

Foothill Palo Verde

Parkinsonia microphylla

Size:

10-20' tall x 10-20' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Semi-Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low

Exposure:

Full sun

Hardiness:

15 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Late Spring

General: Foothill Palo Verde has a naturally shrubby, multi-trunked form. The species is slow-growing, sometimes living for several hundred years. The leaves are yellowish green, and during extensively dry and hot periods the tree will shed them. To survive in the hot weather after it had shed its leaves, the tree performs photosynthesis in its bark (hence the green color). The flowers are found on the end of a branch, small, pale yellow and occur in late spring. Soft seed pods (4–8 cm long) appear after flowering, and often stick to the branches.

Designer: *Parkinsonia microphylla* is cultivated as an ornamental tree for use in drought tolerant, modernist, and native plant gardens. It is also used as a small tree in parking lot plantings of commercial developments.

Maintenance: 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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Hacienda Creeper Vine

Parthenocissus sp. 'Hacienda Creeper'

Size:

20' tall x 20' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Deciduous or semi -deciduous

Water Needs:

Low

Exposure:

Sun or shade

Hardiness:

0 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

None

General: Hacienda Creeper can give a beautiful fall color show of reddish and orange hues. Leaves are a rich, medium-dark green and consist of five petals that splay out beautifully from a center point. It self-attaches to walls through a slender delicate tendril that does no damage and can be easily removed if repainting is desired. Plants drop some or all leaves in winter, depending on temperature.

Designer: Because of the plants clinging nature, it makes a great privacy screen, but can also be grown as a ground cover. It softens the look of any wall and can grow in spaces where vertical height is desired without much horizontal room to grow. The relatively large and very green leaves create a woodland effect.

Maintenance: Low. Spent stems appear after winter and can be pruned off. Some branches may grow off of the wall to which the plant is attached and should be removed.

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Black Flowering Fountain Grass

Pennisetum alopecuroides 'Moudry'

Size:

2 1/2' tall x 2 1/2' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Deciduous

Water Needs:

Moderate

Exposure:

Full sun to moderate shade

Hardiness:

0 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Fall

General: Like many grasses, this plant produces a “fountain” of colorful plumes. The autumnal flower show is spectacular, with individual flowers exhibiting maroon and green, with splashes of golden pollen. When back-lit by the sun or landscape lighting, they have an amazing and eye-catching glow. Foliage is rich medium-green.

Designer: This is a good addition to a sloped garden. It can be used as a single species, in a mass planting, or as a border planting along a walkway or drive. Dried plumes are attractive in floral arrangements. The soft texture of foliage and bloom contrasts well against succulents or woody plants. Flexible foliage brings the element of movement into the garden when the breeze blows.

Maintenance: Cut back in late winter or early spring by cutting horizontally about 3 inches above soil surface. This plant does reseed itself occasionally, but not excessively.

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Diablo Rock Penstemon

Penstemon baccharifolius 'Diablo'

Size:

2' tall x 2' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low

Exposure:

Full sun to part shade

Hardiness:

0 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Summer – Summer

General: A real show-stopper Penstemon! This shrub-like perennial forms a small clump of deep green foliage which looks good year 'round. Clustered spikes of cherry-red, tubular flowers line 12" - 18" tall stalks in the Spring and Summer. The tubular flowers attract lots of hummingbirds to the garden! It prefers middle desert locations, where the summer temperatures are not as intense.

Designer: This is a great plant for a naturalizing effect in the garden. Use in a border or rock garden, or for planting in pots and beds.

Maintenance: Low. Remove the spent flower stalks when they are done blooming, and prune old foliage in late winter if desired. Plant Rock Penstemon where it will have excellent drainage and shade or partial shade in the afternoon. If planted in full sun, *Penstemon baccharifolius* 'Diablo' will perform better with more water.

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Parry's Penstemon

Penstemon parryi

Size:

Foliage 10" tall x 12" wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low

Exposure:

Full sun, filtered light shade

Hardiness:

15 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Late Winter, Spring

General: Parry's Penstemon is the most well-known and popular native Penstemon. Three foot stalks display hot pink flowers from a low mound of dark gray-green foliage in late February and lasting until April. The leaves measure up to 4" long. A favorite of hummingbirds!

Designer: This is a great plant for a naturalizing effect in the garden. Use in a border or rock garden, or for planting in pots and beds. Winter color is a deep purple hue against blue-green foliage and is very beautiful

Maintenance: Low. Parry's Penstemon prefers good drainage; if planted in clay soil, plant slightly high and allow drying between irrigations. Remove spent flower stalks if desired either after flowers are spent or when seed ripens. If stalks remain until seed is ready (seed capsules turn tan and open, revealing pepper-like seeds) stalks can be used to spread new plants where desired. After spreading seed, lightly scratch soil to improve germination.

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Chaparral Sage

Salvia clevelandii

Size:

4' tall x 5' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low to moderate

Exposure:

Full sun to partial shade

Hardiness:

10 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Spring – Summer

General: This wonderful desert shrub has aromatic gray-green foliage and profuse clusters of electric blue-purple flowers that emerge from dark ruby red tubes. Flowers form on stalks that emerge from the tips of branches and appear in multi-tiered whorls, giving an almost surreal appearance and stunning effect. Flowering commences in spring continues for over a month. The aromatic evergreen foliage is an attractive, crinkled sage-green.

Designer: Chaparral Sage is an ideal size for use in many locations. Its flower show works very well with plants that have yellow or orange blossoms. Can take quite a bit of shade.

Maintenance: Very little maintenance is needed. Spent flower heads will persist until trimmed, or until **next year's** blooms hide last year's spent flowers. In full sun will perform better with more water. Too much water causes rampant growth and stems will tend to split. No pest or disease problems have been noted or observed.

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Arizona Rosewood

Vauquelinia californica

Size:

15' tall x 10' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low

Exposure:

Full sun, partial shade

Hardiness:

-10 degrees F.

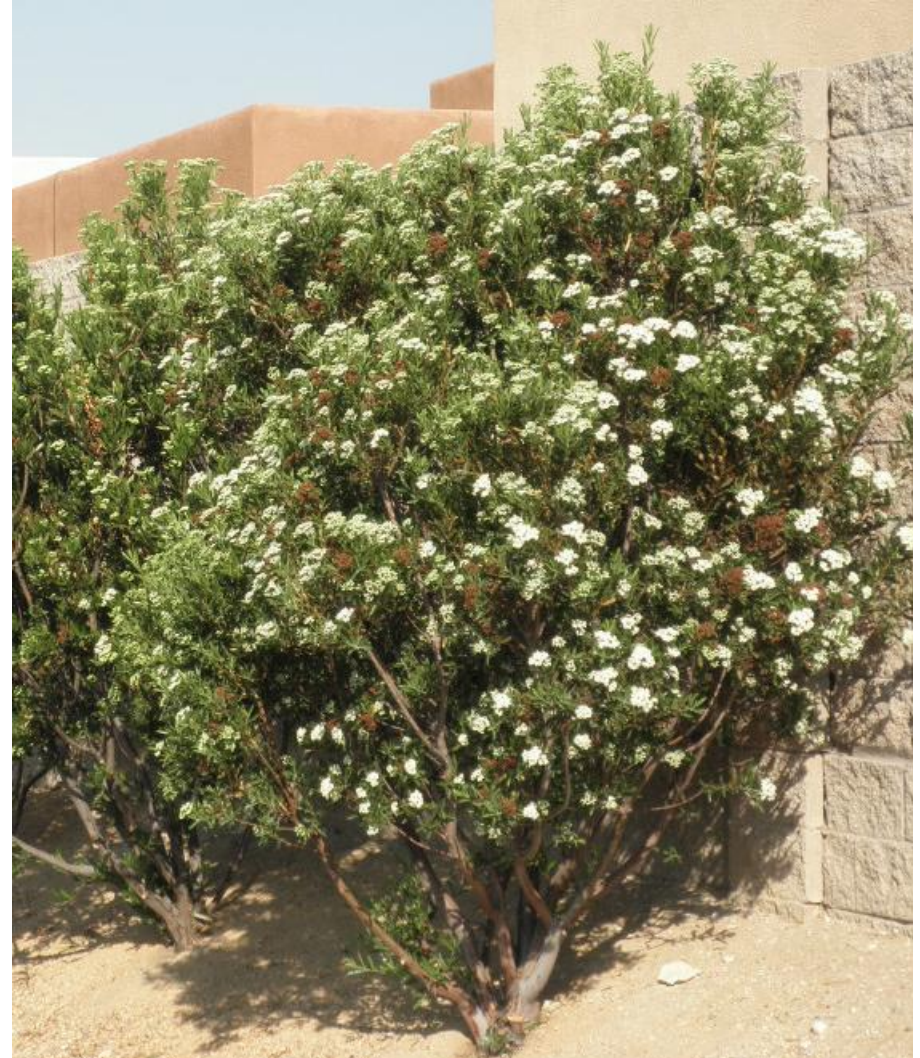
Bloom Period:

Spring

General: This slow-growing small tree or large shrub has 4" leaves with toothed margins, dark green on the top and paler gray on the underside. Creamy white flower clusters in the spring give way to woody seed pods that last throughout the year.

Designer: The contrast of the dark green foliage against the silver trunk is a stunning characteristic of this tree. Its dense canopy and evergreen nature, along with its size, makes this tree an excellent choice for screening the edges of a property, especially where there are adjoining two-story buildings. This is a low-litter tree.

Maintenance: Can be grown as a large shrub, or single or multi-trunked tree. As with all trees, it should always be pruned thoughtfully. No pest or disease problems have been noted or observed.

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Chaste Tree

Vitex agnus-castus

Size:

20' tall x 20' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous

Deciduous

Water Needs:

Low, extra in Summer

Exposure:

Full sun, light or filtered shade

Hardiness:

-10 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Summer

General: Chaste Tree is native to the Mediterranean region. It is tough, beautiful and dependable. Leaves consist of five rich green leaflets spread out in a palmate form. Flowers are usually purple, but white flowering specimens can sometimes be found. Showy flower-spikes later form masses of small seeds.

Designer: This wonderful small tree usually develops very nice form. Its size lends itself well to be used in many different applications, and it can take very harsh conditions without skipping a beat. It is an excellent choice for small areas that need a tree to shade an exposed piece of concrete like a driveway in the hot months of the year.

Maintenance: Looks best as a multi-trunked tree, but can also be cut back hard to maintain smaller size. Chaste Tree can be slightly messy due to spent flowers and the eventual accumulation of fallen seed. As with all trees, it should always be pruned thoughtfully. No pest or disease problems have been noted or observed.

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Red Flame Seedless Grape

Vitis 'Red Flame'

Size:

Typically 4-6' tall x 20-30' wide

Exposure:

Full sun, partial shade

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Deciduous

Hardiness:

0 degrees F.

Water Needs:

Low to moderate

Bloom Period:

Spring

General: Red Flame seedless grape is edible with good-quality sweetness, a long shelf life, good color, and plumpness, making it a fantastic table grape. Fruit is borne in large clusters after inconspicuous flowering, and the grapes themselves take on a medium-large size with a lustrous red hue. Red Flame is a vigorous vine with a fast growth rate.

Designer: Red Flame makes a wonderful ornamental vine that can provide seasonal shade when trained onto an arbor or trellis. As with most grapes, it is best grown on a long, accessible trellis if meant for eating. This deciduous grapevine does well for cottage, rustic and Mediterranean-styled gardens. Contrasts well when planted with green grape varieties.

Maintenance: Low. Prune old foliage and cut back completely if desired in the winter months. Grape Leaf Skeletonizer, a black moth that arises from yellow striped caterpillar, can do significant damage to leaves, leaving unsightly leaf-skeletons; control with BT.

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Pale Leaf Yucca

Yucca pallida

Size:

1-2' tall x 1-3' wide

Evergreen/Deciduous:

Evergreen

Water Needs:

Low

Exposure:

Full sun to part shade

Hardiness:

-10 degrees F.

Bloom Period:

Summer

General: A North central Texas native, the Pale Leaf Yucca is an excellent low growing clumping species, and will grow little to no trunk. It can form up to 30 individual heads with its spreading form! *Yucca pallida* has flexible yet firm pale blue-green leaves that are about an inch wide and a foot long. In summer it puts up a flower stalk topped with large pure white bell-shaped flowers.

Designer: Makes a great accent with consistent color and form. Looks especially good when contrasted against rich green, leafy groundcovers.

Maintenance: Low. Remove spent flower stalks and limit plant size by removing unwanted "pups." Treat once or twice per year for agave borer weevil with Bayer Tree and Shrub Insecticide, Merit Insecticide, or equivalent (active ingredient: Imidacloprid). Treatment should occur in mid-April to mid-May. If a 2nd treatment is desired, it should occur in September. One treatment is believed to provide adequate protection, but the 2nd may be applied for added security. Agave borer weevil larvae can eat the root system of this plant and by the time the damage is noticeable, it is too late. The symptoms show when older foliage dies off more quickly and plant becomes unstable in the ground due to the eaten root system.

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