



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Rama de Toro *Ruellia nudiflora*

DESCRIPTION: This herbaceous perennial can be found along washes, in silty soil, throughout much of southern Arizona and northern Sonora, Mexico. It sprouts up from thick roots in the springtime. Flower buds soon follow, but it is usually not until the summer rains that flowers actually open. Blooms are rich purple and about an inch across. It may spread slowly by seed, which are produced whether or not the flower buds open. Some clones are low, rosette forming perennials and others are upright, twiggy plants. Rama de Toro is one of the favorite plants of desert tortoises.

RECOMMENDED USE: Since it is below ground in the winter, and flowers are not showy until the summer rains, use Rama de Toro as a filler in an enhanced desert landscape or rock garden.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Rama de Toro is quite hardy in Tucson. It can take temperatures down to at least 15°F.



Sun tolerance: It will do well in full sun to deep shade.



Watering and feeding: Water requirements are low, but flowers can be forced in the dry fore-summer by giving extra moisture. Fertilizing is not usually necessary.



Soil requirements: Sandy soils are best.



Pruning: None necessary.