

**HIGHLINE RANCH HOA
APPROVED PLANT LIST**

With

**PHOTOS AND
DESCRIPTIONS**

JUNE 2022

Highline Ranch Approved Plant List

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Highline Ranch Approved Plant List

Listed by Formal Name

Justicia californica
Chuparosa
***Acanthaceae* Family**

Form: twiggy shrub, usually leafless

Seasonality: evergreen

Size: to 6 ft, spread to 12 ft

Leaves: often none; usually present only in warm season when actively growing; simple, round to ovate, ¼ in long

Flowers: on terminal portion of branches, long tubular red blooms from early May through fall

Fruit: not significant

Stems/Trunks: green stems, with thick succulent appearance, twiggy, arching form; low older stems may get woody

Range/Origin: Sonoran deserts; elevations to 2500 ft

Hardiness: damaged in high 20s, freezes to ground in teens but will recover



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- rounded evergreen shrub
- color
- attracts hummingbirds

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** full sun for best flower and habit
- **Water:** very little, drought tolerant; thrives on one watering per week
- **Soil:** tolerant, well drained; best in sand
- **Propagation:** vegetative cuttings, branches will root, best time for cuttings is early summer
- **Maintenance:** minimal; may overgrow allotted area if overwatered



NOTES

- Found naturally in rocky areas or sandy washes

Ruellia brittoniana
Common ruellia
Acanthaceae Family

Form: perennial shrub

Seasonality: evergreen

Size: to 3 ft with equal spread; low branches will droop over and root

Leaves: linear, lanceolate, serrate, prominent purple venation

Flowers: in leaf axils, 2 in long funnel-shaped purple or blue flowers from mid-spring until frost

Fruit: seed; self-sows aggressively

Stems/Trunks: purple stems

Range/Origin: Mexico, SW US, naturalized in many areas

Hardiness: below 32°F tip dieback seen; dies to ground in mid 20s, recovers rapidly



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- Color
- Containers and planters



CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** best in full sun, handles shade
- **Water:** regular, drought tolerant
- **Soil:** adaptable, best in prepared
- **Propagation:** seed, vegetative cuttings or divisions
- **Maintenance:** trim to keep in bounds, removal of frost damaged foliage

NOTES

- Also known as Mexican barrio ruellia.
- Variety 'Chi chi' has pink flowers. Variety 'Icicles' has white flowers.
- Variety 'Baby Katie' is a dwarf, standard purple flowers with height to only 12 in needs to be constrained by container or spreads like a weed.

Carrisa macrocarpa
Natal Plum, Boxwood Beauty
Apocynaceae Family

Form: small evergreen shrub
Leaves: glossy leaves, shiny and oval
Flower: tiny white fragrant star-shaped flower
blooms spring through summer,
Fruit: bright red-orange edible fruit
Growth: 2 ft height with equal spread
Hardiness: to 12°F



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- foundation plant
- informal hedge
- barrier plant
- ground cover
- spring flowering accent



CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** sun and shade, sun best, sparse in shade
- **Water:** drought tolerant shrub once established. Apply deep, monthly irrigations in the summer.
- **Soil:** tolerates a wide range of soil conditions from clay to sandy
- **Propagation:** seed, easy; also clump division; cutting
- **Maintenance:** minimal; removal of spent flower stalks

NOTES

- All plant parts produce a white latex that might be a skin irritant to some people.

Agave americana
Century Plant, Maguey, American Aloe
Asparagaceae (subfamily Agavoideae)



Form: Upright, stiffly arching, rigid, imposing, erect, stout, immovable, dangerous, xeric.

Seasonality: Evergreen perennial succulent

Size: 3 to 7 feet, quite variable in final size

Leaves: Flattened, strap-shaped succulent blue-green leaves, sometimes curved or reflexed, margins toothed but not horny, foliage tapering to a deadly terminal spine, 5 feet long and 10 inches wide, leaves arranged in a rosette pattern; very coarse texture

Flowers: After about 10 years, plant produces a thick, green, arborescent, paniculate, flower stalk after which the flowering plant dies, flower stalk grows vigorously and is striking, persistent for months, flowers are yellow, 3 to 4 inches long, stalk will occasionally produce bulbils instead of flowers

Fruit:

Stems/Trunk:

Range/Origin: Slopes on the east and west of south-central Mexico highlands

Hardiness: Tolerant to 20°F

LANDSCAPE VALUE

- strong accent
- focal point
- barrier plant
- good in large desert gardens and xeric landscape design themes
- Use century plant with discretion! Leaf tips are dangerously rigid and sharp.

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** Full sun
- **Water:** None once established; root rot if soil is chronically damp
- **Soil:** Sandy, some loam, well-drained best
- **Propagation:** Division of basal offshoots; seed often requires manual pollination and is slow to germinate requiring 1 to 3 months at 70°F
- **Maintenance:** Consider tip pruning of spiny leaf apices

NOTES

- Even though there are many variegated cultivars of interest (three are listed below), century plant is generally too large and dangerous to be of much use in today's small and fragmented urban landscape spaces. About 200 species of Agave are native to North America, several of which such as *A. desmettiana* are smaller and less dangerous to people.
- Some of the popular cultivated varieties with variegated leaf patterns include:
'Marginata' (margins yellowish white to deep yellow)
'Variegata' (leaves dark green and yellow, twisted)
'Striata' (yellow or white stripes)
'Medio Picta' (large swath of white running down the middle of the leaf from base to tip)

Hesperaloe parviflora
Red Yucca
Asparagaceae (subfamily Agavoideae) Family

Form: clumping, grass-like mound of succulent leaves

Seasonality: evergreen **Size:** 2-3 ft, spread to 4 ft

Leaves: long narrow blades (like rolled grass), arching form, curly threads along edge of blade margins

Flowers: inverted bell-shape held on tall stalk; red to pink; flowers 1.25 in long, stalks to 8 ft tall on mature plants; long blooming period (early summer through fall)

Fruit: distinctive ping-pong ball sized capsule with multiple chambers; flat black seed within

Range/Origin: Texas Rio-Grande area, northern Mexico

Hardiness: to 12°F



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- accent plant
- medians and roadsides
- attracts hummingbirds

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** full sun for best flowering
- **Water:** little if any, drought tolerant
- **Soil:** tolerant, good drainage
- **Propagation:** seed, easy; also clump division
- **Maintenance:** minimal; removal of spent flower stalks



NOTES

- Yellow flowering varieties are also available.

Baileya multiradiata
Desert Marigold
Asteraceae Family

Form: herbaceous perennial; sprawling groundcover; self- sows

Seasonality: perennial

Size: 1 ft tall, 2 ft across

Leaves: alternate, deeply lobed, silverish, woolly; leaves low on thick stems

Flowers: bright yellow, solitary, to 2 in across borne on stalks held above foliage; petals fade leaving distinctive large button; bloom in early spring through mid-summer

Fruit: large amount of seed in flower button

Range/Origin: large range, all of Western US and Mexico in elevations below 5000 ft

Hardiness: damaged below 32°F



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- native flower mixes
- xeriscape
- color
- revegetation



CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** full sun, reflected heat
- **Water:** natural rainfall, drought tolerant; give some water during long dry spells
- **Soil:** tolerant, good drainage
- **Propagation:** seeds, best when gathered in fall, germination, weak at other times of year
- **Maintenance:** remove spent flowers before heat

NOTES

- Thrives in disturbed areas; rapid grower when given water

Encelia farinosa
Brittlebush, Incienso, White Brittlebush
Asteraceae Family

Form: rounded shrub; sparse and open in cold or unfavorable conditions

Seasonality: usually blooms in February and March, but occasionally after summer rains; short-lived perennial

Size: fast-growing to 3 feet tall by 4 feet wide

Leaves: lance- or ovate-shaped to 3 in., light gray-green when well-watered, silvery whitish-green under very dry conditions;

Flowers: masses of 1.5-in, bright yellow, daisy-like blooms on long stems above the plants

Range/Origin: Native to the Southwest and northern Mexico



Hardiness: Severely damaged in mid-20s; not recommended for colder areas. Survives on rainfall, even in the driest parts of the desert, but water occasionally to maintain good appearance during summer.

LANDSCAPE VALUE

- Foundation plant, good for naturalistic landscapes.
- Use as color accent in transitional and buffer zones where plants receive full sun.
- Seeds attract birds.

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** full to reflected sun
- **Water:** little to none in areas with 10-12 inches of annual rainfall. Best with occasional irrigation.
- **Soil:** prefers light gravelly soil with good drainage
- **Propagation:** plant from containers or from seed in spring. Space 3 feet apart for massing.
- **Maintenance:** Cut back in late winter to rejuvenate. If frozen back, wait until new growth starts to reveal the extent of damage before pruning. Prune occasionally to keep tidy. Shear after bloom to groom and rejuvenate.

NOTES

- An indicator plant: Where brittlebush grows naturally indicates a climate where citrus should do well.
- Tends to become overgrown and fragile if overwatered. Aphids will attack plants in spring and early summer. Flea beetles can disfigure leaves in spring and fall. Both pests can be controlled by withholding water which will also prevent root rot in heavy soils.

Melampodium leucanthum
Plains Blackfoot, Blackfoot Daisy, Rock
Daisy
Asteraceae Family

Form: low, bushy, mounded shrub

Seasonality: perennial

Size: 6-18 in tall, to 24-in wide

Leaves: narrow grayish green

Flowers: 1-in wide, white, daisy- like flowers, toothed at the tips and surrounding a yellow disk, solitary and terminal on slender stalks; bloom anytime fall through spring

Range/Origin: Southern Great Plains to Arizona and northern Mexico

Hardiness: tolerant of Phoenix heat and cold



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- excellent accent border plant for dry landscape plantings and rock gardens
- best planted in mass (placed 18 in to 30 in on center) to form a dense carpet



CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** full sun with some protection from searing western summer sun
- **Water:** infrequently irrigate and give no water during winter, regular and frequent irrigations make this plant unattractive
- **Soil:** Fast draining soil is absolutely necessary! Prone to root rot fungi if soil is poorly drained.
- **Propagation:** Seed
- **Maintenance:** little to none required, except to head back if plants become rangy

Tecoma stans angustata
Yellow Bells, Trumpet Bush
***Bignoniaceae* Family**

Form: large, vase-shaped shrub with rounded top, upright and open

Seasonality: Evergreen to partial evergreen

Size: Vigorous and upright to 15 to 20 feet but can be easily maintained at 5 to 10 feet

Leaves: pinnately compound, linear serrate leaflets ½ in wide, glossy bright green, tropical look

Flowers: cluster of bright yellow trumpet-shaped flowers on terminal portions of branches; 1-2 in long, ½-in across during all growing season, heaviest in spring and fall

Fruit: long, narrow, unattractive, dehiscent, tan or gray pods to 8-in long containing seed with papery wings

Stems/Trunks: brownish gray; not ornamental

Range/Origin: broadly distributed throughout the extreme desert Southwest through Mexico all the way into Argentina

Hardiness: heat loving, but freeze sensitive; tip damage at 28°F, dies to ground at 20°F; regrows when temperatures warm up



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- tropical effect
- border or background
- long attractive color with bloom period through hottest summer months
- attracts hummingbirds

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** Full sun is required, will grow in a loose, open, rangy manner if shaded even lightly
- **Water:** supplement to maintain good landscape quality; once per week or per every 2 weeks; responds well to regular water and fertilizer applications during summer by producing more vigorous growth and heightened flowering; tolerates only moderate amounts of drought.
- **Soil:** adaptable, uniform, rocky soil okay; tolerant of all Arizona soils except those with the highest degree of alkalinity
- **Propagation:** seed, easy; softwood cuttings
- **Maintenance:** minimal; cleanup of any frost damage; best bloom if headed back in early spring; prune hard in winter to control height and stiffen upright character

NOTES

- moderate to fast grower (4 ft in 1 year).
- survives, but has rougher appearance if not regularly watered

Tecoma alata
Orange Bells, Orange Jubilee
Bignoniaceae Family

Form: large vase-shaped shrub, upright and open, stiff and rigid

Seasonality: though evergreen, quiescent in winter

Size: vigorous and upright to 10 to 15 feet in height but can be easily maintained at 5 to 10 feet.

Leaves:

Flowers: orange trumpet flowers in terminal clusters;

Fruit: long, narrow, unsightly light brown bean pods.

Stems/Trunk: brownish gray stems, not ornamental

Range/Origin: Peru

Hardiness: Heat loving, but freeze sensitive; will have freeze damage to leaves and small terminal stems most winters, but recovers quickly.



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- intermediate to large accent shrub for moderately large to large spaces
- tropical effect
- border or background
- long attractive color with bloom period through hottest summer months
- moderately attracts hummingbirds

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** Full sun; partial sun reduces flower frequency and intensity; does poorly in shade
- **Water:** responds very well to regular water and fertilizer especially during the summer, tolerates only moderate amounts of drought
- **Soil:** adaptable, uniform, rocky soil okay; tolerant of all Arizona soils except those with the highest degree of alkalinity
- **Propagation:** seed, easy; softwood cuttings
- **Maintenance:** minimal; cleanup of any frost damage; best bloom if headed back in early spring; prune hard in winter to control height and stiffen upright character



NOTES

- Orange bells do not look as sparse during periods of winter cold and high summer heat as do yellow bells

Tecomaria capensis
Cape Honeysuckle
Bignoniaceae Family

Form: bush, shrub or large vine (with support); running, sprawling, unruly

Seasonality: evergreen

Size: can maintain as a 4-to 8-foot shrub with frequent hard pruning; if trained as vine may reach 20-30 ft or more

Leaves: compound, pinnate, dark green and glossy, serrate leaflets pointed; tropical appearance

Flowers: terminal clusters of trumpet-shaped orange or red-orange flowers; 2-in long; bloom from October to March and sporadically throughout year

Fruit: not important

Range/Origin: South Africa

Hardiness: generally hardy having only minor branch damage at 28°F, recovers quickly.



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- best with forced containment such as in a raised planter
- can be espaliered
- can be used as large-scale ground cover (see Note)
- long flowering period in off (cold) season
- attracts hummingbirds
- foundation plant
- tropical effect for pools and oasis zones
-

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** full sun to partial shade, avoid reflected light of south and west exposures
- **Water:** heat and drought tolerant; regular deep irrigation (once per week) to keep plant lush
- **Soil:** uniform or amended, good drainage; tolerant of all except the most alkaline soils
- **Propagation:** vegetative cuttings, seed
- **Maintenance:** requires regular hard pruning except during autumn, otherwise minimal; removal of frost damaged branches



NOTES

- Do not ever use in combination with other any other trailing ground cover as this plant will spread rapidly like "The Blob."
- As vine, has been known to grow to 50 to 100 feet

Echinocactus grusonii
Golden Barrel
Cactaceae Family

Form: large, low, round cylindrical cactus
Seasonality: evergreen
Size: to over 3 ft high, slow grower; usually 1 ft high to 2 ft around
Leaves: golden yellow spines
Flowers: bright yellow; 1-2 in wide; in summertime during day
Fruit: fruit 3/4 inch long
Stems/Trunks: single rounded column; ribbed; spines along ribs
Range/Origin: Chihuahuan deserts
Hardiness: hardy, to 10°F at least



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- accent
- containers
- effective for dramatic group of varying sizes

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** full sun to light shade, but avoid highly reflected light environments and western building exposures.
- **Water:** natural rainfall except in drought years; better and faster growth with some supplemental, especially in summer
- **Soil:** unimproved desert soils
- **Propagation:** division of branched segments or seed.
- **Maintenance:** none

NOTES

- Also called Mother-in-Law's cushion.



Pachycereus schottii v. monstrosus
Totem Pole Cactus
Cactaceae Family

Form: Upright, tree-like, branched and contorted, convoluted

Seasonality: n/a

Size: slow-growing to 10- to 12-feet tall

Leaves: n/a

Flowers: rarely flowers

Fruit: rarely fruits

Stems/Trunk: dull green to light green, smooth and irregular columnar stems w/out spines; stems branch at the base to form a short trunk

Range/Origin: Southwest USA (Arizona), northwestern Mexico (Baja California, Sonora)

Hardiness: tolerant to 25°F; protect against frost

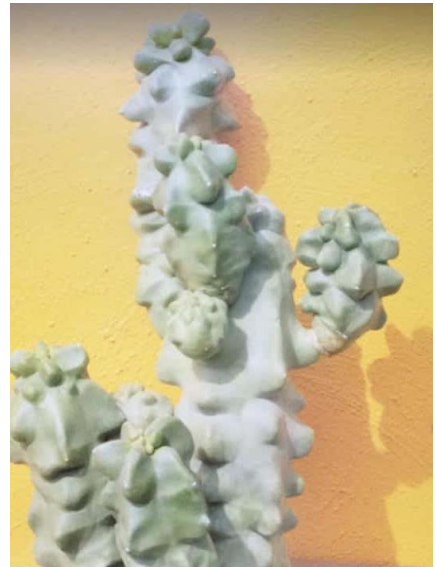


LANDSCAPE VALUE

- strong focal point for xeric landscape themes
- good container plant
- rock garden
- large patios
- use as vertical or architectural effect

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** full sun, no shade
- **Water:** water only occasionally if at all; susceptible to root rot in damp, poorly drained soils
- **Soil:** well-drained mineral soil is best
- **Propagation:** From softwood stem cuttings allow cut surface to callous over before planting directly into soil
- **Maintenance:** None, except to control width by occasionally thinning out awkward or crossing branches



NOTES

- With age, this tree-like cactus becomes very large, occupying significant physical and visual space in the landscape. Monstrosus is the most commonly seen form of all the columnar cacti in Phoenix desert landscapes.

Convolvulus cneorum
Bush Morning Glory
Convolvulaceae Family

Form: woody perennial compact evergreen sub-shrub, symmetrically mounding and spreading

Seasonality: perennial, evergreen; masses of flowers in spring and fall

Size: symmetrically mounding and spreading to 2 feet tall with 4 feet spread

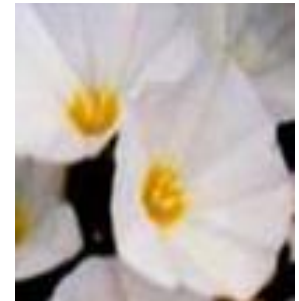
Leaves: Very hairy, silver-gray lanceolate-shaped leaves to 3 inches; medium texture

Flowers: pinkish flower buds followed by profuse, brilliant white 2-inch paper-thin morning glory flowers with yellow throats, followed by pink post-flowering sepals

Fruit: inconspicuous

Range/Origin: Southern Europe's western and central Mediterranean regions

Hardiness: drought tolerant once established; hardy to 10° to 15°F



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- large-scale xeriscape ground cover in mass
- very useful on slopes and in raised beds where you want attractive flowers without having to worry about watering during dry summers
- excellent in groups of three or more; ideal for grouping with other grey foliage plants and with white or blue flowers

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** full sun
- **Water:** does not tolerate wet, over-watered soil conditions; highly prone to fungal root rot if soil drainage is poor; supplemental water is needed at least every two weeks during the summer
- **Soil:** fast-draining soil an absolute must; best in sandy or gravelly soils that are slightly alkaline
- **Propagation:** seed, or softwood cuttings
- **Maintenance:** little to none. Vigorous plants can be infrequently and lightly sheared in late April after flowering.



NOTES

- Keep its eventual spread in mind, since the biggest landscaping problem is planting this nice sub-shrub in locations that are too small and narrow to accommodate its spread.

Caesalpinia pulcherrima
Red Bird of Paradise
Fabaceae Family

Form: informal, vase-shaped, multi-stemmed shrub

Seasonality: officially evergreen

Size: 3-10 ft with equal spread; more tree-like in warmer location

Leaves: bipinnately compound, fern-like, many $\frac{3}{4}$ in leaflets; normally bright green turning red in winter, sometimes leafless in winter

Flowers: distinctive panicle of bright blooms; flowers are red, orange and yellow with long red stamens; on terminal ends of branches in summer

Fruit: hard brownish pod, 2.5-in long, thin and flat, twists when drying, can split or burst explosively, poisonous

Stems/Trunks: inner portion of plant usually shows signs of having been cut back; small thorns look furry but are sharp

Range/Origin: West Indies; common throughout Sonoran deserts, naturalized in Texas

Hardiness: damaged at 32°F, with increasing damage as temperature decreases; killed to ground in teens, sometimes killed outright



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- summer color
- tropical effect
- background
- reliable, good in medians

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** full sun or light shade, takes heat; not good on north sides; gets leggy in shade and blooming is reduced
- **Water:** best with regular irrigation; once per week while blooming; height and growth rate determined by water supply
- **Soil:** tolerant, good drainage
- **Propagation:** seed, very ease
- **Maintenance:** moderate; pod cleanup; pruning every year to remove frost damage; sometimes pruned to ground in winter

NOTES

- Cultivar 'Phoenix' has bright yellow flowers.

Senna artemisioides
Feathery Cassia
Fabaceae Family

Form: vigorously upright, rounded, feathery shrub

Seasonality: evergreen

Size: billowing to 15 feet with nearly equal spread

Leaves: pinnately compound, needle-like leaflets, light green or silvery look; feathery effect

Flowers: small (2- to 4-in diameter), yellow, pea-like, solitary; blooms profusely from December to May, covering entire plant

Fruit: numerous papery pods, 2-4 in long, green in spring turning brown in early summer

Stems/Trunks: delicately textured branches; silver when young maturing to gray

Range/Origin: Australia

Hardiness: some damage in low 20s; young plants more vulnerable



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- wispy desert effect
- good background or screen planting for dry landscapes
- color, long blooming period
- effective in groups



CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** full sun; growth sparser in shade
- **Water:** survives on one or two irrigations per season; needs some supplemental to maintain character
- **Soil:** tolerant, but prone to chlorosis when overwatered; must have well-drained soil to sustain landscape performance
- **Propagation:** seed, easy; also vegetative cuttings
- **Maintenance:** moderate; best without pruning, needs space; pod cleanup; removal of frost-damaged foliage; in wrong location can outgrow allotted space

NOTES

- Form is best when kept at lower water levels.

Calliandra eriophylla
Native Fairy Duster, Pink Fairy Duster, False Mesquite
Fabaceae Family

Form: low-growing shrub

Seasonality: evergreen, may drop leaflets in response to cold or drought stress

Size: 1-3 ft, spread 3-4 ft; moderate to slow growth rate

Leaves: bipinnately compound, 1-1.5 in long ½-in across; ferny leaflets; leaves close during night

Flowers: whitish or pink loose puff shape; best bloom in early spring then sporadically into fall

Fruit: pods may split or burst; shorter than *C. californica*, dispersed widely with strong popping

Stems/Trunks: not significant

Range/Origin: native to Tucson, W. Texas, Southern California, New Mexico; elevations to 1500 ft

Hardiness: to mid-teens



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- diminutive accent and filler shrub for desert gardens
- informal hedge
- medians (size is well constrained)
- attracts hummingbirds

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** full sun
- **Water:** natural rainfall; some supplemental during hottest part of year
- **Soil:** best in well-drained, rocky/gravelly
- **Propagation:** by seed, collection in wild is difficult due to vigorous dispersion
- **Maintenance:** minimal to none. If pruned, do so infrequently by lightly heading back to shape in summer. DO NOT SHEAR! EVER!



NOTES

- Form is closer to ground than Baja fairy duster.

Calliandra californica
Baja Fairy Duster, Red Fairy Duster
Fabaceae Family

Form: upright, inverted vase to rounded, mostly open and stiff to graceful shrub

Seasonality: evergreen

Size: 3 to 8 feet depending on water availability with a generally less-than-equal spread

Leaves: bipinnately compound borne in pairs, finely cut, bluish green

Flowers: bright red, rose, or plum; loose puff or tassel shape; predominate red stamens; strongest bloom in spring and fall, otherwise sporadically

Fruit: pods may split or burst

Stems/Trunks: upright branches, stems are light gray growing woodier with age

Range/Origin: Baja California

Hardiness: high to mid-teens



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- accent or specimen plant
- color
- informal hedges
- strongly attracts territorial hummingbirds

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** full or part sun
- **Water:** drought tolerant but best with regular watering during hot seasons (once per week or once every two weeks)
- **Soil:** adaptable, requires good drainage
- **Propagation:** seeds or vegetative cuttings
- **Maintenance:** minimal; remove wood damaged by cold temps. Selectively remove upright branches at different heights within the shrub's crown during summer to promote a full canopy of foliage.

NOTES

- *C. eriophylla* is darker brown.
- Trademarked variety "Maricopa Red" has a bright red flower.
- Both red (*C. californica*) and pink (*C. eriophylla*) fairy duster shrubs are prone to lose leaves (drought deciduous habit) during extended periods of dry soil conditions. Don't freak out. This is okay and will self-correct when it rains
- *C. californica* is typically more luxuriant and vigorously upright than *C. eriophylla*
- Red fairy duster is a wonderful free-spirited shrub that seems to always be on the verge of growing out of control. Extensively rejuvenate only as a last resort. Don't ever shear or hedge this beautiful desert shrub.

Dalea greggii
Trailing Indigo Bush
***Fabaceae* Family**

Form: sub-shrub, prostrate and rapidly spreading once established

Seasonality: evergreen perennial; spring blossoms

Size: Slow at first after transplanting, but then fast growing to 15 feet wide and 3 feet high **Leaves:** Tiny, fine-textured, hairy, grayish leaves, on

Flowers: Clusters of small violet flowers

Fruit: inconspicuous

Stems/Trunk: wiry gray stems

Range/Origin: Chihuahuan desert

Hardiness: heat and drought tolerant once established



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- ground cover for large sun and shade areas in dry landscapes areas
- embankments

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** full sun
- **Water:** able to tolerate much drought once established, but is vigorous and more robust with regular water
- **Soil:** well-drained soil is IMPERATIVE; root rot if drainage is poor
- **Propagation:** seeds or cuttings
- **Maintenance:** none except to control spread



NOTES

- Vigorous spreader, not for small spaces less than 10 feet in diameter! Often mistakenly planted in small spaces and as a result needs much pruning to contain.



Salvia greggii
Autumn Sage, Red Chihuahuan Sage, Texas Red Sage
Lamiaceae Family

Form: rounded irregular shrub or perennial
Seasonality: perennial; blooms intermittently from February to November
Size: to 3 ft with equal spread
Leaves: large variation, simple, elliptical, usually 1 in long
Flowers: on stem terminals, spikes of trumpet-shaped, 1-in flowers, color usually red, but varies
Fruit: small seed, not noticeable
Stems/Trunks: angular, new growth is lush green, old growth can be woody
Range/Origin: Chihuahuan desert
Hardiness: to single digits, some top damage may occur in teens



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- color
- attracts humming birds



CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** full sun, gets leggy and flower production is poor in shade
- **Water:** drought resistant; for best ornamental quality 1-2 times weekly during hot season
- **Soil:** tolerant, needs good drainage
- **Propagation:** seed okay, more commonly by vegetative cuttings
- **Maintenance:** low; prune back drastically to encourage lush growth and good flowering

NOTE

- Can be mowed to ground to encourage soft green growth.
- Many cultivars are available, offering differing flower colors; range is from white, pink, to various shades of red.

*flower on
white
autumn
sage*



Asparagus densiflorus 'Sprengeri'
Asparagus Fern
Liliaceae Family

Form: mounding, spreading or trailing clump with delicate appearance

Seasonality: evergreen perennial

Size: 12-24 in, spread to 3ft; rapid growth

Leaves: delicate needlelike leaves, ferny; tiny thorns present despite soft appearance of plant; foliage is bright green or yellow green

Flowers: small waxy white flowers scattered throughout plant; not conspicuous; sporadic blooming

Fruit: small red berries, ¼-in diameter

Stems/Trunks: green branches, arching or cascading appearance; sprawls

Range/Origin: S. Africa

Hardiness: frozen to ground at 24°F; recovers quickly; better in locations protected from frost



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- good in containers, especially hanging pots
- houseplant
- informal groundcover
- tropical effect
- best near living and traffic areas

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** morning sun; part sun or part shade; takes reflected light (but not reflected heat)
- **Water:** moderate; needs regular supplemental water from April to October
- **Soil:** well drained, sandy to loamy soil best, relatively high nitrogen requirement. Fertilize in late winter and mid-summer
- **Propagation:** seed or division; roots develop fleshy nodules
- **Maintenance:** low; removal of dead stems and frost-damaged foliage; okay to mow to ground to control size and rejuvenate plant appearance, but not in heat of summer

NOTES

- Can be difficult to remove litter if planted in a location where leaf drop accumulates.
- A. myers 'Foxtail fern' (also called A. densiflorus 'Myers') is similar but with upright, rigid, plume-like branches, and not as tough in sun.

Cuphea hyssopifolia
Mexican False Heather
Lythraceae (loosestrife) Family

Form: Small, compact, flat-top mounds, woody perennial sub shrub with a fernlike appearance

Seasonality: evergreen; light display of flowers during warmer times of year

Size: slow to moderate growth to 2 feet tall with somewhat wider spread

Leaves: small, fine-textured, opposite, linear to lanceolate leaves to 3/4 inch long

Flowers: tiny, axillary flowers, calyx green, petals in colors ranging from white to rose purple

Fruit: inconspicuous dry capsule

Stems/Trunk: not ornamental

Range/Origin: tropical Mexico to Guatemala

Hardiness: will not tolerate frost; killed to ground by freezing temperature



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- shade gardens
- Japanese garden designs
- container plant
- deeply shaded courtyard or entryway
-

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** partial to full shade is best
- **Water:** Regular and heavy supplemental watering needed in desert landscapes
- **Soil:** Prefers well-drained fertile soil; grows best in a slightly acidic soil (pH between 5.5 and 7). In our desert alkaline soils, amend growing soil with peat moss and use acid-forming fertilizers. If soils are not amended to lower pH, then the likelihood of seeing yellow leaf chlorosis on this delicate plant is high.
- **Propagation:** softwood cuttings
- **Maintenance:** Prune lightly in spring if the plant becomes scraggly.

NOTES

- Mexican false heather is a nice, small plant for damp, partial-shade garden locations where the feeling of being in a desert is not wanted.

Melaleuca viminalis "Little John"
Dwarf Bottlebrush
Myrtaceae Family

Form: small, dense, rounded, prostrate shrub

Seasonality: evergreen; blooms best spring through summer, but nearly year-round in Phoenix

Size: slow growing to 3 feet tall and 5 feet wide

Leaves: narrow, elongated, blue-green, medium texture

Flowers: blood-red, bottlebrush-like flower spikes

Fruit: clusters of small round nut-like fruit

Stems: woody, densely branched

Range/Origin: northeast coastal Australia

Hardiness: tolerant to 20°F; may suffer if temperatures are above 112°F for an extended period



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- foundation cover plant
- low hedge
- good container plant
- hummingbird gardens

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** full sun to partial shade
- **Water:** little once established; best with infrequent but deep watering in summer; prone to chlorosis if overwatered
- **Soil:** tolerant of most types; well-drained preferred
- **Propagation:** use semi-hardwood cutting technique
- **Maintenance:** low; trim at any time to desired shape; hard pruning not necessary

NOTES

- Attracts bees and hummingbirds
- Good for use in cut flower arrangements
- Pet friendly
- Disease and pest free

Eremophila maculata "valentine"
Emu Bush, Fuchsia Bush
Myoporaceae Family

Form: woody perennial shrub

Seasonality: evergreen

Size: 5 feet tall; 5 - 10 feet wide

Leaves: alternate leaf arrangement, lanceolate, small, to 1.5 inches; sessile; medium fine texture; light- to gray-green in summer and purplish grey in winter

Flowers: rose/red; tubular, 1 inch long, late winter into spring.

Fruit: a small, rounded, inconspicuous berry

Stems: multi branched; leaves; 1 inch, have purplish cast

Range/Origin: arid and semiarid parts of Australia

Hardiness: Hardy to 23°F



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- informal accent and/or hedge plant
- foundation
- winter accent for dry landscapes
- hummingbird gardens

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** full sun to partial shade
- **Water:** little; root rot is a problem if over-watered
- **Soil:** extremely salt and alkaline tolerant, needs good drainage
- **Propagation:** notoriously difficult from seed; cuttings
- **Maintenance:** low; can become twiggy and some pruning may be needed; responds well to light shearing after flowering in early May as needed; mostly just leave it alone and control growth rate by regulating the amounts of supplemental water given throughout the year

NOTES

- Eremophila means desert loving.
- The name Emu Bush comes from the flightless Australian bird that feeds on the fruit.

Desylirion wheeleri
Desert Spoon, Sotol
Nolina Family

Form: mounding grass-like succulent clump of silver-green points

Seasonality: evergreen; flower stalks in later spring to summer during those rare years that desert spoons bloom

Size: to 6 ft with equal spread; very large when mature

Leaves: flat elongated blades, 2-3.5 ft long, silver green or bluish green, margin toothed like saw blade; petiole base shaped like spoon

Flowers: insignificant whitish green flowers clustered tightly on dramatic stalk emerging from center of clump growing 6 to 15 ft above foliage; female plant flower structure is more rounded, on male plant it is more narrow; stalk is persistent if not removed

Fruit: small brownish seed (½ in) joined with 3 papery disks as a trifoliate wing

Stems/Trunks: form is usually mounded only; can be pruned to a trunk-like look

Range/Origin: canyon slopes of southern Arizona, southern New Mexico; elevations of 2000-5000 ft

Hardiness: cold tolerant to single digits; some heat stress above 110°F



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- accent plant
- very tough in adverse conditions
- do not use near foot traffic
- poor in mass plantings due to tendency to accumulate trash between plants

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** full sun; takes reflected heat
- **Water:** natural rainfall once established; supplement when young; extra water accelerates growth
- **Soil:** tolerant, needs good drainage, found naturally on rocky slopes
- **Propagation:** seed, sow in early summer, requires scarification
- **Maintenance:** minimal; stalk removal if desired; old yellowed leaves can be left in place or removed to expose base and a pineapple-like appearance; if planted in groups it is difficult to get between plants



NOTES

- Frequently misused when arranged in plantings too close together or with limited space in which to grow and spread naturally. It may look architecturally cute in a 5-gallon nursery container, but as a mature specimen in the landscape it is HUGE.
- Will typically show significant leaf marginal tip necrosis.

Bougainvillea hybrids
Bougainvillea
Nyctaginaceae Family

Form: large cascading shrub; can be trained up on trellis, does not cling, needs support for height else will sprawl

Seasonality: evergreen

Size: to 30 ft in locations where it does not freeze; more commonly 10-12 ft height with spread of 8 ft; dwarf cultivars are compact and diminutive to 2 feet

Leaves: lots of variation in leaf shape: globular, elliptical, ovate to orbicular, cordate; to 4 in long

Flowers: small insignificant flowers surrounded by showy colorful bracts; many varieties of bract available including red, hot pink, salmon, purple, yellow, gold, white, and variegated; profuse flowers mostly in spring but again in fall in response to day length

Fruit: not significant

Stems/Trunks: slender, arching stem; well-armed with thorns

Range/Origin: South America

Hardiness: frost sensitive; foliage damaged below 32°F



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- background color
- good in containers
- good on trellises
- tropical effect

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** full sun to filtered shade
- **Water:** moderate user but drought tolerant; needs regular deep irrigations in hottest part of year, drying soil promotes flowering
- **Soil:** adaptable, grows well in clay soils, not as vigorous in sandy soils, amendments beneficial but not necessary
- **Propagation:** vegetative cuttings, may be difficult to root
- **Maintenance:** Litter alert: fallen bracts can create huge mess, annual pruning of frost damage, prune to shape and control spread, can be pruned severely once established; training if on trellis or wall

NOTES

- It is extremely important to choose the right cultivar with the growth characteristics to match the demands and constraints of planting location.

Muhlenbergia rigens
Deer Grass
Poaceae Family

Form: Perennial bunch grass; light, feathery, airy aspect
Seasonality: Flowers during late summer and autumn
Size: Fast growing to 3 – 5 feet in width and height
Leaves: Dense tufts of narrow, linear, dull gray-green leaves; coarser texture than *M. capillaris*; foliage dries to tan in fall/winter
Flowers: Tall green spikes that dry to tan
Fruit: Extremely small seeds
Range/Origin: Native to southwest U.S., Mexico
Hardiness: To 0°F



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- Best planted in groups as an accent for bank covers, rock gardens, transitional landscapes

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** Full sun
- **Water:** Low; deep drip irrigation in summer may be needed
- **Soil:** Well drained
- **Propagation:** Division anytime, seed in fall and early winter
- **Maintenance:** Very low litter. Shear to ground only once per year in late fall after flowering or early spring to remove the copious dead foliage and rejuvenate the plant.



NOTES

- Considerably larger than other ornamental grasses, so beware of planting in small areas.
- May also consider *M. emersleyi*

Muhlenbergia capillaris
Pink Muhly; Pink Deer Grass
Poaceae Family

Form: Perennial bunch grass; light, feathery, airy aspect

Seasonality: Flowers during late summer and autumn

Size: Fast growing to 3 feet in width and height

Leaves: Narrow, linear, dull gray-green leaves; fine texture; foliage dries to tan in fall/winter

Flowers: Erect, pinkish-purple, airy plumes that fade to tan

Fruit: Extremely small seeds

Range/Origin: Native to Texas, Mexico

Hardiness: To 0°F



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- Best planted in groups as an accent for bank covers, rock gardens, transitional landscapes

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** Full to partial sun
- **Water:** Little to none once established; deep drip irrigation during summer may be needed
- **Soil:** Well drained
- **Propagation:** Division anytime, seed in fall and early winter
- **Maintenance:** Very low litter. Shear to ground only once per year in late fall after flowering or early spring to remove the copious dead foliage and rejuvenate the plant.

NOTES

- Smaller, more refined look than *M. rigens*.

Leucophyllum frutescens
Texas Ranger v. Green Cloud
Scrophulariaceae Family

Form: rounded shrub

Seasonality: evergreen; loses more leaves in winter

Size: 4-8 ft, spread to ¾ height, or to equal height

Leaves: simple, alternate, pubescent (soft and furry to touch), oval or elliptical, blue- gray

Flowers: in leaf axis, lavender to purple, sporadic blooming season throughout year, blooms in response to rain; flowers are small but cover entire plant during main flush

Fruit: small capsule at base of flower

Stems/Trunks: trunk is not exposed; stems silvery, attractive

Range/Origin: Texas, Mexico

Hardiness: to low teens. Tolerant of both desert heat and cold. However, the green cloud variety will go partially deciduous during the winter months.



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- accent plant
- mass plantings
- border or hedge
- medians

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** full sun, reflected heat; in shade plant is leggy and flowering is poor
- **Water:** moderate; infrequent but deep, best to let dry out between irrigations; root rot if overwatered or soil is poorly drained
- **Soil:** tolerant, good drainage; prefers alkaline soil
- **Propagation:** vegetative cuttings from soft wood (tip growth), best during spring growth
- **Maintenance:** low

NOTES

- Shearing will reduce flowering.

Leucophyllum laevigatum
Chihuahuan Rain Sage, Blue Texas Ranger
Scrophulariaceae Family

Form: open, irregular shrub
Seasonality: evergreen
Size: 5 ft with equal or greater spread
Leaves: simple, alternate, oval with no petiole, green
Flowers: in leaf axils, blue; bloom from summer through fall
Fruit: insignificant
Stems/Trunks: not ornamental
Range/Origin: Texas ('Big Bear Country'); SW US
Hardiness: to 18°F, may drop leaves in mid-teens



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- foundation planting
- medians
- xeriscape

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** full sun
- **Water:** low; supplement for good growth and flower characteristics; 1-2 times per month
- **Soil:** tolerant, needs well-drained
- **Propagation:** vegetative cuttings from current season's growth
- **Maintenance:** low, needs space to sprawl; head back to encourage dense habit



NOTES

- Greenest foliage of the *Leucophyllum* species.
- Longer blooming period than other *Leucophyllum* and not as affected by rainfall (bloom is consistent, not in flushes).
- Best left in natural form, sprawling and open.



Leucophyllum candidum
Silverleaf Ranger
Scrophulariaceae Family

Form: rounded or irregular shrub

Seasonality: evergreen

Size: 2-5ft with equal spread

Leaves: small, obovate, fuzzy, silvery white in color, alternate

Flowers: small, in leaf axils, blue/violet; blooms in response to rainfall

Fruit: small seed, not significant

Stems/Trunks: young twiggy growth is white and furry (like leaves), older growth more woody

Range/Origin: southern portions of Texas and into Mexico

Hardiness: to low teens or lower



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- medians
- contrasting foliage color
- good in mass plantings
- outstanding color display

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** full sun
- **Water:** natural rainfall; okay on one irrigation per month; also see notes regarding water
- **Soil:** requires fast draining soil; best with no amendments
- **Propagation:** vegetative cuttings from current season's growth (soft wood)
- **Maintenance:** low, prune or shear to shape if desired

NOTES

- Variety 'Silver Cloud' large, height 3-6 ft.
- Newer cultivar "Thunder Cloud" to only 3-4 ft, purple flowers.
- *L. candidum* is known to be fussy about planting depth and watering cultural habits. Do not overwater. Do not plant in basin areas where water may accumulate. Water must not be allowed to accumulate around trunk or root zone. Plant in well-drained soil only. Also, plant frequently fails if planted too deep (e.g. if soil subsides in planting hole). Keep mulching material away from trunk. Use other *Leucophyllum* species if these issues are problems.

Penstemon eatonii
Firecracker, Beardtongue, Eaton's Penstemon
Scrophulariaceae Family

Form: forms a rosette of basal clumps that seasonally becomes upright, stiff and rigid

Seasonality: herbaceous perennial; striking scarlet red flowers in February and March

Size: upright flower spikes to 2 to 3 feet tall with 1 to 2 feet spread.

Leaves: thick, glabrous, and moderate green (dull green with drought). Basal leaves are oblanceolate with elongated petioles while stalk leaves are lanceolate to oblong to 4 inches long

Flowers: bright scarlet red flowers in spikes, trumpet shaped corolla to ¾-inch long

Fruit: greenish capsule

Stems/Trunk: brittle and easily damaged by contact

Range/Origin: Southern California east to Arizona

Hardiness: Actively grows during cooler times of year staying quiescent in summer. Hardy to Phoenix winter cold, but might suffer in intense summer heat if given a full western exposure



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- winter color accent
- landscape edging and border
- desert flower gardens.
- attracts hummingbirds



CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** full sun, partial shade; can be planted beneath trees
- **Water:** very little; too much water causes floppy growth
- **Soil:** most will do, good draining required; depth is preferred
- **Propagation:** seed
- **Maintenance:** remove spent flower stalks after flowering in April. If harvesting seeds, cut back dead flower stalks in late fall; remove seeds from stems and scatter where you want new plants the following year.

NOTES

- May die quickly if given too rich soil and too much water.
- Keep space around each plant for best landscape performance.
- Growth more vigorous in second season

Lantana camara
Bush Lantana
Verbenaceae Family

Form: upright rounded shrub and with sprawling branches

Seasonality: semi evergreen

Size: usually 2-4 ft with equal spread, to 5 ft in warmest locations

Leaves: simple, opposite, to 3 in long, serrate margins; stiff and rough with sandpaper-like feel, prominent tricones

Flowers: branch terminals; multicolored with mixed color hues, found in yellows and oranges, blues and reds, etc.; hybridizes easily; bloom from spring to fall

Fruit: small black or blue-black berries; poisonous

Stems/Trunks: woody when old, sprawling

Range/Origin: tropical regions of the Americas; naturalizes easily

Hardiness: damaged at 28°F, dies to ground at mid to low twenties, regrows quickly



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- near year-round color accent
- many varieties and color combinations
- summer annual or perennial accent
- informal hedge
- raised planters

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** best in full sun, bloom not as good in part shade
- **Water:** drought tolerant, supplement for best landscape character
- **Soil:** tolerant, amended soil is beneficial
- **Propagation:** vegetative cuttings, seed
- **Maintenance:** moderate; removal of cold-damaged foliage; occasional shearing or shaping increases vigor

NOTES

- Lantana sap is poisonous and can irritate human skin. If ingested, green, unripe fruit can cause dizziness, weakness, vomiting, cardiac arrhythmia, and even death.
- Many varieties available, reflecting easy hybridization of the species, with much blending of flower colors.

Lantana montevidensis
Trailing Lantana
Verbenaceae Family

Form: With support it has a climbing 'vine' form, when on edge a trailing form, and on the flat a groundcover form.

Seasonality: evergreen

Size: 12 in, spread to 6 ft

Leaves: simple, opposite, smaller and with a finer texture than *L. camara*; tricones sandpapery rather than coarse

Flowers: color varies, white to lavender or pink; bloom from March to frost

Fruit: small bluish berries

Stems/Trunks: stems ramble over ground

Range/Origin: South America; naturalized in large areas of the US

Hardiness: to 20°F; may go leafless or die back to ground but recovers quickly



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- hanging baskets and containers
- drought tolerant groundcover
- low confined growth
- most reliable source of low-maintenance vegetation
- color planters, borders

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** full sun, takes heat; gets leggy and bloom is poor in shade
- **Water:** regular irrigation; 1-2 deep irrigations per week to keep good bloom set; takes overhead spray
- **Soil:** adaptable
- **Propagation:** vegetative cuttings, easy
- **Maintenance:** minimal. Prune lightly as needed, or head back hard to near ground level in early spring after the danger of frost has passed. If is frost or freeze damaged during winter, then don't immediately remove the unsightly, dead shoots (wait until early spring), since these damaged shoots will protect underneath living shoots from further frost injury



NOTES

- Most cold tolerant of the Lantana species
- Lantana sap is poisonous and can irritate human skin. If ingested, green, unripe fruit can cause dizziness, weakness, vomiting, cardiac arrhythmia, and even death.

Verbena rigida v. venosa (also classified as **Glandularia rigida**)
Sandpaper Verbena, Slender Vervain
Verbenaceae Family

Form: low, prostrate, spreading, rough looking and unkept in appearance when not flowering; very stiff and sparse when young

Seasonality: herbaceous perennial; blooms in summer and fall; may have color all year.

Size: to 1.5 feet tall; slow to establish, but fast growing thereafter

Leaves: stiff, coarse leaves, rough and dark green, widely set irregularly serrate, oblong and clasping, 2-4 inches long

Flowers: clusters of light purple flowers on extended spikes arranged in threes on tall, stiff stems

Fruit: inconspicuous

Stems/Trunk: upright branching stems, wiry but straight

Range/Origin: South Brazil and Argentina

Hardiness: to 15°F; needs heat to thrive



LANDSCAPE VALUE

- accent and/or border plant for xeric landscapes
- ground cover for small spaces
- rock gardens
- in parking strips, along driveways
- on dry banks, walls and crevices
- useful in low maintenance gardens
- good for erosion control

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Exposure:** full sun
- **Water:** needs little water. Irrigation with drip systems might exacerbate exposure to salt build up in the soil causing plant failure.
- **Soil:** fast draining best; prefers sandy soils; best used in landscaped areas mulched with decomposing granite. Very salt sensitive. Root rot if poorly drained.
- **Propagation:** seed
- **Maintenance:** head back after flowering

NOTES

- Spreads by underground runners which turn upward to become stiff stems 1 to 2 ft tall.
- Least used of all Glandularia taxa in Phoenix because of its propensity to have marginal leaf necrosis and tatter. Best used as an annual landscape bedding plant. Subject to salt burn on leaf margins.

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