

Botanical Name: *Euphorbia antisyphilitica*

Common Name: Candelilla



Family: Euphorbiaceae

Native Distribution: SW United States to NW Mexico on rocky slopes, ridges, and hills

Plant Size: 2' tall, 3' wide evergreen shrub

Flowers: Pink and white flowers cluster along the stem tips anytime during the warm season, but often after rains

Foliage: Pale-green pencil-like stems with a few tiny, drought-deciduous leaves often on new growth

Site Preferences: Full sun

Landscape Uses: In Greater Phoenix, use as strong vertical accent against boulders, other cacti and succulents, or darker green foliage.

Other Stuff:

- Candelilla is Spanish for “little candle.”
- Prefers lower elevations up to 3,800 ft. in well-drained soil.
- Hardy to 15°F.
- Can also be used in a container in colder areas.
- Slow grower with no pruning necessary.
- Spreads via rhizomes.
- Has a waxy coating, an adaptation that slows evaporation of moisture.
- Grown in Mexico for its wax content, plants are boiled in vats to extract the wax.
- Sap can be somewhat irritating.
- Requires well-drained soil and requires little water once established.
- Species name comes from the common belief that it helps treat venereal disease.