



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Gaura *Gaura lindheimeri*

DESCRIPTION: Airy and delicate in appearance, Gaura's growth habit is sort of wild and untamed, with arching branches that form a clump to 3 feet tall and wide. In the spring it sends up arching sprays of small orchid-like blooms, and continues to flower throughout the summer. The white-flowered form opens in the evening and closes the following mid-morning. The pinkish-red flowered variety (Rose Gaura) stays open all day. This more colorful form is said to not be stable, and can revert to white flowers. Butterflies are attracted to the blossoms. It is ideal for planting under desert trees. This native of Texas and Mexico. If water is available, it can reseed. Gaura is in the evening primrose family, and is susceptible to flea beetles.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use as a colorful accent in flower beds or in a patio container.

(over)



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CULTURE:



Hardiness: Very hardy; to -10°F.



Sun tolerance: Gaura thrives in full sun in middle to high deserts, but appreciates some afternoon protection in the hottest zones.



Watering and feeding: Prefers moderate to ample irrigation. Fertilization is not necessary, except in containers.



Soil requirements: Gaura thrives in garden soil.



Pruning: To encourage seeding, let the seeds develop, and trim off spikes in the fall. To prevent seeding, remove spikes after flowering.

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