



# ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

## PLANT CARE INFORMATION

### Wolfberry

*Lycium* species

**DESCRIPTION:** There are many different species of Wolfberry bushes in our region. They are all thorny, woody shrubs of varying ultimate size. Growth rate is moderate. Flowers are usually small (1/2" long) and pale pink to lavender in color. Flowering is sporadic throughout the year, usually in response to rains. Fruit is an orange to red colored berry from 1/4-1/2" long. The fruits are edible, tasting like a tart, salty tomato. In the fall flowers are a nectar source for both bees and butterflies, including the Funereal Duskywing, a skipper, Queen, and Monarch butterflies. The fruit, as well as the thick branching habit make the wolfberry an excellent bird-attracting plant.

#### COMMON SPECIES FOUND IN ARIZONA:

**Wolfberry or Frutilla** (*Lycium brevipes*) In cultivation it flowers any month, with the best blooms from November through March.

**Wolfberry or Manzanita** (*Lycium andersonii*) Rounded bush 4-6' tall. Leaves are narrow on tan stems. From lower desert areas in Arizona and northern Sonora.

**Wolfberry or Barchata** (*Lycium berlandieri*) Upright bush 4-8' tall. Spatulate leaves on stems that are often reddish purple. From Texas to Arizona and into Mexico.

**Wolfberry or Frutilla** (*Lycium californicum*) Rounded bush to 6' tall by 10' across. Leaves are globular and succulent on tan stems. From southern Arizona to coastal Sonora and Baja.

**Wolfberry or Frutilla** (*Lycium exsertum*) Rounded bush to 8' X 8'. Spatulate leaves on tan stems. From southern Arizona and northwestern Mexico.

**Wolfberry or Frutilla** (*Lycium fremontii*) Rounded bush to 6' tall. Spatulate leaves on tan stems. From desert areas in Arizona and California, to northwestern Mexico.

**RECOMMENDED USE:** Use in a wildlife garden, xeriscape or desert revegetation, or as a barrier.

#### CULTURE:



**Hardiness:** All are hardy into the low 20°F's



**Sun tolerance:** All do best in full sun to light shade. Too much shade produces leggy growth and poor flowering.



**Watering and feeding:** Low to moderate water needs, depending on time of establishment and growth rate desired.



**Soil requirements:** Any soils



**Pruning:** Prune to shape or control at any time.