



Seasonal Color Combinations with Desert Adapted Plants

Summer

Summer heat can tax even our toughest desert adapted plants. But don't worry, there are some colorful combinations to choose from that will keep your landscape looking fresh and colorful.

- **Chocolate Flower (*Berlandiera lyrata*) & Cherry Red Sage (*Salvia coccinea*).** A worthwhile summer combination is the bright yellow flowers of Golden Columbine in contrast to intense red hummingbird attracting flowers of Cherry Red Sage. This combination works well in shady garden locations.
- **Queen's Wreath or Coral Vine (*Antigon leptopus*) & Yuca Vine (*Merremia aurea*).** A summer vine combination is red flowers of Coral Vine interplanted with Yuca Vine with brilliant yellow flowers as seen naturally in the Cape Region of Baja California.
- **Red & Yellow Mexican Hat (*Ratibida columnaris*).** A great summer Arizona native wildflower combination is to interplant the red and yellow flower clones of Mexican Hat.
- **Chocolate Flower (*Berlandiera lyrata*) & Purple Verbena (*Verbena tenuisecta*).** The yellow flowers of Chocolate Flower with their 'chocolate-scented' disk flowers contrast with the purple flowers of ground covering Purple Verbena.
- **Red Bird of Paradise & yellow flowering selections (*Caesalpinia pulcherrima*).** An outstanding summer shrub combination is the interplanting of the red Bird of Paradise in contrast to the yellow flowering selections of this plant.
- **Purple Ruellia (*Ruellia brittoniana*) & Yellow Bells (*Tecoma stans*).** The brilliant yellow flowers of shrubby Yellow Bells contrasts well with the purple flowers of the Purple Ruellia.
- **Thunder Cloud Sage (*Leucophyllum candidum* 'Thunder Cloud') & Yellow Bells (*Tecoma stans*).** The gray foliage and intense purple flowers of Thunder Cloud Sage provides distinctive contrast to Yellow Bells with its brilliant yellow flowers and green foliage.
- **Littleleaf Cordia (*Cordia parvifolia*) & Trailing Lantana (*Lantana montevidensis*) or Katie Ruellia (*Ruellia brittoniana* 'Katie').** Small, oval, gray-green leaves cover this tough Sonoran desert native which gets covered with crisp white flowers from March to October. Blues, purples, and pinks are especially nice in combination with the white blooms. Try Trailing Lantana or Katie Ruellia for purple flowers and green foliage to contrast with the white flowering Cordia.
- **Baja Ruellia (*Ruellia peninsularis*) with Yellow Lantana (*Lantana sp.*) & Purple Prickly Pear (*Opuntia santa-rita*).** This triple combination provides a splash of bright yellow to contrast with the purple flowers of the Baja Ruellia and the green-purple flesh of the Purple Prickly Pear.