



## *Limonium limbatum*

One in a series.....

*Limonium limbatum*, common names trans-pecos sea-lavender or desert sea-lavender, is a plant species native to the southwestern United States (Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma) and also in the Mexican State of Coahuila. Most of the 300 species of the genus are found on seashores and in marine salt marshes, but *L. limbatum* grows on the shores of salt lakes and in alkaline depressions in desert areas, at elevations of 400–1800 m.

*Limonium limbatum* is a rare perennial herb with a large thickened taproot, producing a rosette of leaves that are still alive at flowering time (late June). Leaves are up to 17 cm long, thick and leathery. Flowering stalk is up to 100 cm tall, not winged, bearing flowers with whitish sepals and blue petals. (Wikipedia)



**V**isiting my brother Jay one summer in Arizona I noticed right away a unique plant in his arboretum with decidedly penstemmon looking leaves but, floristically quite unusual. He indicated that he'd seen it blooming on his travels in Northern Arizona (not quite sure) and casually dug up a plant to try on his property. It blooms quite late in June with a myriad number of tiny blue flowers sitting high atop a mound of fleshy lanceolate leaves.

Various limoniums are in the commercial trade which are European/Asian/et. al. but, this particular one is not available and is native to our southwest and for me at Zone 7... hardy.

To my mind, this rare native deserves use in our dry gardens because of its drought tolerant abilities and clearly its unique and attractive bouquet of color.





**Think of it as a sort of an angels breath type plant... with a haze of tiny blue flowers.**



Even very late in the fall it is still pleasantly noticeable.