



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Velvetpod Mimosa or Gatuño *Mimosa dysocarpa*

DESCRIPTION: This winter deciduous small to medium sized shrub will grow 3' to 6' tall and as wide. Velvet pod mimosa is abundant and common from 2500 to 6500 feet, and occurs north into New Mexico and Arizona and south to Mexico. Numerous short, widely divergent, irregular but densely prickly branches bear delicately divided leaves and extremely showy, fragrant, pinkish-purple cylindrical flower spikes. As the small pods mature in late August, they develop a reddish brown velvety surface; hence the common name. Velvet pod mimosa tolerates extreme drought and reflected heat, and has ornamental possibilities as a handsome accent plant. Flowers attract a variety of butterflies and the seeds are relished by quail.

RECOMMENDED USE: Showy flowers make this a great accent or a splash of color in a xeriscape. However, because of the thorny stems, plant it away from paths.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Very hardy; at least down to 15°F.



Sun tolerance: Best form and flowering occurs when plants are grown in full sun.



Watering and feeding: Regular watering is needed for the first year to establish it. It can gradually be taken off irrigation, but will grow better with some supplemental watering. Fertilization is not necessary.



Soil requirements: Any soil.



Pruning: Prune any time.