



## ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

### Velvet Ash Tree or Fresno *Fraxinus velutina*

**DESCRIPTION:** Velvet Ash is a deciduous tree with a dense summer canopy of medium-green compound leaves. The growth rate is usually moderate, depending on growing conditions. Typical Arizona specimens are 15 to 30 feet tall with a similar spread. In late winter, the inconspicuous flowers are followed by 1/2" long winged fruit. Velvet Ash is a semi-riparian species found on the outer edges of the flood plain in perennial desert streams, or in rocky canyons in the grassland and lower oak zones of our region.

**RECOMMENDED USE:** Its medium size and warm season foliage make it a good shade tree.

#### CULTURE:



**Hardiness:** It is hardy down to at least 18°F.



**Sun tolerance:** Plant in full sun in almost any soil. It can tolerate light shade for part of the day, but may grow towards the light.



**Watering and feeding:** Water use is moderate; irrigation frequency can be lessened in age, although it may be at the expense of growth rate. Do not miss waterings during May and June. Deep, weekly irrigations when plant is active encourages the best growth. Feed in mid-winter.



**Soil requirements:** It can take most any soil that drains.



**Pruning:** Pruning may be necessary to encourage one trunk. Do not over-prune, as root growth is sacrificed with foliage loss.