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'BARRANCO' DESERTWILLOW



USEFUL FOR WINDBREAKS AND BEAUTIFICATION

LOW MAINTENANCE AND WATER REQUIREMENTS

**LAVENDER FLOWERS ATTRACTIVE TO INSECTS
AND BIRDS**

'BARRANCO' DESERTWILLOW

'Barranco' Desertwillow [*Chilopsis linearis* (Cav.) Sweet] is a deciduous woody shrub or tree useful for windbreaks, screening, ornamental plantings, and for beautification plantings in highway rest areas, along roadsides, and road medians.

This variety was released in 1978 by the New Mexico State University Agricultural Experiment Station, the New Mexico State Highway Department, and the USDA, Soil Conservation Service.

ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

The original seed came from trees obtained from the Texas Highway Department and were transplanted near Jal, New Mexico. It was designated as NM-778 for testing and for a seed source at the New Mexico Los Lunas Plant Materials Center.

Desertwillow is not a true willow (*Salix*) but belongs to the same family as the Catalpa. 'Barranco' has straight leaves 1/4 to 1/3 inch wide.

Flowers of 'Barranco' Desertwillow are varying shades of lavender and are quite showy. Since the variety is propagated by seed, a few offspring might produce white or light-colored flowers. The plants flower from late June until late summer if soil moisture is adequate. The flowers are 1 to 1-1/4 inches long and are tubular.

The thin, two-valved seeds, are formed in long, narrow seed pods 1/4 inch in diameter and 4 to 8 inches long.

AREA OF ADAPTATION

'Barranco' Desertwillow is adapted from western Texas to southern California and southward to Mexico. Albuquerque, New Mexico is about the northern limit for Desertwillow in New Mexico. In its natural environment, this species is most commonly found along

dry washes. When moved north of its natural range, it generally survives for several years, but ordinarily does not grow as rapidly nor produce as many flowers as it does farther south.

This plant has a relatively low water requirement compared to most commercially available shrubs and trees.

ESTABLISHMENT

'Barranco' Desertwillow will be available commercially in 1979 as bare-root stock or in containers. No special planting techniques are necessary for this variety other than normal procedures for any transplanted material.

COMMERCIAL PROPAGATION

This variety is propagated by seed. Good stands can easily be obtained by seeding shallow during May. Seedlings emerge about a week after the seeds are planted, provided the soil remains moist and warm. Stored seed remains viable for several years if held in a dry, cool location.

Seedlings grow rapidly. If the stand is not too thick, many seedlings are large enough after one growing season to be used either for bare-root plants or for potting.

Breeder seed will be maintained by the Los Lunas Plant Materials Center. Limited numbers of live plants are available to commercial growers for establishing seed source nurseries. Seed for initial commercial nursery production can be obtained from the Los Lunas PMC through Resource Conservation Districts and state crop improvement or seed growers associations. Additional information on commercial propagation of this variety is available from the Los Lunas PMC, 1036 Miller Street **SW**, Los Lunas, New Mexico 87031.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This publication was prepared and published by the New Mexico State Highway, Department and the New Mexico Crop Improvement Association. Additional information is available on the use of 'Barranco' Desertwillow from any conservation district or Soil Conservation Service office serving your area. Assistance is available without regard to race, creed, color, sex or national origin.