

BRANCHING OUT

A California Native Plant Introduction Program



Sphaeralcea fulva 'La Luna'
La Luna Globemallow



The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden's Plant Introduction Program "Branching Out" is dedicated to increasing awareness, appreciation, and availability of outstanding California native plants for landscapes and gardens.

BOTANICAL NAME _____ *Sphaeralcea fulva*

CULTIVAR NAME _____ 'La Luna'

COMMON NAME _____ La Luna Globemallow

FAMILY NAME _____ Malvaceae

ORIGIN _____ A selection made by Randy Mudge from the coastal desert scrub vegetation of Baja California del Norte, Mexico.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION _____ An open, rounded in outline, billowing shrub to 3 ft tall and wide. Leaves sage green, shallowly lobed, and mealy-textured along fuzzy golden stems. The cup-shaped flowers of clear, silky white petals tinged with pink are held on 1-2 ft long, wand-like inflorescences. The pink stigma and black anthers add contrast.

WATER REQUIREMENTS _____ Very drought tolerant.

SOIL REQUIREMENTS _____ Well drained soil best.

EXPOSURE REQUIREMENTS _____ Full sun.

PESTS AND DISEASES _____ Other species in the genus are susceptible to rust infestations, but this has not presented to date in 'La Luna'. Plants in the Malvaceae are often damaged by browsing vertebrates.

HARDINESS _____ Some tip dieback at 20 degrees F.

LANDSCAPE VALUE _____ The copious, shimmering white blossoms, long blooming season, and unusual color combination of golden stems, gray leaves, and white flowers make this a fine addition to the dry garden palette. Use it in perennial borders or as a softening element in desert gardens. The inflorescences hold up well in flower arrangements.

PROPAGATION _____ Strikes moderately well to readily from cuttings.
 _____ To commercially propagate this introduction, interested nurseries need to sign a licensing agreement with the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.

SALES POTENTIAL _____ The 3 colors – white flowers, golden stems, gray leaves – are striking against the black of nursery containers. 'La Luna' is vigorous, easy to propagate, easy to cultivate, and showy – a winning combination.

NURSERY AVAILABILITY _____ Native Sons Nursery (<http://nativeson.com/home2.html>)
 San Marcos Growers (<http://www.smgrowers.com/>)
 Suncrest Nurseries (<http://www.suncrestnurseries.com/>)
 Tree of Life Nursery (<http://www.treeoflifenuresery.com/>)

For more information about this program, contact the Garden at 805-682-4726, ext. 114.
 Or, write to the Plant Introduction Program at 1212 Mission Canyon Road, Santa Barbara, California 93105.



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