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*Cephalocereus senilis*

[Synonyms : *Cactus senilis*, *Cereus senilis*, *Pilocereus senilis*]

**OLD MAN'S CACTUS** is a cactus. Native to central Mexico it has a ribbed, greyish-green column with long yellowish-grey spines enveloped with long yellow-tinged, white bristles.

It is also known as *Alte man* (German), *Grijsaardcactus* (Dutch), *Gubbhuvud* (Swedish), Mexican old man, Monkey cactus, Old man of Mexico, Old man's head, *Vaarinkactus* (Finnish), and Woolly torch cactus.

The first nocturnal, off-white inside, shiny rose-pink flowers appear when the column is about 20 ft. tall. It takes well over 200 years to attain extreme heights ie. 50 ft.

*Senilis* is derived from Latin *senex* (old age, old person) meaning 'looking old or aged' with reference to the whitish woolly hairs.

This cactus is especially popular as an ornamental pot plant.