

Botanical Name: *Fouquieria splendens*

Common Name: Ocotillo



Family: Fouquieriaceae

Native Distribution: Rocky, well-drained desert slopes and bajadas from SW United States into Baja California and Sonora, Mexico

Plant Size: 5-25' tall spreading to 15' slow-growing, vase-shaped clump

Flowers: Spiky clumps of ½" to 1" tubular orange or red flowers in clusters up to 1' long, appearing on terminal branches from March to June or later, depending on rainfall

Foliage: Simple, bright green 2" leaves in clusters immediately after rain; generally leafless without rain

Site Preferences: Full or reflected sun

Landscape Uses: In Greater Phoenix, use as an accent plant, a silhouette, or to attract hummingbirds. Stems can also be used as fences.

Other Stuff:

- Cold and drought deciduous.
- Long slender stems (canes) covered with 1" gray thorns, rise from a common base.
- Needs little to no supplemental water; do not overwater.
- Tolerant of soils with good drainage.
- Minimal maintenance; shearing permanently destroys form of the plant.
- An icon of the desert Southwest.
- Transplant in fall, preferably after leaves turn yellow; dig 2'x2' hole and fill with sand; plant directly into sand and stabilize plant with rocks around base until established.