



ARIZONA-SONORA
DESERT
MUSEUM

ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Giant Cane Milkweed or Matacandelilla *Asclepias albicans*

DESCRIPTION: Giant Cane or Whitestem Milkweed is a perennial shrubby plant with one to several cane-like stems. These stems are covered with whitish wax. Their threadlike leaves are transitory; the stems conduct nearly all the photosynthesis. Giant Cane Milkweed grows to eight feet tall and grows in hyper-arid rocky habitats below 1000' elevation in SW Arizona, SE California, northern Sonora, and in Baja California, Mexico. Flowering is often from March to June. Flowers are in clusters and are whitish, tinged with purple to greenish-brown. Butterflies feed on the nectar of Giant Cane Milkweed and Queens and Monarchs will lay eggs on stems.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use as a desert accent, for its form and pale color in an enhanced desert landscape or xeriscape.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Down to at least 18°F.



Sun tolerance: Full sun is a must for strong upright growth.



Watering and feeding: Low water use. Can be cut off irrigation once established. Fertilizing is not necessary.



Soil requirements: Sandy soils are best, but most soils will do.



Pruning: None necessary.