



ARIZONA-SONORA
DESERT
MUSEUM

ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Apache Plume or Ponil *Fallugia paradoxa*

DESCRIPTION: Another staple for mid- to high desert gardens, Apache Plume is a long-lived, semi-evergreen shrub. It is dense and fast growing; spreading by woody rhizomes it will also form an informal hedge relatively quickly. Size is normally 3 to 6 feet tall and nearly as wide. Apache plume blooms in April and May with small, delicate rose-like white flowers, followed by white to pink feathery fruit clusters from May to October. It grows in rocky, gravelly soils in full sun from southern California east to Texas and into northern Mexico, from 3000 to 8000 feet.

RECOMMENDED USE: Showy flowers make this a great accent or a splash of color in a xeriscape or desert garden. The fluffy plumes provide a dramatic effect when backlit by the sun. Use as a lacey screen, for wildlife habitat, or erosion control. This durable, low maintenance shrub is ideal for reflected heat locations such as roadways and parking lots.

(over)



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CULTURE:



Hardiness: Very hardy; at least down to 0°F.



Sun tolerance: Best form and flowering occurs in plants grown in full sun. Takes reflected heat very well.



Watering and feeding: Regular watering is needed for the first year to establish this plant. It can gradually be taken off irrigation, but will grow better with occasional supplemental watering. Fertilization is not necessary. In areas of summer thunder showers it should be drought tolerant.



Soil requirements: Any well-drained soil; neutral to slightly alkaline pH.



Pruning: Although it naturally forms a rounded shape, it can look somewhat messy and benefits from selective pruning once or twice a year, or being cut back to the ground every few years.

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