

The Essential Sonoran Desert Planting Plan List

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Here are some of the most significant plants commonly found in Sonoran Desert landscape designs that would be useful in creating a basic plant list for the Montage Perimeter Horticultural Garden. Click on the link to get more detailed information about each plant:

1. [Saguaro Cactus](#) (*Carnegiea gigantea*): The saguaro cactus is an iconic symbol of the Sonoran Desert, known for its towering stature and distinctive silhouette. It provides habitat and food for wildlife and adds visual interest to the landscape. Sonoran Desert Plant
2. [Palo Verde Trees](#) (*Parkinsonia spp.*): Palo verde trees are well-adapted to the desert environment, with green bark and tiny leaves that help conserve water. They provide shade and seasonal color from their yellow flowers and contribute to the overall beauty of the landscape. Palo Verde was once an important part of the Montage landscape. California Native
3. [Mesquite Trees](#) (*Prosopis spp.*): Mesquite trees are common in the Sonoran Desert landscape, valued for their drought tolerance, nitrogen-fixing ability, and edible pods. They provide shade and wildlife habitat and contribute to soil stabilization. California Native
4. [Ocotillo](#) (*Fouquieria splendens*): Ocotillo is a striking desert shrub with tall, spiny stems topped by clusters of bright red flowers. It adds vertical interest to the landscape and provides nectar for pollinators such as hummingbirds and bees. Ocotillos are an essential part of the current Montage Perimeter Horticultural Garden. California Native
5. [Barrel Cactus](#) (*Ferocactus spp.*): Barrel cacti are round, barrel-shaped succulents that store water in their stems to survive dry periods. They are prized for their architectural form and colorful flowers, which attract pollinators. California Native
6. [Agave](#) (*Agave spp.*): Agaves are succulent plants with rosettes of thick, fleshy leaves and tall flower spikes. They are well-suited to the desert environment and provide architectural interest, food, and habitat for wildlife. California Native
7. [Desert Spoon](#) (*Dasyliirion spp.*): Desert spoon is a drought-tolerant succulent with long, sword-like leaves arranged in a spherical rosette. It adds texture and visual interest to the landscape and requires minimal maintenance. Parts of the plant are edible and play a role as a food source in native culture. Sonoran Desert Plant
8. [Desert Marigold](#) (*Baileya multiradiata*): Desert Marigold is a low-growing perennial with bright yellow flowers that bloom profusely in the spring. It adds color and beauty to the landscape and attracts pollinators like butterflies and bees. California Native
9. [Brittlebush](#) (*Encelia farinosa*): Brittlebush is a shrub with silver-gray foliage and bright yellow flowers that bloom in clusters. It is drought-tolerant and provides color and texture to the landscape and food for wildlife. California Native
10. [Creosote Bush](#) (*Larrea tridentata*): Creosote bush is a common shrub in the Sonoran Desert landscape, known for its resinous aroma and small, waxy leaves. It is highly adaptable to harsh desert conditions and provides habitat for wildlife. California Native

11. **Cholla Cactus** (*Cylindropuntia spp.*): Cholla cacti are known for their cylindrical stems covered in spines, varying in color and size depending on the species. They add visual interest and texture to the landscape. Sonoran Desert Plant
12. **Ironwood Tree** (*Olneya tesota*): Ironwood trees are native to the Sonoran Desert and are valued for their dense hardwood and delicate purple flowers. They provide shade and wildlife habitat and contribute to soil stabilization. California Native
13. **Mexican Bird of Paradise** (*Caesalpinia pulcherrima*): The Mexican bird of paradise is a drought-tolerant shrub with fern-like foliage and clusters of orange or red flowers resembling a bird in flight. It adds tropical flair to the desert landscape and attracts pollinators. These plants can be found in the current Montage landscape. Sonoran Desert Plant
14. **Foothill Palo Verde** (*Parkinsonia microphylla*): Foothill Palo verde is a smaller species of palo verde tree with green bark and tiny leaves. It is well-adapted to desert conditions and provides shade, erosion control, and wildlife habitat. Sonoran Desert Plant
15. **Fairy Duster** (*Calliandra eriophylla*): Fairy duster is a low-growing shrub with feathery foliage and bright pink or red flowers that bloom in clusters. It attracts pollinators and adds color and texture to the landscape. California Native
16. **Mexican Hat** (*Ratibida columnifera*): The Mexican hat is a wildflower with distinctive daisy-like flowers featuring yellow or red petals and a dark brown cone-shaped center. It blooms prolifically in the spring and attracts butterflies and bees.
17. **Desert Willow** (*Chilopsis linearis*): Desert willow is a small tree or large shrub with narrow, willow-like leaves and trumpet-shaped flowers in shades of pink, purple, or white. It blooms in the spring and attracts hummingbirds and butterflies. California Native
18. **Globe Mallow** (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*): Globe Mallow is a drought-tolerant perennial with gray-green foliage and clusters of orange, pink, or purple flowers. It blooms profusely in the spring and adds color to the landscape. Sonoran Desert Plant
19. **Arizona Rosewood** (*Vauquelinia californica*): Arizona rosewood is a dense evergreen shrub or small tree with dark green foliage and clusters of white flowers. It is well-adapted to desert conditions and provides habitat for wildlife. Sonoran Desert Plant
20. **Desert Lavender** (*Hyptis emoryi*): Desert lavender is a low-growing shrub with aromatic foliage and clusters of lavender-blue flowers. It attracts pollinators and adds fragrance and color to the landscape. California Native