



ARIZONA-SONORA  
DESERT  
MUSEUM

## ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

### Wormwood or Chamizo Cenizo *Artemisia ludoviciana*

**DESCRIPTION:** Here is a groundcover or small shrub that nearly anyone can use in a dry landscape. Yet Wormwood, sometimes called western mugwort or prairie sagebrush, has not been fully discovered by the landscape industry. *Artemisia* grows throughout the midwestern United States, and from Canada deep into Mexico. When you see it, you may consider it just another gray shrub, yet in a landscape Wormwood is evergreen when mowed, and grows to 1-3 feet tall. It colonizes from creeping rootstalks and must be contained in a landscape, else it will spread in unwanted directions. It is distinctly aromatic; agreeable to many people but may offend others. Its main criticism is its wind-pollinating habit, which may trigger allergies. As a singular plant, Wormwood may appear lanky, yet when grouped provides a gray color that brings out yellows, reds and blues when paired with annuals or colorful perennials such as salvias. It is also useful for year-round color on its own when planted on a sunny slope with rock. Flowers are inconspicuous. *Estafiata de Castilla* (variety *mexicana*) is known for herbal and medicinal properties.

**RECOMMENDED USE:** It can provide an accent, thrive as a mowed groundcover or be useful as a small hedge or border. Nice gray color for an enhanced desert landscape or xeriscape, patio container. When mowed, it will bear moderate amounts of foot traffic.

#### CULTURE:



**Hardiness:** Winter hardy to 0°F.



**Sun tolerance:** Full sun to light shade.



**Watering and feeding:** Low water use once established. No feeding is necessary.



**Soil requirements:** It survives quite well in well-drained sand, loam, clay, caliche and limestone soils.



**Pruning:** Can be mowed or cut back to stubs if it gets too lanky.