



Jojoba  
*Simmondsia chinensis*  
Goatnut

**Description:**

**Height:** can get up to 5-10ft tall,  
10-12ft wide

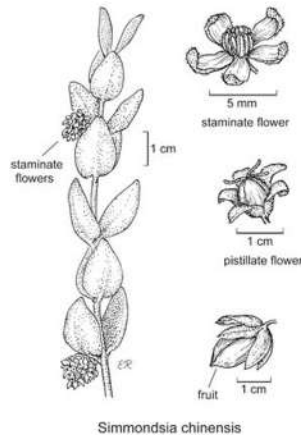
**Flowers/Leaves:** 10-20mm  
greenish- yellow flowers,  
2.5-4cm leaves

**Habitat:** desert shrub and  
lower chaparral habitats

**Flowering:** March to May

**Uses:**

The nut that the plant grows contains a wax that's been useful for making cosmetics and candles. The oil-like wax used in cosmetics, lotions and shampoos, and as a machine oil. Jojoba oil can be applied directly to the skin for acne, psoriasis, sunburn, and chapped skin. It has been shown to enhance skin's restorative properties and can also provide topical skin-soothing benefits.



The nut is commonly eaten by birds, rodents, deer, and javelinas; its fruit is known to be edible in small quantities for humans either eaten fresh or dried.

The plant releases an oil that can be used for pulmonary problems, anti-inflammatory for mucous membranes, also used for colitis, ulcers, hemorrhoids and sore throats.

**Native Cultures:**

Several southwestern tribes use the jojoba, including Cahuilla and Tempalpakh people.

**Habitat:**

This plant is a common sight in desert shrubs and lower chaparral habitats. Mainly in the desert and in the sun, on flat ground or can extend to beyond the coastal mountain ranges of southern California, particularly known in the San Jacinto Mountains, and in Arizona.

**Pollinators:**

Jojoba is wind-pollinated but is also pollinated by honey and native bees.

**Flowering:**

The jojoba grows yellowish-green inconspicuous flowers, seeds and nuts. The



flowers are small and greenish-yellow, with 5-6 sepals and no petals. The plant typically blooms from March to May.



**Resources:**

Illustration: Martin, C.A. (n.d.). *Simmondsia Chinensis*. University of Arizona Virtual Plant Directory. <files/simmondsiachinensis.html>  
Photographs: Jordan Rafalski