



DALEA FRUTESCENS SIERRA NEGRA™

OUTSTANDING FEATURES: The profusion of bright rose-purple flowers in fall makes for a brief, but spectacular floral display. This durable shrub is low maintenance and extremely cold and heat tolerant, making it a great choice for low and middle deserts.

DESCRIPTION: *Dalea frutescens* **Sierra Negra**™ (Trademark name by Starr Nursery) is an attractive, rounded to spreading, medium sized shrub. Plants grow to 4 feet tall and up to 6 feet across. The small compound leaves measure about 1 inch long, 0.5 inch wide and are composed of 4 - 9 pairs of leaflets. The main stem leaves are deciduous, while leaves of short shoots remain on through the winter. Branches are light colored, nearly white, giving the plant an interesting appearance in the winter. Short spikes of brilliant rose-purple flowers nearly cover the bush in late September and October. The flower clusters are mostly rounded to slightly elongated, reaching 1.5 inches long.

CULTURE/MAINTENANCE: **Sierra Negra**™ is hardy to 0 degrees F, although in colder climates this shrub will be mostly bare of leaves through winter. This plant is drought tolerant, surviving on 12 inches of annual rainfall. However, it will become fuller and flower better if given supplemental water during the growing season. It is moderately fast growing, reaching a size of 3 feet high by 4 feet wide in two growing seasons from a 5 gallon container. Although this plant is hardy, it will be fuller and have more flowers if pruned severely in late winter. It can be treated as you would Red Bird of Paradise.

IDENTIFICATION: *Dalea frutescens* **Sierra Negra**™ is easily distinguished from other fall blooming *Dalea* species with purple, pink, or bluish flowers. *Dalea frutescens* **Sierra Negra**™ produces the most brilliant floral display. The white bark, subcapitate inflorescence, and rose-purple flower color are distinctive.

LANDSCAPE APPLICATION: *Dalea frutescens* **Sierra Negra**™ can be used in all zones of a xeriscape. Shrubs can be placed in very light shade, full sun, or even intense reflected sun. They have been used effectively in hot parking lots in Phoenix and Palm Desert. Be careful about using this shrub near entries or other high-use areas, as bees are attracted to the flowers. Plants look good when placed with tall accent plants like *Nolina matapensis* and *Yucca rigida*, or in combination with other accents like *Agave bovicornuta*, *Agave ocahui*, *Agave schidigera*, *Dasyllirion acrotriche*, and *Dasyllirion longissimum*. Some other compatible plants include *Encelia farinosa*, *Asclepias subulata*, *Dalea capitata* **Sierra Gold**™,



Eupatorium greggii **Boothill**™, *Cordia parvifolia*, *Leucophyllum candidum* **Thunder Cloud**™, *Leucophyllum zygophyllum* **Cimarron**™, and *Acacia redolens* **Desert Carpet**™.

According to Jim Brock, a local butterfly expert, caterpillars of the Southern Dogface butterfly may use this as a food plant.

PRECAUTIONS: *Dalea frutescens* **Sierra Negra**™ is susceptible to rabbit damage when newly planted. However, more

(Continued on page 2)

SHRUBS

DALEA FRUTESCENS SIERRA NEGRA™



SHRUBS

(Continued from page 1)

established plants growing without supplemental irrigation are less likely to be eaten.

Plants are cold deciduous and go dormant in winter, so treat them accordingly. Cut back on supplemental water after plants are finished blooming. Keep them relatively dry in winter.

In early spring, cut them back as you would Red Bird of Paradise to encourage bushiness.

The flowers do attract **bees** as well as **butterflies**.



Dalea frutescens **Sierra Negra**™ thriving in full sun and reflected heat in a Tucson streetscape.



Close up of *Dalea frutescens* **Sierra Negra**™ flower cluster.



**ATTRACTS
BEES AND
BUTTERFLIES**

AT A GLANCE SUMMARY

SIZE (HEIGHT x WIDTH)	4 feet x 6 feet
FLOWER COLOR	Rose-purple
FLOWER SEASON	Fall
EXPOSURE	Full sun, reflected heat
WATER	Low
GROWTH RATE	Moderate - fast
HARDINESS	0° F USDA 6
PRUNING	Shear in early spring
HARDY IN THESE CITIES	Phoenix, Tucson, Palm Desert, San Diego, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Albuquerque, El Paso, San Antonio, Dallas, West Texas, Houston, South Texas

For more information, call: toll-free (800) 840-8509 or (623) 247-8509
Mountain States Wholesale Nursery, PO Box 2500, Litchfield Park, AZ 85340-2500