



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Hopbush or Tarachique *Dodonaea viscosa*

DESCRIPTION: Hopbush has a cosmopolitan distribution in tropical, subtropical and warm temperate regions of Africa, the Americas, southern Asia and Australasia. Its appearance is extremely variable throughout its natural range. It can be a medium-sized shrub or small tree up to 25 feet tall, but most often it is 6 to 12 feet in height. The plant may have one or several main trunks which have reddish-brown to blackish gray bark. The evergreen leaves are dark green, glossy, and often have reddish midribs. Small clusters of greenish-white flower bloom in early spring, followed by 3-sided pods with flat papery wings which age to tan. There are several varieties available, with differences in leaf characteristics and cold hardiness. Variety 'purpurea' has leaves which are bronzy-green in color, turning a reddish-purple shade in the fall and winter. An unnamed form with narrow, willow-like leaves was cloned from a plant here at the Desert Museum. An oval-leaved form comes from the tip of Baja California Sur, and is very tender in our region.

RECOMMENDED USE: Informal hedge, barrier, or screen. When pruned up, it can be a patio tree, where the exposed trunk with gnarled character can be quite striking.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Varies from mid 20's to mid teens. Green forms from Arizona are hardier, and the purple form is less cold hardy. We are still testing the oval leaf form from Baja.



Sun tolerance: Full sun is best, but it does okay in part shade.



Watering and feeding: Drought tolerant once established, but supplemental water improves ornamental quality. However, do not overwater.



Soil requirements: It can tolerate a variety of soils as long as the drainage is good. Susceptible to Texas root rot.



Pruning: Is usually minimal, but it can be pruned to tree shape if desired.