



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM
PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Buttonbush
Cephalanthus occidentalis

DESCRIPTION: Buttonbush is a common shrub of many wetland habitats in its range, including swamps, floodplains, riparian zones, and moist forest understory. It is common from the southeast coast of the US to the Midwest, with scattered occurrences to Arizona. It grows 6' to 12' tall, and as much across with twisted trunks. Deciduous leaves are bright green and glossy, and give a good fall color. Flowers small, borne in distinctive, dense, spherical clusters with a fringe of pistils protruded beyond the white corollas. Long-lasting, unusual blossoms are white or pale-pink, one-inch globes. Subsequent rounded masses of nutlets persist through the winter. Insects and hummingbirds take the nectar, with bees using it to make honey.

RECOMMENDED USE: Buttonbush is a handsome ornamental suited to wet soils and is also a honey plant. Ducks and other water birds and shorebirds consume the seeds. Use as a screen or barrier, and to attract wildlife.

(over)



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CULTURE:



Hardiness: Down to at least 0°F.



Sun tolerance: Full sun to light shade.



Watering and feeding: Moderate water use. Feed yearly



Soil requirements: Best in deeper soil. Does poorly on caliche.



Pruning: As needed to shape and control. Be sure to allow room for this large shrub.

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