

Silvery Convolvulus, *Bush Morning Glory*

The Bush Morning Glory is native to the western Mediterranean basin. In Arriyadh, it requires a sheltered garden location; its relative, *C. mauritanicus*, is a potentially good groundcover, but both plants have a tendency to bare spots, which need replanting every few years. While most other Morning Glories grow twining, this one remains a prostrate, compact bush of some 80 cm in height and at least the same in width. In late spring and early summer, pink buds turn into white, trumpet-shape flowers with yellow throats. They contrast well against the silvery, evergreen foliage. The leaves are lanceolate, hirsute and well protected against desert conditions. Each year, Bush Morning Glories put on an impressive floral display. Flowers are some 4 cm in diameter and grow in panicles. In full bloom, the shrub is almost entirely covered by flowers. This bush revels in heat and full sun, and tolerates poor, sandy soil with good drainage. Clay soils need to be friable, since over-watering kills the plant. Alkalinity and drought are tolerated. Plants are even found growing wild in rock crevices. It makes an area cover in steppe gardens, or looks well as grouped bush in rock gardens when it sprawls over gravel and boulders. Unsightly plants can be renewed by cutting back to the ground in early spring. Sprinkler irrigation may cause powdery mildew. The plants tolerate urban microclimates, frost to about -7°C and some neglect when established. Softwood cuttings root easily in late spring or early summer, and sowing is also possible.



GENERAL

Origin	: sub-Mediterranean, Mediterranean
Vigour	: fairly fast growing
Humidity	: semi-arid, semi-humid
Propagation	: direct sowing, sowing and pricking out, cuttings
Maintenance	: moderate

CONDITIONS

Urban climate	: resistant
Dessication	: vulnerable
Stagnant water	: vulnerable
Irrigation	: high
Salinity/ppm	: moderate (1500 ppm)
Hardiness	: -6°C

SHAPE

Type	: sub-shrub
Height	: 0.3 m-0.8 m
Spread	: 0.7 m-1 m
Foliage	: evergreen

FLOWER

Colour	: white, secondary: pink
Size	: 2 cm - 4.5 cm
Period	: March - October

FRUIT

Type of fruit	: capsule
Fruit size	: 0.5 cm