



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM


PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Tree Morningglory or Palo Santo

Ipomoea arborescens

DESCRIPTION: Most of us think of morningglories as annual vines in our gardens. This is actually in the same genus as those, but grows to be a large tree. It can be found just north of Hermosillo, reaching its largest in the mountains of southern Sonora. In Tucson, it is somewhat frost tender, and winter freezes keep it pruned back to 12' tall or less. It is winter deciduous, and blooms begin around December. The large, white flowers with ruby centers often continue into March.

RECOMMENDED USE: Can be kept in a large pot, or used in a garden situation (mini-oasis).
CULTURE:

 **Hardiness:** It is frost tender, suffering damage as low temperatures dip below 27°F.

Grow it against a protected south-facing wall or boulder, under the canopy of a larger tree, or keep it in a container that can be moved under cover during freezing weather.



Sun tolerance: This plant thrives in full sun or filtered light.



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Watering and feeding: Watering in pots, during the warm season, may be as much as daily. Fertilize monthly when in leaf.



Soil requirements: Use a standard potting soil.



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Pruning: Pruning may be necessary to remove frost damage. Do not prune in the fall, as this may reduce flowering.