



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Creosote or Gobernadora *Larrea tridentata*

DESCRIPTION: Creosote bush is the commonest desert shrub and the most drought tolerant perennial plant in North America. It grows fast with water to six to eight feet tall and wide, sometimes even more. When grown on rainfall or in very shallow soil plants will seldom exceed four feet. Yellow flowers appear after rains or irrigation, followed by fuzzy white seeds. It is evergreen except during the worst droughts. This plant is not readily available because it is difficult to grow in a container.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use it in the arid zone, where it needs no care whatsoever. Suitable as an open screen or backdrop for foreground plants.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Hardy to about 10°F.



Sun tolerance: Full sun.



Watering and feeding: Survives on as little as 3 inches annual rainfall once established. Watering once a month in summer will keep it green.



Soil requirements: Any soil except very heavy clays (needs drainage). Does well even on caliche. Immune to Texas root rot.



Pruning: None needed except to control size.

SPECIAL NOTE: Creosotes resent being in containers; plant as soon as possible. Water generously for the first few months to get it established, then at least once a week for the remainder of the first summer until the weather cools.