



DEMONSTRATION Garden Guide



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Garden Guide scan the QR code or visit
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*A Planting Guide for
South Central New Mexico*



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INTRODUCTION



The Water Conservation Demonstration Garden at the Las Cruces Utilities (LCU) Administration Building, 680 N. Motel Blvd., showcases a wide variety of low-water and desert-adapted plants suitable for cultivation in this area. As xeriscape has become more popular, there has been a tendency by local landscapers to select a small variety of the same species over and over. Some people may conclude that the options for desert-adapted landscapes are quite limited, but nothing could be further from the truth. While the use of a limited plant palette may be due in part to limited availability, when people can see for themselves the variety of possibilities, they will surely begin to request less well-known species.

As Water Conservation Coordinator, my goal is to help area residents reduce their water use while creating beautiful and habitable landscapes. Most of the species in this garden have low water requirements. Exceptions are the Bermuda grass and the pecan tree. The pecan tree was already in place, when the demonstration garden was created. It is a reminder that many of our homes already have landscape in place which may not be easily removable. With the right planning, it is possible to create a garden that effectively reconciles higher and lower water use plants.

When selecting species for a home or commercial landscape keep in mind that many factors affect suitability of a particular species. Las Cruces is located in the Chihuahuan desert where the climate is considerably hotter than the central part of New Mexico, but cooler than the southern Arizona Sonoran desert. Consequently, some but not all, plants in the other two regions will grow well in this area.

The amount of sun or shade in a particular location may be critical. For some species, plant health also depends on soil type. Located in the valley, the demonstration garden's soil is a heavier, loamier clay than what is found on the mesas, which tend to have sandier soil. As a result, some plants that do well in this garden may not do as well on the mesas and vice-versa. It is important to carefully consider each plant's growing requirements before selecting it for a particular landscape.

Whether you visit the garden to find plants you want to add to your own landscape, to compare the effectiveness of irrigation technologies, or simply to enjoy the beautiful plants and the animals they attract, we think you will enjoy your visit here. Be sure to take a few minutes to sit and appreciate the garden, because after all, that's what gardens are for!

By Leslie R. Kryder
Former Water Conservation Coordinator
Las Cruces Utilities



DEMONSTRATION GARDEN

DESERT WILLOW

Chilopsis linearis

Type: Tree, deciduous

Mature Size: 6'-30'h x 6'-30'w

Blooming Season: Late Spring to Early Summer

Flower Color: White, burgundy, pink

 Full Sun  Low

Desert Willow is native to the desert washes of the southwestern U.S. and Mexico. It has long, narrow leaves that are very similar to the weeping willow. The flowers are bell shaped and grow in terminal clusters. They are a light pink to lavender color and have a pleasant fragrance. The Desert Willow is ideal for bird gardens since hummingbirds tend to live in the foliage during the summer. The fragrance is very attractive to bees and the 12 inch long seed capsules are popular with birds. They have no diseases of major concern but tend to look dead when dormant, especially the first year.



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ORCHID ROCK ROSE

Cistus x purpureus

Type: Shrub, evergreen

Mature Size: 3'h x 4'-6'w

Blooming Season: Summer

Flower Color: Purple/Pink

 Full Sun  Low

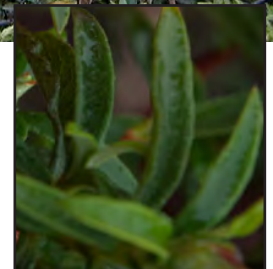
Orchid Rock Rose, or Orchid Rockrose, is a fast growing evergreen perennial shrub that originates from the Mediterranean region of Morocco, Portugal, and the Canary Islands. It has narrow 2 inch long leaves with a dark green top and grey-green bottom, which send forth an appealing resinous scent. The Orchid Rock Rose blooms for 2 to 3 months in the summer with a profusion of papery blooms that resemble wild rose blossoms. Each flower lasts only a day and the petals will carpet the ground beneath. It is drought tolerant, heat tolerant, cold tolerant, soil tolerant, and salt tolerant. Butterfly and moth larvae will eat the foliage.



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POMEGRANATE

Punica granatum

Type: Shrub, deciduous

Mature Size: 6' - 15'h

Blooming Season: Summer

Flower Color: Orange-Red

 Full Sun  Low

Pomegranate is a shrub that is native to Asia where it has adapted to sandy and rocky terrain. It thrives in hot, dry climates and is also somewhat salt tolerant. The pomegranate requires regular removal of suckers to prevent spreading and promote growth for the shrub base and its fruit. It will reach maturity and begin producing fruits after 3 to 4 years. Orange-red trumpet-shaped flowers give way to the ripened pomegranate fruit 6 to 7 months after flowering and properly maintained it can yield more than 300 lbs. of fruit each year. It is prone to attack by leaf footed plant bugs.



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DAMIANITA

Chrysactinia mexicana

Type: Shrub, evergreen

Mature Size: 1' - 2'h x 2'w

Blooming Season: Spring to Fall

Flower Color: Golden-yellow

 Full Sun/Partial Shade  Low

Damianita is native to Texas and northern Mexico. It has needle-like foliage that is dark green and produces a strong aroma. The flowers bloom from April to September. These flowers are daisy-like, golden-yellow, and grow on stem terminals. Damianita thrives in full sun and poor soils. It grows into a dense round shrub, unless it is planted in shade where it tends to get leggy. This shrub should only be lightly pruned in spring, because it can die if pruned back severely. Heat and drought tolerant, rabbit resistant, and cold hardy to 10 degrees F. It is great in mass plantings and can be used for erosion control on slopes.



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ROSEMARY

Rosmarinus officinalis 'Prostratus'

Type: Shrub, evergreen or Herbaceous evergreen

Mature Size: 2'-6'h x 3'-6'w

Blooming Season: Winter to Spring

Flower Color: Blue

☀️ Full Sun 💧 Low

Rosemary is a member of the mint family and it originates in the Mediterranean. This evergreen shrub has dark-green pine-needle-like leaves that have been used to flavor meat for centuries. These leaves can also be used to relax muscles, for cosmetics, and to freshen air. Its small blue flowers can pollinate themselves. Rosemary tolerates partial shade and is drought tolerant, salt tolerant, and resistant to deer and rabbit predation. When it is grown in warmer climates, it can easily live up to 30 years.

See also number 90, Prostrate Rosemary.



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ANGELITA DAISY

Tetranneuris acaulis

Type: Herbaceous, perennial

Mature Size: 1'w x 15"-18"h

Blooming Season: February to November

Flower Color: Golden-yellow

☀️ Full Sun 💧 Medium

Angelita Daisy is native to the North American plains from Canada to Texas. It forms small dense clumps with long grass-like leaves. Yellow, daisy-like flowers with notched edges rise above the plant on tall leafless stems. The flowers are very fragrant and attract butterflies, insects, bees, and birds. They have an almost year-round blooming period. It is necessary to deadhead old flowers to keep the plant from looking scruffy. The Angelita Daisy is extremely drought tolerant and is cold hardy to -20 degrees F. Its dense foliage makes it an ideal perennial for borders.



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NEW MEXICO PRIVET

Forestiera neomexicana

Type: Tree, deciduous

Mature Size: 12'-18'w x 12'h

Blooming Season: Spring

Flower Color: Yellow

 **Full Sun**  **Medium**

New Mexico Privet is a multi-stemmed tree or large shrub, which easily adapts to a variety of growing conditions. It has ornamental white bark and bright green leaves that turn yellow-green in fall. When in bloom, small yellow flowers appear and produce an enjoyable fragrance that is similar to lilac. The fruit is a bluish-black berry eaten by quail and songbirds. The New Mexico Privet has separate male and female plants. It is alkaline tolerant, extremely drought resistant, and is not insect or disease prone. Depending on how the privet is pruned, it can either look like a large bush or a tree.



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Depending on how the privet is pruned, it can either look like a large bush or a tree. There are three New Mexico Privets in this garden. See if you can identify the other ones, which were pruned differently.

APACHE PLUME

Fallugia paradoxa

Type: Shrub, semi-evergreen

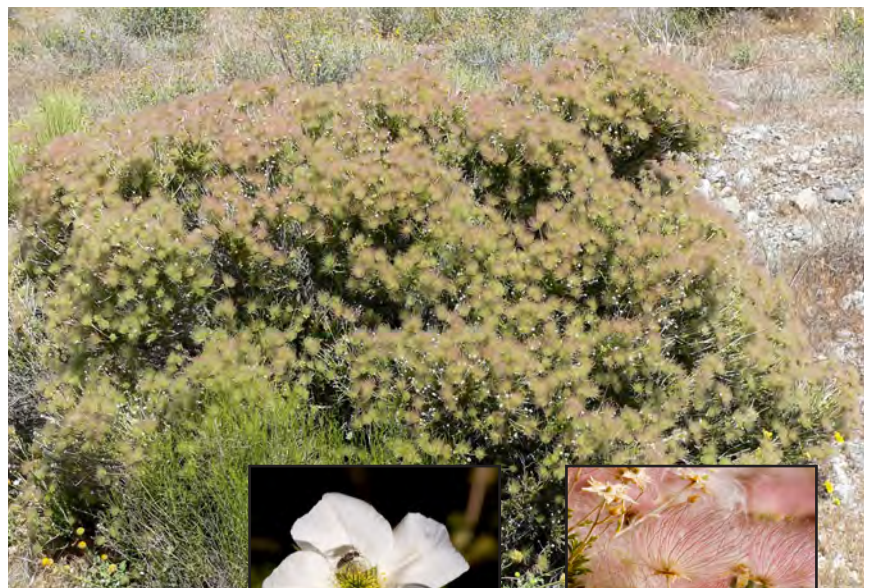
Mature Size: 3-6'w x 3-6'h

Blooming Season: April to June

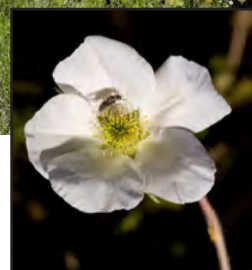
Flower Color: White with yellow centers

 **Full Sun/Partial Shade**  **Low**

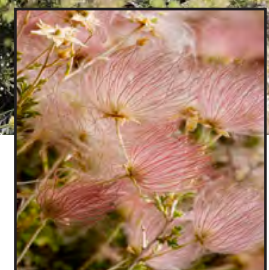
Apache Plume is a multi-branched shrub that is native to the Mojave, Chihuahuan, Great Basin, and Sonoran Deserts. In warmer climates it is semi-evergreen and will retain its dark green leaves. It has dense, entangled branches. White blooms similar to apple blooms appear in late spring. These flowers produce exotic seed heads with silvery-pink puffs. Apache Plume is very attractive to bees and butterflies and is a shelter for wildlife. It is extremely drought tolerant and cold hardy to minus 30 degrees F. Under optimum conditions, it can grow very aggressively.



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THREE-LEAF SUMAC

Rhus trilobata

Type: Shrub, semi-evergreen

Mature Size: 20"- 8' tall

Blooming Season: Spring

Flower Color: Red

 Full Sun/Partial Shade  Low

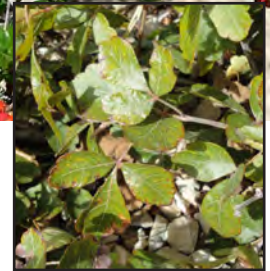
Three Leaf Sumac is a shrub that is native to the Western United States. It is commonly found in thickets and growing on hillsides and canyons. The leaves are fragrant three-lobed leaflets. The yellowish-white flowers grow in small, dense clusters. This plant is polygamodious, meaning that the male and female flowers are found on separate plants. This Sumac produces small, bright red, edible fruits that are 5-7 mm in diameter. The fruits persist into winter and are eaten by birds and small mammals. Three Leaf Sumac is very drought tolerant and is very resistant to both insects and disease.



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RED OR SCARLET TEXAS SKULLCAP

Scutellaria suffrutescens

Type: Shrub, deciduous

Mature Size: 1'- 2'h x 2'- 4'w

Blooming Season: Late Spring to Early Fall

Flower Color: Pink

 Full Sun/Partial Shade  Low

Scutellaria sp 'Starrfire', also known as Skullcap, is a specialized variety of Skullcap closely related to the Pink Texas Skullcap (pictured here). The Starrfire's beautiful red flowers make it an eye-pleasing groundcover. The Pink Texas Skullcap is a shrub that is native to Northern Mexico. It has foliage that is similar to thyme (oval leaves with rounded tips). The stems are somewhat hairy and woody, which prevent it from dying down each year. The flowers resemble snapdragon flowers and their small size is compensated by quantity, as they are very plentiful during their blooming season. The Texas Skullcap is



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disease resistant, pest resistant, drought tolerant, and thrives with heat and humidity. Both Skullcaps are ideal for rock gardens, xeriscaping, and container gardening.

WESTERN SCHLEY PECAN

Carya illinoensis

Type: Tree, deciduous

Mature Size: 70' - 100'h x 30'w

Blooming Season: April to May

Flower Color: Yellowish green

 Full Sun  Heavy

The Western Schley is a legacy tree in our demonstration garden, meaning that it existed before the garden was planted. It is native to the region of the lower Mississippi Valley and extends into northeastern Mexico. This tree is not a low water-use species. When grown commercially, the Western Schley uses 4 ½ to 5 ½ feet of water per year to maximize nut production. In a landscape, it generally does well with about 2 ½ feet of water. Large amounts of water are needed in August, when water is critical for pecan shell hardening. Water deficiency during this time may cause trees to



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drop most of their crop. This tree serves as a reminder that often landscapes must accommodate a wide range of existing and new plantings.

MEXICAN PLUM

Prunus mexicana

Type: Tree, deciduous

Mature Size: 25'h x 25'w

Blooming Season: Spring

Flower Color: White

 Full Sun/Partial Shade  Low

The Mexican Plum is a single trunked tree that is native to North America. It starts with a lighter brown bark that will eventually turn dark and striated. This bark will peel off in patches as it grows. Each spring comes with a stunning display of clouds of white blooms covering the entire tree. This beautiful display is pleasantly fragrant and it is shortly followed by purple/red fruits. These are tart to the taste and can be eaten or made into jams and jellies. It is drought tolerant once established. Members of the Rosaceae family are susceptible to cotton root rot, but the Mexican Plum is resistant.



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SMOKETREE OR SMOKEBUSH

Cotinus coggygria

Type: shrub, deciduous

Mature Size: 10'-15'h x 10'-15'w

Blooming Season: May to July

Flower Color: Yellow

 Full Sun  Medium

Smoketree is a multi-stemmed shrub that can be trained as a tree and is native to southern Europe, central China, and the Himalayas. It earns its name from the tiny yellowish flowers that grow on long pinkish stems. Groups of these stems cluster and produce a cloudlike effect. The flowers attract bees. Smoketree has oval blue-green leaves that change into different shades of yellow, purple, and red in the fall. Those with sensitive skin can get dermatitis from skin contact with the Smoketree. It is drought tolerant and resistant to honey fungus, but it is affected by rust, leafspot, and verticillium wilt.



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BUTTERFLY BUSH

Buddleia davidii

Type: Shrub, deciduous

Mature Size: 5'-9'h x 8'-10'w

Blooming Season: Summer to Fall

Flower Color: Lavender, lilac, purple, white, yellow, pink

 Full Sun  Medium

Butterfly Bush is an ideal plant for gardeners that want to attract butterflies, hummingbirds, and bees. Summer blooms develop as loose branching clusters of flowers. Depending on the plant, flowers may be lavender, lilac, purple, white, yellow, or pink. Although they are drought tolerant, spider mites become problematic during droughts. Due to unruliness of the Butterfly Bush, their visual appeal increases when they are planted together. Consider pruning the Butterfly Bush to the ground in late winter, because when it returns in spring it will only produce flowers on new growth.



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MEXICAN BUCKEYE

Ungnadia speciosa

Type: Shrub, deciduous

Mature Size: 10'-20'h x 8'-12'w

Blooming Season: Spring to Summer

Flower Color: Pink, purple

 Full Sun/Partial Shade  Low

Mexican Buckeye is a large multi-stemmed shrub, which can be pruned into a tree with a single trunk. It is native to the Southwest and northeastern Mexico. In the wild it is typically found in limestone soils in canyons and on creek banks. Mexican Buckeye has shiny dark green leaves that are fuzzy on bottom and turn bright yellow during the fall. Before the new leaves emerge in spring, bright pink flowers bloom in clusters along the twigs. It produces shiny dark-brown seeds with a pale spot that resemble buckeye seeds. These seeds are poisonous. The Mexican Buckeye is extremely heat tolerant and makes an attractive background shrub or deciduous screen.



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MEXICAN BLUE SAGE


Salvia chamaedryoides

Type: Herbaceous, perennial

Mature Size: 1'-3'h x 1'-3'w

Blooming Season: Summer to Fall

Flower Color: Blue

 Full Sun/Partial Shade  Low Plus

Mexican Blue Sage is a perennial that is native to Mexico. This sage mounds in the center and also spreads its woody stems along the ground. It has small bright grey foliage and deep blue blossoms. The flowers are trumpet shaped and grow along the terminal branches. It blooms almost year-round and is very attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds. Mexican Blue Sage is a fast grower and spreads vigorously through its underground stems. It is drought tolerant but susceptible to powdery mildew, rust, stem rot, fungal leaf spots, whiteflies, aphids, mealy bugs, and spider mites.



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AUTUMN JOY SEDUM

Sedum telephium

Type: Perennial, evergreen

Mature Size: 1'-1.9'h x 1.5'-1.9'w

Blooming Season: Late Summer to Fall

Flower Color: Deep pink

 **Full Sun/Partial Shade**  **Low Plus**

Autumn Joy Sedum is a very dependable garden perennial. When flowers begin to take form in July they look like broccoli. Later, in August they bloom as bushy pink flower heads, and eventually deepen into a rusty-red in the fall. They do not require pruning while in season, and if they are left over winter, simply pruning out dead stems in early spring allows new growth. Autumn Joy is very easy to establish and has a moderate growth rate. It will add a burst of color from late summer well into fall and is very attractive to butterflies.



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DAYLILY

Hemerocallis

Type: Perennial, deciduous

Mature Size: 24" h x 12"-24" w

Blooming Season: Summer

Flower Color: Yellow, pink, orange

 **Full Sun/Partial Shade**  **Medium**

Daylily has evolved to over 45,000 varieties, each with its own unique characteristics (colors, flowering times, and fragrance). The scientific name is 'hemerocallis,' which in Greek means "beautiful for a day." Each Daylily flower only blooms for one day. Regarded as one of the easiest plants to grow, the Daylily is versatile and can adapt to most soils, though it prefers well drained soil. It is drought tolerant, but really thrives with additional water. Daylilies come in a variety of colors, so it's best to purchase plants while they are in bloom. The Demonstration Garden features the Ming Toy variety, a beautiful rust with a yellow throat.



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VITEX

Vitex agnus-castus

Type: Tree, deciduous

Mature Size: 8'-10' x 5'- 8'

Blooming Season: July to August

Flower Color: Violet-blue

 Full Sun  Medium

Vitex is a tree that is native to China and India where it is known as the “chaste tree” for its ability to help suppress the libido. The leaves are lance-shaped and come in groups of 5 to 7 leaves in a star-like configuration. The flowers are small, ranging in color from blue to violet and they grow in clusters along the ends of the branches. Both the flowers and leaves are aromatic, making them attractive to butterflies. They produce small black fruits and the four seeds in each fruit can be used to flavor food. The Vitex is drought tolerant and doesn't have any serious insect or disease problems. Only leaf spots and root rot cause occasional problems.



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DESERT BIRD OF PARADISE

Caesalpinia gilliesii

Type: Shrub, deciduous

Mature Size: 5'-10'h x 4'- 6'w

Blooming Season: Spring to early Summer

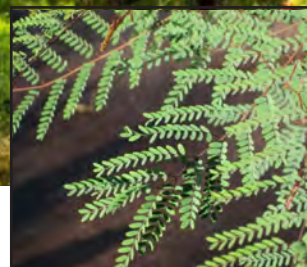
Flower Color: Yellow, red

 Full Sun  Low

Desert Bird of Paradise is native to Argentina. It is fast growing and can be a shrub or small tree. The leaves are bluish green and will grow in a featherlike arrangement. In the spring, the branch tips begin to grow yellow flowers with long bright red stamens (4-5 inches). The individual yellow flowers bloom for only one day. A flower will open over the course of 4 hours in the late afternoon, making it possible to watch the bloom open. Although the Desert Bird of Paradise is very aesthetically pleasing, the seeds are poisonous. It is prone to spider mites, mealy bugs, and whiteflies.



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CHOCOLATE FLOWER

Berlandiera lyrata

Type: Herbaceous, perennial

Mature Size: 1'- 2'h x 1'- 2'w

Blooming Season: Summer to Fall

Flower Color: Yellow

☀️ Full Sun 💧 Low Plus

Chocolate Flower is native to the Southwest but is highly adaptable to different conditions. It earns its name from the sweet chocolate scent its flowers produce. The flowers bloom at night, and offer a rich chocolate scent in the mornings. As the temperature increases, the flowers will close and the scent disappears. To increase this pleasant chocolate aroma, it is best to plant these flowers in groups. This aromatic flower will return each spring with a larger crown. It can be cut back in February or November if there are small rosettes of new growth at base.



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FLOWERING YUCCA

Hesperaloe parviflora

Type: Succulent, evergreen

Mature Size: 2'- 3'h x 4'w

Blooming Season: Summer to Fall

Flower Color: Pink, yellow, red

☀️ Full Sun 💧 Low Plus

Red and Yellow Flowering Yucca is a stemless succulent that is native to the Rio Grande of Texas and northern Mexico. In the demonstration garden you will find several red and yellow examples as well as a single "Brakelight Red" cultivar. "Hesperaloe" is the Greek translation of the "Western Aloe," due to its aloe-like grass foliage that arches and spreads 3 to 4 feet tall. The three different species vary by their flower colors and are either pink, bright red, or yellow. By mid-summer the flowers sprout along the 5 to 8 - foot tall stalks. These plants have a long blooming period and the flowers open from the bottom up. It is drought tolerant, soil tolerant, and requires minimal flower stalk removal maintenance. Flowering Yucca is a great accent plant and is very attractive to hummingbirds.



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MOONSHINE YARROW

Achillea taygetea

Type: Herbaceous, perennial

Mature Size: 12"-18"h x 12"w

Blooming Season: Summer to Early Fall

Flower Color: Yellow

☀️ Full Sun 💧 Low Plus

Moonshine Yarrow is an herbaceous perennial that can do fairly well in poor soils as long as they are well drained. Its foliage is fernlike, aromatic, and characterized by a gray-green color with silver highlights. It will bloom in summer and produce flat flower clusters. These clusters emerge bright yellow and will fade over time. Clusters are extremely attractive to butterflies and can spread easily. It is advised to remove the flower clusters as they fade to encourage new blooms. Yarrow can be significantly affected by botrytis, stem rot, root rot, powdery mildew, and rust.



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PURPLE CONEFLOWER

Echinacea purpurea

Type: Herbaceous, perennial

Mature Size: 2'-4'h x 1.5'-2'h

Blooming Season: June - October

Flower Color: Purplish-pink

☀️ Full Sun/Partial Shade 💧 Medium

Purple Coneflower is a perennial native to the Midwest and Southeast. It forms coarse dark-green leaves that stem into tall daisy-like flowers. The petals are a purplish-pink and surround a red coned center. These flowers are very attractive to butterflies and when they begin to fade can be cut to help promote newer blooms. If left untrimmed, the petals will fall and leave the cone to dry on the stem where it can freely self-seed. Some people use the leaves, flowers, and root to make anti-inflammatory medicines. Japanese beetle and leaf spots may cause some problems.



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MEXICAN FIRE

Anisacanthus quadrifidus var. wrightii

Type: Shrub, perennial

Mature Size: 4'-5'h x 4'-5'w

Blooming Season: Summer to Fall

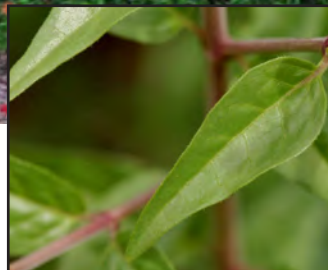
Flower Color: Red, orange

 Full Sun/Partial Shade  Low

Mexican Fire is a native to the plains of south-central Texas and northern Mexico. It has pale, flakey bark and lance-shaped leaves. Rain triggers the blooming of bright red-orange, tubular flowers. During dry summer months, supplemental water encourages heavier flowering. Hummingbirds love the nectar. Mexican Fire is an excellent wildlife plant that also provides either food or shelter for bees, butterflies, and birds. It is cold, heat, and drought tolerant and should be cut back to the ground before spring to promote denser growth. There are no notable pest or disease problems.



© Pam Penick (9)



© Patrick Alexander (2)



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PURPLE ROBE LOCUST

Robinia ambigua

Type: Tree, deciduous

Mature Size: 40'h x 20'w

Blooming Season: Spring to Summer

Flower Color: Purple-Pink

 Full Sun  Medium

Purple Robe Locust is a hybrid that combines the height of the Black Locust with the attractive pink-purple flowers of the Bristly Locust. Each spring brings beautiful flower clusters that hang from the branch tips. These flowers come in with a rosy perfume scent that attracts bees. The Locust provides partial shade, ideal for ornamental plants below since light is admitted through the foliage. It thrives in difficult conditions because it is fast growing and is both heat and cold tolerant. It may become weedy and require regular maintenance to prevent it from disrupting surrounding garden areas. This Locust is susceptible to locust borer, locust leaf miner, canker, and powdery mildew.



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WEDELIA

Wedelia hispida

Type: Shrub, perennial evergreen

Mature Size: 2' - 3'h x 2.5'w

Blooming Season: Spring to Fall

Flower Color: Orange - yellow

 Full Sun/Partial Shade  Low Plus

Wedelia is a small shrub that is native to southern New Mexico, Texas, and northern Mexico. It has a woody base with herbaceous stems and leaves. The woody branches create deeper roots allowing the Wedelia to die to the ground each winter and return in spring. It has rough and hairy, gray-green foliage. The daisy-like flowers are orange-yellow and will cover the plant from summer to frost. When planted in full sun, it grows in an upright bouquet-like shape. If planted in partial shade, it will grow lankier and spread to form a mounding groundcover. Wedelia is long-lived and very tolerant to cold, heat, and drought, but it is not invasive.



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ARIZONA SUN BLANKET FLOWER

Gaillardia 'Arizona Sun'

Type: Perennial

Mature Size: 1' - 3'h x 1' - 3'w

Blooming Season: Mid-summer to Fall

Flower Color: Red-yellow combination

 Full Sun  Medium

Arizona Sun is an award-winning cultivar of the native Blanket Flower. Attractive to butterflies, this plant makes a beautiful border. It likes full sun and well-drained soil that is not too rich. Although short-lived, it will often reseed itself. Other varieties include *Gaillardia X grandiflora*, which has similar characteristics. It is susceptible to mildews, rust, white smut, leaf spots, slugs, and snails.



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CHINESE JUNIPER

Juniperus chinensis

Type: Tree, evergreen

Mature Size: 50' - 70'h x 20'w

Blooming Season: Non-flowering

Flower Color: Violet-brown cones

 Full Sun  Medium

Chinese Juniper is unusual in that it can come in different forms such as shrubs and groundcover, but it is most typically found as a conical tree. When grown in groups it can be used as a barrier or wind break. The Chinese Juniper is drought tolerant after the first year of regular watering, but it is susceptible to spider mites. The stems can be used to help treat parasitic skin problems. Other popular juniper varieties include Blue Spire Juniper and Skyrocket Juniper.



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MEXICAN BUSH SAGE

Salvia leucantha

Type: Herbaceous, perennial

Mature Size: 2' - 3'h x 1' - 3'w

Blooming Season: Summer to Frost

Flower Color: Purple, white

 Full Sun/Partial Shade  Medium

Mexican Bush Sage is native to Central America and Mexico and in warmer climates it may remain evergreen instead of dying back to the ground when frost comes. It is sometimes referred to as the "woolly sage" due to the woolly underside of the lance-shaped leaves. But its most noteworthy characteristic is the bicolor flowers (white and purple) that bloom in long, terminal spikes. These flowers are soft and fuzzy and attract hummingbirds and butterflies. Mexican Bush Sage does not have any serious insect or disease problems.



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BLUE MIST SPIREA

Caryopteris x clandonensis

Type: Shrub, deciduous

Mature Size: 1'-3'w x 3'-6'w

Blooming Season: Summer

Flower Color: Blue

 **Full Sun**  **Low Plus**

Blue Mist Spirea is a very dependable mounding shrub that typically lasts 4 to 5 years before it needs to be replaced. In mid-summer it produces an explosion of pretty blue flowers that last into late summer. Bees are so attracted to these flowers that they tend to become more passive about nearby people. Blue Mist Spirea is highly heat and drought tolerant. They often self-propagate. The foliage and flowers are aromatic. Although it is uncommon, capsid bugs can attack the leaves.



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AUTUMN OR CHERRY SAGE

Salvia greggii

Type: Shrub, evergreen

Mature Size: 3'h x 3'w

Blooming Season: Spring to Fall

Flower Color: Red

 **Full Sun/Partial Shade**  **Medium**

Autumn Sage is an adaptable evergreen shrub native to the Chihuahuan Desert. It will bloom repeatedly from early summer until frost. The flowers are normally red but species vary with pink, white, yellow, and orange flowers. These one-inch flowers are found on spikes up to 10 inches long and are highly attractive to hummingbirds and butterflies. It has a woody base and leathery leaves. It can be pruned in spring and mid-summer to keep a bushy shape; or unpruned it will spread and sprawl. It is susceptible to powdery mildew, rust, stem rot, fungal leaf spots, whiteflies, aphids, mealy bugs, and spider mites.



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DEER GRASS

Muhlenbergia rigens

Type: Evergreen, ornamental grass

Mature Size: 3'- 5'h x 3'-5'w

Blooming Season: Summer

Flower Color: Silver

 Full Sun/Partial Shade  Low

Deer Grass is a warm season ornamental grass native to California, Texas, New Mexico, and Mexico. It has long narrow leaf blades that are bright green and form a large mound. Long yellowish-silver panicles arch 2-3 feet over the green foliage by late summer. Deer Grass will typically grow to maturity within 2 seasons. It took its name from the fact that deer like to lay on the mounds. The Native Americans in California used Deer Grass to make coiled baskets. It is drought tolerant, cold hardy to 0 degrees F, and tolerates sand and clay. Deer Grass is noninvasive.

Plants at Utilities Administration Building

There are additional plant species present along the front of the Utilities Administration Building. Follow the sidewalk to see these plants.

MEALY CUP SAGE

Salvia farinacea

Type: Perennial

Mature Size: 1'- 3'h x 1-3'w

Blooming Season: Spring to Fall

Flower Color: White, blue, violet

 Full Sun/Partial Shade  Medium

Mealy Cup Sage is native to Texas and New Mexico. It likes full sun to partial shade, though it blooms more with full sun. Flowers vary from white to a blue-violet and bloom from spring through fall. Once established it seldom needs supplemental water. In fact, it needs well drained soil or its roots will rot. It is attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds. It is cold hardy and fast growing. A shearing during its dormant season will help to invigorate it the next summer.



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TEXAS RANGER OR TEXAS SAGE

Leucophyllum frutescens, Green Cloud

Type: Shrub, evergreen

Mature Size: 3'- 4'h x 4'- 8'w

Blooming Season: Year-round

Flower Color: Lavender, purple, pink, white

 Full Sun  Medium

The Texas Ranger or Texas Sage is an evergreen shrub that is native to the Chihuahuan Desert. It has soft oval foliage that is silvery green. The foliage tends to sprawl when in shade. Summer rains trigger the bloom of brightly colored flowers that cover the entire shrub. The flowers attract butterflies and the shrub is also used as a butterfly larval host. The Texas Ranger is tolerant to cold, heat, salt spray, drought, and it is deer resistant. This shrub is easy to grow when given good drainage, but is susceptible to cotton root rot in wet soil. It is an ideal choice for barriers, windbreaks, and screens. This one is the Green Cloud, which has a rosy pink flower; however, it comes in a variety of colors. There are several other Texas Rangers near the wall on the east side of the Utilities building.



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BEARDED IRIS*Iris germanica***Type: Perennial****Mature Size: 3'h x 5'w****Blooming Season: Spring****Flower Color: Many colors/combinations**
 **Full Sun/Partial Shade**
 **Low/Med**

Iris are known for their beautiful blooms, which appear in the spring. Many people are surprised to learn that the iris is a relatively low water plant that can live on 5 to 8 inches of water per year. Because it stores moisture in the rhizomes, iris are surprisingly drought resistant as well as cold hardy. It is very important to keep the rhizomes firm. They like well-drained soil with moist, but not wet roots. In moderate climates they do best with full sun, but here in the southwest they may actually do better with partial shade. Every third or fourth year the rhizomes should be dug up, divided, and replanted, otherwise the plant will eventually stop blooming. The best time to do this is in the summer after the stalks have died back. The leaves and rhizomes contain irisin, which, if ingested, causes severe gastric disturbance.

© Sailko ⁽¹⁾© David Iliff ⁽¹⁷⁾**MEXICAN BLUE SAGE***Salvia chamaedryoides***Type: Herbaceous, perennial****Mature Size: 1'-3'h x 1'-3'w****Blooming Season: Summer to Fall****Flower Color: Blue**
 **Full Sun/Partial Shade**
 **Low Plus**

Mexican Blue Sage is a perennial that is native to Mexico. This sage mounds in the center and also spreads its woody stems along the ground. It has small bright grey foliage and deep blue blossoms. The flowers are trumpet shaped and grow along the terminal branches. It blooms almost year-round and is very attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds. Mexican Blue Sage is a fast grower and spreads vigorously through its underground stems. It is drought tolerant but susceptible to powdery mildew, rust, stem rot, fungal leaf spots, whiteflies, aphids, mealy bugs, and spider mites.

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PROSTRATE INDIGO BUSH

Dalea greggii

Type: Herbaceous, perennial

Mature Size: 1'h x 3'w

Blooming Season: Spring to Summer

Flower Color: Lavender, purple

 Full Sun/Partial Shade  Low



© Patrick Alexander 2



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Prostrate Indigo Bush is small shrub native to New Mexico, Texas, and Mexico. It has small compounded leaves that are silvery-blue-green and tiny purple pea-shaped flowers that grow on short spikes. The flowers attract butterflies and bees, and the bush is also a good larval plant for butterflies. Prostrate Indigo Bush is drought, heat, and cold tolerant and it should not be fertilized or overwatered. It is best used as a creeping groundcover or for mounding because it is very adaptable to different soils as long as they are well drained.

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DEMONSTRATION GARDEN GUIDE



For additional information about the Demonstration Garden Guide visit www.LasCruces.gov/WaterConservation or call (575) 528-3549.
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