



ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA BIG SAGEBRUSH

The most common sagebrush of the Southwest, this shrub is extremely aromatic, especially after a desert rainstorm. In fact, Native Americans burned the branches to produce a pungent smoke that was used to neutralize skunk odor. Big sagebrush is native to elevations of 1500 to 10,000 feet across the Great Basin, and is hardy to -30° F. We do not advise using it in low desert locations. The rough, shaggy black bark and irregular form give this plant a coarse, rugged appearance that makes it most appropriate for revegetation projects. Big sagebrush is a dense, semi-evergreen shrub that ranges in height from 2 to 8 feet, depending on the amount of animal grazing and available moisture. The hairy, silver-grey leaves are narrow and wedge-shaped, with 3 to 5 teeth at the tip. The new growth is most attractive, so for a more refined look, prune out old stems periodically. The clusters of tiny flowers are fairly inconspicuous. Use Big sagebrush in full sun and well-drained soil, and be careful not to over water. A few more interesting facts: Native Americans brewed a tea from the leaves to treat the common cold, headaches and fever. Spanish settlers also used the leaves as a sort of “perfumed” toilet paper. USDA Zone 5.

| AT A GLANCE SUMMARY | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| SIZE (H X W) | 2-8 feet x 2-8 feet |
| FLOWER COLOR | Cream |
| FLOWER SEASON | Spring |
| EXPOSURE | Full sun |
| WATER | Low |
| GROWTH RATE | Moderate |
| HARDINESS | -20° F, USDA Zone 5 |
| PRUNING | Periodically prune out old stems |



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