



# ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

## PLANT CARE INFORMATION

### **Baja Fairy Duster or Tabardillo** *Calliandra californica*

**DESCRIPTION:** The showy red-flowered fairy duster is a desert-adapted legume from Baja California. It is a shrub to six feet in height and over six feet wide. Profuse red flowers, like starbursts, decorate this plant from March through November in response to watering or rainfall. Baja Fairy Duster is an excellent nectar source for Swallowtail and Sulphur butterflies. It is also utilized by the Marina Blue butterfly as a larval food source.

**RECOMMENDED USE:** Use one for an accent, or plant in a dense row to create a hedge.

#### **CULTURE:**



**Hardiness:** Freezes at about 23-25°F. Resprouts in spring but flowering will be delayed until summer.



**Sun tolerance:** Full sun or light shade.



**Watering and feeding:** Very drought tolerant, but leaves and flowers are sparse under dry conditions. Regular watering makes better specimens. Feed sparingly if at all or growth may become rampant.



**Soil requirements:** Not particular, but avoid slow draining heavy clays.



**Pruning:** Occasional pruning results in more compact plants with denser foliage.