



ARIZONA-SONORA
DESERT
MUSEUM

ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Pine-leaf Milkweed or Hierba del Cuervo *Asclepias linaria*

DESCRIPTION: This is an unusual looking small sub-shrub that attracts Queen and Monarch butterflies. Their caterpillars feed on its foliage. It grows fairly fast to 3' tall and as wide. Evergreen foliage has the airy and attractive appearance of pine needles. It is often in bloom, from late March through December. The white flowers occur in clusters on the ends of stems. This species can be found in Arizona and Sonora, Mexico, on dry, rocky slopes and in canyons. Cultivated variety 'Monarch Magnet' is a more compact form.

RECOMMENDED USE: Flowers, rock garden, enhanced desert revegetation, containers.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Pine-leaf Milkweed is hardy to at least 20°F.



Sun tolerance: It does well in full or half-day sun, or light all-day shade.



Watering and feeding: Water use in containers is moderate, perhaps 2-5 times a week in hot weather. In the ground water use is much less. Feeding is not necessary in the ground, with the exception of iron and magnesium if chlorosis is a problem. Keeping soil drier may prevent this problem.



Soil requirements: Most soils are acceptable, but avoid heavy clay.



Pruning -Hardiness: Pruning is not usually necessary, and severe pruning may kill the plant.