

Botanical Name: Fouquieria splendens

Common Name: Ocotillo      Family: Fouquieriaceae

Type of Plant: Dicot: shrub      Character: Deciduous

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape Stiff and upright, with long spiny branches radiating from a central base to form a tall striking vase shaped shrub. Generally leafless except after rains

Height: 10-15' (20')      Spread: to 15'      Growth Rate: Moderate

Environment:

Exposure Full sun

Soil Well-draining, found on rocky slopes in native habitat

Hardiness Zones 10-13, 18-20

Morphology:

Leaves Small sessile green leaves along axillary meristems of stems

Flowers Two 1' long terminal flower spikes per each stem bearing many red flowers

Fruit Insignificant

Propagation: Large stem sections, seed

Usage: Specimen or focal point; striking accent in desert landscapes, silhouette & sculptural quality and brilliant flower show after rains. This plant is used as a 'living fence', a formidable barrier plant

Landscape Care:

Watering Appreciates some supplemental water but will withstand much drought

Fertilizing None

Pruning Remove branches to the ground to control spread or when dead

Pests/Diseases Root rot if drainage is poor

Other

Origin: Sonoran and Chihuahuan Deserts from southeastern California to southwest Texas to northern Mexico