

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

'Hope' desert willow

Chilopsis linearis (Cav. Sweet)



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'Hope' desert willow, *Chilopsis linearis* (Cav.) Sweet. (CHLI2), was released in 1980 by the New Mexico State University Los Lunas Agricultural Science Center and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Los Lunas Plant Materials Center as a native ornamental plant.

Description

'Hope' desert willow belongs to the family *Bignoniaceae*, which is the family of Catalpa and Trumpet-Creeper, and not to 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' desert willow are approximately 1 cm wide and 15 cm 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' desert willow are white with a yellow throat. Flowers vary from 2.5 cm to 3.8 cm long and are tubular in shape. When soil moisture is adequate, the plants flower from late June until late summer at the USDA-NRCS Los Lunas Plant Materials Center in Los Lunas, New Mexico.

Source

'Hope' desert willow seed 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.

Area of Adaptation and Use

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

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

Establishment and Management for Conservation Plantings

The most important requirement for desert willow is a well-drained soil. Watering is required for establishment, and applying fertilizer during establishment is also beneficial. Once established, additional water is not required for survival, but occasional watering during the summer months will produce a flush of growth and more profuse flowering. It is best however not to add supplemental water to plants in the fall and winter when the plants are leafless.

Desert willow prefers sunny, droughty sites and is recommended for courtyards, patios and west facing exposures. It is not recommended for planting in lawns. Tip dieback is typical and not a cause for concern. For a plant with a well-groomed look, simply prune out any dead twigs or branches after leaf-out in the spring.

Seed and Plant Production

Desert willow may be propagated from seed, hardwood cuttings (dormant) or softwood cuttings (mid-summer). Propagation from cuttings is the only way to produce plants with the same flower color as the parent plant. Plants produced from seed have random flower color.

Availability

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

For more information, contact:
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<http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/nmpmc/>

Citation

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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 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Los Lunas Plant Materials Center.

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