

Botanical Name: *Pachycormus discolor*

Common Name: Elephant Tree



Family: Anacardiaceae

Native Distribution: Rocky slopes and plains in Baja California

Plant Size: 10-25' tall, single- or multi-stemmed

Flowers: Light pink sprays on top of mature plant from May to September

Foliage: Small green leaves with white peeling bark and craggy branches

Site Preferences: Full sun, well drained soil

Landscape Uses: Use as specimen tree, as a focal point, and in courtyards.

Other Stuff:

- Hardy to 25°F (-4°C), a winter grower.
- Good heat resistance in the hot Southwest deserts.
- Swollen trunk covered with white, papery bark.
- Bark protects a green under-layer provides photosynthesis when the tree is dormant.
- Tortured- and twisted-looking with trunk growing horizontal to the ground or upright as a tree.
- Hummingbirds frequent the flowers.
- Prefers well drained volcanic soils.
- Drought deciduous with leaves dropping in April-May when it goes dormant.
- Looks similar to the *Bursera* which also grows in volcanic soils.
- Hard to find in Phoenix.