



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Velvetleaf Senna

Senna lindheimeriana

DESCRIPTION: There are many species of sennas in the Sonoran Desert region; from trees down to herbs. Velvetleaf Senna is probably the prettiest of the herbaceous perennial species. Mostly evergreen, it may freeze to the crown during severe frosts, though it will quickly recover. Stems can grow as much as 4' and all vegetative parts are covered with a felty down. Flowers appear throughout the growing season in spikes. The petals are a rich, creamy yellow. Many species of butterflies, including the Sleepy Orange, Boisduval's Yellow, Grey Hairstreak, Funereal Duskywing, and the Cloudless Sulphur use Velvetleaf Senna as a larval food plant. This species is native to the grasslands and lower oak zone in southern Arizona and into Sonora, Mexico.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use in a wildlife garden, rock garden, enhanced desert revegetation, or for flower color.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Hardy to at least 20°F.



Sun tolerance: Full sun to moderate shade.



Watering and feeding: Moderate water use; around 2-3 times a week. Fertilizing is not necessary.



Soil requirements: Most soils that drain will do.



Pruning: Prune old flower stalks before energy goes into seed production.