to be more frequent in warm weather. Fertilization is probably not necessary in the ground, but would help containerized plants. Use a low dose of complete fertilizer once a month during the growing season.



**Soil requirements:** Plant in any well-drained soil. For pot culture, use a fast draining potting mix.



**Pruning:** None is necessary.