DESCRIPTION: Here is a groundcover or small shrub that nearly anyone can use in a dry landscape. Yet Wormwood, sometimes called western mugwort or prairie sagebrush, has not been fully discovered by the landscape industry. Artemisia grows throughout the midwestern United States, and from Canada deep into Mexico. When you see it, you may consider it just another gray shrub, yet in a landscape Wormwood is evergreen when mowed, and grows to 1-3 feet tall. It colonizes from creeping rootstalks and must be contained in a landscape, else it will spread in unwanted directions. It is distinctly aromatic; agreeable to many people but may offend others. Its main criticism is its wind-pollinating habit, which may trigger allergies. As a singular plant, Wormwood may appear lanky, yet when grouped provides a gray color that brings out yellows, reds and blues when paired with annuals or colorful perennials such as salvias. It is also useful for year-round color on its own when planted on a sunny slope with rock. Flowers are inconspicuous. Estafiata de Castilla (variety *mexicana*) is known for herbal and medicinal properties.

RECOMMENDED USE: It can provide an accent, thrive as a mowed groundcover or be useful as a small hedge or border. Nice gray color for an enhanced desert landscape or xeriscape, patio container. When mowed, it will bear moderate amounts of foot traffic.

CULTURE:

- **Hardiness:** Winter hardy to 0°F.
- **Sun tolerance:** Full sun to light shade.
- **Watering and feeding:** Low water use once established. No feeding is necessary.
- **Soil requirements:** It survives quite well in well-drained sand, loam, clay, caliche and limestone soils.
- **Pruning:** Can be mowed or cut back to stubs if it gets too lanky.