



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

White Spurge or Liga

Euphorbia xanti

DESCRIPTION: White Spurge is an upright, clumping semi-succulent that can produce hundreds of 1/4" white flowers with maroon highlights through most of the year. The flowers attract hummingbirds, although it is not adapted to pollination by them. It grows up to 7' tall (usually shorter) and spreads slowly by suckers. White Spurge is native to central Baja California and coastal Sonora, near Guaymas. This clone has larger leaves and flowers, and is more floriferous than the wild type. It came to us from a yard in Curea, Sonora, where it was being grown ornamentally.

RECOMMENDED USE: Grow in a container, or as an accent, along a border or in the background.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: It may be damaged by hard freezes (below 27°F), but quickly recovers from underground stems.



Sun tolerance: Best in full sun. Shade promotes floppy growth and reduces blooms.



Watering and feeding: In the ground water every one to two weeks during hot weather. For pot culture, water more frequently. Fertilization is probably not necessary in the ground, but would help containerized plants.



Soil requirements: Plant in any well-drained soil. For pot culture, use a fast draining potting mix.



Pruning: Suckering can be a control problem, but can be greatly reduced by restricting water to the base of the plant, or ringing the plant with a root-barrier to a depth of 18".

Note: This plant, as with many species in the family Euphorbiaceae, produces milky sap when damaged. Some persons show skin sensitivity to the sap, so care should be made to wash it off.