



Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Leucophyllum frutescens

Educating people about the environmental necessity, economic value, and natural beauty of native plants

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www.wildflower.org

Common name

Cenizo, purple sage, barometer bush

Range

Native to dry, rocky areas in the Rio Grande Plains and the south Trans-Pecos. Grows in the Edwards Plateau and the extreme southern counties of Cameron and Hidalgo.

Life cycle

Woody shrub, somewhat evergreen

Bloom period

Several months of periodic flowering from late July – September. Often flowers after a few summer showers, which is why one of its common names is barometer bush.

Soil preference

Dry, rocky soil and good drainage.

Exposure

Full sun

Propagation

L. frutescens is commercially available. The best time for planting most shrubs and trees is during the dormant period of fall and winter. As with any shrub or tree, the first year requires regular deep watering for successful root establishment. Once established, *L. frutescens* does not require fertilization or watering beyond average rainfall.

Because the plant has a long bloom season, there are always seed capsules containing the tiny seeds during flowering. They can be planted after collection, or stored and planted outside in the spring after the last frost. Lightly tamp the seeds into the soil and keep watered.

You can also propagate *L. frutescens* by taking cuttings in spring or summer and keeping them misted until rooting occurs, then tapering off the watering. As the plant grows, prune back long branches to encourage a thicker shrub.



Maintenance

Thrives in a harsh, dry environment. Red spider insects can cause defoliation.

Miscellaneous

Combines well with other plants as an accent to any landscaping design.