Smoke Tree or Palo de Humo

*Psorothamnus spinosus*

**DESCRIPTION:** Smoke Tree is a nearly leafless small tree or large shrub with many spiny branches and a crooked trunk. Leaves and stems are gland dotted, wavy edges, fuzzy, light blue-gray, giving the whole plant the indistinct look of smoke from a distance. Flowers are attractive, indigo-blue, sweet-smelling blossom, ½ inch wide in April-June. Smoke Tree is native to the southwestern corner of the U.S. and northwestern Mexico.

**RECOMMENDED USE:** Use as an accent or specimen, in an enhanced desert landscape or xeriscape.

**CULTURE:**

- **Hardiness:** Marginally hardy in Tucson. Not for colder areas.

- **Sun tolerance:** Full sun, as it tolerates heat well.

- **Watering and feeding:** Watering needs are low to moderate. Does not tolerate wet soil in the summer, so plant it in very sandy soil. Fertilization not needed.

- **Soil requirements:** Needs very well-drained soil.

- **Pruning:** Plant away from paths so pruning is not needed.