

Pachycereus schottii

Senita Cactus



Cactuses are popular choices to plant in pots or in gardens for ornamental effect. They often have succulent stems, are commonly covered with thorns, and give delicate flowers. Most plants of the Cactaceae family are resistant to drought, need sufficient sunlight, and are easy to care for.

Senita Cactus (*Pachycereus schottii*) is a large, relatively rare cactus species that grows throughout the arid deserts of the American southwest. The Senita Cactus originates in Baja California. This species has a beneficial relationship with the Senita moth, which pollinates the cactus and eats the flowers during its larval stage.

Plant Characteristics

Duration: Perennial

Habit: Cactus/Succulent

Size Notes: Columnar 3-15ft long, branching from base, erect or straggling. Stems are about 2½in thick.

Flower: Flowers 1.5 inches across 1-1 1/2 inches long.

Size Class: 3-6 ft. , 6-12 ft.

Bloom Information

Bloom Color: Red , Green

Bloom Time: Apr , May , Jun , Jul , Aug

Bloom Notes: Nocturnal blooms from a terminal pseudophalium.



Distribution

USA: AZ

Native Distribution: Found in U.S. only at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in southern Arizona. Also Mexico (Sonora, Baja).

Native Habitat: Hills, plains, slopes in well-drained areas.

Growing Conditions

Water Use: Low

Light Requirement: Part Shade

Soil Moisture: Dry

Conditions Comments: Minimum temperature 50F.

