



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Turk's Cap *Malvaviscus drummondii*

DESCRIPTION: Turk's Cap ranges from the Texas Coastal Plain, east to Florida and also to the West Indies, Mexico and Cuba. In milder winters it can be evergreen and flowers nearly year round. Usually it acts as an herbaceous perennial and grows to a maximum of 4 by 4 feet (or taller). Its vermilion red flowers are twisted into a tube showing extended red stamens protruding from the whorl. There is a white flowered form and a variegated leaf, red blooming form. The combination of the red and white plants together provide an interesting shady accent. 'Big Momma' is a selected superior clone. The marble-size red fruit is edible, having a mealy taste, and is enjoyed by a number of birds and animals. The flowers provide nectar to hummingbirds and several species of butterflies.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use for color and to attract wildlife. Great for shadier areas.

(over)



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CULTURE:



Hardiness: Good to the lower 20's.



Sun tolerance: Does well in light to moderate shade. Best kept out of afternoon sun.



Watering and feeding: Moderate water use. Fertilize in spring and summer.



Soil requirements: Adaptable to many soil types



Pruning: Can be cut to near the ground in late winter to keep more compact.

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