



Some Guidelines

for

Back Yard Design and

Installation

Emphasizing Permaculture

and a

Native Plant Palette

at

Stone Curves



Some Introductory Thoughts About Back Yards at Stone Curves

As a community, Stone Curves has chosen to embrace permaculture concepts, and to create beautiful, functional landscaping that primarily utilizes plants from a palette of Tucson basin natives and low water-usage non-natives.

In the fall of 2004, there was considerable discussion, both by the Green Team and others in the community, regarding the question of how these concepts might apply to the back yard spaces that homeowners design and implement on their own.

It was agreed that the Green Team, by way of both a Back Yard Policy (a separate document) and a set of Back Yard Guidelines (this document), would provide advice and assistance to community members regarding the design and use of their back yards.

It was agreed that this would not take the form of a set of "rules" to be followed. Rather, by providing information regarding what works well in our environment, community members would be encouraged to decide for themselves how to design and implement back yard plans, and to actively consult with others in their buildings, to arrive at back yard solutions that are functional, aesthetically pleasing, and satisfying to individual and to the community as a whole.

Additionally, it was agreed that, following move-in of all Stone Curves members in the spring of 2005, the Green Team would offer a series of back yard workshop/ brainstorming sessions, to provide homeowners an opportunity to meet, on a building-by-building basis, in order to discuss ideas and suggestions for back yard design. To initiate this process for your building, contact the Green Team point person.

But, the starting point is these Back Yard Guidelines, which provide introductory material on a number of topics. In this document, you'll find the following:

The Stone Curves Back Yard Policy, providing an overall statement of philosophy concerning how we design and implement back yard plans

Recommended Plant Palette: trees, shrubs, ground covers, etc.

Plant Placement: passive/solar cooling and heating, effects on neighbors' properties, etc.

Water Use/Water Conservation: drip irrigation systems, microbasins, grey water, cisterns, back yard permeability, etc.

Composting: suitable composting materials, practices, locations, etc. -

Pesticides/Herbicides: a brief introduction, including a statement of concern regarding toxicity issues

After reading this pamphlet, if you'd like to learn more, a great place to start is the book Earth-Friendly Desert Gardening: Growing in Harmony with Nature Saves Time, Money and Resources, by Cathy Cromwell, Jo Miller and Lucy K. Bradley. There are

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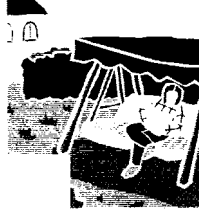
multiple copies at the Tucson public libraries, and soon Stone Curves will have its own Landscaping and Permaculture Resource Library.

When you're ready to purchase plants, the following nurseries are highly recommended:

Tohono Chul Park
Desert Survivors
Tucson Botanical Garden
Coronado Heights Nursery
Bach's Tree Nursery
Native Seed Search

If you'd like some additional guidance, some members of the Green Team have developed expertise in particular areas and may be available to answer questions and offer advice.

This year, there will be a variety of workshops available to community members through an Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grant. Everyone is encouraged to take advantage of these learning opportunities. Our permaculture consultant Brad Lancaster will conduct many of these workshops and would be an excellent choice if you'd like to work with a paid consultant.



Private Space in a Synergistic Place

The Stone Curves Back Yard Policy

Backyard Suburbia

Hovering over a new suburb, we see next-door neighbors Pam and Burt each sitting on their own back porch, deep in thought. Pam is thinking about the roses she will be planting along the fence she shares with Burt. Her mouth waters, anticipating the fresh vegetables she will one day have from her organic garden. Burt sips from his lemonade, imagining the grass his kids will play on. He presses the cold glass to his forehead and sees the mirage of a giant lemon tree. Pam begins to draw a back yard design, and Burt, finishing his lemonade in one fell swoop, heads off to the nursery to buy his first tree ever.

Suspended in the same spot several years later, we see that only some of Pam's and Burt's dreams have come true. Burt's kids are playing on the back lawn, except for his daughter Alyssa, who is allergic to Pam's roses. Burt has lemons. But one of his co-workers, who knows more about gardening, is getting a lot more lemons from his tree. Pam spends a lot of time in her garden fighting weeds, namely the highly invasive grass Burt chose for his back lawn. And, unbeknownst to both of them, the fertilizers and pesticides Burt uses are making their way to Pam's garden.

Despite these shortfalls, there are no hard feelings between Pam and Burt. When the lemons are in season, Burt's kids show up at Pam's front door, struggling with a generous portion of what Burt would have converted to lemonade. When Pam hears them playing in the back yard, she calls out, and the children race over to the fence to catch the vegetables and pick up the roses she tosses over. The family enjoys the vegetables, but the roses are immediately thrown in the trash for Alyssa's sake.

The Back Yard Potential of Cohousing

While Pam and Burt may not have expected that all of their back yard dreams would work out, they could have had a much more satisfying experience. As generous as they are, imagine what they could have done if they had communicated with each other and been more informed. A co-housing environment is designed to lead to such awareness and communication.

Suspended again over Pam and Burt, let's rewind and place them in a new co-housing neighborhood to plan their backyards. We see them seated together at a table on Burt's porch. The table is covered with materials they have borrowed from the community's landscape team. Burt has brought out a pitcher of lemonade and Pam is drawing plans for both of them. They leave the porch a couple of times to traipse around both their yards together, asking questions and offering suggestions.

Still the same ol' Burt, a lover of lemons and a lawn, he is excited that these amenities will be available as part of the community's common areas. He sighs with relief, telling Pam how all the energy he would have expended planting and caring for his own grass could now be spent

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playing with his kids and their neighbors on the community lawn. Pam plans on using the community garden, but still expects to plant some vegetables in her back yard. She feels comfortable sharing with Burt that she would appreciate it if he would refrain from using fertilizers or pesticides. Burt responds that he would be happy to learn to do without, and while they are on the topic of concerns, he tells Pam about Alyssa's allergies. Pam offers to help Burt develop a green thumb using organic methods, and he offers Pam to help till the soil for her garden. As she gets up from the table to go home, Pam asks Burt what kinds of veggies his family likes.

Back Yards at Stone Curves (The Framework)

Pam and Burt's story illustrates how a co-housing environment can increase the likelihood that a backyard turns out as one would hope, or even better. As a community that is just getting started, we at Stone Curves are at an especially ideal moment to help each other create beautiful, functional backyards. On September 11, 2004, sixteen future Stone Curves residents gathered to discuss the community's backyards and arrived at the following assertions.

At Stone Curves,

We take pride in our community's diversity, as it will be expressed in our backyards.
We recognize backyards as each individual owner's private space.
And at the same time, we expect and trust each of us to take into account every facet of our community's vision while planning and developing our backyards.

Based on these values,

We will have no rules or approval process regarding what we do with our backyards.

Rather than Rules and Approvals,

We will have a framework, and beyond that, encourage and support each other to communicate and participate in an informed and conscientious planning process.

As part of this process,

We will take measures to prevent causing harm with our backyards, and consider ways they can benefit not only ourselves, but also our neighbors and the environment.

This statement supports our community's vision...

By promoting the diversity we express in our backyards,
While encouraging that they be friendly to the earth and all of us.

Backyard Stepping Stones (The Process)

Just starting? The Green Team can help you with some essential preliminary resources: the *Back Yard Tree Palette*, a list of suitable understory plants, a list of problematic plants, and information about plant placement, irrigation, mulching and composting, and integrated pest management.

Considering all the possibilities? Use the information from the Green Team to brainstorm and develop some draft plans. Find out what your neighbors' ideas, concerns and preferences are. Think about how to prevent harm and create opportunities (see the list on next page). Consult with the Green Team with any questions or for support.

Hungry for more information? Some resources to check out: books, videos, visits to local gardens, consultation with professionals or subject experts in the community, workshops, and participation in local groups and events. Check with the Green Team for recommendations.

Want to meet as a building? The Green Team can host and facilitate Backyard Planning Workshops for your building. It's a fun opportunity to learn from everyone and help set each other's dreams in motion.

Preventing Harm and Creating Opportunities (Some Considerations)

Through good communication and being informed, we can avoid accidentally doing something with our backyards that negatively impacts a neighbor. What's more, some things we do with our backyards can actually benefit a neighbor, help us realize our community's vision and add to the synergy of the entire site. The following are some useful backyard considerations.

Ask yourself how your backyard ideas might affect others. For example: Could I potentially be introducing any unfavorable odors, toxins or allergens? How can I prevent any safety or fire hazards? Could my plans affect the permeability of the site or cause flooding? Etc.

Before you start to dig, check the site plans for the location of underground irrigation and electrical lines. Ask around if you think there could be a city code that prohibits or applies to something you are thinking about doing.

Q# A tree in the *wrong place* could cast shade over a solar water heater or panel, or negatively affect the passive solar heating or cooling of your home or your neighbor's. A tree strategically planted in the *right place* may provide needed shade to you and a neighbor, or contribute towards the passive solar heating or cooling of a home.

Stone Curves will have a community lawn and fruit trees. These were chosen to be common amenities because they are resource-intensive to grow and what's more, they're fun to share! Everyone is encouraged to use and enjoy them.. Having these common amenities is intended to greatly reduce or eliminate the planting of grass and high-water use fruit trees in individual backyards.

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Our community has chosen to equally share the cost of water. Any water conservation measures applied in backyards (e.g. careful plant selection, smart irrigation systems and water harvesting) benefit the community as a whole, and our future generations.

It's possible to reduce costs by sharing an irrigation system among neighbors.

Some neighbors may want to share some or all of their backyards with each other. Rather than each household designing their own 15' x 15' space, two or more neighbors with similar interests could opt to work together to make more of their backyard dreams a reality.

With a predominately native landscape, we can save time and money on watering, fertilizers and pest control. If you plan on planting a tree, choose from the *Back Yard Plant Palette*. For understory plantings, consult the recommended list and the list of problematic plants.

All are encouraged to share in the synergy of our site. Utilizing permaculture techniques creates an environment in which our plants, local wildlife and all of us can thrive. A backyard can be a desert oasis.

The Neighborhood Council endorsed this policy in November 2004. The Council encourages all Stone Curves residents to become informed, communicate with their neighbors, and consider the ramifications and opportunities of what they do with their back yards.

*Thank you for contributing towards the fulfillment **of our community's**
v i s i o n .*

May your back yard become a very special place.



Plant Palette

Introduction

Your earth-friendly desert landscape will function in cooperation with its larger bioregion, a region whose boundaries are formed by natural elements. Creating a landscape design that integrates into the larger bioregion encourages people, plants and animals to all thrive. Also known as "permaculture", this diverse system provides for its own needs by interconnecting all the elements in the system in beneficial relationship to each other. You might ask "would my design thrive if no one was there to maintain it?"

Impulsive purchases of unsuitable plants can be avoided with a little energy spent on appropriate plant selection – which will save you time and money! The following guidelines can be followed when faced with hundreds of plant choices:

1. Select the right plant for the right place
2. Choose drought tolerant native and desert adapted plants
3. Plan for the plant's mature size
4. Whenever and wherever possible, use multipurpose plants

You are encouraged to consider wildlife habitats, edible plants and low allergen plants in designing your back yard. It is also recommended that you observe and learn what the land teaches you. Where and how does water flow and how can a living sponge be created with vegetative ground cover?

Take small steps and continue to observe and learn. The harmony you will feel with your natural surrounding is your reward.

Source: Earth-Friendly Desert Gardening: Growing in Harmony With Nature Saves Time, Money and Resources, by Cathy Cromell, Jo Miller and Lucy K. Bradley ; illustrations by Janice Austin

Stone Curves Back Yard

Plant Palette Recommendations

Adapted from Brad Lancaster's **A MULTI-USE NATIVE PLANT PALETTE FOR TUCSON, ARIZONA** and other sources

* Plants native to the Tucson Basin are marked with an asterisk.

TREES

* **ACACIA CONSTRICTA – WHITETHORN ACACIA:** 10-15'. Deciduous. Blooms (yellow, fragrant) May-August. **Wildlife attracting.**

* **CERCIDIUM FLORIDIUM - BLUE PALO VERDE:** Grows to 30'. Winter and drought deciduous (although branching is so dense it can appear and function as an evergreen). Blooms (yellow, fragrant) April - May. Fruits May - June. **Wildlife attracting, Edible** - seeds and sprouts.

* **CERCIDIUM MICROPHYLLUM - FOOTHILLS PALO VERDE:** Grows to 26'. Winter and drought deciduous (although branching can be so dense that it may appear and function as an evergreen). Blooms (yellow) March - May. Seed harvest in June - July. **Wildlife attracting, Edible** - seeds and flowers.

* **CHILOPSIS LINEARIS - DESERT WILLOW:** Grows to 25'. Deciduous. Blooms (pinkish purple) April - August. **Wildlife attracting, Edible** - seed pods and flowers are said to be edible.

* **OLNEYA TESOTA - DESERT IRONWOOD:** Grows to 26'. Multi-trunked with grey bark, dark green leaves, and small thorns on younger growth. Evergreen except in extreme cold. Blooms (purple) May - June. Seed harvest June - July. **Wildlife** - birds, hummingbirds, bumble bees, carpenter bees. **Edible** - seeds/beans.

* **PROSOPIS VELUTINA - VELVET MESQUITE:** Grows to 30'. Multi-trunked tree with shreddy bark, gray-green fern-like leaves and branches that curve with loads of character. Deciduous. Blooms (yellow) April - May (blooms again in Aug.). Seed pod harvest June - September. **Wildlife** - birds, 60 species of native pollinators and butterflies. **Edible** - seed pods.

ACACIA WILLARDIANA - PALO BLANCO: - Grows to 20'. Upright form with papery white bark. Deciduous. Cold-intolerant, **ONLY PLANT IN WARM MICROCLIMATES** such as south-facing side of buildings and walls. Native to the Sonoran Desert.

EYSTENHARDTIA ORTHOCARPA – KIDNEYWOOD: grows to 15'. Semi-evergreen. Low litter, no thorns. Lush appearance. Grows as a shrub or small tree. Native to the Sonoran Desert.

LYSILOMA THORNBURI - DESERT FERN: Grows to 20'. Nearly evergreen. **Wildlife** - birds, butterfly larvae. Native to the Sonoran Desert.

VINES

ANTIGONON LEPTOPUS - QUEEN'S WREATH: Grows to 25'. Coral flowers August - October. Deciduous. Native to Mexico.

* CUCURBITA DIGITATA - COYOTE GOURD: Grayish green leaves form a five-fingered star. Blooms (yellow) June - October. **Wildlife** - squash gourd bees pollinate the flowers. **Edible** - perhaps roasted seeds.

HARDENBURGIA VIOLACEA – LILAC VINE: Fast growing to 15'. Dark evergreen leaves with purple flowers. Thornless. It's a low-water user that does well here. **Edible** – can make a tea from the leaves. Native to Australia.

* JANUSIA GRACILIS - SLENDER JANUSIA: Grows to about 3' in length. Delicate, shrubby vine with maple-like fruits. Deciduous. Blooms (yellow) April - October. **Wildlife** - native pollinators.

MASCAGNIA MACROPTERA - YELLOW ORCHID VINE: Deciduous vine with yellow flowers spring and summer. Native to Mexico

* MAURANDYA ANTIRRHINIFLORA - SNAPDRAGON VINE: Grows 8 - 10' long. Delicate, twining vine with small, snapdragon-like flowers. Semi-deciduous. Shade tolerant. Blooms (reddish pink to purple) April - October. **Wildlife** - attracts hummingbirds.

MERREMIA AUREA - YUCA VINE: Yellow flowers July - October. Evergreen. Native to Baja California.

* PASSIFLORA FOETIDA - PASSION VINE: Lush, three-lobed leaves. Semi-deciduous. Often this vine will only grow one season. If some fruits are allowed to fall and decompose on the ground, it can reseed the next year. Blooms August and September. **Wildlife** - butterflies. **Edible** - tasty fruit.

ROSA BANKSIAE - LADY BANKS ROSE: Vigorous vine with yellowish spring flowers. Evergreen. Tie to support. Native to China. This vine is a moderate water user.

THOMPSON SEEDLESS GRAPE: Deciduous. **Edible** –grapes.

SHRUBS AND UNDERSTORY PLANTS

* **ALOYSIA WRIGHTII - OREGANILLO:** Grows 5' tall and wide. Delicate-looking, spreading shrub with richly textured leaves. Drought deciduous. Shade tolerant. Blooms (pale yellow, fragrant) spring and summer. **Wildlife** - flowers attract bees and butterflies. **Edible** - leaves as spice.

* **ANISACANTHUS THURBERI - DESERT HONEYSUCKLE:** Grows to 6'. Cold deciduous. Blooms (orange) primarily in spring. **Wildlife** - flowers attract hummingbirds and solitary bees. **Edible** - can suck on flowers.

* **BAILEYA MULTIRADIATA - DESERT MARIGOLD:** Tidy plant to 12". Yellow flowers March - July. **Wildlife** – birds.

* **BEBBIA JUNCEA – CHUCKWALLA'S DELIGHT:** Grows to 4'. Ashy green, slender stems are often leafless, but grow dense enough to give the plant a large and rounded clump form. Blooms (yellow, fragrant) throughout the year. **Wildlife** – butterflies, native pollinators, and Chuckwallas.

BERLANDIERA LYRATA - CHOCOLATE FLOWER: Yellow blooms spring and fall actually smell like chocolate. **Wildlife** - butterflies.

* **CALLIANDRA ERIOPHYLLA - FAIRY DUSTER:** Can grow to 3.5'. Medium green, fern-like leaves flesh out light gray stems, while delicate, puff ball flowers brighten the day. Semi-deciduous. Blooms (pink) any time, especially October - May. **Wildlife** - songbirds, hummingbirds, butterflies, and other native pollinators

* **CAPSICUM ANNUUM, VAR. AVICULARE - CHILTEPIN:** Grows to 3'. Pointed green leaves and delicate stems support the fiery red fruits. Evergreen (where protected from frost). Harvest berries August - November. **Wildlife** - birds. **Edible** - one hot chile!

* **CASSIA COVESII (SENNA COVESII) - DESERT SENNA:** 2' tall. Soft hairs on the leaves give them a grey-green color. Bushy shape. Blooms (yellow) April - October. **Wildlife** - butterflies and other native pollinators.

* **DALEA PULCHRA - BUSH DALEA:** Grows to 4'. Small, gray-green leaves flesh out this delicate looking shrub. Evergreen. Blooms (purple) Feb. - May. **Wildlife** - native pollinators

* **ENCELIA FARINOSA - BRITTLEBUSH:** Grow to 3'. Silvery green shrub with triangular leaves and daisy-like flowers. Evergreen. Blooms (yellow) November - May (in frost free areas). **Wildlife** - butterflies, other native pollinators, and birds.

* **ERIOGONUM FASCICULATUM - BUCKWHEAT BUSH, MADERISTA:** Grows to 3'. Dark grey-green leaves (lighter and wooly underneath) flesh out this low, rounded shrub. Evergreen. Blooms (whitish or pinkish, fragrant) March to June. **Wildlife** - birds, butterflies, and other pollinators. **Edible** - Flowers are brewed into tea or added to breads.

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ERIOGONUM WRIGHTII - WRIGHT BUCKWHEAT: Grows 1.5 - 2' high. Small silver-green leaves flesh out the bottom of this plant while wiry flower stalks reach above. **Wildlife** - birds and native pollinators.

* GLANDULARIA GOODINGII - GOODING-VERBENA: Grows to 18". Flat topped flowers canopy over a mounded form of coarsely toothed leaves. Blooms (lavender, fragrant) March - June. **Wildlife** - butterflies.

* HIBISCUSUS COULTERI - COULTER'S HIBISCUS: Grows to 3'. Leaves are dark green with sparse, stiff hairs. Deciduous.

* JATROPHA CARDIOPHYLLA - LIMBERBUSH: Grows to 3'. Leafless, red stems erupt with green leaves after ample rain. Drought deciduous. Blooms (pink) in July and August. **Wildlife** - beneficial wasps and butterflies

* JUSTICIA CALIFORNICA (BELOPERONE CALIFORNICA) - CHUPAROSA: Grows to 4'. Open, twiggy bush with tubular flowers and heart shaped leaves. Cold and drought deciduous. Blooms (red) on and off through the year). **Wildlife** - hummingbirds, butterflies, and black carpenter bees. **Edible** – flowers.

* JUSTICIA CANDICANS - RED JUSTICIA: Grows to 3'. Cold and drought deciduous. Shade tolerant. Blooms (red or yellow) fall - spring and mild winters. **Wildlife** - hummingbirds.

JUSTICIA SPICIGERA - FIRECRACKER BUSH - Orange flowers May - November. **Wildlife** - hummingbirds, other birds, and butterflies.

* LARREA TRIDENTATA (L. GLUTINOSA, L. DIVARICATA) - CREOSOTE: Can grow to 11'. Small, waxy leaves are olive to yellowish green and fragrant when wet or crushed. Evergreen. Blooms (yellow) periodically, especially March - April and November - December. **Wildlife** -birds, hummingbirds, jackrabbits, over 100 different species of native pollinators

LEUCOPHYLLUM LAEVIGATUM - CHIHUAHUAN SAGE. Grows 4' tall. Grey foliage, blue or purple blooms in summer. Shade tolerant. **Wildlife** - birds and butterflies. Native to the Chihuahuas Desert

MELAMPODIUM LEUCANTHUM - BLACKFOOT DAISY: Grows to 12" tall. Fine foliage, white flowers spring and fall. Shade tolerant. **Wildlife** - butterflies.

*PENSTEMONSPP.*P.subulatus*,*P.parryi*,*P.fendleri*,*P.superbus*,*P.eatoni*. 3' high flower stalks with tubular blooms. Blooms (red spectrum) beginning in late February. Shade tolerant. **Wildlife** - hummingbirds, butterflies, and other native pollinators.

* PSILOSTROPHE COOPERI - COOPER'S PAPERFLOWER: Grows to 2'. Greyish green, wooly leaves are linear in shape. Blooms (yellow) most of the year.

SALVIA CHAMAEDRYOIDES - BLUE CHIHUAHUAN SAGE: Grey foliage to 18" tall, 2' wide. True blue flowers spring and fall. Native to the Chihuahuas Desert

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* SPHAERALCEA AMBIGUA - DESERT GLOBEMALLOW: Grows to 3'. Greyish green leaves and cup shaped flowers grow from the stems set in a woody base. Blooms throughout the year. **Wildlife** - native pollinators.

* TECOMA STANS - TRUMPET BUSH: Grows to 5'. Lush, bright green leaves flesh out the upright growth. Evergreen. Blooms (yellow) May - October. **Wildlife** - flowers attract hummingbirds and other native pollinators.

* TRIXIS CALIFORNICA - TRIXIS: Grows to 3 1/2' tall. Bright green, lance-shaped leaves can be up to two inches long. Evergreen. Blooms (yellow) February - October.

ZINNIA ACEROSA - DESERT ZINNIA: Grows to 6" tall. Grey-green, needlelike leaves. Evergreen. Blooms (white - light yellow) March - October. **Wildlife** – birds.

ACCENT PLANTS

* AGAVE SPP. A. DESERTI, A. CHRYSANTHA, A. MURPHEYI. Evergreen. **Wildlife:** hummingbirds, pollinating bats, and other native pollinators. **Edible** – heart of plant and emerging flower stalk once roasted. Flowers boiled.

AGAVE VICTORIA-REGINAE - QUEEN VICTORIA AGAVE: Rosette of leaves to P wide. Lack of spines and compact form ideal for small spaces.

* ASCLEPIAS SUBULATA - DESERT MILKWEED: Grows to 4'. Vertically growing, slender grey-green stems often appear leafless. Evergreen. Blooms (white) April - October. **Wildlife** - butterflies, native bees, and beneficial wasps.

* FOUQUIERA SPLENDENS – OCOTILLO: grows to 20' tall. Erect, thorny canes often stand leafless until rain falls, bringing on rapid growth of green leaves. Blooms (red) March –June. **Wildlife**- hummingbirds, carpenter bees, butterflies, and other native pollinators. **Edible** – flowers.

HESPERALOE PARVIFLORA - RED YUCCA: Stiff accent plant to 3' tall. Red flowers on tall stems May - September. Native to Western Texan and Northeastern Mexico.

LOPHOCEREUS SCHOTTII SSP. MOSTRUOSUS- TOTEM POLE CACTUS: Can grow to 10' high. Truly strange form. Spineless. Native to Baja California.

* MAMMILARIA MICROCARPA - ARIZONA FISHHOOK: Grows up to 6 inches high. Blooms (pink to lavender) April - August. Fruits are long and red. **Wildlife** - native pollinators **Edible** – fruits.

MANFREDIA MACULOSA - TEXAS TUBEROSE: Spiky green plant with purple spots! Fragrant flowers April - June.

MUHLENBERGIA CAPILLARIS 'REGAL MIST' - Ornamental grass to 18" with bright pink flower plumes August - November Native to Texas/Mexico

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NASSELLA TENUISSIMA - MEXICAN FEATHER GRASS: Fine-textured ornamental grass to 18" tall. Feathery plumes in summer. At its best waving in the breeze. Native to Chihuahuas Desert.

OPUNTIA FICUS-INDICA – NOPAL: a great food source and there's a wide variety of cultivars available (i.e. orange slush, honeydew, strawberry, cantaloupe).

* PENIOCEREUS GREGGII (CEREUS GREGGI) - DESERT NIGHT BLOOMING CEREUS: Grow to 12" tall, although slender branches can grow up to 10 feet long. Slender, grey to purplish stems disappear into the growth of companion plants. Blooms (white, very fragrant) one night in June or July. **Wildlife** - native night time pollinators and birds. **Edible** - fruit.

* YUCCA BACCATA – BANANA YUCCA: grows 4' tall and 6' wide. Stiff, bluish-green leaves often have curling fibers along the edges. Blooms (white) April and June for about 2 weeks. Short banana-like fruit is produced 10 weeks after flowering. Evergreen. **Wildlife** –hummingbirds. **Edible** – the buds, flowers, and fruits.

* YUCCA ELATA – SOAPTREE YUCCA: grows to 15'. Blue-green grass-like leaves grow to be 24" long. **Wildlife** – butterflies and native pollinators. **Edible** – roasted young flower stalks and stems.

What follows, on the next two pages, is a chart that presents some of the above information. Use this listing to select plants that will provide you the qualities you desire.