

APRIL

# ECO-BLITZ CHALLENGE

CHUPAROSA

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## CHUPAROSA



**Chuparosa**

Photo by iNATURALIST

This month, we are learning all about the Chuparosa (*Justicia californica*).

Here are some fun facts:

- Chuparosa has a deep root system, making it a hardy plant that evolved to survive hot, dry summers in the desert. In response to drier soils, it will shed its leaves.
- Chuparosa is a Spanish word for hummingbird, and its bright red flowers and sweet nectar attract many hummingbird species and other birds.
- It is also a larval food plant for butterflies, including the tiny checkerspot (*Dymasia dymas*), Texas crescent (*Anthanassa texana*), and the pearl crescent (*Phyciodes tharos*), and there are no known pests or diseases. This makes it perfect for gardens.

Sources:

Chuparosa, *Justicia californica* (calscape.org) , Chuparosa | A Plant for Every Season | Desert Botanical Garden (dbg.org)