



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Turpentine Bush *Ericameria laricifolia*

DESCRIPTION: Turpentine Bush is a small, dense, evergreen shrub growing rather quickly to 2 to 3 feet tall by the same width. Its most striking features are its dark green color and the spectacular autumn flowering. Occasional flowers have been recorded in most months, but the main blooming season is from late August until early December. The flowers are bright yellow and in clusters that can nearly obscure the foliage. Many butterflies visit this species and affect pollination. It is a favorite nectar source for Great Purple Hairstreak butterflies. Aguirre™ is a clone from southern New Mexico, chosen for its showy flowers and rich green foliage. ‘Desert Mountain’ is a selection collected in north Scottsdale. Turpentine Bush is found in the Sonoran Desert and adjacent grasslands, but has a wide range, from the eastern Mojave Desert to Texas, and south to Chihuahua, Mexico.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use as foundation or a low unclipped hedge. Also good in rock gardens and for desert revegetation.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Very hardy; to at least 10°F.



Sun tolerance: Full sun to light shade. Blooms better in full sun.



Watering and feeding: Low water use; can be weaned from irrigation, but performs better with regular water. Feed after growth starts in springtime.



Soil requirements: Good in most any soil that drains.



Pruning: Rarely necessary; avoid any pruning after August to preserve flower buds.