

Ziziphus obtusifolia, Graythorn

Category: Shrub

Description

Sonoran Desert MVP. Erect, long branching shrub with stout thorns. Covered in black berries in the spring feasted upon by many species of bird. Provides shelter and nesting sites for birds.



Characteristics & Culture	
Size (H x W)	8 feet x 7 feet
Sonoran Desert Native?	Yes, Tucson basin and mountains
Native Elevation	1000-5000'
Hardiness	15 degrees F
Bloom Season	Spring, summer and fall depending on moisture
Blossom	Yellow, inconspicuous
Seasonality	Mostly deciduous in winter
Exposure	Partial shade to full sun
Soils	Tolerant - most soil types are acceptable
Water	Low
Pruning	None
Growth Rate	Slow
Reseeds	Infrequently

Wildlife Benefits	
Butterfly Larval Host Plant	Unknown
Moth Larval Host Plant	Unknown
Nectar Plant	Many species of native pollinators
Shelter / Nesting Site / Nest Materials for Birds	Nesting site for birds, cover for birds and other wildlife
Food for Birds	Berry favorite of Phainopepla

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).