



DEMONSTRATION Garden Guide



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written by

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*A Planting Guide for
South Central New Mexico*



This guide is available electronically at www.las-cruces.org/WaterConservation.

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INTRODUCTION

SEPTEMBER 2015



The Water Conservation Demonstration Garden at the Las Cruces Utilities (LCU) Administration Building, 680 N. Motel Blvd., showcases a wide variety of low-water and desert-adapted plants suitable for cultivation in this area. As xeriscape has become more popular, there has been a tendency by local landscapers to select a small variety of the same species over and over. Some people may conclude that the options for desert-adapted landscapes are quite limited, but nothing could be further from the truth. While the use of a limited plant palette may be due in part to limited availability, when people can see for themselves the variety of possibilities, they will surely begin to request less well-known species.

As Water Conservation Coordinator, my goal is to help area residents reduce their water use while creating beautiful and habitable landscapes. Most of the species in this garden have low water requirements. Exceptions are the Bermuda grass and the pecan tree. The pecan tree was already in place, when the demonstration garden was created. It is a reminder that many of our homes already have landscape in place which may not be easily removable. With the right planning, it is possible to create a garden that effectively reconciles higher and lower water use plants.

When selecting species for a home or commercial landscape keep in mind that many factors affect suitability of a particular species. Las Cruces is located in the Chihuahuan desert where the climate is considerably hotter than the central part of New Mexico, but cooler than the southern Arizona Sonoran desert. Consequently, some but not all, plants in the other two regions will grow well in this area.

The amount of sun or shade in a particular location may be critical. For some species, plant health also depends on soil type. Located in the valley, the demonstration garden's soil is a heavier, loamier clay than what is found on the mesas, which tend to have sandier soil. As a result, some plants that do well in this garden may not do as well on the mesas and vice-versa. It is important to carefully consider each plant's growing requirements before selecting it for a particular landscape.

In addition to presenting a wide variety of plants, the demonstration garden is intended to highlight several possible irrigation system designs. Drip irrigation is used in the xeric areas of the garden. Each of the four beds of Bermuda grass is irrigated using a different technology, which is explained on the interior pages. As of 2015, the water use of each bed of grass is being monitored to see how use compares from plot to plot and how well the grass is responding.

Whether you visit the garden to find plants you want to add to your own landscape, to compare the effectiveness of irrigation technologies, or simply to enjoy the beautiful plants and the animals they attract, we think you will enjoy your visit here. Be sure to take a few minutes to sit and appreciate the garden, because after all, that's what gardens are for!

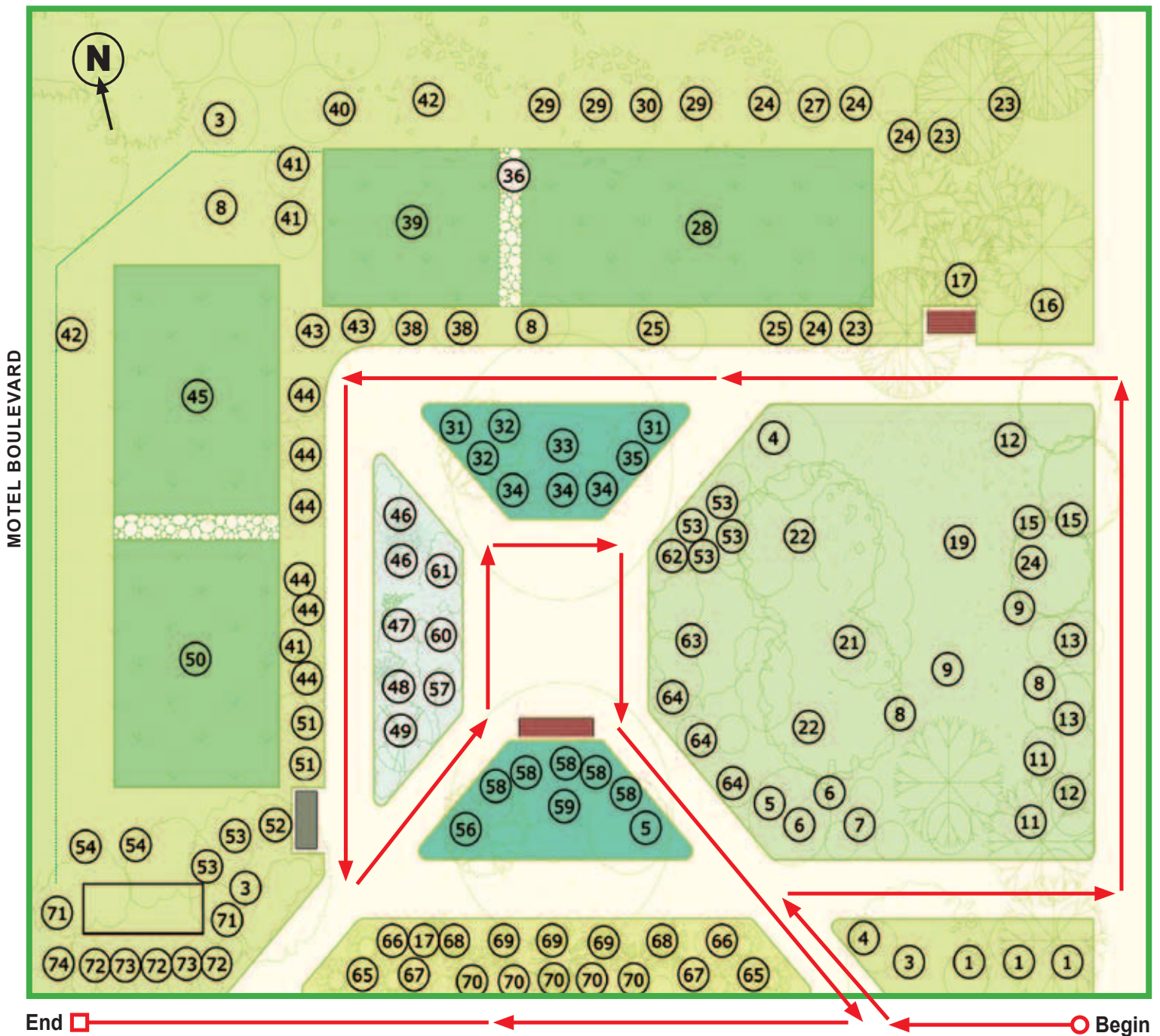
Leslie R. Kryder
Water Conservation Coordinator
Las Cruces Utilities



WATER-WISE DEMONSTRATION GARDEN MAP

..... How to use this Guide

- Tour the demonstration garden and use this guide to learn about each plant species.
- Each species has a sign with the number and name of the species. In this guide, the plants are listed in order by number so you can follow along.
- The tour begins in the southeast corner of the garden, next to the building. Refer to the map for a suggested route.
- If you see a plant you want to purchase, be sure to ask your local nursery well in advance.
- An electronic copy of this Demonstration Garden Guide is available online at www.las-cruces.org/DemoGarden, or, you can borrow a copy from the Utilities Administration front desk during business hours - please return no later than 4:45 p.m.



PLANTS BY THE NUMBERS

NO.	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NO.	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
1	Damianita	<i>Chrysactinia mexicana</i>	50	Subsurface Drip	_____
2	Reserved for future use	_____	51	Arizona Sun Blanket Flowers	<i>Gaillardia grandiflora</i>
3	Desert Willow	<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	52	Moonshine Yarrow	<i>Achillea taygetea</i>
4	Orchid Rock Rose	<i>Cistus x purpureus</i>	53	Russian Sage	<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i>
5	Pomegranate	<i>Punica granatum</i>	54	Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>
6	Tuscan Blue Rosemary	<i>Rosmar. off. Tuscan Blue</i>	55	Reserved for future use	_____
7	Rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	56	Mexican Fire	<i>Anisacanthus quadrifidus var. wrightii</i>
8	New Mexico Privet	<i>Forestiera neomexicana</i>	57	Ocotillo	<i>Fouquieria splendens</i>
9	Apache Plume	<i>Fallugia paradoxa</i>	58	Gaura	<i>Gaura lindheimeri</i>
10	Reserved for future use	_____	59	Purple Robe Locust	<i>Robinia ambigua</i>
11	Three-Leaf Sumac	<i>Rhus trilobata</i>	60	Desert Globemallow	<i>Sphaeralcea ambigua</i>
12	Reserved for future use	_____	61	Turpentine Bush	<i>Ericameria laricifolia</i>
13	Red or Scarlet Texas Skullcaps	<i>Scutellaria suffrutescens</i>	62	Lantana	<i>Lantana New Gold</i>
14	Reserved for future use	_____	63	Chinese Juniper	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i>
15	White Plumbago	<i>Plumbago scandens</i>	64	Chaparral Sage	<i>Salvia clevelandii</i>
16	Crimson or Purple Fountain Grass	<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>	65	Wedelia	<i>Wedelia hispida</i>
17	Little Bluestem Grass	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	66	Maiden Grass	<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>
18	Reserved for future use	_____	67	Sierra Gold Dalea	<i>Dalea capitata</i>
19	Western Schley Pecan	<i>Carya illinoensis</i>	68	Deer Grass	<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>
20	Reserved for future use	_____	69	Texas Tuberose	<i>Manfreda maculosa</i>
21	Yellow Bells	<i>Tecoma stans v angustata</i>	70	Desert Marigold	<i>Baileya multiradiata</i>
22	Mexican Plum	<i>Prunus mexicana</i>	71	Mexican Bush Sage	<i>Salvia leucantha</i>
23	Smoketree or Smokebush	<i>Cotinus coggygia</i>	72	Autumn or Cherry Sage	<i>Salvia greggii</i>
24	Butterfly Bush	<i>Buddleia davidii</i>	73	Blue Mist Spirea	<i>Caryopteris clandonensis</i>
25	Hardy Yellow Ice Plant	<i>Malephora lutea</i>	74	Prairie Flameleaf Sumac	<i>Rhus lanceolata</i>
26	Reserved for future use	_____			
27	Texas Ranger or Texas Sage	<i>Leucophyllum frutescens</i>			
28	Rotors	_____			
29	Rubber Rabbitbrush	<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i>			
30	Mexican Buckeye	<i>Ungnadia speciosa</i>			
31	Mexican Blue Sage	<i>Salvia chamaedryoides</i>			
32	Autumn Joy Sedum	<i>Sedum telephium</i>			
33	Anacacho Orchid	<i>Bauhinia lunarioides</i>			
34	Daylily	<i>Hemerocallis</i>			
35	Mondgrass or Monkeygrass	<i>Ophiopogon japonicus</i>			
36	Woolly Butterfly Bush	<i>Buddleia marrubifolia</i>			
37	Reserved for future use	_____			
38	Angelita Daisy	<i>Tetranneuris acaulis</i>			
39	Matched Precipitation Rotators	_____			
40	Vitex	<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>			
41	Desert Bird of Paradise	<i>Caesalpinia gilliesii</i>			
42	Arizona Rosewood	<i>Vauquelinia californica</i>			
43	Chocolate Flower	<i>Berlandiera lyrata</i>			
44	Flowering Yucca	<i>Hesperaloe parviflora</i>			
45	Spray Heads	_____			
46	Soap Tree Yucca	<i>Yucca elata</i>			
47	Century Plant	<i>Agave americana</i>			
48	Strawberry Hedgehog Cactus	<i>Echinocereus stramineus</i>			
49	Claret Cup Hedgehog	<i>Echinoc. triglochidiatus</i>			

PLANTS AT UTILITIES ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

90	Prostrate Rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus off prostratus</i>
91	Angelita Daisy	<i>Tetranneuris acaulis</i>
92	Mexican Blue Sage	<i>Salvia chamaedryoides</i>
93	Woolly Butterfly Bush	<i>Buddleia marrubifolia</i>
94	Little Bluestem Grass	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>
95	Crimson or Purple Fountain Grass	<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>
96	Prostrate Indigo Bush	<i>Dalea gregii</i>
97	Sierra Madre Lobelia	<i>Lobelia laxiflora</i>
98	Reserved for future use	_____
99	Orchid Rock Rose	<i>Cistus x purpureus</i>
100	Apache Plume	<i>Fallugia paradoxa</i>
101	Bearded Iris	<i>Iris hybrida</i>
102	Mealy Cup Sage	<i>Salvia farinacea</i>
103	Reserved for future use	_____
104	Reserved for future use	_____
105	Reserved for future use	_____
106	Vitex	<i>Agnus castus</i>
107	New Mexico Privet	<i>Forestiera neomexicana</i>
108	Texas Ranger or Texas Sage	<i>Leucophyllum frutescens</i>
109	Blue Nolina or Bear Grass	<i>Nolina nelsonii</i>

DEMONSTRATION GARDEN

1

DAMIANITA

Chrysactinia mexicana

Type: Shrub, evergreen

Mature Size: 1' - 2'h x 2'w

Blooming Season: Spring to Fall

Flower Color: Golden-yellow

 Full Sun/Partial Shade  Low

Damianita is native to Texas and northern Mexico. It has needle-like foliage that is dark green and produces a strong aroma. The flowers bloom from April to September. These flowers are daisy-like, golden-yellow, and grow on stem terminals. Damianita thrives in full sun and poor soils. It grows into a dense round shrub, unless it is planted in shade where it tends to get leggy. This shrub should only be lightly pruned in spring, because it can die if pruned back severely. Heat and drought tolerant, rabbit resistant, and cold hardy to 10 degrees F. It is great in mass plantings and can be used for erosion control on slopes.



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2

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3

DESERT WILLOW

Chilopsis linearis

Type: Tree, deciduous

Mature Size: 6' - 30'h x 6' - 30'w

Blooming Season: Late Spring to Early Summer

Flower Color: White, burgundy, pink

 Full Sun  Low

Desert Willow is native to the desert washes of the southwestern U.S. and Mexico. It has long, narrow leaves that are very similar to the weeping willow. The flowers are bell shaped and grow in terminal clusters. They are a light pink to lavender color and have a pleasant fragrance. The Desert Willow is ideal for bird gardens since hummingbirds tend to live in the foliage during the summer. The fragrance is very attractive to bees and the 12 inch long seed capsules are popular with birds. They have no diseases of major concern but tend to look dead when dormant, especially the first year.



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ORCHID ROCK ROSE

Cistus x purpureus

Type: Shrub, evergreen

Mature Size: 3'h x 4'- 6'w

Blooming Season: Summer

Flower Color: Purple/Pink

 Full Sun  Low

Orchid Rock Rose, or Orchid Rockrose, is a fast growing evergreen perennial shrub that originates from the Mediterranean region of Morocco, Portugal, and the Canary Islands. It has narrow 2 inch long leaves with a dark green top and grey-green bottom, which send forth an appealing resinous scent. The Orchid Rock Rose blooms for 2 to 3 months in the summer with a profusion of papery blooms that resemble wild rose blossoms. Each flower lasts only a day and the petals will carpet the ground beneath. It is drought tolerant, heat tolerant, cold tolerant, soil tolerant, and salt tolerant. Butterfly and moth larvae will eat the foliage.



© A. Barra⁽¹⁾



© Stickpen⁽¹⁾



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POMEGRANATE

Punica granatum

Type: Shrub, deciduous

Mature Size: 6' - 15'h

Blooming Season: Summer

Flower Color: Orange-Red

 Full Sun  Low

Pomegranate is a shrub that is native to Asia where it has adapted to sandy and rocky terrain. It thrives in hot, dry climates and is also somewhat salt tolerant. The pomegranate requires regular removal of suckers to prevent spreading and promote growth for the shrub base and its fruit. It will reach maturity and begin producing fruits after 3 to 4 years. Orange-red trumpet-shaped flowers give way to the ripened pomegranate fruit 6 to 7 months after flowering and properly maintained it can yield more than 300 lbs. of fruit each year. It is prone to attack by leaf footed plant bugs.



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TUSCAN BLUE ROSEMARY

Rosmarinus officinalis Tuscan Blue

Type: Shrub, evergreen

Mature Size: 4'-6'w x 4'-5'h

Blooming Season: Year Round

Flower Color: Blue

 **Full Sun/Partial Shade**  **Low**

Tuscan Blue Rosemary, also known as upright rosemary, originates in the Mediterranean. Its features are identical to the common rosemary except it produces lavender-blue flowers year-round. The olive green foliage is pleasantly aromatic and can be used to season meats. Tuscan Blue Rosemary is resistant to deer and rabbit predation. It tolerates salt spray, alkaline soils, drought, humidity, and pollution. This rosemary is susceptible to root rot, leaf spots, and blight.



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ROSEMARY

Rosmarinus officinalis 'Prostratus'

Type: Shrub, evergreen or Herbaceous evergreen

Mature Size: 2'-6'h x 3'-6'w

Blooming Season: Winter to Spring

Flower Color: Blue

 **Full Sun**  **Low**

Rosemary is a member of the mint family and it originates in the Mediterranean. This evergreen shrub has dark-green pine-needle-like leaves that have been used to flavor meat for centuries. These leaves can also be used to relax muscles, for cosmetics, and to freshen air. Its small blue flowers can pollinate themselves. Rosemary tolerates partial shade and is drought tolerant, salt tolerant, and resistant to deer and rabbit predation. When it is grown in warmer climates, it can easily live up to 30 years.

See also number 90, Prostrate Rosemary.



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NEW MEXICO PRIVET

Forestiera neomexicana

Type: Tree, deciduous

Mature Size: 12'-18'w x 12'h

Blooming Season: Spring

Flower Color: Yellow

 **Full Sun**  **Medium**

New Mexico Privet is a multi-stemmed tree or large shrub, which easily adapts to a variety of growing conditions. It has ornamental white bark and bright green leaves that turn yellow-green in fall. When in bloom, small yellow flowers appear and produce an enjoyable fragrance that is similar to lilac. The fruit is a bluish-black berry eaten by quail and songbirds. The New Mexico Privet has separate male and female plants. It is alkaline tolerant, extremely drought resistant, and is not insect or disease prone. Depending on how the privet is pruned, it can either look like a large bush or a tree.



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Depending on how the privet is pruned, it can either look like a large bush or a tree. There are three New Mexico Privets in this garden. See if you can identify the other ones, which were pruned differently.

APACHE PLUME

Fallugia paradoxa

Type: Shrub, semi-evergreen

Mature Size: 3-6'w x 3-6'h

Blooming Season: April to June

Flower Color: White with yellow centers

 **Full Sun/Partial Shade**  **Low**

Apache Plume is a multi-branched shrub that is native to the Mojave, Chihuahuan, Great Basin, and Sonoran Deserts. In warmer climates it is semi-evergreen and will retain its dark green leaves. It has dense, entangled branches. White blooms similar to apple blooms appear in late spring. These flowers produce exotic seed heads with silvery-pink puffs. Apache Plume is very attractive to bees and butterflies and is a shelter for wildlife. It is extremely drought tolerant and cold hardy to minus 30 degrees F. Under optimum conditions, it can grow very aggressively.



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THREE-LEAF SUMAC

Rhus trilobata

Type: Shrub, semi-evergreen

Mature Size: 20"- 8' tall

Blooming Season: Spring

Flower Color: Red

 **Full Sun/Partial Shade**  **Low**

Three Leaf Sumac is a shrub that is native to the Western United States. It is commonly found in thickets and growing on hillsides and canyons. The leaves are fragrant three-lobed leaflets. The yellowish-white flowers grow in small, dense clusters. This plant is polygamodioecious, meaning that the male and female flowers are found on separate plants. This Sumac produces small, bright red, edible fruits that are 5-7 mm in diameter. The fruits persist into winter and are eaten by birds and small mammals. Three Leaf Sumac is very drought tolerant and is very resistant to both insects and disease.



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RED OR SCARLET TEXAS SKULLCAP

Scutellaria suffrutescens

Type: Shrub, deciduous

Mature Size: 1'- 2'h x 2'- 4'w

Blooming Season: Late Spring to Early Fall

Flower Color: Pink

 **Full Sun/Partial Shade**  **Low**

Scutellaria sp 'Starrfire', also known as Skullcap, is a specialized variety of Skullcap closely related to the Pink Texas Skullcap (pictured here). The Starrfire's beautiful red flowers make it an eye-pleasing groundcover. The Pink Texas Skullcap is a shrub that is native to Northern Mexico. It has foliage that is similar to thyme (oval leaves with rounded tips). The stems are somewhat hairy and woody, which prevent it from dying down each year. The flowers resemble snapdragon flowers and their small size is compensated by quantity, as they are very plentiful during their blooming season. The Texas Skullcap is



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disease resistant, pest resistant, drought tolerant, and thrives with heat and humidity. Both Skullcaps are ideal for rock gardens, xeriscaping, and container gardening.

WHITE PLUMBAGO

Plumbago scandens

Type: Shrub, perennial

Mature Size: 3'h x 4'w

Blooming Season: Spring to Fall

Flower Color: White

 Full Sun/Partial Shade  Medium

White Plumbago is a perennial shrub that is native to the Southwest. In warmer climates, it is evergreen. The leaves are oval, dark green, and narrow. Flowers are bright white and appear sporadically across the plant but never in abundance. As the flowers are pollinated, they ripen into sticky seed capsules covered by hooks. White Plumbago is ideal for shaded areas and spilling over walls. It is fairly drought tolerant and is cold hardy to 15 degrees F. Although poisonous to mammals it is attractive to butterflies and is a source of food for butterfly larva. It can often be found with a white cottony substance on the leaves.



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CRIMSON OR PURPLE FOUNTAIN GRASS

Pennisetum setaceum

Type: Ornamental grass, perennial

Mature Size: 2' - 4'h x 2' - 3'w

Blooming Season: Summer to Fall

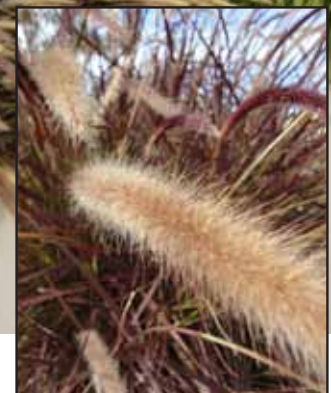
Flower Color: Purple

 Full Sun/Partial Shade  Low

Crimson Fountain Grass is an extremely attractive ornamental grass that is native to Northern Africa. Its crimson-purple blades and its purplish pink plumes make a great landscape addition, especially when planted in groups. This grass is very drought tolerant and is even known to recover after being burned down. In spite of the abundant seed heads, the seeds are sterile and this plant does not reproduce by spreading seeds, which makes it attractive to gardeners. During winter, it should be cut back to a height of about 12 inches. It should also be watered lightly during this period to keep the rhizomes alive. It can be damaged or killed by cold weather.



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17 LITTLE BLUESTEM GRASS

Schizachyrium scoparium

Type: Ornamental grass

Mature Size: 2' - 4'h x 1.5' - 2'w

Blooming Season: August to February

Flower Color: Purplish bronze

 **Full Sun**  **Low Plus**

Little Bluestem is an ideal ornamental grass. Its most active growth is from summer into late fall and can be grazed by livestock, deer, and elk. Since it produces abundant seed stems, it also provides food for song-birds during winter. It is slow to wake up in the spring but the initial stiff green blades will turn a bronze-orange color in the fall. Then the dried grass will remain intact during the winter and by shearing it to 3" in spring it will promote new growth. The small size makes this grass ideal for containers. It's not prone to any serious insect or disease problems.



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19 WESTERN SCHLEY PECAN

Carya illinoensis

Type: Tree, deciduous

Mature Size: 70' - 100'h x 30'w

Blooming Season: April to May

Flower Color: Yellowish green

 **Full Sun**  **Heavy**

The Western Schley is a legacy tree in our demonstration garden, meaning that it existed before the garden was planted. It is native to the region of the lower Mississippi Valley and extends into northeastern Mexico. This tree is not a low water-use species. When grown commercially, the Western Schley uses 4 ½ to 5 ½ feet of water per year to maximize nut production. In a landscape, it generally does well with about 2 ½ feet of water. Large amounts of water are needed in August, when water is critical for pecan shell hardening. Water deficiency during this time may cause trees to



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© Brad Haire (1)



© Clemson University (1)

drop most of their crop. This tree serves as a reminder that often landscapes must accommodate a wide range of existing and new plantings.

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YELLOW BELLS

Tecoma stans var. *angustata*

Type: Shrub, semi-evergreen

Mature Size: 3'-6'h x 3'-4'w

Blooming Season: Spring to Fall

Flower Color: Yellow

 Full Sun/Partial Shade  Low

Yellow Bells is a shrub or small tree that is native to the desert Southwest. It has olive-green, toothed, lance-shaped leaves that are slightly hairy on the bottom. Yellow Bells earns its name from its striking bright yellow trumpet shaped flowers, which grow up to 2 ½ inches long and hang in clusters on the ends of the branches. The flowers have a delightful fragrance and will provide nectar for bees and hummingbirds. This variety has a high drought tolerance as well as being cold and heat tolerant, but less tolerant tropical varieties might be sold in nurseries. Yellow Bells should be pruned in late winter. Phytophthora root rot fungi is known to occasionally cause sudden death of plant.



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MEXICAN PLUM

Prunus mexicana

Type: Tree, deciduous

Mature Size: 25'h x 25'w

Blooming Season: Spring

Flower Color: White

 Full Sun/Partial Shade  Low

The Mexican Plum is a single trunked tree that is native to North America. It starts with a lighter brown bark that will eventually turn dark and striated. This bark will peel off in patches as it grows. Each spring comes with a stunning display of clouds of white blooms covering the entire tree. This beautiful display is pleasantly fragrant and it is shortly followed by purple/red fruits. These are tart to the taste and can be eaten or made into jams and jellies. It is drought tolerant once established. Members of the Rosaceae family are susceptible to cotton root rot, but the Mexican Plum is resistant.



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23

SMOKETREE OR SMOKEBUSH

Cotinus coggygria

Type: shrub, deciduous

Mature Size: 10'-15'h x 10'-15'w

Blooming Season: May to July

Flower Color: Yellow

 Full Sun  Medium

Smoketree is a multi-stemmed shrub that can be trained as a tree and is native to southern Europe, central China, and the Himalayas. It earns its name from the tiny yellowish flowers that grow on long pinkish stems. Groups of these stems cluster and produce a cloudlike effect. The flowers attract bees. Smoketree has oval blue-green leaves that change into different shades of yellow, purple, and red in the fall. Those with sensitive skin can get dermatitis from skin contact with the Smoketree. It is drought tolerant and resistant to honey fungus, but it is affected by rust, leafspot, and verticillium wilt.



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© Kenpei (1)



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BUTTERFLY BUSH

Buddleia davidii

Type: Shrub, deciduous

Mature Size: 5'-9'h x 8'-10'w

Blooming Season: Summer to Fall

Flower Color: Lavender, lilac, purple, white, yellow, pink

 Full Sun  Medium

Butterfly Bush is an ideal plant for gardeners that want to attract butterflies, hummingbirds, and bees. Summer blooms develop as loose branching clusters of flowers. Depending on the plant, flowers may be lavender, lilac, purple, white, yellow, or pink. Although they are drought tolerant, spider mites become problematic during droughts. Due to unruliness of the Butterfly Bush, their visual appeal increases when they are planted together. Consider pruning the Butterfly Bush to the ground in late winter, because when it returns in spring it will only produce flowers on new growth.



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HARDY YELLOW ICE PLANT

Malephora lutea

Type: Succulent groundcover

Mature Size: 1'h x 4'- 6'w

Blooming Season: Spring-Fall

Flower Color: Yellow, pink, orange, purple, white

 **Full Sun/Partial Shade**  **Low Plus**

Ice Plant refers to a group of related succulents, including malephora and delosperma varieties. Malephora lutea has a yellow flower, but you can find Ice Plant in a variety of colors including pink, white, purple, and orange. It thrives in dry soil, is cold hardy, and requires little care once established. Ice Plant makes a beautiful and colorful ground cover in any xeriscape.



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TEXAS RANGER OR TEXAS SAGE

Leucophyllum frutescens, Green Cloud

Type: Shrub, evergreen

Mature Size: 3'- 4'h x 4'- 8'w

Blooming Season: Year-round

Flower Color: Lavender, purple, pink, white

 **Full Sun**  **Medium**

Texas Ranger or Texas Sage is an evergreen shrub that is native to the Chihuahuan Desert. It has soft oval foliage that is silvery green. The foliage tends to sprawl when in shade. Summer rains trigger the bloom of brightly colored flowers that cover the entire shrub. The flowers attract butterflies and the shrub is also used as a butterfly larval host. Texas Ranger is tolerant to cold, heat, salt spray, drought, and it is deer resistant. This shrub is easy to grow when given good drainage, but is susceptible to cotton root rot in wet soil. It is an ideal choice for barriers, windbreaks, and screens. This one is the Green Cloud, which has a rosy pink flower; however, it comes in a variety of colors. There are several



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other Texas Rangers near the wall on the east side of the Utilities building.

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ROTORS In addition to plant species suitable for water conserving landscapes, the garden demonstrates four irrigation technologies for turf. This turf plot is irrigated with rotors. Rotors are preferable to spray heads because they apply water in a stream rather than a spray. The streaming water droplets are larger and less of the water evaporates. Also, rotors typically apply water much more slowly than sprays, which is an advantage when irrigating finer, heavier soils, which are high in clay. In the Las Cruces area clay soils and clay mixes are typically found in the valley near the Rio Grande.



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RUBBER RABBITBRUSH

Chrysothamnus nauseosus

Type: Shrub, perennial

Mature Size: 3' - 5'h x 5'w

Blooming Season: Year-round

Flower Color: Yellow

 **Full Sun**  **Low Plus**

Rubber Rabbitbrush is a small shrub native to the deserts of the Southwest. It has a history of being used by Native Americans for basket weaving, yellow dye, chewing gum, tea, and cough syrup. Its rounded crown is formed by felted branches. The leaves exude a foul rubber odor when crushed. Sticky, yellow, tubular flowers bloom in round clusters and are attractive to butterflies and bees and can be eaten by birds and small mammals. Rubber Rabbitbrush is very low maintenance, grows rapidly, and readily self-seeds.



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© Patrick Alexander⁽²⁾



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MEXICAN BUCKEYE

Ungnadia speciosa

Type: Shrub, deciduous

Mature Size: 10'-20'h x 8'-12'w

Blooming Season: Spring to Summer

Flower Color: Pink, purple

 Full Sun/Partial Shade  Low

Mexican Buckeye is a large multi-stemmed shrub, which can be pruned into a tree with a single trunk. It is native to the Southwest and northeastern Mexico. In the wild it is typically found in limestone soils in canyons and on creek banks. Mexican Buckeye has shiny dark green leaves that are fuzzy on bottom and turn bright yellow during the fall. Before the new leaves emerge in spring, bright pink flowers bloom in clusters along the twigs. It produces shiny dark-brown seeds with a pale spot that resemble buckeye seeds. These seeds are poisonous. The Mexican Buckeye is extremely heat tolerant and makes an attractive background shrub or deciduous screen.



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MEXICAN BLUE SAGE

Salvia chamaedryoides

Type: Herbaceous, perennial

Mature Size: 1'-3'h x 1'-3'w

Blooming Season: Summer to Fall

Flower Color: Blue

 Full Sun/Partial Shade  Low Plus

Mexican Blue Sage is a perennial that is native to Mexico. This sage mounds in the center and also spreads its woody stems along the ground. It has small bright grey foliage and deep blue blossoms. The flowers are trumpet shaped and grow along the terminal branches. It blooms almost year-round and is very attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds. Mexican Blue Sage is a fast grower and spreads vigorously through its underground stems. It is drought tolerant but susceptible to powdery mildew, rust, stem rot, fungal leaf spots, whiteflies, aphids, mealy bugs, and spider mites.



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AUTUMN JOY SEDUM

Sedum telephium

Type: Perennial, evergreen

Mature Size: 1'-1.9'h x 1.5'-1.9'w

Blooming Season: Late Summer to Fall

Flower Color: Deep pink

 Full Sun/Partial Shade  Low Plus

Autumn Joy Sedum is a very dependable garden perennial. When flowers begin to take form in July they look like broccoli. Later, in August they bloom as bushy pink flower heads, and eventually deepen into a rusty-red in the fall. They do not require pruning while in season, and if they are left over winter, simply pruning out dead stems in early spring allows new growth. Autumn Joy is very easy to establish and has a moderate growth rate. It will add a burst of color from late summer well into fall and is very attractive to butterflies.



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ANACACHO ORCHID

Bauhinia lunarioides

Type: Tree, semi-evergreen

Mature Size: 6-12'h x 6-10'w

Blooming Season: Spring

Flower Color: White, pink

 Full Sun/Partial Shade  Low

Anacacho Orchid is native to the rocky limestone canyons of the Chihuahuan Desert. It has delicate light green leaflets that grow in pairs resembling cloven hooves. In spring, clusters of white (rarely pink) orchid-like flowers begin to bloom. These flowers have extended stamens and attract butterflies and hummingbirds. When grown in full sun the plant is denser, whereas shade creates a more open and graceful tree. The Anacacho Orchid is heat tolerant, cold hardy to 15 degrees F, drought resistant, and is not susceptible to most insects or diseases.



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DAYLILY

Hemerocallis

Type: Perennial, deciduous

Mature Size: 24”h x 12”-24”w

Blooming Season: Summer

Flower Color: Yellow, pink, orange

 Full Sun/Partial Shade  Medium

Daylily has evolved to over 45,000 varieties, each with its own unique characteristics (colors, flowering times, and fragrance). The scientific name is ‘hemerocallis,’ which in Greek means “beautiful for a day.” Each Daylily flower only blooms for one day. Regarded as one of the easiest plants to grow, the Daylily is versatile and can adapt to most soils, though it prefers well drained soil. It is drought tolerant, but really thrives with additional water. Daylilies come in a variety of colors, so it’s best to purchase plants while they are in bloom. The Demonstration Garden features the Ming Toy variety, a beautiful rust with a yellow throat.



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MONDOGRASS OR MONKEYGRASS

Ophiopogon japonicus

Type: Small perennial

Mature Size: 10”- 12”h x 6”- 8”w

Blooming Season: Summer

Flower Color: White, pale lilac

 Partial Shade  Medium

Mondo grass, also known as Monkey grass, is a small perennial of Japanese origin, a member of the lily family. It grows in clumps and can be used as a groundcover or border. There is a dwarf variety that is 1/3 to 1/2 the size of the standard variety. It is evergreen and adds a nice bit of color in winter. Although it prefers partial shade, it can also grow in full sun. If you plant it, be prepared to wait a while for it to spread as it is a slow grower.



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WOOLLY BUTTERFLY BUSH

Buddleia marrubifolia

Type: Shrub, semi-evergreen

Mature Size: 3'-5' h x 5'w

Blooming Season: March to August

Flower Color: Orange

 **Full Sun/Partial Shade**  **Low**

Woolly Butterfly Bush is a semi-evergreen shrub native to the desert of Chihuahua, Mexico. Its mint green foliage is fuzzy, but it can also turn more silvery when it has been water deprived. The orange flowers grow in small clusters above the plant, and are very attractive to butterflies. These flowers are aromatic and can bloom year-round in warmer climates. Woolly Butterfly Bush grows moderately fast. It needs some protection from freezes and is susceptible to aphid infestations. Woolly Butterfly Bush is ideal for butterfly gardens.



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ANGELITA DAISY

Tetranneuris acaulis

Type: Herbaceous, perennial

Mature Size: 1'w x 15"-18"h

Blooming Season: February to November

Flower Color: Golden-yellow

 **Full Sun**  **Medium**

Angelita Daisy is native to the North American plains from Canada to Texas. It forms small dense clumps with long grass-like leaves. Yellow, daisy-like flowers with notched edges rise above the plant on tall leafless stems. The flowers are very fragrant and attract butterflies, insects, bees, and birds. They have an almost year-round blooming period. It is necessary to deadhead old flowers to keep the plant from looking scruffy. The Angelita Daisy is extremely drought tolerant and is cold hardy to -20 degrees F. Its dense foliage makes it an ideal perennial for borders.



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MATCHED PRECIPITATION ROTATORS

Matched precipitation rotators (often called "MP Rotators") are suitable for small residential turf areas and can be used to retrofit traditional spray heads. Full circle, half circle, and quarter circle (90 degree) heads of the same size apply water at the same rate and can be used together on the same zone. They are designed for shorter throw distances than typical rotors. Rotors send a stream of water rather than individual droplets into the air. As a result, less water is lost to evaporation. Rotors use considerably less water than a comparable spray system; however, the irrigation cycle will be much longer because they emit water at a much lower rate. The heads in this plot are Hunter Matched Precipitation Rotators. Rain Bird makes a comparable product.



VITEX

Vitex agnus-castus

Type: Tree, deciduous

Mature Size: 8'-10' x 5'-8'

Blooming Season: July to August

Flower Color: Violet-blue

 Full Sun  Medium

Vitex is a tree that is native to China and India where it is known as the “chaste tree” for its ability to help suppress the libido. The leaves are lance-shaped and come in groups of 5 to 7 leaves in a star-like configuration. The flowers are small, ranging in color from blue to violet and they grow in clusters along the ends of the branches. Both the flowers and leaves are aromatic, making them attractive to butterflies. They produce small black fruits and the four seeds in each fruit can be used to flavor food. The Vitex is drought tolerant and doesn't have any serious insect or disease problems. Only leaf spots and root rot cause occasional problems.



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DESERT BIRD OF PARADISE

Caesalpinia gilliesii

Type: Shrub, deciduous

Mature Size: 5'-10'h x 4'-6'w

Blooming Season: Spring to early Summer

Flower Color: Yellow, red

 Full Sun  Low

Desert Bird of Paradise is native to Argentina. It is fast growing and can be a shrub or small tree. The leaves are bluish green and will grow in a featherlike arrangement. In the spring, the branch tips begin to grow yellow flowers with long bright red stamens (4-5 inches). The individual yellow flowers bloom for only one day. A flower will open over the course of 4 hours in the late afternoon, making it possible to watch the bloom open. Although the Desert Bird of Paradise is very aesthetically pleasing, the seeds are poisonous. It is prone to spider mites, mealy bugs, and whiteflies.



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ARIZONA ROSEWOOD

Vauquelinia californica

Type: Shrub, evergreen

Mature Size: 5'- 25'h x 4'- 15'w

Blooming Season: Early Spring

Flower Color: White

 **Full Sun/Partial Shade**  **Low Plus**

Arizona Rosewood is a vase-shaped shrub that can be trained as a tree by pruning the lowest branches after it is 8 feet high. It is a member of the rose family and since it originates from Arizona and Mexico, it is extremely heat tolerant and requires very little watering. The flowers will grow in large white clusters at the branch tips and the leaves are highly serrated. During its first season in the ground this shrub does not show much progress, but once established the Arizona Rosewood grows at a moderate rate.



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CHOCOLATE FLOWER

Berlandiera lyrata

Type: Herbaceous, perennial

Mature Size: 1'- 2'h x 1'- 2'w

Blooming Season: Summer to Fall

Flower Color: Yellow

 **Full Sun**  **Low Plus**

Chocolate Flower is native to the Southwest but is highly adaptable to different conditions. It earns its name from the sweet chocolate scent its flowers produce. The flowers bloom at night, and offer a rich chocolate scent in the mornings. As the temperature increases, the flowers will close and the scent disappears. To increase this pleasant chocolate aroma, it is best to plant these flowers in groups. This aromatic flower will return each spring with a larger crown. It can be cut back in February or November if there are small rosettes of new growth at base.



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FLOWERING YUCCA

Hesperaloe parviflora

Type: Succulent, evergreen

Mature Size: 2' - 3'h x 4'w

Blooming Season: Summer to Fall

Flower Color: Pink, yellow, red

 Full Sun  Low Plus

Red and Yellow Flowering Yucca is a stemless succulent that is native to the Rio Grande of Texas and northern Mexico. In the demonstration garden you will find several red and yellow examples as well as a single “Brakelight Red” cultivar. “Hesperaloe” is the Greek translation of the “Western Aloe,” due to its aloe-like grass foliage that arches and spreads 3 to 4 feet tall. The three different species vary by their flower colors and are either pink, bright red, or yellow. By mid-summer the flowers sprout along the 5 to 8 - foot tall stalks. These plants have a long blooming period and the flowers open from the bottom up. It is drought tolerant, soil tolerant, and requires minimal flower stalk removal maintenance. Flowering Yucca is a great accent plant and is very attractive to hummingbirds.



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SPRAY HEADS

Spray heads are the traditional type of full area coverage irrigation technology used in residential contexts. Spray heads are generally suitable for situations where there is a short throwing distance between heads, up to about 25 feet. For longer throws, rotors are recommended. Spray heads apply water at a faster rate than rotors, about three times as fast. Because the water is released in individual droplets the evaporation rate is higher than with rotors. In cases where there is excessive pressure the water may even mist, which raises the evaporation rate more. On this plot the spray heads are Hunter Pros.



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SOAP TREE YUCCA

Yucca elata

Type: Evergreen, herbaceous

Mature Size: 6'-20'h x 12'w

Blooming Season: Spring

Flower Color: White

 **Full Sun**  **Low**

Soap Tree Yucca is the state flower of New Mexico. It is native to the deserts that range from southwestern Texas to Arizona and Mexico. When mature it forms flower stalks and one white bell-shaped flower on each branch clump. These dense cluster of flowers; the capsuled fruit is about 1 ½ to 3 inches long. Native Americans use Soap Tree Yucca fibers to make belts, sandals, baskets, and cords. Its high saponin content makes it a good substitute for soap or shampoo. It is drought tolerant, heat tolerant, cold tolerant, and can host yucca giant butterfly larvae.



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CENTURY PLANT

Agave Americana

Type: Cactus, evergreen

Mature Size: 5'-7'h x 8' - 12'w

Blooming Season: Summer

Flower Color: Yellow

 **Full Sun**  **Low**

Although the Century Plant is native to Mexico, it has been found growing wild in parts of the Southwest. A popular landscaping plant because it is drought tolerant, it is the fastest growing agave. The Century Plant derives its name from the belief that it only flowers every hundred years, but a typical plant will bloom after 10 to 30 years, and die after blooming. These infrequent flower stalks can reach a height of up to 30 feet. Since blooms are so infrequent, propagation is easiest by using the plant suckers found around the base. When it becomes large, the Century Plant also becomes weevil prone, but pesticide can be used preventively.



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STRAWBERRY HEDGEHOG CACTUS

Echinocereus stramineus

Type: Cactus, succulent

Mature Size: 2'- 3'h x 3'w

Blooming Season: March to May

Flower Color: Hot pink

 Full Sun  Low

Strawberry Hedgehog Cactus is a member of the Echinocereus family. Native to the American Southwest and northern Mexico, this cactus is generally found at elevations up to 5,000 feet. It produces hot pink flowers in spring, though on occasion it has been seen with white flowers at Big Bend National Park in Texas. Like most cactus, it prefers full sun and well-drained soil. Once established it does not require supplemental water.



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CLARET CUP HEDGEHOG

Echinocereus triglochidiatus

Type: Cactus, succulent

Mature Size: 1' - 2'h x 8" w

Blooming Season: Spring to Summer

Flower Color: Dark red, orange

 Full Sun/Partial Shade  Low

Claret Cup Cactus is native to the Southwest and Mexico. It is a mounding cactus that is formed by the growth of several spherical to cylindrical stems. Each areole bears 1 to 10 long radial spines. The most striking feature of the Claret Cup Cactus is its scarlet red flowers. The flowers are funnel-shaped and contain a thick nectar chamber that is attractive to hummingbirds. These flowers grow at the top of the stems and can last for several days, but blooming only begins once the cactus is at least 5 years old. After pollination, it bears an edible juicy fruit. The Claret Cup Cactus is highly drought tolerant and can also withstand colder temperatures.



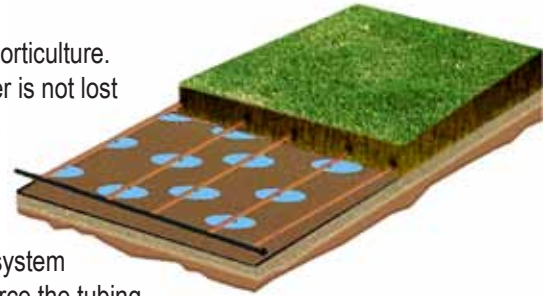
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SUBSURFACE DRIP

Subsurface drip has been used for several decades only in agriculture and horticulture. However, it is effective for turf areas, too. The biggest advantage is that water is not lost to evaporation during application; instead of applied directly to the root zone, thereby increasing irrigation efficiency and reducing the amount of water necessary to water your turf. Tubing is installed below the turf canopy typically at 4 to 6 inch depth but can be placed up to 8 inches deep in some finer textured soils. Spacing between drip lines is kept at 12 to 18 inches, creating a grid of emitters. With such an irrigation system caution must be used in using soil probes or aerating the ground as it is possible to pierce the tubing.



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ARIZONA SUN BLANKET FLOWER

Gaillardia 'Arizona Sun'

Type: Perennial

Mature Size: 1'-3'h x 1'-3'w

Blooming Season: Mid-summer to Fall

Flower Color: Red-yellow combination



Full Sun



Medium

Arizona Sun is an award-winning cultivar of the native Blanket Flower. Attractive to butterflies, this plant makes a beautiful border. It likes full sun and well-drained soil that is not too rich. Although short-lived, it will often reseed itself. Other varieties include *Gaillardia X grandiflora*, which has similar characteristics. It is susceptible to mildews, rust, white smut, leaf spots, slugs, and snails.



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MOONSHINE YARROW

Achillea taygetea

Type: Herbaceous, perennial

Mature Size: 12"-18"h x 12"w

Blooming Season: Summer to Early Fall

Flower Color: Yellow

 Full Sun  Low Plus

Moonshine Yarrow is an herbaceous perennial that can do fairly well in poor soils as long as they are well drained. Its foliage is fernlike, aromatic, and characterized by a gray-green color with silver highlights. It will bloom in summer and produce flat flower clusters. These clusters emerge bright yellow and will fade over time. Clusters are extremely attractive to butterflies and can spread easily. It is advised to remove the flower clusters as they fade to encourage new blooms. Yarrow can be significantly affected by botrytis, stem rot, root rot, powdery mildew, and rust.



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RUSSIAN SAGE

Perovskia atriplicifolia

Type: Shrub, deciduous

Mature Size: 3'-5'h x 2'-4'w

Blooming Season: July to October

Flower Color: Lavender/blue

 Full Sun  Medium

Russian Sage is a deciduous shrub that is native to the rocky terrains of Afghanistan and Pakistan. It forms upright clumps of grey-green leaves that give off a pungent scent, especially when crushed. Spires of tubular violet-blue flowers bloom in summer and can persist for up to three months. These flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds. To promote new growth each year, it should be cut back to 6-inches before growth begins in the spring. Russian Sage is deer resistant, rabbit resistant, drought tolerant, and salt tolerant but it can be affected by spider mites and spittle bugs. They are best when planted in groups and can create a nice perennial border or can be used among others shrubs.



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PURPLE CONEFLOWER

Echinacea purpurea

Type: Herbaceous, perennial

Mature Size: 2' - 4'h x 1.5' - 2'h

Blooming Season: June - October

Flower Color: Purplish-pink

 Full Sun/Partial Shade  Medium

Purple Coneflower is a perennial native to the Midwest and Southeast. It forms coarse dark-green leaves that stem into tall daisy-like flowers. The petals are a purplish-pink and surround a red coned center. These flowers are very attractive to butterflies and when they begin to fade can be cut to help promote newer blooms. If left untrimmed, the petals will fall and leave the cone to dry on the stem where it can freely self-seed. Some people use the leaves, flowers, and root to make anti-inflammatory medicines. Japanese beetle and leaf spots may cause some problems.



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MEXICAN FIRE

Anisacanthus quadrididus var. wrightii

Type: Shrub, perennial

Mature Size: 4' - 5'h x 4' - 5'w

Blooming Season: Summer to Fall

Flower Color: Red, orange

 Full Sun/Partial Shade  Low

Mexican Fire is a native to the plains of south-central Texas and northern Mexico. It has pale, flakey bark and lance-shaped leaves. Rain triggers the blooming of bright red-orange, tubular flowers. During dry summer months, supplemental water encourages heavier flowering. Hummingbirds love the nectar. Mexican Fire is an excellent wildlife plant that also provides either food or shelter for bees, butterflies, and birds. It is cold, heat, and drought tolerant and should be cut back to the ground before spring to promote denser growth. There are no notable pest or disease problems.



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© Patrick Alexander⁽²⁾



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OCOTILLO

Fouquieria splendens

Type: Shrub, evergreen

Mature Size: 7'- 20'h x 1'- 3'w

Blooming Season: Spring to Summer

Flower Color: Red, orange

 Full Sun  Low

Ocotillo is a desert shrub native to the U.S. Southwest and Sonora, Mexico. The base of the plant divides into several ascending canes that are covered with stout spines. It is slow growing but it can reach heights up to 20 feet. Small rounded leaves grow out of the axils of the thorns, but the Ocotillo is generally leafless since it readily drops its leaves in times of drought. Several flushes of leaves can occur each year since new leaves are easily formed after rains. The terminals of each cane sprout red-orange tubular flowers that grow in clusters up to a foot long. These beautiful flowers attract hummingbirds and orioles. Once established it is extremely drought tolerant and is also cold hardy to 10 degrees F.



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GAURA

Gaura lindheimeri

Type: Perennial, herbaceous

Mature Size: 48" h x 48" w

Blooming Season: Summer to Early Fall

Flower Color: White, pink

 Full Sun  Medium

Gaura is a perennial herbaceous plant that is native to southern Louisiana and Texas. It is densely clustered due to its underground Rhizome, which is a creeping rootstalk that can grow new upward shoots. The white or pink flowers grow along wiry stems that sway in the breeze and look like small butterflies. Some of the flower petals are white at dawn and will turn pink by dusk. It is very drought tolerant and does not have any serious insect or disease problems.



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PURPLE ROBE LOCUST

Robinia ambigua

Type: Tree, deciduous

Mature Size: 40'h x 20'w

Blooming Season: Spring to Summer

Flower Color: Purple-Pink

 **Full Sun**  **Medium**

Purple Robe Locust is a hybrid that combines the height of the Black Locust with the attractive pink-purple flowers of the Bristly Locust. Each spring brings beautiful flower clusters that hang from the branch tips. These flowers come in with a rosy perfume scent that attracts bees. The Locust provides partial shade, ideal for ornamental plants below since light is admitted through the foliage. It thrives in difficult conditions because it is fast growing and is both heat and cold tolerant. It may become weedy and require regular maintenance to prevent it from disrupting surrounding garden areas. This Locust is susceptible to locust borer, locust leaf miner, canker, and powdery mildew.



© Famartin⁽¹⁾



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© Wendy Cutler⁽¹⁾

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DESERT GLOBEMALLOW

Sphaeralcea ambigua

Type: Perennial, semi-evergreen

Mature Size: 3'h x 2'-3'w

Blooming Season: Spring to Summer

Flower Color: Orange

 **Full Sun**  **Low**

Desert Globemallow is native to the Southwest. Since it is a natural desert plant, it is very drought tolerant. Typically only natural rainfall is necessary, but as flowering increases it may profit by some supplemental water. The Desert Globemallow is vigorous and can spread quickly. The leaves are light green with a speckled texture and the orange flowers will grow sporadically up and down the stems from spring to late summer. The early settlers in the Southwest chewed the leaves and flowers to relieve sore throats and minor stomach problems.



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Alfred Brousseau⁽⁴⁾

TURPENTINE BUSH

Ericameria laricifolia

Type: Shrub, evergreen

Mature Size: 3'h x 3'w

Blooming Season: Fall

Flower Color: Yellow

 Full Sun  Low Water

Turpentine is an evergreen shrub that is native to southwestern United States and northern Mexico, where the elevation is from 3000-6000 feet. The leaves are yellow-green and resemble pine needles. Many bright yellow daisy-like flowers will bloom in fall and produce an aroma that attracts birds, butterflies, and bees. Turpentine is low maintenance and only requires light tip pruning after flowering to promote newer blooms and growth. It is also extremely tolerant to both heat and cold, but is slightly more flammable than most other plants and should be kept at least 15 feet from structures.



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LANTANA

Lantana 'New Gold'

Type: Perennial shrub

Mature Size: 2'h x 4'w

Blooming Season: Spring to Frost

Flower Color: Yellow, orange, dark pink, bicolor

 Full Sun  Low Water

Lantana comes in a wide variety of about 150 different species. It originates in tropical South America. It is a climbing perennial shrub, which can spread to cover large areas. The rich green leaves and bright hemispherical flower clusters make it a common landscaping plant. When crushed, the leaves produce a strong and distinctive odor, but regardless of foliage odor, the flower clusters attract butterflies and hummingbirds. Contact with the leaves can cause rashes and the unripe berries are poisonous. Lantana is both drought-tolerant and salt-tolerant.



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© Franz Xaver ⁽¹⁾

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CHINESE JUNIPER

Juniperus chinensis

Type: Tree, evergreen

Mature Size: 50' - 70'h x 20'w

Blooming Season: Non-flowering

Flower Color: Violet-brown cones

 **Full Sun**  **Medium**

Chinese Juniper is unusual in that it can come in different forms such as shrubs and groundcover, but it is most typically found as a conical tree. When grown in groups it can be used as a barrier or wind break. The Chinese Juniper is drought tolerant after the first year of regular watering, but it is susceptible to spider mites. The stems can be used to help treat parasitic skin problems. Other popular juniper varieties include Blue Spire Juniper and Skyrocket Juniper.



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CHAPARRAL SAGE

Salvia clevelandii

Type: Shrub, evergreen

Mature Size: 3' - 5'h x 3' - 6'w

Blooming Season: May to June

Flower Color: Blue/violet

 **Full Sun/Partial Shade**  **Medium**

Chaparral Sage is native to coastal southern California. It naturally forms a beautiful round shape covered in soft, gray-green foliage. The lance-shaped leaves are highly fragrant. The most stunning feature of Chaparral Sage is its flowering indigo-blue spikes. Clusters of these flowers open in stages along spikes that rise up to a foot above the plant. These fragrant blossoms attract hummingbirds and bees. This sage is very easy to grow. It is drought resistant and it is cold hardy to 10 degrees F. Chaparral Sage is prone to root rot and to pests like nematodes and spittlebug.



© Kenpei (1)

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WEDELIA

Wedelia hispida

Type: Shrub, perennial evergreen

Mature Size: 2'-3'h x 2.5'w

Blooming Season: Spring to Fall

Flower Color: Orange - yellow

 Full Sun/Partial Shade  Low Plus

Wedelia is a small shrub that is native to southern New Mexico, Texas, and northern Mexico. It has a woody base with herbaceous stems and leaves. The woody branches create deeper roots allowing the Wedelia to die to the ground each winter and return in spring. It has rough and hairy, gray-green foliage. The daisy-like flowers are orange-yellow and will cover the plant from summer to frost. When planted in full sun, it grows in an upright bouquet-like shape. If planted in partial shade, it will grow lankier and spread to form a mounding groundcover. Wedelia is long-lived and very tolerant to cold, heat, and drought, but it is not invasive.



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MAIDEN GRASS

Miscanthus sinensis

Type: Ornamental grass, deciuous

Mature Size: 4'-7'h x 3'-6'h

Blooming Season: August to February

Flower Color: Copper, silver

 Full Sun/Partial Shade  Medium

Maiden Grass is known for its dense yet graceful arching form. It requires full sun because it tends to flop if it is in much shade. The tassel-like flower heads are coppery in early fall and slowly become silvery white. During winter it retains its visual appeal longer than most other plants, and keeping the foliage provides protection for the crown. Cut it back in late winter to allow the new shoots to appear. Insect and disease problems are not common but Maiden Grass can be affected by miscanthus mealybugs and miscanthus blight (fungal disease).



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SIERRA GOLD DALEA

Dalea capitata

Type: Groundcover, semi-deciduous

Mature Size: 8"- 12" h x 3' - 4' w

Blooming Season: Spring to Summer

Flower Color: Yellow

 **Full Sun**  **Low**

Sierra Gold Dalea is a groundcover native to Mexico. It produces dense foliage that is bright green with fine-textured yellow flowers. The pea-like flowers have a faint lemon scent. In warmer climates, Dalea will keep its foliage through winter. It is fast growing and tolerant of reflected heat. The Sierra Dalea is a good choice for rock gardens and borders, and in mass planting it also creates a nice backdrop for yuccas and agaves. It prefers well-drained soil, is drought resistant, and very low maintenance.



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DEER GRASS

Muhlenbergia rigens

Type: Evergreen, ornamental grass

Mature Size: 3'- 5'h x 3'-5'w

Blooming Season: Summer

Flower Color: Silver

 **Full Sun/Partial Shade**  **Low**

Deer Grass is a warm season ornamental grass native to California, Texas, New Mexico, and Mexico. It has long narrow leaf blades that are bright green and form a large mound. Long yellowish-silver panicles arch 2-3 feet over the green foliage by late summer. Deer Grass will typically grow to maturity within 2 seasons. It took its name from the fact that deer like to lay on the mounds. The Native Americans in California used Deer Grass to make coiled baskets. It is drought tolerant, cold hardy to 0 degrees F, and tolerates sand and clay. Deer Grass is noninvasive.



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TEXAS TUBEROSE



Manfreda maculosa

Type: Succulent, deciduous

Mature Size: 5'-8'h x 3'-5'w

Blooming Season: Spring to Summer

Flower Color: Cream; poss. with some pink

 **Full Sun/Partial Shade**  **Occasional**
(once established)

Texas Tuberose (also called Spice Lily), is a succulent native to southern Texas and Mexico. This member of the Agave family has dull green leaves with reddish spots that stay close to the ground reaching about 2 feet in height. However, when Texas Tuberose blooms it sends up shoots that may reach 6 to 8 feet tall. The flowers are a greenish white that eventually turn a rosy pink. The tuberose survives drought by going dormant and can remain in this condition for several years. These plants prefer full sun and well-drained soil. The flowers have a beautiful scent. Tuberoses were among the early plants that the Spanish took back with them to Europe where they were eventually used to make perfume.



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© Bluestem⁽¹⁾

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DESERT MARIGOLD

Baileya multiradiata

Type: Herbaceous, perennial

Mature Size: 1'h x 2'w

Blooming Season: Spring to Fall

Flower Color: Yellow

 **Full Sun/Partial Shade**  **Low**

Desert Marigold is a perennial in warmer climates and it is native to the Southwest. The leaves grow on the lower stems of the plant and are alternate, pinnately-lobed, grayish, and woolly. Yellow daisy-like flowers bloom and form nearly solid mounds over the plant. The flowers grow individually on leafless stalks held above the foliage and attract bees and butterflies. Both the foliage and flowers contain Hymenoxon, which is toxic to livestock. It survives on rainwater, and becomes a rapid grower when given water. If the soil gets too wet, it will develop crown rot. Desert Marigold thrives in poor soils and is extremely heat tolerant.



© Stan Shebs⁽¹⁾

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MEXICAN BUSH SAGE



Salvia leucantha

Type: Herbaceous, perennial

Mature Size: 2'- 3'h x 1'- 3'w

Blooming Season: Summer to Frost

Flower Color: Purple, white

 **Full Sun/Partial Shade**  **Medium**

Mexican Bush Sage is native to Central America and Mexico and in warmer climates it may remain evergreen instead of dying back to the ground when frost comes. It is sometimes referred to as the “wooly sage” due to the woolly underside of the lance-shaped leaves. But its most noteworthy characteristic is the bicolor flowers (white and purple) that bloom in long, terminal spikes. These flowers are soft and fuzzy and attract hummingbirds and butterflies. Mexican Bush Sage does not have any serious insect or disease problems.



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AUTUMN OR CHERRY SAGE

Salvia greggii

Type: Shrub, evergreen

Mature Size: 3'h x 3'w

Blooming Season: Spring to Fall

Flower Color: Red

 **Full Sun/Partial Shade**  **Medium**

Autumn Sage is an adaptable evergreen shrub native to the Chihuahuan Desert. It will bloom repeatedly from early summer until frost. The flowers are normally red but species vary with pink, white, yellow, and orange flowers. These one-inch flowers are found on spikes up to 10 inches long and are highly attractive to hummingbirds and butterflies. It has a woody base and leathery leaves. It can be pruned in spring and mid-summer to keep a bushy shape; or unpruned it will spread and sprawl. It is susceptible to powdery mildew, rust, stem rot, fungal leaf spots, whiteflies, aphids, mealy bugs, and spider mites.



All photos © Las Cruces Utilities

BLUE MIST SPIREA

Caryopteris x clandonensis
Type: Shrub, deciduous
Mature Size: 1'-3'w x 3'-6'w
Blooming Season: Summer
Flower Color: Blue

 Full Sun  Low Plus

Blue Mist Spirea is a very dependable mounding shrub that typically lasts 4 to 5 years before it needs to be replaced. In mid-summer it produces an explosion of pretty blue flowers that last into late summer. Bees are so attracted to these flowers that they tend to become more passive about nearby people. Blue Mist Spirea is highly heat and drought tolerant. They often self-propagate. The foliage and flowers are aromatic. Although it is uncommon, capsid bugs can attack the leaves.



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PRAIRIE FLAMELEAF SUMAC

Rhus lanceolata
Type: Deciduous tree
Mature Size: 15'h - 20'w
Blooming Season: Summer
Flower Color: Yellowish green or white

 Full Sun  Low Plus

Native to New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, and parts of Mexico, the Prairie Flameleaf Sumac is a drought, heat, and cold tolerant tree that can grow up to 30 feet high, but most often reaches only 15 to 20 feet. Fall is the glory season for this tree, when the foliage turns brilliant orange or red and red berries grow in clusters. The berries can be used to make a tea that is described as “tart, tasty, and high in Vitamin C.” This Sumac grows relatively quickly and is generally disease free. It makes an attractive addition to residential landscapes.



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Plants at Utilities Administration Building

There are additional plant species present along the front of the Utilities Administration Building. Follow the sidewalk to see these plants.

90

Also see no. 6 & 7

PROSTRATE ROSEMARY

Rosmarinus officinalis 'Prostratus'

Type: Shrub, evergreen or Herbaceous evergreen

Mature Size: 2'-6'h x 3'-6'w

Blooming Season: Winter to Spring

Flower Color: Blue

 Full Sun  Low

Prostrate or Creeping Rosemary is a variety of rosemary (see #6 and #7) that stays low to the ground. Like the other rosemary it has aromatic leaves and blue flowers. It is suited for use as a groundcover and for erosion control. Rosemary tolerates partial shade and is drought tolerant, salt tolerant, and resistant to deer and rabbit predation. When it is grown in warmer climates, it can easily live up to 30 years.



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© Kenpei ⁽¹⁾



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Also see no. 38

ANGELITA DAISY

Tetaneuris acaulis

Type: Herbaceous, perennial

Mature Size: 1'h x 15"-18" w

Blooming Season: February to November

Flower Color: Golden-yellow

 Full Sun  Medium

Angelita Daisy is native to the North American plains from Canada to Texas. It forms small dense clumps with long grass-like leaves. Yellow, daisy-like flowers with notched edges rise above the plant on tall leafless stems.

The flowers are very fragrant and attract butterflies, insects, bees, and birds. They have an almost year-round blooming period. It is necessary to deadhead old flowers to keep the plant from looking scruffy. The Angelita Daisy is extremely drought tolerant and is cold hardy to -20°F. Its dense foliage makes it an ideal perennial for borders.



All photos © Stan Shebs ⁽¹⁾

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Also see no. 31

MEXICAN BLUE SAGE*Salvia chamaedryoides***Type: Herbaceous, perennial****Mature Size: 1'-3'h x 1'-3'w****Blooming Season: Summer to Fall****Flower Color: Blue**
 **Full Sun/Partial Shade**
 **Low Plus**

Mexican Blue Sage is a perennial that is native to Mexico. This sage mounds in the center and also spreads its woody stems along the ground. It has small

bright grey foliage and deep blue blossoms. The flowers are trumpet shaped and grow along the terminal branches. It blooms almost year-round and is very attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds. Mexican Blue Sage is a fast grower and spreads vigorously through its underground stems. It is drought tolerant but susceptible to powdery mildew, rust, stem rot, fungal leaf spots, whiteflies, aphids, mealy bugs, and spider mites.



© Stan Shebs (1)



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Also see no. 36

WOOLLY BUTTERFLY BUSH*Buddleia marrubifolia***Type: Shrub, semi-evergreen****Mature Size: 3'-5'h x 5'w****Blooming Season: March to August****Flower Color: Orange**
 **Full Sun/Partial Shade**
 **Low**

Woolly Butterfly Bush is a semi-evergreen shrub native to the desert of Chihuahua, Mexico. Its mint green foliage is fuzzy, but it can also turn more silvery when it has been water deprived. The orange flowers grow in small clusters above the plant, and are very attractive to butterflies. These flowers are aromatic and can bloom year-round in warmer climates. Woolly Butterfly Bush grows moderately fast. It needs some protection from freezes and is susceptible to aphid infestations. Woolly Butterfly Bush is ideal for butterfly gardens.



All photos © Stan Shebs (1)

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Also see no. 17

LITTLE BLUESTEM GRASS*Schizachyrium scoparium***Type: Ornamental grass****Mature Size: 2'-4'h x 1.5'-2'w****Blooming Season: August to February****Flower Color: Purplish bronze**
 **Full Sun**
 **Low Plus**

Little Bluestem is an ideal ornamental grass. Its most active growth is from summer into late fall and can be grazed by livestock, deer, and elk. Since it produces abundant seed stems, it also provides food for songbirds during winter. It is slow to wake up in the spring but the initial stiff green blades will turn a bronze-orange color in the fall. Then the dried grass will remain intact during the winter and by shearing it to 3 inches in spring it will promote new growth. The small size makes this grass ideal for containers. It's not prone to any serious insect or disease problems.



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© Patrick Alexander (2)

95

Also see no.16

CRIMSON OR PURPLE FOUNTAIN GRASS

Pennisetum setaceum

Type: Ornamental grass, perennial

Mature Size: 2'- 4'h x 2'-3'w

Blooming Season: Summer to Fall

Flower Color: Purple

 Full Sun/Partial Shade  Low



All photos © Las Cruces Utilities

Crimson Fountain Grass is an extremely attractive ornamental grass that is native to Northern Africa. Its crimson-purple blades and its purplish pink plumes make a great landscape addition, especially when planted in groups. This grass is very drought tolerant and is even known to recover after being burned down. In spite of the abundant seed heads, the seeds are sterile and this plant does not reproduce by spreading seeds, which makes it attractive to gardeners. During winter, it should be cut back to a height of about 12 inches. It should also be watered lightly during this period to keep the rhizomes alive. It can be damaged or killed by cold weather.

96

PROSTRATE INDIGO BUSH

Dalea greggii

Type: Herbaceous, perennial

Mature Size: 1'h x 3'w

Blooming Season: Spring to Summer

Flower Color: Lavender, purple

 Full Sun/Partial Shade  Low



© Stan Shebs (1)

© Patrick Alexander 2

Prostrate Indigo Bush is small shrub native to New Mexico, Texas, and Mexico. It has small compound-leaves that are silvery-blue-green and tiny purple pea-shaped flowers that grow on short spikes. The flowers attract butterflies and bees, and the bush is also a good larval plant for butterflies. Prostrate Indigo Bush is drought, heat, and cold tolerant and it should not be fertilized or overwatered. It is best used as a creeping groundcover or for mounding because it is very adaptable to different soils as long as they are well drained.

97

SIERRA MADRE LOBELIA

Lobelia laxiflora

Type: Small shrub, evergreen

Mature Size: 1'-2'h x 3'- 5'w

Blooming Season: Summer

Flower Color: Red with yellow

 Full Sun/Partial Shade  Medium



© Wynne Anderson, Used courtesy of UTEP Chihuahuan Desert Gardens

Sierra Madre Lobelia, also called Mexican Lobelia, is a small shrub that is useful for borders and groundcover. It prefers moist soil with good drainage and full sun, but will tolerate partial shade. Flowers are red on the outside and yellow inside. It is a favorite of hummingbirds. All parts of the plants are poisonous to mammals. It is considered easy to grow and in fact can be found on both the East and West Coasts. Although it survives on little water, with more water it flourishes, and can even become invasive.

98

Reserved for future use.

99

Also see no. 4

ORCHID ROCK ROSE*Cistus x purpureus***Type: Shrub, evergreen****Mature Size: 3'h x 4'-6'w****Blooming Season: Summer****Flower Color: Purple/Pink**
 **Full Sun**
 **Low**

Orchid Rock Rose, or Orchid Rockrose, is a fast growing evergreen perennial shrub that originates from the Mediterranean region of Morocco, Portugal, and the Canary Islands. It has narrow 2" long leaves with a dark green top and grey-green bottom, which send forth an appealing resinous scent. The Orchid Rock Rose blooms for 2 to 3 months in the summer with a profusion of papery blooms that resemble wild rose blossoms. Each flower lasts only a day and the petals will carpet the ground beneath. It is drought tolerant, heat tolerant, cold tolerant, soil tolerant, and salt tolerant. Butterfly and moth larvae will eat the foliage.

© A. Barra⁽¹⁾© Franco Folini⁽¹⁾© Stickpen⁽¹⁾

100

Also see no. 9

APACHE PLUME*Fallugia paradoxa***Type: Shrub, semi-evergreen****Mature Size: 3-6'h x 3-6'w****Blooming Season: April to June****Flower Color: White with yellow centers**
 **Full Sun/Partial Shade**
 **Low**

Apache Plume is a multi-branched shrub that is native to the Mojave, Chihuahuan, Great Basin, and Sonoran Deserts. In warmer climates it is semi-evergreen and will retain its dark green leaves. It has dense, entangled branches. White apple-blossom-like blooms appear in late spring. These flowers produce exotic seed heads with silvery-pink puffs. Apache Plume is very attractive to bees and butterflies and is a shelter for wildlife. It is extremely drought tolerant and cold hardy to minus 30 degrees F. Under optimum conditions, it can grow very aggressively.

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101



BEARDED IRIS*Iris germanica***Type: Perennial****Mature Size: 3'h x 5'w****Blooming Season: Spring****Flower Color: Many colors/combinations**
 **Full Sun/Partial Shade**

 **Low/Med**

Iris are known for their beautiful blooms, which appear in the spring. Many people are surprised to learn that the iris is a relatively low water plant that can live on 5 to 8 inches of water per year. Because it stores moisture in the rhizomes, iris are surprisingly drought resistant as well as cold hardy. It is very important to keep the rhizomes firm. They like well-drained soil with moist, but not wet roots. In moderate climates they do best with full sun, but here in the southwest they may actually do better with partial shade. Every third or fourth year the rhizomes should be dug up, divided, and replanted, otherwise the plant will eventually stop blooming. The best time to do this is in the summer after the stalks have died back. The leaves and rhizomes contain irisin, which, if ingested, causes severe gastric disturbance.

© Sailko⁽¹⁾© David Illiff⁽¹⁷⁾

102 Also see no. 6 & 7
MEALY CUP SAGE

Salvia farinacea
Type: Perennial
Mature Size: 1'- 3'h x 1-3'w
Blooming Season: Spring to Fall
Flower Color: White, blue, violet
 **Full Sun/Partial Shade**  **Medium**

Mealy Cup Sage is native to Texas and New Mexico. It likes full sun to partial shade, though it blooms more with full sun. Flowers vary from white to a blue-violet and bloom from spring through fall. Once established it seldom needs supplemental water. In fact, it needs well drained soil or its roots will rot. It is attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds. It is cold hardy and fast growing. A shearing during its dormant season will help to invigorate it the next summer.



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103 **104** **105** Reserved for future use.

106 Also see no. 40

VITEX
Vitex agnus-castus
Type: Tree, deciduous
Mature Size: 8' - 10'h x 5'- 8'w
Blooming Season: July to August
Flower Color: Violet/blue
 **Full Sun**  **Medium**

Vitex is a tree that is native to China and India where it is known as the "chaste tree" for its ability to help suppress the libido. The leaves are lance-shaped and come in groups of 5 to 7 leaves in a star-like configuration. The flowers are small, ranging in color from blue to violet and they grow in clusters along the ends of the branches. Both the flowers and leaves are aromatic, making them attractive to butterflies. They produce small black fruits and the four seeds in each fruit can be used to flavor food. The Vitex is drought tolerant and doesn't have any serious insect or disease problems. Only leaf spots and root rot cause occasional problems.



© Stan Shebs ⁽¹⁾



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107 Also see no. 8
NEW MEXICO PRIVET

Forestiera neomexicana
Type: Tree, deciduous
Mature Size: 12' - 18'h x 12'w
Blooming Season: Spring
Flower Color: Yellow
 **Full Sun**  **Medium**

New Mexico Privet is a multi-stemmed tree or large shrub, which easily adapts to a variety of growing conditions. It has ornamental white bark and bright green leaves that turn yellow-green in fall. When in bloom, small yellow flowers appear and produce an enjoyable fragrance that is similar to lilac. The fruit is a bluish-black berry eaten by quail and songbirds. The New Mexico Privet has separate male and female plants. It is alkaline tolerant, extremely drought resistant, and is not insect or disease prone. Depending on how the privet is pruned, it can either look like a large bush or a tree.



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© Miguel Sepulveda ⁽¹⁾

108

Also see no. 27

TEXAS RANGER OR TEXAS SAGE

Leucophyllum frutescens,
Green Cloud

Type: Shrub, evergreen

Mature Size: 3'- 4'h x 4'- 8'w

Blooming Season: Year-round

Flower Color: Lavender, purple, pink,
white

 Full Sun  Medium

The Texas Ranger or Texas Sage is an evergreen shrub that is native to the Chihuahuan Desert. It has soft oval foliage that is silvery green. The foliage tends to sprawl when in shade. Summer rains trigger the bloom of brightly colored flowers that cover the entire shrub. The flowers attract butterflies and the shrub is also used as a butterfly larval host. The Texas Ranger is tolerant to cold, heat, salt spray, drought, and it is deer resistant. This shrub is easy to grow when given good drainage, but is susceptible to cotton root rot in wet soil. It is an ideal choice for barriers, windbreaks, and screens. This one is the Green Cloud, which has a rosy pink flower; however, it comes in a variety of colors. There are several other Texas Rangers near the wall on the east side of the Utilities building.



© Las Cruces Utilities



© T.J. (12)

109

BLUE NOLINA OR BEAR GRASS

Nolina nelsonii

Type: Succulent shrub

Mature Size: 6'- 10'h x 3'- 4'w

Blooming Season: Spring

Flower Color: White

 Full Sun  None once established

Blue Nolina or Bear Grass is a large, evergreen succulent reminiscent of the soap tree yucca, but without the dangerous points on the end of its 3 foot leaves. This native Mexican species is dioecious, that is to say, it has male and female flowers on separate plants. In spring it produces a flower stalk with small white flowers. Blue Nolina is extremely drought tolerant, rarely requires supplemental water once established, and is cold tolerant below 0 degrees F.



© Stan Shebs (1)

Additional Plants

Not in the Demonstration Garden

Here are some additional plant species that are xeric and suitable for this area.

SKELETON LEAF GOLDEN EYE

Viguiera stenoloba

Type: Shrub, perennial

Mature Size: 1'-3'h x 2'-4'w

Blooming Season: Summer to Fall

Flower Color: Golden yellow

 Full Sun/Partial Shade  Low



All photos © Patrick Alexander⁽²⁾

Skeleton Leaf Golden Eye is a round top shrub that is native to the Trans-Pecos and Rio Grande Plains. It has dark green leaves that are linear. Yellow daisy-like flowers bloom on the ends of leafless stalks. These flowers are a good nectar source and will attract bees, butterflies, nectar-moths, and nectar-insects. The Skeleton Leaf Golden Eye has a moderate growth rate, has an extreme drought tolerance, and is hardy to -10 degrees F. It requires good drainage to prevent root rot.

MEXICAN HAT

Ratibida columnifera

Type: Herbaceous, perennial

Mature Size: 1'-3'h x 1'-1.5'w

Blooming Season: June to September

Flower Color: Yellow, red, brown

 Full Sun  Low Plus



© Sri Mesh⁽¹⁾

© Patrick Alexander⁽²⁾

© Patrick Alexander⁽²⁾

Mexican Hat is a perennial that is native to the American Plains that range from Canada into Mexico. The lower plant is branched and has leaves that are pinnately lobed. These leaves have a strong odor that repel deer. Long and leafless stalks extend out from the lower plant and each stalk bares one flower. The name, Mexican Hat, comes from these flowers, which resemble small sombreros. They have drooping ray petals which are centered on a red-brown disk. These flowers are known to bloom by the thousands and are very attractive to bees and butterflies. The seeds they produce also attract birds. Mexican Hat is very easy to propagate from seeds but it will not produce flowers until the second year. It has no serious insect or disease problems and it has high drought tolerance and deer resistance.

MEXICAN OREGANO, LAVENDER SPICE

Poliomintha maderensis

Type: Shrub, perennial

Mature Size: 1.5'-3'h x 1.5'-3'w

Blooming Season: Spring to Fall

Flower Color: Purple

 Full Sun/Partial Shade  Low Plus



All photos © Southern Nevada Water Authority⁽¹⁰⁾

Mexican Oregano is a shrub that is native to Coahuila, Mexico. This shrub has a woody base and the herbaceous stems will also become woody with age. The woody stems are brittle so it is best to avoid foot traffic areas when planting. The foliage is an elongated oval shape, and can be used as an oregano substitute. It blooms tubular purple flowers that are lavender scented. These flowers are good for attracting hummingbirds. Once established it requires very low water, but the flowers are more profuse with supplemental water during blooming season. Mexican Oregano is rabbit resistant, deer resistant, heat tolerant, drought tolerant, and requires minimal shearing maintenance in winter. It is tolerant to disease and pests but experiences stem rot in excessive moisture.

MEXICAN PRIMROSE*Oenothera speciosa***Type:** Herbaceous evergreen**Mature Size:** 1' - 2'h x 6'w**Blooming Season:** Spring to Frost**Flower Color:** Pink, white

☀️ Full Sun/Partial Shade 💧 Medium

Mexican Primrose is native of Missouri, Texas, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and northeastern Mexico. It has long alternate leaves that have either smooth or slightly pinnatifid edges. One to three flowers bloom on the axils of the upper leaves. These flowers have a delicate texture and the four large petals are lined with pink veins. The Mexican Primrose spreads by rhizomes and can aggressively form large colonies. Growth is denser in full sun, and taller in the shade. Mexican Primrose attracts birds, especially finches and bees, but is prone to flea beetles, aphids, weevils, and moth larvae.

© Wouterhagens⁽¹⁾© Wouterhagens⁽¹⁾© Stan Shebs⁽¹⁾**INDIAN BLANKET***Gaillardia pulchella***Type:** Herbaceous, annual**Mature Size:** 1'h x 15" - 18"w**Blooming Season:** Spring to Fall**Flower Color:** Red yellow

☀️ Full Sun/Partial Shade 💧 Medium

Indian Blanket is native to most of the central and southern United States, including New Mexico. It has hairy stems with leaves that are alternate. These leaves can have smooth, lobed, or coarsely toothed edges. Indian Blanket forms a mound shape when a profusion of flowers grow atop long stems. The flowers are like pinwheels with large rose-purple centers and petals that are yellow, orange, or crimson. These are the perfect cutting flower and will last several days in water. Indian Blanket is tolerant of drought, salt and poor soils. It can have root rot in poorly drained soils, and may be prone to aphids, thrips, slugs, snails, mildews, rust, leaf spots, and white smut.

© JoJan⁽¹⁾© Patrick Alexander⁽²⁾**FALSE INDIGO***Amorpha fruticosa***Type:** Shrub, perennial**Mature Size:** 4'h x 10'w**Blooming Season:** Spring to Summer**Flower Color:** Orange, blue, purple

☀️ Full Sun 💧 Medium

The False Indigo is a shrub that has a native range from central Canada into northern Mexico, and includes New Mexico. The lower stems are woody and have smooth gray bark. Most of the foliage is found on the upper third of the plant. The foliage forms as pinnately compound leaves that are felt textured. Flowers grow in spike-like clusters near the ends of branches. They bare single petal flowers with yellow stamens which are attractive to butterflies and bees. Although the False Indigo requires low water, it thrives in moist soils. When water is readily accessible (riverbanks, edges of marshland, etc.) it can form thickets and become weedy and invasive. The False Indigo is good for erosion control and tolerates poor soils. It is slightly susceptible to leaf spot, twig canker, rust, and powdery mildew.

© Dehaan⁽¹⁾© Gromhelm⁽¹⁾© Dehaan⁽¹⁾

CORAL VINE

Antigonon leptopus

Type: Vine, perennial

Mature Size: 30'h - 40'w

Blooming Season: Midsummer-Fall

Flower Color: Rose pink, white

☀️ Full Sun 💧 Medium

The Coral Vine is an extremely adaptable vine that is native to Mexico. It forms attractive dark green heart/arrow shaped leaves

that require the support of a trellis, fence, or tree to grow up to 40 feet high. By midsummer, the vines will produce large branching flower stalks where small pink and white flowers bloom until fall. These small flowers are great for attracting butterflies. Since it is a tropical plant, it will be killed back by freezes, but it creates underground tuber stems (edible) that rapidly recover the vine in spring. The Coral Vine can tolerate air pollution, restricted space, inadequate sunshine, poor soil, and its thick foliage makes it ideal for screening.



© Hungda⁽¹⁾

© Magnus Manske⁽¹⁾

CHISOS ROSEWOOD

Vauquelinia angustifolia

Type: Tree, evergreen

Mature Size: 10' - 20'h x 30'w

Blooming Season: Spring to Summer

Flower Color: White

☀️ Full Sun 💧 Low

The Chisos Rosewood is an evergreen tree that is native to the Trans Pecos of West Texas. It is typically found in dense thickets and in dry canyons. Its foliage is dark green on top and yellow green below. These leaves are long, narrow, and sharply toothed. During

spring it will bloom dense clusters of white flowers that are very aromatic and attractive. It produces brown/tan fruits that will turn ripe in August and can be used for propagation if gathered and stored over winter. It is extremely drought tolerant, but outside its natural range (within humidity) it is very susceptible to rose leaf spot.



© Lee Page⁽⁸⁾

© Paul Cox⁽⁵⁾

HEARTS AND FLOWERS

Aptenia cordifolia

Type: Succulent, evergreen

Mature Size: 2" h x 2' w

Blooming Season: Summer to Fall

Flower Color: Dark pink, white

☀️ Full Sun/Partial Shade 💧 Low Plus

Hearts and Flowers is a fast growing evergreen succulent that is native to South Africa. Stems grow flat on the ground to extend the plant and make it a great groundcover or border plant. The leaves are dark green, heart shaped, and are thicker because they store water. The dark green leaves contrast

beautifully against the dark pink, daisy-like flowers that open under bright sunlight. These vivid flowers are very attractive to butterflies and bees. Hearts and Flowers is drought tolerant, cold hardy to 20 degrees F, and extremely heat tolerant. It is partially prone to aphids and fungal diseases.



© Kenpei⁽¹⁾

© Les⁽¹⁾

© JJ Harrison⁽¹⁾

RAINBOW CACTUS*Echinocereus rigidissimus v. rubrispinus***Type: Cactus, succulent****Mature Size: 1'h x 2'w****Blooming Season: Summer to Fall****Flower Color: Pink, magenta**

☀️ Full Sun/Partial Shade 💧 Low Plus

The Rainbow Cactus is native to northern Mexico, southern Arizona, and southern New Mexico. This cactus is characterized by both its beautiful display of flowers and spines. The short spines are all radial and are angled close to the stem. They are various colors including brown, hot pink, magenta, white, and grey. The colorful spines contrast beautifully against the deep green stem. Showy pink flowers bloom that are often wider than the plant. They open in the morning and close at night for several days before withering off and leaving a scar. The Rainbow Cactus is frost and drought tolerant.

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