



BACCHARIS HYBRID 'STARN' P.P.# 11240 THOMPSON™

OUTSTANDING FEATURES: For over 15 years, *Baccharis* hybrid 'Centennial' has been a mainstay in desert landscapes, providing a durable, long-lived, bright green spreading shrub to mass together over large areas. A new patented clone, **Thompson™**, has all the desirable characteristics of 'Centennial', along with some significant improvements. **Thompson™** is a male plant, which means that it does not produce the messy white "fluff" (seed head litter) produced in abundance by the female 'Centennial'. As a male plant **Thompson™** also eliminates the production of unwanted seedlings that often grow up through stands of 'Centennial'. Mountain States Wholesale Nursery has a patent pending for this new clone.

DESCRIPTION: *Baccharis* hybrid 'Starn' P.P.# 11240 **Thompson™** is a spreading evergreen shrub, forming a rounded mound to 3-4 feet tall by 4-5 feet wide. It has very small, leathery green leaves closely set along the stems. Its male flowers are inconspicuous, and no pappus (seed head litter) is produced.

CULTURE/MAINTENANCE: If **Thompson™** is correctly spaced at a minimum of 4-5 feet on center, little pruning should be required. Once plants are established, cut back irrigation by 30% to help maintain a more compact size. If plants do become woody with age, or a lower height is desired, plants can be pruned back in the fall or winter. *Baccharis* plants grow during the cool season, slowing down dramatically during the hot summer months. If possible, avoid pruning in the summer, to avoid sunburning of interior growth. Plants will acclimate faster, and exhibit more growth during the first year if planted from fall through early spring. *Baccharis* plants seem to thrive in almost any soil, ranging from very sandy to heavy clay. They will tolerate extreme heat and cold temperatures as low as 0° F. Since the new **Thompson™** clone has more genes from the tough *Baccharis sarothroides* (Desert broom) than does 'Centennial', we expect it to surpass 'Centennial' in its resistance to heat, cold, drought and diseases. **Thompson™** will also require less maintenance than 'Centennial', because it does not produce seedlings. It is common to see stands of 'Centennial' with taller seedlings (crosses with Desert Broom) growing up through them. The female 'Centennial' is readily pollinated by male Desert Broom plants, which are common in desert areas.

IDENTIFICATION: Unless 'Centennial' and **Thompson™** are flowering, it will be next to impossible to tell the plants apart. However, every **Thompson™** plant will have a Mountain States patent tag attached. Any plants without this tag are not the **Thompson™** clone!

LANDSCAPE APPLICATION: *Baccharis* hybrid 'Starn' P.P.# 11240 **Thompson™** is an ideal plant to use in masses on golf courses, large commercial projects, and right-of-way landscapes. Plant it on slopes to reduce erosion. It looks great all year, requires minimal maintenance, and is very long-lived. Although it is very drought-tolerant, it also seems able to withstand the periodic flooding of retention basins. Try using it in combination with silver-foliaged plants such as *Leucophyllum candidum* Thunder Cloud™ and *Dalea greggii*.



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SHRUB

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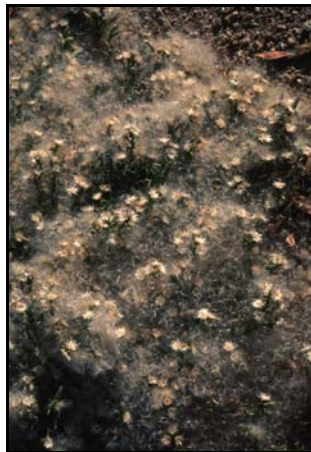
SHRUB

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PRECAUTIONS: To prevent disappointment after the project has matured, be sure that the installed plants are identified by the patent tag. If possible, avoid planting this shrub during the heat of the summer. If this is not possible, just be aware that the top growth may take several months to start growing. As an aside, many landscape architects have expressed frustration when they specify 'Centennial' on their projects, citing a huge inconsistency in growth habit from plant to plant. Since the University of Arizona did not patent or trademark this clone, there is no way to ensure proper propagation techniques and quality control in the nursery industry. In order for 'Centennial' to come true and exhibit the desired growth characteristics, it must be propagated vegetatively. The wide range of growth habits often exhibited when 'Centennial' is planted on projects suggest that some growers are mistakenly planting seed collected from 'Centennial', resulting in a hodgepodge of offspring.



AT A GLANCE SUMMARY	
SIZE (HEIGHT x WIDTH)	3-4' x 3-4'
FLOWER COLOR	Inconspicuous
FLOWER SEASON	Fall
EXPOSURE	Full sun
WATER	Low to moderate
GROWTH RATE	Moderate
HARDINESS	0° F USDA 7
PRUNING	Shear in early fall
HARDY IN THESE CITIES	Phoenix, Tucson, Palm Desert, San Diego, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Albuquerque, El Paso, San Antonio, Austin, South Texas, Houston, Dallas



The two golf courses at Del Webb's Sun City Grand project have provided a vivid comparison of *Baccharis* 'Centennial' (above) and *Baccharis* hybrid 'Starn' **Thompson™** P.P.#11240 (photo at left). These photographs, taken on the same day, show the "fluff" on 'Centennial', compared with the clean appearance of the **Thompson™** clone.

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