

SUN CITY PALM DESERT PLANT GUIDE



Highlighting plants grown in Sun City Palm Desert
With photos and care instructions
Enjoy finding plants, trees, shrubs and flowers in this
Plant Guide that are successfully grown in
Sun City Palm Desert.

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NATAL PLUM (CARISSA MACROCARPA)

Features

Spreading, tight branching shrub with rich green compact foliage. Several varieties ranging from 1-1/2 ft to 7 ft high.



Water: Moderate to ample. Deep irrigation every week or two in warm season.

Soil: General garden soil with good drainage, but will accept a variety of soils.

Location: Warm location such as south side of building. Best in sun, accepts some shade.

Special Care: Protect from frost as foliage will brown. Recovers quickly in spring.

Interesting Features: Fragrant white flowers followed by red or purple edible fruit (good for making jelly).

CHILEAN MESQUITE (PROSOPIS CHILENSIS)



Features

Quick rate of growth, cooling, sheltering shade and low maintenance. Fifteen to 30 ft high and wide.

Water: Low. Water deep and wide to encourage deep, extensive root system to stand up to strong winds.

Soil: Native.

Location: Full sun.

Special Care: Young trees need staking to support

heavy top growth. Do not plant within 15 ft of walls or near pools (litter). Far reaching roots.

Interesting Feature: Admired for its ability to provide fast shade and screening.

AGAVE

(AGAVE AMERICANA MARGINATA)



Features

Variegated Century plant with blue-green leaf blades and yellow stripe down both sides. Reaches 6 ft high and wide. Leaves arch and curl and have a pointed tip.

Water: Occasional. Avoid overwatering.

Soil: Tolerates most except waterlogged. Needs well draining.

Location: Make sure it gets sunlight – full to partial sun.

Special Care: Should not sit

in water. Does not handle cold well. Susceptible to grubs and should be treated annually.

Interesting Features: Attractive as a container plant. Blooms once after many years, then dies.

MOJAVE YUCCA (YUCCA SCHIDIGERA)



Features

Grows to 16 ft tall and 3 ft wide with tough, sharp-tipped green leaves arranged bayonet-like (AKA Spanish dagger). Purple-tinted white flowers in spring.

Water: Little to moderate.

Soil: Well drained.

Location: Full sun.

Special Care: Needs no summer water.

Interesting Feature:

Used in ¼ of dog food. Ingestion in humans decreases cholesterol.

BAJA FAIRY DUSTER (CALIANDRA CALIFORNICA)

Features

Grows 6 ft high and 4-5 ft wide. Red puffball flowers bloom spring into fall.

Water: Low, 2-3 times per week in summer. If excessive growth, decrease water.

Soil: Well draining.

Location: Full sun.

Special Care: Prune lightly in late spring to encourage fuller plant.

Interesting Feature:

Attracts hummingbirds.



**MEXICAN FAN PALM/ON LEFT
(WASHINGTONIA ROBUSTA)**

**CALIFORNIA FAN PALM/ON RIGHT
(WASHINGTONIA FILIFERA)**

Features

Skyline tree, 50-75 ft high, slender trunk, faster growth rate compared to California Fan Palm.

Water:

Moderate.

Soil: Native.

Location: Full sun.

Special Care: Occasional deep watering.

Interesting

Feature:

Group only with own species in clumps of staggering heights.



Features

Height 35-40 ft, massive trunk, slow growing.

Water: Moderate.

Soil: Native.

Location: Full sun but younger trees prefer some shade.

Special Care: Occasional deep watering.

Interesting Feature: Only palm native to California.

**AFRICAN MILK TREE
(EUPHORBIA TRIGONA)**



Features

Cactus named for the milky sap which oozes from the plant when injured.

Water: Low. Allow soil to dry between waterings.

Soil: Equal parts coarse sand and general houseplant soil.

Location: Bright light.

Special Care: Fertilize monthly spring through fall.

Interesting Feature: Sap is irritating to skin and should be washed off.

BISMARCK PALM (BISMARCKIA NOBILIS)

Features

Slow growing massive palm, 30-60 ft high and 20 ft wide or more.



Water: Moderate.

Soil: Widely adaptable, low fertilization.

Location: Full sun.

Special Care: Intolerant of being moved,

should only be transplanted out of containers.

Interesting Feature: Dominates area it is planted in. Out-of-scale for small yards

AGAVE (AGAVE DESMETTIANA)



Features

Deep bluish-green leaves grow in a lotus-flower shaped form with a graceful little flip. Plant grows 3 ft high and wide.

Water: Low

Soil: Well-drained, non-fertile.

Location: Full or reflecting sun, but looks better in filtered shade.

Special Care: Supply

young plants with water occasionally until established.

Interesting Feature:

Before they flower, they produce a small number of offsets called 'pups.'

PEANUT CACTUS (ECHINOPSIS CHAMAECEREUS)



Features

Cylindrical, ribbed cactus, 1-2 ft high and 12 in. wide, with bright scarlet blooms.

Water: Allow soil to approach dryness between waterings in spring and summer. Keep quite dry in fall and winter.

Soil: Equal parts coarse sand and general garden soil.

Location: Full sun.

Special Care: Showy and easy to grow.

Interesting Feature: Joints fall off easily and root just as easily.



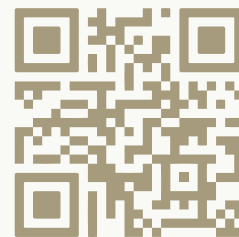
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PLUMERIA (PLUMERIA RUBRA)



Features

Deep bluish-green leaves grow in a lotus-flower shaped form with a graceful little flip. Plant grows 3 ft high and wide.

Water: Very important. Must have enough in the summer. Without it, plant will go into dormancy. Do not use a catch basin under potted ones. When plant drops its leaves in winter, DO NOT WATER until it starts to leaf out in spring.

Soil: Fast draining. 2/3 cactus mix + 1/3 perlite. Use a balanced fertilizer such as 3-12-12.

Location: Needs 6-8 hours of direct sun daily. Note: Some varieties require some shade from hot summer sun.

Special Care: Don't overwater. Main cause of death in plumerias. Does not like wet feet.

Special Features: Comes in many varieties and colors. Can propagate from cuttings. Singapore Plumeria (*Plumeria obtusa*) is evergreen and should be watered occasionally in winter.

CHUPAROSA (JUSTICIA CALIFORNICA)



Features

Semi-evergreen shrub, deciduous in summer, grows 6 ft high and wide. Clusters of tubular red flowers occur fall through spring.

Water: Little to moderate.

Soil: Well draining.

Location: Full sun or light shade.

Special Care: Often

freezes to ground in winter, but comes back quickly in spring.

Interesting Feature: A hummingbird favorite.

PINDO PALM (BUTIA CAPITATA)



Features

Slow growing, 10-20 ft high and wide. Graceful, arching fronds. Heavy trunk is patterned with stubs of old fronds.

Water: Low.

Soil: Tolerant, but needs good drainage. Best in improved garden soil.

Location: Reflecting sun.

Special Care: Apply fertilizer if fronds yellow. Tree is more attractive if stubs are trimmed to same length.

Interesting Feature: Accepts hardships of every kind.

CAPE HONEYSUCKLE (TECOMARIA CAPENSIS)



Features

Large, upright evergreen shrub, 6-10 ft high, or 20 ft if grown as a spreading vine.

Water: Moderate, every other day in summer.

Soil: Prefers improved garden soil with good drainage.

Location: Full sun.

Special Care: Rapid growth requires

pruning. Tough plant.

Interesting

Features: Glossy green leaves and brilliant orange-red flowers. Attracts hummingbirds.

DESERT MARIGOLD (BAILEYA MULTIRADIATA)



Features

Short-lived perennial, 1 ft high and wide, with silvery green foliage and bright yellow daisy-like flowers.

Water: Looks best with weekly watering.

Soil: Well drained.

Location: Sun to light shade.

Special Care: Rejuvenate plant

by clipping away faded foliage and flowers.

Interesting

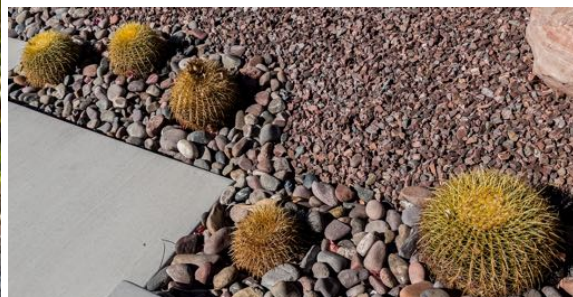
Feature: Easy to start from seeds or plants in fall or spring.

GOLDEN BARREL CACTUS (ECHINOCACTUS GRUSONII)



Features

Grows slowly to 2 ft high or more. Yellow flowers appear in spring, only produce on plants over 1 ft.



Water: Infrequently, once a month, slightly more in summer.

Soil: Sandy, well draining.

Location: Sun.

Special Care: Little to no maintenance.

Interesting Features: Grown for its lovely color. May spawn offsets, making a clump.

MOUNTAIN (MEXICAN) MARIGOLD (TAGETES LEMMONII)



Features

Mounding shrub 3-4 ft high. Golden yellow daisy-like flowers late fall into spring.

Water: Moderate.

Soil: Native.

Location: Partial sun.

Special Care: Cut foliage back by half in early summer to

develop sturdy growth to support flowers.

Special Feature: Foliage is strongly aromatic.

DESERT WILLOW (CHILOPSIS LINEARIS)



Features

Light, airy, 25-30 ft deciduous tree.

Water: Moderate.

Soil: Well draining.

Location: Full sun.

Special Care: Do any heavy pruning December into February. Prune to control growth, create new flowering wood, and display handsome trunk.

Interesting Features: Clusters of large, orchid-like flowers. Attracts hummingbirds.

DURANTA (DURANTA ERECTA)



Features

Also known as Sky Flower. Fast growing vine to 10-25 ft tall and 6-10 ft wide, branches often drooping and vine-like. Tubular violet-blue flowers.

Water: Regular.

Soil: General garden soil.

Location: Full sun. Thrives in hot summer areas.

Special Care: Needs continuous thinning and pruning to stay under control.

Interesting Features: Attractive flowers attract butterflies in spring. Waxy yellow berries are poisonous.



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TOTEM POLE CACTUS (CEREUS PERUVIANUS 'MONSTROSUS')

Features

Columnar slow-growing cactus to 10 ft high. Has irregular lumpy columns and no spines.

Water: Occasional.

Soil: Good drainage.

Location: Full to part sun.

Special Care: Yellowed in reflected

sun. Best sheltered.

Protect from frost.

Interesting Feature:

Effective in ground or in large containers.

RED YUCCA (HESPERALOE PARVIFLORA)



Features

Clumping plant with gray-green narrow, curving straplike leaves 3-4 ft high and wide.

Water: Moderate.

Soil: Tolerant of many.

Location: Sun.

Special Care: Remove old flower spikes.

Interesting Features:

Tall leaning spikes

with scarlet or coral

bell-shaped flowers

April-September.

Attracts

hummingbirds.

PENTAS (PENTAS LANCEOLATA)



Features

Grows 2-3 ft high. Stems are topped by tight, 4" clusters of small, star-shaped flowers in white, pink, lilac or red.

Water: Low. Regular.

Soil: Good drainage.

Location: Filtered sun.

Special Care: Prune heavily before spring growth to keep compact

and encourage flowering.

Interesting feature: Can also be used as a houseplant.

IMPATIENS (IMPATIENS BALSAMINA)



Features

Annual flowering plant. Solid colored or variegated.

Water: Regular.

Soil: General garden soil.

Location: Light shade.

Special Care: When lightly touched, seed capsules open and scatter.

Interesting feature: Comes in many colors.

ELEPHANT'S FOOD (PORTULACARIA AFRA)



Features

Slow to rapid growth depending on growing conditions with open growth, brownish stems covered with ½ inch glossy green succulent leaves.

Water: Low.

Soil: Mixture of equal parts coarse sand and general houseplant soil.

Location: Bright light. Too much shade can cause plant to become straggly.

Special Care: Can suffer damage with exposure to

intense sun.

Interesting Feature: Excellent container plant with a flowing growth habit. Related to jade plant. Propagation by cuttings taken during active growth.

FEATHER TREE (LYSILOMA WATSONII)



Features

Finely divided fern-like foliage. Multi-trunk tree can reach 10-15 ft. Creamy white puff balls are followed by seed pods.

Water: Moderate. Overwatering in summer can cause chlorosis.

Soil: Well draining.

Location: Full sun.

Special Care: Avoid pruning large branches in summer.

Special Features: Provides a lush tropical effect; creates dappled shade.

HONG KONG ORCHID TREE (BAUHINIA BLAKEANA)



Features

Moderate growth, 15-30 ft high and wide.
Abundant maroon to pink flowers from
December to April.

Water: Deep water at
drip line about once a
week in summer.

Soil: Well draining.

Location: Full sun to part
shade. Avoid wind-prone
areas.

Special Care: Very frost
tender.

Interesting Feature:
Grown for their gorgeous,
fragrant, orchidlike
flowers.

JACARANDA (JACARANDA MEMOSIFOLIA)



Features

Semi-evergreen tree 30-50 ft high and 15-30
ft wide. Lacy, fernlike green leaves and large
clusters of lavender-blue flowers May and
June.

Water: Moderate.
Water weekly, but only
once or twice when
dormant.

Soil: Good drainage.

Location: Sun.

Features: Fast growth

and overall size make
them a poor choice for
smaller homesites.
High litter.

Interesting Feature:
When blooming they
are stand-out gorgeous.

KALANCHOE (KALANCHOE BLOSSFELDIANA)



Features

Shiny, red-edged dark green leaves with bright red (hybrids in many colors) flowers in big clusters bloom in winter and early spring.

Water: Moderate to regular. Allow to dry between waterings.

Soil: Any well-draining houseplant soil.

Location: Shady spot if outdoors. Indoors, bright

light.

Special Care: To flower again, must have 14 hrs of uninterrupted darkness nightly for 3 months.

Interesting Feature: Can be propagated by cuttings.

MADAGASCAR PALM (PACHYPODIUM LAMERII)



Features

Crown of large leaves on top and spines along stem. Slow growing 10-15 ft high. Not a palm, but a succulent.

Water: Moderate, regular.

Soil: Well draining.

Location: Full sun or part shade.

Special Care: Protect or move to a warmer location if frost threatens.

Interesting Features:

Stores water in its trunk. Large, older plants may bear fragrant white flowers. Older blooming plants compare as spiny plumerias.

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MEDITERRANEAN FAN PALM (CHAMAEROPS HUMILIS)



Features

Slow growing multi-trunk dwarf palm, 10-12 ft high.

Water: Moderate.

Soil: Tolerant. Accepts alkaline conditions. Prefers rich, moist soils.

Location: Full sun.

Special Care: Faster growth with regular water and fertilizer.

Interesting Feature: Handsome tub plant or near pool.

MEXICAN (RED) BIRD OF PARADISE (CAESALPINIA PULCHERRIMA)



Features

Deciduous, tropical plant reaching 5-8 ft high with brilliant red and yellow flowers from early summer to fall.

Water: Moderate.

Soil: Accepts almost any.

Location: Full sun.

Special care: Cut stems back

about 18" after winter dormancy.

Interesting Features: Recovers rapidly in spring if damaged by frost. Hummingbird favorite.

HOPSEED BUSH (DODONAEA VISCOSA)



Features

Vigorous, fast-growing shrub, 10-12 ft high and wide. Inconspicuous flowers with pale seed pods that blow away.

Water: Drought tolerant. Moderate water.

Soil: Does best in garden soil.

Location: Full sun but will accept some shade.

Special Care: Avoid shearing, allow to develop natural shape.

Interesting Feature: Good substitute for oleander as a privacy screen or windbreak.

OCOTILLO (FOUQUIERIA SPLENDENS)



Features

Unbranched, thorny canes, 10-15 ft high. Small green leaves cover canes and drop during dry conditions. Spikes of orange flowers.

Water: Low.

Soil: Rocky limestone.

Location: Full sun.

Special Care: Plants grown in containers establish better than

bare roots.

Interesting Features: Excellent accent plant, especially when backlit by the sun. Flowers attract hummingbirds.



VARIEGATED OCTOPUS AGAVE (AGAVE VILMORINIANA)

Features

Light green, fleshy and unarmed, resembling an octopus with elongated curving leaves, 4 ft high and 6 ft wide.

Water: Low.

Soil: Well draining.

Location: Full sun.

Special Care:

Cannot trim or

prune.

Interesting Feature:

Flower stalk appears

when about 10 yrs

old.



OLD MAN CACTUS (OREOCEREUS CELSIANUS)

Features

Silvery hairs cover sharp yellow-brown spines.

Water: Allow soil to approach dryness.

Keep quite dry in winter.

Soil: Equal parts coarse sand and general house plant soil.

Location: Bright light.

Special Care: Fertilize

every 2 months from spring through summer.

Interesting Feature:

Hairiness is due partially to intensity of

sun. If plant lacks

thick hair, may be

natural light is not

enough.

LANTANA (LANTANA MONTEVIDENSIS)

Features

Clumping, rapid growing ground cover, from 1-1/2 to 2 ft high, spreading to 3 ft.



Water: Moderate.

Soil: Tolerant

Location: Part, full or reflected sun. The more sun the better.

Special Care: Space 1-1/2 to 2 ft apart. If damaged by frost,

prune in late winter.

Interesting Features:

Good for erosion control. May be trained as a small bush. Hummingbird favorite.

PALO VERDE (PARKINSONIA SPECIES)

Features

Grows slowly into a 25-35 ft high and wide tree with vivid yellow flower clusters April-May. Desert Museum (Parkinsidium hybrid) is an exceptional species, 15-25 ft high.

Water: Low. Occasional deep watering improves appearance.

Soil: Does best in well draining.

Location: Reflecting sun.

Special Care: Once established, electively thin branches to show off green bark.

Interesting Features: Twiggy growth and low canopy provide shelter for wildlife. Excellent patio tree.



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PARRY'S AGAVE (AGAVE PARRYI)



Features

Broad, gray-green leaves edged with brown teeth, forming compact, nearly round rosettes. Plant reaches 3 ft high.

Water: Low.

Soil: Well draining.

Location: Full sun.

Special Care: Can pup readily into large colonies.

Interesting Features:

Teeth can leave embossed patterns on the leaf they were pressed against.

PETITE PINK OLEANDER (NERIUM OLEANDER 'PETITE PINK')



Features

Profusions of delicate light pink flowers, grows up to 6 ft. All parts are poisonous. Avoid burning.

Water: Moderate.

Soil: Tolerant of a wide range of soils, including heavy, poor and alkaline.

Location: Full sun.

Special Care: Pruning

exposes interior to sunlight, stimulating flowering. Avoid shearing. All parts are poisonous.

Interesting Feature: A workhorse in the desert.

WHEELER'S DWARF PITTOSPORUM (PITTOSPORUM TOBIRA)



Features

Evergreen shrub grows 2 ft high with glossy green leaves.

Water: Moderate. Once established, give occasional deep soaking.

Soil: Garden soil enriched with humus

Location: Partial shade with filtered sunlight. Susceptible to burning with

reflected heat.

Special Care: Plant 2-1/2 ft apart. Plants naturally assume neat, round forms. Never shear into hedges.

Interesting Feature: Dense growth makes it a good foreground shrub.

PONYTAIL PALM (BEAUCARNEA RECURVATA)



Features

Considered a succulent because of its swollen base that stores water. Eventually grows to 20 ft.

Water: Low. Allow soil to dry between waterings.

Soil: Any well draining houseplant soil.

Location: Moderate to bright light.

Special Care: Fertilize monthly.

Interesting Feature: Swollen base can sustain plant during long periods of drought.

PYGMY DATE PALM (PHOENIX ROEBELINII)



Features

Small, slow growing palm, 6-10 ft high and 6-8 ft wide with dense crown.

Water: Moderate, occasional if potted indoor plant.

Soil: Improved. Good drainage.

Location: Full sun, but partial shade in summer.

Special Care: Occasional grooming.

Note: Only plants certified by CA Dept. of Agriculture allowed.

Interesting Feature: Can also do well as a potted plant.

PYRACANTHA (PYRACANTHA COCCINEA)



Features

Evergreen shrub grows fast and vigorous with thick clusters of pea-shaped red berries, 6 ft tall and 8 ft wide. 'Lowboy' is one of the many dwarf types that can be used as a ground cover or on banks.

Water: Moderate. Do not overwater.

Soil: Tolerates most.

Location: Full sun.

Special Care: Hardest of the Pyracantha

family.

Interesting Features: Berries color up late summer to early autumn.



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SAGO PALM (CYCAS REVOLUTA)



Features

Dwarf, compact, palm-like plant, reaches 6-10 ft high and 6 ft wide. Toxic to pets.

Water: Moderate.

Soil: Improved. Good drainage.

Location: Partial filtered shade.

Special Care: Protect

from direct sun with shade cloth in summer.

Interesting Features:

Leaves appear as if waxed. Makes a splendid specimen container plant.

SENNA (SENNA ARTEMISIOIDES)



Features

Shrub growing 5-6 ft high or more with yellow fragrant flowers. Formerly called Cassia.

Water: Low water once established.

Soil: Well drained.

Location: Full sun.

Special Care:

Control by natural thinning and topping.

Interesting

Feature: A star performer.

SHOESTRING ACACIA (ACACIA STENOPHYLLA)



Features

Strong, vertical and graceful, rapidly reaching 25-30 ft high and 15-20 ft wide. Long, stringlike evergreen leaves with yellow flowerheads (catkins).

Water: Low. Deep, infrequent irrigations to establish root system.

Soil: Tolerant of poor soil conditions.

Location: Reflecting light.

Special Care: Remarkably tough and

tolerant of drought and heat. Do not plant in lawns.

Interesting Feature: Does not produce much litter.

SWEET ACACIA (ACACIA FARNESIANA)



Features

Deciduous to semi-deciduous multi-trunk tree. Moderate growth 20-25 ft high and wide.

Water: Low. deep, infrequent.

Soil: Well draining.

Location: Reflected sun.

Special Care: Avoid heavy pruning which leads to problematic suckers.

Interesting Feature: Profuse, wonderfully sweet yellow puffballs in spring.

YELLOW BELLS (TECOMA STANS)



Features

Large, vigorous plant, 15-20 ft high with yellow flowers. Tecoma alata produces orange flowers.

Water: Low, 2-3 times a week in summer.

Soil: Tolerant. Best in improved. Well draining.

Location: Full sun.

Special Care: Prune to

control vigorous growth.

Interesting Feature: With time and training can become a small tree.

TEXAS RANGER (LEUCOPHYLLUM FRUTESCENS)



Features

Features: Shrub 6-8 ft high and wide, with a dwarf variety 3-4 ft high. Colors range from purple to white.

Water: Low.

Soil: Well draining.

Avoid overwatering.

Location: Reflected sun.

Special Care: Allow to grow naturally.

Trimming results in fewer flowers and higher water use.

Interesting Feature: Few problems caused by insects or disease.

TORCH GLOW BOUGAINVILLEA (NYCTAGINACEAE FAMILY)



Features

An erect, multi-stemmed plant to 6 ft. Reddish-pink flowers.

Water: Once established, keep on dry side.

Soil: Most any kind. Needs good drainage.

Location: Full sun.

Special Care: Needs no support.

Interesting Features: Low litter. Only bougainvillea to hold its bracts.



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YELLOW OLEANDER (THEVETIA PERUVIANA)



Features

Lush green shrub with large yellow or peach-colored trumpet flowers to at least 8 ft high.

Water: Moderate.

Soil: Most any kind.

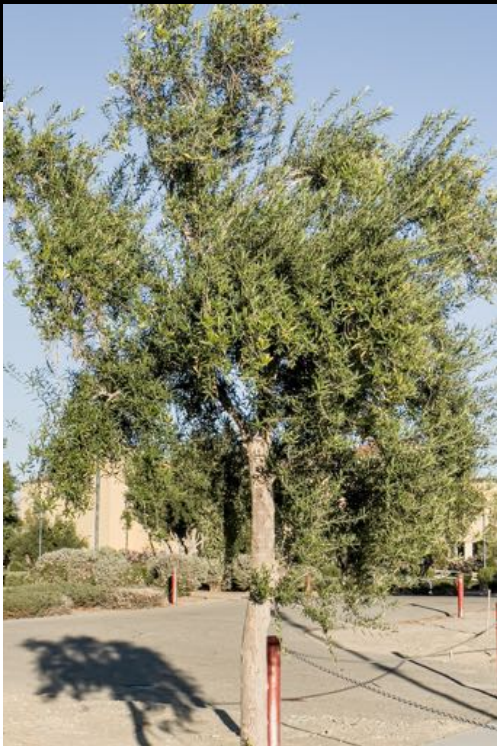
Location: Best in east facing exposure in full morning sun.

Special Care: White sap is toxic to children

and pets. Can take little frost.

Interesting Feature: Can make a fine small tree for tight spaces in low wind area.

AFRICAN SUMAC (RHUS IANCEA)



Features

Dense, wide-spreading evergreen tree with slight weeping growth. Matures 20-25 ft, may spread to 40 ft.

Produces heavy litter. Some people allergic to tree.

Water: Moderate.

Soil: Tolerant, but needs good drainage.

Location: Full sun.

Special Care:

Avoid heavy pruning.

Interesting

Feature: Female trees produce berries in clusters.

BEAVERTAIL CACTUS (OPUNTIA BASILARIS)



Features

Blue-gray beavertail-shaped pads, thornless, but have tiny gochids. Seldom more than 1-1/2 ft high but spreading to 4 ft.

Water: Low. care in handling
Soil: Well and can invade
draining. Gets areas where they
fungus in cold, are not wanted.
wet soil. **Interesting**
Location: **Feature:**
Reflecting sun. Brilliant magenta
Special Care: spring flowers.
Requires special

BOTTLE TREE (BRACHYCHITON POPULNEUS)

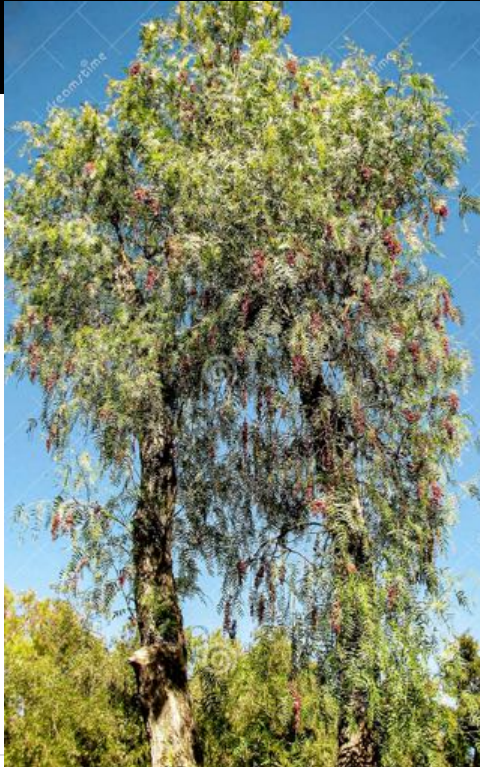


Features

Pyramidal-shaped evergreen tree, 30-50 ft high and 20 ft wide.

Water: Moderate. **Location:** Reflecting
Water at drip line to sun.
encourage deep, wide- **Special Care:** Prune
spreading root system. in winter to remove
Soil: Tolerant. Needs dead wood and
good drainage. May control wayward
yellow in alkaline branches.
soils. Acidify to avoid **Interesting Feature:**
chlorosis. Adapted to hot, dry
and windy conditions.

CALIFORNIA PEPPER TREE (SCHINUS MOLLE)



Features

Fast-growing evergreen tree,
30-40 ft high.

Water: Low to moderate.

Soil: Tolerant. Prefers
deep improved soils with
good drainage.

Location: Reflective sun.

Special Care: Older trees

prone to breakage in strong
winds.

Interesting Feature:

Small, rose-colored berries
hang in clusters on
branches in fall.

BRITTLEBUSH (ENCELIA FARINOSA)



Features

Bright yellow, daisy-like flowers
on tall stems in profuse numbers.
Grows 2-3 ft tall.

Water: Low. May die
back in drought, but comes
back with moisture.

Soil: Well draining.

Location: Full sun.

Special Care: After
flowering cut back 1/3 and
water thoroughly.

Interesting Feature:
Little is required in care.

IXORA (IXORA COCCINEA)

Features

Shrub with dark green leaves and showy clusters of flowers in red, orange, pink or yellow. Dwarf size grows to 4 ft high and wide.



Water: Regular.

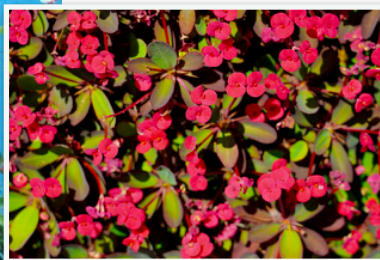
Soil: Well- draining, fertile, acid soil.

Location: Full sun or light shade.

Special Care: Requires little pruning.

Interesting Feature: Also known as Jungle Geranium.

CROWN OF THORNS (EUPHORBIA MILLII)



Features

Shrub-like with thorny stems. Clusters of red flowers bloom most of year.

Water: Drought tolerant, but better appearance with regular summer irrigation.

Soil: Well draining.

Location: Full sun.

Special Care: Becomes rambling with age.

Interesting Features:

Great in containers.

Relative of poinsettia.

**CORAL FOUNTAIN
(RUSSELIA EQUISETIFORMIS)**



Features

Fast-growing, flowering perennial plant with long, slender, arching, fountain-like branches that form a dense mound 4 ft tall and 6 ft wide. Coral red, tubular flowers.

Water: Plenty of supplemental irrigation.

Soil: Rich, fertile, well-draining soil. Salt tolerant.

Location: Full sun or shade.

Special Care: Protection from rabbits when young.

Interesting Features: Excellent plant for floral arrangements. Works well around pool areas.

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TIPU TREE (TIPUANA TIPU)



Features

Evergreen tree growing 25-40 ft high and 30-60 ft wide. Blooms late spring to early summer.

Water: Moderate.

Soil: Not particular.

Location: Full sun.

Special Care: Will not take

strongly alkaline conditions.

Interesting Feature:

Useful as a shade tree for patio or terrace.

YUCCA PALLIDA



Features Also known as Pale Leaf Yucca because of its silvery blue-green leaves. Grows 2 ft high and wide with rosettes sitting directly on the ground. Often grows into a colony of multiple upshoots.

Water Low, drought tolerant. With ample water, clumps can get large, with up to 30 rosettes.

Soil Well drained, rich, gritty. Clay tolerant.

Location Full sun to light shade.

Special Care Full sun is best for floral display. Hardy to 0 degrees.

Interesting Feature In spring a lovely white flower stalk will begin to shoot upwards, bringing the plant to almost 6 ft.

FIRESTICK (EUPHORBIA TIRUCALLI)

Features

Also known as Pencil Cactus. Succulent bush known for its vibrant orange-red color. Stems are tall and slender with no leaves.



Water: Water thoroughly and allow soil to dry out completely between waterings. Allow soil to dry for a couple of days in winter.
Soil: Gritty, well-draining soil. (Two parts sand, 2 parts potting soil, 1 part perlite.)

Location: Full sun or part shade. A high light plant.
Special Care: Thrives in low humidity.
Interesting Feature: Sap is toxic and irritating. Wear gloves and eye protection when handling.

BOUGAINVILLEA (NYTAGINACEAE FAMILY)

Features

A workhorse plant that thrives on abuse. Produces volumes of color and can be grown as a shrub or vine. Produces a lot of litter. Invasive. 'Barbara Karst' is hardiest.



Water: Once established, keep on dry side.
Soil: Tolerant. Needs good drainage.
Location: Full sun. Tolerates shade but does not bloom well.
Special Care: Select a warm microclimate. If nipped by frost, wait until spring to remove frost

damage. Highly sensitive to disturbances. Root balls tend to fall apart when planting. To avoid damage, slice container and slide plant out.
Interesting Feature: Flowers are actually bracts (modified leaves) that come in a wide range of colors.



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OLEANDER (NERIUM OLEANDER)



Features

A workhorse plant. Ranges from 5-20 ft high and 4-12 ft wide. Flowers are red, pink or white, white ('Sister Agnes') being the tallest.

Water: Moderate.

Soil: Tolerant of a wide range of soils, including heavy, poor and alkaline.

Location: Full sun.

Special Care: All parts highly toxic. Do not burn. Pruning exposes interior of plant to sunlight,

stimulating new flowering wood. Avoid shearing.

Older plants susceptible to oleander leaf scorch caused by a bacteria which may eventually kill them.

Special Feature: Useful as a windbreak and screen.

CALLIANDRA (CALLIANDRA HAEMATOCEPHALA)



Features

Evergreen, sprawling plant to 10 ft high and wide. Also known as Pink Powder Puff.

Water: High water, daily in summer.

Soil: Well draining.

Location: Full sun, accepts some shade.

Special Care: Can train

to grow along wall.

Interesting Features: In winter a profusion of red-pink powder puff flowers that attract hummingbirds.

PENTAS (PENTAS LANCEOLATA)



Features

Annual with tight clusters of small star-shaped flowers in white, pink, lilac or red on stems up to 2 ft.

Water: Regular, for plants to last into hottest weather.

Soil: Improved soil. Well draining.

Location: Part sun to filtered shade.

Special Care: Remove dead flowers to extend bloom season.

Interesting Feature: Can be used as a houseplant in bright south- or west-facing window.

VINCA (CATHARANTHUS ROSEUS)



Features

Annual bedding plant bearing profuse flowers from spring into summer.

Water: Moderate.

Soil: Almost any soil.

Location: Sun.

Special Care: Feed with diluted fertilizer

monthly.

Interesting

Feature:

Available in white, red, pink and magenta flowers.

DESERT SPOON (DASYLIRION WHEELERI)



Features

Slow growing, 4-6 ft high, eventually developing a trunk.

Water: Drought tolerant, occasional water in summer.

Soil: Any soil with good drainage.

Location: Full sun to open shade.

Special Care: Remove

old bloom stalks.

Interesting Features: Older plants occasionally develop several heads. Once mature, flower spikes appear in late fall.

SWEET ALYSSUM (LABULARIA MARITIMA)



Features

Easy care annual plant to 1 ft high and wide. Crowded clusters of tiny white flowers with a sweet honey fragrance.

Water: Regular water.

Soil: Thrives in poor, rocky soil so long as it is well drained.

Location: Best in sun, tolerates light shade.

Special Care: If you shear plants halfway back 4 weeks after they

come into bloom, new growth will make another crop of flowers.

Interesting Features: Easy, quick, dependable. Flowers attract bees. If planted as a border, will keep rabbits out of flower beds.

TOTEM POLE CACTUS (CEREUS PERUVIANUS)



Features

Columnar, deeply ribbed to 20 ft, spreading to 15 ft. Large white flowers, big red egg-shaped fruit.

Water: Occasional.

Soil: Good drainage.

Location: Full to part sun.

Special Care: Yellows in reflected sun.

Interesting Feature: Favorite for decorating.

MEXICAN BLUE PALM (BRAHEA ARMATA)



Features

Slow growing, 20-30 ft high, 10 ft wide. Icy blue fan-shaped fronds. Conspicuous creamy flowers.

Water: Low. Drought tolerant. For best results, irrigate deeply at wide intervals.

Soil: Tolerant. Grows naturally in limestone soils. Prefers improved garden soil.

Location: Reflecting sun.

Special Care: Can take heat and wind.

Interesting Features: Well suited to small gardens, low litter, good near pools.

TEXAS EBONY (EBANOPSIS EBANO)



Features

Slow growing tree 20-30 ft high and 15-20 ft wide. Dense, dark green leaves with sharp thorns. Fragrant flowers followed by large decorative seed pods.

Water: Low.
Soil: Tolerant.
Good draining.
Grows best in deep soil.
Location:
Reflecting sun.

Special Care:
Avoid planting near walkways.
Interesting Feature: Great security barrier.

HEAVENLY BAMBOO (NANDINA DOMESTICA)



Features

Compact, evergreen shrub, 5-10 ft high.

Water: Moderate.
Soil: Accepts most.
Location: Full sun, best with east or north exposure. Don't plant on sunny west side.

Special Care: As plant ages, remove old stem to renew growth.
Interesting Features: Red berries in winter. Great in containers.



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SAGUARO CACTUS (CARNEGIEA GIGANTEA)



Features

Long-lived, growing very slowly to 50 ft. Typically produces branches after 12-15 ft. Mature plant blooms in spring. Edible fruit.

Water: No irrigation needed.

Soil: Good drainage.

Location: Full sun.

Special Care: Regular water and fertilizer will speed growth. When choosing a nursery-grown plant, look for one with a good root system.

Interesting Feature: In the wild, may be a column only 3 ft high after 30 years.

FRUITLESS OLIVE TREE (OLIA EUROPAEA)



Features

Slow to moderate growth, 20-30 ft high and wide. Distinctive narrow green leaves.

Water: Accepts low water, but more water produces a more handsome tree.

Soil: Accepts most any but looks best in deep, rich soil.

Location: Full sun. Endures heat and cold wind.

Special Care: Avoid heavy pruning which can allow sun to damage trunk. If tree is pruned up, will sucker profusely. Pull off suckers rather than prune them.

Interesting Feature: With time trunks become gnarled, adding to tree's character.

ORGAN PIPE CACTUS (STENOCEREUS THURBERI)



Features

Grows slowly to 15-20 ft tall. Columnar cactus resembling a pipe organ, with narrow ribs and reddish-brown spines. Pale pink flowers open at night in late spring.

Water: Low.

Soil: Needs excellent drainage.

Location: Full sun.

Special Care: Branches from base but also from

top, if injured.

Interesting Feature:

Rounded, olive green, edible fruit which becomes red when ripe.

VARIEGATED AGAVE AMERICANA



Features

Century plant. Reaches 6 ft high and wide.

Water: Occasional. Avoid overwatering.

Soil: Tolerates most except waterlogged. Needs well draining.

Location: Make sure it gets sunlight; full to partial.

Special Care: Should

not sit in water. Does not handle cold well.

Susceptible to grubs and should be treated annually.

Interesting Feature: Blooms once after many years of growth, then dies.

RUELLIA (RUELLIA BRITTONIANA 'KATIE')



Features

Dwarf evergreen perennial growing to 12", spreading in a mounding form with blue, bell-shaped flowers. Flowers bloom continuously in warm weather.

Water: Occasional.
Weekly in summer.

Soil: Tolerant of many.

Location: Full sun or light shade.

Special Care: This dwarf is non-invasive.

Interesting Feature: Good underplanting for filtered shade.

PETUNIA (PETUNIA X HYBRIDS – SOLANACEAE FAMILY)

Features

Annual available in many colors.



Water: High.

Soil: Mix pellet-type fertilizer into soil when planting.

Location: Prefers sun but accepts partial shade.

Special Care: Overwatering can lead to disease problems. Check moisture often.

Interesting Feature: Most colorful of all annuals in desert gardens.

EVOLVULUS 'BLUE DAZE' (EVOLVULUS GLOMERATUS)



Features

Annual with small, trailing blue morning glory flowers with stems to 20" long.

Water: Moderate.
Regular.

Soil: Moist.

Location: Accepts full sun or partial shade.

Special Care: Cuttings root easily. Stems root

where they touch the ground.

Interesting Feature: Flowers close in the evening and on dark, cloudy days.

BLACKFOOT DAISY (MELAMPODIUM LEUCANTHUM)



Features

Short-lived perennial, 1 ft high and wide, in clumps of narrow gray leaves topped with clouds of honey-scented white daisies with yellow centers. Blooms mid-spring to early fall.

Water: Moderate.

Soil: Fast draining.

Location: Full sun with afternoon shade.

Special Care: If

plant becomes straggly, cut back in fall.

Interesting Feature: Used as a ground cover.

MILKWEED (ASCLEPIAS SUBLATA)

Features

Leafless stems rising from a single root crown 2-4 feet tall and as wide; bares leaves after rain. Creamy white flowers bloom in clusters followed by narrow, milkweed pods. A perennial also known as rush milkweed or desert milkweed.



Water: Low water
Soil: Dry, rocky or sandy well-drained soil
Location: Full sun. Shade tolerant
Special Care: Can be toxic to humans and animals; can irritate the

skin and eyes.
Interesting Feature: Larval Food source for caterpillars of the Monarch and Queen Butterflies; critical to the Monarch butterfly's survival.

SMOKE TREE (COTINUS COGGYRIA)

Features

Deciduous shrub or tree up to 25 ft high. Distinctively spaced roundish blue-green leaves turning to orange-red, yellow or purple in fall.



Water: Moderate.
Soil: Improved with good drainage.
Location: Full sun.
Special Care: At its best under stress in poor

or rocky soil.
Interesting Feature: Fading sterile flowers elongate into fuzzy purple hairs that look like smoke.

ANGELITA DAISY (HYMENOXYS ACAULIS)



Features

A one-foot high and wide clumping perennial with continuous warm weather bloom of golden yellow daisy-like flowers.

Water: Regular irrigation.

heads several times throughout season to maintain bloom.

Soil: Well draining.

Location: Full sun.

Interesting Feature: Fast growth.

Special Care: Remove old flower

LITTLE JOHN BOTTLEBRUSH (CALLISTEMON VIMALIS)



Features

Narrow light green leaves to 3 ft high and wide.

Water: Moderate.

may not send out new growth. Little pruning is needed.

Soil: Can tolerate moist soil, acidify quarterly to prevent chlorosis and encourage flowering.

Location: Full sun.

Interesting Features: Profuse numbers of red bottlebrush flowers bloom fall into spring.

Special Care: Don't cut into bare wood beyond leaves as plant

Attracts hummingbirds.



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Marilee Morgan, Plant Descriptions
Nancy Westerholm, Plant Photos
Connie Stephens & Linda Biewer, Plant Guide Editors
Gloria Kapp, Graphic Designer
Joel Effron, Consultant
Julian Humphries, Consultant