

Moricandia, yurak, audthan al himar, ithn al himar

GENERAL

Origin	: sub-tropical
Humidity	: extremely arid, very arid, semi-arid
Propagation	: direct sowing, sowing and pricking out
Maintenance	: low

CONDITIONS

Urban climate	: resistant
Dessication	: resistant
Stagnant water	: vulnerable
Irrigation	: none
Salinity/ppm	: moderate (3000 ppm)
Hardiness	: -6°C

SHAPE

Type	: perennial
Height	: 0.5 m-0.75 m
Spread	: 0.5 m-0.8 m
Foliage	: evergreen

FLOWER

Colour	: pastel pink, olive-green
Size	: 1 cm
Period	: March - May

FRUIT

Type of fruit	: silique
Fruit size	: 7 cm

A perennial herb, known as yurak or audthan al himar, growing to a height of 75 cm in isolated bushes on silty and gravelly ground, this native plant is widespread in the desert around Ar-riyadh. Erect, tough, green branches with broad leaves up to 10 cm long wrap round the stem. Pinkish-blue flowers are borne in the spring and the fruit is an erect, cylindrical silique 7 cm long. The whole plant has an attractive purplish cast to its appearance. Fast-growing, it has lateral, deep roots and is very hardy and drought-tolerant with a moderate salt tolerance. Propagation is easy from seeds. *M. sinaica* has good potential for landscape design use as a groundcover and colourful accent in desert schemes. Apart from occasional tidying up and some water in summer to improve its appearance, it requires very little maintenance.

