

Leucophyllum frutescens

(Texas sage, Silver Leaf, Cenizo)

Texas barometer bush is a native of New Mexico, Texas and Mexico and is named for its ability to quickly respond to precipitation. Rain or soil moisture quickly triggers flowering, so the plants act as living barometers. Its bright blooms are purple-pink and glow against its fine, silvery oval leaves that densely line the stems. They are soft and silvery gray. The purple-pink to violet-pink, tubular, lipped flowers are relatively large and very showy. Texas barometer bush thrives in full sun and extremely well-drained limestone soils. A tolerance of limited soil fertility and sandy gravelly conditions make this a valuable shrub for arid droughty regions. It has a high tolerance to extreme heat; salt and wind make it even more useful for tough landscapes. This large shrub resembles a Mediterranean chaparral species. It is also ideal for foundations, hedges or screens.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

Pronunciation: loo-koh-FIL-um froo-TESS-enz

Plant Type: Shrub

Origin: Texas, Mexico

Heat Zones: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16

Hardiness Zones: 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13

Uses: Hedge, Border Plant, Mass Planting, Wildlife, Pollution Tolerant / Urban, Intensive Green Roof

Size/Shape

Growth Rate: Moderate

Tree Shape: oval

Canopy Symmetry: Symmetrical

Canopy Density: Dense

Canopy Texture: Fine

Height at Maturity: 1.5 to 3 m

Spread at Maturity: 1.5 to 3 meters

Time to Ultimate Height: 5 to 10 Years

Notes

Texas ranger shrubs are dust magnets. Needs pruning just once per year early spring.

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Flower Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Opposite

Leaf Venation: Pinnate

Leaf Persistence: Evergreen

Leaf Type: Simple

Leaf Blade: Less than 5

Leaf Shape: Ovate

Leaf Margins: Entire

Leaf Textures: Smooth

Leaf Scent: Pleasant

Color(growing season): Silver, Blue-Green

Flower

Flower Showiness: True

Flower Size Range: 1.5 - 3

Flower Type: Solitary

Flower Sexuality: Monoecious (Bisexual)

Flower Scent: No Fragrance

Flower Color: Purple, White, Pink

Seasons: Summer, Fall

Trunk

Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage: Generally resists breakage

Number of Trunks: Multi-Trunked

Trunk Esthetic Values: Not Showy

Fruit

Fruit Type: Capsule

Fruit Showiness: False

Fruit Size Range: 0 - 1.5

Fruit Colors: Black

Seasons: Summer, Fall

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Leaf Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: Yes

Heat Tolerant: Yes

Drought Tolerant: Yes

Salt Tolerance: Good

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Neutral, Alkaline

Water Requirements: Moderate, Low

Light Requirements: Full

Management

Invasive Potential: No

Pruning Requirement: Little needed, to develop a strong structure

Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter: No

Surface Rooting: No

Life Span: 25-50 years

Diseases: Root rot

Edible Parts: None

Plant Propagations: Seed, Cutting

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Bark Image



Other Image