

VILLAGE RACQUET CLUB PLANT PALETTE

Plants, trees, bushes, etc.
proposed to be used for
landscaping 5+ year long-
term

Agave Milifiora



Agave plants offer an ideal solution for gardeners reconsidering their water-guzzling landscapes, while bringing the added benefits of drama and structure as well as texture and subtle color. Agaves grow best in the Southwest and Mediterranean climates, but are adaptable and can also be grown out of their zones in pots if given winter protection.

GROWING AGAVE PLANTS

Why grow agave?

- Their leaf symmetry is eye-catching
- Display curious markings, wispy, curled threads or undulating striped leaves
- Among the best choices for a long-lived patio plant
- Can go without water for weeks, even months
- Are considered fire-retardant

Zones:

Generally agaves thrive in the warmer subtropical zones that experience seasonal dry periods (Zones 8 to 10). A few species native to the southwest United States and northern Mexico tolerate more extreme heat and cold; *Agave parryi* will tolerate minus 20 degrees F (Zone 5). The best region for growing the most types is the Mediterranean climate areas of California. However, many species will thrive in the desert Southwest. In cold or wet areas elsewhere, some species can be grown if kept dry and well above zero in the winter.

Exposure:

Agaves are sun worshippers, though light shade for a couple of hours is acceptable.

Soil:

Agaves are very adaptable. Soils low in clay content are fine. Texture can be sandy or rocky. In areas with substantial rainfall, a well-drained soil is necessary.

Planting:

Plant or transplant in spring and early fall, giving larger species plenty of room to attain maximum size. Make sure that no part of the leaf rosette is covered with soil, which can cause rotting.

Watering:

Until established, water once or twice a week. Eventually, agaves prefer to dry out between each watering. Overwatering may encourage fungal root rot. In California, heavy winter rains can cause small, even medium-sized, agaves to rot.

Aloe



Care:

Aloe Vera is not a difficult plant to care for. It does grow faster outdoors during warmer months, but it doesn't mind a pot and does just fine in the house. Some basic things to watch out for: it's true that Aloes like sun, but they can turn brown in harsh light. Indirect is best.

Watering:

When it comes to watering, an Aloe Vera plant is in greater danger of being overwatered than underwatered. Aloes like a soil that drains well. A cactus mix or a sandy soil is good for larger pots. Smaller pots drain quickly, and any good potting soil will do the trick. Water your Aloe sparingly in the winter since it won't be drying up very fast. It won't need to be watered very often, maybe once a week or two. In the summertime you can really soak the soil, but let the soil dry out between waterings. Make sure there is a drainage hole in the pot since the roots are prone to rot when exposed to long periods of wet soil.

More information:

Aloe leaves should grow upward, away from the base of the plant. If the leaves are lying flat, your Aloe probably has insufficient light. Although it will turn brown with too much light, it still needs a good amount of sunshine.

If the leaves are thin and curled, you probably are not watering your Aloe enough. The plant is using up its own liquid to keep itself nourished. Give it some water!

When the leaves are brown, as I mentioned before, your plant should be taken to a place with less direct sunshine.

If the plant is growing very slowly, the soil or water might be too alkaline. It could also mean that the plant was too damp for too long, needs more light, or has too much fertilizer. It might also like a bigger pot.

Bandana Lantana



Plant Description

Create a vibrant display in hanging baskets, patio pots or garden beds that butterflies and hummingbirds will adore! A compact sun-loving plant for continuous summer color, even in heat and humidity. Grows as a perennial in mild winter regions; treat as an annual elsewhere.

Overview

Light Needs: Full sun

Watering Needs:

Once established in landscape, needs only occasional watering. Water container plants regularly.

Average Landscape Size:

Grows to 16 to 20 in. tall and 16 to 20 in. wide.

Key Feature:

Heat Loving

Blooms:

Late spring to first frost.

Landscape Uses:

Border, Container, Houseplant, Rock Garden, Urban Garden, Wildlife Garden

Bougainvillea Patio Tree



Full sun

Hardy and vigorous
Blooms well in cool summers

Growth Rate:

Fast

Exposure:

Full sun

Water Needs:

Low (Water-wise)

Height:

Medium

Plant Type:

Shrub

Landscape Use:

Drought Tolerant

Deciduous/Evergreen:

Evergreen

Flowering Season:

Spring

Fall

Bougainvillea PIXIE QUEEN



Plant Description

Rich, deep purple, petal-like bracts are displayed against handsome, deep green foliage. A wonderful compact, upright and spreading form that works well in planter boxes, and on fences and arbors. Evergreen in frost-free areas; use as a colorful annual in cooler northern zones.

Overview

Light Needs:

Full sun

Watering Needs:

Once established, water occasionally; more in extreme heat or containers.

Average Landscape Size:

Climbs 15 ft. tall with support; 1 1/2 ft. tall, 8 ft. wide as groundcover.

Key Feature:

Carefree and Colorful

Blooms:

Summer; nearly year-round in frost-free regions.

Landscape Uses:

Barrier, Coastal Exposure, Container, Erosion Control, Espalier, Ground Cover, Privacy Screen, Urban Garden

Breaklight Yucca



Plant Description

Vibrant, brake light-red blooms are a great color improvement to this species! This compact newer selection rarely sets seedpods, meaning more prolific flowering over an exceptionally long season. Use in mass plantings for a dramatic effect in xeriscape and waterwise gardens. Good container specimen. Evergreen.

Overview

Light Needs:

Full sun

Watering Needs:

Once established, water occasionally; more in extreme heat or containers.

Average Landscape Size:

Foliage reaches 2 ft. tall and wide; blooms rise 2 to 3 ft. taller.

Key Feature:

Dramatic Color and Texture

Blooms:

Spring through Summer

Landscape Uses:

Border, Coastal Exposure, Container, Firescaping/Fire Wise, Ground Cover, Mass Planting, Specimen, Urban Garden

Carissa Boxwood Beauty



Plant description:

Moderately fast growing mounding evergreen broadleaf shrub has small leaves on short, thornless branches.

Grows 18-24 inches tall and wide. Likes sun or partial shade.

Fragrant white star-shaped flowers and red plum-like fruit.

Excellent for use as a groundcover, in a container, or near the ocean.

Fire-resistant for defensible space

Common Name:

Boxwood Beauty Natal Plum

Growth Rate:

Moderate

Exposure:

Full sun, Partial Shade

Water Needs:

Low (Water-wise)

Height:

Low

Plant Type:

Shrub

Landscape Use:

Container, Fire Resistant, Seacoast

Deciduous/Evergreen:

Evergreen

Flowering Season:

Year-Round

Flower Color:

White

Carissa Green Carpet



Plant Description:

Moderately fast growing spreading evergreen broadleaf shrub.

Grows 10-15 inches tall, and can spread about 3-4 feet.

Prefers sun or partial shade, regular water, drought tolerant once established.

Fragrant white star-shaped flowers, red plum-like fruit.

Does well near the ocean, makes a very attractive, dense groundcover.

Fire-resistant for defensible space

Common Name:

Green Carpet Natal Plum

Growth Rate:

Moderate

Exposure:

Full sun, Partial Shade

Water Needs:

Low (Water-wise)

Height:

Medium

Plant Type:

Shrub

Landscape Use:

Drought Tolerant, Fire Resistant, Seacoast

Deciduous/Evergreen:

Evergreen

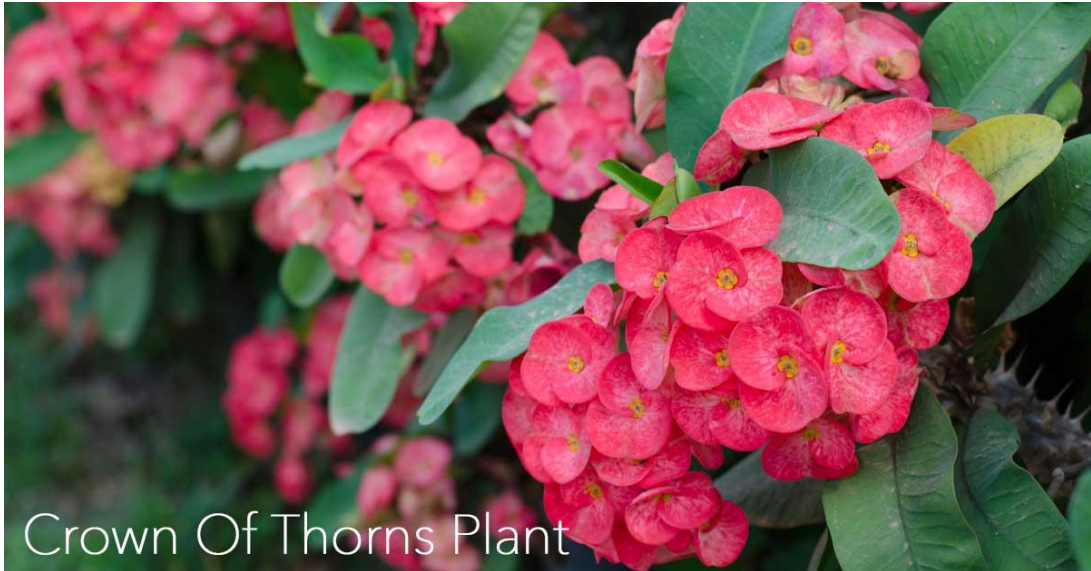
Flowering Season:

Year-Round

Flower Color:

White

Crown of Thorns



Characteristics

Apart from being an evergreen plant, *Euphorbia Millii* can also resist drought. It produces woody, succulent stems up to three feet high. The thorns cover the stems randomly and measure up to an inch long.

The bright green leaf bracts grow randomly and slightly sparse. They appear mostly on newer stems and fall away from the older stems. This means you can only find leaves on the youngest and newest portions of the plant.

Blooms appear mostly throughout the spring and late into the summer. However, in ideal conditions, the plant can produce flowers year-round.

To monitor the well-being of your crown of thorns plant, always check on its leaves. Sporadic shedding from mature stems does not indicate a problem. But if all of the leaves fall off suddenly, it signals stress which poses a threat to your plant.

If a sudden decrease in leaves happens, you must take the necessary steps to determine its cause. More often than not, excessive watering or poor drainage usually result to this. After solving the problem, the leaves may grow healthy again.

Daily Care:

Although crown of thorns belongs to the species of succulents, it can only store a limited amount of water using its stems.

The plant also takes in water through the leaves, so misting the plant on a daily basis may help. In fact, spraying with a weak saline solution works great because this plant does well at the seaside.

The plant needs minimal nourishment, but does respond to slow-release fertilizer, and it does very well in poor but well-drained soil. The root ball should not remain moist for an extended period to avoid root rot. Water the plant on a weekly basis and remember to allow the soil to dry completely.

Keep The Atmosphere Sunny And The Soil Light:

This succulent plant hungers for sunlight. If you want the crown of thorns as a house plant, position it in a bright, sunny window on the west or south side of your home. Unlike many houseplants, bright light and likes direct sunlight.

When planting outside, a sunny rock garden makes an excellent setting. If mixed in with cactus and other xeriscape type plants, the crown of thorns looks very attractive. As with all succulents and cacti, provide the soil with excellent drainage.

A soil mixture containing about one-third perlite or pumice makes a good well-drained soil option.

The plant grows well if placed under direct bright light in areas with cooler summers. In the regions governed by scorching, summer weather, set the plant in areas with good afternoon shade to avoid withering. Do not overdo with the shade as too much of it results in reduced flower production.

Desert Marigold *Baileya*



www.alamy.com - G56YRY

- About Wild Marigold (*Baileya multiradiata*)*Baileya multiradiata* is a species of sun-loving wildflower native to western North America, especially the US desert southwest and northern Mexico. It is an annual or perennial clumping patch of silvery-green foliage which bears many tall, naked stems, each topped with a bright yellow marigoldlike flower. The bloom loses its ray florets early, leaving behind a nodding stalk holding the disc florets where the seeds develop. In the garden give it fast drainage, not too much water and lots of surface rocks (no organic mulch or fertilizer). It is somewhat short-lived as a perennial but readily re-seeds itself if conditions are right.
Plant Description
- **Plant Type** Perennial herb, Annual herb
- **Max. Height** 1.6 ft (0.49 m)
- **Max. Width** 1 ft (0.3 m)
- **Dormancy** Summer Semi-Deciduous, Winter Semi-Deciduous

Dwarf Lantana Maritimo



Lantana Plant: Grow and Care:

The lantana plant, a bright, sun-loving plant producing flowers in abundance and rewarding you with lots of color. Mastering lantana care is not difficult. Made to order for any bright patio with lots of sun. Lantana's are basically tropical plants requiring lots of warmth.

Plant them in your outdoor garden as soon as all danger of frost is past. In warm areas where frost seldom if ever occurs, the lantana's can grow all year in the garden. Where they will flower constantly, attract hummingbirds, perfect for the butterfly garden and need only occasional trimming.

Size and Growth Rate:

The woody, deciduous, perennial Lantana produces rather bushy growth which feels rough to the touch. As a whole the ornamental plant Lantana will produce a bank of pleasing deep green.

Garden centers begin stocking plants around May, planting outdoors depends on weather, since plants cannot handle frost.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture the common Lantana plant variety grown well in USDA hardiness zones 10 and 11. Most Lantana dies back when temperatures fall below 28 degrees (Fahrenheit). Most grow back from their root system when warm weather returns.

Some of the new hardy lantana cultivars grow well in USDA zone 8.

When growing lantana, know the primary use for the plant, since you'll basically find two types or varieties of Lantana. Upright varieties are varieties better suited for use primarily as a ground cover, as bedding plants or even hanging baskets, reaching a height of 16 to 30 inches.

Other Options: The Lantana Tree In Large Pots Or Tubs:

The upright growing varieties, if allowed to grow can reach heights of 5 to 7 feet and look great growing in large tubs or pots. When grown as a "standard" the lantana tree makes for very attractive container subjects on a patio, terrace or a front entry

Dwarf Flowering cactus



- **Description**
- *Gymnocalycium baldianum* is a small [cactus](#) with solitary, flattened-globose stem, usually unbranched and up to 5 inches (13 cm) in diameter, with 9 to 10 broad ribs and 5 to 7 bristle-like radial spines. The flowers are purple-red, sometimes pinkish-purple (but also white, pink or orange) and up to 1.5 inches (4 cm) in diameter. They are followed by long, green fruits.

Fox Tails Ferns



Plant Description:

This unusual perennial adds textural contrast to beds and borders. Long, upright, plume-like stems hold soft, needle-like leaves. Develops red ornamental berries in fall. An excellent choice for hanging baskets and containers. Semi-evergreen in mild winter regions; use in containers and overwinter indoors in cold winter regions.

Light Needs:

Partial shade to partial sun

Watering Needs:

Water regularly - weekly, or more often in extreme heat or containers.

Average Landscape Size:

Moderately growing; reaches 2 ft. tall, 2 to 3 ft. wide.

Key Feature:

Year-round Interest

Blooms:

Spring

Landscape Uses:

Border, Coastal Exposure, Container, Firescaping/Fire Wise, Ground Cover, Hanging Basket, Mass Planting, Rock Garden, Urban Garden

Golden Barrel



The genus *Echinocactus* includes about six species of barrel cacti that are native to Mexico and the southeastern United States. These are true desert plants that cannot handle any humidity or standing water to grow. The most common among these plants are almost perfectly round when juvenile so therefore make excellent display plants. They are also highly attractive, with evenly spaced rows or spines of their deeply ribbed lobes.

As they grow, it's not uncommon for them to stretch out so they look more like ovals than circles. As with most cacti, the secret to their successful growth indoors is nearly perfect drainage, as opposed to letting them dry out.

Growing Conditions

Light: Full sun. A barrel cactus does best in a very sunny window, perhaps a southern exposure. Plants that do not get enough sunlight will grow more slowly and fail to thrive.

Water: Water infrequently and ensure that the soil drains completely. Do not leave any water sitting in the tray or allow them to sit in water. They are very prone to root rot.

Soil: A cactus soil mix is ideal. If you use a regular peat-based mix, be sure to add sand or extra perlite to enhance drainage and repot the plant when the soil begins to break down.

Fertilizer: Feed with a weak liquid cactus fertilizer throughout the growing season.

Propagation

A barrel cactus is typically propagated by seed.

A mature cactus will bloom in the summer with flowers that grow in whorls around the top of the plant. To seed a cactus, plant the seeds shallowly in a cactus mix and keep them warm and very slightly moist.

Ixora



How does ixora grow?

Keep the soil evenly moist and prune the plant when it gets unruly. **Ixora** responds well to shearing and makes an excellent low hedge with its 4 to 6 foot height. Propagation of the shrub is through stem cuttings which **can** be rooted with the help of a rooting hormone.

Grow:

Ixora is a sun-loving **plant**. While it tolerates some **shade**, bright sunlight brings out vibrant colors and more prolific blooming. However, in hot climates, the shrub benefits from light **shade** during the hottest part of the afternoon.

Height:

Dwarf ixora is named for its compact growth and small leaves. It grows slowly and has small, dense leaves, making it easy to maintain at 2 feet tall, although if allowed, it can grow much larger. The Maui ixoras are also smaller varieties that can be maintained at **2 to 3 feet tall**

Size:

i 'Super King' that has large clusters of yellow flowers and grows up to **12 feet** in height. Dwarf cultivars are also available like Ixora compacta 'Sunkist'.

Lantana Camara - clumping



An excellent low-maintenance plant used as an evergreen shrub where it blooms all year long or as an annual in areas with a killing frost. Flowers come in several colors, including red, yellow, pink, orange, purple and multi-colors. Blooms all season long. Foliage is rough and green with some cultivars having variegated foliage. Very drought tolerant. Plant size ranges 1 to 6 feet tall and about 3 to 10 feet wide, depending on cultivar.

Culture:

Likes a moist, well-drained soil, but will tolerate a variety of site conditions. Doesn't perform well in a wet site. Plant in full sun. Benefits by occasional fertilization. Primarily propagated through cuttings or seed. No serious problems with pests or diseases.

Special notes:

Attracts wildlife, including butterflies. May be poisonous to pets. Deer resistant. Drought resistant. Tolerates salt spray. *Warning:* Lantana can be potentially invasive in warm and tropical climates where it isn't killed back by frost. Considered an invasive weed in Hawaii.

Species and Cultivars:

Lantana camara. A more frost resistant cultivar, 'Miss Huff' features orange and pink flowers and has a tremendous growth habit, reaching 3 to 5 feet tall and up to 10 feet wide. Sterile so it won't produce any offspring seedlings. Hardy to Zone 7.

Weeping lantana (*L. montevidensis*). A trailing groundcover type excellent for use in hanging baskets or containers. Flowers are white to lavender purple. Trails about 5 to 6 feet. Native to South America.

Lantana hybrids. Crosses between *L. camara* and *L. montevidensis*. 'Lemon Swirl' has yellow variegated foliage complemented by lemon yellow flowers. Reaches about 1 foot tall. 'New Gold' offers brilliant golden yellow flowers in a profusion over dark green foliage. An excellent performer in the garden. Sterile. 'Confetti' produces multicolored blooms in colors of yellow, pink and purple.

Lavender popcorn (*L. trifolia*). Has beautiful lavender purple flowers that are attractive on their own. But even better, the blooms are followed by striking bright purple fruit which resemble ears of corn. Tall, shrubby plants reach 3 feet tall and as wide.

Lantana Patio Tree



Growth Rate:

Fast

Exposure:

Full sun

Water Needs:

Low (Water-wise), Medium

Height:

Medium

Plant Type:

Tree

Landscape Use:

Fire Resistant

Deciduous/Evergreen:

Evergreen

Flowering Season:

Spring, Summer & Fall

Flower Color:

Multi-colored

Mexican Bird of Paradise



Fern-like foliage is the perfect backdrop for the clusters of fragrant, yellow flowers. Masses of blooms virtually cover the tree in spring and continue to appear on new growth the rest of the season attracting hummingbirds and butterflies. Can be used as a screen or pruned into a small patio tree.

Plant Mexican Bird of Paradise in the fall in full sun. This large shrub is evergreen in mild climates, but where frost occurs it will shed foliage. Extremely tolerant of sun and reflected heat, supplement with one watering per week but while it flowers. Needs good drainage.

Height: 10-15 Feet

Spread: 6-10 Feet

Height

10-15 Feet

Bloom Time:

Early Spring, Late Spring

Early Summer, Summer, & Late Summer

Mexican Grass Tree



Plant Description

Stiff, spineless, olive green, grass-like foliage flows from the center of this perfect evergreen specimen for warm, arid xeriscapes. Remove old foliage to reveal an attractive single trunk. In time, it will produce a single, magnificent, tall white bloom stalk. A captivating feature in raised planters and large containers.

Overview

Light Needs:

Full sun

Watering Needs:

Once established, water occasionally; more in extreme heat or containers.

Average Landscape Size:

Moderate growing; reaches 4 to 6 ft. tall and wide.

Key Feature:

Stunning Waterwise Specimen

Blooms:

Late spring through summer on mature plants.

Landscape Uses:

Border, Container, Mass Planting, Rock Garden, Specimen, Urban Garden

Mexican Fence Post



DESCRIPTION

The Mexican Fence Post is the one of the most attractive and cleanest looking cacti available. The tall stems branch out from the cactus base to form a fence-like cluster of tall, cylindrical "posts", usually with 5 or 6 pronounced ridges. Along these ridges run symmetrical rows of small white thorns that make the Mexican Fence Post look striped from a distance.

The Mexican Fence Post also produces a wonderful pink to light-red flower that adds great seasonal color to your landscape. Because it is native to the sub-tropical areas of Mexico, the Mexican Fence Post requires more irrigation, usually weekly, during our hot summers to perform its best.

FEATURES

Low water-use

Seasonal pink blooms contrast well and add even more color

Ocotillo in bloom



Identifying Features

Ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*) are one of easiest plants to identify in the desert. They are a large shrub with long cane-like unbranched spiny stems that grow from a short trunk. Small 2 inch leaves will grow from the stems when there is enough moisture.

Dense clusters of red tubular flowers grow from the end of the stems from March through June.

Habitat

Ocotillo prefer a habitat that is open and very rocky, and where the soil is well drained. Areas such as rocky slopes, mesas, washes and desert grasslands.

Range

Ocotillo are common in most areas of the Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts. They are also found in western Texas through to southern California.

Life Span

There is much discussion on exactly how old Ocotillo can live. A good estimate is 60 years although some studies indicate they can live well over 100 years

Size

Ocotillo can reach heights of up to 20 feet.

Quick Facts

The Ocotillo is called many different names including Candlewood, Slimwood, Coachwhip, Vine Cactus, Flaming Sword and Jacob's Staff.

The Ocotillo is often use as "fencing" because its spines stop people and animals from passing through.

Pink Ixora



IXORA COCCINEA PINK
'Ixora, Flame of the Forest'
FAMILY: Ixora

USES: Strong and continual flowering. Does well as a shrub, hedge, container plant, en masse, around pools, courtyards and under canopied trees.

SIZE: Grows 1.2 – 2m tall with a 1.5 – 2m spread at a rate of 30 – 50 cm p/a.

LOCATION: Full sun to partial shade. Does well with some protection from direct sea wind or hot, dry desert wind.

SOIL: Best in an organically enriched fertile soil with a pH 5.6 – 6.0, acidic. Will show leaf chlorosis if soil is too alkaline or saline.

FERTILISER: Apply a slow release 15:8:11 NPK with trace elements together with Fe chelate and seaweed as a soil drench in spring and autumn.

WATER: Keep soil moist. Moderately drought tolerant for short periods only. Does not accept over irrigation or waterlogging.

Rainbow Elephant Bush



Description

This is a multi-branched, slow growing, succulent shrub up to 10 feet (3 m), with attractive, reddish-brown stems and smooth, obovate, glossy green leaves up to 0.8 inch (2 cm) long, heavily variegated with cream. Stems become interwoven as the plant ages. Flowers are small, lavender-pink and clusters shaped.

How to Grow and Care

Choose a location with indirect sunlight when growing Elephant Bush indoors. Overly bright sunlight can char the leaves and cause them to drop off. Ensure that the container you choose has wide drainage holes. The most common mistake made in succulent plants is watering. They are drought tolerant but do require watering from April to October. In winter the plants are dormant and you may suspend watering. Elephant Bush plants in the home interior should not have consistently wet feet. Make sure the pot drains well and don't leave a saucer with water sitting under the container. Fertilize in late winter to early spring with an indoor plant fertilizer diluted by half.

Like most succulents, Elephant Bush is easy to reproduce from cuttings. Take cuttings in spring or summer for best results. Let the cutting dry out and callous for a couple of days and then plant the cutting in damp gritty soil in a small pot. Place the cutting in a moderately lit area where temperatures are at least 65°F (18°C)

Native to eastern South Africa.

Red Yucca



Plant Description

Tall spikes hold deep rose-pink flowers atop clumps of slender, green, drought tolerant foliage. Blooms nearly year-round in warm winter regions. An effective choice to add dramatic interest in a rock garden, as a landscape accent or in containers. Partners beautifully with other desert-like plants. Evergreen.

Overview

Light Needs:

Full sun

Watering Needs:

Once established, water occasionally; more in extreme heat or containers.

Average Landscape Size:

Foliage reaches 3 to 4 ft. tall and wide; flowers reach 4 to 6 ft. tall.

Key Feature:

Carefree Summer Blooms

Blooms:

Early summer; nearly year-round in warm winter regions.

Landscape Uses:

Border, Coastal Exposure, Container, Urban Garden, Wildlife Garden

Texas Ebony



Location, Location, Location

Texas ebony is a desert tree that prefers arid, warm conditions. The tree should only be planted where hardy, in U.S. Department of Agriculture plant hardiness zones 8 to 11. In USDA zone 8, where temperatures may drop to 15 to 20 degrees Fahrenheit range, stem dieback or leaf drop may occur in the winter. A full sun location is preferable, although Texas ebony will tolerate some shade. In the warmer end of the tree's range, sunscald may occur in a southwestern facing location.

Description:

Large tree or stunted shrub; dense, dark crown, zigzag twigs with paired spines.

Height: 15-30 feet, up to 40 feet.

Flowers: Creamy-yellow, fragrant, elongated spikes, after rainfall.

Fruit: Thick, woody pods.

Foliage: Evergreen; dense, dark green.

Bark: Dark brown to black.

Growth rate: Slow.

Requirements:

Sun: Partial shade to full sun; germinates in full shade.

Soil: Any.

Drainage: Prefers well drained.

Water: Low, drought tolerant.

Maintenance: Medium; abundant seed pods ca use considerable ground litter.

Propagation: Scarified seed.

Torch Glow Bougainvillea



Plant Description

This unusual, showy, shrubby bougainvillea boasts beautiful reddish pink blooms atop stiff, upright branches. A wonderful accent shrub or screen when massed; requires no support. Evergreen in frost-free regions; can be used in colder climates as a colorful summer annual for patio containers.

Overview

Light Needs:

Full sun

Watering Needs:

Once established, water occasionally; more in extreme heat or containers.

Average Landscape Size:

Moderate growing; reaches 6 to 8 ft. tall, 3 ft. wide.

Key Feature:

Bold Form and Color

Blooms:

Summer; nearly year-round in frost-free regions.

Landscape Uses:

Barrier, Coastal Exposure, Container, Erosion Control, Firescaping/Fire Wise, Mass Planting, Specimen, Urban Garden

Verbena



How to Grow Verbena

When you are ready to learn how to grow verbena, you'll want to locate this tough specimen where it gets eight to 10 hours of sun each day. The verbena flower is not particular about soil, except that it must be well-draining. Poor soil is acceptable for verbena growing conditions. Perennial varieties of the verbena flower are often lost when planted in soil that becomes soggy following heavy winter snow or spring rain. Good drainage can offset this problem. Improve drainage before planting verbena by working in well composted, organic material.

Verbena Plant Care

While the verbena flower is drought resistant, the blooms are improved with regular watering of an inch or so each week. Water verbena plants at the base to avoid wetting the foliage. However, verbena plant care may not include weekly water if rainfall in your area has reached an inch or more. A limited application of complete, slow-release fertilizer is also a part of verbena plant care.

Apply in spring and again following the occasional trims needed for optimum bloom.

When planted in proper verbena growing conditions, expect blooms the first season. Continued blooms throughout the summer are possible if the gardener keeps the plant trimmed back. Some are hesitant to remove parts of the plant regularly, but this is often necessary when planting verbena for summer blooms.

When planting verbena, remember to water, fertilize and trim for long lasting color in the summer garden and beyond.

Vinca - Mixed colors



Vinca, Annual Plant Features

The clear crisp flowers and glossy green leaves of annual vinca are so perfect you may be tempted to rub them to see if they are real. Annual vinca, occasionally called periwinkle, is not related to the perennial ground cover with the same common name. In fact, annual vinca is native to Madagascar and is prized for its nonstop flower show from early summer till fall. Annual vinca is drought tolerant and requires almost no maintenance to keep it looking terrific. Use it en masse in beds and borders or tuck it into mixed containers with other annual flowers. Annual vinca grows 12 to 18 inches tall and comes in pink, purple, red, white, magenta, and bi-colors. The flowers are also attractive to butterflies. Hardy in zone 10.

Light

Outside: Sun

Colors

Pink, Purple, Red, White

Water

Medium water needs

Special Features

Attracts butterflies

Colorful foliage

Deer/rabbit resistant

Vinca



Annual Vinca

If you're looking for big, bold color for sunny spots, the annual vinca varieties are probably for you. These plants have the botanical name *Catharanthus* and are bred from a heat- and drought-tolerant, sun-loving species from Madagascar.

These plants typically have pinwheel-shaped flowers in festive shades of lavender, pink, red, and white. They thrive both in garden beds and borders, as well as container gardens and their low-water, heat-loving nature have made them popular plants for just about every climate.

Plant breeders have developed both upright-growing varieties and trailing varieties. Upright varieties can grow between 1 and 2 feet tall, depending on variety, and ideal for mass plantings; mixing with other heat-loving annuals such as *Angelonia* and pentas; or mixing with perennials to provide constant color in summer while the perennials cycle in and out of bloom.

Trailing vinca varieties are particularly well-suited for hanging baskets and container gardens, but can also be good annual groundcovers in beds and borders.

Most annual vinca varieties are good for attracting bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and other pollinators. And they're also typically deer and rabbit resistant.

Varieties of Annual Vinca

There are many series of annual vinca available, many with a full range of colors. Some that have done particularly well in our Trial Garden include:

Cora: The Cora vinca collection features many colors, and both trailing and upright varieties. They're known for their disease resistance.

Soiree Kawaii: Kawaii varieties offer a very different look; they produce many smaller flowers, giving the plants more of a wildflower look.

Valiant: Valiant vincas are large plants with extra-large flowers that are perfect for planting an eye-catching display.

Vitesse: Easy-care and beautiful, Vitesse vincas are especially easy to grow.

Wedelia Trilobata



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DESCRIPTION

Wedelia grows rapidly in well drained soil and re-roots from stems laying on the ground. Good cover in shady areas where grass no longer grows, it will also grow fast in full sun. Bright yellow flowers are a nice contrast to the dark green foliage.

After dying back to the ground after a freeze, Wedelia will recover very quickly and return to it's lush appearance. They require lots of water when young to help establish this blooming ground cover quickly. They will exaggerate thirst through dramatic wilting when too dry, often perking back up within fifteen minutes of receiving a drink.

FEATURES

Fast growing, dark green foliage with bright yellow flowers
Covers a lot of ground quickly, good over large areas
Erosion control on slopes and banks