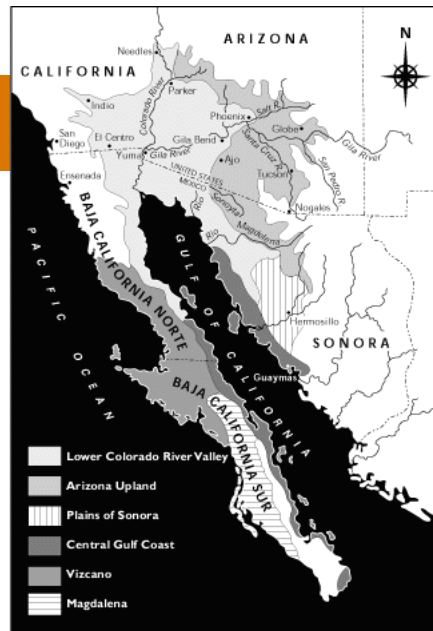


What you need to know to be a plant pro

- ▣ Benefits of native plants
- ▣ Planning your space
- ▣ Strategies for selecting plants
- ▣ Plant review
- ▣ Additional resources

What is native?



Why native plants?

1. Long and thoughtful observation
2. Start at the top of your watershed
3. Always plan an overflow
- 4. Start with small and simple strategies**
5. Spread, slow and sink
6. Maximize living/organic groundcover
7. Stack functions
8. Continually evaluate

Less Irrigation

This is your Creosote



This is your Creosote on irrigation



Less Maintenance

- Select the right location and your native plants will need little to no maintenance
- Less irrigation also means less maintenance
- Leave debris to become mulch and have even less maintenance!



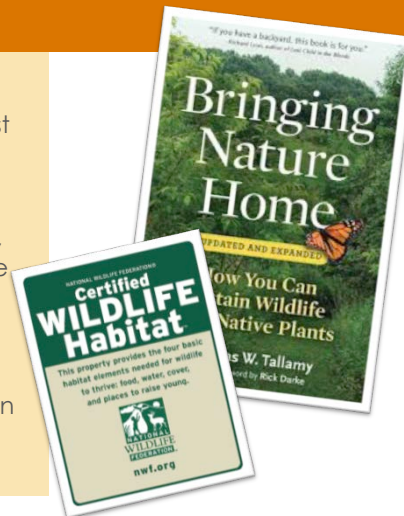
Less Fertilizer

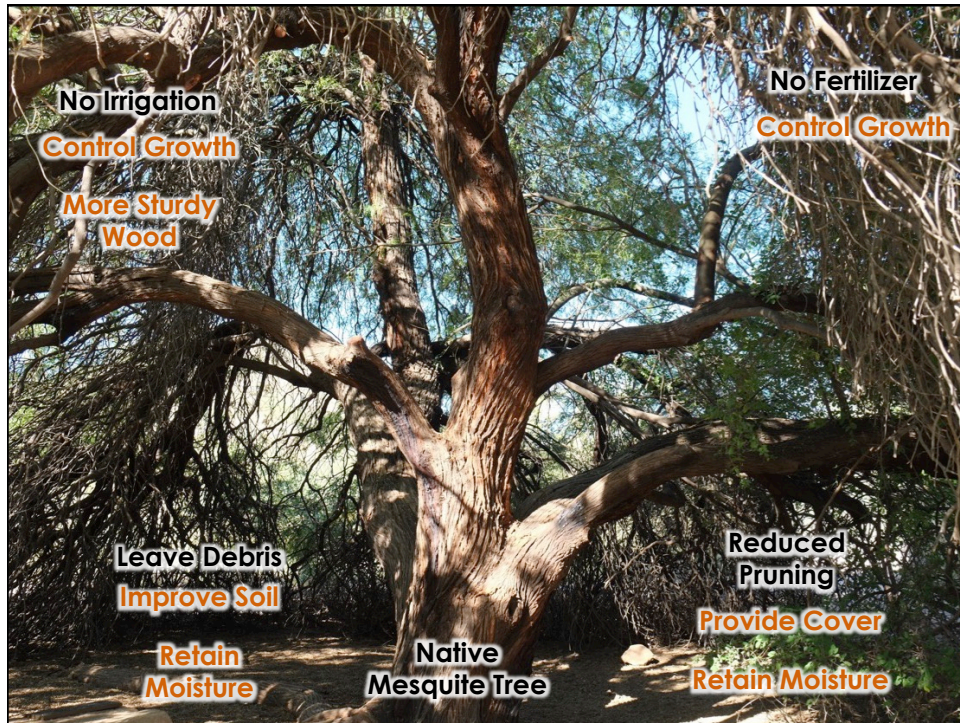
Native plants have evolved in native soil conditions



More Habitat

- Native plants are essential to preserve biodiversity as specialist species depend on them for survival
- To create habitat provide: food, water, cover, and places to raise young
- National Wildlife Foundation
- City of Glendale, Wildlife Garden Guide





Strategies for Selecting Your Plants

Understand your space

- What does the yard look like, including any existing features?
- Are there utilities to avoid? (Bluestake – Arizona 811)
- Are there any grading/drainage concerns?
- Do you have any soil issues, such as caliche?
- Where are shaded areas? Exposed areas? East? West?
- Can you provide irrigation? If so what methods are available?
- Are there any views you want to maintain or screen?
- What positive aspects do you want to maintain?

What plants do you have in your yard now?

Understand your goals

What do you want your landscape to do for you?

- Shade
- Screening (visual or sound)
- Dining, living, playing, relaxing
- Wildlife habitat
- Support water harvesting features
- Beauty/Aesthetics

What goals do you have for your yard?

Make yourself a diagram

- Use site analysis diagram to identify a general outline of what you will need
- Think in terms of creating spaces
- Try not to commit to specific plant species yet

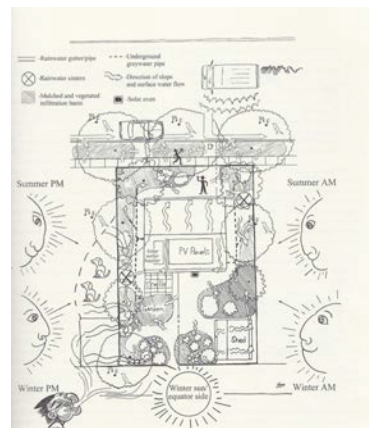
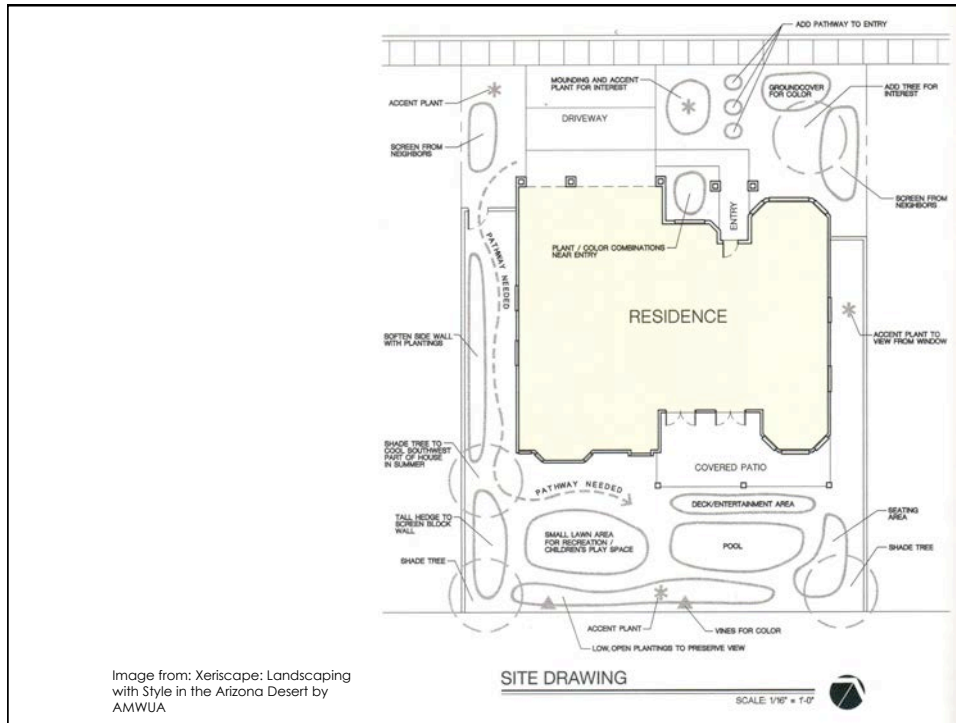


Image from: Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond Vol 1.
by Brad Lancaster



What to consider...

Scientific and common name

Origin and/or native habitat

Foliage form and characteristics

Size

Flowering and fruiting

Temperature hardiness

Sun exposure

Soil

Watering

Pruning and maintenance

Disease and pests

Pros/cons

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Disease and pests

Pros/cons

Trees

Blue Palo Verde

Parkinsonia florida

Form: Partially deciduous; rounded

Size: 30' H & W

Flowers: Yellow flowers; April

Exposure: Full sun

Distinct trait: Slight blue tint

Pro/con: Fast growing, large canopy, good for habitat



Blue Palo Verde (*Parkinsonia florida*)



Desert Museum Hybrid



Little Leaf (*Parkinsonia microphylla*)



Mexican Palo (*Parkinsonia aculeata*)



Blue Palo Verde



Desert Museum Hybrid



Palo Brea (*Parkinsonia praecox*)



Mexican Palo Verde

Arizona/Velvet Mesquite

Prosopis velutina

Form: Partially deciduous; sprawling

Size: 20'-50' H & 15'-25' W

Flowers: Inconspicuous; late May

Exposure: Full sun

Distinct trait: Thorns, rounded leaflets

Pro/con: Fast growing, large canopy, edible pods, good for habitat



Image By: Chris Martin, Virtual Library of Phoenix Landscape Plants

Mesquite hybrids



Prosopis x 'Phoenix'
-thornless hybrid
-Mountain States Nursery



Prosopis x 'AZT Seedless'
-seedless hybrid
-Arid Zone Trees Nursery

Desert Willow

Chilopsis linearis

Form: Deciduous; upright

Size: 15'-35' H&W

Flowers: White-pink; late spring-fall

Exposure: Full sun

Distinct trait: Long leaves, trumpet flowers

Pro/con: Attracts pollinators, many cultivars, smaller patio tree



Image By: Mountain States Wholesale Nursery

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Image By: Mountain States Wholesale Nursery

Trees

Screwbean Mesquite

Prosopis pubescens

Desert Ironwood

Olneya tesota

Little Leaf Palo Verde

Parkinsonia microphylla

Feather Bush Tree

Lysiloma watsonii

Shrubs

Chuparosa

Justicia californica

Form: Loose, spreading

Size: 2'-6' H & W

Flowers: Salmon; cool season

Exposure: Full sun, partial shade

Distinct trait: Tubular flower, green succulent stems

Pro/con: Attracts hummingbirds, brittle, lush with irrigation



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Brittlebush

Encelia farinosa

Form: Rounded

Size: 3'-5' H & W

Flowers: Yellow; late winter-spring

Exposure: Full sun

Distinct trait: Triangular, silver foliage

Pro/con: Fast growing, easy color



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Creosote

Larrea tridentata

Form: Irregular, varying density

Size: 3'-8' H & W

Flowers: Yellow; spring, with rains

Exposure: Full sun

Distinct trait: Smell, fuzzy seed pods

Pro/con: Consistent once established, drought tolerant



Image By: Chris Martin, Virtual Library of Phoenix Landscape Plants

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Image By: UofA Campus Arboretum

Shrubs

Triangle-Leaf Bursage

Ambrosia deltoidea

Hop Bush

Dodonea viscosa

Fairy Duster

Calliandra eriophylla

Desert Hackberry

Celtis pallida

Turpentine Bush

Ericameria laricifolia



Accents/Grasses

Desert Milkweed

Asclepias subulata

Form: Upright, rigid green stems

Size: 2'-4'

Flowers: Pale yellow, spring-fall

Exposure: Full sun

Distinct trait: Thin green stems, branching

Pro/con: Monarch host, sparse appearance, no shade



Parry's Agave

Agave parryi.

Form: Upright, rigid pineapple leaves

Size: Approx 3' x 3'


Flowers: Large, tall spikes, only flowers once


Exposure: Full sun, will take some shade

Distinct trait: Gray color, thorny margins


Pro/con: Hardy, unique accent









Agave attenuata



Queen Victoria Agave



Century Plant



Webber's Agave

Engelmann's Prickly Pear

Opuntia engelmannii

Form: Large pads, spreading habit

Size: 6'HT x 15W'

Flowers: Yellow/Orange/Pink

Exposure: Full sun, some shade

Distinct trait: Teardrop pads, glochids & spines

Pro/con: Edible fruit, large & thorny



Deer grass

Muhlenbergia rigens

Form: Large, airy bunch grass

Size: 3'-5'

Flowers: Flower spikes

Exposure: Full sun, some part shade

Distinct trait: Leaves approx. 1/8"

Pro/con: Versatile, large grass, good cover plant for habitat



Image By: Chris Martin, Virtual Library of Phoenix Landscape Plants

Blue grama

Bouteloua gracilis

Form: Short bunchgrass

Size: 2'

Flowers: Green-purple; spring-summer

Exposure: Full sun

Distinct trait: Comblike seedheads

Pro/con: Small, prevents erosion, can withstand flooding, needs water



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Accents/Grasses

Saguaro

Carnegiea gigantea

Englemann's Hedgehog

Cactus

Echinocereus englemannii

Organ Pipe Cactus

Stenocereus thurberi

Ocotillo

Fouquieria splendens

Annuals/Perennials

Globe mallow

Sphaeralcea ambigua

Form: Irregular, bush

Size: 2'-4'

Flowers: Orange/many colors, winter-spring

Exposure: Full sun

Distinct trait: Round, paper-like flowers

Pro/con: Color, pollinators, rangy



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Images By: Chris Martin, Virtual Library of Phoenix Landscape Plants

Parry's Penstemon

Penstemon parryi

Form: Herbaceous rosettes

Size: 3'-4'

Flowers: Large, magenta spikes, Feb-Mar

Exposure: Full sun, part shade

Distinct trait: Tubular flowers

Pro/con: Pollinators, many varieties, reseeds,



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Desert Marigold

Baileya multiradiata

Form: Clumping, rosette

Size: Up to 2'

Flowers: Yellow; winter-spring

Exposure: Full sun

Distinct trait: Curly, silver foliage

Pro/con: Hardy, reseeds





Annuals/Perennials

Chocolate Flower
Berlandiera lyrata

Paperflower
Psilosrophe cooperi

Firecracker Penstemon
Penstemon eatonii

Mt. Lemon Marigold
Tagetes lemonnii

Where Can You Learn More?

- Virtual Library of Phoenix Landscape Plants (Dr. Chris Martin, ASU)
- ADWR Low Water Use Plant List
- AMWUA (www.amwua.org/plants)
- Sunset Western Garden Book
- Native Plants for Southwestern Landscapes (Judy Mielke)
- Mountain States Nursery (www.mswn.com)

Where Can You Find Native Plants?

- Get the most selection from local nurseries
- Arizona Nursery Association (www.azna.org)
 - Dig It Nursery (Phoenix, AZ)
 - Agave Farms (Phoenix, AZ)
 - Arcadia Color Garden (Phoenix, AZ)
 - Berridge Nursery (Phoenix, AZ)
 - Treeland Nurseries (Mesa, AZ)
- Desert Botanical Garden Plant Sales (Spring/Fall)



Thanks! Questions?

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