



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Palmer Indian Mallow *Abutilon palmeri*

DESCRIPTION: This fast-growing, semiwoody and semievergreen shrub can grow to 4 feet tall and 5 feet wide, but will be half this size under dry conditions. It is distinguished by its fuzzy, heart-shaped silvery-white leaves. One-inch bright golden-yellow flowers are produced most of the year and stand out prominently against the foliage. Seedlings often volunteer but don't seem to become weedy. It is native to the low, hot desert in southwestern Arizona and southeastern California.

RECOMMENDED USE: Both the foliage and flowers are showy. Excellent as an accent among large boulders, against a wall, or in front of a backdrop of green foliage.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: It will freeze to the ground in the mid to lower 20's, but usually resprouts in spring. Planting against or between large rocks will protect the crown.



Sun tolerance: Needs full desert sun and lots of heat for best performance.



Watering and feeding: Very drought tolerant; plants have whiter foliage but fewer flowers when kept on the dry side.



Soil requirements: Probably does well in any well-drained soil; they are native to sandy or gravelly sites.



Pruning: Moderate pruning in late winter or pinching new growth during summer will create a more compact plant with denser foliage.