



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Elephant Tree or Torote Jolopete

Bursera lancifolia

DESCRIPTION: Old World relatives of elephant trees, which include Torote Jolopete, are the sources of frankincense and myrrh. Some of the New World species are also highly aromatic and are used as incense. Torote Jolopete is a 10' shrub to a 30' tree. It can be grown here in the ground in a frost-protected site where it can reach 15' tall or more. It is easier to keep in a container where it will stay smaller and get a thickened trunk. The leaves are drought and cold deciduous, with golden to orange fall color. They are aromatic when crushed. Flowers are small and creamy white. The bark is smooth, yellow to reddish brown, peeling to reveal gray-green. Torote Jolopete can be found naturally in Sonora and adjacent Mexican states.

RECOMMENDED USE: A good potted specimen for its form, autumn color, and aromatic foliage.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Larger plants can tolerate low 20's, but protect young plants at temps below 28°F.



Sun tolerance: Full sun to light shade



Watering and feeding: Moderate watering in a container when in leaf. Lower water use if established in the ground.



Soil requirements: Well-drained potting soil in a container. In the ground, any soil that drains.



Pruning: To shape any time.