

# Texas Mountain Laurel (Common Name)

*Sophora secundiflora* (Scientific Name)



## PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Canopy potential: 10' – 15' wide

Annual Growth Rate: 12"

Powerline Friendly: 15' – 25' from base

Root Damage Potential: Low

Leaves: Dense, dark green, and glossy compound leaves are composed of 7-9 shiny, leathery leaflets that are rounded on the ends.

Flowers: Bluish lavender flowers, in 3-7".



## ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

Water Use: Low

Edible Fruit Producing: No

Allergenic: Low

BVOC Emissions: High

Sonoran Desert Native: No

Invasive Species: No

Tree Care: Plant in rocky or well-drained soils. Supplemental irrigation promotes growth. Plant in full sun with deep, regular irrigation. Non-established trees need to be watered every 4-7 days in the first year, and 203 weeks beyond that. Prune to raise crown in spring, but care to not over-prune.

Ecosystem Services: Blooms attract insect pollinators. Infusion of the ground up seed has been applied in ears in the treatment of earaches. Red seeds inside the pods have been used by Native Americans for necklaces and ceremonial uses. The red seeds contain the highly poisonous alkaloid cytisine (or sophorine) – this substance is related to nicotine and is widely cited as a narcotic and hallucinogen.



