

## **Mission and Vision Statements for the Landscape Committee of Hillcrest HIA**

### **Mission Statement**

The Landscape Committee for Hillcrest HIA is committed to enhancing the beauty and sustainability of our community by integrating landscaping that complements and highlights the unique architectural styles of our homes. Inspired by Modernist, Southwestern Contemporary, Mid-Century Modern, Mediterranean, Spanish and Pueblo Revival aesthetics, we focus on creating outdoor spaces that reflect the distinctive blend of these influences. We aim to foster a harmonious relationship between the natural environment and the built surroundings using drought-tolerant plants, clean lines, and natural materials, while promoting a sense of community and respect for the land.

### **Vision Statement**

Our vision is to create landscapes that are visually striking, environmentally responsible, and reflective of the legacy of Hillcrest's architecture. Through collaborative planning and attention to detail, we seek to evolve landscapes that enhance the character of our community while honoring its architectural heritage and supporting a sustainable future.

# HILLCREST LANDSCAPING RECOMMENDATIONS

The best landscape style for these homes would complement their **Modernist, Southwestern, and Pueblo Revival** influences while thriving in the desert climate. Here are a few ideal options:

## 1. Desert Modern (Minimalist Xeriscape) – Best Fit

This style enhances the clean lines of the architecture with structured plantings and low-maintenance elements.

- ✓ **Gravel & Decomposed Granite:** Use light-colored gravel to contrast the white stucco walls.
- ✓ **Architectural Plants:** Agave, yucca, golden barrel cacti, and desert spoon provide sculptural interest.
- ✓ **Hardscaping:** Concrete or stone pavers for pathways and patios.
- ✓ **Accent Boulders:** Large, strategically placed boulders enhance the natural desert aesthetic.
- ✓ **Low-Water Trees:** Palo verde, mesquite, and desert willow offer shade and soft contrast.

## 2. Spanish/Mediterranean Desert Garden

This style adds a touch of **old-world charm** while maintaining drought tolerance.

- ✓ **Terracotta or Saltillo Tile Accents:** Pathways, steps, or courtyard spaces.
- ✓ **Olive, Citrus, or Pomegranate Trees:** Mediterranean plants that thrive in Arizona.
- ✓ **Colorful Accents:** Bougainvillea, lantana, or red bird of paradise for vibrant pops of color.
- ✓ **Rustic Elements:** Wrought iron trellises, clay pots, and wooden pergolas.

## 3. Contemporary Southwest (Soft & Naturalistic)

A slightly more organic and **free-flowing desert aesthetic** that blends into the surroundings.

- ✓ **Curving Pathways:** Flagstone or decomposed granite with native plant borders.
- ✓ **Desert Wildflowers & Grasses:** Muhly grass, desert marigold, and penstemon soften the architecture.
- ✓ **Low Stucco or Rock Walls:** Can define spaces and provide seating.
- ✓ **Shaded Courtyard Features:** Pergolas, ramadas, or small water features add livability.

## 4. Oasis-Inspired Landscape (If You Want a Lusher Look)

While still low-water, this style brings in a **more resort-like feel** using selective greenery.

- ✓ **Palm Trees & Tropical Desert Plants:** Canary Island date palms, Mexican fan palms, or Mediterranean fan palms.
- ✓ **Drought-Tolerant Ground Cover:** Creeping rosemary or silver ponyfoot.
- ✓ **Accent Water Features:** A small reflecting pool or minimalist fountain adds a cooling effect.
- ✓ **Outdoor Lighting:** Soft uplighting on trees and architectural features for a refined evening ambiance.

## Which Style Works Best?

- If you prefer a clean, **modern aesthetic**, go with **Desert Modern (Minimalist Xeriscape)**.
- If you want a **warmer, Spanish/Mediterranean feel**, mix in terracotta and colorful plants.
- If you prefer a **more naturalistic approach**, **Contemporary Southwest** is best.
- If you like a **bit more greenery**, the **Oasis-Inspired** approach works while maintaining low water use.

# HILLCREST LANDSCAPING RECOMMENDATIONS

For a **Desert Modern (Minimalist Xeriscape)** landscape in Phoenix, the plant selection should emphasize **low water use, sculptural forms, and strong architectural presence**. Here's a curated list of Phoenix-friendly plants that align with this style:

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## Feature Plants (Structural & Sculptural)

These plants create a strong visual impact and complement modernist architecture.

- ✓ **Agave Americana (Century Plant)** – Large, bold, blue-green leaves with striking symmetry.
- ✓ **Agave Parryi (Artichoke Agave)** – Compact, silver-gray rosettes with a geometric form.
- ✓ **Yucca Rostrata (Beaked Yucca)** – Tall, trunked form with spiky blue foliage.
- ✓ **Dasyliirion Wheeleri (Desert Spoon)** – A symmetrical, fountain-like plant with spiky blue-green leaves.
- ✓ **Opuntia Santa-Rita (Purple Prickly Pear)** – Adds a soft purple hue for contrast.
- ✓ **Ferocactus Cylindraceus (Barrel Cactus)** – Round, sculptural, and low maintenance.

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## Trees (Minimalist Shade & Accent)

Modern desert homes benefit from **architectural trees with filtered shade**.

- ✓ **Palo Verde (Parkinsonia species)** – Iconic desert tree with green bark and airy canopy.
- ✓ **Acacia Aneura (Mulga Acacia)** – Compact tree with fine-textured foliage and low water needs.
- ✓ **Olneya Tesota (Ironwood Tree)** – Native to the Sonoran Desert, drought-tolerant with soft gray-green leaves.
- ✓ **Prosopis Hybrid (Chilean Mesquite)** – A sculptural tree with elegant twisting branches and filtered shade.

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## Accent Shrubs & Ground Cover (Soft Contrast)

These soften the hardscaping while maintaining a **modern, minimalist aesthetic**.

- ✓ **Calliandra Eriophylla (Fairy Duster)** – Delicate, feathery blooms with fine-textured foliage.
- ✓ **Leucophyllum Frutescens (Texas Sage)** – Silvery-green leaves with purple flowers after rain.
- ✓ **Dalea Greggii (Trailing Indigo Bush)** – Low-growing with blue-green foliage, great for ground cover.
- ✓ **Salvia Clevelandii (Chaparral Sage)** – Aromatic grayish-green foliage with purple flowers.

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## Ornamental Grasses (Soft Texture & Movement)

Grasses add a **contemporary and naturalistic** touch while requiring minimal upkeep.

- ✓ **Muhlenbergia Capillaris (Pink Muhly Grass)** – Fine green foliage with airy pink plumes.
- ✓ **Muhlenbergia Rigida (Deer Grass)** – Clumping, fountain-like grass with beige seed heads.
- ✓ **Bouteloua Gracilis (Blue Grama Grass)** – Low-growing with sculptural seed heads.

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## Ground Cover & Hardscape Elements

For a **true Desert Modern look**, keep the ground simple and structured.

- ✓ **Decomposed Granite (DG)** – Use warm neutral tones (tan, buff, or gray).
- ✓ **Crushed Rock or Gravel** – Angular black, gray, or white gravel contrasts well.
- ✓ **Large Boulders** – Place strategically for visual balance.
- ✓ **Concrete or Stone Pavers** – Minimalist stepping pads for pathways.

# HILLCREST LANDSCAPING RECOMMENDATIONS

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## **Bonus: Low-Water Modernist Accent Plants**

For additional contrast and variety, mix in these standout plants:

- ✓ **Aloe Vera** – Compact and sculptural, with added medicinal benefits.
- ✓ **Hesperaloe Parviflora (Red Yucca)** – Slim, arching leaves with red flower spikes.
- ✓ **Echinocactus Grusonii (Golden Barrel Cactus)** – Bright yellow-green spheres with strong geometric appeal.
- ✓ **Senna Artemisioides (Feathery Cassia)** – Airy, grayish foliage with bright yellow flowers.

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## **How to Arrange These Plants for Maximum Effect**

- Use **large, sculptural plants** (agaves, yuccas, cacti) as focal points.
- Cluster **small accent plants** (fairy duster, indigo bush) around larger features.
- Space out **grasses and shrubs** to create a sense of openness and rhythm.
- Incorporate **hardscape elements** (gravel, pavers, boulders) to maintain a clean, modern look.

## **Expanded Shrub Selection for Desert Modern (Minimalist Xeriscape) in Phoenix**

For a **Desert Modern** landscape, shrubs should be **low-maintenance, drought-tolerant, and structurally interesting** while complementing the clean lines of the architecture. Below is a breakdown of **small, medium, and large shrubs** with their characteristics and uses.

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## **Small Accent Shrubs (1-3 ft height)**

Great for **border plantings, foundation accents, and softening hardscapes**.

### **1. Dalea Greggii (Trailing Indigo Bush)**

- ✓ **Size:** 1-2 ft tall, 3-5 ft spread
- ✓ **Foliage:** Blue-green, fine-textured
- ✓ **Flowers:** Purple blooms in spring/summer
- ✓ **Water Needs:** Very low
- ✓ **Best Use:** Ground cover, erosion control, under taller plants

### **2. Eremophila Maculata (Emu Bush)**

- ✓ **Size:** 2-3 ft tall, 2-3 ft spread
- ✓ **Foliage:** Soft green, dense growth
- ✓ **Flowers:** Pink, red, or orange tubular flowers
- ✓ **Water Needs:** Low
- ✓ **Best Use:** Small accent shrub, border plant

### **3. Salvia Clevelandii (Chaparral Sage)**

- ✓ **Size:** 2-3 ft tall and wide
  - ✓ **Foliage:** Fragrant, gray-green leaves
  - ✓ **Flowers:** Purple-blue spikes in spring/summer
  - ✓ **Water Needs:** Low
  - ✓ **Best Use:** Pollinator-friendly accent shrub
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## Medium Shrubs (3-5 ft height)

Perfect for **defining spaces, creating privacy, and filling in large gaps.**

### 4. Calliandra Eriophylla (Baja Fairy Duster)

- ✓ **Size:** 3-4 ft tall and wide
- ✓ **Foliage:** Fine, feathery leaves
- ✓ **Flowers:** Bright red puffball flowers
- ✓ **Water Needs:** Low
- ✓ **Best Use:** Softening harsh lines, attracting hummingbirds

### 5. Leucophyllum Frutescens (Texas Sage / Purple Sage)

- ✓ **Size:** 4-5 ft tall and wide
- ✓ **Foliage:** Silvery-green, soft texture
- ✓ **Flowers:** Purple blooms after rain
- ✓ **Water Needs:** Low
- ✓ **Best Use:** Hedge, privacy screen, drought-tolerant accent

### 6. Senna Artemisioides (Feathery Cassia)

- ✓ **Size:** 4-5 ft tall and wide
- ✓ **Foliage:** Wispy, gray-green leaves
- ✓ **Flowers:** Bright yellow in late winter/spring
- ✓ **Water Needs:** Low
- ✓ **Best Use:** Adding soft movement, contrast to bold cacti/agaves

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## Large Shrubs (5-8 ft height)

Ideal for **privacy, windbreaks, and anchoring a modern landscape.**

### 7. Tecoma Stans (Arizona Yellow Bells)

- ✓ **Size:** 6-8 ft tall, 4-6 ft spread
- ✓ **Foliage:** Deep green, lush appearance
- ✓ **Flowers:** Bright yellow, trumpet-shaped blooms
- ✓ **Water Needs:** Low-moderate
- ✓ **Best Use:** Statement shrub, wall coverage, screening

### 8. Acacia Redolens (Prostrate Acacia)

- ✓ **Size:** 5-7 ft tall, spreading up to 10 ft
- ✓ **Foliage:** Dense, blue-green, low-growing
- ✓ **Flowers:** Small yellow puffballs in spring
- ✓ **Water Needs:** Very low
- ✓ **Best Use:** Low-maintenance groundcover alternative to grass

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## 9. Sphaeralcea Ambigua (Desert Globemallow)

- ✓ **Size:** 5-6 ft tall, 3-5 ft spread
- ✓ **Foliage:** Gray-green, fuzzy texture
- ✓ **Flowers:** Orange, apricot-colored blooms in spring
- ✓ **Water Needs:** Low
- ✓ **Best Use:** Naturalized plantings, adding a pop of color

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### **Best Shrub Combinations for a Desert Modern Look**

For a sleek, **architectural feel**, combine plants based on **color, texture, and form**:

#### **Color Contrast:**

- **Gray-green foliage** (Texas Sage, Desert Spoon, Dalea)
- **Deep green foliage** (Yellow Bells, Chaparral Sage)
- **Bright flowers for pop** (Fairy Duster, Desert Globemallow)

#### **Texture Play:**

- **Fine-textured shrubs** (Feathery Cassia, Fairy Duster) soften the look.
- **Bold, sculptural plants** (Texas Sage, Emu Bush) anchor the design.
- **Low-growing ground covers** (Trailing Indigo Bush) break up gravel areas.

#### **Layering:**

- **Front:** Dalea, Emu Bush, Fairy Duster
- **Middle:** Texas Sage, Chaparral Sage, Feathery Cassia
- **Back:** Yellow Bells, Acacia, Desert Globemallow