



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

New Mexico Privet *Forestiera neomexicana*

DESCRIPTION: New Mexico privet is a handsome native large shrub/small tree with great adaptability to different growing conditions. Prune it up as a multi-stemmed small tree with ornamental white bark and glowing bright yellow fall color. Or use it as a durable shrub for clipping into hedges. Leaves mature to bright green and contrast beautifully with one-year-old black bark. It is a very drought tolerant, low maintenance plant growing to 10' tall or more. Blooms in spring with tiny yellowish flowers, followed by purplish-black fruit in the fall. Birds eat the fruit and use the plant as cover. Native from northern central California to Riverside and east to Colorado and Texas. Small, attractive black berries appear in autumn. and drought. Wood is

RECOMMENDED USE: New Mexican privet has many uses in the home landscape. As a tall shrub it will provide screening and habitat for wildlife. A good central focal point in a bed or corner of the landscape; smooth pale gray bark and many forked branches, provides contrast to other xeric plantings. Useful fast filler for desert conditions.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Around 0°F.



Sun tolerance: Full sun to very light shade. Tolerates harsh winds.



Watering and feeding: Drought tolerant after established, but will look better if watered regularly. No fertilizing needed.



Soil requirements: Most soils will do, but it thrives in deep, sandy soil.



Pruning: Any time to shape. Remove suckers, if desired.