



# ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

## PLANT CARE INFORMATION

### Texas Mountain Laurel or Colorín

*Sophora secundiflora*

**DESCRIPTION:** Also known as Mescal Bean, Texas Mountain Laurel is indigenous to Texas, New Mexico and Mexico. This large shrub or small tree is evergreen, thornless, slow-growing and long-lived. It is usually a multi-trunked shrub or small tree ranging from just a few feet tall to more than 30 ft. in height, though its usual height at maturity is 10-15 ft. Glossy dark green compound leaves provide a lush look for desert gardens. Showy clusters of purple wisteria-like flowers perfume the air in the spring with a “grape Koolade” aroma. The thick seed pods contain poisonous orange-red seeds, but the pods are extremely hard and difficult to break open. ‘Silver Peso’ is a gray-colored leaf form.

**RECOMMENDED USE:** Use for spring color and fragrance, as a screen or barrier.

#### CULTURE:



**Hardiness:** Down to at least 10°F.



**Sun tolerance:** Plant in full sun to part shade.



**Watering and feeding:** It is drought-tolerant once established, but thrives on regular watering. No fertilization necessary.



**Soil requirements:** Best in well-drained soils.



**Pruning:** Any time as necessary.