



SMARTSCAPE
A Training Program for
Landscape Professionals™

Smartscape for Homeowners Associations

Class #1 Overview, Design & Desert-Adapted Plants




**TUCSON
WATER**
Partnership with the City of Tucson



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
Cooperative Extension

1



Learning Objectives

After participating in the HOA Program Class #1, participants will be able to:

1. Explain the HOA Landscape Transformation Program
2. Describe what it takes to succeed in the program
3. State what landscape professionals who have earned their Smartscape Certificate of Completion should both know and practice
4. Summarize the design process
5. List three common design tasks that require additional licenses or certifications
6. Describe a sustainable urban desert landscape
7. Discuss the advantages of native/desert-adapted over introduced plants
8. Recognize and name commonly used low water-use plants suitable for our urban desert landscape

2



Desert-Adapted Plants

3

Important Water Considerations

- Average annual rainfall for Tucson is 11" to 12".
- In low rainfall years, the plants may need additional irrigation to maintain appearance and plant health.



4

Native Plants



- Adapted to the natural precipitation and temperatures in the region
- Naturally found in the region
- Important for native wildlife and pollinators
- Waterwise as our desert plants naturally are
- No shortage of color, texture and beauty
- Sense of place and cultural identity


5

Evergreen Plants



- Do not drop leaves. Flowers will fall
- Green "year-round"
- Includes most cactus
- The non-natives will require more water during the year

6



Bloomers/Annuals


- Short life span-1 cycle
- Replant every year, usually in the Spring/Fall
- **Brightest colors/most** fragrant
- Takes commitment-high maintenance

7


Shade Trees

Large trees used for shade in large spaces (native)


Blue palo verde;
Parkinsonia florida



Desert willow; *Chilopsis linearis*



Velvet mesquite;
Neltuma velutina




8


Patio Trees

Small trees used for height in small spaces

Texas Mountain Laurel;
Dermatophyllum secundiflorum



Sophora Secundiflora
'Silver Peso'





9

Large Shrubs


Over 6 feet tall

Red bird of paradise;
Caesalpinia pulcherrima





Tecoma 'Orange Jubilee'




Little-leaf cordia;
Cordia parvifolia

10


Medium Shrubs

3-6 feet tall

Autumn sage; *Salvia greggii*



Mexican honeysuckle;
Justicia spicigera





11

Small Shrubs

Less than 3 feet tall

Black dalea; *Dalea frutescens*







Blue Emu Bush; *Eremophila hygrophana*


12

Groundcovers

Trailing yellow dalea; *Dalea capitata*





Lantana 'New Gold'



Trailing lantana; *Lantana montevidensis*



13


Succulents – accent plants



Hummingbird yucca; *Hesperaloe parviflora*

Fishhook barrel; *Ferocactus wislizeni*



Beaked yucca; *Yucca rostrata*

14

HOA Approved Plant List

Within Limits

- Drought Tolerant
- Thorns/Spines
- Maximum Height Requirements
- Color/Flowers
- LITTER/Fruit



15

Low water use plant lists

Selected by committees of plant experts

- Very low\Low
- Low-moderate
- Moderate irrigation

- **PLANTS FOR THE ARIZONA DESERT**
<https://www.amwua.org/plants>
- Arizona Dept. of Water Resources - Tucson AMA Tucson AMA Low Water Use/Drought Tolerant Plant List

Mexican Hat



Soaptree
Yucca

16

Sonoran Underwood Family Landscape Laboratory, CAPLA, University of Arizona



17



THANK YOU!

Facebook @pimasmartscape

Instagram @pimasmartscape

X (Formerly twitter) @pimasmartscape

<https://www.pimasmartscape.arizona.edu>

<https://www.smartscape.org>



18

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Content Developed/modified by:

Marcus White, Micaela Machado, Greg Starr,
Carianne Funicelli, Dominika Heusinkveld, Jessie
Byrd, & Juan Barba
