



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Mezcalito

Hechtia montana

DESCRIPTION: Mezcalito is in the Pineapple Family (which also includes “air plants”). The leaves are fiercely toothed; rosettes growing up to a foot or so across. They clump readily and can be divided. Like some Agaves, Mezcalito was utilized as a food source by some Sonoran native peoples. 2’ open inflorescences are airy, with small whitish flowers. This is a terrestrial species found in semi-tropical areas of Sonora and Baja California Sur.

RECOMMENDED USE: Can be in a landscape or rock garden in a warm microclimate. Best for a potted specimen.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Leaf burn occurs below 25°F and death much below 20.



Sun tolerance: Can take some sun, but is better in light shade, at least for the afternoon.



Watering and feeding: Low water use. Fertilize monthly in warm weather.



Soil requirements: Needs very well-drained soil.



Pruning: Only to remove spent flower stalks.