



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Sierra Starr™ Hybrid Fairy Duster *Calliandra californica X eriophylla*

DESCRIPTION: Sierra Starr™ is a hybrid between the pink Fairy Duster (*Calliandra eriophylla*) and the Baja Fairy Duster (*Calliandra californica*). It appears that this hybrid combines the best traits of both parents. Sierra Starr™ has a dense, uniform growth habit, growing at a moderate rate to 4-5 feet tall and wide. It is much more densely-branched than the Baja Fairy Duster. In mild regions this plant may remain evergreen. This clone blooms on and off all year with stunning bright red flowers which are irresistible to hummingbirds. It is also an excellent nectar source for Swallowtail and Sulphur butterflies and is utilized by the Marina Blue butterfly as a larval food plant.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use as an accent. Because it is a clone it may be used successfully in semiformal rows and masses. Its love of full sun and ability to thrive in those troublesome reflected heat exposures where most other plants wilt make it a real problem-solver in the desert.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: The stems are hardy to about 18°F and the plant is root hardy to at least 15°F. Resprouts in spring but flowering will be delayed until summer.



Sun tolerance: It performs best in full sun, and thrives in reflected heat exposures.



Watering and feeding: Very drought tolerant, but leaves and flowers are sparse under dry conditions. Regular watering makes better specimens. Feed sparingly if at all or growth may become rampant.



Soil requirements: Not particular, but avoid slow draining heavy clays.



Pruning: Occasional pruning results in more compact plants with denser foliage.