

## Gorgeous Groundcovers

Our landscapes tend to include vast expanses of crushed granite which can radiate excessive amounts of heat, especially during the summer. One solution is to use groundcovers to liven up these areas with color, texture and interest, or soften areas with concrete or pavement. Groundcovers help suppress dust, cut glare, slow the evaporation of water from the soil, control erosion and can even function as a lawn substitute.

A groundcover can be any plant or group of plants that is low-growing, creeping or sprawling whose primary function is to cover the ground. They can be carpet-like, growing only a few inches high and a few feet wide, or they can be knee-high and spread several feet wide. There are groundcovers that prefer deep shade and others that grow best in full sun, and many that grow in partial or filtered shade.

- Shade-loving groundcovers are perfect for bare areas under mature trees.
- Low groundcovers are useful in small spots, tight spaces or borders.
- Groundcovers planted in front of painted walls not only look attractive but keep walls fresh and clean by preventing dirt from splashing onto the walls during rains.
- Frost sensitive groundcovers may perform better planted on mounds, above low spots where cold air collects.

Creating layers will give your landscape dimension. Check the mature size as some plants only grow a foot across while others can cover an 8 ft. wide area. Place taller groundcovers towards the back of your yard or near fences. Shorter or smaller plants should be used in front of taller ones and can easily fit near pathways or sidewalks. Don't be afraid to mix and match, most of these look good together. One of the most striking color combinations is yellow and purple.

While groundcovers are low maintenance they are not completely maintenance free. Most plantings do require regular care and refurbishing to keep them healthy and vigorous in addition to proper irrigation and occasional fertilization.

### Top 10 Picks for Chandler Landscapes

**Angelita Daisy** (*Hymenoxys acaulis*) and **Desert Marigold** (*Baileya multiradiata*)—These small, clumping natives bloom almost year-round. Plant one foot apart for 'carpets' of color.  
**Bush Morning Glory** (*Convolvulus cneorum*)—Silvery leaves blend with other plantings. White flowers in March.

**Lantana** (*Lantana spp.*)—These low-water-use favorites have choices of flower colors from purple to orange to yellow or white. Butterflies love the flowers.

**Lemon Dalea** (*Dalea capitata*) – Tiny spikes of yellow flowers. Dark green foliage is lightly lemon scented.

**Katie Ruellia** (*Ruellia brittoniana* 'Katie') – 1' x 2', purple flowers from spring to fall.

**Trailing Gold Emu** (*Eremophila glabra*) – 1' x 6', yellow flowers spring to fall, dark green foliage.

**Trailing Rosemary** (*Rosemary officinalis*) – 2' x 4', dark green fragrant foliage, small blue flowers winter to spring. This is an edible herb.

**Damianita** (*Chrysactinia mexicana*) – 2' x 2', golden yellow daisylike flowers spring to fall, fragrant dark green foliage.

**Golden Dyssodia** (*Dyssodia pentachaeta*) – 6" x 6", Delicate looking foliage with yellow, daisylike flowers spring to fall. Attracts butterflies.

**Rock Verbena** (*Glandularia pulchella*) – 1' x 3', Fine textured dark green leaves with clusters of purple flowers spring to fall. Attracts butterflies.



Desert Marigold



Angelita Daisy



Bush Morning Glory



Trailing Lantana



Lemon Dalea



'Katie' Ruellia



Trailing Gold Emu



Trailing Rosemary



Damianita (with Verbena)



Golden Dyssodia



Rock Verbena