



## Department of Community Development

One City Plaza  
Yuma, AZ 85364  
(928) 373-5175

# RECOMMENDED PLANTS

This list provides guidance when selecting plants for your landscape design project. The City's Landscape Regulations state: "Landscaping materials are intended to contribute to the community-wide goals of beautification, energy conservation, and the conservation of the community's water resources through the use of drought tolerant plants, efficient irrigation, reduced turf areas, and proper maintenance and the fundamentals of xeriscape landscaping." Listed species are particularly well-adapted to Yuma's desert climate and have low to moderate water use needs. In addition to low water use, the information provided in the tables describes the basic growth characteristics and maintenance requirements of each plant, including the following:

**Water Use:** All plants included in this list are low-water-use species, but the Water Use column identifies the most water-conscious varieties. Each plant is classified as Low (L), Low to Moderate (L-M), or Moderate (M). Trees classified as Moderate water use will thrive in grassy areas with sprinkler irrigation.

**Litter:** All plants produce litter when flowers, seedpods, or leaves drop, but some plants produce more than others. Each species is classified as producing minimal (MIN), moderate (MOD), or high (HI) litter. Carefully consider the placement of high-litter plants as they do require more maintenance.

**Pruning Season:** Most plants need to be pruned only once a year. The best season to prune each species differs based on when it flowers, goes dormant, and other factors. Some species, particularly succulents and cactus, do not need to be pruned.

**Hardiness:** The number shown indicates the lowest temperature the plant is known to tolerate.

**Evergreen:** Evergreen plants (Y) leaf throughout the year, while deciduous plants (N) drop their leaves in the winter months. Semi-evergreen plants (SEMI) drop their leaves for a short period with sufficiently cold temperatures.

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### What is xeriscape?

Xeriscape is a style of landscape design requiring low irrigation and minimal maintenance. It is an important water conservation technique, particularly in desert climates. Xeriscape landscape design utilizes many water conscious strategies including low-water plants, efficient irrigation, and limiting the use of turf. The plants listed here are adapted to and, with proper care, will thrive in Yuma's local climate.

### What is the difference between a shade, street, and accent tree?

This list categories trees into three types: street trees, shade trees, and accent trees. Street trees are those that grow to an average height of 30 feet or more, generally have a high branching pattern, and have an upright or rounded form. Street trees are planted within 5 to 8 feet of the sidewalk or street to provide shade to pedestrians and cars. The best species for street trees are low litter and low maintenance. Shade trees also

grow to an average mature height of 30 feet or more and typically have a dense canopy that provides shade. Branching structure can be more spreading, vase-shaped, or layered than street trees. Accent trees are small, ornamental trees that typically grow to a mature height of 15 to 20 feet.

### Can I plant something at my house not shown on this list?

This list provides guidance, but does not restrict private residents from planting any particular species. Lots used exclusively for one-family dwelling units, when not otherwise required as part of an approval process to provide landscaping, are exempt from the requirements of the Landscape Regulations. The regulations advise against the following species due to their pollen or seeds which aggravate allergies and other health problems: common Bermuda grass, mulberry, and olive (except the male or fruitless varieties).

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**NOTE:** The Landscape Regulations can be found in Article 20 of the City of Yuma's Code of Ordinances, Title 15, Chapter 154. This information is provided as a general guide to the public. It is not intended to be a reproduction of all code requirements or text. If you need additional information contact Community Development at (928) 373-5175 or visit our office at One City Plaza, Yuma, AZ 85364. (v.5 8/24/2017)



## Trees

		GROWTH INFORMATION						RECOMMENDED AREA						
		WATER USE	LITTER	HARDINESS (degrees F)	EVERGREEN	MATURE SIZE (HxW)	TREE TYPE	PARKWAYS	MEDIANS	SUBDIVISION WALLS	RETENTION BASINS	GATEWAY ROUTES	PARKING LOTS	
<i>Acacia aneura</i> <sup>1</sup> Mulga Acacia		L	MIN	15°	Y	15'X15'	ACCENT							
<i>Acacia farnesiana</i> <sup>2</sup> Sweet Acacia		L	MIN-MOD	15°	SEMI	20'X20'	ACCENT							
<i>Acacia salicina</i> Willow Acacia		L	MIN	20°	Y	30'x15'	STREET							
<i>Acacia stenophylla</i> Shoestring Acacia		L	MIN	15°	Y	30'x20'	STREET							
<i>Brachychiton populneus</i> Bottle Tree		L-M	MIN	15°	Y	30x20'	STREET							
<i>Callistemon</i> spp. Bottlebrush		M	MIN	20°	Y	10-30x6-15'	ACCENT							
<i>Celtis reticulata</i> Western Hackberry		L-M	MIN	-20°	N	30x30'	SHADE							
<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i> Carob (female only)		L	MOD	20°	Y	40'x40'	SHADE							
<i>Chilopsis linearis</i> <sup>1 2</sup> Desert Navajo Willow		M	MOD	0°	N	20x20'	ACCENT							
<i>Delonix regia</i> Royal Ponsiana Tabachin		M	MOD	0°	SEMI	30'x60'	SHADE							
<i>Ebenopsis ebano</i> <sup>2</sup> Texas Ebony		L	MOD	20°	Y	40'x30'	SHADE							
<i>Eucalyptus citriodora</i> Lemon-scented Eucalyptus		L	MIN	25°	Y	50'x30'	STREET							
<i>Eucalyptus spathulata</i> Narrow Leaf Gimlet		L-M	MIN	15°	Y	30'x20'	STREET							
<i>Fraxinus velutina</i> Arizona Ash, "Fan-TeX"		L-M	MIN	-10°	N	40x30'	STREET							

**NOTES:**















<sup>1</sup> Approved for use in some Yuma County Water Users' Association rights-of-way

<sup>2</sup> Approved for use near APS overhead lines, not within 15 feet

<sup>3</sup> Not allowed within City ROW



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<i>Geijera parviflora</i> Australian willow		M	MIN	15°	Y	30x20'	SHADE									
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> Honey Locust		L-M	HI	15°	N	40x50'	SHADE									
<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i> Jacaranda		M	MOD	25°	N	30x30'	SHADE/ STREET									
<i>Lysiloma spp.</i> <sup>1</sup> Desert fern, featherbush		L-M	MIN	25°	N	15x15'	ACCENT									
<i>Nerium oleander</i> Oleander Tree		L	MIN	15°	Y	15'x15'	ACCENT									
<i>Olea europaea</i> <sup>1</sup> Fruitless varieties only such as Swan Hill and Wilsonii		L-M	HI	15°	Y	25'x25'	ACCENT									
<i>Olneya tesota</i> Ironwood		L	MIN	20°	N	30x30'	SHADE/ STREET									
<i>Parkinsonia spp. (Cercidium spp.)</i> <sup>1 2</sup> Blue Palo Verde and Foothills Palo Verde <sup>2</sup> species are preferred		L	MOD	20°	N	10- 30x10- 30'	ACCENT									
<i>Phoenix canariensis</i> <sup>3</sup> Canary Island Date Palm		L-M	MOD-HI	25°	Y	50x30'	ACCENT									
<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i> <sup>3</sup> Date Palm		L-M	MOD	15°	Y	40x20'	ACCENT									
<i>Pistacia chinensis</i> <sup>1</sup> Chinese Pistache		MOD	MIN	10°	N	40'x35'	SHADE/ STREET									
<i>Pistacia lentiformis</i> <sup>1</sup> Mastic Tree		L-M	MIN	20°	Y	15'x20'	ACCENT									
<i>Pittosporum phillyraeoides</i> <sup>1</sup> Willow Pittosporum		L-M	MOD	15°	Y	15x15'	ACCENT									
<i>Prosopis ssp.</i> Hybrid Mesquite		L-M	MOD	0°	N	30x30'	SHADE/ STREET									

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<i>Quercus virginiana</i> Southern Live Oak		M	MIN	0°	SEMI	40'x50'	SHADE/ STREET						
<i>Sophora secundiflora</i> <sup>1 2</sup> Texas Mountain Laurel, Mescal Bean		L-M	MIN	10°	Y	15x15'	ACCENT						
<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> cv. 'Sempervirens' Chinese Evergreen Elm		MOD	MOD	25°	N	30x30'	SHADE/ STREET						
<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i> <sup>1 2</sup> Chaste Tree		L-M	HI	-10°	N	20x20'	ACCENT						

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## Shrubs













		GROWTH INFORMATION						RECOMMENDED AREA						
		WATER USE	LITTER	PRUNING SEASON	HARDINESS (degrees F)	EVERGREEN	MATURE SIZE (HxW)	PARKWAYS	MEDIANS	SUBDIVISION WALLS	RETENTION BASINS	GATEWAY ROUTES	PARKING LOTS	
Acacia spp. <sup>1</sup> Acacia		L-M	MIN	SPRING	20°	Y	5x5'							
Aloysia spp. <sup>1</sup> Bee Brush		L-M	MIN	WINTER	15°	N	6x6'							
Buddleia marrubifolia Woolly Butterfly Bush		L	MIN	WINTER	10°	Y	5x5'							
Caesalpinia gilliesii <sup>1</sup> Yellow Bird of Paradise		L-M	MIN	WINTER	5°	SEMI	6x5'							
Caesalpinia pulcherrima Bird of Paradise		L-M	MOD	WINTER	18-30°	N	4-10'x4-6'							
Caesalpinia mexicana Mexican Bird of Paradise		M	MOD	WINTER	18-30°	Y	12x10'							
Calliandra californica Baja Fairy Duster		L-M	MIN	SPRING	25°	SEMI	4x4'							
Calliandra eriophylla <sup>1</sup> Fairy Duster		L-M	MIN	LATE SPRING	0-10°	N	2x3'							
Callistemon spp. Bottlebrush		M	MIN	LATE SUMMER	20°	Y	6-10'x6-10'							
Callistemon citrinus 'Little John' <sup>1</sup> Dwarf Bottlebrush 'Little John'		M	MIN	LATE SUMMER	20°	Y	3x3'							
Chamaerops humilis Mediterranean Fan Palm		M	MIN	WINTER	10°	Y	10x15'							
Convolvulus cneorum Bush Morning Glory		L	MIN	NONE	20°	Y	2-4'x2-4'							
Cordia boissieri <sup>1</sup> Texas Olive		M	MOD	WINTER	20°	Y	10x10'							
Cordia parvifolia Little Leaf Cordia		L-M	MIN	LATE WINTER	18°	SEMI	3x4'							

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## Shrubs










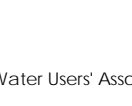
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<i>Encelia farinosa</i> Brittlebush		L-M	MIN	SPRING & FALL	25°	N	3x4'						
<i>Eremophila spp.</i> Emu Bush		L-M	MIN	LATE SPRING	20°	Y	4x5'						
<i>Euphorbia rigida</i> <sup>1</sup> Gopher Plant		L-M	MIN	LATE SPRING	5°	Y	2x3'						
<i>Gossypium harknessii</i> San Marcos Hibiscus		L-M	MIN	WINTER	25°	Y	3x4'						
<i>Justicia californica</i> <sup>1</sup> Hummingbird bush or chuparosa		L-M	MIN	FALL	25°	SEMI	4x4'						
<i>Lantana camara</i> <sup>1</sup> Bush Lantana		L-M	MIN	WINTER	30°	N	3x3'						
<i>Leucophyllum spp.</i> Texas Ranger, Texas Sage, etc.		L-M	MIN	SPRING & FALL	0-5°	Y	8x8'						
<i>Myrtus communis</i> Myrtle		M	MIN	WINTER	20°	Y	5x4'						
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> <sup>1</sup> Rosemary		L-M	MIN	SPRING	10°	Y	2-3'x4-8'						
<i>Ruellia brittoniana</i> <sup>1</sup> Mexican Petunia		L-M	MIN	WINTER	35°	Y	5x5'						
<i>Ruellia peninsularis</i> <sup>1</sup> Desert Ruellia		L-M	MIN	WINTER	28°	Y	3X4'						
<i>Russelia equisetiformis</i> <sup>1</sup> Coral Fountain Grass		L	MOD	WINTER	25°	Y	5X3'						
<i>Tecoma spp.</i> Tecoma, Yellow Bells		L-M	MOD	SPRING	28°	SEMI	6X6'						
<i>Tecomaria capensis</i> Cape Honeysuckle		M	MIN	SPRING	28°	Y	6X5'						

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## Cactus & Succulents

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		WATER USE	LITTER	PRUNING SEASON	HARDINESS (degrees F)	EVERGREEN	MATURE SIZE (HxW)	PARKWAYS	MEDIANS	SUBDIVISION WALLS	RETENTION BASINS	GATEWAY ROUTES	PARKING LOTS	
Agave spp. <sup>1</sup> Agave species, Century Plant		L	MIN	NONE	0-20°	Y	VARIES 2-3x2-3'							
Aloe spp. <sup>1</sup> Aloe species		L	MIN	NONE	25°	Y	2x5'							
Bulbine frutescens <sup>1</sup> Shrubby Bulbine, Yellow bulbine		L-M	MIN	NONE	15°	Y	1x2'							
Carnegiea spp. <sup>1</sup> Saguaro Cactus		L	MIN	NONE	18°	Y	20x10'							
Dasyliirion spp. <sup>1</sup> Desert spoon, Toothless desert spoon		L-M	MIN	NONE	0°	Y	4x4'							
Echinocactus spp. <sup>1</sup> Barrel Cactus		L	MIN	NONE	18°	Y	2x2'							
Echinocereus engelmannii <sup>1</sup> Hedgehog Cactus		L	MIN	NONE	10°	Y	1x2'							
Euphorbia antisiphilitica <sup>1</sup> Candelilla		L	MIN	NONE	15°	Y	1x2'							
Ferocactus spp. <sup>1</sup> Barrel Cactus		L	MIN	NONE	0-20°	Y	VARIES							
Fouquieria splendens <sup>1</sup> Ocotillo		L-M	MIN	NONE	0-5°	N	12x10'							
Hesperaloe parviflora <sup>1</sup> Red Yucca, Hesperaloe species		L	MIN	NONE	10°	Y	3x5'							
Nolina spp. <sup>1</sup> Beargrass		L	MIN	SPRING	0°	Y	3x4'							
Pedilanthus macrocarpus <sup>1</sup> Slipper Plant		L	MIN	NONE	25°	Y	3x3'							
Stenocereus thurberi <sup>1</sup> Organ pipe cactus		L	MIN	NONE	22°	Y	10x10'							
Yucca baccata <sup>1</sup> Narrow-leaved Yucca, Banana Yucca		L	MIN	NONE	0°	Y	3x5'							







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## Groundcover

		GROWTH INFORMATION						RECOMMENDED AREA						
		WATER USE	LITTER	PRUNING SEASON	HARDINESS (degrees F)	EVERGREEN	MATURE SIZE (HxW)	PARKWAYS	MEDIANS	SUBDIVISION WALLS	RETENTION BASINS	GATEWAY ROUTES	PARKING LOTS	
<i>Acacia</i> spp. <sup>1</sup> Trailing Acacia		L-M	MIN	FALL	15°	Y	1x10'							
<i>Asparagus densiflorus</i> cv. 'Sprengerii' <sup>1</sup> Sprenger Asparagus		L-M	MIN	NONE	25°	Y	1x4'							
<i>Atriplex</i> spp. <sup>1</sup> Saltbush		L-M	MIN	NONE	25°	Y	1-4'							
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i> <sup>1</sup> Coyote Bush, trailing desert broom		L-M	MIN	SUMMER	5°	Y	2x4'							
<i>Baileya multiradiata</i> <sup>1</sup> Desert Marigold		M	MIN	NONE	10°	Y	1'-6"x2'							
<i>Chrysactinia mexicana</i> <sup>1</sup> Damianita		L	MIN	NONE	10°	Y	2x4'							
<i>Convolvulus mauritanicus</i> <sup>1</sup> Ground Morning Glory		L	MIN	WINTER	15°	Y	2x3'							
<i>Dalea</i> spp. <sup>1</sup> Trailing Dalea, Dalea Bush		L-M	MIN	FALL	15°	Y	2x6'							
<i>Eschscholzia mexicana</i> <sup>1</sup> Mexican Gold Poppy		L	MIN	NONE	35°	Y	1'-6"x1'-6"							
<i>Gazania rigens</i> <sup>1</sup> Clumping Gazania		L	MIN	FALL	25°	Y	1x6'							
<i>Glandularia peruviana</i> <sup>1</sup> Verbena Peruviana		M	MIN	WINTER	25°	Y	1x4'							
<i>Lantana</i> spp. <sup>1</sup> Trailing Lantana		M	MIN	WINTER	25°	Y	1x4'							
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> cv. 'Prostratus' <sup>1</sup> Prostrate Rosemary		L-M	MIN	FALL	15°	Y	2x4'							
<i>Wedelia trilobata</i> <sup>1</sup> Yellow Dot		L-M	MIN	WINTER	30°	Y	1'-6"x6'							

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