



# ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

## PLANT CARE INFORMATION

### Day of the Dead Flower or Corona de Muerto *Symphotrichum lanceolatum*

**DESCRIPTION:** Mexicans cut flowers from this plant to decorate graves for the “Day of the Dead” celebration, on November 2<sup>nd</sup> (a day for remembering the dead and the continuity of life). The perennial plant grows quickly, in a clump up to 3’ tall and as wide. It is easily divided at the crown, and plants are readily shared among families that way. Flowers occur through much of the growing season, peaking in the fall, and are whitish-lavender with a yellow center. Butterflies, including hackberry and sulphurs, are attracted to them for their nectar.

**RECOMMENDED USE:** It does well in a watered garden, part shade or full sun, or in a large patio container.

#### CULTURE:



**Hardiness:** We have tested this species to the mid-20’s with no real damage. Below that it may die back to the crown.



**Sun tolerance:** Full sun to part shade.



**Watering and feeding:** moderate to high water use. Feed monthly in the growing season.



**Soil requirements:** Most soils, although it would prefer well-drained and rich soil.



**Pruning:** Can be pruned severely in the spring if there is frost damage. If height control is desired prune to 6” occasionally during the growing season, although flowering may be sacrificed. Dig up and divide to reduce clump size.



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