

White Thorn Acacia

Acacia constricta

**Size:**

Up to 10' tall x 15' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Deciduous

Water Needs:

Low

Exposure:

Full sun

Hardiness:

-10 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Spring-Summer

General: This tree looks like a miniature Mesquite tree! It has tiny leaves that give the foliage a ferny appearance. White thorns are common on young wood, although some plants are reputed to not be spiny at all. The flowers are fragrant yellow balls and last from spring through summer. The brown, curved bean-like pods are favored by quail.

Designer: This deciduous plant can vary in size from a medium shrub to a small tree, depending upon the site and available moisture. In the wild it grows slowly to waist height, forming dense thickets, but with training and some irrigation, it becomes a beautiful and staturesque small tree. The flower fragrance is wonderful.

Maintenance: As with all trees, it should always be pruned thoughtfully. With this species good development of structure and form is especially critical in youth. No pest or disease problems have been noted or observed. Pruning can and should be performed so as to allow pets and humans to avoid thorns, but should be kept far enough away from walkways to allow for mature size of the tree.

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Blue Elf Aloe

Aloe 'Blue Elf'



Size:

18" wide x 2' tall

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low to Moderate

Exposure:

Full sun to full shade

Hardiness:

20 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

January – April

General: Aloe 'Blue Elf' is a tightly clumping aloe with bluish foliage. Bold, coral red flowers bloom in late winter or early spring. Leaves are narrow and seem more delicate than those of most other aloes. Over time it produces lots of vegetative offsets ("pups") and individual plants become wider and more massive. It will take full sun, but prefers some shade. Plants in full sun keep their foliage tight but in shade the leaves spread and show better form.

Designer: Contrasts well against bright green and low growing groundcovers. Can be allowed to mass or individual rosettes can be separated and grown as individual plants. The blossoms are a favorite food source for hummingbirds. Performs well in pots.

Maintenance: Low maintenance. Remove spent flower stalks after blooming. Pups can be harvested by removing them from the main plant and planted elsewhere. Extreme cold weather may cause some damage, but plants usually recover well.



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Crossvine

Bignonia capreolata

**Size:**

Climbs to 30' but can be kept smaller

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low to Moderate

Exposure:

Full sun to partial shade

Hardiness:

-10 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Heavy in spring – some in fall

General: Crossvine is a fast-growing vine that clings as it climbs with tendrils that will not damage stucco. It gets covered with beautiful, orange-red, trumpet-shaped flowers for several weeks in spring and then blooms less heavily for the rest of spring and in the fall. When not in bloom it maintains glossy, evergreen leaves even through winter.

Designer: This fast-growing vine makes a great screen when trained to a trellis. Its fast growth, self-attaching nature and spectacular flower show are great for softening walls. It is also great for attracting hummingbirds.

Maintenance:

If not properly managed, Crossvine is reputed to be able to spread quickly by root suckers and become problematic, however that's not been observed in southern Nevada. Pruning can manage growth to keep plant inside of desired boundaries.

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Hallmark Orange Bulbine

Bulbine frutescens 'Hallmark'



Size:

1-2' tall x 4-5' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low to medium.

Exposure:

Full sun to medium shade

Hardiness:

20-25 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Spring – Summer, 2nd bloom in Fall

General: Bulbine is a rhizomatous groundcover that spreads with underground runners to produce new plants. This South American native can grow to form dense ground cover plantings over time. It has long, narrow, succulent leaves that appear similar to a grass plant. Depending on variety, yellow or orange blooms form on stalks that sit 6-12 inches above the foliage. The spring bloom is heavier than the fall flower show. Flowers are tiny, intricate and translucent, and radiate in sunshine.

Designer: Great groundcover for year round textural interest, Bulbine is particularly attractive in-between boulders and among medium to large cacti and agaves.

Maintenance: Be careful not to overwater in heavy clay soils. Spent flower spikes can be removed at the base. May come back from the roots if damaged by a freeze. Plants can be divided and replanted to spread to new areas or to keep within boundaries.



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Karl Foerster Grass

Calamagrostis acutiflora 'Karl Foerster'

**Size:**

4-6' tall x 1-3' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low

Exposure:

Full sun to part shade

Hardiness:

0 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Summer

General: The foliage color has a very strong and attention-grabbing bluish cast. Its growth habit is more upright than spreading, so it has a more vertical orientation than most other grasses. Flower stalks are very attractive and visually soft; they are tawny in color and persist for many months.

Designer: This plant can provide wonderful contrast in texture, color and form. As with most grasses, its propensity to move and sway with even the slightest wind brings undulating movement to the garden.

Maintenance: If desired, cut the old growth down in early spring (late February/early March). It is not needed every year, but doing so causes the plant to have a more green and healthy appearance, with less brown in the foliage. It is very tough and tolerant, and we've not observed any pest or disease problems.

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Sonoran Emerald Palo Verde

Cercidium X 'Sonoran Emerald'

**Size:**

25-30' tall x 25-30' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Semi-evergreen

Water Needs:

Low

Exposure:

Full sun

Hardiness:

18-22 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Spring; intermittent throughout year

General: This tree is the replacement for the Desert Museum Palo Verde. It is thought to be a better selection due to more vigorous and stable root development. The Sonoran Emerald is denser than its hybrid cousin. It is the product of years of cross hybridization by Arizona Wholesale Growers.

Designer: Deep green foliage, blue-green bark, and showy yellow flowers make this desert tree a gorgeous addition to any xeriscape landscape. This thornless tree provides dappled shade, allowing some light penetration to underplantings. The hybrid Palo Verdes are less messy than the non-hybrids, especially the Mexican Palo Verde.

Maintenance: Due to its high wind tolerance, annual crown thinning is believed to not be required. Very low maintenance tree, as it produces minimal leaf litter and is non-fruiting. As with all true desert trees, after initial establishment, irrigation frequency should be reduced and emitters provided at the base of the tree should be removed. Good structural pruning in youth helps reduce maintenance and problems in later years.

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Texas Olive

Cordia boissieri

**Size:**

10-20' tall x 10-20' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low

Exposure:

Full sun

Hardiness:

20 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Late Spring – Fall

General: Texas Olive is a small tree with large, silver-green leaves that have a soft velvety texture. This tree blooms pure white with yellow throats that turn bronze. Early in life there are two distinct flowering periods in spring and fall, but with age the bloom season extends and eventually it blooms almost continuously from around April through October. Hummingbirds are drawn to the flowers and other birds are attracted to the sweet flesh of the olive-like white fruits. Fruit is not recommended for human consumption.

Designer: Cordia boissieri makes an outstanding patio tree. The white flower clusters are particularly attractive in the night landscape.

Maintenance: As with all trees, it should always be pruned thoughtfully. With this species good development of structure and form is especially critical in youth. No pest or disease problems have been noted or observed. Quite a bit of litter is produced from spent flowers and leaves. This tree also exhibits a spring deciduous nature, dropping old leaves just before new growth emerges.

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Dwarf Pampas Grass

Cortaderia selloana 'Pumila'



Size:

4-6' tall x 4-6' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low to Moderate

Exposure:

Full sun

Hardiness:

0 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Summer

General: This is a smaller variety of the original Pampas Grass, and flowers more profusely. Large, creamy white flowers borne on short stalks originate in late summer and persist through the winter. Leaves look soft, but be forewarned, the leaf margin has fine, saw-like teeth and can cut!

Designer: Provides wonderful contrast through its visually soft texture. Flowers glow intensely when back lit by the setting sun or landscape lighting.

Maintenance: If desired, cut the old growth down to ~3-7" in early spring (late February/early March). It is not needed every year, but doing so causes the plant to have more green and healthy appearance. It is very tough and tolerant, and no pests or diseases have been observed.



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Toothless Desert Spoon

Dasyilirion longissimum

**Size:**

5-7' tall x 5-7' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low to Moderate

Exposure:

Full sun, reflected heat, partial shade

Hardiness:

15 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Summer

General: This grass-like mound of smooth, narrow, and angular leaves adds texture and motion to the garden. As plants mature, they slowly form a trunk to 10', crowned with a 5-7' rosette of leathery leaves. Older plants will produce a tall, creamy white flower stalk.

Designer: Good along paths and near pools because although the leaf comes to a point, it flexes easily when touched and is not particularly dangerous. An established plant creates a very strong focal point. Graceful in form, this plant looks great in a container.

Maintenance: Low. Do not prune. Remove spent flower stalk.

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Texas Ebony

Ebenopsis ebano

**Size:**

20-30' tall x 15-30' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low

Exposure:

Full sun to partial shade

Hardiness:

10 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Spring

General: Texas Ebony is a large shrub or small tree that is native to Southern Texas. It blooms with creamy yellow, fragrant flowers in mid-spring. After flowering, large brown seed pods form and persist on the tree. Foliage consists of fern-like leaflets.

Designer: The form of this tree is quite unique and very beautiful. Each small branch has an unusual zigzag pattern that is very attractive and interesting. In youth, the tree's form is rather variable: sometimes dense, sometimes more open. The foliage comes out very bright green and darkens slightly to a very rich green color. A by-product of the zigzag branches and small thorns is its ability to attract birds. Even smaller specimens, just 10 to 15 feet tall and wide, can harbor quite a few nests.

Maintenance: As with all trees, it should always be pruned thoughtfully. No pest or disease problems have been noted or observed. Some litter is produced from spent flowers and occasional seed pods but all in all this is a relatively clean tree.

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Valentine Bush

Eremophila maculata 'Valentine'



Size:

3-4' tall x 4-5' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low to moderate

Exposure:

Full sun, reflected sun

Hardiness:

15 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

January – April

General: This durable, evergreen shrub starts blooming in January, reaching its peak of color just in time for Valentine's Day. In a long, cool spring blooming can continue through April. The abundance of showy red flowers during the winter months has made this new shrub extremely popular.

Designer: As a showy winter bloomer, Valentine™ can fill a big void where winter color is a priority. It is unusual to find drought-tolerant plants with bright red blossoms, and this new shrub will provide a stunning contrast to other desert-adapted plants.

Maintenance: Shear or hand-prune to remove spent flowers, or hand-prune to reduce size. This should be done after blooming to encourage bushiness and more terminal branches.



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Turpentine Bush

Ericameria laricifolia

**Size:**

18-30" tall x 2-3' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low

Exposure:

Full sun, reflected heat

Hardiness:

-10 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Fall

General: This beautiful native shrub is compact, evergreen, and tolerant of extreme heat and cold. Foliage consists of dark green needle-like leaves closely set on short stems. Masses of small daisy-like flowers cover the plant in September through November.

Designer: Turpentine bush's rich, dark green foliage makes a striking contrast with plants that have more silvery or sage-green foliage. Because of its tolerance of extreme heat, Turpentine bush is especially well-suited for the most exposed and hot conditions, including parking lot planters, reflected heat, and southern and western sun exposures.

Maintenance: Maintenance is minimal. Plant can be sheared after the blooming period to remove spent flowers and keep it compact. Remove seed heads for a more refined look. Over-watering, especially in heavy, clay soils, causes plant to become rangy and open. If this occurs, pruning back should occur over time, as heavy pruning can cause plant to fail.

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Apache Plume

Fallugia paradoxa



Size:

4-5' tall x 4-6' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Semi-evergreen

Water Needs:

Low, extra summer water

Exposure:

Full sun to partial shade

Hardiness:

-30 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

April - October

General: This hearty plant can take the heat and cold. Blooming from April to October, it has beautiful white flowers, followed by fun feather-like seed heads.

Designer: This is a super plant for streetscapes and hot, exposed locations. The seed heads are very airy and give the plant a very soft textural appearance. They also capture sunlight beautifully and radiate with a soft pinkish hue.

Maintenance: Low. Cut back in winter if needed. Hand prune only, do not shear.



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Fig Tree

Ficus carica

**Size:**

15-30' tall x 15-40' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Deciduous

Water Needs:

Low

Exposure:

Full sun

Hardiness:

15 degrees F. when dormant

Bloom Period:

Spring and Fall

General: Figs are native to the arid areas of Asia minor and have long been grown in desert climates and cultures. Once established they can be very drought tolerant, but look and fruit better with deep, infrequent irrigation. Leaves are large and lobed with beautiful texture, shape and venation. Small, insignificant flowers are produced both in spring and fall, and can produce multiple crops of figs.

Designer: Beautiful silver bark and strong form make this an excellent large landscape tree. Form, leaf shape and color make figs exceptionally beautiful specimen trees. Popular cultivars in our area include 'Brown Turkey,' 'Kadota,' 'Black Mission,' and 'Adriatic.' Size of the tree and frequency and flavor of fruit varies with different cultivars.

Maintenance: Low. As with all trees, should be pruned thoughtfully and carefully to develop and maintain good structure. Fruit can be messy if not harvested, which becomes more difficult as the tree matures. Produces leaf litter in fall.

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Blanket Flower

Gaillardia grandiflora



Size:

18-24" tall x 18-36" wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low to Moderate

Exposure:

Full sun

Hardiness:

0 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Spring— late Fall or early Winter

General: Indian Blanket flower thrives in dry hot climates. It is a low-growing perennial with stunning flowers that begin in spring, last all summer and finally stop in November or December. Many different varieties exist with different sizes and flower colors. Most have flowers that are deep red in the center with a golden outer ring. The flowers are spectacular!

Designer: The rich green foliage and colorful flowers make a wonderful contrast to succulent desert plants such as agaves and cacti. The long flowering season makes this plant a real eye-catcher for much of the year. Arizona Sun is a smaller, more compact variety.

Maintenance: Low. If plants become leggy they may be cut back to rosettes of tighter, cleaner growth at any time, however this is usually only needed once a year, towards or at the end of their flowering season. Old flowers may be deadheaded if desired. Will produce offspring if allowed to go to seed. Seedlings can be relatively easily transplanted in cooler weather.



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Giant Sword Flower

Hesperaloe funifera



Size:

6' tall x 6-8' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low

Exposure:

Full sun, reflected heat

Hardiness:

-10 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Summer – Fall

General: Giant Sword Flower is a clumping, stemless, upright accent plant composed of bunches of long, narrow, rigid leaves. The leaf margins have coarse, white fibers which peel back as the plant ages. In summer, one or more 12' flower spikes emerge from the center of the plant with creamy white blooms.

Designer: *Hesperaloe funifera* is an outstanding and tough accent plant with a very bold form that stands out when used with low desert shrubs and perennials. This plant is very tidy and can be used near pools. It is also very striking when displayed in a large container. The flowers are great both to feed hummingbirds and as a favorite perch.

Maintenance: Remove spent flower stalks if and when desired. Spent or low hanging leaves can also be removed.



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Lynn's Legacy Leucophyllum

Leucophyllum langmaniae 'Lynn's Legacy'



Size:

5' tall x 5' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low

Exposure:

Full sun to partial shade

Hardiness:

10 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Summer

General: Lynn's Legacy blooms more often than other most of the other Leucophyllums, also known as the Texas Rangers. Its leaf color is a rich green and flower shows are strong and more frequent, with masses of lavender blooms. When not in bloom, the foliage forms a dense green shrub.

Designer: A tough and beautiful shrub with nice form and a rich sage-green color. It makes an excellent back drop plant; use it to cover walls or if used in a stand-alone linear planting, the shrub is dense enough that it can form a soft flowering wall. The lavender flower color works very well with plants that bloom in yellow or orange.

Maintenance: Low. If given room to grow, little or no pruning is needed. No pest or disease problems have been seen or noted.



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Pomegranate

Punica granatum

**Size:**

16'-26' tall x 12-16' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Deciduous

Water Needs:

Low

Exposure:

Full sun

Hardiness:

15 degrees F. if dormant

Bloom Period:

Summer

General: Pomegranate is a traditional fruit tree or shrub well-suited for desert climates with low humidity, cool winters, and hot summers. The form of Pomegranate combines both upright growths with arching and weeping branches. Leaves are a bright shade of green, but start with a bronze hue in the spring and finish the autumn showing bright yellow that radiates in the setting sun. Flowers are showy, tubular, and deep red-orange.

Designer: The pomegranate is a very attractive shrub or small tree for the home landscape. Its form and the wide range of colors and textures produced through leaves, flowers and fruit make Pomegranate a great addition to any landscape. It is responsive to good, proactive pruning, allowing it to fit almost any space, including narrow spaces and even espaliering.

Maintenance: Low. As with all trees, should be pruned well and thoughtfully. Trunk position and spacing should be determined in youth, and all suckers should be cleanly removed, preferably while young. New suckers can be removed by rubbing them off if done so when they're very young. Fruit can be attacked by leaf-footed bug, a piercing-sucking type of insect, which leaves fruit rotting. Fruit can be protected by covering with paper bags.

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Sierra Silver Texas Mountain Laurel

Sophora secundiflora 'Sierra Silver'

**Size:**

15'tall x 10-15' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low

Exposure:

Full sun to part shade

Hardiness:

10 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

February – March

General: Sierra Silver Texas Mountain Laurel is very similar to the Texas Mountain Laurel, but has much more silvery grey leaves. The flower show lasts for 3 or 4 weeks in early spring with beautiful Wisteria-like purple flowers. The flowers are scented, which some say smells like grape bubble gum. Sierra Silver develops undulating seed pods that start out fuzzy and silver and turn tan. Seeds are bright red and are reputed to be poisonous, but are contained in a very strong pod, and are also said to have a very tough seed coat that allows it to pass through without causing illness.

Designer: Its grey foliage is a great contrast for green plants. It can be grown as either a tree or a shrub, and is beautifully adorned with hanging purple flowers.

Maintenance: Low. Prune as desired, leaving low foliage to grow as a shrub, or removing low foliage and branches to grow as a tree. The green variety of this plant gets a caterpillar which can do a lot of damage, but we've not yet seen it on the Sierra Silver. If caterpillars are seen, they can be controlled through the application of BT, a naturally-occurring bacterium that affects only caterpillars and is readily available through nurseries. If caterpillars are present, applications once every three weeks seem to suffice to control the problem, until no caterpillars or new damage is seen.

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Prostrate Germander

Teucrium chamaedrys 'Prostratum'

**Size:**

1-3' tall x 2-3' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low to Moderate

Exposure:

Full sun to part shade

Hardiness:

-10 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Spring

General: Prostrate Germander is native to dry hill-sides of the Mediterranean region. It's a low-growing perennial whose very dark green foliage seems to belie its drought tolerant nature. Pinkish-purple flower spikes rise slightly above the foliage mass in spring. The leaves are tiny giving this plant a very "soft" appearance.

Designer: The very rich dark-green foliage makes Prostrate Germander an excellent choice when used as a contrast with more bluish and silver foliage. Similarly, the soft visual element of the tiny leaves works very well with the strong form of many succulents. It's very low, prostrate form works well with boulders and in rock gardens. Besides all its other wonderful characteristics, the flower show adds a nice splash of color to the garden.

Maintenance: Low. Requires no pruning, but shearing down to about 6" after winter and after flowering keeps the plants denser and removes spent flower stalks. This plant has no pest or disease problems of which we're aware, but does not respond well to over-watering.

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Golden Dyssodia

Thymophylla pentacheata

**Size:**

6" to 1' tall x 1' to 2' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Semi-Deciduous

Water Needs:

Very low

Exposure:

Full sun

Hardiness:

0 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Spring – Fall, sometimes Winter

General: This little perennial blooms spring to fall with masses of tiny, golden, daisy-like flowers. Although individual plants are relatively short-lived (just 2-4 years), it reseeds itself quite easily, but can be easily removed and thus never becomes a weed problem. Its finely divided foliage is a bright green, and smells wonderful when touched.

Designer: It is an excellent plant for butterfly gardens, as it attracts adult butterflies and provides food and nectar for larvae. Its ability to reseed allows it to appear in unexpected locations, including areas without irrigation. Looks great as a secondary under-planting against larger, bold plants such as Agaves. Plants that don't receive irrigation sometimes bloom all winter.

Maintenance: It gets a bit ragged looking in winter, but can be sheared or cut back in early spring.

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San Pedro Cactus

Trichocereus pachanoi

**Size:**

6-8' tall x 3-6' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low

Exposure:

Full to part sun

Hardiness:

15 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Late Spring

General: San Pedro cactus is a fast-growing, columnar, night-blooming cactus native to the mountains of Ecuador and Peru. Flowers are large, white, and stunning (however they do not last long, up to two days). Small spines are present approximately every inch along the margins. The San Pedro produces many offsets from its base and stems, creating a cluster of upright statuesque arms.

Designer: This is an excellent large container plant, and offers good architectural relief against walls and pillars. With pruning, it can be maintained in a narrow space if desired. If planted with too much sun and cold wind exposure the San Pedro will turn a sallow yellow.

Maintenance: None required. Strong winds can cause breakage of particularly tall stems. If this occurs, one to three new stems emerge at the break point. Old, broken stems can be replanted if allowed to sit dry 1-2 weeks before replanting. Replant by burying 4-6" of stem in the ground.

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