



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Chuparosa *Justicia californica*

DESCRIPTION: Chuparosa is a shrub which grows at a moderate to fast rate up to 5' tall by 8' across. It becomes deciduous after severe frosts or drought. The blue-green stems form a brambly bush that is fine for a desert landscape, but may be too unkempt for a formal garden. Flowers can be found any month of the year, except during drought or right after freezes. Big blooms often occur in the winter and early spring months. The flowers are tubular and red, occurring in clusters at the ends of stems. The plant takes its common name from the Spanish word for hummingbird (its pollinator). Chuparosa is found in rocky canyons and on slopes from Phoenix south into Sonora and Baja California, Mexico.

RECOMMENDED USE: Accent, flowers, screen, xeriscape or enhanced desert revegetation.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: This plant can tolerate quick dips in temperature to 22°F but may be damaged by prolonged freezes of 26°F or less. Protect if from frost or plant it against a south-facing wall if site condition warrant it.



Sun tolerance: Full sun needed for best flowering and a tighter form.



Watering and feeding: It can be weened from irrigation in the ground, but performs better with infrequent, but regular waterings (once every week or two).



Soil requirements: Any well-drained soil will do.



Pruning: The growth form tends toward legginess, so pruning may be needed.