

# Plant Selection

## Define Your Goals

How much space are you trying to landscape

Shade or sunny area

Beauty and color (Seasonal delight)

Attract wildlife (or not)

Minimal care or intense supervision

Low water use

Erosion control

Food production

## **Considerations for Success**

Climate Zone and microclimate

Elevation and natural rainfall (riparian, grassland, chaparral)

Soil type (pH, mineral needs, loose to clay, caliche)

Sun, shade and wind

Water use/irrigation

Disease resistance

Planting times

Supplementation requirements

## Trees

Great Choices:

Emory Oak  
Desert Willow  
Arizona Cyprus

Good choices:

Arizona Ash  
Maples  
Locust (Honey, New Mexican, Idaho)

Not as good choices:

Weeping Willow  
Cottonwood  
Aspen  
Pines (e.g., Pinion, Ponderosa)

Never

Russian Olive  
Tree of Heaven  
Tamerisk

## Shrubs

Great Choices:

New Mexican or Desert Olive  
Three Leaf Sumac  
California Buckthorn (coffeeberry)  
Autumn Sage  
Cliff Rose  
Western Sandcherry

Good choices:

Mountain Mahogany  
Barberry  
Apache Plume

Not as good choices:

Photinia  
Butterfly Bush  
Buffaloberry  
Simple flowered roses

Never

Russian Sage

## Forbes/Bulbs

Great Choices: Desert Marigolds  
Irises  
Hummingbird Mint  
Penstemons

Good choices: Blanket Flowers (Gaillardia)  
Mexican Hats  
Coneflowers  
Blue Flax  
Evening Primrose  
Yarrow

Not as good choices: Coreopsis  
Annuals

Never Tulips

## **Cacti/succulents**

Great Choices: Yuccas (e.g., soft leaf, soap tree, banana)  
Desert Spoon

Good choices: Agaves  
Cold hardy Chollas

Not as good choices: Prickly Pear Cactus  
Cold tolerant down to 10 degrees

Never Cold tolerant down to 20 degrees

## Grasses

Great Choices: Grammas  
Muhlys

Good choices: Buffalograss  
Fescues  
Feather Reed

Not as good choices: Mexican Feather Grass  
Love Grasses

Never Pampas Grass  
Fountain Grasses  
Bluegrasses

## **At the Nursery**

Look at plants for:

Root Ball formation

Diseases

Strong leader

## **Plant it**

Digging the hole

Ensure proper drainage (fill it twice and drain in 24 HRS)

Mulching

Irrigation

Supplementation

Staking