

Insert as an Additional Taxon For *Echinocactus spp.*:

Echinocactus wislizeni G. Engelmann
(*Ferocactus wislizenii*)

Fishhook Barrel Cactus

C *Echinocactus wislizenii* is also known as Arizona Barrel Cactus, Barrel Cactus, Biznaga, Biznaga De Agua, Candy Barrel Cactus, Compass Barrel, Compass Cactus, Fishhook Cactus, Southwestern Barrel Cactus, or Viznaga Hembra; Fishhook Barrel Cactus earns its name from the large, 1½ to 30 long, fishhook-shaped yellow, red, or purple-red central spines; native Americans once used these in making fishhooks; glochids are initially brown fading to white and are mostly lost at maturity; numerous, 12 to 20 or more radial spines may be present.

C This is one of the few true barrel type cacti in our region, growing to be a thick cylinder up to 10 ft tall and 2½ ft in diameter; young plants are more hemispherical; this native of the Southwestern U.S. and Northern Mexico is rare in Texas; *Echinocactus wislizeni* can have many narrow 20 or 30 in diameter; the numerous stamens may be yellow or red; flowers typically occur in July to September following the monsoon season; developing fruit are yellow-green maturing to a bright lemon yellow that stands out in dreary winter landscapes, the mature 1¼ to 2¼ long fruit rather resembles a big fleshy yellow flower bud.

C *Echinocactus wislizeni* requires a dry climate with well drained soils; it is highly susceptible to trunk and root rots in humid locations; avoid using organic mulches around barrel cacti; these cacti are valuable additions to arid landscapes in USDA zones 8(7) to 11; plants tolerate full sun to partial shade, are soil pH adaptable and exhibit incredible heat and drought tolerance; acclimate plants produced in greenhouses to outdoor conditions to avoid sun scorch when moving them to the landscape.

C The name Compass Cactus derives from the tendency for many mature Barrel Cacti to lean toward the southwest; *Echinocactus wislizeni* and other related Barrel Cacti have been harvested to make cactus candy, contributing to their scarcity in many locations; in an emergency, enough liquid sap can be obtained by crushing the inner tissues of Barrel Cacti to sustain a person's life in the desert; the specific epithet honors the 19th century army surgeon and botanist Frederick Adolf Wislizenus.

C *Echinocactus acanthodes* C.A. Lemaire (*Ferocactus acanthodes*, *Ferocactus cylindraceus*, *Echinocactus viridescens* var. *cylindraceus*, California Barrel, California Barrel Cactus, Compass Barrel Cactus) is a very similar species with a more western and slightly northern distribution; it tends to be somewhat smaller than *E. wislizeni*, has fewer fishhook spines, and has yellow flowers.