



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Desert Willow or Mimbre

Chilopsis linearis

DESCRIPTION: Desert willow is not a true willow, but a member of the Catalpa family. It is deciduous and fast growing to 20 feet or more with an equal width. It leafs out in late March or April, soon followed by flowers. The 1” to 2” flowers are usually pale lavender, but can vary from white to maroon (they are consistent on an individual tree). Hummingbirds and butterflies are attracted to the flowers. The leaves are food for the larvae of Sphinx Moth caterpillars. Desert Willow can be seen in habitat along large washes and permanent watercourses, from Arizona to Texas, and south into Mexico. Some of the many named varieties are:

Lois Adams: Flowers are a rich pink-maroon and keeps flowering until the first frost. Produces few seeds.

Bubba: Fragrant pink-burgundy flowers in large clusters of flowers towards the tips of the branches which persist from late spring to early fall. Produces few seed pods.

Lucretia Hamilton: Intense, deep pink to purple flowers. Smaller than other varieties.

Warren Jones™: Faster growing & holds its leaves longer in the winter. Blooms profusely with showy, light pink flowers during the summer months.

Art’s Seedless: large, pink-rose flowers, long narrow bright green leaves; fast growth and no seed pods.

RECOMMENDED USE: It is adapted to desert landscapes, but fits into more intense gardens. Be sure to allow for its ultimate size.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Goes deciduous at around 30° F, but is hardy to at least 15° F.



Sun tolerance: Full sun or part-day light shade.



Watering and feeding: Low to moderate water usage when young. Frequency can be reduced in age, but at the expense of growth and flowering. Deep weekly irrigations when the tree is in leaf encourages the best growth. Feeding is not usually necessary.



Soil requirements: Not particular.



Pruning: Occasional pruning to shape and remove suckers and watersprouts as needed.