



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Gray Thorn *Ziziphus obtusifolius*

DESCRIPTION: Gray Thorn is a common woody shrub in washes and canyons throughout much of the Sonoran Desert and adjacent biomes. The growth form is an openly branched, thorny mound up to 8' tall by 12' across. Flowers are insignificant to look at, but attract a number of insects. Blooms are tiny, but attract an amazing variety of insects. Fruit are small, blackish berries, attractive to many bird species.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use as a barrier plant, in a xeriscape or an enhanced desert revegetation, or to attract animals.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: It is frost hardy to at least 0°F.



Sun tolerance: This plant thrives in full sun or light shade. Too much shade promotes leggy growth.



Watering and feeding: Once established, Gray Thorn can be weaned from irrigation, but will always perform better with supplemental water. Feeding is not necessary.



Soil requirements: Any soil will do.



Pruning: Allowing for ultimate size when planting eliminates the need for most pruning.