



ARIZONA-SONORA
DESERT
MUSEUM

ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Pyramid Bush or Malva de los Cerros

Melochia tomentosa

DESCRIPTION: This beautiful small shrub is one of those plants which almost goes unnoticed until it blooms. Flowers are one half inch across and rich lavender in color. They appear in abundance during the summer rains, and scattered other times in the warm season. Many species of butterflies are attracted to this species for its nectar. The plant is evergreen unless drought-stressed, and grows up to 3' tall. Malva de los Cerros grows naturally around the Sonoran Desert in Sonora and Baja California.

RECOMMENDED USE: A good shrub to include in group plantings where it can blend in until it blooms. Also good in a rock garden or an enhanced desert landscape.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Hardy to around 20°F.



Sun tolerance: Can take light shade, but does best in full sun.



Watering and feeding: Somewhat drought tolerant after establishment, but does much better if irrigated regularly. Feed sparingly, if at all, in the early summer.



Soil requirements: Heavy clay soil that drains poorly should be avoided.



Pruning: Occasional pruning results in more compact plants with denser foliage. Do not prune after late spring or summer flowers may be sacrificed.