



## EPHEDRA VIRIDIS MORMON TEA

Mormon Tea produces numerous bright green slender stems that arise from the ground in broom-like clumps that may reach 3 feet in height and width. The virtually leafless, slender stems are segmented with conspicuous joints. This rather unremarkable plant is really quite unique as it is a gymnosperm, like pines and firs. In fact, it is sometimes referred to as joint-fir. The plants are separately sexed with female plants producing tiny, ¼ inch diameter cones in spring. This species occurs at elevations of 3,000 to 7,000 feet in the grasslands and Pinyon-Juniper forests of Nevada and Utah and the drier portions of western Colorado and northern Arizona. Quite water efficient, this plant will not tolerate poor drainage or overwatering. Ephedera is useful in revegetation, natural gardens, or as a botanical specimen. Very little maintenance is required other than to remove any dead stems. Hardy to 5°F. USDA Zone 7.

### AT A GLANCE SUMMARY

SIZE (H X W)	3 feet x 3 feet
FLOWER COLOR	Inconspicuous cones
FLOWERING TIME	Spring
EXPOSURE	Full Sun
WATER	Low
GROWTH RATE	Slow
HARDINESS	5° F, USDA Zone 7
PRUNING	Prune only to remove dead wood



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