



ARIZONA-SONORA
DESERT
MUSEUM

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Baja Bursage *Ambrosia bryantii*

DESCRIPTION: This unusual bursage is found in the Vizcaíno region of the Sonoran Desert in central Baja California. Flowers are insignificant at a distance, but striking to look at up close. It is the only bursage of our region which retain its fruit, and also the only one with straight spines on the fruit. It is not until the plant dies and breaks apart that the seed can spread about and come into contact with the soil. In its dry habitat the plants are often leafless, appearing more like a small cholla than a bursage.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use as an accent plant or in a rock garden. Makes an unusually attractive potted plant.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: At least to 25°F.



Sun tolerance: Full sun to light shade. It will become leggy in too much shade.



Watering and feeding: Baja bursage does most of its growing in cool weather, so water it once a week in the ground, or enough to prevent the soil from drying out in a container. In summer water only enough to keep leaves from shriveling completely. Fertilize once in the fall.



Soil requirements: This plant is used to only a few inches of rainfall per year; most of that in cool weather. To prevent it from rotting during our summer rain, plant it in well-drained sandy soil, or keep it in a container with a loose mix.



Pruning: As needed.