

Portulacaria afra

(Elephant Bush, Spekboom)

Elephant bush is a succulent shrub or small tree with very small juicy leaves. it develops thick green or rusted stems. The small pink flowers appear in spring . In order to maintain the plant unique form many times the flowers are cut off. The plant is adopted very well to heat and drought . Avoid watering until plant is thoroughly dry, particularly if the soil is not highly porous. fits well in xeriscaping.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

<b>French Name:</b> Pourpier en arbre
<b>Pronounciation:</b> por-tew-luh-KAR-ee-uh AF-ruh
<b>Plant Type:</b> Shrub
<b>Origin:</b> Namibia, South Africa
<b>Heat Zones:</b> 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16
<b>Hardiness Zones:</b> 9, 10, 11, 12
<b>Uses:</b> Mass Planting, Indoor, Container, Green Wall

Size/Shape

<b>Growth Rate:</b> Fast
<b>Tree Shape:</b> Upright
<b>Canopy Symmetry:</b> Irregular
<b>Canopy Density:</b> Medium
<b>Canopy Texture:</b> Fine
<b>Height at Maturity:</b> 1.5 to 3 m
<b>Spread at Maturity:</b> 1 to 1.5 meters
<b>Time to Ultimate Height:</b> 10 to 20 Years

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Flower Image

## Botanical Description

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### Foliage

**Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite

**Leaf Venation:** Nearly Invisible

**Leaf Persistence:** Evergreen

**Leaf Type:** Trifoliate

**Leaf Blade:** Less than 5

**Leaf Shape:** Obovate

**Leaf Margins:** Entire

**Leaf Textures:** Glossy, Fine

**Leaf Scent:** No Fragrance

**Color(growing season):** Green

**Color(changing season):** Green

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### Flower

**Flower Showiness:** True

**Flower Size Range:** 0 - 1.5

**Flower Type:** Solitary

**Flower Sexuality:** Monoecious (Bisexual)

**Flower Scent:** No Fragrance

**Flower Color:** Pink

**Seasons:** Spring, Summer

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### Trunk

**Trunk Has Crownshaft:** False

**Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage:** Suspected to breakage

**Number of Trunks:** Single Trunk

**Trunk Esthetic Values:** Not Showy

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### Fruit

**Fruit Type:** Capsule

**Fruit Showiness:** False

**Fruit Size Range:** 1.5 - 3

**Fruit Colors:** Green

**Seasons:** Spring, Summer

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Leaf Image

### Horticulture Management

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#### Tolerance

**Frost Tolerant:** No

**Heat Tolerant:** Yes

**Drought Tolerant:** Yes

**Salt Tolerance:** Moderate

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#### Requirements

**Soil Requirements:** Loam, Sand

**Soil Ph Requirements:** Acidic, Neutral, Alkaline

**Water Requirements:** Moderate

**Light Requirements:** Full

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#### Management

**Toxity:** No

**Invasive Potential:** No

**Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases:** No

**Pruning Requirement:** Needed, to develop a strong structure

**Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter:** No

**Surface Rooting:** No

**Edible Parts:** None

**Plant Propagations:** Cutting

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## MORE IMAGES



Fruit Image



Bark Image



Other Image