

## Tohono Chul Park Greenhouse

7366 North Paseo del Norte – Tucson, AZ 85704 – 520-544-7922

[www.tohonochulpark.org](http://www.tohonochulpark.org)

### CACTI IN CONTAINERS

**Soil** – Fast-draining, high sand/organic mix.

**Light** – Areas with bright indirect light are best. Be careful not to burn cacti by placing them in direct sun or too near a glass window. Windows facing south or east are generally good; west windows are too hot. Always watch for sunburn on newly planted cacti. Not enough light can result in misshapen, stringy cacti.

**Water** – Over watering is the easiest way to kill cacti. In *non-desert climates*, water thoroughly, drenching the container, once a month in the summer, less frequently in winter. In *desert climates*, water every week in summer and every 2 weeks in winter. But remember; **always** let the soil dry out completely between watering. If the plant has a dormant season, cut back on the water during that time, watering only enough to keep it from stressing.

**Temperature** – Optimum is 40-100°F. Cacti in containers kept outdoors should be brought inside, if possible, when temperatures drop below 40°. If the pots are too heavy or large to be moved, cover the growing tips with paper bags or cloth sheets (never plastic) to prevent frost damage.

**Fertilizer** – For optimum growth, use ¼ teaspoon of a 15-30-15 house plant fertilizer per gallon of water when watering.



*Rat-tail cacti look attractive in a hanging pot*

**Transplanting** – Best done when plants are actively growing in the warm weather. Remove cactus from old pots and gently remove soil from around the roots. Place the plant in a shady spot for about a week until the roots dry out. Repot the cactus using the soil mix suggested above adding gravel or decomposed granite to the top of the soil as a mulch – this will help retain moisture in the soil. Water well to settle.