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From Forest Nursery Notes, Summer 2008

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Propagation protocol for

giant trumpets

(*Macromeria viridiflora* DC. [Boraginaceae])

| Hanna Raiter

ABSTRACT

Giant trumpets (*Macromeria viridiflora* DC. [Boraginaceae]) is a plant well suited for xeric native landscapes. At the Arboretum at Flagstaff in Arizona, we collect seeds in fall. Optimum germination is accomplished with stratification. Seedlings grow well in the greenhouse and can be outplanted about 4 mo after sowing.

Raiter H. 2008. Propagation protocol for giant trumpets (*Macromeria viridiflora* DC. [Boraginaceae]). *Native Plants Journal* 9(1):15–16.

KEY WORDS

pearl seed, seed propagation, xeric

NOMENCLATURE

USDA NRCS (2008)

The Arboretum at Flagstaff is located in ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa* L. [Pinaceae]) forest just outside Flagstaff, Arizona, at an elevation of 2170 m (7120 ft). We specialize in plants native to the many biotic zones of the Colorado Plateau. This is a great site for testing plants in extreme cold, snow, and drying winds common to this 336 700 km² (130 000 mi²) plateau region. If it can survive here, it is a durable plant.

Giant trumpets (*Macromeria viridiflora* DC. [Boraginaceae]) is an herbaceous perennial native to New Mexico, Arizona, and northern Mexico at 1830 to 2745 m (6000 to 9000 ft) (Kearney and Peebles 1960). It is a rapid-growing species that attains a height of 90 cm (3 ft) and has coarse, hairy leaves with prominent venation. The unusual pale green, hanging flowers are 5 to 6 cm (1.9 to 2.3 in) long and are followed by white pearl-like seeds. Both of these attributes have given rise to this remarkable plant's common names of giant trumpets and pearl seed. In northern Arizona it can be found on mountain slopes in rocky, well-drained soil in sun and partial shade. Giant trumpets' inherent hardiness to cold temperatures (–34 to –40 °C [–30 to –40° F]), low water requirements, and coarse structural texture make it a desirable species for the xeric native landscape (Busco and Morin 2003).

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