



A Conservation Plant Released by the Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Los Lunas Plant Materials Center, Los Lunas, NM

# 'Barranco' desert willow

*Chilopsis lineatis* (Cav) Sweet



'Barranco' Desert Willow

'Barranco' desert willow [*Chilopsis lineatis* (Cav.) Sweet] was released in 1978 by the New Mexico State University Los Lunas Agricultural Science Center, the New Mexico Department of Transportation, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Los Lunas Plant Materials Center.

'Barranco' desert willow is:

- Useful for windbreaks and beautification
- Low in maintenance and water requirements
- Attractive to insects and birds

### Description

Desert willow is not a true willow (*Salix*), but it belongs to the same family as the Catalpa. This plant has relatively low water requirements compared to most commercially available shrubs and trees.

'Barranco' has straight leaves ¼- to ½-inch wide. Flowers of 'Barranco' desert willow are varying shades of lavender and are quite showy. Because 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 1¼-inches long and are tubular. The thin, two-valved seeds are formed in long, narrow seed pods ¼-inch in diameter and 4 to 8 inches long.

### Source

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

### Conservation Uses

'Barranco' desert willow is a deciduous woody shrub or tree useful for windbreaks, screening, ornamental plantings, and for beautification plantings in highway rest areas, along roadsides, and in road medians.

### Area of Adaptation and Use

Barranco' desert willow is adapted from western Texas to southern California and southward to Mexico. Albuquerque, New Mexico is about the northern limit for desert willow 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.

### Establishment and Management for Conservation Plantings

No special planting techniques are necessary for this variety other than normal procedures for any transplanted material.

### Availability

*For conservation use:* 'Barranco' desert willow is available commercially as bare-root stock or as containerized stock.

*For more information, contact:*

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For additional information about this and other plants, please contact your local USDA Service Center, NRCS field office, or Conservation District <<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>>, and visit the PLANTS Web site <<http://plants.usda.gov/>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov>>



This is a joint release between New Mexico State University's Los Lunas Agricultural Science Center and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Los Lunas Plant Materials Center.

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