



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Screwbean Mesquite or Tornillo *Prosopis pubescens*

DESCRIPTION: Screwbean mesquite is a large shrub or small tree that grows to around 15' tall and as wide. It is open and airy, with small leaves that are deciduous. From May and into the summer small, yellow catkins of flowers are produced. From these come the attractive pods, twisted into tight coils, hanging on into the winter. Hairstreak and Blue butterflies utilize this plant. Screwbean mesquite is native to southern Arizona and into Sonora and Baja California at elevations of 4000' and lower.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use as an accent (with its unusual pods) or for its light shade to grow sun-sensitive plants beneath.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Very hardy, to at least 20°F.



Sun tolerance: Grows best in full sun, but can tolerate light shade.



Watering and feeding: Low to moderate water usage, depending on how fast you wish it to grow. Feeding is not necessary.



Soil requirements: Any soil.



Pruning: Necessary to prune if you wish to make it a tree rather than a shrub.