

# APPROVED PLANT LIST FOR VILLAS TUCSON NATIONAL (REVISED APRIL 2017- Replaces November 2010 list)

## Introduction

**If Owners wish to replace any plant in their yards which has died or otherwise become unsuitable – then replacement plants are to be selected only from the following list.**

The April 2017 Approved list of plants is based on 3 principles:

1. Suitability for a desert environment.
2. Low water needs from the HOA irrigation
3. Low maintenance requirements, both in terms of attention and / or expertise

The intention is to control long term costs for our community whilst maintaining an attractive appearance for all to enjoy and benefit from in terms of property values.

The approved list is intended to assist the HOA Board and Owners to choose wisely. Owners are required to limit plant choices to these varieties when replacing plants.

**There are no trees on the list. This is intentional.** Whilst trees provide welcome shade and habitat, our Community has incurred major cost over recent years as a result of trimming or removing trees which are no longer suitable or safe. Trees planted inappropriately have caused damage to buildings, sidewalks, patios, utilities and roadways. Citrus trees are particularly thirsty and potentially damaging, and may not be planted or replaced if they die, or have outgrown their location.

## APPROVED PLANTS

### Cactus

There are many cacti to choose from and those approved for our community are widely available at Lowes, Home Depot and specialist nurseries such as Bachs on Thornydale, B&B Cactus Farm on Speedway and Tohono Chul on Ina.

The nurseries will give good advice on where to plant them e.g. do they need afternoon shade? Are they susceptible to frost and would need covering? Will Javelinas eat them? Generally cacti do not require watering and overwatering can cause them to rot.

Common names are often used to describe several different plants so the botanical name is given here. It's important you select the correct plant by confirming the botanical name.

Common Name	Botanical Name	Comments
Golden Barrel	Echinocactus Grusonii	Slow growing. Full sun.
Red Barrel	Ferocactus Stainesii	Red spines
Compass Barrel	Ferocactus Cylindraceus	Native to Sonoran desert
Sonoran Barrel	Ferrocactus Herrerae	Fast growing, fish hook spines
Silver Torch	Cleistocactus Strausii	Slender, white hairy columns
Hildmann's Cereus	Cereus Hildmannianus	Fast growing column, tree like

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Botanical Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Totem Pole / Senita	Lophocereus Schottii	Slow growing column, no thorns. Note tips can freeze - needs frost cover.
Mexican Fencepost	Pachycereus Marginatus	Fast growing columns
Argentine Giant / Big Bertha	Trichocereus Huacha/Echinops Huascha	Sprawling low growth. Night blooming, flowers in spring up to 8 inches across.
Cardon Grande	Trichocereus Terscheckii	Similar to Saguaro but grows faster and is smaller at maturity.

### **Succulents**

In addition to cacti there are many suitable succulents (euphorbia, agaves and yucca.) (*Note that Agaves die after flowering and Yucca do not!* )

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Botanical Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Moroccan Mound	Euphorbia Resinifera	Forms low mounds with up to 5ft spread. Sap is caustic and Javelinas will not eat.
Aloe – Medicinal Aloe - Dawes Aloe - Cape Aloe	Aloe Vera Aloe Dawei Aloe Ferox	All have showy flowers, attract hummingbirds and have fleshy leaves
Yucca – Red Yucca	Hesperaloe Parviflora	Coral red spike flowers, attracts hummingbirds. Tolerates tough conditions.
Desert Spoon	Dasyliion Wheeleri	Native to Arizona. Sword like leaves. Thornless variety is available.
Agave – Octopus Agave	Agave Vilmoriniana	Fast growing, smooth margins and soft tips
Candelilla	Euphorbia Antisyphilitica	Native to Chihuahuan desert. Cluster of upright leafless green stems.
Slipper Flower	Pedilanthus Macrocarpus	Native to Baja CA. Upright green stems with red bird like flowers. Plant near wall for frost protection.

## Flowering Shrubs

The following plants will regenerate when cut back to ground level. Owners should be aware that this will be necessary from time to time to maintain a healthy plant, encourage flowering.

Common Name	Botanical Name	Comments
Mexican Firebush / Firecracker	Hamelia Patens	Evergreen perennial, tubular orange flowers, attracts hummingbirds
Baja Fairy Duster	Calliandra Californica	Evergreen, drought tolerant, full sun. Choose pink flower, red variety grows large.
Coral Fountain	Russelia Equisetiformis	Evergreen broom like shrub. Long tubular red arching flowers
Little John Bottle Brush	Callistemon Viminalis	Evergreen perennial. <b>Dwarf</b> variety. Repeated red blooms. Full sun, drought tolerant.
Mexican Honeysuckle/ Red Justica	Justica Spicigera	Full sun, long blooming season, orange flowers.
Bird of Paradise Red Yellow/Red Yellow	Ceasalpina Pulcherrima Ceasalpina Gilliesi Ceasalpina Mexicana	Featherlike foliage and large flowers. Full sun. Large shrub requiring regular severe pruning.
Texas Mountain Laurel	Sophora Secundiflora	Evergreen. Purple flowers in spring. Can grow to 8x6ft
Hop Bush (Soapberry)	Dodonaea Viscosa	Evergreen. Fruit is poisonous
Arizona Yellow Bells	Tecoma stans v angustata	Fast growing. 6ft x 6ft. Yellow trumpet flowers attract hummingbirds

## Palms

Common Name	Botanical Name	Comments
Mexican Blue Palm ( <b>not</b> Mediterranean Fan Palm/Chamaerops Humilis which grows much larger)	Brabea Armata	Very slow growing fan palm. Low water needs.

## Sources:

Landscape Plants for the Arizona Desert. [www.amwua.org](http://www.amwua.org)

Cacti and Succulents for Landscape use in Central and Southern Arizona: Compiled by Kent C Newland Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum

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