



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Little-leaf Cordia or Vara Prieta

Cordia parvifolia

DESCRIPTION: Little-leaf Cordia is a large shrub or small tree found in the Sonoran Desert in Sonora and Baja California, Mexico. It grows at a fairly fast rate to 5 or 10 feet tall and wide. Leaves are grey-blue, sometimes going deciduous with the winter cold. The individual white flowers are over ½ inch across. Flowers occur in clusters and often cover the plant in spring and after summer rains. The flowers are a nectar attractant for Sulphur butterflies.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use as an accent, a light screen or barrier, enhanced desert landscape or xeriscape.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Little-leaf Cordia is hardy to at least the lower-20's.



Sun tolerance: Grow in full sun, if possible, for best flowering and form.



Watering and feeding: Water use is low to moderate, depending on soil, season, and growth rate desired. Once to twice a week is usually necessary during warm weather. Feed in spring and fall.



Soil requirements: Most soils will do.



Pruning: Prune lightly to contain in the fall. Heavy pruning inhibits flowering and destroys the form.