

**Botanical Name:** *Sphaeralcea ambigua*

**Common Name:** Desert Globemallow, Desert Mallow, Sore Eyes, Desert Hollyhock



**Family:** Malvaceae

**Native Distribution:** SE California to SW Utah, Arizona, and NW Mexico in open places along roadsides, rocky hillsides, and washes.

**Plant Size:** 2-4' tall, 2-4' wide, perennial

**Flowers:** Cup-shaped, 1" wide flowers vary from white to pink, rose to apricot, and red-orange and bloom from March to April

**Foliage:** Hairy, grayish-green three-lobed leaves about 1.5" long with scalloped margins

**Site Preferences:** Full sun, low water use

**Landscape Uses:** Mix with other perennials, use to soften cacti and succulents, naturalistic landscapes.

**Other Stuff:**

- Needs sun and good air flow.
- Drought-tolerant once established, plant in the fall before the summer heat of Phoenix.
- Prefers well drained, fertile soil.
- Produces many herbaceous stems from a woody base.
- Grows quickly, as much as 3' in one season.
- Hardy to at least 0°F
- Apricot is the most common color.
- Can also bloom after summer rains.
- Can be an eye irritant or allergen after touching the tiny hairs(mal del ojo) after touching the plant.
- Attracts rabbits.
- Can be found up to 8,000 ft often in pine, oak, or juniper woodlands.
- Requires annual pruning to rid the plant of dead material.