



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Bloodflower Milkweed or Cancecillo *Asclepias curassavica*

DESCRIPTION: Bloodflower milkweed is a twiggy perennial, growing up to 3' tall, but usually less. The dense foliage can be an attractive purple-green color. Flowers occur in clusters near the top of the plant and are brilliant reddish-orange (there is a golden-colored flower form named Silky Gold available). Blooming can happen sporadically and if well-watered and kept from frost it may bloom year-round. This milkweed is native to much of tropical America, and is found in (and may be native to) the tropical deciduous forest of Sonora. Milkweeds are a favorite larval food plant of Queen and Monarch butterflies.

RECOMMENDED USE: Plant mixed in with other species in a garden or rock garden.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Marginal; damage can occur at 27°F and death at 20 °F.



Sun tolerance: Grows and blooms fine in full sun to moderate shade.



Watering and feeding: Moderate water usage; especially in sunny locations.



Soil requirements: Any soil with good drainage.



Pruning: Rarely needs pruning except if it becomes leggy. Best for the butterflies if it is cut to the ground in November.