50 Common Native and Non-Native Desert Plants, Tucson, AZ

(Adapted from “Plants of the Desert: Running Plant list. Dick Barber, University of Arizona)

TREES COMMON NAME SCIENTIFIC NAME HABITAT

* Arizona (Velvet) Ash *Fraxinus velutina*  Riparian
* Arizona Black Walnut *Juglans major* Riparian
* Cottonwood *Populus fremontii* Riparian
* Desert Willow  *Chilopsis linearis* Riparian
* Feather tree *Lysoloma microphylla* Riparian, endemic
* Ironwood *Olneya tesota* Desert
* Mesquite, Velvet  *Prosopis velutina* Desert
* Netleaf Hackberry *Celtis reticulate* Riparian
* Palo Verde, Blue *Cercidium floridum* Desert
* Palo Verde, Foothills *Cercidium microphyllum* Desert
* Palo Verde, Mexican *Parkinsonia aculeata* Desert, introduced
* Sycamore *Platanus wrightii* Riparian
* Western Black Willow *Salix gooddingii* Riparian

SHRUBS

* Agave *Agave sp.* Desert
* Beargrass *Nolina microcarpa* Desert/upland
* Brickellia *Brickellia sp.* Desert
* Brittlebush *Encina farinose* Desert
* Burrowweed *Isocoma tenuisecta* Desert
* Burrobrush *Ambrosia (Hymenoclea) salsola* Desert
* Canyon Ragweed *Ambrosia ambrosiadies* Desert/Riparian
* Catclaw Acacia *Acacia greggii* Desert
* Condolia *Condalia warnockii* Desert
* Creosote *Larrea tridentate* Desert
* Desert Broom *Baccaharis sarathodies* Desert
* Desert Hackberry *Celtis pallida* Riparian
* Desert Lavender *Hyptis emoryi* Desert Riparian
* Desert Mistletoe *Phoradendron californicum* Parasite

SHRUBS COMMON NAME SCIENTIFIC NAME HABITAT

* Ephedra *Ephedra trifurca* Desert
* Fairyduster *Calliandra eriophylla* Desert
* Graythorn *Zizphus obtusifolia* Desert
* Hopbush *Dodonaea viscosa* Desert
* Jojoba *Simmondsia chinensi* Desert
* Koeberlinia *Koeberlinia spinosa* Desert
* Krameria, White Ratany *Krameria grayi* Desert
* Limberbush *Jatropha cardiophylla* Desert
* Lippia/Beebush *Aloysia wrightii* Desert

* Mariola *Parthenium confertu (incanum)* Desert
* Ocotillo *Foqueria splendans* Desert
* Red Bird of Paradise *Caesalpina Mexicana* Desert,
* Saltbush *Atriplex canescens* Desert
* Seepwillow *Baccahris glutinosa* Riparian
* Sotol *Dasylirion wheeleri* Desert
* Stephanomeria *Stephanomeria exigua* Desert
* Sweetbush *Bebbia juncia* Desert
* Tecoma stans *Tecoma stans* Riparian
* Texas Ranger *Leucophyllum spp* Desert, Chihuahuan
* Trixis *Trixis californica* Desert
* Tree Tobacco *Nicotania glauca* Desert
* Triangle-leaf Bursage *Ambrosia deltoidia* Desert
* Whitethorn Acacia *Acacia constricta* Desert
* Wolfberry *Lycium spp* (need flowers to key out)
* Yellow Bird of Paradise *Caesalpinia gilliesii* Desert

Yucca

* Banana Yucca *Yucca baccata* Desert
* Soaptree Yucca *Yucca elata* Desert
* Schotts’s Yucca *Yucca Schotii* Desert

LOW SHRUBS AND BUSHES

COMMON NAME SCIENTIFIC NAME HABITAT

* Cassia *Senna covesii* Australia, cultivar
* Datura *Datura metelodies* Riparian
* Desert Marigold *Baileya multiradiata* Desert
* Desert Tobacco *Nicotina trigonophylla* Desert
* Desert Zinnia *Zinnia acerosa* Desert
* Dyssodia *Dyssodia acerosa* Desert

* Janusia *Janusia gracilis* Desert

Mallows *Sphaeralcea spp.* Desert

* Globe Mallow *Sphaeralcea ambigua* Desert
* Herissanthia *Herissanthia crispa* Desert
* Indian Mallow *Abutilon sp.* Desert
* Rose Mallow *Hibiscus sp.* Desert
* Penstemon *Penstemon spp.* Desert
* Snakeweed *Gutierrezia sarothrae* Desert
* Siphonoglossa *Siphonoglossa longiflora* Desert

Verbena

* Gooding’s (Desert) *Glandularia goodingi* Desert, washes
* Sand *Abronia villosa* Desert, washes
* Wright’s *Glandularia wrightii* Desert
* Yellow Paperflower *Psilostrophe cooperi* Desert

SOME SUMMER ANNUAL FLOWERS/WEEDS

COMMON NAME SCIENTIFIC NAME HABITAT

* Bahia *Bahia absinthifolia* Desert

* Caltrop *Kalistroemia grandiflora* Desert
* Clammyweed *Polanisia dodecandra*  Desert
* Crownbeard *Verbesina enceliodes* Desert
* Devil’s Claw *Proboscidea parviflora* Desert
* Euphorbs *Euphorbia spp.* Desert

SOME SUMMER ANNUAL FLOWERS/WEEDS, cont’d

COMMON NAME SCIENTIFIC NAME HABITAT

* Five-fingered Gourd *Curcurbita digitata* Desert
* Horseweed *Conyza canadensis* Desert
* Senecia *Senecio spp.* Desert
* Sunflower *Helicanthus annus* Desert

CACTI (Family Cactacea)

COMMON NAME SCIENTIFIC NAME HABITAT

* Barrel Cactus *Ferocactus fulgida* Desert

Cholla

* Jumping Cholla *Cylindraopuntia (opuntia) fulgida*
* Cane/Staghorn Cholla *Cylindraopuntia acanthocarpa/versicolor*
* Christmas Cholla *Cylindraopuntia leptocactus* Desert
* Pencil Cholla *Cylindraopuntia arbuscula* Desert
* Teddy Bear Cholla *Cylindraopuntia bigellovii* Desert
* Hedgehog, Strawberry *Echinocerus engelmanii* Desert, upland
* Hedgehog, Pinkflower *Echinocerus fasciculatus* Desert, upland
* Night-blooming cereus *Peniocereus spp.* Desert
* Organpipe *Cereus thurberii* Desert
* Pincushion *Mammillaria microcarpa* Desert
* Prickly Pear *Opuntia spp* Desert
* Saguaro *Carnegia gigantean* Desert

SOME INVASIVE DESERT SPECIES

COMMON NAME SCIENTIFIC NAME ORIGIN

GRASSES

* Buffelgrass *Pennisetum ciliare* Africa, Asia, M. East
* Burmuda grass *Cynodon dactylon* Middle East
* Cheatgrass *Bromus tectorum*  Eurasia
* Fountain grass *Pennisetum seteceum* Africa, Asia
* Nutgrass *Cyperus rotundus* Eurasia, Africa
* Red Brome *Bromus rubens* Eurasia

FORBS

* African (Sahara) mustard *Brassica tournefortii* Africa
* Diffuse Knapweed *Centaurea diffusa* Eurasia
* London Rocket *Sisymbrium irio* Eurasia
* Malta starthistle *Centaurea meletensis* Mediterranean
* Puncture Vine (Goat Head) *Tribulus terristris* Invasive, Eurasia
* Tumbleweed *Salsola iberica* Russia
* Velvetweed *Guara mollis* Asia

TREES/SHRUBS

* African sumac *Rhus lancea* South Africa
* Athel Tamarisk *Tamarix aphylla* Eurasia, Africa
* Saltcedar *Tamarix parviflora* Eurasia, Africa