



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Grape Ivy

Cissus mexicana

DESCRIPTION: Also known by the botanical name *Cissus mayoensis*, this species of Grape Ivy is pretty much unknown in the nursery trade. It is a fast-growing, succulent-stemmed perennial vine. It climbs by means of tendrils. In moist, warm conditions it stays in leaf, but usually goes deciduous in the fall. Leaves may emerge in spring, but are often sparse until summer rains set in. Then, beautiful dark green deeply lobed leaves appear, lending it a tropical look. Flowers are insignificant. Unlike some others in the genus, this Grape Ivy doesn't seem to form tubers, although it can regenerate from thick roots if it were to freeze to the ground. *Cissus mexicana* is native to the thornscrub and tropical deciduous forests of Sonora, and further south.

RECOMMENDED USE: Climbs on trees, buildings, fences, shrubs, gazebos. Can take shade. Create a screen on a trellis, patio container or hanging pot.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Freezes to the ground at around 30°F, although may come back from roots.



Sun tolerance: Does best in light to moderate shade.



Watering and feeding: Moderate water use; appreciates regular moisture. Feed monthly in containers.



Soil requirements: Best in loose, sandy soil.



Pruning: As needed.