

Agarita

**DID YOU KNOW?
THE SEEDS FORM AGARITA
FRUIT CAN BE HARVESTED
AND ROASTED INTO
COFFEE!**

WHAT IS AGARITA?

Agarita (*Mahonia trifoliolata*) is a tough, drought-tolerant shrub known for its fragrant yellow spring flowers and bright red berries. This drought and freeze-tolerant flowering shrub is native to the southwest.

PLANTING

Plant agarita in full sun to partial shade and well-drained soil. It is adaptable to different soils as long as they are well-draining. Dig a hole twice as wide as the root ball, plant at the original soil level, and water thoroughly after planting.

After planting, agarita will take roughly 2-3 years to produce a full 5-gallon bucket of berries.



MAINTENANCE

Agarita's spiny foliage and tough nature make it highly resistant to deer, rabbits, and most insect pests, making it one of the lowest-maintenance native shrubs for Texas landscapes. It rarely experiences serious insect or disease problems.

Common issues include:

- Scale insects – Occasionally found on stems and leaves, particularly on stressed plants. Heavy infestations can cause yellowing leaves or reduced vigor.
- Aphids – May appear on new spring growth but are usually temporary and cause minimal damage.
- Leaf spot diseases – Can develop during unusually wet or humid conditions, though severe infections are uncommon.
- Root rot – The most significant potential problem, typically caused by poorly drained soils or overwatering rather than a pest.

HARVESTING

In the spring, beautiful yellow flowers blossom and produce small, red berries which can be harvested and made into agarita wine, juice, and jam, and are even a great addition in pies or cobblers!

One of the easiest ways to harvest Agarita is to lay a large sheet on the ground. Using a broom, beat the bush and the berries will fall onto the tarp. Make sure to wear protective, elbow-length gloves since the leaves, which are sharp and point upwards, can hurt you!

COMMON USES

Agarita can be used in many different ways! It can be planted as a hedge/border for gardens and landscaping.

This dense, evergreen plant can keep unwanted animals away and also serve as a shelter for smaller animals.

Agarita is beautiful in the winter and is highly fragrant in the spring, attracting bees and butterflies! It is one of the first nectar-producing plants in spring and is an important source for pollinators.

Its roots are often used medicinally and evidence suggests the alkaloids can cure anything from fevers to stomach pain and wounds.

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Website:

[bobwellsnursery.com](#)

Email address:

customerservice@sorellefarms.com