

**2012**

Los Lagos Pre-Approved Plant Palette



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## **Explanation of “Pre-Approved” and Homeowner Procedures**

*Although all plants within this booklet are pre-approved, homeowners are required to complete and submit a Landscape Change Form for all changes and/or additions to their landscaping. **These plants are pre-approved, landscape designs they might be used for are not pre-approved.***

Homeowners are not required to choose from this palette. A homeowner is welcome to submit any plant of their choice, along with the landscape design or placement, to the Landscape Committee for review.

### **HOMEOWNERS PLEASE DO NOT PROCEED WITH ANY PLANTINGS UNTIL:**

- **You have completed and submitted a Landscape Change Form**
- **You have received either verbal or written approval to proceed with your change request.**

## GROUND COVERS

### **LANTANA**



**LANTANA montevidensis** - evergreen trailing shrub, mounding to 2 feet high and spreading 3-6 feet wide. Requires little to moderate water; too much water or fertilizer reduces blooms. Several colors available, but yellow or lavender are the most common. Blooms all year.

### **Dalea greggii – Trailing Indigo bush**



**DALEA greggii** - "Trailing Indigo bush" - evergreen, mounds to 1.5 feet high and spreads to 6 feet wide. Pearl gray foliage with purple flowers. Little to moderate water required.

### **Arctotheca calendula – Cape weed**



**ARCTOTHECA calendula** - "Cape weed" - tough, easy to grow, thick ground cover 5-12 inches high. Yellow, daisy-like flowers bloom most of the year. Subject to frost damage. Requires little or no water.

## **Santolina**



**Santolina**- Has many uses in residential landscapes. Also known as Green Lavender Cotton, it is actually a perennial herb. It is at home in the yard as a groundcover or ornamental plant. It offers attractive foliage, small flowers, texture and durability. Properly located in the yard, it has no serious pest or disease problems.

Typically grows from 12 to 18 inches tall. However it looks best if it is clipped to about 1 foot tall. It is also compact. A single plant is likely to spread 3 to 5 feet to form an uneven mound.

## **Angellina stonecrop**



**Angellino Stonecrop** - Angelina stonecrop is a fast-growing plant that stays short (ca. 6") and quickly spreads to form a mat, making it an easy-to-grow groundcover. Produces clusters of star-shaped yellow blooms on tall flower stalks early-to-mid-summer. During most of the growing season, the needle-like foliage will be chartreuse or golden, depending, in part, on the amount of sun it's getting (the more sun, the more golden it will be). Tints of orange or rust may come into the foliage in fall.

## **ERIGERON karvinskianus (Mexican Daisy, Santa Barbara Daisy)**



Trailing plant grows 10-20 inches high and up to 3 feet wide. Blooms all year. Daisy-like flowers with multiple narrow petals in white, light pink, or lavender-tinted. Drought tolerant, but does best with regular watering. Full sun or partial shade. Potentially invasive.

## Ice Plant



**Ice Plant** - A succulent plant with branched, reclining stems covered with tiny, glistening beads; white or reddish flowers in upper leaf axils. Flowers: 1" (2.5 cm) wide; petals many, each 1/4-3/8" (6-9 mm) long, narrow; stamens many. Leaves: 3/4-4" (2-10 cm) long, ovate or spatula-shaped, wavy. Height: Creeper; flowering branches about 3" (7.5 cm), reclining stems 8-24" (20-60 cm) long. **Flower** March-October. **Habitat** Open, sandy flats and slopes near coast and inland in deserts.

## Gazania



**Gazania** - This tough plant endures poor soil, baked conditions, and drought beautifully and still produces bold-color, daisy-like flowers from summer to frost. A perennial in Zones 9-11 -- the hottest parts of the country. Gazania bears boldly colored daisy-shaped flowers from summer to frost. The flowers appear over toothed dark green or silver leaves (the foliage color differs between varieties). They're great in beds and borders and containers. Plant established seedlings outdoors after all danger of frost has passed. Do not fertilize, and keep soil on the dry side

### **Juniper Blue Rug**



**Juniper Blue Rug** - Foliage is a silvery-blue, thus the first half of its common name. The second half comes from its growth habit, as it forms a dense, low mat (rug) -- making it an ideal groundcover. Height 4"-6", spread 5'-6'. Foliage turns a purplish-bronze in winter. Blue Rug spreads rapidly and is relatively resistant to some of the diseases that plague juniper shrubs. Incidentally, what look to be blue "berries" on junipers are technically cones. Low-maintenance. Space 4'-6' apart to form a dense enough mat to crowd out weeds. To aid their weed-control efforts prior to maturity, make sure they're well mulched (but don't pile up mulch over the plants' crowns). Don't allow fallen leaves and branches to smother young plants. Thin out mature plants for better air circulation, which will help avoid disease; but don't prune severely.

### **JASMINUM laurifolium nitidum (Angelwing jasmine, jasminum magnificentum)**



Evergreen groundcover or vine that requires moderate to regular water, best in partial shade (not full shade). Glossy green leaves and fragrant flowers in Spring and early summer. Flowers begin as purplish-pink buds that open to form "pinwheel" flowers about one inch in diameter that are white above and purplish-pink underneath.

### **AJUGA reptans (Common blue bugleweed)**



Evergreen ground cover, 3-6 inches high. Most common variety has dark green leaves and blue flowers on spikes in Spring. Foliage in other varieties is purple, bronze, light green, or green-blended-with-white- and – pink. Flowers on other varieties are white or pink in addition to blue. Does best in partial shade, but it does not bloom profusely in heavy shade. Regular water. Spreads runners and is potentially invasive.

### **COTONEASTER Dammeri (Cotoneaster humifusus)**



Evergreen ground cover, and the cotoneaster suitable for low desert. Sun or partial shade; little to moderate water. Fast prostrate growth; glossy green leaves and tiny red berries. Several varieties, with slight variation in leaf color and height, but none more than 12 inches high.

## Ornamental Grasses

### Festuca glauca – Common blue fescue



1 ft. high, 10 in. wide. Dense tuft of very narrow, fine leaves; color varies from blue gray to silvery white. Summer flowers in spikes. Use as edging or ground cover. Center of clump commonly dies out after several years. **'Boulder Blue'** Grows quickly to 8 in. high and wide, making a fine textured, dense, compact mound of metallic blue foliage. Short flower spikes appear in summer. The plant forms an 8 in. high clump of intensely silver-blue leaves and is one of the tougher, longer-lived selections.

### Eragrostis spectabilis – Purple Love Grass



**Eragrostis spectabilis – Purple Love Grass** - Purple plains love grass grows low to the ground in dense tufts, 8-18 in. tall. In late summer the fine-textured, stiff inflorescence appears like reddish-purple clouds hovering at ground level. Eventually this inflorescence breaks off and floats around like tumbleweed. This is a perennial.

### **Pink Mugley / Regal Mist**



**Pink Mugley / Regal Mist** – has long, narrow blades and tall, stiff flower stems that produce a cloud of deep, rosy-pink bloom in the late summer. Needs very little care, and tolerates a wide range of conditions, from wet to dry sites, acidic to alkaline soils, salt spray, and poor soil conditions. It is drought tolerant, but limiting water can also limit the mature vigor and size of the plant. The spectacular fall color makes it a great accent in a mixed border. In winter, the dried stems cast a soft mystical silhouette in moonlight or at dawn or dusk. Cut off dried stems low to ground in late winter.

### **Japanese Blood grass**



**Japanese blood grass** Beautiful plant with shoots of red amidst the green. It grows about 50cm/ 18" in height and has sword-shaped leaves that emerge green and then turn red during summer, deepening to a darker crimson in autumn. It is a perennial plant grown for its ornamental foliage.

### **Mexican Grass Tree**



This graceful ornamental grass. It's easy to grow, drought-tolerant and pest-free – a real low-maintenance gem subsisting on natural rainfall and not requiring pesticide sprays or fertilizers. It's an excellent choice in xeriscaping landscape plantings, too.

## Shrubs

### Cordyline stricta



**Cordyline stricta** - Evergreen tropical perennial growing up to 7' tall. This plant has a particular intense leaf color, pink to red fluorescent..Plant is a fast grower, with inconspicuous flowers and sometimes berries. Need partial shade in desert.

### Maahonia nevinii



**Maahonia nevinii** - Evergreen shrub fast to 5 feet then can slowly become a slightly larger tree-shrub covered with yellow flower spikes, 2" long in Mar.-Apr. This is followed by hundreds of red berries loved by one and all of the bird community. Its foliage is kind of a blue-gray-green with brown-red stems and yellow 1/10"spines on the leaf margins. It likes full sun to part shade. It is very drought tolerant and garden tolerant, good barrier plant.

### Pink Fairy Duster



**Pink Fairy Duster** - This is a hearty shrub that grows everywhere in desert landscapes. It tolerates full sun and very little water. The blooms attract hummingbirds. Prune as needed to create a fuller bush-like appearance and prevent the shrub from getting too leggy.

### **Euphorbia characias**



**Euphorbia characias** - Mediterranean native. Upright stems crowded with narrow blue-green leaves form a dome-shaped bush 4 ft. high and wide. Chartreuse or lime green flowers in dense, round to cylindrical clusters appear in late winter, early spring. Color holds with only slight fading until seeds ripen; then stalks turn yellow and should be cut out at base, since new shoots have already made growth for next year's flowers. Fairly drought resistant.

### **Tecoma Stans**



**Tecoma Stans** - Evergreen shrub to 6-15 feet tall and 6-10 feet wide. Typically the plant is taller than it is wide. Its rich green leaves are divided into 5-13 leaflets. These leaflets are 1.5-4 inches long and 0.75-2 inches wide. The bright yellow, trumpet-shaped flowers are about 2 inches long and 2 inches wide, and occur in large clusters. Flowering can begin as early as April and continue into fall. Flowering will start later and stop earlier in places where frost occurs. The flowers are followed by 6-inch-long, tan pods that are filled with small, papery winged seeds.

### **Hawaiian Blue Eyes**



**Hawaiian Blue Eyes** - Ocean-blue flowers cover the plant all season; a heat lover that thrives in summer.

## Desert Lavender



**Desert Lavender** - Grows to 4-8ft tall and 3ft wide with gray foliage. It has blue-lavender flowers. The foliage is scented with a sage-lavender odor. It likes perfect drainage and a little water after established. It needs full sun. It will freeze to ground on cold winters. It seems to be hardy to about 25 F. The odor is rich and luxurious. The plant has that slate blue-gray look that seems to be so popular. A wonderful plant to try in a hot sunny flower bed that does not get a lot of water. It is not a cactus but grows where you would find a desert willow.

## Brittle Bush



**Brittlebush** - Medium-sized rounded shrub. It has long, oval, silver-gray leaves that are somewhat fuzzy. The branches are brittle and woody, and contain a fragrant resin. In the late winter and early spring small yellow flowers form on long stalks well above the leafy stems.

### **Carissa Boxwood**



**Carissa Boxwood** - Evergreen plant has thick, leathery leaves which are oval to roundish. The leaves are glossy; bright dark green on the upper surface, paler below and opposite on the stem. Milky, latex sap is exuded when the plant is cut or broken. The star-shaped, tubular, white flowers are borne singly or in small clusters at the branch tips throughout the year. The fruit is a red, crimson or magenta berry which attracts birds and other wildlife. Plant in full sun, it will tolerate some shade but flowering and fruiting may be reduced in the shade. Natal plum prefers well-drained, sandy, neutral soil. It is moderately drought tolerant. Prune lightly as needed, Natal plum is slow growing and does not recover well from harsh pruning.

### **Mexican Bird of Paradise**



**Mexican Bird of Paradise** – Native to Northern Mexico. Its lush, ferny compound leaves provide a dark green backdrop for the bright yellow flower spikes that appear on the branch tips during the warm season. These flowers are followed by woody pods, which "explode" as they mature, adding a little bit of natural music the outdoor environment. This plant grows fairly rapidly 10-15 feet tall and spreads to 15 feet wide. The Mexican bird of paradise can be grown as a small tree or pruned to keep it a shrub.

### **Mexican Honeysuckle**



**Mexican Honeysuckle** - Small shrub that isn't fussy, blooms most of the year, and is attractive to hummingbirds. With yellow-green leaves and bright orange flowers, Mexican honeysuckle grows 2 to 4 feet tall and spreads 3 to 6 feet wide. The soft, velvety leaves become larger in partial shade locations. Clusters of bright orange, narrowly tubular flowers appear almost any time of the year. Prefers light shade to full sun exposure. It is fairly drought tolerant, but looks better and grows larger when given regular supplemental water in the summer. It has a moderate to fast growth rate and is not particularly fussy about soil. It grows equally well in a loose, amended soil or in native, unimproved soil. The primary requirement is good drainage. Water weekly in summer, every other week in the winter.

### **Mexican Heather**



**Mexican Heather** - The Mexican Heather plant tends to grow around one foot in height, but may be as tall as eighteen inches. In terms of spacing, anywhere from nine inches to a foot is average. Moreover, this beautiful plant blooms throughout the year making it a highly attractive plant year around. The booms are generally a shade of purple with the leaves being an evergreen; however, the flowers can also be a shade of pink or even white.

### Little John



**Little John** - Often grown as a small multi-stemmed tree, weeping bottlebrush is a narrow-leaved evergreen native to eastern Australia. Its dwarf cultivar 'Little John' offers the same bright red fuzzy flower clusters but on a dwarf, dense, rounded shrub. The hummingbird-attracting flowers continue through much of the year. The blue-green leaves are flushed with bronze when new. Grow 'Little John' in full sun and well-drained fertile soil. A nice specimen tree for the border or patio, it can also be used as a low hedge. Its flowers attract hummingbirds

### Hibiscus



**Hibiscus** – Perennial. This plant will tolerate occasional wetness and a little salt and will also grow in dry soils but prefers a well-drained, loamy, sandy or clay soil. Full Sun. Flowering and growth in shade is poor. Attracts butterflies. Largest flowers of any perennial! Needs little care once established. Cut back stems in early spring. Plants can also be divided in fall or spring.

### Mandevilla



**Mandevilla** - Mandevilla is a tender woody vine much beloved by gardeners in warmer climates. It provides a nonstop bounty of huge pink trumpet shaped flowers shown off against attractive evergreen foliage. The very showy flowers have white and gold throats and are up to 4 in (10 cm) across and arranged in racemes (flower clusters). Blooms heaviest in summer and sporadically throughout the rest of the year.

## Jasmine



**Jasmine** - Their leaves are mostly ternate or pinnate; the flowers, usually white or yellow. Although it grows to the height of 12 and sometimes 20 feet, its stem is feeble and requires support. Its leaves are opposite, pinnate and dark green, the leaflets are in three pairs, with an odd one and are pointed, the terminal one larger with a tapering point. The fragrant flowers bloom from June to October; and as they are found chiefly on the young shoots, the plant should only be pruned in the autumn.

## Pittosporum



**Pittosporum** – Broad leafed evergreen shrub or small tree can reach up to 15 ft (4.6 m) in height and approximately the same in width. In general the Japanese pittosporum grows taller in the shade while those grown in full sun are more compact. In both situations the plant assumes an upright round-headed form with branches radiating out from around the stems. There is a dwarf variety that grows to only about 2 ft (0.6 m) in height called 'Wheeler's Dwarf'. This densely branched and compact shrub forms neat bushel basket size mounds that find use in groundcover plantings, especially in commercial landscapes.

## Photinia



**Photinia** - Great for privacy screens. Very popularly planted in Oregon and California as hedges, the Photinia is a fast-growing dense shrub that is evergreen and attractive all year long. They grow best in full sun, and are hardy of hot dry conditions as long as they get extra watering.

## Desert Cassia



**Desert Cassia** - Full sun. Low water once established. A weeping plant with medium sized flowers that form a stunning and attractive specimen. Attracts hummingbirds. This desert shrub is fast growing and flowers off and on in warmer climates.

## Ruellia Peninsularis



**Ruellia Peninsularis** - Evergreen shrub grows to 5 feet tall. Light green leaves; bell-shaped flowers are purple, violet or pink. Needs no irrigation, but will bloom nearly all year if given little to moderate water.

## Ixora



**Ixora** - A fairly small, bushy shrub, usually only 5-10ft tall. There are dwarf varieties that are much smaller. Ixora will flower when only a few inches high. It is commonly used a hedge or small garden plant.

### **Calliandria - eriodhylla**



**Calliandria - eriodhylla** - A 1 to 3 ft. shrub to sub-shrub. The 1-2 inch flowers are like a red cross between acacia and bottlebrush. In the desert washes it is invisible until it flowers.

### **Chrysactinia Mexican Damianita**



**Chrysactinia Mexican Damianita** - Damianita is a star performer in the arid Southwest. The bright green, needlelike leaves create a nice contrast to the flowers that bloom much of the year. This plant has a long bloom period, but flowers are most profuse in the spring and fall. The bright green, finely textured foliage is fragrant. Grows slowly to 2 feet high and 2 feet wide. Golden yellow, daisylike flowers are small — about half an inch across. An ideal ground cover plant, Damianita is tolerant of heat, drought and cold.

### **Chamelaudium**



**Chamelaudium** - Evergreen shrub, fast growth to 6-8 feet tall. Needle-like bright green leaves and showy sprays of pink or rose winter flowers. Needs sun, moderate water. "Light and airy". Very old plants develop interesting twisted trunks and shaggy bark. Several hybrids with varies flowers in pinks and purples.

### **Cape Honeysuckle**



**Cape Honeysuckle** - Cape honeysuckle is an evergreen vine or shrub with orange trumpet-shaped flowers. It can only be grown outdoors in the southernmost regions of the United States as is it susceptible to winter frosts. It is a drought and heat tolerant plant; if you are in the right region it is not difficult to grow. Sometimes, plants can reach up to 30 feet tall. With some knowledge on how to care for the cape honeysuckle, you will soon have a beautiful vine or shrub.

### **Barberry Crimson**



**Barberry Crimson** - low maintenance landscape plant. The beautiful red leaves turn a deep burgundy by fall. The color and compact habit of this plant make it a popular landscape plant. Crimson Pygmy Barberry only grows about 3 inches each year, and requires very little pruning. It can be used as a border plant, or as an accent plant. It requires a location that is mostly sunny.

### **Leonotis**



**Leonotis** - Grows 4-6 feet tall with hairy, square stems and 2 to 5 inch leaves. Blooms summer into autumn with showy, tubular, deep-orange blossoms. Subject to frost damage, but survives.

### Dasyilirion wheeleri



**Dasyilirion wheeleri** – Sculptural plant for the western garden. Its strap-like, blue-green leaves are evergreen and create a stiff, almost grass-like effect. The leaf edges have finely-toothed margins that light up when the low-angled sun shines through. Eventually produces white flowers on a tall spike

### Hesperaloe



**Hesperaloe** - Produces soft, yucca-like, evergreen leaves, 2-3 ft. in length, crowded on the perennial's short, woody base. The flower stalk rises 5 ft. and bears showy, coral-colored, tubular flowers occur on arching, wand-like, pink stems. Leaves are plum-colored in winter; blue-green other times. Evergreen, drought-resistant, and adaptable to a variety of soils.

### Leucophyllum



**Leucophyllum** - A gray shrub with leaves densely covered with stellate, silvery hairs and bright pink-lavender, bilaterally symmetrical flowers borne singly in crowded leaf axils. Typically a compact shrub, 2-5 ft. tall, Texas barometer-bush or cenizo occasionally reaches 8 ft. in height, and 4-6 ft. in width. Leaves silvery gray to greenish, soft to the touch, up to 1 1/4 inches long but mostly 1 inch or less, tapering more gradually to the base than to the rounded tip, margins smooth. Flowers violet to purple, sometimes pink, nearly bell shaped, and up to 1 inch in length and width, appearing intermittently from spring to fall. Fruit a small capsule.

### **Coral Fountain**



**Coral Fountain** - It has slender, rush-like stems that are angled with ridges and with leaves that are little more than small scales. It has wiry looking branches that start out erect then fall over to form a cascade downward about 4 - 6 feet in length. Firecracker Plant produces long hanging clusters of scarlet tubular flowers about 1 inch in length from Spring until Fall, that look like small firecrackers, giving it the other common name, firecracker plant.

### **Scarlet Sage**



**Scarlet Sage** - Attractive annual wild flower perfect for the hummingbird garden. Loves heat. This species will do well right through the hottest weather with or without water. Scarlet sage is a sub-shrub perennial in warmer climates and an annual where winter temperatures stay below freezing for more than a few hours at a time. Scarlet sage reaches 2'-3' tall, with 1"-2" triangular leaves on long petioles (leaf stems) opposite each other on a square stem. The showy flowers are bright red, about an inch long, and arranged in loose whorls along the upright stem. Scarlet Sage blooms appear continuously from early summer to first frost. Will re-seed itself annually. Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds and maintains itself year after year without dominating or becoming invasive.

### **Desert Marigold**



**Desert Marigold** - Desert-marigolds are one of the most conspicuous spring wildflowers across the arid lands of the southwest. They begin to flower in March and will continue to bloom off and on until November. Rain triggers additional rounds of flowering. They commonly grow on stony slopes and sandy plains and mesas and are most abundant on roadsides, where they may form dense yellow carpets. Their drought tolerance and long flowering season have made the desert-marigold a popular plant in the horticultural world.

### **Gaillardia**



Also known as the blanket flower, gaillardia adds brilliant color to a summer garden. The most popular variety features golden petals with bright eyes of reddish-orange, but not all gaillardias are variegated. These prolific bloomers may be solid red, yellow or orange and shades of violet. Available as both single and double blooms, gaillardias resemble daisies. Growing to heights of 2 feet or more, these annuals self-seed readily.

### **Bluebell Creeper**



**Bluebell Creeper** - This is an evergreen, tender, climbing plant. It has thin, woody, twining stems that are covered with both narrow, lance-shaped to oblong leaves and divided leaves. Their pretty blue flowers are shaped like little bells, a half-inch long. They grow in pendent clusters throughout the summer. You can plant them in pots and train them to stakes, or you can place them in a prepared bed of soil to cover the wall or pillars.

### Anelita Daisy



**Anelita Daisy** - A perennial native to the southwestern USA. Anelita Daisy's foliage is green and the flower is a deep gold color. It forms rounded clumps up to 12 inches tall and 5 feet wide,. Often used as a border in front of larger shrubs. Plant blooms from late winter through early fall. Anelita daisy seems to prefer well-drained soils and full sun. It is very cold hardy, heat tolerant, and drought tolerant. Height: About 1 foot tall and 3-5 feet wide

### Grevillea rosmarinifolia – Rosemary grevillea



### **GREVILLEA rosmarinifolia** (“Rosemary grevillea”)

Evergreen shrub requires little or no water, and it can be planted in full sun or partial shade. Narrow leaves about 1.5 inches long are green on top and silver underneath (like rosemary leaves; hence the name). Clusters of long curved flowers in red/cream appear in fall and winter. The most common variety of this sub-species grows to 6 feet tall and wide, but there are several dwarf varieties which grow to about 3 feet tall. Dwarf varieties produce either red/cream or pink/cream long curved blossoms in clusters, and some dwarf varieties produce blooms all year.

### **Justicia candicans**



Evergreen shrub that requires regular water; it may be planted in full sun or partial shade. Grows to about 3 feet tall and wide. Dark green heart-shaped leaves. Clusters of vivid red, tubular flowers from fall to early summer, with intermittent blooms later in the summer.

### **Rhaphiolepis indica – Indian Hawthorne**



***RHAPHIOLEPSIS indica*** (“Indian Hawthorne”) shrub has leathery leaves and a dense, compact growth habit. Requires little to regular water, and can be planted in full sun or partial shade. Blooms from mid-winter to spring, producing clusters of small flowers, typically light pink. The many varieties differ mainly in size and flower color. Strongly colored flowers (rose red, bright pink) are produced by a few varieties. Varies from 2 to 6 feet tall, but the taller varieties can readily be kept smaller by pruning.

### **Alyogyne huegeli – Blue Hibiscus**



### **ALYOGYNE huegeli** (“Blue hibiscus”)

Evergreen shrub that requires little to moderate water. Full sun or partial shade. At maturity, size is similar to that of other hibiscus plants, i.e., 5 to 8 feet tall and wide. Rough-textured dark green foliage, with large flowers that bloom all year. Blossoms on most varieties are lilac blue or purple, although some have white blossoms.

### **Brunfelsia pauciflora – Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow**



Evergreen (in our low desert area) shrub that requires regular water and at least partial shade. In spring and early summer, this shrub produces large, showy blossoms in clusters. Blossoms are initially tubular but open to be flat with petals. While changing shape, the flowers also shift from purple to lavender and then white. The unusual common name is based on these transitions. Different varieties have blossoms of different sizes, but all are large, i.e., 2 inches in diameter or larger. (Useful for partially shady areas.)

### **Cresote Bush**



The creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*) is common in the Desert Southwest. It can be identified from its waxy green leaves and yellow flowers. These later turn to round, white wooly seed-vessels, which are the fruit of the creosote bush. The leaves of the creosote bush are coated with a resin to prevent water loss in the hot desert. The resin of the creosote bush also protects the plant from being eaten by most mammals and insects. It is believed that the bush produces a toxic substance to keep other nearby plants from growing. Creosote bushes are very long lived; many of them existing for one hundred years, and can grow to a height of 15 feet.

### Upright Lantana



**Upright Lantana** grows well with little to moderate water in full sun. (Subject to mildew in heavy shade.) Many hybrids with blossoms in various combinations of red, orange, pink, yellow, and purple. Some varieties, if not pruned, will grow to 8 feet tall and as wide, while other varieties are smaller. Some pruning recommended to encourage more blossoms. The small “fruit” that follows blooms is toxic, especially before it is “ripe”.

### Mahonia femontii – Desert Mahonia



Evergreen shrub that requires little or no water and grows in full sun or light shade. Gray-green to yellowish glossy leaflets on long stems have prickly edges (similar to its botanical relative “Oregon grape”) In late spring, small yellow flowers appear along small spikes, followed by small blue “fruit” that attracts birds. Valuable in desert landscapes primarily for its glossy foliage of varied colors rather than for its blooms.

### **Nandina domestica – Heavenly bamboo**



***NANDINA domestica*** (“Heavenly bamboo”) This evergreen shrub needs little to regular water. It will survive in full sun, but does better in light shade. Multiple leaflets on multiple stems give the foliage a lacy look. In early stages of growth, the foliage is bronze-colored or reddish, but leaves turn light green later. In spring, clusters of small white flowers appear, followed by clusters of bright orange-red berries. There are several varieties differing in seasonal leaf color. Most varieties grow to about 4 feet tall.

### **Plumbago scandens**



**PLUMBAGO scandens** Evergreen “sprawling” shrub that needs pruning to control growth, but can readily be kept to about 4 feet high and wide. It requires little to regular water, and does well in either light shade or full sun. New leaves are red but they turn green as they mature, only turn red again in the fall. Blooms with phlox-like clusters in all seasons except in the hottest part of the summer. Blossoms are typically white, sometimes tinged with blue – striking in contrast to the red leaves in fall.

### **Penstemon**



**PENSTEMON** – many varieties under various common names. All varieties listed are suitable for our low desert, Little to moderate water, partial shade. Typically blooms (red, pink, purple, etc.) spring and summer.

## Zauschneria California – California Fuschia, Hummingbird Flower



### **Zauschneria californica -California fuschia – Hummingbird Flower .**

Spreading perennial, full sun, little to moderate water. Blooms in late summer or fall with trumpet-shaped blossoms, usually in red orange but some varieties in pink or white. Various heights, usually about 2 feet tall, some smaller, some higher. Spreads by underground runners. Some varieties suitable as a ground cover. Need pruning to encourage dense growth.

## Salvia



**Salvia** - many varieties under various common names, e.g., “bee sage”, “prairie sage”, “silver sage”, “California blue sage”, “tropical sage”, “desert sage”, “autumn sage” - to list only some of the varieties suitable for our low desert area. Highly varied characteristics but generally require regular water and tolerate full sun. Blossoms, typically on spikes, in various colors including red, purple, blue, and yellow.

## Echinacea – Coneflower



**Echinacea –Coneflower** Perennial with bristly foliage and daisy-like flowers with “drooping” petals. Spring flowers have large brownish-orange “cone-shaped” centers, and petals that vary over yellow, orange, red, pink and purple. Moderate to regular water, full sun. Do well in summer heat. Roots (tubers) need to be divided after 3 or 4 years.

### **Bougainvillea La Jolla**



**Bougainvillea 'La Jolla'** - Evergreen shrub. Full sun. Low water needs. Red bracts in summer-fall. Hardy to about 20-25 degrees F. This selection has a shrub habit to about 4-5 feet tall.

### **Baja Fairy Duster**



**Baja Fairy Duster** is a medium sized shrub that grows to 5 feet high and 5 feet wide. Medium green, twice divided leaves are one inch long and give this native of Baja California its tropical appearance. Scarlet red to red-orange, tufted flowers appear nearly year-round. Flowering is most prevalent from November to March with intermittent blooming during the summer. The long red stamens of these flowers resemble the tufted head of a dusting brush. It strongly attracts hummingbirds which are very territorial about this plant. Baja Fairy Duster makes a beautiful addition to any xeric landscape where year-round color and low maintenance are desired.

### **Bougainvillea oo-la-la**



Vibrant, magenta-red flowers bloom longer than most bougainvilleas. Compact, dwarf form, wonderful for cascading hanging baskets or as a spreading groundcover. Full sun, low water. Maximum 2ft high and 4-7ft wide.

## Valentine



***Eremophila 'Valentine'***. This Australian shrub adds a bright burst of late-winter color in low-desert gardens. Flower buds start appearing in December, followed by a profusion of red tubular blossoms that open from February through March. 'Valentine' has proven hardy to 25° and may tolerate even lower temperatures. The rounded shrub reaches 4 feet tall with a 5-foot spread.

## Ruelia Katie



Spectacular, low-growing, heat-tolerant perennial with profusions of violet, light pink or white flowers. Highly pest resistant. Full sun or partial shade. Individual plants usually less than 1 foot tall by wide; spreads quickly by self-seeding. Bloom Early summer till frost.

## Knock Out Roses



The Knock Out<sup>®</sup> Family of Roses are easy to grow and do not require special care. They are the most disease resistant rose on the market. They have stunning flower power with a generous bloom cycle (about every 5-6 weeks) that will continue until the first hard frost. All of the Knock Out<sup>®</sup> Roses are self-cleaning so there is no need to deadhead.

## Succulents

### Desert Rose



**Desert Rose** - The desert rose (*Adenium obesum*) is a striking plant with swollen succulent stems and deep red flowers. The plant is deciduous in cooler winters, but it can be kept in leaf provided there is sufficient warmth and light water. There is no part of these plants that doesn't command interest, from the dramatically swollen stems on older plants to the bright flowers to the tight clusters of narrow, green leaves.

### Firestick



**Firestick** - The firestick succulent plant (*Euphorbia tirucalli*), also called pencil tree, is an unusual looking bush that is covered in skinny branches with very few leaves. Like most succulents, it requires very little water to thrive and will do well as long as its basic growing requirements are met.

### Crown of Thorns



**Crown of Thorns** - It stands around 36 inches when full grown and has dark green stems. It has long spindly arms that reach out in all directions. It resembles a Cactus but the thorns cover the entire plant except for the flowers it produces. On the top of each of the long stems is a cluster of beautiful flowers. Pink, yellow, red and white are the colors of these flowers and they are surrounded by bright green, pointy leaves. These plants can be potted or arranged in a garden.

## Kalanchoe



**Kalanchoe** - Popular succulents. Modern hybrids are valued for their interesting leaf-forms or for their flowers. Flowering Kalanchoes are available in red, pink, yellow, or white. Like many succulents, these are not difficult plants to grow, providing you are careful with the water, especially in the winter. They prefer bright, sunny locations, especially in the summer growing season.

## Agave



**Agave** - A clumping, almost stemless plant that usually grows in colonies, new plants being produced by basal lateral shoots, and the individual plants are several feet wide. The leaves, arising from a woody base are 18 inches long, 3 inches wide and spine tipped, It should have good drainage and little water. The flowering stem rises to 15 feet, producing yellow flowers from late spring to early summer. Native to the Mojave and Sonoran Deserts.

## Hens and Chicks



**Hens and Chicks** - Hens and chicks plants are mat-forming succulents that produce clusters of rosettes. The parent rosettes are the "hens," and the smaller rosettes that spring from them are the "chicks" or "chickens." This low-growing (4") perennial will quickly spread to 2' or more in width. Although grown for its foliage, hens and chicks do flower, on a tall (1') flower stalk.

## Red Yucca



**Red Yucca** is a very useful plant in many landscapes. Thin, tough foliage gives it excellent heat, drought and cold protection for Southwest gardens. Bright tubular flowers bloom for months and are a great bee, butterfly and hummingbird attracting feature. Although it is not a true Yucca it does act and look similar to one (without the dangerous dagger leaf tips). Rosettes of thick, sword-shaped, gray-green evergreen foliage have attractive peeling margins. The leaves turn a slight plum color during colder weather. The plant (sans blooms) is about 2-3 ft tall.

# Trees

## Jatropha



Jatropha can be planted in a well drained location. Jatropha is not too particular when it comes to the soil and location. But it is essential that the plant is planted in area where there is partial/full sunlight. The plant can be grown as a mixed shrub or as a hedge. Since the fully grown jatropa reached a height of about 10 to 12 feet it can also be used as a foundation planting.

## Lysiloma



Reddish brown fruit in hard pod-like shells populate this tree type, with a hint of white or gray flowers. The evergreen leaves do not change color in the fall. Full sun, partial light and shade all work adequately for the Lysiloma tree, which can endure various types of soil such as clay and sand with a high tolerance for drought.

### Willow - acacia



**Willow acacia** is an Australian tree that provides refreshing shade in low desert regions of Southern Arizona. It has narrow leaves and a weeping appearance.. A fast grower, willow acacia is taller and narrower than most native trees. Fragrant, puffball flowers appear almost any time of year but are most abundant in the spring. Willow acacia makes a fine, drought-tolerant tree for space restricted areas. Tree requires relatively little care and can withstand long periods of drought. It does not require supplemental fertilizer. Water established Willow acacia trees sparingly— every three to four weeks in summer and every other month in the winter. Deep, infrequent irrigation helps to develop a strong, anchoring root system. Regularly thinning the canopy helps to reduce wind resistance. Prune in fall or early spring to raise and thin the canopy and to remove dead or damaged limbs. Also, Willow acacia tree will benefit from staking when young. This helps establish a self-supporting, structurally strong and upright habit.

### Plum Purpleleaf



The tree starts flowering early in the spring, with small, fragrant light pink or white colored flowers. Purple leaf plum tree is one of those few trees, whose blooming marks the arrival of spring. The leaves start appearing just after the fading of the flowers. Leaves are generally shed in the month of August and by the end of September, the tree completely loses its foliage. Purple leaf plum trees bear small, deep red or purple colored fruits in July. The fruits are usually about the size of a cherry and ripen in August. They are edible, and can be eaten raw or used to make jam, depending on whether they are sweet or sour. Purple leaf plum tree can be grown in any soil type; it should be moist and well drained. This tree should be well exposed to sunlight. The trees that are grown in shady areas usually produce green and not purple leaves.

### **Casuarina stricta – Drooping she-oak, Coast beefwood**



This fast-growing evergreen tree grows to 20-35 feet tall. Long thin branches look like very long pine needles, but this is not a pine tree. True leaves of casuarina are small and inconspicuous. Very small, yellowish spring blossoms are followed by small, cone-like “fruit”. Does well with little to regular water and in full sun. This tree tolerates tough conditions including heat and wind. Casts light shade. Little pruning required on mature specimens.

### **Geijera parviflora – Australian willow**



This evergreen tree is not a true willow; it is sometimes called a willow because it has long narrow leaves and drooping small branches that give a weeping-willow effect. At maturity it reaches 25 to 30 feet tall and about 15-20 feet wide. It requires well-drained soil, little to moderate water, and full sun. Unimportant white flowers in spring and fall. Deep non-invasive roots. Said to be a “trouble-free patio, street, or grove tree.” Needs pruning only to correct form.

### **Hakea laurina – Pincushion tree**



This evergreen tree grows from 10 to 25 feet tall and wide. Although it is likely to develop multiple trunks, it can be pruned to have a single trunk. The long narrow gray-green leaves sometimes have red margins. Showy flower clusters appear in winter (sometimes late fall), each individual blossom looking something like a crimson pincushion stuck with many golden pins. No irrigation needed. Grows well in full sun.

### **Acacia saligna or Acacia cynaophylla – Blue-leaf wattle**



This evergreen tree has long, narrow blue-green leaves and grows to about 20-30 feet tall. It requires little or no water and full sun. Spring blooms are clusters of yellow-orange balls. Multiple trunks, but can be pruned to have a single trunk.

### **Chilopsis linearis – Desert Willow**



This very fast growing tree has long narrow leaves and trumpet-shaped blossoms from spring to fall. Attracts hummingbirds. Several varieties with flower color varying over purple, lavender, rose, pink and white. At maturity, grows to 15-30 feet tall and 10-20 feet wide. Drops leaves and catalpa-like seed pods. This is a “semi-evergreen” tree, i.e., it retains its leaves for most of the year, but during the winter it drops its leaves and is largely bare for a short time.

### **Eucalyptus torquata – Coral gum tree**



At maturity this fast-growing tree reaches a height of 20 to 40 feet. It has light green to yellow-green leaves. It blooms on and off all year, with lantern-shaped buds opening to form flowers of red and yellow. Good desert tree. Like other varieties of this general species, this tree needs little or no water and it thrives in full sun. Produces seed pods.

### **Pitecellobium flexicaule – Texas ebony**



This slow-growing evergreen tree reaches a height of 20-25 feet at maturity. It requires little water and needs full sun. It has cream colored flowers and produces brown seedpods.

### **Fascinaiton Chaste**



Produced most abundantly in midsummer, but sporadically whenever temperatures are warm, the tiny lavender-purple flowers are held in loose upright steeple clusters. The fragrant blooms attract butterflies and are an excellent nectar source for honeybees. Small black berries are usually produced in abundance. Grow this fast-growing small tree in full sun for best form and heaviest flowering. Moist well-drained soil is ideal, but this species tolerates moderate drought and sandy soils. It also withstands salt spray. Use it as a tall hedge or screen or as a heavily pruned foundation plant. It can also be trained as a small shade or street tree.

## Yellow Oleander Tree



The flowers are funnel-shaped, 3 inches (7.6 cm) long, and have 5 overlapping petals that open in a spiraled pinwheel. The flowers are followed by 1 1/2 inch (4 cm) in diameter, angled, semi-rhomboid, green ripening to brown or black fruits that usually contain two seeds. The leaves are glossy green above, pale green below, leathery, hairless, spirally arranged, and linear in shape. The broken foliage oozes toxic white latex sap.

## Box Cordi – Texas Olive



Can be grown as a shrub or a small tree. Its showy white flowers make it an attractive addition to the home landscape. It is not a true olive tree, but because its fruits resemble olives, it is known as the Texas Olive. The tree needs full sun and well drained soil to prosper. It can grow in various soil types; Sandy, Sandy Loam, Medium Loam, Clay Loam, Clay, with a pH around neutrality. It is a slow growing tree with moderate water use and is drought tolerant. Since it is a native, it shouldn't need fertilization. Because of its relatively small size, it can be planted fairly close to the house.

## Silver Mediterranean Fan Palm



The silver version of the Mediterranean Fan Palm is native to the Atlas Mountains of North Africa. In habit, this relative new-comer to the American market is much like the more familiar green variety, except for its striking color, which makes it a wonderful companion plant for Lotusland-like “blue” gardens and their suite of Atlas Cedar, Mexican Blue Palms, blue fescue, blue agaves, and other plants with blue-gray-green foliage. The leaves more deeply cut and segmented than the traditional green *humilis* and the overall effect more distributed and feathery. The Silver Med palm is also as wonderful specimen and contrastive plant, and will see greater use in massed plantings and luxurious linear medians.

## Palo Verde



Palo Verde Trees commonly occur in the Southwest: the foothill, yellow or littleleaf palo verde (*Parkinsonia aculeata*) and the blue palo verde (*Parkinsonia florida*). Palo verde – Spanish for green wood or stick – alludes to the plant’s greenish branches and trunk. Common names refer to location, bark tints or comparative leaf size.