



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Candelabra Cactus or Bazto *Myrtillocactus geometrizans*

DESCRIPTION: This beautiful candelabra cactus, also known as Blue Myrtle, is native to San Luis Potosi and Tamaulipas, south into central Mexico. There, plants can grow a hundred branches or more and achieve a size of 20' tall by 25' across. In cultivation they usually remain smaller. Flowers are whitish, about an inch across and somewhat fragrant. The fruit are purple, pea-sized, and very sweet. Flowering occurs throughout much of the warm season. There is also an unusual crested form in cultivation.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use as an accent, for its form, or potted specimen.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Candelabra Cactus can take low temperatures of 26°F, but should be protected if forecast are for extended freezes.



Sun tolerance: It can take full sun to light shade. Too much shade will reduce flowering and cause an open branching habit.



Watering and feeding: Low water use. In a container it will need water about every week. In the ground it may take less, but better growth can be achieved with regular waterings. Container grown plants need yearly fertilizing in the spring.



Soil requirements: Potted plants need a fast-draining potting soil. Most well-drained soils will do for one grown in the ground.



Pruning: Not necessary if planted with room to grow.