

# Lycium fremontii, Wolfberry

## Category: Shrub

### Description

Sonoran desert MVP. An important source of food and shelter for wildlife. Dense, thorny shrub provides protected nesting spaces. One of the few winter flowering plants in the desert, the lavender tubular blooms feed hummingbirds and other pollinators. Large, orange berries in the spring provide food to numerous species of birds and animals.



Characteristics & Culture	
Size (H x W)	8 feet x 10 feet
Sonoran Desert Native?	Yes, Tucson basin and mountains
Native Elevation	1000 - 3500'
Hardiness	10 degrees F
Bloom Season	Opportunistically with rain, largest bloom in winter
Blossom	Lavender
Seasonality	Drought deciduous
Exposure	Full sun to light shade
Soils	Tolerant - most soil types are acceptable
Water	Low
Pruning	None
Growth Rate	Moderate with irrigation
Reseeds	Infrequently

Wildlife Benefits	
Butterfly Larval Host Plant	Unknown
Moth Larval Host Plant	Mexican agapema silkmoth, Sphinx, Prominent, Crambid
Nectar Plant	Hummingbirds, butterflies, sphinx moths and other native pollinators
Shelter / Nesting Site / Nest Materials for Birds	Shelter, nesting site and feeder in one
Food for Birds	Berry favorite of Phainopepla and many other species

*Credit: Information is from observation as well as research compiled by Desert Survivors Native Plant Nursery (a great source for native plants in Tucson, AZ).*