'Hope' Desertwillow

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY

Circular 496
Cooperative Extension Service

'Hope' Desertwillow

'Hope' desertwillow, ***Chilopsis linearis*** (Cav.) Sweet., was released in 1980 by the Agricultural Experiment Station at New Mexico State University and the Plant Materials Center of the USDA Soil Conservation Service, as a native ornamental.

Origin

Seed of 'Hope' was collected along U.S. Highway 82 near Hope, New Mexico. The original plant was growing on the side of an arroyo that feeds into the Rio Penasco.

Description

'Hope' desertwillow belongs to the family ***Bignoniacease***, which is the family of Catalpa and Trumpet-Creeper, and not the willow family ***Salix***. The genus ***Chilopsis*** refers to the lip-like appearance of the corolla, and the species ***linearis*** signifies long and slender seed pods and leaves. The leaves of 'Hope' are about 1cm wide and 15cm long. In landscape settings, it produces a large shrub-up to 9 m high. Seed pods are narrow and long, about .8 cm in width and up to 20 cm in length. Flowers of 'Hope' are white with a yellow throat. When soil moisture is adequate, the plants flower from late June until late summer at the Middle Rio Grande Branch Station near Los Lunas, New Mexico. Flowers vary from 2.5 cm to 3.8 cm long and are tubular in shape.

Adaptation

'Hope' desertwillow is adapted from western Texas to southern California and southward to Mexico. Albuquerque is approximately the northern limit for desertwillow in New Mexico.

The natural environment for desertwillow is along dry washes. It appears to have a low water requirement, when compared with most commercially available shrubs and trees.

Availability

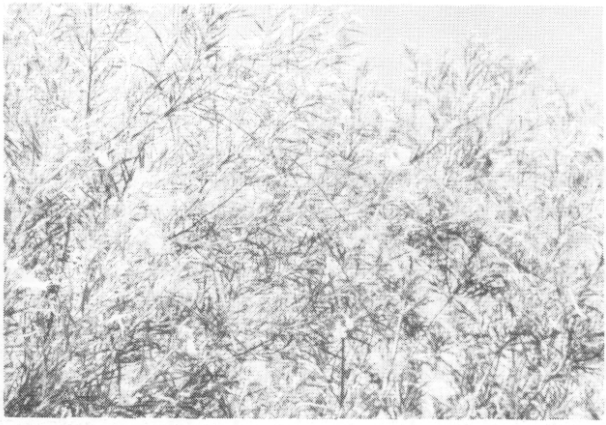
Cuttings in limited quantities are available to experiment station workers, commercial nurserymen, and arboreta from the New Mexico Crop Improvement Association, Box 3CI, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003. For more information, contact your County Extension Service.

Authors

R. F. Hooks, Associate Professor of Horticulture and Superintendent, MRGBS

W. R. Oaks, Manager, USDA - Soil Conservation Service Los Lunas Plant Materials Center

James Sais, Urban Horticulturist, Cooperative Extension Service



This desertwillow is watered by a subsurface irrigation system.

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