

## 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

**French Name:** Pourpier en arbre

**Pronunciation:** por-tew-luh-KAR-ee-uh AF-ruh

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Origin:** Namibia, South Africa

**Heat Zones:** 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16

**Hardiness Zones:** 9, 10, 11, 12

**Uses:** Mass Planting, Indoor, Container, Green Wall

#### Size/Shape

**Growth Rate:** Fast

**Tree Shape:** Upright

**Canopy Symmetry:** Irregular

**Canopy Density:** Medium

**Canopy Texture:** Fine

**Height at Maturity:** 1.5 to 3 m

**Spread at Maturity:** 1 to 1.5 meters

**Time to Ultimate Height:** 10 to 20 Years

# Portulacaria afra

(Elephant Bush, Spekboom)



Flower Image

---

## Botanical Description

### 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

---

### 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

---

### Trunk

**Trunk Has Crownshaft:** False

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

**Number of Trunks:** Single Trunk

**Trunk Esthetic Values:** Not Showy

---

### Fruit

**Fruit Type:** Capsule

**Fruit Showiness:** False

**Fruit Size Range:** 1.5 - 3

**Fruit Colors:** Green

**Seasons:** Spring, Summer

---

## Portulacaria afra

(Elephant Bush, Spekboom)



Leaf Image

### Horticulture Management

---

#### Tolerance

**Frost Tolerant:** No

**Heat Tolerant:** Yes

**Drought Tolerant:** Yes

**Salt Tolerance:** Moderate

---

#### Requirements

**Soil Requirements:** Loam, Sand

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

**Water Requirements:** Moderate

**Light Requirements:** Full

---

#### Management

**Toxicity:** 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

---

## MORE IMAGES



Fruit Image



Bark Image



Other Image