

Capstone Project by Brad Hardison

Desert Sands and Sky Islands -

A California Naturalist Course

March 2020

Legend



Plant Type



Size



Sun



Moisture



Growth rate



Fragrance



Flower Color



Flowering Season



Wildlife Supported

Creating Wildlife Habit Gardens with Native Plants



"Rapid and large-scale changes to our lands and waters mean wildlife are losing the habitats they once knew. Every habitat garden is a step toward replenishing resources for wildlife such as bees, butterflies, birds, and amphibians—both locally and along migratory corridors." — National Wildlife Federation Website

All these plants are native to the Coachella Valley (northwest portion of the Sonoran Desert, also known as the Colorado Desert). They can be found at nurseries or native plant sales. For a list of other native plants or additional information, visit the California Native Plant Society.

Wildlife gardens should also include a water source for drinking, bathing and habit. This can be achieved with a bird bath or shallow dish of water. Wildlife need places for shelter and to raise their young. Leave native plants untrimmed and debris on the ground for nesting materials. For more information, visit the National Wildlife Federation.

Sources

Website - National Wildlife Federation

Website - California Native Plant Society, Calscape

Website - Calflora

Publication - Lush and Efficient: Desert Friendly Landscaping in the Coachella Valley

Criteria for Plant Selection: native to the Coachella Valley, low water requirements, easy care, beneficial to birds, bees, butterflies, moths and other insects, available in nurseries or native plant sales, not commonly found in home gardens

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Wild Marigold

Baileya multiradiata



Perennial and Annual Herb



2 feet tall, 1 foot wide



Full



Low



Fast



Fragrant - Pleasant



Yellow



Spring, Summer



Insects including Bees, Butterflies and Moths



Bladder Pod

Peritoma arborea



Shrub



2 - 7 feet tall, 6 feet wide



Full



Low, Very Low



Fast



Fragrant - Pleasant or Unpleasant



Yellow



Winter, Spring



Birds, Hummingbirds, Harlequin Beetles, Bees, Butterflies and Moths



Brittlebush

Encelia farinose



Shrub



1 - 5 feet tall, 4 feet wide



Full



Extremely Low



Fast



Slight



Brown, Yellow



Winter, Spring



Birds and Insects including Bees, Butterflies and Moths



Ocotillo

Fourquieria splendens



Shrub, Succulent



10 - 33 feet tall, 15 feet wide



Full



Extremely Low



Very Slow, Fast



None



Red



Spring, Summer



Birds, Hummingbirds, Verdin and Insects including Moths



Jojoba

Simmondsia chinensis



Shrub



3 - 7 feet tall, 4 - 7 feet wide



Full



Extremely Low, Very Low



Moderate



None



Yellow, Cream



Spring



Moths



Chuparosa

Justicia californica



Shrub



2 - 4 feet tall, 4 feet wide



Full



Low



Moderate



None



Orange, Red, Yellow



Spring



Birds, Hummingbirds and Insects including Bees, Butterflies and Moths



Creosote Bush

*Larrea
tridentata*



Shrub



3 - 12 feet tall, 6 - 12 feet wide



Full



Low, Very Low



Moderate, Slow



Fragrant - Pleasant



Yellow



Spring



Birds, Insects including Bees and
Moths



Honey Mesquite

*Prosopis
glandulosa*



Tree



20 - 30 feet tall, 30 feet wide



Full



Low



Moderate, Fast



Fragrant - Pleasant



Yellow



Spring, Summer



Birds and Insects including Bees and
Butterflies



Desert Willow

Chilopsis linearis



Shrub



5 - 26 feet tall, 10 - 20 feet wide



Full



Low



Moderate, Fast



Fragrant - Pleasant



Purple, Lavender, Pink, White



Spring, Summer, Fall



Birds, Hummingbirds, Bees and
Moths



Desert Globe Mallow

Sphaeralcea ambigua



Perennial Herb



3 - 5 feet tall, 2 - 4 feet wide



Full



Very Low, Extremely Low



Fast



None



Orange, Lavender, Red, Pink



Winter, Spring



Birds, Bees and Butterflies



Desert Lavender *Condea emoryi*



Shrub



6 - 12 feet tall, 8 feet wide



Full



Low



Moderate



Fragrant - Pleasant



Blue, Lavender



Winter, Spring



Bees and Butterflies



Desert Milkweed *Asclepias subulata*



Perennial Herb



4 feet tall, 3 feet wide



Full



Low



Fast



Fragrant - Pleasant



Cream, Yellow, White



Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall



Birds, Bees, Monarch and Queen
Butterflies, and Moths