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Landscaping is the finishing touch to your backyard oasis. Your pool will be even more inviting when surrounded by the right plants. Create a landscape that frames your pool and makes it the focal point of your yard. At the same time, you will want to choose plants that work well with your watering regimen and, especially, that will work well with your pool.

1. Your pool and deck reflect a tremendous amount of the already-intense Arizona sun. Choose plants that can take it.
2. Pick plants with a minimum of litter or that drop all their leaves at one time so you only have to clean up once a year. Constant leaf drop will necessitate constant cleaning and, if you get behind, will dirty your pool and possibly clog its equipment.
3. Plan for year round color and interest. Avoid landscapes that bloom only seasonably — you have to live with it the whole year!
4. Choose low-water-use plants that will not require heavy irrigation around the pool. Too much water can damage your pool decking or equipment.
5. Choose plants with showy flowers. These are generally pollinated by an animal (as opposed to the wind) and are much cleaner and less likely to cause allergies.
6. Cacti and succulents are excellent choices. They thrive in the high light, require minimal irrigation, produce almost no litter, are attractive year round, and many have fabulous blooms.
7. Plant cacti far enough away from the path to prevent accidental injury to people or damage to beach balls.

8. Any plants that do have a small amount of seasonal litter (the bloom on the Texas Ebony Tree, for example) should be planted down wind from the pool.
9. To minimize the amount of litter from palm trees, keep the fronds pruned and remove the flowers before seeds are set.
10. “Desert Landscaping — Plants for a water scarce environment,” a CD-ROM by The University of Arizona, is an excellent tool for helping you to select the appropriate plant. Search by plant name, browse award-winning landscapes, compare groups of similar plants, or use the plant selector to precisely describe the plants you seek. The rich multimedia database includes plant size and growth rate, soil and sun requirements, irrigation needs, place of origin, allergens, wildlife interactions, and dozens of other useful factors.
11. Visit the Maricopa County Cooperative Extension home horticulture website: <http://ag.arizona.edu/maricopa/garden/> for excellent information on Environmentally Responsible Gardening and Landscaping in the Low Desert.

“Desert Landscaping” is available from many retail outlets or may be ordered from the Maricopa County Master Gardeners or the Water Resources Research Center. To place a mail order, send a check or money order for \$25.00 made out to The University of Arizona to either:

Desert Landscaping CD-Rom  
Maricopa County Master Gardeners  
The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension  
4341 E. Broadway Road  
Phoenix, AZ 85040

Desert Landscaping CD-Rom  
Water Resources Research Center  
The University of Arizona  
350 N. Campbell  
Tucson, AZ 85719-5633

## Some Suggested Plants for Poolside Landscapes

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### Trees

#### Acacia

*Acacia abyssinica*, Abyssinian acacia

*Acacia aneura*, Mulga

*Acacia pendula*, Weeping acacia

*Acacia salicina*, Willow acacia

*Acacia stenophylla*, Shoestring acacia

*Brahea armata*, Mexican blue palm

*Butia capitata*, Pindo Palm

*Caesalpinia cacalaco*, Cascalote

*Chamaerops humilis*, Mediterranean fan palm

*Chorisia speciosa*, Silk floss tree

#### Eucalyptus

*Eucalyptus erythrocorys*, Red-cap gum/Illyarrie

*Eucalyptus formanii*, Forman's Eucalyptus

*Eucalyptus leucoxylon*, 'Rosea', White Ironbark

*Eucalyptus spathulata*, Swamp mallee

*Eucalyptus torquata*, Coral Flowered Gum

*Eucalyptus woodwardii*, Lemom Flowered Gum

*Geijera parviflora*, Australian willow

*Leucaena retusa*, Golden leadball

*Lysiloma watsonii*, Desert Fern

*Olneya tesota*, Iron Wood

*Phoenix canariensis*, Canary Island Date Palm

*Phoenix dactylifera*, Date Palm

*Pistacia lentiscus*, Mastic

*Pithecellobium flexicaule*, Texas Ebony

*Quercus virginiana*, Southern Live Oak

*Trachycarpus fortunei*, Windmill palm

*Encelia farinosa*, Brittlebush

*Ericameria laricifolia*, Turpentine bush

*Fallugia paradoxa*, Apache plume

*Fatsia japonica*, Japanese aralia

*Feijoa sellowiana*, Pineapple guava

*Fouquieria splendens*, Ocotillo

*Justicia californica*, Chuparosa

*Justicia candidans*, Red Justicia

*Justicia spicigera*, Mexican honeysuckle

*Lantana camara*, Bush lantana

*Larrea tridentata*, Creosote bush

*Leucophyllum candidum*, Silver cloud, sage

*Leucophyllum frutescens*, Texas ranger/Texas sage

*Leucophyllum laevigatum*, Chihuahuan sage

*Nandina spp.*, Heavenly bamboo

*Rhus ovata*, Sugar Bush

*Rosmarinus officinalis*, Rosemary

*Ruellia peninsularis*, Desert ruellia

#### Salvia

*Salvia chaemedryoides*, Blue sage

*Salvia clevelandii*, Chaparral sage

*Salvia coccinea*, Cherry Red sage

*Salvia farinacea*, Mealycup sage

*Salvia greggii*, Autumn sage

*Salvia leucantha*, Mexican Bush sage

*Santolina spp.* Lavender cotton

*Simmondsia chinensis*, Jojoba

*Sophora secundiflora*, Texas Mountain Laurel

*Sphaeralcea ambigua*, Globe Mallow

*Tagetes lemmonii*, Mountain marigold

*Tecoma stans v. angustata*, Arizona Yellow Bells

*Tecomaria capensis*, Cape honeysuckle

*Vauquelinia californica*, Arizona rosewood

*Zauschneria californica*, California fuchsia

### Shrubs

*Asclepias linaria*, Pine leaf milkweed

*Buddleia marrubifolia*, Woolly butterfly bush

*Caesalpinia gilliesii*, Desert or Yellow bird of paradise

*Caesalpinia mexicana*, Mexican bird of paradise

*Calliandra californica*, Red fairy duster

*Calliandra eriophylla*, Fairy duster

*Carissa grandiflora*, Natal Plum

*Convolvulus cneorum*, Bush morning glory

*Cordia parvifolia*, Littleleaf cordia

*Dalea frutescens*, Black dalea

*Dalea greggii*, Trailing indigo bush

*Dalea pulchra*, Bush dalea

*Dodonaea viscosa*, Hop bush

*Dodonaea viscosa* 'purpurea', Purple hop bush

### Groundcovers

*Baileya multiradiata*, Desert marigold

*Dalea greggii*, Trailing indigo bush

*Drosanthemum speciosum*, Iceplant

*Dyssodia pentachaeta*, Golden Fleece

*Gazania rigens*, Gazania

*Lantana montevidensis*, Trailing Lantana

*Melampodium leucanthum*, Blackfoot Daisy

*Myoporum parvifolium*, Prostrate myoporum

*Oenothera berlandieri*, Mexican primrose

*Oenothera caespitosa*, Prostrate evening primrose

*Oenothera stubbei*, Satislo evening primrose

*Rosmarinus prostratus*, Prostrate rosemary

*Ruellia brittoniana* 'kati', Kati ruellia

*Stachys coccinea*, Texas betony

## Verbena

*Verbena gooddingii*, Gooding verbena  
*Verbena peruviana*, Peruvian verbena  
*Verbena pulchella*, Moss verbena  
*Verbena rigida*, Sandpaper Verbena  
*Phlomis fruticosa*, Jerusalem sage  
*Zinnia grandiflora*, Prairie Zinna

## Vines

*Merremia aurea*, Yellow morning glory vine  
*Podranea ricasoliana*, Pink Trumpet Vine

## Flowers

*Anisacanthus quadrifidus v. wrightii*, Desert Honeysuckle  
*Aquilegia chrysantha*, Golden columbine  
Cannaceae, Canna lilies  
*Dietes bicolor*, Evergreen Iris/Fortnight lily  
*Dyssodia tenuiloba*, Golden fleece  
*Erigeron spp.*, Fleabane  
*Gazania spp.*, Gazania  
*Hymenoxys acaulis.*, Angelita daisy  
*Iris germanica*, Bearded iris  
*Melampodium leucanthum*, Black Food Daisy  
*Penstemon*  
*Penstemon baccharifolius*,  
*Penstemon eatoni*, Firecracker penstemon  
*Penstemon palmeri*, Palmer's penstemon  
*Penstemon parryi*, Parry's penstemon  
*Penstemon pseudospectabilis*, Desert penstemon  
*Penstemon superbus*, Superb penstemon  
*Psilostrophe cooperi*, Paper flower  
*Zephyranthes spp.* Rain lily

## Accent Plants

### Agave

*Agave americana*, Century plant  
*Agave bovicornuta*, Cowshorn agave  
*Agave colorata*, Mescal ceniza  
*Agave desmettiana*,  
*Agave parryi*, Parry's Agave  
*Agave victoriae-reginae*, Queen victoria agave  
*Agave vilmoriniana*, Octopus agave

### Aloe

*Aloe vera*, medicinal aloe  
*Aloe ferox*, Tree aloe

*Aloe saponaria*, Tiger aloe  
*Asclepias subulata*, Desert Milk Weed  
*Asparagus densiflorus 'Myers'*, Foxtail/Asparagus Fern  
*Asparagus densiflorus 'Sprengeri'*, Sprenger asparagus  
*Cereus hildmannianus*, Hildmann's Cereus  
*Cycas revoluta*, Sago palm  
*Dasylyrion wheeleri*, Desert spoon  
*Dasylyrion longissimum*, Mexican Grass Tree  
*Echinocactus grusonii*, Golden barrel cactus  
*Echinocereus engelmannii*, Hedgehog cactus  
*Echinopsis multiplex*, Easter lily cactus  
*Ferocactus acanthodes*, Compass barrel cactus  
*Ferocactus wislizeni*, Fishhook barrel cactus  
*Hesperaloe parviflora*, Red or Yellow Yucca  
*Lophocereus schottii* forma monstrosus, Totem Pole  
*Muhlenbergia rigens*, Deer Grass  
*Nolina spp.*, Grass Tree  
*Opuntia*  
*Opuntia acanthocarpa*, Buckhorn cholla  
*Opuntia basilaris*, Beavertail Prickly Pear  
*Opuntia ficus-indica*, Indian fig  
*Opuntia engelmannii*, Prickly pear cactus  
*Opuntia Santa-rita*, Purple prickly pear  
*Stenocereus marginatus*, Mexican Organ Pipe  
*Trichocereus candicans*,  
*Trichocereus huasha hyb.*,  
*Yucca*  
*Yucca aloifolia*, Spanish Bayonet  
*Yucca baccata*, Banana yucca  
*Yucca brevifolia*, Joshua tree  
*Yucca elata*, Soap tree yucca  
*Yucca recurvifolia*, Pendulous yucca  
*Yucca rigida*, Blue yucca

## Some Plants to Keep Far Away from Your Pool

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*Acacia farnesiana*, Sweet acacia  
*Bauhinia spp.*, Orchid tree  
*Bougainvillea brasiliensis*, Bougainvillea  
*Brachychiton populneus*, Bottle tree  
*Callistemon spp.*, Bottlebrush  
*Ceratonia siliqua*, Carob tree  
*Fraxinus, spp.*, Ash  
*Jacaranda mimosifolia*, Jacaranda  
*Prosopis spp.*, Mesquites  
*Ulmus parviflora*, Evergreen/Chinese Elm  
*Vitex agnus-castus*, Chaste tree/Monk's Pepper

## References

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*Xeriscape Gardens: Plants for the Desert Southwest*, Arizona Municipal Water Users Association

Brenzel, K. N. (ed.).(1995) *Sunset Western Garden Book*

More than 6,000 plants listed, keyed to 24 Western climate zones, climate maps, 2,500 color photos, illustrations, charts, and diagrams, 50,000 plant facts, complete guide to plant selection and hundreds of how-to tips and techniques. ISBN 0-376-03851-9

*Desert Landscaping, Plants for a Water-Scarce Environment*, CD by the Water Resources Research Center, The University of Arizona College of Agriculture

“Environmentally Responsible Gardening and Landscaping for the Low Desert”, The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Maricopa County Home Horticulture Website: <http://ag.arizona.edu/maricopa/garden/>

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