



Native Plants for Water-Efficient Landscapes

Choose from the following list of native plants as you design your school's landscaping. Use the icons shown beside the plants' names to represent them on your design layout in the suggested color. *Note:* perennial plants are those that continue to grow year after year, while annual plants die every year and sprout again from seeds.

Look at the **Physiographic Provinces Map** to find your location and choose plants from the list below that are found in your area (see column 2).



white thorn acacia



common prickly pear



tufted evening primrose



desert willow



ocotillo



grape ivy



velvet mesquite



beargrass



Oregon grape



ponderosa pine



banana yucca



saguaro



Rocky Mountain juniper



blue grama



Engelmann's hedgehog



four-wing saltbush



deer grass



canyon penstemon



pink fairy duster



Bermuda grass



blanket flower



turpentine bush



desert marigold



blue flax



Apache plume












blackfoot daisy












owl's clover

Artist: Rachel Ivanys, © ProjectWET

TREES—dark green						
Photograph ¹⁴	Name	Area of Arizona	Cold Tolerance	Sun Preference	Water Requirements	Special Features
	white thorn acacia	Basin and Range	to 5°	full sun	very low	Yellow puffball flowers. Attracts birds.
	desert willow	all areas	to 0°	full sun	low	White, pink, purple flowers attract hummingbirds.
	velvet mesquite	Basin and Range	to 0°	full sun	very low	Pale yellow flowers. Excellent for wildlife.
	ponderosa pine	Colorado Plateau Mogollon Rim	below 0°	full or partial sun	moderate	Excellent for squirrels and birds.
	Rocky Mountain juniper	Colorado Plateau Mogollon Rim	below 0°	full or partial sun	low	Seeds attract birds.
SHRUBS—purple						
	four-wing saltbush	all areas	to 0°	full sun	very low	Excellent for wildlife.
	pink fairy duster	Basin and Range	to 5°	full sun	very low	Pink powder-puff flowers attract hummingbirds.
	turpentine bush	Mogollon Rim Basin and Range	to 5°	full sun	very low	Yellow flowers. Seeds attract birds.
	Apache plume	all areas	below 0°	full or partial sun	very low	White flowers. Attracts wildlife.



GROUNDCOVERS AND VINES—blue						
Photograph ¹⁴	Name	Area of Arizona	Cold Tolerance	Sun Preference	Water Requirements	Special Features
	white evening primrose	Mogollon Rim Basin and Range	to 10°	full or partial sun	low to moderate	Low groundcover with large white to pink flowers.
	grape ivy	Basin and Range	to 20°	full sun or shade	low	Vine.
	Oregon grape	Colorado Plateau Mogollon Rim	below 0°	partial sun or shade	low to moderate	Yellow flowers, blue/purple berries.
Cacti—brown						
	saguaro	Basin and Range	to 18°	full sun	very low	Red fruits attract birds.
	Engelmann's hedgehog	all areas	to 10°	full sun	very low	Vivid pink flowers.
	common prickly pear	all areas	to 0°	full to partial sun	very low	Yellow flowers.
SUCCULENTS—orange						
	ocotillo	Basin and Range	to 10°	full sun	very low	Red flowers attract hummingbirds
	beargrass	all areas	to 0°	full to partial sun	very low	Evergreen.
	banana yucca	all areas	to 0°	full sun	very low	Showy flower stalk.

GRASSES—light green						
Photograph ¹⁴	Name	Area of Arizona	Cold Tolerance	Sun Preference	Water Requirements	Special Features
	blue grama	all areas	to 0°	full to partial sun	moderate	Good for natural-looking meadows.
	deer grass	all areas	to 0°	full or partial sun	low	Grows in bunches. Decorative.
	Bermuda grass (NOT native to the Southwest US.)	all areas	to 0°	full sun	Low in winter, high in summer.	Turf grass; use for lawns or play areas.
PERENNIAL WILDFLOWERS—red						
	desert marigold	all areas	to 10°	full sun	low	Yellow flowers, blooms for a long time.
	blackfoot daisy	all areas	to 0°	full to partial sun	low	White and yellow flowers, spreads.
	canyon penstemon	all areas	to 0°	full to partial sun	low	Rose-colored flowers attract hummingbirds.
ANNUAL WILDFLOWERS—yellow						
	blanket flower	all areas	dies in winter	full sun	low	Red and yellow flowers.
	blue flax	all areas	dies in winter	partial sun	low	Blue flowers. Reseeds itself easily.
	owl's clover	Basin and Range	dies in winter	full to partial sun	low	Rose-pink flower spikes.

14. Credits for the photographs in this table are as follows: All photos courtesy of the University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center (Desert Landscaping CD) except: pink fairy duster (Ursula Schuch, University of Arizona Plant Sciences Dept.); beargrass (Toni Moore, Master Gardener, Pima County); banana yucca, creosote bush, Engelmann's hedgehog (Kerry Schwartz); grape ivy (Sandra Rode); and four-wing salt bush, Oregon grape, Bermuda grass, prickly pear, blue grama, ponderosa, juniper (Lissa Howe).