



ARIZONA-SONORA  
DESERT  
MUSEUM

## ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

### Little-leaf Cordia or Vara Prieta

*Cordia parvifolia*

**DESCRIPTION:** Little-leaf Cordia is a large shrub or small tree found in the Sonoran Desert in Sonora and Baja California, Mexico. It grows at a fairly fast rate to 5 or 10 feet tall and wide. Leaves are grey-blue, sometimes going deciduous with the winter cold. The individual white flowers are over ½ inch across. Flowers occur in clusters and often cover the plant in spring and after summer rains. The flowers are a nectar attractant for Sulphur butterflies.

**RECOMMENDED USE:** Use as an accent, a light screen or barrier, enhanced desert landscape or xeriscape.

#### CULTURE:



**Hardiness:** Little-leaf Cordia is hardy to at least 15<sup>0</sup>F.



**Sun tolerance:** Grow in full sun, if possible, for best flowering and form.



**Watering and feeding:** Water use is low to moderate, depending on soil, season, and growth rate desired. Once to twice a week is usually necessary during warm weather. Feed in spring and fall.



**Soil requirements:** Most soils will do.



**Pruning:** Prune lightly to contain in the fall. Heavy pruning inhibits flowering and destroys the form.