California Brittlebush

Encelia californica

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 7 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 9

Other Names: California Bush Sunflower

Description:

A fast growing, bushy, sprawling shrub with many thin branches and widely spaced leaves; solitary, daisy-like flowers appear from mid winter to late spring and attract pollinators; beautiful in winter and spring but will go dormant in summer heat



California Brittlebush flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

California Brittlebush features airy lightly-scented yellow daisy flowers with brown eyes held atop the branches from mid winter to late spring. The flowers are excellent for cutting. It has green deciduous foliage which emerges light green in spring. The pointy leaves do not develop any appreciable fall color.



California Brittlebush
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

California Brittlebush is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a more or less rounded form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading
- Self-Seeding

California Brittlebush is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- Groundcover
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens

Planting & Growing

California Brittlebush will grow to be about 5 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 7 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As this plant tends to go dormant in summer, it is best interplanted with late-season bloomers to hide the dying foliage.

This shrub should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in poor soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is native to parts of North America.