



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Skeleton Milkweed or Jumete

Asclepias subulata

DESCRIPTION: Desert Milkweed is an unusual looking milkweed well adapted to xeriscape. It has a moderate growth rate to 6' tall (often shorter) by 2' across. It is drought and cold deciduous, but leaves are barely noticeable when present. The blue-green, erect stems stand out in color and form. Greenish-white clusters of flowers are borne on the ends of stems sporadically from late March through the end of the year. Butterflies (primary pollinators), such as the Queen and Monarch, find it irresistible and it is a larval food plant for both. It is also visited by wasps, such as the tarantula hawk. Desert Milkweed is found widely scattered throughout the drier portions of the Sonoran Desert in Arizona, California, Sonora, and Baja California, Mexico.

RECOMMENDED USE: Flowers, ground cover, rock garden, container, enhanced desert.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Desert Milkweed is hardy down to at least 20.



Sun tolerance: It obtains its best form and flowering when grown in full sun. Too much shade will make it floppy and inhibit flowering.



Watering and feeding: Once established, it will need no supplemental water or feeding to survive, but will benefit from extra water during dry periods. In a container it will need watering on a weekly basis. Feeding is not necessary, unless kept in a container. Then, fertilizing 2-3 times during the growing season helps.



Soil requirements: It is not picky about soil type or texture.



Pruning: Pruning is usually not necessary if grown properly.