



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Fairy Duster or Cosahui

Calliandra eriophylla

DESCRIPTION: Fairy Duster is a low growing shrub reaching 3' tall by 4' across, but is easy to keep smaller. Its growth rate is moderate and it is drought and cold deciduous. The flowers are pale pink to red, although white to ivory can occur. Fairy Duster blooms mainly in the seasons of late winter/early spring and fall. Fine foliage and delicate flowers give it an airy feel. Many insects, including several butterfly species visit the flowers, although pollination is carried out by hummingbirds. Fairy Duster is native to the deserts and grasslands of the Sonoran Desert region.

RECOMMENDED USE: Accent, flowers, ground cover, xeriscape or enhanced desert revegetation, containers.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Fairy Duster is hardy to at least 15° F.



Sun tolerance: It can tolerate shade but has a tighter form and better flowering in sunny locations.



Watering and feeding: Regular watering is needed for it to become established. Once established, flowering can be more spectacular when watering is not so regular, although the growth rate will suffer. Occasional feeding will be necessary in a pot, but not needed in the ground.



Soil requirements: Any soil will do in the ground, but use a potting soil for container culture.



Pruning: Light pruning to keep it in bounds may be required in some cases.