

Botanical Name: Encelia farinosa

Common Name: Brittle bush, Incienso

Type of Plant: Dicot: subshrub Family Asteraceae

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape a low mounding plant in its natural habitat; forms a rather open
loosely rounded shape if frequently watered; is drought-deciduous in dry zones

Height 2-4' Spread equal or more Growth Rate slow (rapid if heavily watered)

Environment:

Exposure full sun: prefers warm dry habitats - can tolerate some shade

Soil thrives in well-draining sites; tolerates clay soils if grown in sun

Hardiness (zones 7-10, 14-24): very tolerant of desert heat; survives some frost

Morphology:

Leaves palmate (3-veined), alternate, ovate with slightly wavy margins; gray
or silvery white in native habitats (greener at wet or shady sites), 2-4" long

Flowers yellow, sunflower-shaped, in open panicles that arise 1 - 2' above the
plant; nearly 2" across; March - May (also in summer if plant receives water)

Fruit a small achene

Propagation: seed or softwood cuttings

Usage: an excellent low filler for its silvery-white foliage and showy display of
yellow flowers in spring; is well-adapted to dry rocky slope plantings as well as
more typical garden planter spaces; desert and dry mediterranean-themes

Landscape Care:

Watering little is required after establishment; plant is more compact if
seldom-watered; thrives on an occasional deep-soaking in summer months

Fertilizing little needed - plants become leggy if overfed

Pruning head back strongly after blooming period to retain low compact form

Pests/Diseases relatively free - aphids sometimes infest tip growth or the flowers

Other tolerates usage as a container plant for patio gardens

Origin: Colorado and Mohave deserts of California; into Arizona and Baja