

**Botanical Name:** *Euphorbia rigida* (syn. *Euphorbia biglandulosa*)

**Common Name:** Gopher Plant



**Family:** Euphorbiaceae

**Habitat:** Scrubland, gravelly slopes

**Native Distribution:** NE Africa, W Asia, SE Europe

**Elevation:** Up to 2,500 ft

**Hardiness:** 0°F

**Type:** Evergreen

**Size:** 2' tall x 3' wide

**Shape:** Upright

**Growth Rate:** Moderately fast

**Flowers:** Chartreuse bracts at the branch tips with tiny red flowers at the center (similar to *Bougainvillea*)

**Bloom Season:** January to April

**Fruit:** Small brown pods

**Foliage:** 2" pointed, gray-green leaves with some succulence growing in a rosette-like pattern

**Exposure:** Full/part sun

**Shade:** Filtered

**Water Requirements:** Low

**In the Landscape:** *Euphorbia rigida* works well in Phoenix landscapes, particularly in borders, rock gardens, beds, etc. Plant en masse for showy color. Good winter to late winter bloomer. Also works well in a container. Low maintenance.

**Wildlife:** Not known.

**Other Stuff:**

- Cut Gopher Plant back to the base after flowering to encourage new growth.
- The sap of *Euphorbia rigida* is highly toxic so take care when cutting back.
- *Euphorbia rigida* requires well-draining soil.
- *Euphorbia rigida* can re-seed, but won't become invasive.
- Flexible Gopher Plant adapts to a variety of conditions, including coastal, valley or desert regions with dry, rocky conditions.