



ACACIA REDOLENS DESERT CARPET™

OUTSTANDING FEATURES: This trademarked clone of *Acacia redolens* is desirable because of its proven low-growing form. Unlike plants grown from seed, which can reach heights in excess of six feet, **Desert Carpet™** consistently stays below 24 inches. Since **Desert Carpet™** also spreads to 15 feet, it is often selected as an inexpensive means of covering large areas.

DESCRIPTION: This selection is a low growing, wide spreading, evergreen form that grows to 18 - 24 inches tall and can spread to 15 feet across. The leathery "leaves" (they are actually the modified petiole of a true leaf) are dark, olive green and remain on the plant through cold or drought. In the spring this plant is adorned with small, yellow rod-like flower spikes. *Acacia redolens* is native to inland areas of Western Australia.

CULTURE/MAINTENANCE: This plant is hardy to at least 15 degrees and possibly lower. In Las Vegas, *Acacia redolens* **Desert Carpet™** froze out at 5 degrees F. In coastal regions, *Acacia redolens* requires little or no supplemental irrigation. In hot desert climates, it does require regular irrigation during the summer months. Although *Acacia redolens* is quite drought tolerant, it also seems to tolerate periodic flooding, and a number of landscape architects have used it successfully in retention basins. Place plants in full sun, as they tend to get rangy in the shade. Compared to seedlings of *Acacia redolens*, **Desert Carpet™** has a slow to moderate growth rate. This clone is slow to produce top growth for the first year, as it seems to be spending its energy on root production. After the first year, the growth rate increases, and the top growth begins to take off. You can expect one plant to reach a 4 foot diameter in two or three growing seasons. This clone requires virtually no maintenance, and has minimized the rodent problems often associated with the large seedlings.

IDENTIFICATION: *Acacia redolens* **Desert Carpet™** (Trademark is held by Mountain States Wholesale Nursery) is easily distinguished from other forms of *Acacia redolens* by its very prostrate form. Since **Desert Carpet™** is a clone, all plants in a block should look identical. Of course, plants should also be readily identified by trademark tags.

LANDSCAPE APPLICATION: Use **Desert Carpet™** as an evergreen groundcover in the transition or outer zones of a xeriscape. It is useful for erosion control and slope stabilization, and is an inexpensive solution for covering large expanses of bare ground.



Plants should be given full sun or very light shade. Some plants that combine well with this Acacia are accent plants such as *Hesperaloe funifera*, *Opuntia santa rita Tubac™*, *Nolina matapensis* and *Yucca rigida*; trees like *Acacia stenophylla*, *Cercidium* hybrid 'Desert Museum', *Prosopis* species; and shrubs such as *Leucophyllum*

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GROUND
COVER

ACACIA REDOLENS DESERT CARPET™



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species, *Simmondsia chinensis*, and
Vauquelinia californica.

PRECAUTIONS: To our knowledge, this clone is not bothered by any insect pests or diseases. Also, there have been no reports of damage by rabbits or javelina to *Acacia redolens* **Desert Carpet™**. Remember that this clone is quite slow to become established. Do not be discouraged if it takes up to a year for the top growth to take off and begin filling in a large area. Once this clone does fill in, it is easy to control (requires almost no pruning), and seems to be quite long-lived.



Acacia redolens **Desert Carpet™** in a Tucson landscape.



Acacia redolens **Desert Carpet™**

AT A GLANCE SUMMARY	
SIZE (HEIGHT x WIDTH)	24 inches x 15 feet
FLOWER COLOR	Yellow
FLOWER SEASON	Spring
EXPOSURE	Full sun, reflected heat
WATER	Low
GROWTH RATE	Moderate-slow
HARDINESS	15 ° F USDA 8
PRUNING	Early summer
HARDY IN THESE CITIES	Phoenix, Tucson, Palm Desert, San Diego, Los Angeles



Established planting of **Desert Carpet™** in Costa Mesa, California.

For more information, call: toll-free (800) 840-8509 or (623) 247-8509
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