



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Desert Honeysuckle or Cola de Gallo *Anisacanthus thurberi*

DESCRIPTION: Desert Honeysuckle is native to washes and canyons in the Sonoran Desert region. This upright, deciduous shrub attracts hummingbirds with vibrant red-orange flowers throughout the year, with a heavy blooming season of April through June. Hummingbirds take care of the pollination, however, butterflies and carpenter bees drink the nectar. The latter are known to steal nectar by biting a slit in the base of the flower. The plant has a moderate growth rate to an upright (to 6'), and fairly narrow (3'-4' wide) form. Desert Honeysuckle provides a good low-maintenance component of the xeriscape.

RECOMMENDED USE: Background, enhanced desert revegetation,

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Desert Honeysuckle is hardy to at least the low teens.



Sun tolerance: It grows best in full sun to part shade.



Watering and feeding: It requires little water once established. Plants may be irrigated about twice a month during the hot season to keep in flower; weekly watering may improve the plant's vigor. Fertilization is not necessary.



Soil requirements: It will tolerate all but the heaviest clay soils.



Pruning: Pruning is seldom required.