



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Guaregui

Ibervillea sonorae

DESCRIPTION: Guaregui is a vining cucurbit (from the gourd family) forming a giant caudex (large tuber that extends above ground). It is deciduous in the winter; in the spring it begins rapid growth, sending tendrilled stems many feet up into trees or a trellise. Male and female flowers are small, greenish-yellow, and produced on separate plants in the summer. If pollinated, a female flower will produce a tear-drop shaped fruit a couple of inches long. Upon ripening, the fruit changes from green to brilliant yellow-orange. Birds are attracted, opening it to reveal blood-red pulp and seeds. Guaregui is native to the deserts of Sonora and Baja California, Mexico.

RECOMMENDED USE: The interesting caudex makes this plant a good candidate for up-close gardens or pot culture. It can also be used to attract birds if both male and female plants are planted.

CULTURE:

- Hardiness:** It will freeze back to the tuber at around 25°F, but resprouts quickly in the spring.
- Sun tolerance:** It can take full sun, but does well in the shade of trees.
- Watering and feeding:** Low water use. It can eventually be weened to rainfall.
- Soil requirements:** Any soil will do.
- Pruning:** Frost killed stems can be removed in early March.

*Protect from javelina, as the tuber is favored by them.