



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Quail Bush

Atriplex lentiformis

DESCRIPTION: A very fast-growing evergreen shrub to huge proportions - up to eight feet tall and 20 feet across in five years, but often smaller. The dense foliage is gray-white, the flowers insignificant. Greenish flowers occurring from late winter through spring followed by small brownish, papery seeds produced in abundance on female plants. The species is native to the Sonoran Desert. The more vigorous variety *breweri* is from coastal California. This semi-deciduous variety is similar to *Atriplex lentiformis* but it has no spines on its branches. It is also smaller, more compact and darker green with larger leaves and showier flowers. Tested in Tucson and a good performer here.

RECOMMENDED USE: Good for a fast screen or wildlife shelter. Provides great cover for many species of small birds. Quail and other ground-dwelling animals such as rabbits and lizards are fond of it. The foliage makes a large gray background against which to display green plants.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Hardy down to at least 12°F



Sun tolerance: Needs full sun for good, compact growth.



Watering and feeding: Very drought tolerant, but more water stimulates faster growth. Too much water, though, will cause this plant to become chlorotic.



Soil requirements: Any soil seems adequate. Resistant to Texas root rot.



Pruning: Prune lightly as needed to shape, or occasionally severe to control size.