



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Bee Brush or Jazminillo

Aloysia gratissima

DESCRIPTION: Bee Brush is a shrub in washes, canyons, and on shady slopes. It grows from southern Arizona, west and south into Texas and Mexico. It grows in an open manner to a size of about 6-10' tall by 4-6' across. It is sparsely leaved and may be deciduous in the winter. Bee Brush flowers from March to November, especially after rains, with vanilla-scented white flower spikes that are very attractive to bees, which make a delicious honey from the nectar. The flowers also attract many species of butterflies.

RECOMMENDED USE: In the landscape it can be used as an informal hedge or screen or as background for accent plants or in an enhanced desert revegetation. Its strongly scented flowers would make it attractive planted near a walkway. Bee Brush can provide an important protective cover for wildlife. **CAUTION:** It is toxic to horses, mules and burros.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: It is frost hardy, and has been tested to 15°F with little damage.



Sun tolerance: This plant thrives in full sun or lightly filtered sun. Too much shade will make it bloom less and grow leggy.



Watering and feeding: Drought tolerant after establishment. A weekly watering will help it look its best. Feeding is seldom needed.



Soil requirements: It naturally grows on poor soils, so any soil.



Pruning: Bee Brush can be aggressive, forming thickets, especially on disturbed, moist ground. It can be aggressively pruned any time of the year.