



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Guayacán *Guaiacum coulteri*

DESCRIPTION: Guayacán is a woody shrub with a slow to moderate growth to 6' tall by 6' wide (in age 10' tall X 8' wide). It is evergreen, except after an exceptional freeze. Its small leaves held close on open branching emphasizes the interesting zig-zag form. This plant flowers from May to as late as October. It is spectacular when covered with 1" diameter blue-violet blossoms. The fruit is golden-orange, splitting open to reveal seeds covered with vivid red pulp. Lyside Sulfur butterflies use this shrub, along with other Caltrops, as a larval food plant. Guayacán is native to the plains of Sonora, near Hermosillo, south to the foothills of the Sierra Madre Occidental in Sinaloa.

RECOMMENDED USE: Accent, flowers, large container.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Guayacán can take quick freezes of 25°F without losing leaves, but may suffer stem damage from prolonged periods below 27°F. Plant it against a south facing wall if cold temperatures are a concern.



Sun tolerance: It does well in full sun or all-day light shade.



Watering and feeding: Deep water it at least weekly during warm weather. In a large pot it may need daily watering during the hottest times. Fertilization is usually not necessary in the ground, although potted plants benefit from it.



Soil requirements: Guayacán grows in any soil, as long as it drains.



Pruning: Pruning is usually minimal, to keep it in bounds, and in the spring to remove any frost damage.

SPECIAL NOTES:

- This plant may need frost protection first season or two.
- These are seedlings, with inherent variability in growth rate, form, and flower color intensity.