



Mirabilis longiflora

One in a series.....

Mirabilis longiflora, the sweet four o'clock, is a species of flowering plant native to the southwestern United States from Arizona to Texas and northern Mexico. The flowers are mostly white, strongly scented, and long and narrow in form, approaching 17 centimeters in maximum length. (Wikipedia)

An uncommon perennial herb developing a large thickened underground bulb. Can grow up to 3 1/2 feet tall. The stem is heavy, brittle, and sticky, with several branches near the base. The leaves are opposite. The lower leaves have stems 1 1/2 inches long; the leaves themselves are 3-4 inches long. The upper leaves have no stem and taper to a sharp point. The branches and the flowers grow out of the leaf axils. The flower stem has many buds, but usually only 2 flowers bloom at the same time on 1 stem. The slender tube of the flower is 4-6 inches long, pinkish with a red throat, spreading into a white blossom 1/2-3/4 inch across at the opening, with 6 stamens extending almost an inch beyond. The flowers bloom near the top of the plant. Plants starting emerging in July and beginning flowering in August until the first freeze.



Exceptionally long white flowers and contrasting 6 red stamens sticking further out that attract large numbers of hawk moths in the evenings/night. Quite nice to have plants that provide late summer to fall blooms. I have mine situated next to another *Mirabilis* called *M. multiflora*.

A must have for any dryland/rock gardener. Guessing but, Zone 6 and up. Hard to acquire but try native plant nurseries.





**A real dramatic attraction late in the evening/
night for those late flying snacking crews!**