

Botanical Name: Chilopsis linearis

Common Name: Desert Willow

Type of Plant: dicot: tree Character deciduous

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape an irregular, erect to spreading tree, with an irregular branching pattern forming an open, loose canopy; small branches on older plants tend to droop in willow-like fashion

Height 10'-20' (25') Spread 3/4 - equal Growth Rate rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun needed for best flower production

Soil sandy preferred; tolerates heavier soils

Hardiness some frost (zones 11-13, 18-21): thrives in desert heat

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, alternate-whorled, linear; 2"-5" long, rather bright green, turning brown in fall-winter

Flowers lavender-pink, funnel-shaped flowers in showy racemes; corolla is bilabiate, with purple lines and markings; 1 1/2"-2" long; May-Aug.

Fruit a long, cylindrical capsule (3"-6") with flattened seeds

Propagation: seed or hardwood cuttings

Usage: a dramatic, small accent tree for its picturesque form and summer flower display; filtered shade, silhouette; if left unpruned, can be used as background mass or screen; best for informal landscapes

Landscape Care:

Watering regular preferred; likes lots of water but is very drought tolerant after established

Fertilizing little required

Pruning head high and develop the scaffold branch structure; thin

Pests/Diseases relatively free

Special Conditions

Origin: Ca, Mex, Tex. Family: Bignoniaceae