



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

White Needle-flower

Justicia longii

DESCRIPTION: Formerly known by the scientific name *Siphonoglossa longiflora*, it is also commonly called Longflower, Tube Tongue, and Dwarf White Honeysuckle. It is a twiggly perennial (around a foot tall) native to our local Sonoran Desert region where it grows in canyons, on rocky slopes, and in the mountain foothills. Flowers are white and tubular, 2” long. They open in the evening and are closed by noon the next day. Moths and butterflies are attracted to them. Blooming can happen any time from April until October, but mainly after monsoon rains. It seeds freely and will pop up throughout a watered garden. The leaves are dark green and usually deciduous. White Needle-flower is pollinated by hawk moths.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use as a hidden seasonal accent. Good natural food source for desert tortoises.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: It grows in areas that regularly see winter temperatures below the 20’s.



Sun tolerance: White Needle-flower takes full sun but does best in light to moderate shade.



Watering and feeding: Low water use once established. Fertilizing is not necessary.



Soil requirements: Most any soil.



Pruning: Little needed.