



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Texas Olive

Cordia boissieri

DESCRIPTION: Texas olive is usually a large shrub to 15 feet tall and wide, but can grow much larger in good soil and ample water. Its large, tough gray-green leaves are nearly evergreen; their tropical appearance belies this plant's Chihuahuan region origin. Several times during the warm months it responds to rain or watering by producing clusters of 1½-inch white flowers, followed by fruit resembling large white olives. They are edible but not very tasty.

RECOMMENDED USE: Good as a small patio tree or dense screening shrub. Provides dense shade though it takes time to grow it to a functional size.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Deciduous at about 25° F; branches may be killed below 20°.



Sun tolerance: Full sun.



Watering and feeding: Needs little supplemental water, but will be very slow unless watered regularly when young. Feed once a year.



Soil requirements: Tolerant of a variety of soils, even caliche, but a well-drained soil is best for maximum vitality. Grows larger in deep soils.



Pruning: Prune to develop desired shape. Hard freezes kill leaves which turn brown and remain on plant, thus it may be unsightly in winter. Prune off dead branches when new growth resumes in spring.