



## ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

### **Totem Pole Cactus or Garambullo** *Lophocereus (Pachycereus) schottii* forma *monstrosus*

**DESCRIPTION.** This bizarre mutant of the senita cactus grows only in two small areas in Baja California. The columnar stems are covered with smooth knobs and look like they were molded of soft wax. They are nearly spineless, but eventually may grow some semi-normal stems that will bloom with the typical small white flowers. The plants grow slowly to over ten feet in height, the skin bronzing with age. Another form is Slender Totem Pole (*Lophocereus mieckleyanus*) that has stems 1/3 the diameter of the typical Totem Pole.

**RECOMMENDED USE.** Excellent conversation piece to use as a bold accent in the ground or large container. Also good for xeriscape or enhanced desert revegetation.

#### CULTURE



**Hardiness:** Hardy down to 18°F. Place paper bags, especially double-layered pet food bags, over stems to protect the growing tips if it gets colder.



**Sun tolerance:** Full sun to very light shade.



**Watering and feeding:** Low water usage; the species survives in nature on less than five inches of rain per year. Let the soil dry completely before watering. These plants will literally split open with overwatering. Fertilize lightly once a month during the growing season.



**Soil requirements:** Well-drained. In containers, use a cactus potting soil.



**Pruning:** Not usually required. It is the nature of the plant to eventually lean over when it reaches over 6' tall. Staking or pruning may be necessary at that time.