

# NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS

## *Lindheimer Chapter*

### PLANT OF THE MONTH APRIL, 2013

#### **CENIZO, *LEUCOPHYLLUM FRUTESCENS***



**Cenizo in Bloom**



**Flower Detail**



**USDA Range Map: Texas**

Cenizo is a medium-sized shrub, typically growing 2' – 5' tall, but occasionally reaching 8'. In the US, it is only found naturally in Texas – mainly in the southern and western parts of the state. It typically has pink-lavender blooms and gray green leaves, but selections and cultivars can be found with blooms in various shades of lavender and even white, as well as some that have green leaves. Cenizo can bloom any time of year, but usually after a rain, which leads to another common name: barometer bush. It is also known as Texas Ranger or Texas Sage, although it is not a true Sage.

Cenizo is very heat and drought tolerant, making it a popular landscape plant in the Southwest. It does not need fertilizer, and should be given a well drained location. Care should be taken not to overwater Cenizo, since this can lead to root rot. It is 'evergreen' (if that term is appropriate for a gray-leaved plant), but will lose some leaves in a cold winter. Cenizo prefers full sun, and will grow leggy if planted in the shade. It can be pruned to a more compact shape, if desired, and can even be shaped into a formal hedge. Otherwise, light pruning in late winter and again in early summer, if necessary, is all that is needed. Cenizo is usually not bothered by deer.

Several other species of *Leucophyllum* are found in West Texas, New Mexico and Mexico. Most need even better drainage than this species.

Note: Cenizo is a NPSOT NICE!™ selection for Summer 2013.