

Prince's Plume in the Landscape



Photo credit: Graham Hunter

January 2009

Stanleya pinnata

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.

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 (lanceshaped) 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)														
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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 $\frac{1}{4}$ " in a well drained, peat-based soil-less substrate. Transplant seedlings to individual pots as soon as roots are established and growing.

Additional Photo:

Photo credits: Heidi Kratsch





References

- Digital Atlas of the Vascular Plants of Utah. 2008. URL: <http://www.nr.usu.edu/GeographyDepartment/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/hm/publications>, then clicking on 'Horticulture' and 'Native Plants'.

Authors

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