

### Orange Globe Mallow (*Sphaeralcea munroana*)

As we move towards fall many of our native flowers are fading and going to seed. Even though it has been blooming since early summer, the orange globe mallow becomes even more visible on the High Desert, and will continue to flower, although at a decreasing rate, until frost hits. Its bowl-shaped bright orange or salmon colored flowers about one-inch across attract a large range of pollinating insects that are having more difficulty finding nectar. Browsing animals also find it attractive and, as you can see from the plants along the south side of the building, the more tender ends of the branches are neatly clipped off by our neighborhood deer, leaving only the flowers in the center of the plant that are protected by older and not-so-tasty growth.



Historically, parts of the plant have been used by Native Americans in various forms to treat a wide range of illnesses and injuries ranging from bronchitis to abscesses and snakebites. Flowers were also used by certain tribes to make paint for use on the inside of earthenware dishes and bowls.

Orange globe mallow is native to the dryer regions of the Pacific Northwest and Southwest, and is recommended for xeriscaping (low water landscaping) where its gray-green foliage provides a contrast to other plants. It can be found in a wide variety of soils including sagebrush, desert flats, and rocky mountain slopes. It establishes well even in harsh conditions and thrives in disturbed sites.