



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Spider Milkweed

Asclepias asperula

DESCRIPTION: Spider Milkweed's common names include antelope horns, green-flowered milkweed, and spider antelope horns. It is a compact herbaceous perennial found as an understory plant in mid to higher elevations of the southwest US and northern Mexico. It mounds to about 1 foot across. It readily blooms in the summer heat, producing a very large spherical flower cluster. Blooms are greenish-yellow with maroon highlights, and attract many butterflies, including the Queen and Monarch whose larva feed on the plant.

RECOMMENDED USE: Can be used as a ground cover, in a rock garden, or in a container for its flowers.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: The mountain species can take temperatures down to at least 12°F.



Sun tolerance: Light shade, at least in the afternoon will make for a less stressed, better blooming plant.



Watering and feeding: Moderate water usage to start; lower after establishment. Feed twice during the growing season (March-November).



Soil requirements: Best in non-caliche soil.



Pruning: Old stems can be pruned back near the ground as new stems arise at base.