



ARIZONA-SONORA
DESERT
MUSEUM

ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Beargrass

Nolina microcarpa

DESCRIPTION: For sheer ease of maintenance, it is hard to find a better plant than Bear grass. This clean accent plant is a great choice for planting around water features. Native to the Southwest, this grasslike plant forms a clump to five feet tall by seven feet wide. The long, slender green leaves are leathery, with finely toothed margins. The leaf tips fray to form highly ornamental white curlicues. In the summer it sends up a tall stalk of greenish flowers. Leaves are commonly used by southwestern Native Americans in their basketry.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use as an accent or for its upright form, in a rock garden, or enhanced desert landscape or xeriscape.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Bear grass is adapted to -15° F.



Sun tolerance: tolerates full sun or part shade exposures.



Watering and feeding: Water once every week to 10 days for the first couple of years. Water use is low once established and feeding is seldom necessary.



Soil requirements: Requires well-drained soil.



Pruning: Leave natural or remove older, dried leaves for a more manicured look.