

SARATOGA HORTICULTURAL FOUNDATION, INC.

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ISOMERIS ARBOREA - Bladderpod

A one-meter tall, two-meter broad gray-green mound scattered with clusters of yellow flowers describes Bladderpod.

Its oblong five centimeter long leaflets, borne in threes, offer a smooth texture, a blue-gray color and a distinctly unpleasant odor when brushed.

The terminal clusters of butter yellow flowers are borne in masses in spring and late fall with some flowers present all year around, followed by two inch long, inflated seedpods.

Bladderpod is endemic to an amazing diversity of climates and geography. It can be seen in desert washes in the Mohave Desert, west to the San Diego coastal bluffs. Geographic forms range from dense mounds in the desert to rather open, woody specimens on the coastal bluffs.

Nursery stock of Isomeris may have some aphids, but this minor problem does not persist in the garden. They seem quite resistant to other insect and disease problems.

Older Bladderpod bushes will tolerate pruning down to heavy wood producing a rejuvenated bouquet of yellow and gray.

Its garden tolerances are so great that it makes a good companion in a dry garden with Eriogonum giganteum and Trichostema lanatum or in a garden with Ceanothus griseus 'Louis Edmunds' and Rhamnus californica 'Eve Case' receiving periodic watering.

Propagation is normally by seed which is sown with no pretreatment; and since the seed pods are held on the plants for some time, seed can be collected at the convenience of the propagator.

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