

A Fairy Duster for a Magical Season

By Tom McDonald

Sonoran Desert gardeners are always on the lookout for plants that provide color in the winter season. Top on my list is the Baja Fairy Duster, *Calliandra californica*. The bright red, mimosa-like flowers do indeed look like miniature 'dusters' and serve to attract hummingbirds and other pollinators. Growing to a height and width of five feet, this Baja native is great around pools due to relative low litter production.

A smaller variety, native to the Sonoran desert, is *Calliandra eriophylla*. Also known as Angel's Hair. This plant produces pink flowers intermittently year round with adequate moisture and is a common sight on local trails.

Other plants that produce reliable winter color;

- Aloe
- Bulbine
- *Eremophila* species
- *Justica candicans*
- Mt Lemmon marigold
- Angelita daisy

- Salvia greggii

So look to these plants to add the magic of color to your landscape and look to Smiling Dog Landscapes for other gardening tips!

Free January classes include:

- Coping With Critters on January 10th at 9 a.m. Tom shares strategies to cope with everything from insects to hungry javelinas.
- Curandero Walk on January 18th at 9 a.m. Walk the perimeter trail at Smiling Dog to learn about the edible and medicinal properties of our native plants.

Space is limited! Reserve your spot by calling 480 288 8749 or email info@smilingdoglandscapes.com.