



ARIZONA-SONORA
DESERT
MUSEUM

ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Wager Quince or Membrillo *Cydonia oblonga*

DESCRIPTION: Quince is a beautiful small tree, growing to 10 or 12 feet tall. It has showy pinkish white blooms and large yellow fruits. The quince fruit is a round golden colored relative of the apple, with rich historical importance. The appearance of the mature fruit differs depending on the climate. Colder regions develop fruits with woolly rough rinds while in warmer climates the rind loses its woolly character. It is known for its intense sweet candy-like scent. It is filled with seeds. Quince fruit are high in vitamin C and pectin. They are good baked and their aromatic flavor makes them a great addition to fresh cider, cranberry sauce and other fruit desserts. Also used for classic quince jelly. It is an easy to grow tough tree which fruits reliably, and is pest and disease resistant, and is self-fertile. The quince is thought to originate from Persia, but is known to have also been cultivated in Greece and Turkey. Today the Quince is grown all over the world. This quince is descended from original stock that arrived in the Pimeria Alta as much as three hundred years ago by Father Kino's group. The plant that cuttings were taken from for this tree grows on the Wager Homestead in the San Rafael Valley of extreme southern Arizona.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use as an accent, shade, a small patio tree, and for its fruit.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Quince's grow much like apples and can grow in areas having a deep winter freeze.



Sun tolerance: Full sun.



Watering and feeding: Water during growing season, little care is needed during dormant periods. Plants are very prone to fire blight and do not tolerate humid environments.



Soil requirements: Any soil, but does better with deep, loamy soil.



Pruning: As needed after fruit is harvested.