

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
Pronounciation: 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

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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

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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

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

MORE IMAGES



Fruit Image



Bark Image



Other Image