

Botanical Name: Portulacaria afra

Common Name: Purslane Tree, Elephant's Food, Elephant Bush

Type of Plant: dicot: shrub Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape open and pyramidal when young, more irregular and dense  
with age--loosely branched with thick, fleshy tapering stems

Height to 12' Spread to 12' Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors half shade to full sun

Soil tolerates any soil

Hardiness some frost (zones 16,17,22-24)

Morphology:

Leaves opposite, sessile obovate, dark green to 1/2" long  
succulent and rounded attached to wine-red stems

Flowers tiny pink flowers in terminal clusters seldom seen in  
California

Fruit insignificant

Propagation: stem cuttings (allow to dry for a day before planting)

Usage: good in containers, as an informal screen or hedge; also  
good as a filler in mass planting -- mix with other succulents

Landscape Care:

Watering prefers to be kept on the dry side

Fertilizing none

Pruning control size, head back to force bushiness

Pests/Diseases none

Special Conditions

Origin: So. Africa Family: Portulacaceae