

Botanical Name: *Larrea tridentata*

Common Name: Creosote



Family: Zygophyllaceae

Native Distribution: SW United States into Mexico

Plant Size: 3-10' tall and wide, slow-growing, open, vase-shaped evergreen shrub

Flowers: Many small yellow, solitary blooms mainly in spring, sporadically throughout the year

Foliage: Distinctive tiny bifoliate wing, usually yellow-green, darker and aromatic after rainfall

Site Preferences: Full or reflected sun

Landscape Uses: Excellent specimen plant, informal hedge or barrier, or for use in a naturalistic setting in the Greater Phoenix area.

Other Stuff:

- Size indicates amount of water naturally present or, if stunted, may indicate presence of caliche.
- Fruit is pea-sized capsule, fuzzy ball, persistent.
- Can be allopathic, but may cause hepatotoxicity after two weeks of use.
- Difficult to transplant.
- Natural rainfall with some supplemental while establishing.
- Distinctive, characteristic southwest desert smell after rainfall.
- Inhibits competition by forming water-repellent soils.