



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Violet Prickly Pear or Duraznilla *Opuntia gosseliniana*

DESCRIPTION: This beautiful prickly pear is not nearly as common in horticulture as its cousin, the Santa Rita Prickly Pear. It is somewhat similar in appearance, having rounded pads with a bluish-violet color, but differs in having long spines, and eventually forms a small trunk draped with these spines. It grows at a moderate rate to as much as 4' by 4'. It often stays smaller and is easy to keep at a particular size. Flowers are bright yellow and appear in April or May. The Violet Prickly Pear is native to the Plains of Sonora region of the Sonoran Desert; a large radius around Hermosillo, Sonora.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use Violet Prickly Pear as an accent, rock garden, or in an enhanced desert landscape. Can also be kept in a large container on a patio.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: It is hardy to at least 15°F.



Sun tolerance: It gets its best growth when grown in full sun to very light shade.



Watering and feeding: Water once every week or two the first growing season (spring-early fall). Once established it can get by on rainfall. Fertilizing is not necessary unless kept in a pot.



Soil requirements: It does best in well-drained soil, but can grow on most soil types.



Pruning: To limit size, knock off new pads as they emerge in the spring.