



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Sonoran Honeysuckle *Justicia sonorae*

DESCRIPTION: This twiggy subshrub is a fast grower to 2' tall. It readily sets seed and propagates itself. It is evergreen except after freezing temperatures and during drought. It is the sort of plant which goes unnoticed until it comes into bloom. Flowers are borne along, and on the end of the stems. They are tubular, flaring at the opening, and a brilliant violet in color. Flowers can occur any time of the year, but most frequently following warm-weather rains. Butterflies, sphinx moths, and hummingbirds are readily attracted to Sonoran Honeysuckle for its nectar. This plant is native to canyons of central Sonora, Mexico, east of Magdalena.

RECOMMENDED USE: Mix into landscape, not as a specimen, but as an accent that shows itself during bloom.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: It is hardy to at least 20°F. It may freeze to the ground during longer or slightly colder freezes, but can resprout.



Sun tolerance: Sonoran Honeysuckle does well in full sun or all day filtered light.



Watering and feeding: Water once a week. More frequent watering can produce more regular flowering, but interferes with the spectacular blooms that follow rains. Fertilization appears unnecessary.



Soil requirements: It seems to be adaptable to any soil.



Pruning: It can get leggy and does not object to being cut back. Severe pruning in the winter gives a cleaner look.