



SOPHORA SECUNDIFLORA TEXAS MOUNTAIN LAUREL

If you catch a whiff of grape bubble gum in the air during February and early March, look around to see if there is a blooming Texas Mountain Laurel nearby. The large purple clusters of wisteria-like flowers look as good as they smell! Most Texas Mountain Laurels have glossy green foliage, providing a perfect foil for these showy blossoms. Texas Mountain Laurel is evergreen, thornless and is one of the cleanest small trees around. It is a good choice for patio areas, growing slowly to 15 feet tall and wide. This popular tree is often difficult to find in large sizes, so you might have to plant a five or fifteen gallon and wait patiently for it to develop a canopy. Deep, infrequent summer irrigation will encourage faster growth. One word of caution: this plant produces thick, hard seed pods which contain poisonous orange-red seeds. However, the seed pods are very difficult to break open.

If you're concerned about the seeds, simply clip off the seed pods before they mature. Texas Mountain Laurel is very cold hardy, to 10° F, USDA Zone 7. 'Silver Peso', a clone with silver-grey foliage, is occasionally found in the nursery trade.

AT A GLANCE SUMMARY

SIZE (H X W)	15 feet x 15 feet
FLOWER COLOR	Purple
FLOWER SEASON	February - March
EXPOSURE	Full sun, part shade
WATER	Low, extra summer water
GROWTH RATE	Slow
HARDINESS	10° F, USDA Zone 7
PRUNING	Prune to shape



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