

COMMON NAME:

GRAY THORN

SCIENTIFIC NAME:

ZIZIPHUS OBTUSIFOLIA

ALSO CALLED: SOUTHWEST CONDALIA, TEXAS BUCKTHORN, GUMDROP TREE, AND LOTE BUSH

FLOWER COLOR: WHITE

FLOWER ARRANGEMENT: SEVERALLY NEAR ENDS OF BRANCHES

FLOWERING TIME: NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

LEAVES: SMALL EGG-SHAPED GREEN LEAVES USUALLY ABOUT 3/4" BY 1 1/2"

OBSERVABLE FRUIT: PURPLISH CHERRY SIZE

NORMAL SIZE: 8' TO 20'

NORMAL ELEVATION: 2000' TO 4000'

HABITATION: SLIGHT DEPRESSIONS

ABUNDANCE: RARE

NOTABLE DETAILS: WOODY BUSH WITH SMALL ROUNDISH LEAVES, WHICH FALL OFF WHEN THE HEAT REACHES EXTREMES LEAVING ONLY GRAY THORNS.

SPECIAL INTEREST: GRAY THORN CAN BE CONFUSED WITH ALLTHORN, BUT ALL THORN IS ONLY FOUND IN THE SOUTHWEST PORTIONS OF THE STATE. SOMETIME THE GRAY THORN HAS LEAVES, AND THE ALL THORN NEVER HAS LEAVES. DURING FALL AND WINTER MONTHS, THE GRAY THORN BECOMES VERY GRAY AND APPEARS ALMOST DEAD.