



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Bamboo Muhly or Ototillo

Muhlenbergia dumosa

DESCRIPTION: Bamboo Muhly, as the name suggests, has the appearance of a small, lacy bamboo. It grows at a moderate rate, putting up ½" thick stems as much as 8' tall, but can be kept smaller. It is evergreen and, as with most grasses, the flowers are tiny, but the whole inflorescence is delicate and attractive. It can be found in a variety of habitats, usually around a moist stream or canyon, from southern Arizona south into Sonora, Mexico. Skippers have been found to use it as a larval food plant.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use as a background accent with a tropical look, for its form, or as a screen or barrier.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Bamboo Muhly is hardy into the low 20°F's.



Sun tolerance: It can take full sun, if well watered, but prefers light shade.



Watering and feeding: Moderate water use; every 3-6 days in the warm season. Feed 2-3 times a year.



Soil requirements: Any soil that drains.



Pruning: If possible, plant where pruning will not be necessary, although it can be kept at any height with pruning. If pruning, cut back in the late winter to encourage vigorous spring growth.