

Shade Tree Selections

In order from smaller trees to larger trees

Foothills Palo Verde, *Parkinsonia microphylla*

Native, slow-growing tree. Can be single or multi-trunked, with thorn-tipped branches and small leaves. Great nesting habitat for native birds. Tolerant of heat, cold and poor soils. In extreme drought or cold tree may drop leaves. Yellow flowers bloom for a few weeks in late spring, usually following the flowering of the Blue Palo Verdes.



Palo Brea, *Parkinsonia praecox*

A fast growing tree that matures to 25-30 feet in height with an umbrella like canopy. The Palo Brea has lime green bark and a distinctive sculptural form. It is semi-evergreen with blue green leaves and small thorns. It has flowers that bloom blight yellow in late spring.



Desert Willow, *Chilopsis linearis*

Native tree, fast growth up to 20' tall. Beautiful pink flowers which attract hummingbirds from spring to fall. Deciduous - drops leaves in winter. Low pollen, good for those with allergies! Easy care, low maintenance tree. Smooth gray bark and soft, willow like leaves. Naturally has multiple trunks, good for a sculptural effect, or can be trained to a single trunk. Provides light, airy shade.



Trees, continued

Desert Ironwood, *Olneya tesota*

Native, slow initial growth, faster after 2nd year. Up to 25' tall, evergreen, white-grey bark, lush foliage, tiny green leaves, vicious re-curved thorns. Purple flowers in summer. Excellent habitat for native birds. Leaves may drop as a result of severe frost. Important "nurse" tree for other species.



Velvet Mesquite, *Prosopis velutina*

Native, fast growing tree that matures up to 30 feet tall and wide. The fern-like leaves and fruit have short dense hairs that give them the appearance of velvet. It is winter deciduous in areas of frost. The Velvet Mesquite produces fragrant spikes of yellow flowers in April and sometimes again in August when it rains. This is an excellent shade tree, but needs a fair amount of room due to horizontal branching. It has spiny twigs, but generally no thorns when the tree is mature.



Red Push Pistache, *Pistacia atlantica x integerrima*

Nonnative tree; moderate growth to 30' tall; requires regular watering, drought tolerant after established; will provide excellent shade for summer months, late fall color, drops leaves in winter. Pods/fruit not edible, moderate pollen. New growth pushes red. Deep rooting with deep watering. Nonallergenic.



Shrub Selections

Chuparosa, *Justicia californica*

Grows to 5' tall by 8' across. Deciduous after severe frosts or drought. The blue-green stems form a brambly bush may be too unkempt for a formal garden. Flowers can be found any month of the year, except during drought or right after freezes. Big blooms often occur in the winter and early spring months. The flowers are tubular and red, occurring in clusters at the ends of stems. Damaged at 26 degrees. Favorite of humming-birds



Flattop Buckwheat, *Eriogonum fasciculatum*

A small evergreen shrub with needle-like dark green foliage that grows at a moderate rate 2 to 3' tall and twice as wide. Masses of tiny white to pink flowers appear in dense clusters above the foliage in late winter and again in the summer. Attracts birds, butterflies, and native bees. Tolerates poor soil.



Turpentine bush, *Ericameria laricifolia*

A small, dense, evergreen shrub growing to 2 to 3' tall by the same width with striking dark green color and spectacular autumn flowering. Occasional flowers have been recorded in most months, but the main blooming season is from late August until early December. The flowers are bright yellow and in clusters that can nearly obscure the foliage. Many butterflies visit this species and affect pollination.



Shrubs, continued

Blue Grama grass, *Bouteloua gracilis*

A medium-sized delicate appearing bunchgrass. Readily reproduces by seed. Full sun, best in heavy, clay-rich soil. Will need more water in well-drained soils. Water seedlings and transplants generously and deeply through the first summer to establish a deep root system. Protect from rabbits and other wildlife until growing vigorously. The dead stems from previous years are persistent and tend to shade out new growth. Cut them to the ground at least every two years to rejuvenate them.



Red Bird of Paradise, *Caesalpinia pulcherrima*

Flowering season is from April or early May until November. It is deciduous and can reach 6' tall or more very quickly. Red Bird-of-paradise is widely cultivated and naturalized in the tropics worldwide. Its original range is unknown. Many butterfly species utilize this plant as a nectar source. Hardy to the lower 20s.



Woolly Butterfly Bush, *Buddleja marrubifolia*

Native to the Chihuahuan desert, very tolerant of heat, intense sunlight and drought. Grows to 5' tall with an equal or greater spread. Its grayish green leaves are elliptical and covered with fine white hairs giving this plant a soft, fuzzy look. From March to August the woolly butterfly bush blooms small, bright orange colored flowers that are extremely attractive to butterflies. Informal growth habit. Hardy to 15 degrees.

