

FAQS ABOUT LANDSCAPING IN THUNDER MOUNTAIN ESTATES

Introduction

Thunder Mountain is a planned desert community and as such there are things each of us needs to consider regarding our landscaping. The natural surroundings are rich with Sonoran Desert vegetation. The native landscape palette found in abundance within this region has become the basis of plant selections for Thunder Mountain Estates landscaping. While the Design Guidelines call for specific elements to be considered, this document goes beyond and should help you make decisions when it comes to planning or altering your landscaping. The use of native plants is appropriate, not only for their drought resistant characteristics, but to create a continuity between the sculptural back ground of the surrounding mountains and the foreground of planned development. It will be a mainstay for ensuring continued high property values for the community.

It is important to plan according to not only preserve natural desert areas within the lot but also to mitigate the effects of improvements once building has been completed.

"Arid" does not mean sparse. Grass and a variety of ground covers should be utilized to create relief areas of greenery and flowering vegetation. The landscaping you undertake should be compatible with its desert setting however.

All disturbed areas must be fully restored through landscaping. Disturbed area should have a top-coat minimum of decomposed granite. There are several types of granite used and you can check with the Architectural Committee for recommendations.

Natural Desert

That portion of a Lot which lies outside of the area of construction should remain as natural desert to the extent possible. Landscaping within natural desert settings is discouraged while preservation is preferred. Cleaning of debris and limited trimming are allowed, and supplemental landscaping is permitted. Approval from the Committee must be obtained prior to performing any work. This is a simple process and may require only a telephone call for approval if the plans are not extensive. In some cases, a plan may be requested for a review by the Architectural Committee.

Private Area

That part of the lot which is not visible from the adjacent properties, streets, or Common Areas because it is hidden behind walls or structures is considered as Private Area. Although Thunder Mountain encourages the use of arid or xeriscape landscapes, Private Areas are the least restrictive in terms of what plants, shrubs, and trees can be planted therein. Approved plant materials, provided they do not appear in the Prohibited Plant Materials, are allowed if first approved in writing by the Committee. The Private Area includes, for example, a courtyard or atrium, or the area behind a wall where non-native plants would be appropriate despite their increased watering needs. If these plants would eventually grow to the point where they are visible from adjacent properties, streets, or Common Areas, there use will not be approved so consideration must be made for future growth potentials.

Irrigation

Drip irrigation of the natural desert is permitted. Keep in mind that most native vegetation does not require additional water and irrigating that could lead to disease and death of the native plants, particularly cactus, and aid in the spread of undesirable plant species or weeds. The drip system may be installed to help restore and maintain areas impacted by construction. It is critical that these systems be monitored to avoid over-watering of the native landscape.

Irrigation plans are to be included in the landscape plan submitted to the Committee. If irrigation systems are not proposed, a maintenance plan for establishing the plant materials and a replacement policy shall be submitted. The replacement policy will ensure that the Owner will be responsible for restoring the disturbed areas. If plant materials fail from lack of irrigation, maintenance etc., they will be replaced at the expense of the Owner.

Landscape Lists

A list of recommended plants is attached. A list of plant to be avoided also is attached.

The plant list includes six categories; Grasses, Ground Covers and Herbaceous Plants; Shrubs; Trees; Cacti; and Annuals. Within each category, the plants have been grouped as to those indigenous to the immediate area; plants native to Arizona; and plants from other arid regions of the world. These recommended plant materials have been selected for their attractiveness; for their ability to blend with the natural desert terrain; and for their foliage and flower season.

Supplemental guides are available free of charge from the Committee to help you select plants and work with professional landscapers for planning purpose. Please contact the Committee if interested in these excellent sources.

Landscape plans for all areas, including restored natural desert areas, Private Areas, etc., must be submitted to the Committee for review and approval. A complete plant list shall accompany all plans indicating plant species, quantities and sizes.

Plants to be avoided are just that - to be avoided. These plant materials will not be permitted under any circumstance. These materials are potentially destructive to the native species because of their weed like growth, pollen, and excessive heights that will intrude into the environment, and/or water use.

Maintenance

Maintenance of landscaped areas is the responsibility of the Owner. If an Owner fails to properly maintain a landscape on a lot or parcel and does not respond to a request by the Board to correct the problem, the Board will take corrective measures at the expense of the Owner.

SUGGESTED PLANTS TO CONSIDER FOR LANDSCAPING IN THUNDER MOUNTAIN ESTATES

GRASSES

Botanical Name	Common Name
Aristida Purpurea Bromus Rubens Schismus Barbatius	Red Three Awn Red Brome Schismus
Eragostis Atherstone Plantago Patagonica	Cochise Lovegrass Indian Wheat

GROUND COVER & HERBACEOUS PLANTS

Botanical Name	Common Name
Ambrosia Deltoidea Baileya Multiradiata Encelia Farinosa Eriogonum Fasciculatum Haplopappus T-icifolia Sphaeralcea Ambigua Yucca Baccata	Bur Sage Desert Marigold Brittle Bush Buckwheat Turpentine Bush Desert Mallow Banana Yucca
Asclepias Subulata Cassia Covessii Dasylirion Wheeleri Melampodium Leucanthum Penstemon Species Yucca Arizonica Yucca Elata Yucca Schottii Zauschneria Californica Zinnia Grandiflora Aloe Species Dalea Greggii Hesperaloe Parviflora Justicia Ovata Justicia Spigera Oenothera Berlandieri Salvia Chamadryoides Salvia Greggii Verbena Pulchella "Gracilior" Yucca Carnerosana Yucca Rigida Yucca Rostrata Yucca Thompsoniana	Desert Milkweed Desert Sema Desert Spoon Blackfoot Daisy Penstemon Soaptree Yucca California Fuchsia Zinnia Aloe Trailing Indigo Bush Pink Yucca Desert Honeysuckle Mexican Primrose Mexican Blue Sage Texas Red Salvia Rock Verbena

SHRUBS

Botanical Name	Common Name
Acacia Greggii	Catclaw Acacia
Beleperone Californica	Chuparosa
Ephedra Trifurca	Mormon Tea
Fouquieria Splendens	Ocotillo
Holocantha Emoryi	Crucifixion Thorn
Krameria Grayi	White Ratany
Larrea Tridentata	Creosote Bush
Lycium Andersonii	Anderson Lycium
Lycium Fremontii	Wolfberry
Simmondsia Chinensis	Jojoba
Zizyphus Obtusifolia	Greythorn
Acacia Millefolia	
Cassia Wislizenii	
Calliandra Eriophylla	Fairy Duster
Dalea Pulchra	
Dalea Wislizenii	
Dodona Viscosa	Hopseed Bush
Lysiloma Thornberi	Desert Fern
Rhus Ovata	Sugar Bush
Tecoma Stans	Yellow Bells
Acacia Riggins	
Caesalpinia Cacalaco	Cascalote
Caesalpinia Mexicana	Mexican Bird of Paradise
Caesalpinia Pulcherrima	Red Bird of Paradise
Calliandra Californica	
Calliandra Peninsularis	Twin Flower Cassia
Cassia Biflora	
Cassia Nemophylla	
Cassia Phylodenia	
Cordia Parviflora	Texas Sage Cultivar
Leucophyllum Frutescens	Chihuahuan Sage
Leucophyllum Laevigatum	
Ruellia Peninsularis	

TREES

Botanical Name	Common Name
Cercidium Flondum Cercidium Microphyllum Olneya Tesota Prosopis Juliflora	Blue Palo Verde Foothills Palo Verde Ironwood Mesquite
Acacia Constricta Chilopsis Linearis	White Horn Acacia Desert Willow
Acacia Minuta Acacia Pennatula Acacia Schaffneri Acacia Stenophylla Acacia Willardinia Cercidium Praecox Pithecellobium Flexicaule Pithecellobium Mexicana Prosopis Alba Prosopis Glandulosa Torreyana	Sweet Acacia Shoestring Acacia Palo Blanco Palo Brea Texas Ebony Mexican Ebony Argentine Mesquite Chilean Mesquite

CACTI

Botanical Name	Common Name
Carnegiea Gigantea Echinocereus Englemanni Ferocactus Wislizenii Opuntia Acanthocarpa Opuntia Phaechantha	Saguaro Hedgehog Barrel Cactus Staghorn Cholla Prickly Pear
Opuntia Leptocaulis	Desert Christmas Cactus

ANNUALS

Botanical Name	Common Name
Abronia Villosa Argemone Pleucantha Baeria Chrysostoma Bahia Absinthifolia Baileya Multiradiata Dyssodia Patachaeta Erodium Texanum Eschscholozia Mexicana Lesquerella Gordonii Lupinus Sparsiflora Orthocarpus Purpurascens Pectis Papposa Plantago Idsularis	Sand Verbena Prickly Poppy Goldfield Bahia Desert Marigold Dyssodia Fillaree Mexican Gold Poppy Gold Crucifer Lupine Owls Clover Cinch Weed Indian Wheat

PLANTS TO AVOID

The following plants are objectionable and should not be planted for aesthetic reasons, their excessive pollen production, or their ability to dominate the desert plant community.

This applies to any species of tree or shrub whose mature height may be visible above patio walls or from surrounding property unless it is on the Suggested Plant List, or has been previously approved by the Committee.

All Palms (Palmae) that will exceed six feet (6') at maturity. Dwarf varieties which will attain a height less than six feet (6') at maturity are allowed, but only within the confines of a private screened areas.

All Pines (Pinus), Cypress (Cupressus), False Cypress (Chamaecyparis), Juniper or Cedar (Juniperus).

Olive trees (Olea Europaea).

Oleanders (Nerium Oleander) and Thevetia Species). Dwarf varieties will be allowed within private gardens only.

Fountain Grass (Pennisetum Setaceum).

All varieties of Citrus. Dwarf varieties are allowed but only within a private screened areas.

Common Bermuda Grass (Cynodon Dactylon).

Mexican Palo-Verde (Parinsonia Aculeata).