

Calliandra eriophylla

(Pink fairyduster, Mesquitilla)

Fairy Duster is a low, spreading, deciduous shrub that grows to 1 meter. It’s a native of Tucson, W. Texas, Southern California, New Mexico and known for its delicate and unusual winter blooms. It demands a dry washes and gullies at low to middle altitudes. This shrub blooms in late winter and early spring. It is an inconspicuous part of the arid landscape most of the year, but in spring the exquisite clusters of flowers with their many long stamens form delicate, pink balls, giving the plant a fluffy pink appearance in full bloom. Their nectar attracts hummingbirds and butterflies and other pollinators.

It belongs to a group of mostly tropical woody plants that includes acacias and mimosas.



Plant Image

Landscape Information
French Name: Arbre aux houpettes
Plant Type: Shrub
Origin: Tucson, W. Texas, Southern California, New Mexico
Heat Zones: 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14
Hardiness Zones: 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13
Uses: Hedge, Specimen, Mass Planting, Wildlife, Erosion control
Size/Shape
Growth Rate: Fast
Tree Shape:
Canopy Symmetry: Irregular
Canopy Density: Dense
Canopy Texture: Coarse
Height at Maturity: 0.5 to 1 m
Spread at Maturity: 1 to 1.5 meters

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Other Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Alternate
Leaf Venation: Nearly Invisible
Leaf Persistence: Semi Evergreen
Leaf Type: Bipinnately compound
Leaf Blade: Less than 5
Leaf Shape: Linear
Leaf Margins: Entire
Leaf Textures: Fine
Leaf Scent: No Fragrance
Color(growing season): Green

Flower

Flower Showiness: True
Flower Size Range: 3 - 7
Flower Type: Capitulum
Flower Sexuality: Monoecious (Bisexual)
Flower Scent: No Fragrance
Flower Color: White, Pink
Seasons: Spring, Summer

Trunk

Number of Trunks: Multi-Trunked
Trunk Esthetic Values: Not Showy

Fruit

Fruit Type: Legume
Fruit Showiness: True
Fruit Size Range: 3 - 7
Fruit Colors: Brown
Seasons: Spring, Summer

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Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: Yes

Heat Tolerant: Yes

Drought Tolerant: Yes

Salt Tolerance: Poor

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Neutral, Alkaline

Water Requirements: Low

Light Requirements: Full

Management

Toxity: No

Pruning Requirement: Needed, to develop a strong structure

Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter: No

Edible Parts:

Plant Propagations: Seed
