

# Creosote Bush


*Larrea tridentata*





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**WAIT!**






Before you scrape all those “useless bushes” off your land, learn about these amazing plants and the reasons why you should leave them where they are, as much as possible.


 They are the largest bushes on your property.


 They are most likely the oldest plants on your property. Some clonal rings of Creosote in the Mojave Desert are over 10,000 years old!

 They are *not* poisonous. They are not “greasewood” or “sagebrush” and not even related to these other plants.


 They can be watered, judiciously by ground soaking only, and grow to 15' tall to serve as a windbreak, a visual break, and an unthirsty green part of your garden.

-  They will respond to very little extra water by remaining green all year round.
-  They hold the soil down in windy weather.
-  They act as nurse plants for other plants, even for non-native ones.
-  They provide a duff of fallen leaves that nurtures annual desert wildflowers.
-  They bloom profusely with yellow flowers and then hold attractive white furry seedpods.

 They supply native kangaroo rats, Antelope Ground Squirrels and Jackrabbits and Cottontails with burrows, shade and resting places.

 They are important for resident birds like California Quail, Roadrunners, Verdins, Say's Phoebes and migrating birds like Warblers, which use them as perches, as a food source, and as shade and protection.

 They are the local “grocery store” and “condominium complex” for native wildlife.



**CREOSOTES ARE  
SUPREMEY IMPORTANT  
TO OUR DESERT  
ECOSYSTEM!  
LONG MAY THEY LIVE!**

