

# 'Hope' Desertwillow<sup>1</sup>

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**Additional index words.** *Chilopsis linearis*, white flower, landscape

Desertwillow *Chilopsis linearis* (Cav.) Sweet is native of Western Texas to southern California and southward to Mexico with ornamental value in New Mexico (1, 2). 'Hope' desertwillow was released for use as a native ornamental in 1980 by New Mexico State University Agricultural Experiment Station and the USDA, Soil Conservation Service, Plant Materials Center at Los Lunas, NM.

## Origin

Seeds of 'Hope' were collected from a plant growing near Hope, NM at an elevation of 1585 m.

## Description

'Hope' is a deciduous shrub or slender tree that grows to 9 m in height. Leaves are alternate, linear to lanceolate, entire, thin, 3-veined, up to 30 cm long, with an average length of 13 cm and width of 0.8 cm. The flowers of 'Hope' are white funnelform, campanulate, 2.5 and 3.8 cm long, with a yellow throat. Plants flower from June to September in Los Lunas, NM under an adequate moisture. The seed are borne in capsules from 10 to 30 cm

long, and 0.5 cm thick. Seeds are numerous, in two ranks, with wings of white hairs.

## Propagation

'Hope' desert willow can be propagated by both leafy and dormant season cuttings. These cuttings will root readily in moist mortar sand, and at a media temperature of 23°C.

## Outstanding characteristics and uses

'Hope' is adapted to dry, hot environments typical of southern and lower elevations of New Mexico. Plants from cuttings will flower the first year and increase in flowering with age. The plant makes an excellent specimen shrub or can be pruned into a small tree.

## Availability

Unrooted cuttings in limited quantities are available to experiment station workers, commercial nurserymen and arboreta from the New Mexico Crop Improvement Association, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM 88003.

## Literature Cited

1. Sullivan, D. T., R. Gomez, and R. F. Hooks. 1978. Landscaping with desertwillow. N. Mex. Coop. Ext. Ser. Guide H-702.
2. Vines, R. A. 1976. Trees, shrubs and woody vines of the Southwest. Univ. of Texas Press, Austin.



Fig. 1. 'Hope' desertwillow.

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