LANDSCAPING SUGGESTIONS and RESOURCES — 2025

The following plants and resource lists are not meant to be complete. These lists are a starting point. They have been somewhat edited to suggest plants that best suit the climate of Green Valley and the Landscape Guidelines of our THIV HOA.

The trees, shrubs/bushes and plantings suggested will always need added attention because of the recent significant changes to our area climate. Our warm season is starting sooner and lasting a month longer. Our summers are getting hotter and staying hot throughout the nights.

Many plant listings say full sun which is generally considered to be 6 hours. Often, now, this may be too much. Partial shade is rarely a negative. Trial & error is the only sure way of knowing. Look around; ask your neighbors and friends about their successes and failures before making your plant purchases. Don't get discouraged.

May it also be suggested that when planning changes to your landscape—within your property OR in the common land between your residence and the nearest roadway please consider the long-term effects on

- how your plantings will look at maturity
- how the view from your house and your neighbors will be impacted
- how your plants will enhance the unique desert environment of THIV

In your planting project, have you thoroughly considered plans that encourage less water usage? Many new ideas and plans are available using designs to facilitate growth and flowering beauty using less water. Water harvesting ideas and designs are available and easy to create and maintain.

In these listings, one will find short descriptions of trees, shrubs, ground cover plants, accent plants and some erosion control and stabilizing plants that tend to grow well in the desert areas of Southern Arizona. Specifically, all this information is relevant to plants in the **Sonoran Desert of Southern Arizona and Northern Mexico.**

Much of Green Valley averages out to 3000' elevation. Tucson in many places can be several hundred feet less and Phoenix is 1500' less. During the winter months, Green Valley is just enough colder that growth and survival patterns are affected.

Reminder: If any changes are being contemplated on Common Land I behind or to the side of your property the **THIV LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE MUST FIRST BE CONTACTED AND A REQUEST FORM SUBMITTED AND ACCEPTED.**

It is highly recommended to NEVER plant a California Palm, Italian Cypress, or any ornamental grasses. These plants are not drought resistant and are lightning-attractive fire hazards.

EASY ACCESS INFO ON GARDENING AND WATERING

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

530 E. White House Canyon Rd. Green Valley, AZ (520) 648-0808
Open: Dates of the week and times vary
https://extension.arizona.edu/programs/pima-county-master-gardeners
Green Valley Master Gardeners

GREEN VALLEY GARDENERS

Info on organization, joining and much about plants and succulents every Friday morning.
https://greenvalleygardeners.com/
See below ARID GARDEN

TEP — TREES The website says $5 per tree. They have a list and pictures online.
TEP Trees (520) 317-1919

AMWUA.ORG — Arizona Municipal Water — Info on plants and water conservation

DESERT GARDENS TO VISIT

DESERT MEADOWS PARK

999 S. Huerta
Green Valley, AZ 85614
4.2 acres of desert and native botanical gardens and plants. Many demonstrations, trails, classes, community events. Maintained by the Green Valley Gardeners and the Master Gardeners of Green Valley.

ARID GARDEN

North side of Camino Encanto between west frontage road and Camino Del Sol.
1 acre of Botanical Garden in Green Valley featuring native plants, desert plants, and succulents.
Maintained by Green Valley Gardeners — open to public, no charge. Volunteers on Friday mornings to answer questions

TUCSON BOTANICAL GARDEN

2150 N. Alvernon Way, Tucson, AZ, 86712 (520) 326-9686

TOHONO CHUL (Gardens, Galleries, Bistro)

7366 N. Paseo Del Norte, Tucson, AZ 85704 (520) 742-6455

ARIZONA SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

2021 N. Kinney Rd. Tucson, AZ. 85743 (520) 883-2702

TREES

Trees are usually the largest and most important components of a landscape.
Study, select, and get it right the first time. Problems with trees are usually the result of putting BIG where SMALL would have been a better choice.

The goal with trees is to have eventual shade and canopy. Trees are not generally fast growers in this Sonoran Desert. The smallest, youngest trees are sold in 5-gallon containers. It is recommended that you start with a larger size, with a more established root system. Per *THIV Landscape Guidelines*, the **maximum height at maturity should be no more than 15' to 20'**.

ACACIA BERLANDIERI **- Guajillo**
- 11' x 15' - tall and wild
- Semi-evergreen
- Fragrant yellow flowers
- Poisonous to some wildlife
- Shrub/small tree with pruning

ACACIA FARNESIANA - **Sweet Acacia**
- 15' x 20' - tall and wide
- Semi-evergreen
- Fragrant yellow flowers
- Shrub/small tree with pruning

ACACIA GREGGIA - **Catclaw Acacia**
- 10'-15' x 15'-20'
- Deciduous
- Fragrant
- Very sharp thorns

BAUHINIA LUNARIOIDES - **Anacacho Orchid**
- 10'-20' x 5'-10'
- Deciduous
- Cold tolerant
- Part shade
- White or pink flowers

CAESALPINIA CACALACO **- Cascalote**
- 20' x 20'
- Evergreen
- Yellow flowers

CAESALPINIA MEXICANA - **Mexican Bird of Paradise**
- 10' x 12'
- Evergreen
- Clusters of yellow flowers

CHILOPSIS LINEARIS - **Desert Willow**
- 15'-30' x 10'-20'
- Deciduous
- Fragrant white and purple flowers
- *requires Landscape Committee approval

CHITALPA EL NIÑO - **Desert Orchid**
- 10'-15' x 8'-10'
- Deciduous, cold tolerant
- Sun/part shade
- Purple flowers

CORDIA BAISSIERS **- Texas or Mexican Olive**
- 15' x 20' tall and wide, cold tolerant
- Evergreen
- Large white flowers

EYSENHARDTIA ORTHOCARPA **- Kidneywood Tree**
- 20' x 20'
- Deciduous
- Fragrant white/purple cluster flowers

FRAXINUS GREGGI **- Little Leaf Ash**
- 15'-18' x 12'-15'
- Evergreen
- Part shade
- Needs water in extreme heat

PARKINSONIA MICROPHYLLA **- Little Leaf Palo Verde**
- 15'- 20'
- Deciduous
- Yellow flowers

PISTACIA LENTISCUS **- Mastic Tree**
- 15’-25’ x 20’-30’
- Evergreen
- May be pruned to shrub size
- Great for screening
- *requires Landscape Committee approval

NELTUMA GLANDULOSA **- Honey Mesquite**
- Expect 20’- 30’ in height
- Semi-evergreen
- *requires Landscape Committee approval

SOPHORA SECUNDIFLORA **- Texas Mountain Laurel**
- 15’-20’ x 8’-10’
- Evergreen glossy leaves
- Purple flowers in late winter (Feb/March)
- Drought and cold tolerant
- Slow growing

VAUQUELINIA CALIFORNICA **- Arizona Rosewood**
- 15’-20 x 10’15’
- Evergreen
- White flowers

VITEX AGNUS-CASTUS **- Chaste Tree**
- 8’-20’ x 5’-20’
- Deciduous
- Purple flowers

SHRUBS & BUSHES

These are a versatile group of plants that give form and substance to a landscape. There are varieties that provide colorful blooms at various times of the year and may attract hummingbirds and butterflies. Some are more drought tolerant and ideal for water efficient, water harvesting landscaping. Shrubs & bushes need to be covered when temperatures go below the plant's recommended tolerance.
Note: directions suggesting full sun may be deceptive, as our sun is so punishingly hot. Partial shade is often a better choice and brings more satisfying results.

ALOYSIA GRATISSIMA - **Bee Bush**
- 6' x 6'
- Semi-evergreen
- White to pale purple flowers

ANISACANTHUS **- Mexican Flame**
- 3' x 5'
- Hardy to 10F
- Bright red flowers
- Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds
- Low water

ATRIPLEX LENTIFORMIS **- Big Salt Bush or Quail Bush**
- 3'-10' x 10'
- Evergreen
- Good for erosion control

BUDDLEI MARRUBIIFOLIA **- Woolly Butterfly Bush**
- 4' x 6'
- Deciduous
- Hardy to 20F
- Round balls of orange flower
- Sun or part/shade

CAESALPINIA GILLIESII **- Yellow Bird of Paradise**
- 4' x 6'
- Semi-evergreen
- Hardy to 10F
- Yellow flowers with touches of red

CASESALPINIA PULCHERRIMA **- Red Bird of Paradise**
- 8' x 8'
- Cut back in the fall
- Orange/red flowers

CASSIA NEMOPHILA **- Green Feathery Cassis**
- 6' x 6'
- Hardy to 20F
- Evergreen
- Yellow flowers

CALLIANDRA CALIFORNIA **- Baja Fairy Duster**
- 5' x 6'
- Hardy to 20F
- Evergreen
- Pink flowered more drought tolerant than red flowered
- Good for erosion control

CELTIS EHRENBERGIA-PALLIDA **- Desert Hackberry**
- 10'-16' x 10'
- Drought and cold tolerant
- Evergreen
- Orange fruit
- Very sharp thorns

CORDIA PARVIFOLIA **- Little Leaf Cord**
- 4'-8' x 6'-10'
- Semi-evergreen
- White flowers

DALEA **- Many varieties from ground covers to small shrubs**
- Semi-evergreen
- Hardy to 15
- Yellow, lavender, dark purple flowers

DODONAEA VISCOSA **- Hop Seed Bush**
- 10’ x 8’
- Evergreen
- Green leaf variety more drought tolerant than purple leaf variety
- Shrub or small tree with pruning

GOSSYPIUM THURBERI - **Arizona Wild Cotton**
- 4’-10’ x 4’
- Deciduous
- White, pink flowers

EREMOPHILIA MACULATA **- Emu Bush**
- Medium height 5’ x 5’
- Hardy to 20F
- Green leaves
- Rosy red tubular flowers
- Attract hummingbirds

JUSTICIA CALIFORNICA **- Chuparosa**
- 3’ x 4’
- Evergreen
- Red and yellow tubular flowers
- Attracts hummingbirds

JUSTICIA SPICIGERA **- Mexican Honeysuckle**
- Medium size 3’ x 4’
- Hardy to 25F
- Bright orange tubular flowers
- Attracts hummingbirds
- Extra water and shaded area in summer

LEUCOPHYLLUM **- Texas Sage or Texas Ranger**
- Several varieties with a range of sizes
- Hardy to 10F
- Evergreen with grey or green leaves
- White, pink, lavender, purple flowers

LEUCOPHYLLUM LAEVIGATUM **- Chihuahuan Sage**
- 4’ x 5’
- Evergreen
- Purple flowers

SENNA WISLIZENI **- Shrubby Senna**
- 6’ x 6’
- Deciduous
- Yellow flowers

LEUCOPHYLLUM ZYGOPHYLLUM - **Laredo Texas Sage**
- 6’ x 6’
- Naturally rounded shape
- One of the fastest growing varieties
- Purple or pink blooms April - November
- Low water needs once established

MAYTENUS PHYLLANTHOIDES - **Mangle Dulce**
- 6’ x 6’
- Evergreen

RHUS OVATA **- Sugar Bush**
- 8’ x 8’
- Evergreen
- Moderate water

SALVIA CLEVELANDII **- Chaparral Sage**
- 3’- 5’ x 5’- 8’
- Short lived evergreen
- Best in part shade
- Honey scent when brushed against
- Lavender flowers

SALVIA GREGGIA **- Autumn Sage**
- 2’ x 3’
- Perennial
- Pink, red, white flowers

SPHAERALCEA AMBIGUA **- Globe or Desert Mallow**
- 3’-4’ x 2’-3’
- Perennial
- Orange, pink, lavender, or white flowers

TAGETS LEMMONII **- Mt. Lemmon Marigold**
- 4’-6’ x 4’-10’
- Hardy to 20F
- Evergreen
- Fragrant daisy-like flowers
- Blooms November to first hard frost

VAUQUELINIA CALIFORNICA **- Arizona Rosewood**
- 15-20’ x 10-15’
- May be pruned to shrub size
- Leaves are saw-toothed
- White flowers in spring
- Tough, slow-growing desert plant

GROUND COVERS

Ground cover plantings are an excellent alternative for yards with sandy soil. Most ground cover plants only grow a couple of feet high and can provide color and texture. Ground covers are excellent for erosion control.

ACACIA REDOLENS **- Trailing Acacia**
1'-5' x 11"-15"
Evergreen - Yellow flowers

CHRYSACTINIA MEXICANA **- Damiantia**
1' x 2'
Evergreen
Fragrant yellow flowers

DALEA GRAFFII **- Creeping Dalea**
6"-1' x 1'-4'
Semi-evergreen
Lavender flowers

VERBENA RIGIDA **- Sandpaper Verbena**
1'-2' x 3'-4'
Perennial

LANTANA MONTEVIDENSIS **- Trailing**
1'-2 x 3'-5'
Evergreen perennial
Will freeze – may recover

MYOPORUM PARVIFOLIUM **- Prostrate Myoporum**
1'-6' x 12'
Evergreen
White flowers

ROSEMARINUS OFFICINALIS PROSTRATUS **- Trailing Rosemary**
1'-2' x 2'-3'
Evergreen

VINES

CISSUS TRIFOLIATA **- Grape Ivy**
12'- 30'
Medium water needs

JASMINUM MESNYI **- Primrose Jasmine**
6'-10' x 3'-5'
Evergreen
White flowers
Average water needs

ROSA BANKSIA **- Lady Banks Climbing Rose**
15'-20' x 6'-10'
Yellow flowers
Average water needs
Water daily until established, then once or twice per month

ACCENT PLANTS

Agave
Yucca
Ocotillo
Barrel Cactus
Prickly Pear - will attract pack rats as plant ages
Beargrass
Desert Milkweed - Ascelpias subulate
Desert Spoon

This resource list is a starting point for THIV residents. The Landscape Committee recommends residents do their own research to discover what plants will do best in their own yard. Online sources can be confusing as different ones will list different information for the same plant! Talk to your neighbors, seek out the GV master gardeners, and visit plant nurseries.
Do your best and hope for rain 😊