

Botanical Name:        Echinocactus grusonii

Common Name:        Golden barrel cactus

Type of Plant:        dicot: succulent    Character        evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape        hemispherical to cylindrical succulent cactus with thick  
longitudinal ribs topped by golden curved spines; very distinctive and  
recognizable; occasionally creates offsets from base of trunk

Height    up to 4 ft.    Spread    up to 3 ft.    Growth Rate    very slow

Environment:

Exposure    outdoor    full sun to partial shade; protect from very hard frost

Soil        prefers a sandy, gritty soil with excellent drainage

Hardiness        some frost, zones 12 to 24

Morphology:

Leaves        no leaves; barrel has 21-37 ribs; spines are bright golden  
yellow, to 3" long in clusters of 6-10; spines turn brown on lower trunk

Flowers        yellow, thistle-like flowers to 2" across in ring at the  
top of the barrel; occur primarily in summer

Fruit        persistent wooly capsule

Propagation:        seed

Usage:        one of the most popular cacti for containers; also useful in  
desert landscapes, mixed succulent beds, rustic gardens and dry slopes

Landscape Care:

Watering        likes more watering than expected for a cactus; twice  
monthly watering will increase growth rate and flowering

Fertilizing        balanced, slow-release fertilizer every second year

Pruning        none required

Pests/Diseases        root rot in poorly drained soils

Special Conditions    transplant with 5 ft. burlap squares for safety

Origin:        Mexico        Family:        Cactaceae