

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. Kjelgren, 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>

This fact sheet belongs to a series of fact sheets about Intermountain West native trees, shrubs, perennials, and grasses called “Native Plants in the Landscape.” Look for others in the series by visiting <http://extension.usu.edu/htm/publications>, then clicking on ‘Horticulture’ and ‘Native Plants’.

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