

# AWAC

## Recommended High-Desert Plants

The Alliance for Water Awareness and Conservation (AWAC), a dynamic coalition of 25 regional organizations working together to promote water conservation, has created this list of desert-adaptive plants, divided by category (accents, grasses, groundcovers, perennial flowers, shrubs, and trees), to help you select plants that grow well in the High Desert using little water. Thoughtful landscape planning, low-water-use plants, and proper irrigation strategies will help you conserve water. AWAC recommends that you take this list with you when you visit your local nursery or home-improvement store.

### Accents

- ◆ *Agave* species: *A. Americana* (Century Plant); *A. parryi huachucensis*; *A. victoriae-reginae*
- ◆ *Dasyllirion wheeleri*, Desert Spoon
- ◆ *Nolina microcarpa*, Bear Grass
- ◆ *Hesperaloe parviflora*, Red Yucca
- ◆ *Kniphofia uvaria*, Red-Hot Poker, Torch Lily
- ◆ *Yucca* species: *Y. aloifolia*, Spanish Bayonet; *Y. baccata*, Banana Yucca, Datil; *Y. brevifolia*, Joshua Tree; *Y. elata*, Soaptree Yucca
- ◆ *Chamaerops humilis*, Mediterranean Fan Palm
- ◆ *Trachycarpus fortunei*, Windmill Palm
- ◆ *Washingtonia filifera*, California Fan Palm

### Grasses

#### Ornamental

- ◆ *Muhlenbergia rigens*, Deer Grass
- ◆ *Muhlenbergia capillaris*, Regal Mist
- ◆ *Muhlenbergia lindheimeri*, Autumn Glow
- ◆ *Festuca ovina glauca*, Blue Fescue
- ◆ *Bouteloua gracilis*, Blue Grama
- ◆ *Nassella tenuissima* (*Stipa tenuissima*), Mexican Feather Grass

#### Turf

- ◆ *Buchloe dactyloides*, Buffalo Grass (Legacy)
- ◆ *Buchloe dactyloides*, Buffalo Grass (UC Verde)

#### **Warm-Season Grasses (winter dormant):**

- ◆ *Zoysia*, *Zoysia* Grass
- ◆ *Stenotaphrum secundatum*, St. Augustine Grass

#### **Cool-Season Grasses (year round):**

- ◆ *Festuca arundinacea*, Tall Fescue
- ◆ *Lolium perenne*, Perennial Ryegrass
- ◆ *Poa pratensis*, Kentucky Bluegrass

## Ground Covers

- ◆ *Oenothera berlandieri*, Mexican Evening Primrose
- ◆ *Santolina chamaecyparissus*, Lavender Cotton
- ◆ *Cerastium tomentosum*, Snow-in-Summer
- ◆ *Gazania*, most varieties
- ◆ *Sedum*, most varieties
- ◆ *Thymus*, most varieties
- ◆ *Verbena peruviana*; *V. pulchella*
- ◆ *Dalea greggii*, Trailing Indigo Bush
- ◆ *Rosmarinus officinalis*, 'Prostratus'
- ◆ *Phlox*, most varieties

## Perennial Flowers

- ◆ *Coreopsis*, most varieties
- ◆ *Penstemon ambiguus*, *P. barbatus*, *P. centranthifolius*, *P. eatonii*, *P. palmeri*, *P. parryi*, *P. pinifolius*, *P. pseudospectabilis*, *P. strictus*
- ◆ *Cosmos*, most varieties
- ◆ *Convolvulus cneorum*, Bush Morning Glory
- ◆ *Perovskia*, Russian Sage or Blue Spire
- ◆ *Berlandiera lyrata*, Chocolate Flower
- ◆ *Gaura lindheimeri*, 'Whirling Butterflies,' 'Siskiyou Pink'
- ◆ *Hemerocallis*, Daylily, most varieties
- ◆ *Rosmarinus officinalis*, most prostrate and upright varieties
- ◆ *Verbena gooddingii*, *V. peruviana*, *V. rigida*

## Shrubs

- ◆ *Salvia greggii*, Red Sage, Autumn Sage
- ◆ *Salvia clevelandii*, Blue Sage, Cleveland Sage
- ◆ *Salvia chamaedryoides*, Germander Sage
- ◆ *Fallugia paradoxa*, Apache Plume
- ◆ *Leucophyllum frutescens*, Texas Ranger species, several varieties
- ◆ *Leucophyllum laevigatum*, Chihuahuan Sage
- ◆ *Baccharis* 'Centennial,' Coyote Bush
- ◆ *Baccharis pilularis*, Dwarf Coyote Brush
- ◆ *Artemisia*, 'Powis Castle'
- ◆ *Cotoneaster horizontalis*, Rock Cotoneaster
- ◆ *Photinia fraseri*
- ◆ *Grevillea* 'Noellii'

## Trees

### Evergreen

- ◆ *Eucalyptus camaldulensis (rostrata)*, Red River
- ◆ *Eucalyptus microtheca*, Coolibah
- ◆ *Pinus eldarica*, Eldarica Pine, Afghan Pine, Russian Pine
- ◆ *Pinus halepensis*, Aleppo Pine
- ◆ *Pinus pinea*, Italian Stone Pine
- ◆ *Cedrus deodara*, Deodar Cedar
- ◆ *Calocedrus decurrens*, Incense Cedar
- ◆ *Heteromeles arbutifolia*, Toyon
- ◆ *Sophora secundiflora*, Texas Mountain Laurel
- ◆ *Arbutus unedo*, Strawberry Tree
- ◆ *Pithecellobium flexicaule*, Texas Ebony

### Deciduous

- ◆ *Albizia julibrissin*, Silk Tree, Mimosa
- ◆ *Chilopsis linearis*, Desert Willow, 'Burgundy'
- ◆ *Chitalpa tashkentensis*, Pink Dawn, Morning Cloud
- ◆ *Parkinsonia floridum*, Blue Palo Verde
- ◆ *Parkinsonia microphyllum*, Littleleaf Palo Verde
- ◆ *Parkinsonia aculeata*, Mexican Palo Verde
- ◆ *Fraxinus angustifolia*, 'Raywood' (Raywood Ash)
- ◆ *Fraxinus velutina*, Arizona Ash
- ◆ *Fraxinus velutina*, 'Modesto' (Modesto Ash)
- ◆ *Prosopis chilensis*, Chilean Mesquite
- ◆ *Prosopis glandulosa*, Honey Mesquite
- ◆ *Prosopis pubescens*, Screw Bean Mesquite
- ◆ *Gleditsia triacanthos*, Honey Locust
- ◆ *Pistacia chinensis*, Chinese Pistache
- ◆ *Vitex agnus-castus*, Chaste Tree, Monk Tree

**For more information,  
contact your local water provider or the  
Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District,  
760.843.6882, extension 104.**