



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Torote Prieto *Bursera laxiflora*

DESCRIPTION: Old World relatives of elephant trees, which includes Torote Prieto, are the sources of frankincense and myrrh. Some of the New World species are also highly aromatic and are used as incense. Torote Prieto is a medium-size shrub in its northern range, near Magdalena, Sonora. To the south it can become a tree of up to 30' tall. Growth rate and ultimate size are both controlled primarily by container size, or soil and watering in the ground. When a plant has lots of root room, it grows very fast, producing many feet of new growth per season. When potbound, growth slows way down, though the trunk will continue to slowly thicken with age. It is in leaf primarily during the summer growing season, though some foliage may persist year round.

RECOMMENDED USE: In a sheltered spot in the ground or as a potted specimen for its form and delicate foliage.

CULTURE



Hardiness: Frost tender; protect plants when temperatures dip below freezing. It can be stored in a dark place such as a garage for a couple of months in winter. Against a wall under a carport or patio is sufficient for light frosts; for temperatures below 25 °F, bring into an enclosed space or wrap the trunks with insulation. If stems are damaged, it should resprout from the trunk by the next summer.



Sun tolerance: Full sun or light shade during the growing season. Growth will be spindly in shadier sites.



Watering and feeding Moderate during summer growing season; water when soil is just barely moist. Reduce watering to about once a month during winter. Fertilize lightly every month during the growing season.



Soil requirements: Well-drained. Repot only in summer.



Pruning: Prune to shape any time.