



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Lemon Verbena or Vara Dulce

Aloysia wrightii

DESCRIPTION: Lemon verbena is a common shrub in washes, canyons, and on shady slopes. It has a wide range in our region, growing from central Arizona, south into Sonora. It grows in an open manner to a size of about 4' by 4'. It blooms several times a year, becoming covered with tiny whitish flowers. The big attraction of this plant is that the foliage is very fragrant. The flowers attract many species of butterflies.

RECOMMENDED USE: Rock garden, enhanced desert revegetation. Plant it where the aroma of the foliage can be enjoyed.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: It is frost hardy, and has been tested to 27°F with little damage, but because it grows naturally in higher habitats, we believe it can take temperatures into the low 20's.



Sun tolerance: This plant thrives in full sun or lightly filtered sun. Too much shade will make it bloom less and grow leggy.



Watering and feeding: Watch watering closely during the first hot season. After establishment, a weekly watering will help it look its best. Feeding seldom needed.



Soil requirements: Any soil.



Pruning: If frost damaged, prune back after regrowth begins in spring. Otherwise, minor pruning may be necessary to keep it in bounds.