



# ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

## PLANT CARE INFORMATION

### Coffee Senna or Ejotillo Grande

*Senna occidentalis*

**DESCRIPTION:** A small, narrow subshrub to 3' tall or so. Leaves are dark green with broad leaflets. It is closely related to, and may just be a southern form of Slimpod Senna (*Senna leptocarpa*) which grows in canyons around Tucson. This species, though, is from the mountains of Sonora, Mexico. Bright yellow flowers occur in early spring and again in the summer. It is fast growing species and short-lived (~5 years), but reseeds readily. Locally, it is one of the best larval food plants for several species of Sulphur butterflies including the Tailed Orange, Sleepy Orange, Little Yellow, and Cloudless Sulphur.

**RECOMMENDED USE:** Use for mid-height color in a garden setting, enhanced desert landscape or to attract wildlife.

#### CULTURE:



**Hardiness:** It tends to lose leaves when temperatures dip towards freezing, and may be killed by temperatures in the low 20's but often reappears as seedlings.



**Sun tolerance:** Will take full sun to all-day moderate shade.



**Watering and feeding:** Moderate water user, especially in full sun. Will benefit from monthly feeding.



**Soil requirements:** Well-drained soil.



**Pruning:** Prune back frost damage in late March.