



ARIZONA-SONORA
DESERT
MUSEUM

ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Lizard's Tail or Yerba Mansa *Anemopsis californica*

DESCRIPTION: Yerba Mansa is a stoloniferous perennial marsh and creekside plant that has large, waxy, dull gray-green leaves that lie flat and form mats. Vine-like runners root at leaf nodes to form a dense spreading carpet. Long stemmed, white cone-shaped flowers in summer resemble a huge plantain. The plant is beautiful in spring and early summer. The leaves turn red in autumn and can become unsightly in the winter. You can get around much of this problem by pruning back the foliage. Yerba mansa has a distinct musty, spicy scent. The roots especially are said to be reminiscent of a cross between camphor and eucalyptus. Native Americans as well as European immigrants used the roots for medicinal purposes. We offer a clone found growing near old habitations at Quitoboquito Springs, on the border with Sonora. Yerba Mansa is native to the southwestern United States and northern Mexico.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use in a mini-oasis, water garden, along pond margins, or as a potted, draping plant.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: The roots are fully winter hardy in southern Arizona.



Sun tolerance: It prefers moist soil in shade or part shade. Lizard's Tail will accept full sun with adequate irrigation



Watering and feeding: Prefers to have roots in moist soil but established plants can survive moderate drought.



Soil requirements: Tolerates alkaline soil, sand, clay, no drainage, and seasonal flooding.



Pruning: Prune or mow in late fall or as needed to control.