

Mammillaria

The genus *Mammillaria* was erected in 1812 by British biologist, E.H. Haworth. The members of this genus are named for the Latin word *Mammilla* meaning nipple. The plant body is completely covered with tubercles (the nipples) that are arranged in angled, spiraling rows. Spines grow on the end of the tubercles.

Mammillarias are extremely variable. Globular or elongated, solitary or clustering, and some split dichotomously. Some Mams have shallow spreading roots, while others have beet-like roots. Some Mams produce a milky sap when injured. The spines differ as well: straight, hooked, or feathery. Many colors of spines are seen and some Mams have hair or wool in the axils between the tubercles that provide protection against extreme sunlight.

Most *Mammillarias* grow in Mexico, with 10 species found in the S.W. United States. A few Mams extend as far north as Canada.

The flowers usually open in the a.m. and close in the p.m. lasting 2-3 days. A distinguishing feature of all *Mammillarias* is that flowers appear at the juncture of 2 tubercles and form a ring of flowers on the previous year's growth. A smooth brilliant red club-shaped berry appears if flowers are fertilized.

Care: Water normally during growing season. Keep mostly dry in winter and during extremely hot weather. None like stagnant moisture. If Mam is densely spined or with hair, keep in sunny warm position. Sparsely spined Mams like some shade. Feed with low nitrogen fertilizer. Propagate from seed or cuttings.

Resource: Cacti by Clive Innes and Charles Glass



Mammillaria bocasana

www.tosca.si

(Powder Puff Cactus) Globular, clustering, no milky sap. White hair-like radial spines with one hooked central spine. Flowers are yellow or pink with a pink or brownish central stripe. Habitat: Mexico. Minimum temperature is 28 F. Grow in full sun and do not keep too moist.



Mammillaria bombycina

es.geocities.com

(Silken pincushion) Elongated, solitary or clustering. Thin white radial spines with 4 yellow to reddish-brown centrals, the lower one is hooked. Flowers are pink to red. Habitat: Mexico. Hardy to 25 F. Give light shade in summer, keep dry in winter.



Mammillaria candida

www.desert-tropicals.com

(Snowball Cactus) Solitary or clustering. 50 white radial spines with 6-12 pinkish centrals. Flowers are rose pink with white margins. Habitat: Mexico. Hardy to 20 F. Grows in full sun or light shade.



Mammillaria carmenae

www.photo-thorns.am

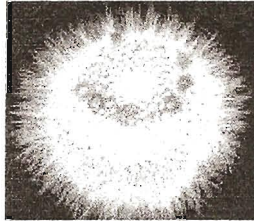
Clustering species with up to 100 short white or yellow soft plumose spines. Flowers are white or pale pink and bloom in late winter. Minimum temperature is 50 F. Habitat: Mexico. Grows well in light shade to full sun. Water sparingly.



Mammillaria guelzowiana

www.miles2go.com

Solitary, later clustering, globular, no milky sap. 80 white hair-like radial spines with 1 yellow, red, or brown hooked central spine. Very large brilliant pink flowers. Hardy to 25 F. Habitat: Mexico. Grow in light shade. Very sensitive to rot.



Mammillaria hahniana

commons.wikimedia.org

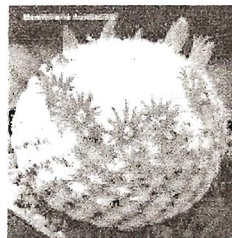
(Old Lady Cactus) Globular, clustering, with white milky sap. 20-30 white hair-like radial spines and 1 white, dark-tipped central spine. Axils have short white wool and up to 20 bristles. Flowers are carmine. Hardy to 20 F. Habitat: Mexico. Grow in a sunny, warm location and give sparse watering.



Mammillaria heyderi

www.catnapin.com

Solitary or clustering. 15 - 22 short white radial spines with brown tips and one brown central spine. Yellow or pink flowers appear in spring. Frost tolerance to 10 F. Habitat: Mexico, Texas, Arizona. Grow in filtered sunlight and give regular water in summer.



Mammillaria Humboldtii

www.cactusedinform.com

One of the smaller Mams with 80 or more white radial spines (no centrals) Solitary or clumping with bright pink flowers. Minimum temperature 50 F. Habitat: Mexico. Give sun or light shade and water sparingly.



Mammillaria lenta

www.cactusedintorni.com

Globular or elongated, solitary or clustering. Stems divide by forking. 30-40 yellowish to transparent white radial spines. Axils have short wool. Flowers whitish with pinkish stripe. Minimum average temperature 25 F. Habitat: Mexico. Grow in light shade and water sparingly.



Mammillaria nivosa

www.cacti.cz

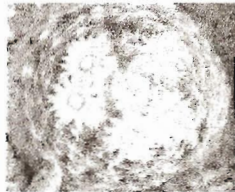
(Wooly Nipple Cactus) Solitary or clustering, globular to elongated with milky sap. Axils woolly. 8-10 yellow radial spines and 1-5 yellow central spines. Flowers are yellow. Avoid frost. Habitat: Bahamas, Cuba, West Indies, Puerto Rico. Grow in light shade.



Mammillaria plumosa

cssma.org

(Feather Cactus) Abundantly clustering, globular, no milky sap. Up to 40 feathery white to yellowish radial spines. Axils woolly. Flowers are yellow to green-yellow with a darker central stripe. Flowers in late fall or winter. Minimum temperature 20 F. Habitat: Mexico. Grow in full sun and water sparingly especially in winter.



Mammillaria schiedeana

www.tosca.si

Solitary or clustering, globular, without milky sap. Axils are woolly. Up to 75 golden yellow to whitish hair-like radial spines. Flowers are yellow-white. Minimum temperature 40 F. Habitat: Mexico. Grow in light shade and water sparingly. Very sensitive to moisture.