

**HIGHLINE RANCH HOA  
APPROVED PLANT LIST**

**With**

**PHOTOS AND  
DESCRIPTIONS**

**Approved by the Board of Directors  
September 21, 2023**

# Highline Ranch Approved Plant List

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# Highline Ranch Approved Plant List

## Listed by Formal Name

**Justicia californica**  
**Chuparosa**  
***Acanthaceae* Family**

**Form:** twiggy shrub, usually leafless

**Seasonality:** evergreen

**Size:** to 6 ft, spread to 12 ft

**Leaves:** often none; usually present only in warm season when actively growing; simple, round to ovate, ¼ in long

**Flowers:** on terminal portion of branches, long tubular red blooms from early May through fall

**Fruit:** not significant

**Stems/Trunks:** green stems, with thick succulent appearance, twiggy, arching form; low older stems may get woody

**Range/Origin:** Sonoran deserts; elevations to 2500 ft

**Hardiness:** damaged in high 20s, freezes to ground in teens but will recover



### LANDSCAPE VALUE

- rounded evergreen shrub
- color
- attracts hummingbirds

### CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** full sun for best flower and habit
- **Water:** very little, drought tolerant; thrives on one watering per week
- **Soil:** tolerant, well drained; best in sand
- **Propagation:** vegetative cuttings, branches will root, best time for cuttings is early summer
- **Maintenance:** minimal; may overgrow allotted area if overwatered



### NOTES

- Found naturally in rocky areas or sandy washes

**Ruellia brittoniana**  
**Common ruellia**  
***Acanthaceae* Family**

**Form:** perennial shrub

**Seasonality:** evergreen

**Size:** to 3 ft with equal spread; low branches will droop over and root

**Leaves:** linear, lanceolate, serrate, prominent purple venation

**Flowers:** in leaf axils, 2 in long funnel-shaped purple or blue flowers from mid-spring until frost

**Fruit:** seed; self-sows aggressively

**Stems/Trunks:** purple stems

**Range/Origin:** Mexico, SW US, naturalized in many areas

**Hardiness:** below 32°F tip dieback seen; dies to ground in mid 20s, recovers rapidly



**LANDSCAPE VALUE**

- Color
- Containers and planters



**CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **Exposure:** best in full sun, handles shade
- **Water:** regular, drought tolerant
- **Soil:** adaptable, best in prepared
- **Propagation:** seed, vegetative cuttings or divisions
- **Maintenance:** trim to keep in bounds, removal of frost damaged foliage

**NOTES**

- Also known as Mexican barrio ruellia.
- Variety 'Chi chi' has pink flowers. Variety 'Icicles' has white flowers.
- Variety 'Baby Katie' is a dwarf, standard purple flowers with height to only 12 in needs to be constrained by container or spreads like a weed.

**Carrisa macrocarpa**  
**Natal Plum, Boxwood Beauty**  
**Apocynaceae Family**

**Form:** small evergreen shrub  
**Leaves:** glossy leaves, shiny and oval  
**Flower:** tiny white fragrant star-shaped flower  
blooms spring through summer,  
**Fruit:** bright red-orange edible fruit  
**Growth:** 2 ft height with equal spread  
**Hardiness:** to 12°F



**LANDSCAPE VALUE**

- foundation plant
- informal hedge
- barrier plant
- ground cover
- spring flowering accent



**CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **Exposure:** sun and shade, sun best, sparse in shade
- **Water:** drought tolerant shrub once established. Apply deep, monthly irrigations in the summer.
- **Soil:** tolerates a wide range of soil conditions from clay to sandy
- **Propagation:** seed, easy; also clump division; cutting
- **Maintenance:** minimal; removal of spent flower stalks

**NOTES**

- All plant parts produce a white latex that might be a skin irritant to some people.

**Agave americana**  
**Century Plant, Maguey, American Aloe**  
***Asparagaceae (subfamily Agavoideae)***



**Form:** Upright, stiffly arching, rigid, imposing, erect, stout, immovable, dangerous, xeric.

**Seasonality:** Evergreen perennial succulent

**Size:** 3 to 7 feet, quite variable in final size

**Leaves:** Flattened, strap-shaped succulent blue-green leaves, sometimes curved or reflexed, margins toothed but not horny, foliage tapering to a deadly terminal spine, 5 feet long and 10 inches wide, leaves arranged in a rosette pattern; very coarse texture

**Flowers:** After about 10 years, plant produces a thick, green, arborescent, paniculate, flower stalk after which the flowering plant dies, flower stalk grows vigorously and is striking, persistent for months, flowers are yellow, 3 to 4 inches long, stalk will occasionally produce bulbils instead of flowers

**Fruit:**

**Stems/Trunk:**

**Range/Origin:** Slopes on the east and west of south-central Mexico highlands

**Hardiness:** Tolerant to 20°F

### **LANDSCAPE VALUE**

- strong accent
- focal point
- barrier plant
- good in large desert gardens and xeric landscape design themes
- Use century plant with discretion! Leaf tips are dangerously rigid and sharp.

### **CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **Exposure:** Full sun
- **Water:** None once established; root rot if soil is chronically damp
- **Soil:** Sandy, some loam, well-drained best
- **Propagation:** Division of basal offshoots; seed often requires manual pollination and is slow to germinate requiring 1 to 3 months at 70°F
- **Maintenance:** Consider tip pruning of spiny leaf apices

### **NOTES**

- Even though there are many variegated cultivars of interest (three are listed below), century plant is generally too large and dangerous to be of much use in today's small and fragmented urban landscape spaces. About 200 species of Agave are native to North America, several of which such as *A. desmettiana* are smaller and less dangerous to people.
- Some of the popular cultivated varieties with variegated leaf patterns include:  
'Marginata' (margins yellowish white to deep yellow)  
'Variegata' (leaves dark green and yellow, twisted)  
'Striata' (yellow or white stripes)  
'Medio Picta' (large swath of white running down the middle of the leaf from base to tip)

**Hesperaloe parviflora**  
**Red Yucca**  
***Asparagaceae (subfamily Agavoideae) Family***

**Form:** clumping, grass-like mound of succulent leaves

**Seasonality:** evergreen **Size:** 2-3 ft, spread to 4 ft

**Leaves:** long narrow blades (like rolled grass), arching form, curly threads along edge of blade margins

**Flowers:** inverted bell-shape held on tall stalk; red to pink; flowers 1.25 in long, stalks to 8 ft tall on mature plants; long blooming period (early summer through fall)

**Fruit:** distinctive ping-pong ball sized capsule with multiple chambers; flat black seed within

**Range/Origin:** Texas Rio-Grande area, northern Mexico

**Hardiness:** to 12°F



**LANDSCAPE VALUE**

- accent plant
- medians and roadsides
- attracts hummingbirds

**CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **Exposure:** full sun for best flowering
- **Water:** little if any, drought tolerant
- **Soil:** tolerant, good drainage
- **Propagation:** seed, easy; also clump division
- **Maintenance:** minimal; removal of spent flower stalks



**NOTES**

- Yellow flowering varieties are also available.



**Baileya multiradiata**  
**Desert Marigold**  
***Asteraceae* Family**

**Form:** herbaceous perennial; sprawling groundcover; self- sows

**Seasonality:** perennial

**Size:** 1 ft tall, 2 ft across

**Leaves:** alternate, deeply lobed, silverish, woolly; leaves low on thick stems

**Flowers:** bright yellow, solitary, to 2 in across borne on stalks held above foliage; petals fade leaving distinctive large button; bloom in early spring through mid-summer

**Fruit:** large amount of seed in flower button

**Range/Origin:** large range, all of Western US and Mexico in elevations below 5000 ft

**Hardiness:** damaged below 32°F



**LANDSCAPE VALUE**

- native flower mixes
- xeriscape
- color
- revegetation



**CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **Exposure:** full sun, reflected heat
- **Water:** natural rainfall, drought tolerant; give some water during long dry spells
- **Soil:** tolerant, good drainage
- **Propagation:** seeds, best when gathered in fall, germination, weak at other times of year
- **Maintenance:** remove spent flowers before heat

**NOTES**

- Thrives in disturbed areas; rapid grower when given water

**Encelia farinosa**  
**Brittlebush, Incienso, White Brittlebush**  
**Asteraceae Family**

**Form:** rounded shrub; sparse and open in cold or unfavorable conditions

**Seasonality:** usually blooms in February and March, but occasionally after summer rains; short-lived perennial

**Size:** fast-growing to 3 feet tall by 4 feet wide

**Leaves:** lance- or ovate-shaped to 3 in., light gray-green when well-watered, silvery whitish-green under very dry conditions;

**Flowers:** masses of 1.5-in, bright yellow, daisy-like blooms on long stems above the plants

**Range/Origin:** Native to the Southwest and northern Mexico

**Hardiness:** Severely damaged in mid-20s; not recommended for colder areas. Survives on rainfall, even in the driest parts of the desert, but water occasionally to maintain good appearance during summer.



#### LANDSCAPE VALUE

- Foundation plant, good for naturalistic landscapes.
- Use as color accent in transitional and buffer zones where plants receive full sun.
- Seeds attract birds.

#### CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** full to reflected sun
- **Water:** little to none in areas with 10-12 inches of annual rainfall. Best with occasional irrigation.
- **Soil:** prefers light gravelly soil with good drainage
- **Propagation:** plant from containers or from seed in spring. Space 3 feet apart for massing.
- **Maintenance:** Cut back in late winter to rejuvenate. If frozen back, wait until new growth starts to reveal the extent of damage before pruning. Prune occasionally to keep tidy. Shear after bloom to groom and rejuvenate.

#### NOTES

- An indicator plant: Where brittlebush grows naturally indicates a climate where citrus should do well.
- Tends to become overgrown and fragile if overwatered. Aphids will attack plants in spring and early summer. Flea beetles can disfigure leaves in spring and fall. Both pests can be controlled by withholding water which will also prevent root rot in heavy soils.

**Melampodium leucanthum**  
**Plains Blackfoot, Blackfoot Daisy, Rock**  
**Daisy**  
***Asteraceae Family***

**Form:** low, bushy, mounded shrub

**Seasonality:** perennial

**Size:** 6-18 in tall, to 24-in wide

**Leaves:** narrow grayish green

**Flowers:** 1-in wide, white, daisy- like flowers, toothed at the tips and surrounding a yellow disk, solitary and terminal on slender stalks; bloom anytime fall through spring

**Range/Origin:** Southern Great Plains to Arizona and northern Mexico

**Hardiness:** tolerant of Phoenix heat and cold



**LANDSCAPE VALUE**

- excellent accent border plant for dry landscape plantings and rock gardens
- best planted in mass (placed 18 in to 30 in on center) to form a dense carpet



**CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **Exposure:** full sun with some protection from searing western summer sun
- **Water:** infrequently irrigate and give no water during winter, regular and frequent irrigations make this plant unattractive
- **Soil:** Fast draining soil is absolutely necessary! Prone to root rot fungi if soil is poorly drained.
- **Propagation:** Seed
- **Maintenance:** little to none required, except to head back if plants become rangy

**Tecoma stans angustata**  
**Yellow Bells, Trumpet Bush**  
***Bignoniaceae* Family**

**Form:** large, vase-shaped shrub with rounded top, upright and open

**Seasonality:** Evergreen to partial evergreen

**Size:** Vigorous and upright to 15 to 20 feet but can be easily maintained at 5 to 10 feet

**Leaves:** pinnately compound, linear serrate leaflets ½ in wide, glossy bright green, tropical look

**Flowers:** cluster of bright yellow trumpet-shaped flowers on terminal portions of branches; 1-2 in long, ½-in across during all growing season, heaviest in spring and fall

**Fruit:** long, narrow, unattractive, dehiscent, tan or gray pods to 8-in long containing seed with papery wings

**Stems/Trunks:** brownish gray; not ornamental

**Range/Origin:** broadly distributed throughout the extreme desert Southwest through Mexico all the way into Argentina

**Hardiness:** heat loving, but freeze sensitive; tip damage at 28°F, dies to ground at 20°F; regrows when temperatures warm up



**LANDSCAPE VALUE**

- tropical effect
- border or background
- long attractive color with bloom period through hottest summer months
- attracts hummingbirds

**CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **Exposure:** Full sun is required, will grow in a loose, open, rangy manner if shaded even lightly
- **Water:** supplement to maintain good landscape quality; once per week or per every 2 weeks; responds well to regular water and fertilizer applications during summer by producing more vigorous growth and heightened flowering; tolerates only moderate amounts of drought.
- **Soil:** adaptable, uniform, rocky soil okay; tolerant of all Arizona soils except those with the highest degree of alkalinity
- **Propagation:** seed, easy; softwood cuttings
- **Maintenance:** minimal; cleanup of any frost damage; best bloom if headed back in early spring; prune hard in winter to control height and stiffen upright character

**NOTES**

- moderate to fast grower (4 ft in 1 year).
- survives, but has rougher appearance if not regularly watered

**Tecoma alata**  
**Orange Bells, Orange Jubilee**  
***Bignoniaceae Family***

**Form:** large vase-shaped shrub, upright and open, stiff and rigid

**Seasonality:** though evergreen, quiescent in winter

**Size:** vigorous and upright to 10 to 15 feet in height but can be easily maintained at 5 to 10 feet.

**Leaves:**

**Flowers:** orange trumpet flowers in terminal clusters;

**Fruit:** long, narrow, unsightly light brown bean pods.

**Stems/Trunk:** brownish gray stems, not ornamental

**Range/Origin:** Peru

**Hardiness:** Heat loving, but freeze sensitive; will have freeze damage to leaves and small terminal stems most winters, but recovers quickly.



**LANDSCAPE VALUE**

- intermediate to large accent shrub for moderately large to large spaces
- tropical effect
- border or background
- long attractive color with bloom period through hottest summer months
- moderately attracts hummingbirds

**CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **Exposure:** Full sun; partial sun reduces flower frequency and intensity; does poorly in shade
- **Water:** responds very well to regular water and fertilizer especially during the summer, tolerates only moderate amounts of drought
- **Soil:** adaptable, uniform, rocky soil okay; tolerant of all Arizona soils except those with the highest degree of alkalinity
- **Propagation:** seed, easy; softwood cuttings
- **Maintenance:** minimal; cleanup of any frost damage; best bloom if headed back in early spring; prune hard in winter to control height and stiffen upright character



**NOTES**

- Orange bells do not look as sparse during periods of winter cold and high summer heat as do yellow bells

**Tecomaria capensis**  
**Cape Honeysuckle**  
**Bignoniaceae Family**

**Form:** bush, shrub or large vine (with support); running, sprawling, unruly

**Seasonality:** evergreen

**Size:** can maintain as a 4-to 8-foot shrub with frequent hard pruning; if trained as vine may reach 20-30 ft or more

**Leaves:** compound, pinnate, dark green and glossy, serrate leaflets pointed; tropical appearance

**Flowers:** terminal clusters of trumpet-shaped orange or red-orange flowers; 2-in long; bloom from October to March and sporadically throughout year

**Fruit:** not important

**Range/Origin:** South Africa

**Hardiness:** generally hardy having only minor branch damage at 28°F, recovers quickly.



**LANDSCAPE VALUE**

- best with forced containment such as in a raised planter
- can be espaliered
- can be used as large-scale ground cover (see Note)
- long flowering period in off (cold) season
- attracts hummingbirds
- foundation plant
- tropical effect for pools and oasis zones
- 

**CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **Exposure:** full sun to partial shade, avoid reflected light of south and west exposures
- **Water:** heat and drought tolerant; regular deep irrigation (once per week) to keep plant lush
- **Soil:** uniform or amended, good drainage; tolerant of all except the most alkaline soils
- **Propagation:** vegetative cuttings, seed
- **Maintenance:** requires regular hard pruning except during autumn, otherwise minimal; removal of frost damaged branches



**NOTES**

- Do not ever use in combination with other any other trailing ground cover as this plant will spread rapidly like "The Blob."
- As vine, has been known to grow to 50 to 100 feet

**Echinocactus grusonii**  
**Golden Barrel**  
**Cactaceae Family**

**Form:** large, low, round cylindrical cactus  
**Seasonality:** evergreen  
**Size:** to over 3 ft high, slow grower; usually 1 ft high to 2 ft around  
**Leaves:** golden yellow spines  
**Flowers:** bright yellow; 1-2 in wide; in summertime during day  
**Fruit:** fruit 3/4 inch long  
**Stems/Trunks:** single rounded column; ribbed; spines along ribs  
**Range/Origin:** Chihuahuan deserts  
**Hardiness:** hardy, to 10°F at least



**LANDSCAPE VALUE**

- accent
- containers
- effective for dramatic group of varying sizes

**CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **Exposure:** full sun to light shade, but avoid highly reflected light environments and western building exposures.
- **Water:** natural rainfall except in drought years; better and faster growth with some supplemental, especially in summer
- **Soil:** unimproved desert soils
- **Propagation:** division of branched segments or seed.
- **Maintenance:** none

**NOTES**

- Also called Mother-in-Law's cushion.



**Pachycereus schottii v. monstrosus**  
**Totem Pole Cactus**  
**Cactaceae Family**

**Form:** Upright, tree-like, branched and contorted, convoluted

**Seasonality:** n/a

**Size:** slow-growing to 10- to 12-feet tall

**Leaves:** n/a

**Flowers:** rarely flowers

**Fruit:** rarely fruits

**Stems/Trunk:** dull green to light green, smooth and irregular columnar stems w/out spines; stems branch at the base to form a short trunk

**Range/Origin:** Southwest USA (Arizona), northwestern Mexico (Baja California, Sonora)

**Hardiness:** tolerant to 25°F; protect against frost

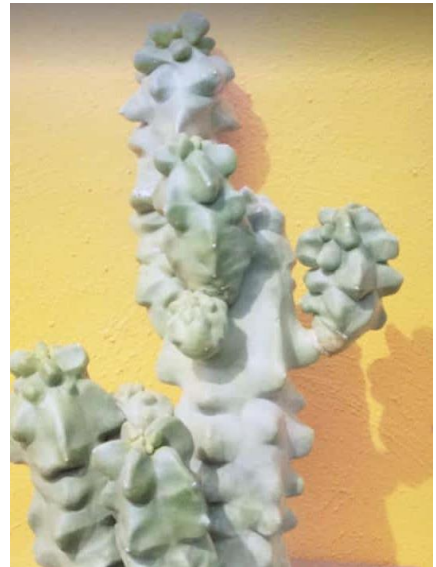


**LANDSCAPE VALUE**

- strong focal point for xeric landscape themes
- good container plant
- rock garden
- large patios
- use as vertical or architectural effect

**CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **Exposure:** full sun, no shade
- **Water:** water only occasionally if at all; susceptible to root rot in damp, poorly drained soils
- **Soil:** well-drained mineral soil is best
- **Propagation:** From softwood stem cuttings allow cut surface to callous over before planting directly into soil
- **Maintenance:** None, except to control width by occasionally thinning out awkward or crossing branches



**NOTES**

- With age, this tree-like cactus becomes very large, occupying significant physical and visual space in the landscape. Monstrosus is the most commonly seen form of all the columnar cacti in Phoenix desert landscapes.



**Convolvulus cneorum**  
**Bush Morning Glory**  
*Convolvulaceae Family*

**Form:** woody perennial compact evergreen sub-shrub, symmetrically mounding and spreading

**Seasonality:** perennial, evergreen; masses of flowers in spring and fall

**Size:** symmetrically mounding and spreading to 2 feet tall with 4 feet spread

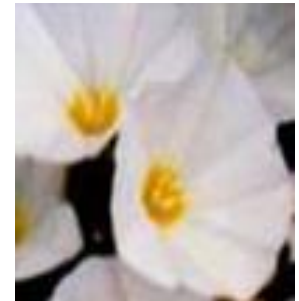
**Leaves:** Very hairy, silver-gray lanceolate-shaped leaves to 3 inches; medium texture

**Flowers:** pinkish flower buds followed by profuse, brilliant white 2-inch paper-thin morning glory flowers with yellow throats, followed by pink post-flowering sepals

**Fruit:** inconspicuous

**Range/Origin:** Southern Europe's western and central Mediterranean regions

**Hardiness:** drought tolerant once established; hardy to 10° to 15°F



**LANDSCAPE VALUE**

- large-scale xeriscape ground cover in mass
- very useful on slopes and in raised beds where you want attractive flowers without having to worry about watering during dry summers
- excellent in groups of three or more; ideal for grouping with other grey foliage plants and with white or blue flowers

**CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **Exposure:** full sun
- **Water:** does not tolerate wet, over-watered soil conditions; highly prone to fungal root rot if soil drainage is poor; supplemental water is needed at least every two weeks during the summer
- **Soil:** fast-draining soil an absolute must; best in sandy or gravelly soils that are slightly alkaline
- **Propagation:** seed, or softwood cuttings
- **Maintenance:** little to none. Vigorous plants can be infrequently and lightly sheared in late April after flowering.



**NOTES**

- Keep its eventual spread in mind, since the biggest landscaping problem is planting this nice sub-shrub in locations that are too small and narrow to accommodate its spread.

***Euphorbia tirucalli* ‘Rosea’**  
**Firestick , Red Pencil Cactus**  
***Euphorbiaceae* Family**

**Form:** upright, geometric, visually stunning, unique shrub-like succulent

**Seasonality:** evergreen perennial; most vibrant from October through April

**Size:** slow growth to 4 to 8 feet with somewhat smaller spread

**Leaves:** mostly non-existent; on new stems, very small ones that drop quickly

**Flowers:** insignificant

**Fruit:** insignificant

**Stems/Trunks:** plant is mostly photosynthetic stems with tops that vary in color from red to orange to yellow; can fade to green in non-primary seasons

**Range/Origin:** native to Madagascar; naturalized throughout Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, India, and southwest Florida

**Hardiness:** tolerant of desert heat; cold hardy to 28°F



#### **LANDSCAPE VALUE**

- vibrant winter color
- addition of texture and/or height
- good in containers

#### **CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **Exposure:** full sun; shade reduces color
- **Water:** water very sparingly, if at all; overwatering will stimulate overgrowth that weakens plant
- **Soil:** salt tolerant; requires dry to moist, well-drained soil
- **Propagation:** stem cuttings take root quickly
- **Maintenance:** easy to care for; rarely needs pruning; little to no debris; resistant to most pests and diseases

#### **NOTES**

- The *Euphorbiaceae* family encompasses thousands of plants, including poinsettias and spurges. Many have toxic sap in their stems or leaves. Firesticks are no exception. Wear gloves when handling broken stems. The milky white latex sap can cause rashes and blisters. May cause nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea if ingested by people, dogs, or cats; however, the irritating taste and feel of the sap mean that ingestion of large amounts is rare.
- The ‘Rosea’ is a smaller version of the non-colorful pencil cactus *Euphorbia tirucalli* that can grow to heights of 20 feet. There’s a beautiful example on 19<sup>th</sup> Way in our community; look closely, because it’s not obvious that it’s a cactus!

**Caesalpinia pulcherrima**  
**Red Bird of Paradise**  
**Fabaceae Family**

**Form:** informal, vase-shaped, multi-stemmed shrub

**Seasonality:** officially evergreen

**Size:** 3-10 ft with equal spread; more tree-like in warmer location

**Leaves:** bipinnately compound, fern-like, many  $\frac{3}{4}$  in leaflets; normally bright green turning red in winter, sometimes leafless in winter

**Flowers:** distinctive panicle of bright blooms; flowers are red, orange and yellow with long red stamens; on terminal ends of branches in summer

**Fruit:** hard brownish pod, 2.5-in long, thin and flat, twists when drying, can split or burst explosively, poisonous

**Stems/Trunks:** inner portion of plant usually shows signs of having been cut back; small thorns look furry but are sharp

**Range/Origin:** West Indies; common throughout Sonoran deserts, naturalized in Texas

**Hardiness:** damaged at 32°F, with increasing damage as temperature decreases; killed to ground in teens, sometimes killed outright



**LANDSCAPE VALUE**

- summer color
- tropical effect
- background
- reliable, good in medians

**CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **Exposure:** full sun or light shade, takes heat; not good on north sides; gets leggy in shade and blooming is reduced
- **Water:** best with regular irrigation; once per week while blooming; height and growth rate determined by water supply
- **Soil:** tolerant, good drainage
- **Propagation:** seed, very easy
- **Maintenance:** moderate; pod cleanup; pruning every year to remove frost damage; sometimes pruned to ground in winter

**NOTES**

- Cultivar 'Phoenix' has bright yellow flowers.

**Senna artemisioides**  
**Feathery Cassia**  
**Fabaceae Family**

**Form:** vigorously upright, rounded, feathery shrub

**Seasonality:** evergreen

**Size:** billowing to 15 feet with nearly equal spread

**Leaves:** pinnately compound, needle-like leaflets, light green or silvery look; feathery effect

**Flowers:** small (2- to 4-in diameter), yellow, pea-like, solitary; blooms profusely from December to May, covering entire plant

**Fruit:** numerous papery pods, 2-4 in long, green in spring turning brown in early summer

**Stems/Trunks:** delicately textured branches; silver when young maturing to gray

**Range/Origin:** Australia

**Hardiness:** some damage in low 20s; young plants more vulnerable



**LANDSCAPE VALUE**

- wispy desert effect
- good background or screen planting for dry landscapes
- color, long blooming period
- effective in groups

**CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **Exposure:** full sun; growth sparser in shade
- **Water:** survives on one or two irrigations per season; needs some supplemental to maintain character
- **Soil:** tolerant, but prone to chlorosis when overwatered; must have well-drained soil to sustain landscape performance
- **Propagation:** seed, easy; also vegetative cuttings
- **Maintenance:** moderate; best without pruning, needs space; pod cleanup; removal of frost-damaged foliage; in wrong location can outgrow allotted space



**NOTES**

- Form is best when kept at lower water levels.

**Calliandra eriophylla**  
**Native Fairy Duster, Pink Fairy Duster, False Mesquite**  
**Fabaceae Family**

**Form:** low-growing shrub

**Seasonality:** evergreen, may drop leaflets in response to cold or drought stress

**Size:** 1-3 ft, spread 3-4 ft; moderate to slow growth rate

**Leaves:** bipinnately compound, 1-1.5 in long ½-in across; ferny leaflets; leaves close during night

**Flowers:** whitish or pink loose puff shape; best bloom in early spring then sporadically into fall

**Fruit:** pods may split or burst; shorter than *C. californica*, dispersed widely with strong popping

**Stems/Trunks:** not significant

**Range/Origin:** native to Tucson, W. Texas, Southern California, New Mexico; elevations to 1500 ft

**Hardiness:** to mid-teens



**LANDSCAPE VALUE**

- diminutive accent and filler shrub for desert gardens
- informal hedge
- medians (size is well constrained)
- attracts hummingbirds

**CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **Exposure:** full sun
- **Water:** natural rainfall; some supplemental during hottest part of year
- **Soil:** best in well-drained, rocky/gravelly
- **Propagation:** by seed, collection in wild is difficult due to vigorous dispersion
- **Maintenance:** minimal to none. If pruned, do so infrequently by lightly heading back to shape in summer. DO NOT SHEAR! EVER!



**NOTES**

- Form is closer to ground than Baja fairy duster.

**Calliandra californica**  
**Baja Fairy Duster, Red Fairy Duster**  
**Fabaceae Family**

**Form:** upright, inverted vase to rounded, mostly open and stiff to graceful shrub

**Seasonality:** evergreen

**Size:** 3 to 8 feet depending on water availability with a generally less-than-equal spread

**Leaves:** bipinnately compound borne in pairs, finely cut, bluish green

**Flowers:** bright red, rose, or plum; loose puff or tassel shape; predominate red stamens; strongest bloom in spring and fall, otherwise sporadically

**Fruit:** pods may split or burst

**Stems/Trunks:** upright branches, stems are light gray growing woodier with age

**Range/Origin:** Baja California

**Hardiness:** high to mid-teens



**LANDSCAPE VALUE**

- accent or specimen plant
- color
- informal hedges
- strongly attracts territorial hummingbirds

**CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **Exposure:** full or part sun
- **Water:** drought tolerant but best with regular watering during hot seasons (once per week or once every two weeks)
- **Soil:** adaptable, requires good drainage
- **Propagation:** seeds or vegetative cuttings
- **Maintenance:** minimal; remove wood damaged by cold temps. Selectively remove upright branches at different heights within the shrub's crown during summer to promote a full canopy of foliage.

**NOTES**

- *C. eriophylla* is darker brown.
- Trademarked variety "Maricopa Red" has a bright red flower.
- Both red (*C. californica*) and pink (*C. eriophylla*) fairy duster shrubs are prone to lose leaves (drought deciduous habit) during extended periods of dry soil conditions. Don't freak out. This is okay and will self-correct when it rains
- *C. californica* is typically more luxuriant and vigorously upright than *C. eriophylla*
- Red fairy duster is a wonderful free-spirited shrub that seems to always be on the verge of growing out of control. Extensively rejuvenate only as a last resort. Don't ever shear or hedge this beautiful desert shrub.

**Dalea greggii**  
**Trailing Indigo Bush**  
***Fabaceae* Family**

**Form:** sub-shrub, prostrate and rapidly spreading once established

**Seasonality:** evergreen perennial; spring blossoms

**Size:** Slow at first after transplanting, but then fast growing to 15 feet wide and 3 feet high **Leaves:** Tiny, fine-textured, hairy, grayish leaves, on

**Flowers:** Clusters of small violet flowers

**Fruit:** inconspicuous

**Stems/Trunk:** wiry gray stems

**Range/Origin:** Chihuahuan desert

**Hardiness:** heat and drought tolerant once established



**LANDSCAPE VALUE**

- ground cover for large sun and shade areas in dry landscapes areas
- embankments

**CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **Exposure:** full sun
- **Water:** able to tolerate much drought once established, but is vigorous and more robust with regular water
- **Soil:** well-drained soil is IMPERATIVE; root rot if drainage is poor
- **Propagation:** seeds or cuttings
- **Maintenance:** none except to control spread



**NOTES**

- Vigorous spreader, not for small spaces less than 10 feet in diameter! Often mistakenly planted in small spaces and as a result needs much pruning to contain.



**Salvia greggii**  
**Autumn Sage, Red Chihuahuan Sage, Texas Red Sage**  
**Lamiaceae Family**

**Form:** rounded irregular shrub or perennial  
**Seasonality:** perennial; blooms intermittently from February to November  
**Size:** to 3 ft with equal spread  
**Leaves:** large variation, simple, elliptical, usually 1 in long  
**Flowers:** on stem terminals, spikes of trumpet-shaped, 1-in flowers, color usually red, but varies  
**Fruit:** small seed, not noticeable  
**Stems/Trunks:** angular, new growth is lush green, old growth can be woody  
**Range/Origin:** Chihuahuan desert  
**Hardiness:** to single digits, some top damage may occur in teens



**LANDSCAPE VALUE**

- color
- attracts humming birds



**CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **Exposure:** full sun, gets leggy and flower production is poor in shade
- **Water:** drought resistant; for best ornamental quality 1-2 times weekly during hot season
- **Soil:** tolerant, needs good drainage
- **Propagation:** seed okay, more commonly by vegetative cuttings
- **Maintenance:** low; prune back drastically to encourage lush growth and good flowering

**NOTE**

- Can be mowed to ground to encourage soft green growth.
- Many cultivars are available, offering differing flower colors; range is from white, pink, to various shades of red.

*flower on  
white  
autumn  
sage*





**Asparagus densiflorus 'Sprengeri'**  
**Asparagus Fern**  
**Liliaceae Family**

**Form:** mounding, spreading or trailing clump with delicate appearance

**Seasonality:** evergreen perennial

**Size:** 12-24 in, spread to 3ft; rapid growth

**Leaves:** delicate needlelike leaves, ferny; tiny thorns present despite soft appearance of plant; foliage is bright green or yellow green

**Flowers:** small waxy white flowers scattered throughout plant; not conspicuous; sporadic blooming

**Fruit:** small red berries, ¼-in diameter

**Stems/Trunks:** green branches, arching or cascading appearance; sprawls

**Range/Origin:** S. Africa

**Hardiness:** frozen to ground at 24°F; recovers quickly; better in locations protected from frost



**LANDSCAPE VALUE**

- good in containers, especially hanging pots
- houseplant
- informal groundcover
- tropical effect
- best near living and traffic areas

**CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **Exposure:** morning sun; part sun or part shade; takes reflected light (but not reflected heat)
- **Water:** moderate; needs regular supplemental water from April to October
- **Soil:** well drained, sandy to loamy soil best, relatively high nitrogen requirement. Fertilize in late winter and mid-summer
- **Propagation:** seed or division; roots develop fleshy nodules
- **Maintenance:** low; removal of dead stems and frost-damaged foliage; okay to mow to ground to control size and rejuvenate plant appearance, but not in heat of summer

**NOTES**

- Can be difficult to remove litter if planted in a location where leaf drop accumulates.
- A. myers 'Foxtail fern' (also called A. densiflorus 'Myers') is similar but with upright, rigid, plume-like branches, and not as tough in sun.

**Cuphea hyssopifolia**  
**Mexican False Heather**  
***Lythraceae (loosestrife) Family***

**Form:** Small, compact, flat-top mounds, woody perennial sub shrub with a fernlike appearance

**Seasonality:** evergreen; light display of flowers during warmer times of year

**Size:** slow to moderate growth to 2 feet tall with somewhat wider spread

**Leaves:** small, fine-textured, opposite, linear to lanceolate leaves to 3/4 inch long

**Flowers:** tiny, axillary flowers, calyx green, petals in colors ranging from white to rose purple

**Fruit:** inconspicuous dry capsule

**Stems/Trunk:** not ornamental

**Range/Origin:** tropical Mexico to Guatemala

**Hardiness:** will not tolerate frost; killed to ground by freezing temperature



#### **LANDSCAPE VALUE**

- shade gardens
- Japanese garden designs
- container plant
- deeply shaded courtyard or entryway

#### **CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **Exposure:** partial to full shade is best
- **Water:** Regular and heavy supplemental watering needed in desert landscapes
- **Soil:** Prefers well-drained fertile soil; grows best in slightly acidic soil (pH between 5.5 and 7). In our desert alkaline soils, amend growing soil with peat moss and use acid-forming fertilizers. If soils are not amended to lower pH, then the likelihood of seeing yellow leaf chlorosis on this delicate plant is high.
- **Propagation:** softwood cuttings
- **Maintenance:** Prune lightly in spring if the plant becomes scraggly.

#### **NOTES**

- Mexican false heather is a nice, small plant for damp, partial-shade garden locations where the feeling of being in a desert is not wanted.

**Melaleuca viminalis "Little John"**  
**Dwarf Bottlebrush**  
*Myrtaceae Family*

**Form:** small, dense, rounded, prostrate shrub

**Seasonality:** evergreen; blooms best spring through summer, but nearly year-round in Phoenix

**Size:** slow growing to 3 feet tall and 5 feet wide

**Leaves:** narrow, elongated, blue-green, medium texture

**Flowers:** blood-red, bottlebrush-like flower spikes

**Fruit:** clusters of small round nut-like fruit

**Stems:** woody, densely branched

**Range/Origin:** northeast coastal Australia

**Hardiness:** tolerant to 20°F; may suffer if temperatures are above 112°F for an extended period



**LANDSCAPE VALUE**

- foundation cover plant
- low hedge
- good container plant
- hummingbird gardens

**CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **Exposure:** full sun to partial shade
- **Water:** little once established; best with infrequent but deep watering in summer; prone to chlorosis if overwatered
- **Soil:** tolerant of most types; well-drained preferred
- **Propagation:** use semi-hardwood cutting technique
- **Maintenance:** low; trim at any time to desired shape; hard pruning not necessary

**NOTES**

- Attracts bees and hummingbirds
- Good for use in cut flower arrangements
- Pet friendly
- Disease and pest free

**Eremophila maculata "valentine"**  
**Emu Bush, Fuchsia Bush**  
**Myoporaceae Family**

**Form:** woody perennial shrub

**Seasonality:** evergreen

**Size:** 5 feet tall; 5 - 10 feet wide

**Leaves:** alternate leaf arrangement, lanceolate, small, to 1.5 inches; sessile; medium fine texture; light- to gray-green in summer and purplish grey in winter

**Flowers:** rose/red; tubular, 1 inch long, late winter into spring.

**Fruit:** a small, rounded, inconspicuous berry

**Stems:** multi branched; leaves; 1 inch, have purplish cast

**Range/Origin:** arid and semiarid parts of Australia

**Hardiness:** Hardy to 23°F



**LANDSCAPE VALUE**

- informal accent and/or hedge plant
- foundation
- winter accent for dry landscapes
- hummingbird gardens

**CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **Exposure:** full sun to partial shade
- **Water:** little; root rot is a problem if over-watered
- **Soil:** extremely salt and alkaline tolerant, needs good drainage
- **Propagation:** notoriously difficult from seed; cuttings
- **Maintenance:** low; can become twiggy and some pruning may be needed; responds well to light shearing after flowering in early May as needed; mostly just leave it alone and control growth rate by regulating the amounts of supplemental water given throughout the year

**NOTES**

- Eremophila means desert loving.
- The name Emu Bush comes from the flightless Australian bird that feeds on the fruit.

**Desylirion wheeleri**  
**Desert Spoon, Sotol**  
***Nolina Family***

**Form:** mounding grass-like succulent clump of silver-green points

**Seasonality:** evergreen; flower stalks in later spring to summer during those rare years that desert spoons bloom

**Size:** to 6 ft with equal spread; very large when mature

**Leaves:** flat elongated blades, 2-3.5 ft long, silver green or bluish green, margin toothed like saw blade; petiole base shaped like spoon

**Flowers:** insignificant whitish green flowers clustered tightly on dramatic stalk emerging from center of clump growing 6 to 15 ft above foliage; female plant flower structure is more rounded, on male plant it is more narrow; stalk is persistent if not removed

**Fruit:** small brownish seed (½ in) joined with 3 papery disks as a trifoliate wing

**Stems/Trunks:** form is usually mounded only; can be pruned to a trunk-like look

**Range/Origin:** canyon slopes of southern Arizona, southern New Mexico; elevations of 2000-5000 ft

**Hardiness:** cold tolerant to single digits; some heat stress above 110°F



#### **LANDSCAPE VALUE**

- accent plant
- very tough in adverse conditions
- do not use near foot traffic
- poor in mass plantings due to tendency to accumulate trash between plants

#### **CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **Exposure:** full sun; takes reflected heat
- **Water:** natural rainfall once established; supplement when young; extra water accelerates growth
- **Soil:** tolerant, needs good drainage, found naturally on rocky slopes
- **Propagation:** seed, sow in early summer, requires scarification
- **Maintenance:** minimal; stalk removal if desired; old yellowed leaves can be left in place or removed to expose base and a pineapple-like appearance; if planted in groups it is difficult to get between plants



#### **NOTES**

- Frequently misused when arranged in plantings too close together or with limited space in which to grow and spread naturally. It may look architecturally cute in a 5-gallon nursery container, but as a mature specimen in the landscape it is HUGE.
- Will typically show significant leaf marginal tip necrosis.

**Bougainvillea hybrids**  
**Bougainvillea**  
**Nyctaginaceae Family**

**Form:** large cascading shrub; can be trained up on trellis, does not cling, needs support for height else will sprawl

**Seasonality:** evergreen

**Size:** to 30 ft in locations where it does not freeze; more commonly 10-12 ft height with spread of 8 ft; dwarf cultivars are compact and diminutive to 2 feet

**Leaves:** lots of variation in leaf shape: globular, elliptical, ovate to orbicular, cordate; to 4 in long

**Flowers:** small insignificant flowers surrounded by showy colorful bracts; many varieties of bract available including red, hot pink, salmon, purple, yellow, gold, white, and variegated; profuse flowers mostly in spring but again in fall in response to day length

**Fruit:** not significant

**Stems/Trunks:** slender, arching stem; well-armed with thorns

**Range/Origin:** South America

**Hardiness:** frost sensitive; foliage damaged below 32°F



**LANDSCAPE VALUE**

- background color
- good in containers
- good on trellises
- tropical effect

**CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **Exposure:** full sun to filtered shade
- **Water:** moderate user but drought tolerant; needs regular deep irrigations in hottest part of year, drying soil promotes flowering
- **Soil:** adaptable, grows well in clay soils, not as vigorous in sandy soils, amendments beneficial but not necessary
- **Propagation:** vegetative cuttings, may be difficult to root
- **Maintenance:** Litter alert: fallen bracts can create huge mess, annual pruning of frost damage, prune to shape and control spread, can be pruned severely once established; training if on trellis or wall

**NOTES**

- It is extremely important to choose the right cultivar with the growth characteristics to match the demands and constraints of planting location.

**Muhlenbergia rigens**  
**Deer Grass**  
**Poaceae Family**

**Form:** Perennial bunch grass; light, feathery, airy aspect  
**Seasonality:** Flowers during late summer and autumn  
**Size:** Fast growing to 3 – 5 feet in width and height  
**Leaves:** Dense tufts of narrow, linear, dull gray-green leaves; coarser texture than *M. capillaris*; foliage dries to tan in fall/winter  
**Flowers:** Tall green spikes that dry to tan  
**Fruit:** Extremely small seeds  
**Range/Origin:** Native to southwest U.S., Mexico  
**Hardiness:** To 0°F



**LANDSCAPE VALUE**

- Best planted in groups as an accent for bank covers, rock gardens, transitional landscapes

**CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **Exposure:** Full sun
- **Water:** Low; deep drip irrigation in summer may be needed
- **Soil:** Well drained
- **Propagation:** Division anytime, seed in fall and early winter
- **Maintenance:** Very low litter. Shear to ground only once per year in late fall after flowering or early spring to remove the copious dead foliage and rejuvenate the plant.



**NOTES**

- Considerably larger than other ornamental grasses, so beware of planting in small areas.
- May also consider *M. emersleyi*

**Muhlenbergia capillaris**  
**Pink Muhly; Pink Deer Grass**  
**Poaceae Family**

**Form:** Perennial bunch grass; light, feathery, airy aspect

**Seasonality:** Flowers during late summer and autumn

**Size:** Fast growing to 3 feet in width and height

**Leaves:** Narrow, linear, dull gray-green leaves; fine texture; foliage dries to tan in fall/winter

**Flowers:** Erect, pinkish-purple, airy plumes that fade to tan

**Fruit:** Extremely small seeds

**Range/Origin:** Native to Texas, Mexico

**Hardiness:** To 0°F



**LANDSCAPE VALUE**

- Best planted in groups as an accent for bank covers, rock gardens, transitional landscapes

**CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **Exposure:** Full to partial sun
- **Water:** Little to none once established; deep drip irrigation during summer may be needed
- **Soil:** Well drained
- **Propagation:** Division anytime, seed in fall and early winter
- **Maintenance:** Very low litter. Shear to ground only once per year in late fall after flowering or early spring to remove the copious dead foliage and rejuvenate the plant.

**NOTES**

- Smaller, more refined look than *M. rigens*.



**Leucophyllum frutescens**  
**Texas Ranger v. Green Cloud**  
**Scrophulariaceae Family**

**Form:** rounded shrub

**Seasonality:** evergreen; loses more leaves in winter

**Size:** 4-8 ft, spread to  $\frac{3}{4}$  height, or to equal height

**Leaves:** simple, alternate, pubescent (soft and furry to touch), oval or elliptical, blue- gray

**Flowers:** in leaf axis, lavender to purple, sporadic blooming season throughout year, blooms in response to rain; flowers are small but cover entire plant during main flush

**Fruit:** small capsule at base of flower

**Stems/Trunks:** trunk is not exposed; stems silvery, attractive

**Range/Origin:** Texas, Mexico

**Hardiness:** to low teens. Tolerant of both desert heat and cold. However, the green cloud variety will go partially deciduous during the winter months.



**LANDSCAPE VALUE**

- accent plant
- mass plantings
- border or hedge
- medians

**CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **Exposure:** full sun, reflected heat; in shade plant is leggy and flowering is poor
- **Water:** moderate; infrequent but deep, best to let dry out between irrigations; root rot if overwatered or soil is poorly drained
- **Soil:** tolerant, good drainage; prefers alkaline soil
- **Propagation:** vegetative cuttings from soft wood (tip growth), best during spring growth
- **Maintenance:** low

**NOTES**

- Shearing will reduce flowering.

**Leucophyllum laevigatum**  
**Chihuahuan Rain Sage, Blue Texas Ranger**  
**Scrophulariaceae Family**

**Form:** open, irregular shrub  
**Seasonality:** evergreen  
**Size:** 5 ft with equal or greater spread  
**Leaves:** simple, alternate, oval with no petiole, green  
**Flowers:** in leaf axils, blue; bloom from summer through fall  
**Fruit:** insignificant  
**Stems/Trunks:** not ornamental  
**Range/Origin:** Texas ('Big Bear Country'); SW US  
**Hardiness:** to 18°F, may drop leaves in mid-teens



**LANDSCAPE VALUE**

- foundation planting
- medians
- xeriscape

**CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **Exposure:** full sun
- **Water:** low; supplement for good growth and flower characteristics; 1-2 times per month
- **Soil:** tolerant, needs well-drained
- **Propagation:** vegetative cuttings from current season's growth
- **Maintenance:** low, needs space to sprawl; head back to encourage dense habit



**NOTES**

- Greenest foliage of the *Leucophyllum* species.
- Longer blooming period than other *Leucophyllum* and not as affected by rainfall (bloom is consistent, not in flushes).
- Best left in natural form, sprawling and open.



**Leucophyllum candidum**  
**Silverleaf Ranger**  
**Scrophulariaceae Family**

**Form:** rounded or irregular shrub

**Seasonality:** evergreen

**Size:** 2-5ft with equal spread

**Leaves:** small, obovate, fuzzy, silvery white in color, alternate

**Flowers:** small, in leaf axils, blue/violet; blooms in response to rainfall

**Fruit:** small seed, not significant

**Stems/Trunks:** young twiggy growth is white and furry (like leaves), older growth more woody

**Range/Origin:** southern portions of Texas and into Mexico

**Hardiness:** to low teens or lower



**LANDSCAPE VALUE**

- medians
- contrasting foliage color
- good in mass plantings
- outstanding color display



**CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **Exposure:** full sun
- **Water:** natural rainfall; okay on one irrigation per month; also see notes regarding water
- **Soil:** requires fast draining soil; best with no amendments
- **Propagation:** vegetative cuttings from current season's growth (soft wood)
- **Maintenance:** low, prune or shear to shape if desired

**NOTES**

- Variety 'Silver Cloud' large, height 3-6 ft.
- Newer cultivar "Thunder Cloud" to only 3-4 ft, purple flowers.
- *L. candidum* is known to be fussy about planting depth and watering cultural habits. Do not overwater. Do not plant in basin areas where water may accumulate. Water must not be allowed to accumulate around trunk or root zone. Plant in well-drained soil only. Also, plant frequently fails if planted too deep (e.g. if soil subsides in planting hole). Keep mulching material away from trunk. Use other *Leucophyllum* species if these issues are problems.

**Penstemon eatonii**  
**Firecracker, Beardtongue, Eaton's Penstemon**  
**Scrophulariaceae Family**

**Form:** forms a rosette of basal clumps that seasonally becomes upright, stiff and rigid

**Seasonality:** herbaceous perennial; striking scarlet red flowers in February and March

**Size:** upright flower spikes to 2 to 3 feet tall with 1 to 2 feet spread.

**Leaves:** thick, glabrous, and moderate green (dull green with drought). Basal leaves are oblanceolate with elongated petioles while stalk leaves are lanceolate to oblong to 4 inches long

**Flowers:** bright scarlet red flowers in spikes, trumpet shaped corolla to ¾-inch long

**Fruit:** greenish capsule

**Stems/Trunk:** brittle and easily damaged by contact

**Range/Origin:** Southern California east to Arizona

**Hardiness:** Actively grows during cooler times of year staying quiescent in summer. Hardy to Phoenix winter cold, but might suffer in intense summer heat if given a full western exposure



**LANDSCAPE VALUE**

- winter color accent
- landscape edging and border
- desert flower gardens.
- attracts hummingbirds



**CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **Exposure:** full sun, partial shade; can be planted beneath trees
- **Water:** very little; too much water causes floppy growth
- **Soil:** most will do, good draining required; depth is preferred
- **Propagation:** seed
- **Maintenance:** remove spent flower stalks after flowering in April. If harvesting seeds, cut back dead flower stalks in late fall; remove seeds from stems and scatter where you want new plants the following year.

**NOTES**

- May die quickly if given too rich soil and too much water.
- Keep space around each plant for best landscape performance.
- Growth more vigorous in second season

**Lantana camara**  
**Bush Lantana**  
**Verbenaceae Family**

**Form:** upright rounded shrub and with sprawling branches

**Seasonality:** semi evergreen

**Size:** usually 2-4 ft with equal spread, to 5 ft in warmest locations

**Leaves:** simple, opposite, to 3 in long, serrate margins; stiff and rough with sandpaper-like feel, prominent tricones

**Flowers:** branch terminals; multicolored with mixed color hues, found in yellows and oranges, blues and reds, etc.; hybridizes easily; bloom from spring to fall

**Fruit:** small black or blue-black berries; poisonous

**Stems/Trunks:** woody when old, sprawling

**Range/Origin:** tropical regions of the Americas; naturalizes easily

**Hardiness:** damaged at 28°F, dies to ground at mid to low twenties, regrows quickly



**LANDSCAPE VALUE**

- near year-round color accent
- many varieties and color combinations
- summer annual or perennial accent
- informal hedge
- raised planters

**CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **Exposure:** best in full sun, bloom not as good in part shade
- **Water:** drought tolerant, supplement for best landscape character
- **Soil:** tolerant, amended soil is beneficial
- **Propagation:** vegetative cuttings, seed
- **Maintenance:** moderate; removal of cold-damaged foliage; occasional shearing or shaping increases vigor

**NOTES**

- Lantana sap is poisonous and can irritate human skin. If ingested, green, unripe fruit can cause dizziness, weakness, vomiting, cardiac arrhythmia, and even death.
- Many varieties available, reflecting easy hybridization of the species, with much blending of flower colors.

**Lantana montevidensis**  
**Trailing Lantana**  
**Verbenaceae Family**

**Form:** With support it has a climbing 'vine' form, when on edge a trailing form, and on the flat a groundcover form.

**Seasonality:** evergreen

**Size:** 12 in, spread to 6 ft

**Leaves:** simple, opposite, smaller and with a finer texture than *L. camara*; tricones sandpapery rather than coarse

**Flowers:** color varies, white to lavender or pink; bloom from March to frost

**Fruit:** small bluish berries

**Stems/Trunks:** stems ramble over ground

**Range/Origin:** South America; naturalized in large areas of the US

**Hardiness:** to 20°F; may go leafless or die back to ground but recovers quickly



**LANDSCAPE VALUE**

- hanging baskets and containers
- drought tolerant groundcover
- low confined growth
- most reliable source of low-maintenance vegetation
- color planters, borders

**CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **Exposure:** full sun, takes heat; gets leggy and bloom is poor in shade
- **Water:** regular irrigation; 1-2 deep irrigations per week to keep good bloom set; takes overhead spray
- **Soil:** adaptable
- **Propagation:** vegetative cuttings, easy
- **Maintenance:** minimal. Prune lightly as needed, or head back hard to near ground level in early spring after the danger of frost has passed. If is frost or freeze damaged during winter, then don't immediately remove the unsightly, dead shoots (wait until early spring), since these damaged shoots will protect underneath living shoots from further frost injury



**NOTES**

- Most cold tolerant of the Lantana species
- Lantana sap is poisonous and can irritate human skin. If ingested, green, unripe fruit can cause dizziness, weakness, vomiting, cardiac arrhythmia, and even death.

**Verbena rigida v. venosa** (also classified as **Glandularia rigida**)  
**Sandpaper Verbena, Slender Vervain**  
**Verbenaceae Family**

**Form:** low, prostrate, spreading, rough looking and unkept in appearance when not flowering; very stiff and sparse when young

**Seasonality:** herbaceous perennial; blooms in summer and fall; may have color all year.

**Size:** to 1.5 feet tall; slow to establish, but fast growing thereafter

**Leaves:** stiff, coarse leaves, rough and dark green, widely set irregularly serrate, oblong and clasping, 2-4 inches long

**Flowers:** clusters of light purple flowers on extended spikes arranged in threes on tall, stiff stems

**Fruit:** inconspicuous

**Stems/Trunk:** upright branching stems, wiry but straight

**Range/Origin:** South Brazil and Argentina

**Hardiness:** to 15°F; needs heat to thrive



#### LANDSCAPE VALUE

- accent and/or border plant for xeric landscapes
- ground cover for small spaces
- rock gardens
- in parking strips, along driveways
- on dry banks, walls and crevices
- useful in low maintenance gardens
- good for erosion control

#### CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** full sun
- **Water:** needs little water. Irrigation with drip systems might exacerbate exposure to salt build up in the soil causing plant failure.
- **Soil:** fast draining best; prefers sandy soils; best used in landscaped areas mulched with decomposing granite. Very salt sensitive. Root rot if poorly drained.
- **Propagation:** seed
- **Maintenance:** head back after flowering

#### NOTES

- Spreads by underground runners which turn upward to become stiff stems 1 to 2 ft tall.
- Least used of all Glandularia taxa in Phoenix because of its propensity to have marginal leaf necrosis and tatter. Best used as an annual landscape bedding plant. Subject to salt burn on leaf margins.

- Acanthaceae, 1–2  
     *Justicia californica*, 1  
     *Ruellia brittoniana*, 2  
 Agavoideae. *See* Asparagaceae  
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