



GAURA LINDHEIMERI GAURA

OUTSTANDING FEATURES: The compact size, showy flower display, and length of flowering are three outstanding features of *Gaura lindheimeri*. It is an ideal choice for small yards or tight planting areas, since it only grows to 3 feet tall and 4 feet wide. As the season progresses, the plant becomes denser and more flower stalks appear, allowing the plant to be in full bloom from spring until fall.

DESCRIPTION: *Gaura lindheimeri* is a many-branched perennial with herbaceous stems that arise from a woody base or woody rootstock. The plant will grow to over 3 feet tall and spread to about 4 feet wide. The softly pubescent, light gray-green leaves are about 2 inches long and 0.5 inch wide. The 12-20 inch long flower stalks are produced at the tips of the branches. Flower color ranges from nearly pure white to deep pinkish red. The white flowers have a light pink blush at the tips of the petals. Flowering can begin as early as April and continue through summer and into fall. In the low deserts, the flowering is most profuse in the late spring, tapering off in the summer heat. At higher elevations, blooming continues all summer.

CULTURE/MAINTENANCE: *Gaura* is a root hardy perennial, meaning that although the top growth may freeze back, the plant will resprout from the rootstock. In most winters, the tops may freeze back halfway, requiring some pruning in late winter or early spring. Don't be hesitant to cut this plant back severely each year; it grows very rapidly and will reach its mature size in one season. Although *Gaura lindheimeri* can survive with limited supplemental irrigation, it can also tolerate higher amounts of water. A plant in a sandy soil will require more water than one in a heavy clay soil, but it seems to thrive in most soil types. In mid-elevation desert areas, it grows well in full or filtered sun. In the low desert areas, it should receive some shade during the hottest time of the day.

IDENTIFICATION: *Gaura lindheimeri* is easily distinguished from *Gaura coccinea* by the larger flowers, which may be white to dark pink. *Gaura coccinea*, also called Pink Gaura, has smaller flowers.

LANDSCAPE APPLICATION: This beautiful perennial blends nicely with many desert adapted landscape plants. It can be used at the base of trees such as *Cercidium praecox*, *Cercidium* hybrid 'Desert Museum', *Prosopis* species and *Acacia* species. It mixes well with other understory plants such as *Eupatorium greggii* Boothill™, *Salvia greggii*, and *Salvia leucantha*.



Its delicate, airy form contrasts well with bolder accent plants such as *Dasylyrion* species, *Nolina* species, and *Yucca* species. *Gaura lindheimeri* is well adapted for use in simulated washes, or water harvesting channels. It has a rich green color and outstanding flowers that allow it to be used in the mini-oasis. However, it is drought tolerant enough to be used in the transition and outer zones of a xeriscape as well.

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GAURA LINDHEIMERI GAURA



PERENNIAL

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PRECAUTIONS: *Gaura lindheimeri* can reseed if conditions are ideal. Like *Oenothera berlandieri*, it will attract aphids and is susceptible to damage by flea beetles. *Gaura* may be eaten by rabbits, at least when the plants are young and succulent. Also remember that in low deserts, it performs best in some shade. *Gaura lindheimeri* may be a short-lived plant.



Gaura lindheimeri planted with *Eupatorium greggii* **Boothill™** in



Gaura lindheimeri blooming at the Rio Grande Botanical Garden in Albuquerque.
Photo by Jon Stewart



Gaura growing with Mexican Feather Grass in Santa Fe.



Close up of flowers.
Photo by Jon Stewart

AT A GLANCE SUMMARY

SIZE (HEIGHT x WIDTH)	3 feet x 4 feet
FLOWER COLOR	White, various shades of pink
FLOWER SEASON	Spring through fall
EXPOSURE	Full sun, part shade
WATER	Low to high
GROWTH RATE	Fast
HARDINESS	Root hardy to -10° F USDA 6
PRUNING	Shear in late winter
HARDY IN THESE CITIES	Phoenix, Tucson, Palm Desert, San Diego, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Albuquerque, El Paso, San Antonio, Dallas, Salt Lake City

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