



Approved Plants 2019



Leisure World
Arizona

TABLE OF CONTENTS

AGAVE

BOTTLEBRUSH

BOUGAINVILLEA

BOXWOOD BEAUTY

CAPE HONEYSUCKLE

DESERT HONEYSUCKLE

DWARF MYRTLE

EUONYMUS

FEATHERY CASSIA

HIBISCUS

HOPSEED

INDIAN HAWTHORN

JAPANESE BOXWOOD

LANTANA

LAVENDER

MEXICAN BIRD OF PARADISE

MEXICAN YELLOW BELLS

MOCK ORANGE

MORNING GLORY

ORANGE JUBILEE

PHOTINIA

ROSEMARY

TEXAS SAGE

TUTTLEI NATAL PLUM

WAX LEAF PRIVET

XYLOSMA

YAUPON HOLLY STOKES

YUCCA-RED

CACTUS

GOLDEN BARREL CACTUS

AGAVE

(*Agave desmettiana*)

Agave desmettiana commonly referred to as Smooth Agave because of its spineless leaves makes this a softer choice to plant in any landscape style. The long dark green leaves will curl upwards giving it a tighter rosette style appearance.



These succulent agaves are a water-wise as well as fire-wise planting choice. Agave desmettiana also work well in rock gardens, pots, planters or as stand alone succulents. These agave grow to about 3-5' tall as well as wide and require minimal care once established, simply cut off old leaves as new ones grow in, sharp garden shears work best for this job.

Smooth Agave are fairly hardy withstanding temperatures below freezing and will grow well in full to filtered sunlight. These particular agave like to be planted in a more well drained soil, one trick to do this in clay soil is to be sure to dig deep enough to add a few inches of sand and rock to the bottom of the hole, this will help drain excess water during periods of heavy rain.

FEATURES



Full to partial sun



Water Wise - Ultra drought tolerant



Easy to grow and establish

LITTLE JOHN BOTTLEBRUSH

Callistemon citrinus 'Little John'

The *Callistemon citrinus*, commonly known as 'Little John', is one of the most seen and identifiable shrubs in the Valley. The small to medium shrub produces dark red, brushy flowers during the spring and fall. Versatile, hardy and colorful the Little John is a popular accent used in many types of landscapes.

Little John's make a nice informal hedge, accent to a desert yard, or planted in mass over large areas.

They thrive in a variety of soil conditions and love the Arizona summer heat. Fertilize consistently spring through fall with Moon Dust to keep them dark green and flush full of red flowers.



FEATURES



Prolific red brushy flowers



Full to partial sun



Evergreen even in the coldest winters

BOUGAINVILLEA

Bougainvillea spp.

Bougainvillea come in three different varieties; bush form, vine form and Torch Glow, which is a more compact variety. Bougainvillea love the heat and are an extremely drought tolerant plant once established. They are heavy bloomers throughout Spring and Fall.



While extremely hardy in the desert heat, these plants can be damaged by hard frost and should be protected.



FEATURES



Bougainvilleas are one of the most popular plants here in Arizona because of their massive displays of bright flowers in many colors



Grow in full to part sun, these tough beauties bloom in cycles from early spring to late fall



Drought tolerant

BOXWOOD BEAUTY

Carrissa macrocarpa

This low growing, very dense shrub displays shiny, dark green leaves and fragrant, white, star-shaped flowers from spring through the fall. The Boxwood Beauty (*Carissa macrocarpa*) is great for a low hedge or small foundation planting and can be planted in full sun or shade.

It is mostly used in tropical landscapes but also makes an ideal contrast plant in desert yards. It is one of the most versatile plants available because of the wide variety of locations and landscape styles it can be planted in.



FEATURES



Compact mounding bush



Green year round



Low maintenance and little pruning



Full to partial sun

CAPE HONEYSUCKLE

Tecoma capensis

Cape Honeysuckle is one of the most versatile plants for any landscape. A scrambling shrub that can be trimmed as medium to large bushes or hedges, are frequently used as vines to cover posts or fences, and also make very nice patio trees in gardens or containers.

Burst of bright orange blooms prolifically in fall through spring. Protect them on the coldest nights to prevent frost burned leaves or damaged new growth.

Plant in well prepared soil with good drainage and water moderately. Fertilize with Moon Dust mid-spring through early fall to keep them looking their best.



DESERT HONEYSUCKLE

Justicia spicigera

Mexican Honeysuckle grows about knee high and spreads up to 5' across. Light green foliage with lots of orange bloom clusters on a fast growing plant. Will tolerate full sun, but performs the best with morning sun or under the canopy of filtering desert trees like Mesquites or Palo Verdes.

Plant them in loose draining soil, lots of sand is good. Mexican Honeysuckle prefer deep water but make sure to let them dry a bit between watering. Heavy wet soils make them turn yellow. Trim in late winter for the best appearance throughout the blooming season.



FEATURES



Medium sized evergreen shrub



Drought tolerant



Orange trumpet shaped flowers late spring through fall



Attract Butterflies

DWARF MYRTLE

Myrtus communis 'Compacta'

Dwarf Myrtle is an excellent hardy shrub mostly used for small to medium hedges. Dwarf Myrtle works in many applications and is very cold and heat hardy. Dwarf Myrtle can be planted in tight rows to create a thick privacy screen for porches, patios or for property lines. Dwarf Myrtle are an evergreen plant that will bloom small white flowers in early to mid-spring.

Dwarf Myrtle can also be used as a topiary style plant and in pots as well.



FEATURES



Lush dark green foliage



Full to partial sun



Cold Hardy

EUONYMUS (Dwarf & Regular)

Euonymus

The genus *Euonymus* is comprised of 175 species of shrubs, trees, and climbers grown for their attractive foliage, interesting fruit, and good autumn color. Most are native to Asia. *Euonymus* have a variety of uses in the garden, including as part of a shrub border or as specimens, hedges, or groundcovers.

Nice autumn color and ornamental fruit. All parts cause mild stomach discomfort if eaten.

Tolerates most any well-drained soil in full sun or light shade. Evergreens need a sheltered site, while variegated plants show best in sun.



FEATHERY CASSIA

Senna artemisioides

Feathery Cassia is a fast growing, large desert shrub with soft, delicate looking silver foliage. It is best used along borders or in the background of most landscape where they can best show-off their huge floral display in early spring.

Trim hard immediately after blooming to control size and easily remove seed pods. Water deeply and allow the soil to dry out well between watering once they are established.



FEATURES



Fragrant, bright yellow flowers



Large shrub for background planting or informal screening



Very hardy, heat and drought tolerant for desert or sub-tropical landscapes

HIBISCUS

Hibiscus rosa-sinenses

Hibiscus are medium to large growing shrubs with very lush, dark foliage and beautiful flowers that come in a wide variety of colors. These beautiful flowering plants prefer to be planted in well-prepared garden soil that drains well and need even moisture for their roots. Be careful though as heavy soil tends to suffocate them.



They grow great in partial sun and will acclimate to full sun easily. Fertilize monthly from March through September to encourage the best growth and a prolific blooming season.

Hibiscus are frost tender and should be protected during cold nights to prevent frost burning on their leaves. If a hard freeze occurs, younger plants could be killed without adequate protection. Plants recover from non-fatal damage very quickly in the spring.

FEATURES



Large bright tropical flowers



Dark green lush foliage



Medium to large shrub use as hedge, character accent and in large containers as focal point



Great in pots!

INDIAN HAWTHORN

Raphiolepis indica

- A familiar sight lining the sidewalks in parking lots
- Very cold hardy shrubs that can grow well in full shade
- Can produce large clusters of decorative small pink flowers in mid spring

Indian Hawthorn, can bring a vibrant splash of pink color to any landscape in mid-spring! Native to southern China, *Raphiolepis indica* is often used as a hedge and in beds and borders where these

low maintenance plants are sure to attract the right attention. This shrub is a broad-leaved evergreen that is ideal for growing near buildings and other structures that could benefit from some color enhancement. We also like to let them mound naturally so that they can also be used as a privacy screen that can block unwanted views in style!

These are versatile evergreen shrubs. In fact, Indian Hawthorn can bloom in the shade or grow in a spot with plenty of full sun exposure. They are very cold hardy, and once established, *Raphiolepis indica* will have little to moderate water requirements.



FEATURES



Clusters of bright pink flowers in spring



Will bloom in shade or survive open sunlight



Medium sized shrub good near buildings, use in beds and borders



Cold Hardy

JAPANESE BOXWOOD

Buxus microphylla japonica

This hardy evergreen is an excellent choice for low to medium formal hedges along walls or walkways. The Japanese Boxwood has attractive, bright green foliage that looks beautiful against buildings when used as a foundation plant. *Buxus japonica* is a great choice for pruning into topiary or geometric shapes when desired.

Plant in well drained soil with planting mix blended into native soil. Water deeply and regularly during warm months and allow the soil to dry out between watering in cooler months.



FEATURES



Small to medium hedge or foundation shrub



Evergreen even in the coldest winters



Part sun, will acclimate to full sun



Attractive dense bright green leaves

LANTANA

Lantana

Lantana are one of the most colorful plants used in warm climates. Seen on highways, municipal grounds, commercial property and around homes, Lantana are great for adding color to desert landscaping and tropical settings. Plant them in part to full sun and water deeply.

Trailing Lantana

Trailing Lantana are low growing, spreading varieties. Their color palette is mostly purple, white or pale yellow. These Lantana are evergreen except in the coldest of winters.

Dwarf or Mounding Lantana

Dwarf/Mounding Lantana are small growing shrubs that hug the ground in clumps or small mounds. The most popular colors of this Lantana are Red, gold and pink. They will bloom early and often through the warm months but cold winters will cause them to drop their foliage and then re-leaf in very early spring.

Bush Lantana

Bush Lantana are small to medium sized shrubs that come in a wide variety of colors. The most popular are orange/red and pink. Fast growing deciduous shrubs.



FEATURES



Bright flowers from spring through fall



Rabbit and animal resistant



Very easy to grow in almost any situation



Attract Butterflies

LAVENDER

Lavandula

- Evergreen shrubs
- Attracts birds and butterflies
- Durable plant that can stand heat and drought
- Grows well in containers
- Ideal for planting along walkways and garden paths
- Easy to grow



Few plants are as strongly identified by their fragrance and color as Lavender. *Lavandula* (botanical name) is native to the Mediterranean region. These plants are noted for their flower colors that can be lavender, purple, pink, or white. Their silvery-green foliage, upright flower spikes, and compact, shrub-like form make them an ideal informal hedge. These evergreen shrubs are ideal for the countryside or to add vibrant color to any urban garden. We can also plant them to create an aromatic border along a path. We recommend planting them someplace where you can enjoy the aromatic flowers!

Lavender plants prefer to grow in a location with full sun exposure and good air circulation. Once established, they have little to moderate watering needs. Do not overwater these plants. These are also very low-maintenance plants with minimal pruning requirements.

Some people like to plant Lavender near patios and porches. They act as a natural pest repellent! People all over the world rave about the aromatic flowers. Insects are a different story. Their scent has been known to deter mosquitoes, flies, fleas, and other annoying insects! And, while they may repel problem insects, they can attract beautiful butterflies to your garden!

FEATURES



Easy to grow



Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies



Abundant lavender flowers in cycles late spring through fall

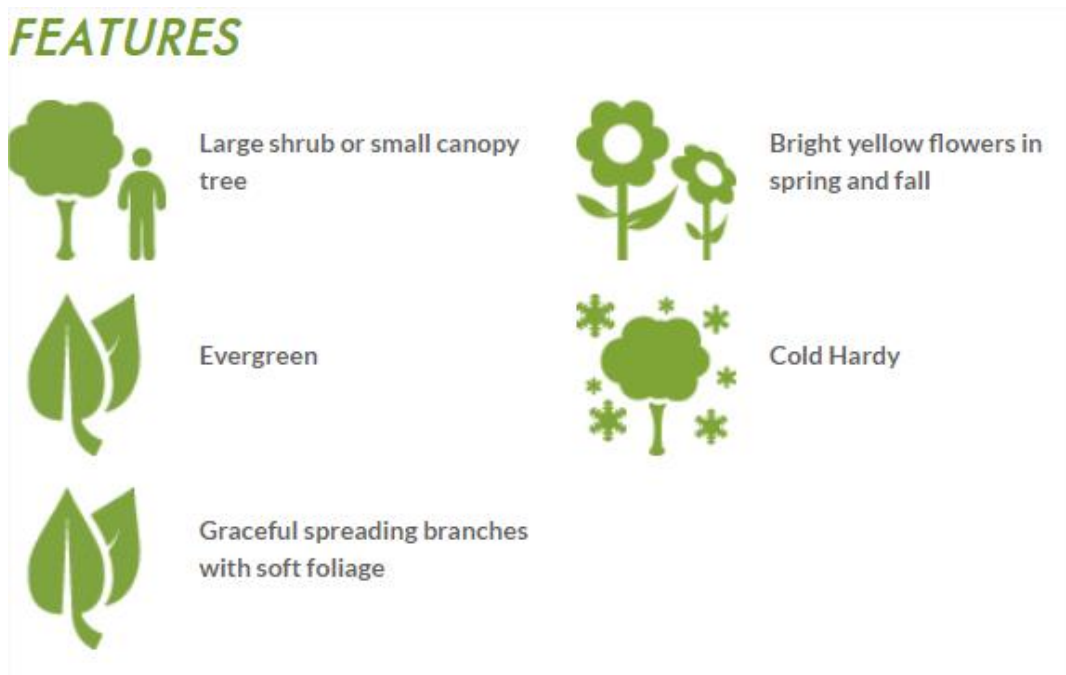
MEXICAN BIRD OF PARADISE

(Caesalpinia mexicana)

Correctly called Mexican Bird of Paradise, they can easily be shaped as a full dense shrub or screen, or allowed to grow into a small natural canopy tree. The yellow flowers come in waves continuously during the growing season. Removing dead flowers will reduce litter from seeds and promote faster re-bloom. There are several names for the Mexican Bird of Paradise including Yellow Bird of Paradise and Evergreen Bird of Paradise.



The Mexican Bird of Paradise flourishes in full sun and is very drought tolerant after becoming established with deep water.



MEXICAN YELLOW BELLS

Bignoniaceae, Tecoma stans

Native to the Sonoran Desert

Desert plants that are perennial (you need to plant them only once), hardy, low care and relatively drought resistant

Yellow Bells is an evergreen shrub that loves sun and heat. It can be grown in a container. It blooms from late spring through early fall. They are drought resistant, and as such don't require too much

water. The plant does well in almost any soil. These are fast growing plants; Yellow Bells plants will get to about 12 feet tall, and several feet wide.

The Yellow Bells blooms are bright yellow and tubular; they look like elongated bells. This desert plant attracts hummingbirds and bees. The leaves are a vibrant green color



MOCK ORANGE

Pittosporum tobira

Mock Orange is a very hardy shrub with deep green shiny leaves. It has a naturally mounding shape spreading equal to it's height. This plant is very useful as a hedge or anchor plant near buildings because it will only need trimming twice a year.



Mock Orange will grow in full shade, half-sun and if planted in fall or winter will acclimate to full sun with very little leaf scorch. They grow twice a year in desert climates, spring and fall. It is best to trim before the growth spurt so recovery is quick leaving beautiful soft foliage in the desired shape.

Plant them in well draining soil and water deeply to encourage deep roots.

FEATURES



Medium to large growing evergreen shrub



Shiny green leaves with fragrant white flowers in spring



Trim formally into hedge or grow into soft mounding shrub



Cold Hardy

MORNING GLORY

Convolvulus cneorum

Morning Glory produces soft, silver foliage on a low mounding shrub that looks beautiful on mounds, in rocky landscapes and near cactus as a contrast. Silver Bush Morning Glory can really stand out when used in raised planters and containers for a nice contrast.

Shear in spring every couple years to keep it fresh and full. *Convolvulus cneorum* prefers full to half sun with well draining soil.



FEATURES



Abundant white flowers
Spring and Fall



Low growing shrub or ground
cover



Cold Hardy



Full sun

ORANGE JUBILEE

Tecoma alata

Orange Jubilee is noted for the fast growing, reaching branch structure with bright orange flowers. They can reach 10 to 12 ft high with long leggy branches. Trim occasionally to keep them full and well behaved.



Plant Orange Jubilee where they will receive at least half a day of sun and soil with good drainage would be best even though they are tolerant of heavy soil if they can dry out.

Mostly deciduous in normal winters, a hard freeze will damage their branches. Not to worry, they will recover very quickly in spring with warmer weather.

FEATURES



Fast growing large shrub with large cluster of orange trumpet blooms



Loves the sun and blooms all summer and fall



Fairly drought tolerant and sun hardy



Use for screens, hedges, and along walls and borders

PHOTINIA

Photinia fraseri

Photinia is a large growing shrub with dark, shiny leaves and red new leaves. Large clusters of small white flowers appear mid-spring through early summer. They grow best in morning sun, but will acclimate to full sun if planted in fall or winter.



FEATURES



Medium to large shrub use as hedge, character accent and in large containers as focal point



New leaves are red and very showy



Cold Hardy



Good for hedges, screens, foundation planting

ROSEMARY

Romarinus officianalus

Rosemary is a very hardy herbaceous shrub with many ornamental uses in all styles of landscaping. Easy to grow in a variety of soils, rosemary has been a mainstay of western gardens for decades.

Trailing variety can reach thigh high or be trimmed under 1 ft tall and allowed to spread as a ground cover. In raised planters and pots they will trail straight down the sides.

Upright Rosemary can reach heights up to 5' and more than 3' across if desired.

Very suitable for sun or part shade
Rosemary is very drought tolerant if watered deeply when young.



FEATURES



Evergreen shrub with bright blue flowers and grey green foliage



Foliage used for cooking and potpourri



Cold hardy and thrives in full sun

TEXAS SAGE

Leucophyllum frutescens

Texas Sage is a very hardy shrub for desert landscapes. It can be shaped into balls and squares, hedged or grown free form. They are well suited to desert landscaping and beautiful as a contrast in green landscapes.

Lavender flowers appear in cycles with the summer humidity changes and cover the entire plant with a blanket of color



FEATURES



Medium to large shrub with light grey foliage



Abundant lavender flowers in cycles late spring through fall



Full sun



Cold Hardy

TUTTLEI NATAL PLUM

Carissa macrocarpa 'Tuttlei'

This heat tolerant selection is at home in most soils and water conditions. The Natal Plum (*Carissa macrocarpa Tuttlei*) can be used as a formal hedge along house walls or bordering walkways. When allowed to grow free-form this plant is perfect as a backdrop in planter beds.

The Natal Plum is very clean, easy to maintain and recovers quickly from frost damage. Remember to protect this plant from hard freezing temperatures to prevent damage to the branch structure.



FEATURES



Medium sized shrub great for hedges and near buildings.



White star-shaped flowers with light fragrance



Lush dark green leaves



Full to partial sun

WAX LEAF PRIVET

Ligustrum japonicum 'Texanum'

Wax Leaf Privet, botanical name *Ligustrum japonicum 'Texanum'*, is an evergreen shrub that adapts well to most landscape styles in the Southwest. From northern China, Korea and Japan, this lush and compact shrub is a good candidate for topiary forms, bringing a formal look to gardens across the Southwest. In fact, it is common to see the Wax Leaf Privet adorning landscapes shaped into cones, globes or the classic "vertical poodle" forms. Homeowners can bring an elegant look to an entrance by growing poodle form shrubs in containers, flanking the front door or porch steps.



Heat tolerant and cold hardy, you can expect the Wax Leaf Privet to keep its lush, dense green foliage all year long. This evergreen shrub provides year round interest. It requires low to moderate water use and thrives in full sun or partial shade environments. Easy to care for, 'Texanum' is a fast growing, small to medium shrub that blooms profusely in the spring. Springtime brings beautiful, fragrant, white flower clusters that attract hummingbirds and other pollinators. A staple landscaping plant in the Southwest, this bird friendly shrub will bring nature home to an urban garden or homes along the coast.

It makes a great tamed hedge and requires less maintenance than most other hedges, which is why you often see the Wax Leaf Privet shrub used along a border between homes, as a privacy hedge or windbreak. Homeowners that live near busy streets will appreciate its excellent sound barrier features.

FEATURES



Fast growing dense evergreen foliage



Terrific for privacy, branches and leaves grow densely together



Signature smooth wax-like leaves that are smooth to the touch



Grows in a tree and shrub form

XYLOSMA

Xylosma senticosa

Xylosma is a very attractive shrub with bright green shiny leaves that will grow in part to full sun. Frequently planted as a hedge or screen, this hardy evergreen thrives in desert heat and will grow in light open shade to full sun.

Xylosma makes a beautiful small tree up to around twenty feet if allowed. It takes a few years for the trunk to develop strength to support a full head of growth, so thin growth as the tree grows.

Plant Xylosma ensuring good drainage. If soil is very rocky, add compost around root ball to give the dirt substance. Water very deeply to encourage deep roots.



FEATURES



Hardy evergreen shrub or small tree



Trim formally for shapes, hedge or screen



Bright shiny green leaves



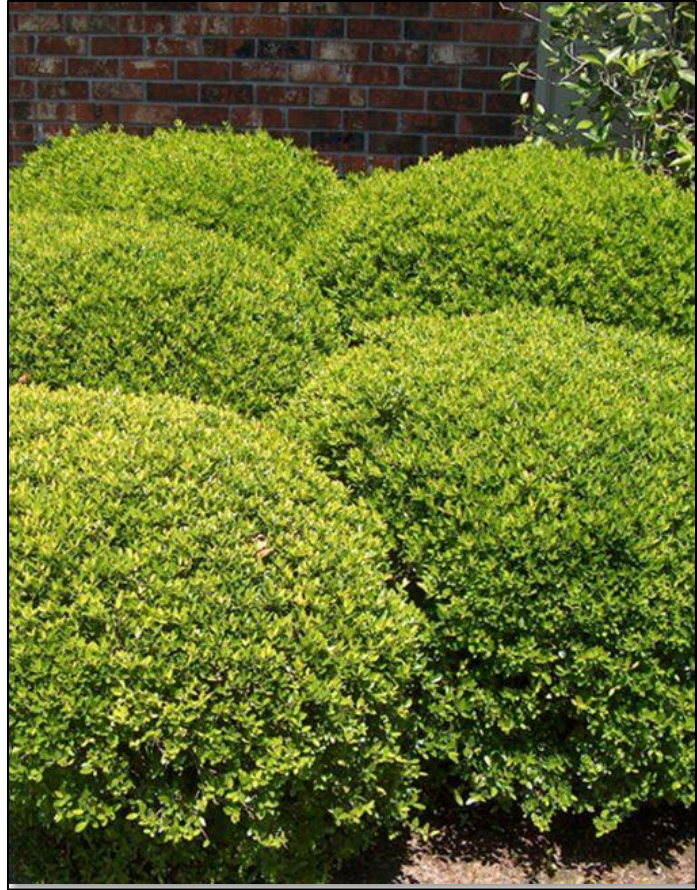
Cold Hardy

YAUPON HOLLY STOKES

Ilex vomitoria 'Stokes'

Dwarf Yaupon Holly is a very tough little shrub that can be used as a border plant, along walkways and around rocks. Dark, olive green foliage blends well in tropical yards and desert landscapes. Small, off-white flowers appear in the Spring and are insignificant.

Plant in well drained soil and water deeply. They are fairly drought tolerant after they have been established and thrive in the desert heat.



FEATURES



Small evergreen shrub



Full sun



Cold Hardy



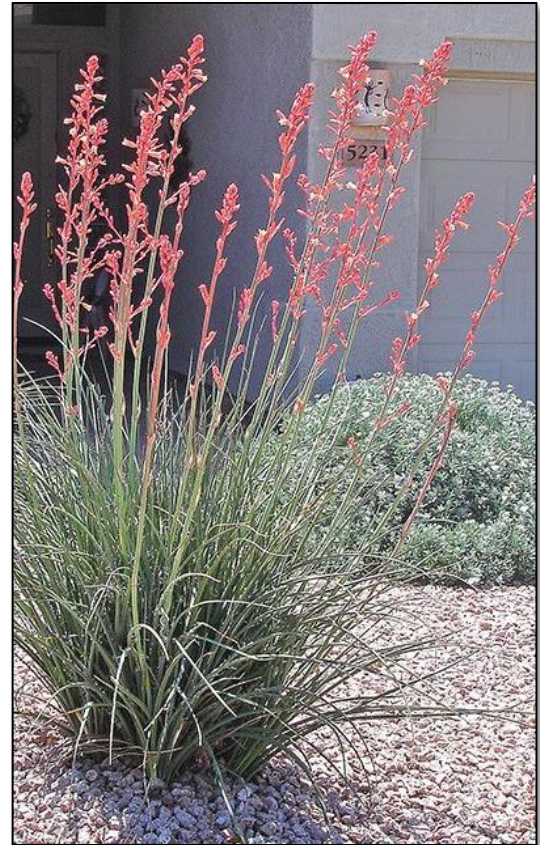
Trim into shapes or as a hedge

YUCCA-RED

Hesperaloe parvifolia

Red Yucca is an excellent accent plant for desert and transition areas. Attractive clumps of long grey leaves with a fringe of white hairs down the sides make the *Hesperaloe parvifolia* a truly beautiful desert plant. Vibrant flower spikes rise high above the plant from the spring through the fall. Red Yucca require very low maintenance and are tolerant of a wide range of soil and water conditions.

Remove dead flower stalks as they form seed heads to encourage new bloom spikes. Red Yucca is very cold tolerant making it perfect for accenting landscapes away from the protection of buildings and trees.



FEATURES



Beautiful red bloom spikes



Architectural accent



Heat and drought tolerant



Spineless alternative to
Agave and Yucca varieties

GOLDEN BARREL CACTUS

Echinocactus grusonii

The Golden Barrel Cactus is one of our most sought after and popular varieties of cacti. Named for its unmistakable shape and bright golden tint, the Golden Barrel Cactus grows very slowly, allowing landscapers to ensure the perfectly round shape stays that way. Each 'ridge' of the cacti is covered in



straight, lightly-colored thorns that create a screen of coverage providing this cactus with its golden tint.

As an added spectacle of desert beauty, Golden Barrel Cactus produce a cluster of yellow flowers from the top of the plant, producing a yellow fruit when ripe. Plant Golden Barrel Cactus in rows, planters, or corners of landscapes to add a uniquely Arizonan touch to your yard.

FEATURES



Medium size, slower growing



Partial to full sun applicable