

## Prince's Plume in the Landscape

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### *Stanleya pinnata*

#### Prince's Plume

**Description:** Extremely drought-tolerant perennial to 5 feet, tall with a large mound of coarse foliage at the base and tall plumes of lemon yellow flowers in summer. This species occurs naturally throughout the interior West and plains states. Though small, the flowers are numerous and open progressively towards the tip of the stalk; the effect in the landscape is quite spectacular.



Photo credit: Graham Hunter

#### Cultural Requirements:

- Native habitat  
Valleys and foothills; talus slopes at elevations from 3,000 to 9,000 feet
- Soil  
Thrives in poor, dry, sandy soil; use gravel mulch
- Cold Tolerance  
Zones 4 - 8
- Drought Tolerance  
High
- Salt Tolerance  
Moderate
- Sun/Shade Preference  
Full sun
- Propagation  
From seed and division
- Maintenance  
Requires good drainage, and low fertility soils; water sparingly once established
- Problems  
Toxic to livestock

**Landscape Value:**

- Use in the Landscape      Background, accent, rock gardens; try several plants progressing through strategically placed boulders in a xeric garden!
- Leaves      Blue-gray, lanceolate (lance-shaped) leaves at base; finer and thinner up the stalks
- Flowers      Showy, lemon yellow arranged in a raceme (flowers attached to a central stalk by a short stem)

	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
• Color							

- Fruit (seedheads)      Silique (2-chambered capsule)
- Form      Erect flower stalks emerge from clumps of mostly basal leaves
- Texture      Fine, feathery
- Ultimate Size      1-5 feet tall
- Rate of Growth      Medium to fast
- Plant Community      Mountain brush, pinyon-juniper, shrub steppe, cool desert shrub, salt desert shrub
- Availability      Limited, but improving
- Cultivars      none of ornamental value

**Propagation**

Cold-stratify seed for up to 90 days. Sow seed to a depth of 1/4" in a well drained, peat-based soil-less substrate. Transplant seedlings to individual pots as soon as roots are established and growing.

**Additional Photos**





Photo credits: Heidi Kratsch

## References

Digital Atlas of the Vascular Plants of Utah. 2008. URL: <http://www.nr.usu.edu/Geography-Department/utgeog/utvatlas/family/brass/stpi.html>

Mee, W., J. Barnes, R. Kjølgren, R. Sutton, T. Cerny, and C. Johnson. 2003. *Waterwise: Native Plants for Intermountain Landscapes*. Utah State University Press, Logan, UT.

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. 2008. Plants database. URL: <http://plants.usda.gov>

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This publication is issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Noelle E. Cockett, Vice President for Extension and Agriculture, Utah State University.