



LEUCOPHYLLUM CANDIDUM THUNDER CLOUD™

OUTSTANDING FEATURES: **Thunder Cloud**™ is one of the most attractive *Leucophyllum* selections on the market, and is trademarked by Texas A&M University. Its naturally compact growth form, silver- white foliage color, and very dark purple flowers all combine to make this a great small shrub.

DESCRIPTION: **Thunder Cloud**™ is a small, evergreen shrub that grows to 3 feet tall and 3-4 feet wide. It is dense and compact, with very little distance between the leaves. The tiny leaves are densely pubescent with short silvery hairs, giving the plant a beautiful silvery-white appearance. Flowers are very dark purple, about 3/4 inch across, and appear in masses in the summer and fall when the humidity is up.

CULTURE/MAINTENANCE: This plant is hardy to 10° F. This clone is extremely drought tolerant, surviving on 10-12 inches of annual rainfall. **Thunder Cloud**™ is slow growing, but will grow faster and may produce more flowers if given supplemental water in late spring and summer. However, be careful not to overwater this plant! Any time this plant starts to die in a landscape, it is almost always due to overwatering. Make sure it is planted in soil that has good drainage. It requires very little maintenance, and should be pruned once in early spring, if at all.

IDENTIFICATION: *Leucophyllum candidum* **Thunder Cloud**™ is easily distinguished from other *Leucophyllum* species by the size of the plant and the color of the leaves and flowers. Young plants of *Leucophyllum candidum* **Thunder Cloud**™ could be confused with small plants of *Leucophyllum pruinosum* **Sierra Bouquet**™. However, *L. candidum* **Thunder Cloud**™ has smaller leaves, and a stiffer, more rigid appearance. Also, the flowers of *L. candidum* are darker purple. As a mature plant, **Thunder Cloud**™ is more compact, growing to 3 feet tall and 4 feet wide, and more floriferous than any of the other *Leucophyllum candidum* cultivars. **Thunder Cloud**™ can be distinguished from **Silver Cloud**™ by its more compact appearance, which is a result of the shorter space between the leaves.

LANDSCAPE APPLICATION: Place *Leucophyllum candidum* **Thunder Cloud**™ in full sun and reflected heat locations. It becomes too leggy if planted in any shade. It can be used in the transition zone and outer zones of a xeriscape. Because of its size, **Thunder Cloud**™ can be used in tight spaces, such as parking lots and street medians, without requiring a lot of maintenance. Since it is a very drought tolerant plant, it mixes well with a variety of succulent and semi-succulent plants. Some companion species include *Agaves*, *Dasyliirions*, *Hesperaloes*, *Nolinas*, and *Yuccas*. Its color, size, and form render it



compatible with many other desert landscape plants. Try using it with *Buddleia marrubiiifolia*, *Calliandra eriophylla*, *Dalea capitata* **Sierra Gold**™, *Dalea frutescens* **Sierra Negra**™, and other *Leucophyllum* species.

PRECAUTIONS: Young plants of *Leucophyllum candidum* **Thunder Cloud**™

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SHRUBS

LEUCOPHYLLUM CANDIDUM THUNDER CLOUD™



SHRUB

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are susceptible to rabbit damage.
However, older, more established plants
are not usually bothered.

**Be sure to plant this shrub in a soil
with good drainage to minimize root
rot due to standing water in the root
zone.**



A mass planting of *Leucophyllum candidum* **Thunder Cloud**™ on a project in the Phoenix area.



Close up of the flowers of
Leucophyllum candidum
Thunder Cloud™.

AT A GLANCE SUMMARY

SIZE (HEIGHT x WIDTH)	3 feet x 3-4 feet
FLOWER COLOR	Dark violet
FLOWER SEASON	Summer, fall
EXPOSURE	Full sun, reflected sun
WATER	Low
GROWTH RATE	Slow
HARDINESS	10° F USDA 8
PRUNING	Shear in late spring, if at all
HARDY IN THESE CITIES	Phoenix, Tucson, Palm Desert, San Diego, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, El Paso, West Texas

For more information, call: toll-free (800) 840-8509 or (623) 247-8509
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