



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Horsetail Milkweed *Asclepias subverticillata*

DESCRIPTION: Horsetail Milkweed is an unusual looking milkweed with wisp-like stems growing from underground rhizomes. It has a moderate growth rate to 2' tall or more. It is cold hardy and will come back from rhizomes in the spring. Greenish-white clusters of flowers are borne on the ends of stems sporadically from late March through the end of the year. Butterflies (primary pollinators), such as the Queen and Monarch, find it irresistible and it is a larval food plant for both. It is also visited by wasps, such as the tarantula hawk. Horsetail Milkweed is found widely scattered throughout mid-elevations of the US and northern Mexico. Stems contain a white sap poisonous to livestock and its dried leaves accidentally bound in hay bales can be lethal.

RECOMMENDED USE: Flowers, ground cover, rock garden, container, enhanced desert.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Horsetail Milkweed is hardy down to at least 0°F.



Sun tolerance: It obtains its best form and flowering when grown in full sun to light shade. Too much shade will make it floppy and inhibit flowering.



Watering and feeding: Even when established it will need supplemental water to survive. Feeding is usually not necessary, unless kept in a container. Then, fertilizing 2-3 times during the growing season helps.



Soil requirements: Better in deep, sandy soil.



Pruning: Can be pruned to the ground any time.