

Cephalocereus senilis

(Old Man Cactus, old man of Mexico, bunny cactus)

Old man cactus is a slender, columnar succulent native to the rocky regions of central Mexico. It is densely covered with long, bristly, grayish white hairs that resemble those on the head of an elderly gentleman. These are pollinated by moths and bats and followed by pinkish red fruits.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

French Name: Tête de vieillard
Arabic Name: صبار الرجل العجوز
Pronunciation: sef-uh-low-KER-ee-us SEE-nil-is
Plant Type: Cactus / Succulent
Origin: Mexico, South America (Hidalgo, Mexico)
Heat Zones: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16
Hardiness Zones: 9, 10, 11, 12, 13
Uses: Indoor, Container, Rock Garden

Size/Shape

Growth Rate: Slow
Tree Shape: Columnar, Upright
Canopy Symmetry: Symmetrical
Canopy Density: Medium
Canopy Texture: Coarse
Height at Maturity: 8 to 15 m
Spread at Maturity: 1.5 to 3 meters
Time to Ultimate Height: 20 to 50 Years

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Flower Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Whorled

Leaf Persistence: Evergreen

Leaf Type: Simple

Leaf Blade: 5 - 10 cm

Leaf Shape: Linear

Leaf Textures: Hairy

Leaf Scent: Pleasant

Color(growing season): Silver

Flower

Flower Showiness: False

Flower Size Range: 3 - 7

Flower Scent: Pleasant

Flower Color: Pink

Seasons: Summer

Trunk

Number of Trunks: Single Trunk

Trunk Esthetic Values: Rough Texture, Spines

Fruit

Fruit Showiness: False

Fruit Size Range: 1.5 - 3

Fruit Colors: Green, Red, Pink

Seasons: Summer

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Leaf Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: No

Heat Tolerant: No

Drought Tolerant: Yes

Salt Tolerance: Poor

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic, Neutral, Alkaline

Water Requirements: Low

Light Requirements: Full

Management

Toxity: Yes

Invasive Potential: No

Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases: Yes

Mowing Height: 5 - 7 cm

Pruning Requirement: No pruning at all

Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter: No

Life Span: More than 50

Diseases: Fungus

Edible Parts: None

Plant Propagations: Seed, Offset

MORE IMAGES



Fruit Image



Bark Image



Other Image