Golden barrel cactus

**Plant Botanical Name:**

Echinocactus grusonii

**USBG Plant Location:**

Conservatory
Conservatory Room Location:

World Deserts

Plant Threat Level:

Endangered

When *Echinocactus grusonii* was discovered and named in the late 1889, it was dug by the thousands and shipped all over North America and Europe to and private homes of collectors. As a result, there was concern for both this plant and its native habitat before the beginning of the 20th century. In 1990, *Echinocactus grusonii* were the focus of an intensive rescue effort in the Rio Moctezuma Valley in Mexico. This valley, one of the few remaining habitats was scheduled to be flooded after the construction of a major dam. Although there are very few *Echinocactus grusonii* in the wild today, off-site conservation widespread propagation by nurseries and botanical gardens, and the golden barrel cactus is now one of the most popular cacti in cultivation.

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