



Seasonal Color Combinations with Desert Adapted Plants

Spring

Spring is typically our most colorful time in the landscape. Get creative in your desert garden and try these plant combinations for a striking landscape display.

- **Mexican Gold Poppy (*Eschscholzia californica* ssp. *mexicana*) & Arizona Lupine (*Lupinus arizonicus*).** An outstanding Arizona wildflower combination is the golden yellow-orange flowers of Mexican Gold Poppy with the brilliant blue flowers of Arizona Lupine. Sow seeds for this combination in the fall along with other spring flowering wildflowers.
- **Mexican Gold Poppy (*Eschscholzia californica* ssp. *mexicana*) & Desert Bluebells (*Phacelia campanularia*).** The orange yellow flowers of Mexican Gold Poppy provide striking contrast to the blue iridescent flowers of California or Desert Bluebells for yet another spring wildflower combination.
- **A (*Aloe maculata*) & Brittle Bush (*Encelia farinosa*).** Tiger Aloe is a ground covering deep green aloe with masses of reddish orange flowers, which also attract hummingbirds, in contrast with the gray foliage of the Arizona native Brittle Bush.
- **Baja Fairy Duster (*Calliandra californica*) & Desert Marigold (*Baileya multiradiata*).** The deep green foliage and intense red flowers of Baja Fairy Duster contrast well with the gray foliage and yellow flowers of Desert Marigold.
- **Ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*) & Purple Prickly Pear (*Opuntia santa-rita*).** The background accent of ocotillo with its deep green foliage and masses of red flowers, which also attract hummingbirds, is in marked contrast to the grayish-purple pads and brilliant yellow flowers of Purple Prickly Pears.
- **Mescal Bean (*Sophora secundiflora*) & Desert Marigold (*Baileya multiradiata*).** Deep green foliage and purple flowers of the shrubby to treelike Mescal Bean forms dramatic contrasts with the gray foliage and yellow flowers of Desert Marigold.
- **Red Hesperaloe (*Hesperaloe parviflora*) & Yellow Lantana (*Lantana camara*).** The red flowers of Red Hesperaloe form a great background accent to masses of yellow flowers of the butterfly attracting Yellow Lantana from late spring through early summer.
- **Red & Yellow Hesperaloe (*Hesperaloe parviflora*).** The striking red flowering spikes of the traditional Hesperaloe can be combined with its yellow flowering variety for an outstanding landscape combination that attracts hummingbirds.
- **Palo Brea (*Cercidium praecox*) & Chaparral Sage (*Salvia clevelandii*).** The lime green foliage and trunk and yellow flowers of Palo Brea contrasts with gray foliage and purple flowers of the hummingbird attracting Chaparral Sage.
- **Octopus Agave (*Agave vilmoriniana*) & Bougainvillea (*Bougainvillea cvs.*).** A different spring combination is the brilliant yellow flowering spikes of Octopus Agave in contrast to the background red flowers of Bougainvillea.
- **Paper Flower (*Psilotrophe cooperi*) & Goodding Verbena (*Verbena gooddingii*).** An Arizona native plant combination is gray foliage and yellow flowers of shrubby Paper Flower in contrast to deep green foliage and purple flowers of ground covering Goodding Verbena.