



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Sour Orange

Citrus hybrid

DESCRIPTION: Also called Bitter Orange, Sour Orange is a citrus tree (*Citrus* × *aurantium*). It is native to southeastern Asia, and has been spread by humans to many parts of the world. As the Americas were colonized, Sour Orange was introduced from Spain, where it had been cultivated heavily beginning in the 10th century by the Moors. Sour Orange is a hybrid between pomelo and mandarin. Many varieties of bitter orange are used for their essential oil, and are found in perfume, used as a flavoring or as a solvent. The Seville orange variety is used in the production of marmalade. Bitter orange is also employed in herbal medicine as a stimulant and appetite suppressant.

RECOMMENDED USE: Good in a garden situation for its sweet smelling flowers.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Good to the low 20's.



Sun tolerance: Full sun to light shade.



Watering and feeding: Moderate water use. Fertilize as with other citrus.



Soil requirements: Best in deeper soils.



Pruning: Lightly, as needed.