

Botanical Name: Calliandra eriophylla

Common Name: Fairy duster

Type of Plant: dicot: shrub Character drought deciduous

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape a low-growing, widely spreading shrub, with open irregular branching, forming a loosely mounded habit; branchlets are thornless

Height 1' - 3' Spread 3' - 6' Growth Rate slow

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun required for best growth; thrives in hot locales

Soil tolerates most well-draining sites

Hardiness hardy (zones 11-13, 18-23): best in warm inland areas

Morphology:

Leaves bipinnately compound, alternate, intricately divided into 2-4 pairs of pinnae with 5-10 pairs of oblong leaflets; overall size 1-1/2"-2"

Flowers rose-pink to scarlet, with many stamens in rounded clusters; April-May, intermittent through fall

Fruit a small flattened pod - 2" long

Propagation: seed

Usage: an excellent low filler or facer for dry rock gardens, desert-theme sites or warm Mediterranean-theme gardens; provides visual contrast to cacti and succulents

Landscape Care:

Watering thrives with only an occasional deep-soak in summer; tolerates frequent if drainage is fast

Fertilizing none required

Pruning none, except to remove dead stems

Pests/Diseases relatively free

Special Conditions dry slopes and canyons

Origin: of So. Calif. deserts Family: Fabaceae