



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Beaver Tail Cactus or Nopal *Opuntia basilaris*

DESCRIPTION: This attractive prickly pear species is low growing, from 2-3 feet high, spreading several feet across. The flattened pads are grey-green to purplish and have tiny glochids instead of long spines. The flowers are large and magenta in color, blooming in late winter or early spring. A dwarf form has miniature pads and grown only a foot or so tall. Beaver Tail Cactus comes from all desert regions from Nevada, California, Arizona, and northwestern Mexico.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use as a small accent, for its form, for its stem and flower color, in an enhanced desert landscape or xeriscape, or in a patio container.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Down to 15°F.



Sun tolerance: Full sun is vital for good growth and bloom.



Watering and feeding: Water once a month between April and June (more often if kept in a container). No feeding is necessary in the ground.



Soil requirements: Does best in sandy, well-drained soils.



Pruning: None necessary.