



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Sierra Madre Nightshade or Sacamanteca *Solanum tridynamum*

DESCRIPTION: This beautiful small shrub is from the tropical deciduous forests of the Sierra Madre Occidentalis in Sonora, Mexico. Typically, the plant grows 1 to 3 feet tall and as wide, and is covered with rich, purple flowers an inch and a half across. An uncommon white flowered form is also in cultivation. Flowering is continuous, except during and following sub-freezing temperatures. In cultivation the growth rate is fast. The plant can be evergreen, but will lose its leaves around 32°F. All parts of the plant tend to have sharp prickles, but it is easy to overlook this detriment when a plant puts on a flower show as the Sierra Madre Nightshade does. This plant, as well as many other nightshades, is a larval food plant for sphinx moths and Jada Hairstreak, a rarity in Arizona.

RECOMMENDED USE: Accent, flowers, border, container.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Stem damage at 27°F and may die back to the ground below 25°F.



Sun tolerance: Does best in full sun. May get leggy and bloom less in shade.



Watering and feeding: Moderate water user in the ground. Higher in containers. Fertilize two to three times during the growing season.



Soil requirements: Rich potting soil in a container. Most any soil in the ground. Note that in loose soil, it has been found to spread by suckers, leading to control problems.



Pruning: Prune to contain and shape. Prune back frost damage in early April.

NOTE: Being a member of the nightshade family (*Solanaceae*), the fruit and seeds of this plant are presumed poisonous to humans and other mammals.