

840 Rodeo Drive, #C • Prescott AZ 86305-2300 • (928) 445-6590 • FAX: (928) 445-6593
 2657 Village Drive • Cottonwood AZ 86326-5875 • (928) 646-9113 • FAX: 646-9108

Drought Tolerant Native Plants for the Verde Valley

Compiled by: Jeff Schalau, Associate Agent, ANR, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Yavapai County; Dusty Eiker, Horticulturalist, Mountain West Landscape Resources and Horticoach.com; and in partnership with the Arizona Department of Water Resources.

Plants are appropriate for North Central Arizona, elevation: 3,000 – 4,500 feet.

Plants may require supplemental irrigation until established.

* Native plant, generally unavailable in nurseries but found in many undisturbed areas.

** Native to nearby areas but not to the Verde Valley.

Trees

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Celtis reticulata</i>	Net Leaf Hackberry
<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	Desert Willow
<i>Cupressus arizonica</i>	Arizona Cypress
<i>Forestiera neomexicana</i>	New Mexico Olive
<i>Fraxinus greggii</i> **	Little-leaf Ash
<i>Juniperus deppeana</i>	Alligator Juniper
<i>Juniperus monosperma</i>	One-seed Juniper
<i>Juniperus osteosperma</i>	Utah Juniper
<i>Parkinsonia microphyllum</i> **	Blue Palo Verde
<i>Pinus edulis</i>	Pinyon Pine
<i>Prosopis velutina</i>	Velvet Mesquite
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Chokecherry
<i>Quercus arizonica</i> *	Arizona White Oak
<i>Quercus emoryi</i> *	Emory Oak
<i>Quercus gambelii</i>	Gambel Oak
<i>Robinia neomexicana</i>	New Mexico Locust
<i>Sapindus saponaria</i> *	Western Soapberry

Cacti & Succulents

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Agave parryi</i>	Parry's Agave
<i>Cylindropuntia</i> spp.	Cholla
<i>Dasyliirion wheeleri</i>	Sotol
<i>Echinocereus</i> spp.*	Hedgehog Cactus
<i>Ferocactus wislizeni</i>	Fishhook Barrel
<i>Fouquieria splendens</i>	Ocotillo
<i>Nolina microcarpa</i>	Beargrass
<i>Opuntia</i> spp.	Prickly Pear
<i>Yucca</i> spp.	Yucca

Shrubs

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Acacia greggii</i> *	Catclaw Acacia
<i>Arctostaphylos pringlei</i> *	Pringle Manzanita
<i>Arctostaphylos pungens</i> *	Pointleaf Manzanita
<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	Fourwing Saltbush
<i>Berberis fremontii</i>	Fremont Barberry
<i>Berberis haematocarpa</i> *	Red Barberry
<i>Calliandra eriophylla</i>	Fairy Duster
<i>Canotia holocantha</i> *	Crucifixion Thorn
<i>Ceanothus fendleri</i> *	Fendler Ceanothus
<i>Ceanothus greggii</i> *	Gregg Ceanothus
<i>Cercocarpus betuloides</i>	Birch Leaf Mountain Mahogany
<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i>	Rabbit Brush
<i>Cowania mexicana</i>	Cliffrose
<i>Dalea formosa</i> *	Feather Dalea
<i>Ephedra</i> spp.*	Morman tea
<i>Eriogonum wrightii</i> *	Shrubby Buckwheat
<i>Fallugia paradoxa</i> *	Apache Plume
<i>Garrya wrightii</i> *	Wright's Silktassel
<i>Gutierrezia sarothrae</i>	Broom Snakeweed
<i>Krameria parvifolia</i> *	Range Ratany
<i>Larrea tridentata</i>	Creosote Bush
<i>Lycium</i> spp.*	Wolfberry
<i>Mimosa buinifera</i> *	Wait-a-minute
<i>Parthenium incanum</i> *	Mariola
<i>Ptelea angustifolia</i> *	Hoptree
<i>Quercus dunnii</i> *	Dunn Oak
<i>Quercus turbinella</i>	Scrub Oak
<i>Rhus ovata</i>	Sugar Bush
<i>Rhus trilobata</i>	Three Leaf Sumac
<i>Rosa arizonica</i> *	Arizona Rose
<i>Vauquelinia californica</i>	Arizona Rosewood
<i>Ziziphus obtusifolia</i> var. <i>canescens</i> *	Graythorn

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Grasses – most only available as seed

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Aristida</i> spp.	Three Awn
<i>Bothriochloa barbinodis</i>	Cane Beardgrass
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	Sideoats Grama
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	Blue Grama
<i>Bouteloua hirsuta</i>	Hairy Grama
<i>Buchloe dactyloides</i>	Buffalograss
<i>Elymus smithii</i>	Western Wheatgrass
<i>Lycurus setosus</i>	Wolftail
<i>Muhlenbergia emersleyi</i>	Bullgrass
<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	Deergrass
<i>Panicum obtusum</i>	Vine Mesquite
<i>Pleuraphis mutica</i>	Tobosa
<i>Sporobolus airoides</i>	Alkali Sacaton
<i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i>	Sand Dropseed
<i>Stipa comata</i>	Needle and Thread Grass
<i>Stipa hymenoides</i>	Indian Ricegrass

Perennials

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Asclepius</i> spp.*	Milkweed
<i>Baileya multiradiata</i>	Desert Marigold
<i>Gaura</i> spp.*	Gaura
<i>Melampodium leucanthum</i> *	Blackfoot Daisy
<i>Mirabilis</i> spp.*	Four O'Clock
<i>Oenothera</i> spp.	Evening Primrose
<i>Penstemon</i> spp.	Penstemon
<i>Psilostrophe cooperi</i> *	Paperflower
<i>Senecio</i> spp.*	Groundsel
<i>Sphaeralcea</i> spp.	Globe Mallow
<i>Zinnia grandiflora</i> *	Prairie Zinnia

Vines

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia Creeper

Drought Tolerant Non-native Plants for the Verde Valley

Trees

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Cedrus atlantica</i>	Atlas Cedar
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Common Hackberry
<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>	Smoke Tree
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos inermis</i>	Honey Locust
<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>	Kentucky Coffee Tree
<i>Malus</i> spp.	Flowering Crabapple
<i>Pinus elderica</i> ✧	Afghan Pine
<i>Pinus halapensis</i>	Allepo Pine
<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	Chinese Pistache
<i>Pithecellobium flexicaule</i>	Texas Ebony
<i>Prosopis glandulosa</i>	Honey Mesquite
<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	Southern Live Oak
<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	Chinese Elm
<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	Chaste Tree

✧ Susceptible to Comandra Blister Rust in Sedona

Groundcovers & Vines

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Campsis radicans</i>	Trumpet Vine
<i>Mahonia repens</i>	Creeping Oregon Grape
<i>Parthenocissus inserta</i>	Woodbine
<i>Polygonum aubertii</i>	Silver Lace Vine
<i>Santolina chamaecyparissus</i>	Lavender Cotton
<i>Teucrium</i> spp.	Germander
<i>Thymus praecox arcticus</i>	Creeping Thyme

Cacti & Succulents

There are many good, non-native choices.

Shrubs

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Arctostaphylos</i> spp.	Manzanita
<i>Artemisia tridentata</i>	Big Sagebrush
<i>Buddleia marrubifolia</i>	Woolly Butterfly Bush
<i>Caesalpinia gilliesii</i>	Yellow Bird of Paradise
<i>Caragana arborescens</i>	Siberian Pea Shrub
<i>Cercocarpus</i> spp.	Mountain Mahogany
<i>Cotoneaster</i> spp.	Cotoneaster
<i>Elaeagnus pungens</i>	Silverberry
<i>Genista</i> spp.	Broom
<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Sunrose
<i>Juniperus</i> spp.	Juniper
<i>Leucophyllum</i> spp.	Texas Sage
<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	Oregon Grape
<i>Pinus mugo mugo</i>	Mugho Pine
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	Cinquefoil
<i>Pyracantha</i> spp.	Fire thorn
<i>Rhus glabra</i>	Smooth Sumac
<i>Rhus typhina</i>	Staghorn Sumac

Invasive

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree of Heaven
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	Pampasgrass
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Russian Olive
<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>	Weeping Lovegrass
<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>	Fountaingrass
<i>Tamarix</i> spp.	Salt Cedar
<i>Ulmus pumila</i>	Siberian Elm

These non-native plants are generally available, although homeowners may want to consider less-invasive alternatives to create a similar landscape effect.