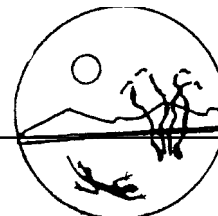


High on the Desert

Cochise County Master Gardener

Newsletter



The University of Arizona and U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.

White Plants for the Garden

White plants give an added depth in the garden and enhance other plant colors. All white gardens mixed with gray colored foliage plants and swaying grasses glow in the moonlight. White flowers that bloom at night attract evening pollinators. Here are some white plants that have performed well in my garden.

Wildflowers & Perennial Flowers

Argemone ptyceras - Prickly-poppy
Amsonia palmeri - Star Flower
Datura meteloides - Sacred Datura
Erigeron divergens - Fleabane Daisy
Erigeron wrightii - Wright
 Buckwheat
Lepidium thurberi - Pepper Grass
Melampodium leucanthum - Black-foot Daisy
Oenothera caespitosa - White-tufted Evening Primrose
Penstemon ambiguus - Sand Penstemon
Penstemon palmeri - Scented Penstemon
Zinna acerosa - Desert Zinna

Herbs

White Iris
 Oregano
 Thyme
 Raspberries & Blackberries
 White-flowered Lavender

Vines

Clematis drummondii - Virgin's Bower
Passiflora foetida - Native Passionflower

Shrubs

Arctostaphylos pungens - Manzanita
Cowania mexicana - Cliffrose
Cordia parvifolia - Littleleaf Cordia
Crossosoma bigelovi
Eysenhardtia texana - Kidneywood
Fallugia paradoxa - Apache Plume
Gossypium thurberi - Wild Cotton
Leucophyllum frutescens - 'White Cloud'
Nolina microcarpa - Bear Grass
Rhus microphylla - Little Leaf Sumac

Trees

Chilopsis linearis - Desert Willow (white cultivar)
Chitalpa tashkentensis - Chitalpa 'Morning Cloud'
Pithecellobium flexicaule - Texas Ebony
Sambucus mexicanus - Mexican Elderberry

Accent Plants

Agave species
Hesperaloe funifera - Coahuilan Hesperaloe
Hesperaloe nocturna
Trichocereus candicans
Yucca aloifolia - Spanish bayonet
Yucca baccata - Banana Yucca
Yucca schottii - Mountain Yucca

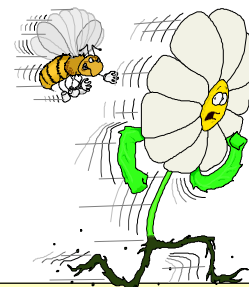
Gray leaved plants for an all-white garden

Artemisia filifolia - Sand Sage
Artemisia frigida - Fringed Sage
Artemisia ludoviciana - Prairie Sagebrush
Artemisia tridentata - Big Sagebrush

Swaying grasses and shrubs for an all-white garden

Bouteloua species - Gramma grasses
Digitaria californica - Arizona Cottontop
Fraxinus greggii - Little Leaf Ash
Muhlenbergia rigens - Deer Grass
Sporobolus wrightii - Sacaton

Cheri Melton
 Master Gardener



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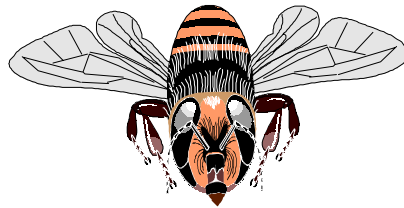
Bee Smart - Don't Bug The Bees!

Every year about this time, I have people come up to me and request chemicals to kill bees! Why are people so paranoid about the essential bee to be willing to poison their environment and destroy untold numbers of beneficial insects just because of irrational fear of the bee? These same people, I am sure, love to eat and without the bee they would be quite hungry. Bees are an essential part of our environment and with a little common sense and a more benign view of the natural world can easily be tolerated and yes, even appreciated.

A lot of the irrational fear that people have about bees has been nurtured by our sensationalist press—always in search of a good story to boost ratings. This serves their interests well but feeds irrational fear especially of those poor souls who live for a crisis to define their lives. The arrival in Arizona of the Africanized honey bee, was treated almost like a mini Armageddon. I don't know about you, but my life has continued pretty much as it did before the arrival of the dreaded "Killer Bees!"

Most of us are familiar with the European honey bee which was introduced to North America by the colonial powers. However, a bee scientist at the USDA Carl Haden Bee Research Center says that there are between 1,000 to 1,200 species of bees within 100 miles of Tucson! Most of these bees are not social bees living in colonies but rather solitary bees such as the carpenter bee, leafcutter bee, alkali

bee, digger bee or sweat bees. All these bees collect pollen and nectar and are thus very important for the pollination of many of our essential food crop plants. And many of these solitary bees pollinate plants otherwise ignored by the honeybee. (insects pollinators are responsible for one third of the food in grocery stores. Remember, no honey without bees!)



Most people who get stung are just plain stupid. Sorry if that is too blunt for you but I believe strongly that that is the case. My father raised bees when I was a child and the only time I got stung is when I was being stupid! Bees have better things to do than to nail you. Their entire life is consumed with gathering pollen and nectar to ensure the survival of their species and indirectly the survival of ours. Most children are stung when they swat at bees, disturb the hive, or molest a swarm. Most of this foolish behavior is a direct result of irrational fear passed from parent to child.

So how do you keep from being stung and co-exist with our industrious insect neighbors? The best defense is avoidance. Do not disturb bee colonies ever. If you see a bee swarm or large numbers of bees going in and out of an opening, keep your distance. If the swarm or colony is in a nuisance location, call for assistance—DO NOT attempt to remove a bee colony yourself i.e. spray the swarm with RAID (what was this

man thinking?) Bees (yes even the Africanized honey bee) are quite docile as they do their work. Unless you provoke them, they WILL leave you alone.

Other measures to keep bad things from happening to you: wear light colored clothing. Dark colors can draw bees as this most resembles the colors of their natural enemies. Don't wear floral or citrus perfumes or colognes when near bees—they are sensitive to odors. The smell of newly cut grass has been shown to rile honey bees. Check your premises frequently for signs that bees have taken up residence. If found, leave them alone and call for professional assistance. Deny bees colony space by filling in cracks and stopping up holes.

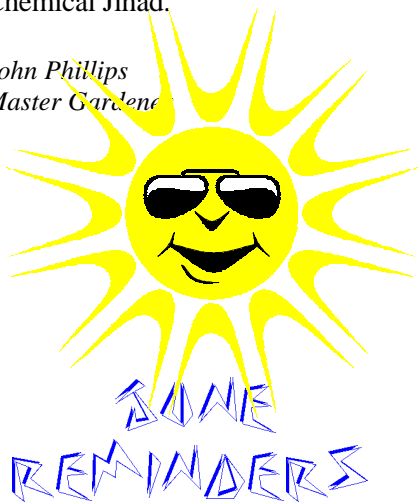
When attacked, don't flail your arms like some ninny—this will only serve to make them even more angry. Instead RUN and KEEP RUNNING. Most humans can outrun bees, however Africanized bees have been known to follow people for more than a quarter mile. Cover your face and eyes any way you can as you RUN. Pull your shirt or blouse over your face (Being stung in the face and eyes is by far the most unpleasant)—modesty is not a virtue when being attacked by an angry swarm! Seek shelter. You may have a few bees follow you in but think of that nasty bunch outside and not of the ones who followed you in. DO NOT JUMP INTO WATER!!!! The cunning little devils will wait for you to come up for air—and it won't be the blue bird of paradise flying up your nose! If you are allergic or have been stung excessively seek medical assist-

(continued on next page)

ance. But most importantly, remember that you have been taught a valuable lesson—BEE SMART and DON'T BUG BEES!!!!

A word now about the leafcutter bee. Do not have a cow when you go out into your garden and see nice, finely cut semi-circles in the leaves of your garden plants. This is just the marvelous work of the female leafcutter bee. She is using this material to build a nest. Once the season for this activity is over, she will leave your plants alone. It may be aesthetically displeasing to you but it seldom poses any problem to your plants. Nothing is ever perfect in nature and if that is the kind of garden you want, may I suggest you invest in silk or plastic plants! Leave the little guys alone—a little imperfection in the garden does not necessitate a Chemical Jihad.

John Phillips
Master Gardener



- ✓ Check tree ties
- ✓ Remove stakes if tree can stand alone
- ✓ Mulch trees & shrubs
- ✓ Remove faded flowers & fertilize roses
- ✓ Stake tomato plants & watch for curly top - remove
- ✓ Prevent blossom end rot by even watering
- ✓ **Water! Water! Water!**

The Noisy Garden

I have a little Cairn terrier named Peaches. She is very sweet and social but has a few behavioral problems. She doesn't like hot air balloons, cap guns, or loud booming noises.

About two months ago she would go out into the yard and bark steadily and her hair would stand up on her back (she wants to look larger just in case a hot air balloon is back). She did this daily and it was quite annoying. After about a month of trying to solve the mystery, we noticed that she seemed to direct her barking in one corner of the yard. Is it a squirrel? Maybe a rabbit? Or, had a cat come into my yard? However, with four dogs, cats don't usually stay very long.

Recently Peaches and I were in her favorite barking corner, and then "pop," a loud snap, and she went into her maddening, barking way, like someone was after her. I heard it too! Wait, there it was again, a "pop" and Peaches tried desperately to let me know that this is what all her horror and fear was about. Mystery solved! It was the seed pods from the *Caesalpinia mexicana* (Mexican Bird of Paradise) popping! Now what am I to do? Maybe earplugs? Do they make earplugs for dogs?

Arid Zone Trees

Caesalpinia mexicana (Mexican Bird of Paradise) Evergreen to Semi deciduous
Mature height: 10' - 15'
Mature width: 9' - 12'
Growth rate: fast



Hardiness: 20° F
Exposure: full sun
Flower: yellow

Caesalpinia Gilliesii (Desert/Yellow Bird of Paradise) evergreen or deciduous bush, slow growing, and might lose leaves in colder part of its range

Mature height: 10'
Hardiness: hardy to 5° F
Exposure: full sun
Flower: large clusters of 4"-5", yellow flowers with long red stamens

Caesalpinia pulcherrima (Red Bird of Paradise, Pride of Barbados)

Hardiness: hardy to 30° F, might lose leaves in colder part of its range
Exposure: full sun
Growth rate: evergreen bush, fast growing to 10'
Flower: orange or red with red stamens

Emily Boyd
Master Gardener Associate

Cuttings 'N' Clippings

► Cochise Master Gardeners Association will hold their next meeting September 6 at the Sierra Vista Library.

Robert E. Call

Robert E. Call
Extension Agent, Horticulture

Carolyn Gruenhagen
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