



ARIZONA-SONORA
DESERT
MUSEUM

ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Mexican Tree Sunflower or Mirasol *Tithonia fruticosa*

DESCRIPTION: The Mexican tree sunflower is one of the recently discovered gems for southwestern landscapes. It grows rapidly to over ten feet and produces a profusion of 4-inch, bright yellow flowers, atop the large gray-green foliage. Flowering is mainly in the spring, but it may bloom in the summer (especially if frozen in winter). Flowers attract butterflies such as the Painted Lady. Unlike many sunflowers, this species is a woody perennial. Cultivated variety 'Goldie Locks' has a more compact form.

RECOMMENDED USE: With its height and large leaves, this plant can form an effective summer screen; several plants can be used to form an impressive hedge. The foliage and flowers can be employed as accents.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Temperatures in the lower twenties will freeze the stems. Crowns resprout, but flowering will be delayed from spring to summer-fall.



Sun tolerance: Established plants can take full sun, but light shade increases vitality.



Watering and feeding: Drought tolerant but will look bedraggled. Water regularly for lush appearance. Fertilize in mid-spring and late summer.



Soil requirements: Tolerant of a variety of soils; does best in well drained substrates.



Pruning: Occasional pruning will encourage denser growth. Be aware that pruning before flowering may compromise the bloom.