

NEW MEXICO

PLANTS

made easy

a pocket plant book to help you unearth your yard's potential

by Jill Brown, ASLA

New Mexico Plants Made Easy, a pocket plant book to help you unearth your yard's potential by Jill Brown. Published by Brown, green and more, LLC. Albuquerque, NM 87110.

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WHAT'S IN THIS BOOK?

These are 60 of my favorite plants for Albuquerque and the surrounding areas of NM. Each page includes a plant photo, and a basic description about the plant's preferences including soil, water, and maintenance needs. Almost all of the plants in this book are well adapted to NM and are easy to care for. The book gives you just enough information to make you knowledgeable but not enough to make you cross-eyed.

The plants in this book are organized by Shade Trees, Accent Trees, Evergreen Trees, Shrubs, Perennials, Groundcovers, Ornamental Grasses, Turfgrasses, Desert Accents, and Vines.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK?

Treat this book as a pocket plant guide. Browse it as you walk the neighborhood and use it as your safety net when you get nervous at the plant nursery. Make it your own by jotting down comments, affixing it with post it notes, or dog earring your favorite plants. Overall, I want you to enjoy it and let it help you feel confident about unearthing your yard's potential.

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT PLANTS:

- Don't obsess about your soils. Desert friendly plants are adapted to our native soils. Choose plants found in local nurseries when planting in your native soil.
- Watering your plants to the proper depth is key. Recommended Watering Depths: Trees: 24", Shrubs: 18", Perennials: 12", Desert Accents: 12", Groundcovers: 8", Grass: 6", Ornamental Grass: 18" and Vines: 12". Use a soil probe or a long screwdriver to test soil moisture. Push the screwdriver into the soil 24 hours after you've watered your plants. It will go easily into moist soil. Mark and measure how far it went into the ground. That will tell you how deep you have watered that plant. Every yard is different, but once you figure out how long it takes your watering system to water to certain depths, you'll be set. Use the Watering Charts on 505outside.com to see how often you water based on the Season.
- In general, when planting new plants, dig your hole 2-3x the width of the container. This loosens the compacted soil and encourages roots to branch out into soil. When planting trees, be sure to keep the tree flair/tree collar visible above the ground. If not, you've planted your tree too deep.
- Always top your plants with a 3-4" depth layer of shredded wood chip mulch over bare dirt to feed soil microorganisms, suppress weeds, and reduce moisture loss from the soil. In most cases gravel over filter fabric is not needed.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:



Jill is a Landscape Architect in Albuquerque, where she blogs at mylandscapecoach.com, created in 2013 to provide landscape design tips for the community.

As well as coaching homeowners how to unearth their yard's potential, she's the creator of Landscape Design Made Easy, an online landscape design course and workbook.

Shop her other products and offerings at landscapecoach.com.

SHADE
TREES



Golden rain tree, *Koelreuteria paniculata*. It has unique seed pods that provide yellow blooms in the spring and gold fall foliage. This is a good drought tolerant tree that provides partial shade cover allowing for understory plantings. It averages 25' high by 20' wide.

Care and Maintenance: Water deeply 2x a month when flowering and monthly rest of year.



Texas Red Oak, *Quercus texana*. The scarlet color welcomes the season of fall in the New Mexico landscape. Growing 35' tall and wide is one of the faster growing oaks. It can take the summer heat and our freezing temperatures.

Care and Maintenance: It can have tender bark so leave lower branches to shade the smooth grey bark during the first few years of establishment. Bark turns darker as it ages become less susceptible to sun scald. Water deeply to 24" every two weeks in summer and monthly rest of the year.



Chinese Pistache, *Pistacia chinensis*. A great shade tree for Albuquerque, it sends down deep roots making it very drought tolerant. 30' high by 20' wide. Watch for this tree in early fall when it turns a gorgeous scarlet color! Small leaves practically decompose over winter making it an easy tree to clean up after.

Care and Maintenance: Water monthly throughout the year.

ACCENT TREES



Vitex, *Vitex agnus-castus*. This small deciduous tree is great for patios and courtyard planting providing dappled shade over an outdoor table. Getting 15' high by 12' wide this tree does well in full sun within a variety of soils and sends out purple blooms midsummer. The multi-trunks on this tree can have very interesting twists and curves to them. Under plant the vitex with grass, groundcovers and other shade loving low growing shrubs.

Care and Maintenance: As with most trees upon planting, water weekly until established and bi-weekly during the heat of the summer. Once established, deeply water this tree once a month throughout the year. To promote a tree form, choose the trunks that will remain then trim away twiggy growth in early summer removing any suckers and side-shoots.



Desert willow, *Chilopsis linearis*. I love this tree because it will grow as much or as little as you want depending on the amount of water you give it. It can get as tall as 30' high but it is typically 20' high by 20' wide. The shape is unpredictable which makes it extremely sculptural and interesting for a patio area. As one of the last to leaf out in the spring, it provides beautiful flowers in May and June ranging in color from white to pink to deep maroon. I like to plant these trees in a dry streambed that receives roof rainwater from a downspout. It will survive on rainwater once established.

Seen underneath it is the green santolina, *Santolina virens*. This long lived green low growing shrub is a good fit for New Mexico, growing in full sun or part shade. I treat it as a groundcover because it gets 1' high by 3' wide. For a grey silvery look, try gray santolina, *Santolina chamaecyparissus*. I enjoy the wavy mounding look both varieties provide in the garden. Yellow button flowers appear each June. It likes poor and well drained soils, meaning it will do well in the most desperate of spaces.



New Mexico olive, *Forestiera neomexicana*. Sometimes called privet, the NM olive can be a large shrub or pruned into a small patio tree, growing anywhere between 18' high by 15' wide. It does well in sun, shade, and a variety of soils. Its distinctive smooth pale gray bark and chartreuse green leaves look similar to a palo verde which many people swoon over but alas cannot be grown in Albuquerque. It's deep rooted allowing for under plantings of shrubs and perennials if used as a patio tree. Unpruned it can be used as a hedge, a visual screen or even a wind break. Choose a female if you want late summer blue fruits, and winter forage for birds.

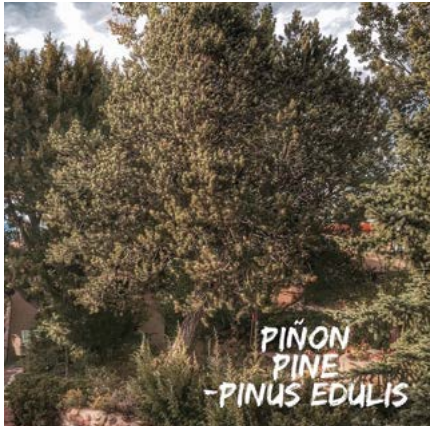
Care and Maintenance: Deeply water once a month throughout the year. It is very forgivable and can take extensive pruning, but you'll get the most interest working with the natural form of the tree. Prune suckers and lower branches in the early summer.



Redbud species, *Cercis canadensis*. This small accent tree announces the arrival of Spring with its fuchsia blooms. It is a great patio tree that can be trained to be single or multi trunked. I like using it outside a feature window for hanging bird feeders. Western, Oklahoma and Mexican are among the many varieties.

Care and Maintenance: Pruning to encourage shape is fine, but heavy pruning is not needed and could result in sun scald. Deep water to 24" twice a month throughout the year and monthly during winter.

EVERGREEN TREES



Piñon pine, *Pinus edulis*. Piñon pine is a favorite native New Mexican evergreen tree known for its piñon seeds. This tree grows about 6" a year and can reach 30' high by 20' wide at maturity. It is deeply rooted, wind resilient and heat/cold tolerant. Unfortunately, it is susceptible to pests when stressed by over or under watering making it hard to get established.

Care and Maintenance: Water monthly throughout the year.



Whichita Blue Juniper, *Juniperus scopulorum* 'Whichita Blue'. This blue green evergreen tree is extremely predictable in size and shape. Growing 12-15' tall and 6-8' wide, this is a great plant to soften up corners in a backyard, to screen an unsightly view, or provide a windbreak from our canyon winds. The color is beautiful against our tan stuccos.

Care and Maintenance: This tree is very adaptable of all soils, should be deeply watered to 24" once a month once established. It likes full sun and needs no pruning.



Escarpment live oak, *Quercus fusiformis*. This fairly small growing evergreen oak is good for patios. Getting 15'-20' high and wide, it is a slow grower, growing only 4" a year. It sends down deep roots, making it a good tree for screening, wind buffers and small spaces. It thrives in well drained soils and is susceptible to root rot so keep the base free from heavily watered perennials. Instead try low water native grasses underneath as seen in this picture.

Care and Maintenance: Pruning is not necessary unless you want to remove small lower growing branches to allow for more trunk exposure. It does produce acorns which make for great foraging for wildlife. Water established trees deeply once a month.



Arizona Rosewood, *Vauquelinia californica*. This long-lived heat tolerant gem of a plant is one of my favorite screening plants. It is shaped like a vase and it is perfect for southern and western exposures. It's got glossy olive-green leaves and puts out white flowers in June. Slow growing at first so have patience because it is well worth the wait.

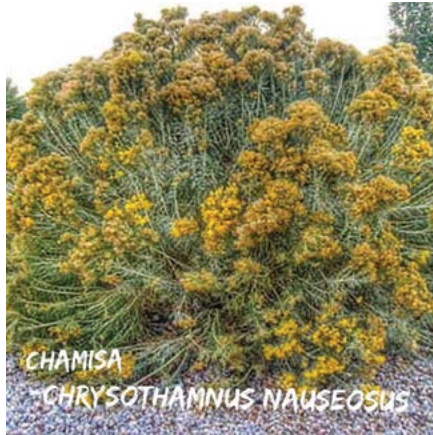
Care and Maintenance: It likes well drained soil with deep watering 24" once a month and twice in the summer months.

SHRUBS



Apache plume, *Fallugia paradoxa*. This familiar shrub is known for its wispy pink seedheads and white flowers. It can be found throughout the Sandia foothills. It grows 5' high by 5' wide and is a semi evergreen shrub. It adapts to most soils and is best in full sun. It sends down a deep taproot, so it is very adaptable to the stresses of the desert. Grown as a screen or as a singular plant, this is a great choice for the garden.

Care and Maintenance: It is part of the rose family but don't worry, it requires little maintenance, unlike most roses in New Mexico. Once established, deeply water once a month throughout the year. Pruning is not necessary.



Chamisa, *Chrysothamnus nauseosus*. An iconic shrub here in New Mexico, it can be seen throughout the Sandia foothills. Most of the year, it is a nice backdrop or screening plant, but it shines in the fall when a golden yellow halo of flowers appear. Needing practically no water once established, this is the hardiest of shrubs around. It's a good filler shrub in gardens because it can get as big as 5' high and wide. Its size is directly related to how much water it gets. If that seems too large, there is a dwarf variety called *chrysothamnus nauseosus* var. *nauseosus* that is more compact at only 2' high and wide.

Care and Maintenance: This shrub can get gangly if not pruned every two years. Chamisa is tough, so prune it down 6" high in late winter. Come spring it will send out new sage green shoots.



Three leaf sumac, *Rhus trilobata*. Fall is a perfect time of year to spot this shrub because its leaves change from yellow to red. Typically 3-5' high and wide, it gets larger with consistent moisture. With regular water, it will send down deep branching tap roots and grow up to a foot a year, and will be around for years to come. Try using it as a hedge, a visual screen or even a wind break.

Care and maintenance: Selective pruning may be desired to achieve a specific look but it is not necessary. It grows well in most soils and hardy in both sun and shade. It requires monthly watering year-round.



Russian sage, *Perovskia atriplicifolia*. The Russian sage is a drought tolerant, very showy, fast growing shrub. Getting 4' high by 4' wide this shrub will spread fast and can be invasive, so plant in areas where it has room to spread. Some people use it as the main plant in a large gravel area, giving it the room it needs. The brilliant lavender flowers will persist throughout the summer and into fall. Bees love the flowers, so keep away from small patio areas. Paper flower, *Psilostrophe cooperi*, is a prolific self-seeder and summer bloomer with a rounded shape. The flowers become paper-like after they are spent. This shrub does well on only rainwater but will flourish if watered 1x a month. It holds its rounded form nicely, getting 1.5' high by 2' wide.

Care and Maintenance: Deep monthly watering is all that's required. Heavily prune stems close to the ground in late winter, new growth will appear come spring.



Salvia greggii, commonly known as cherry sage, is 2' high by 3' wide. This sun and partial shade loving plant is a great flowering evergreen shrub providing color for almost three seasons. It flowers heavily during spring and fall and lightly during the summer. Aside from being one of the few flowering shrubs that work well in the shade, it's also a heat loving, drought tolerant plant.

Care and Maintenance: It requires deep watering 2x a month during the summer and monthly the rest of the year. I like to wire rake through it in later winter to clean up any residual debris thus removing dead and dying materials.



Turpentine bush, *Ericameria laricifolia*. This evergreen shrub has a predictable mounding shape that grows 2' high by 2' wide. In autumn, it is covered in yellow daisies, making it a great addition to the typical spring and summer blooming perennial gardens. It's adaptable to most soils, grows best in full sun and is delectable for rabbits.

Care and Maintenance: Deep watering this plant monthly will keep it looking good year round. Trim flowerheads in late winter to allow for new growth come spring.



Winterfat, *Krascheninnikovia lanata*. Per its namesake, this semi evergreen native shrub stands out in Winter with its vertical white snowy cottony seed heads. In the spring and summer, it can be mistaken for chamisa and other sage shrubs. It is fast growing reaching 3' tall and wide. It needs full sun and can be pruned yearly if you want to keep it nice and thick.



Blue mist spirea, *Caryopteris x clandonensis*. The gorgeous blue seedheads are similar in form to Russian sage but without the spreading. The predictable round shape is just beautiful in xeriscape gardens. The seeds persist through winter as seen here combined with an early blooming phlox variety. Phlox creates a carpet of goodness and shines for a few weeks throughout the year. Some varieties bloom off and on throughout the summer. Water weekly in the heat of the summer decreasing as the temperatures cool off.



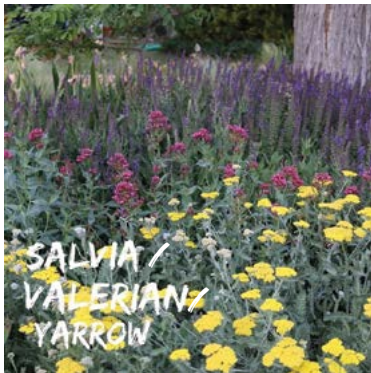
Fernbush, *Chamaebatia millefolium* is the botanic name of this large evergreen shrub. Growing 4-8' wide and high this is a great desert friendly shrub for landscapes. Needs deep watering 1x a month. It can be used as a low screen or hedge in native gardens to help define spaces. The little white flowers provide lovely pollen for bees and butterflies.

PERENNIALS



Penstemon palmeri, a favorite penstemon in my garden, is sun loving and heat and drought tolerant. This show stopper shines planted against a stucco wall that gets southern exposure. It's an early summer bloomer, getting 5' high by 4' wide.

Care and Maintenance: Deep watering 1x a month throughout the year. Trim flower stalks down to base of plant in late winter.



Moonshine yarrow, *Achillea moonshine*. A great flowering perennial in the southwest garden, it grows 18" high by 24" wide. The distinctive silver-gray foliage is a fine backdrop for the lemon-yellow flower clusters that keep coming all summer. Other yarrows come in white and red. Valerian or Jupiter's Beard, *Centranthus ruber*. This dependable perennial supplies the garden with a deep pink color in spring and summer sometimes persisting into fall. Salvia, *Salvia sylvestris*. A superb purple perennial that provides a good backdrop in a garden bed. I like to plant all of these in the fall so the roots become well established by spring. These like well drained soils in full sun or partial shade. Cover with a bark mulch to maintain moisture throughout the summer months.

Care and Maintenance: Water weekly every week during the summer, 2x a month in spring and fall and monthly in the winter. Trim flower heads regularly to promote more blooms. If that's too much work, just wait until late winter to trim flower heads and dead foliage.



Gaura, *Gaura lindheimeri*, is a multi-colored perennial growing 18" high x 12" wide. This plant is very drought tolerant; and likes hot dry silty soil. It is a great light wispy addition to a perennial garden providing visual interest in the spring, summer and fall.

Care and Maintenance: Water every week during the summer, 2x a month in spring and fall and monthly in the winter.



Angelita daisy, *Hymenoxys acaulis*. I love the bright pop of yellow from the Angelita daisy. This is a great 1' by 1' flower for the full sun. It does well in poor soils and likes to be watered at least 1x a month. Reminiscent of a Dr. Seuss illustration, it brings all kinds of fun to the garden. They look best when planted around 12" apart.

Care and Maintenance: It is low maintenance, however you can occasionally deadhead the flowers if you'd like.



Globemallow, *Sphaeralcea coccinea*. One of my favorite wildflowers in NM. It spreads easily, sending out underground shoots. Some people refer to it as a weed, but I love it as a wildflower in a native meadow. Blooms appear in spring and throughout the summer. It loves sandy, dry, open ground. Plants range from 4" to 16" high by 18" wide. I like planting this species on the southern exposure against a stucco wall where it thrives and creates some nice contrast. My absolute favorite one can be purchased from Mountain States Nursery. It has a vibrant red color, and is called Louis Hamilton.

Care and Maintenance: Deep watering 1x a month throughout the year. I like to pull a wire rake through it in later winter to clean up any residual debris, thus removing dead and dying materials.



Catmint, *Nepeta mussini* syn. *N. faassenii*. Cats love this plant, so if you are a cat owner you'll have to accept that the plant won't always look awesome but your cat will be happy! This fairly low growing perennial is 12" high by 18" wide. I treat it as a groundcover because it is a nice spreader under larger shrubs keeping weeds at bay. (Don't worry; it's not as prolific a spreader as the edible mint). Purple flowers appear on the plant from April to November, making it a great addition of color to a perennial bed. It grows well and flowers in part shade, unlike other perennials.

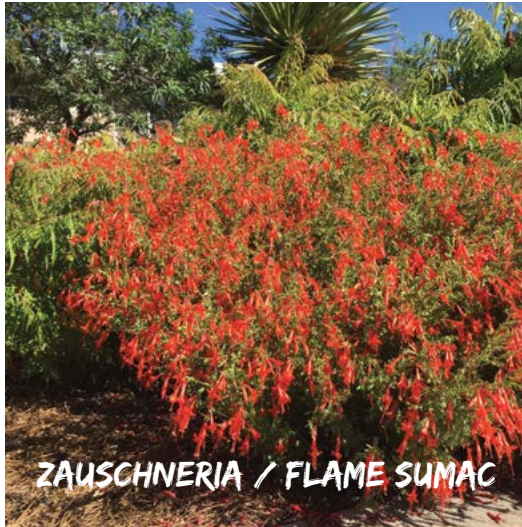
Care and maintenance: Once established, water weekly during the summer months, bi-monthly in the spring and fall, and monthly during the winter. Trim back in late winter to make way for new growth come springtime.



Mexican evening primrose, *Oenothera speciosa*. This spreading native produces waves of pink goodness throughout the summer and practically disappears in winter. It does spread throughout the garden and if given lots of water can take over. Here it's shown with a sedum groundcover.



Chocolate flower, *Berlandiera lyrata* its delightfully cheery and fragrant in a landscape. This flower is a long summer bloomer with sweet cocoa smelling flowers that are most fragrant in the morning. Zones 5-9, low water 1x a week in summer once established. It spreads nicely through seed.



Zauschneria, *Zauschneria epilobium*. This perennial sure does put on a fiery show in mid summer. Sometimes called hummingbird trumpet. It's a late summer bloomer, very heat tolerant, sun or part shade in well drained soil. Monthly watering is required. Behind it is a pretty flame sumac creating a nice contrast.

GROUNDCOVERS



Woolly lamb's ears, *Stachys lanata* syn. Byzantine. A great, soft, silver leafed, reliable groundcover that gets 8" high by 24" wide. It sends up purple woolly flower spikes in late spring. The large, bold, distinctive leaves are a beautiful contrast amongst the typical perennial flowers. Lamb's ear spreads easily. I like my plants to spread because they cover more ground, eliminate weeds, require less water and fill in my beds for free. But if you don't want a spreader use the variety 'Silver Carpet' or trim flower spikes throughout the season to prevent self seeding. Plant this in full sun or morning sun with afternoon shade in most soils.

Care and Maintenance: Once established, water weekly during the summer months, bi-monthly in the spring and fall, and monthly during the winter. Trim back seed heads in late winter to make way for new growth come springtime.



Spreading Chinese juniper, *Juniperus chinensis* 'Sargent'. A great evergreen groundcover that requires little maintenance, it grows up to 1' high and spreads up to 10' wide. It grows well in almost any soil, full sun and part shade. Leave a wide berth around the plants because they don't do well when crowded. It also comes in a dark green variety. A flowering Pink Smokebush can be seen behind the wall.

Care and maintenance: Light pruning in late winter helps keep its shape. Water monthly throughout the year.



Vinca, *Vinca major*. This is a great evergreen groundcover for shady gardens in the southwest like a courtyard. Once established, it is long lived, requires little water, and provides a thick enough cover to suppress weeds. Shredded bark mulch works well to keep plants moist. Cuttings from established plants can be transplanted in early spring. These will spread quickly when watered bi-weekly during establishment. Its purple flowers bloom best in sunny conditions.

Care and Maintenance: Once established, water weekly during the summer months, bi-monthly in the spring and fall. I like to pull a wire rake through it in late winter to clean up any residual debris, thus removing dead and dying materials.



Prarie zinnia, *Zinnia grandiflora*. A perfect groundcover for a hot, dry, bare dirt area, the desert zinnia grows 4-8" high and 12-18" wide. It produces a spreading carpet of drought tolerant yellow flowers that bloom from mid-summer into the fall

Care and Maintenance: Water weekly during the summer, 2x a month in spring and fall.



Helianthus, aka Sunflower, can be seen throughout NM in September. You can find the native ones along the roadsides and large ones in many front yards. These are annuals started by seed each year multiplying from bird droppings. I like the perennial, Maximillian sunflower. It provides a low spreading groundcover in spring and summer. Dwarf plumbago, *Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*. This groundcover keeps your garden interesting with green lush foliage in the spring, purple flowers in the summer turning a red rusty color come fall. It provides great coverage therefore preventing weeds. Use in full shade in southern NM, partial shade in ABQ.

Care and Maintenance: Trim all sunflowers down to the ground after their blooms and seeds are spent. This could be in early fall or you can wait until late winter. Water plumbago deeply every two weeks in the summer, and 1x a month the rest of the year.

ORNAMENTAL GRASSES



Muhly grass, *Muhlenbergia capillaris*. This vibrant pink blooming grass is salt, heat, and wind tolerant. A good choice for NM is the trademarked cultivar called 'regal mist.' This plant has more profuse, darker pink flowers. These plants are show stoppers in October but the rest of the year they are just a mound of green clump grass. I like to plant in masses as seen in this photo or as a fall surprise behind evergreen shrubs.

Care and Maintenance: Trim plants down to 6" or lower in late winter. Water plants deeply 2x a month in the summer and once monthly rest of the year.



Giant sacaton grass, *Sporobolus wrightii*, is 5' high x 3-4' wide. This grass is a great filler in gardens throughout the year, but like most grasses, it demands attention in early fall by sending up 3' high feathery seed heads. It's a welcome fall addition to the garden.

Care and Maintenance: It requires deep watering 2x a month during the summer and monthly the rest of the year. Cut back to 1' high in late winter.



Karl Foerster reed grass, *Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster', grows to 1.5 -2' high and wide. Nice striking flower stalks to 6' high with a very predictable form. I like to use this grass in narrow planting beds, as a backdrop, and an accent plant in the fall. It looks great in modern landscapes.

Care and Maintenance: It requires deep watering 2x a month during the summer and monthly the rest of the year. Cut back to 1' high in late winter.



Sideoats grama, *Bouteloua curtipendula*, is an attractive ornamental bunch grass that gets 30" high by 12" wide, surviving on 12-20" of rain a year. You can water it once a month during the summer to get more growth. It sends up pretty seed heads in late summer early fall. The seeds look like oats and are arranged in a side-by-side pattern, hence the name side oats. I love this plant for use in a native meadow!

Care and Maintenance: This grass does re-seed easily so it will take over perennial beds. Trim down to 6" high once a year in late winter.

TURFGRASS



Bermuda grass, *Cynodon 'PWIN04S'* Dog Tuff. Bermuda grass is a great choice for a low water, low maintenance grass with medium foot traffic. The downside is that it does spread prolifically via runners. It is best to surround this grass with an 8-inch-wide and deep edger to keep it in check. Bermuda grass uses about 22 – 26 inches of water a year and requires a few mowing's a year.



Buffalo grass, *Bouteloua dactyloides*. Choose warm season buffalo grass for a beautiful low growing, low water and low maintenance grass. It will handle light traffic, rarely requires mowing and uses around 24 – 28 inches of water a year.



Sheep's fescue, *Festuca ovina*. Cool season lawn grass that is a good choice for New Mexico. It does well as a groundcover in the shade in the Albuquerque area. With mowing only required annually, this grass is a nontraditional lawn with interesting looking clumps that form intricate swirls as they get longer.

Care and Maintenance: This grass requires mowing to 4" height once a year which you can easily do with a weed wacker. Water deeply 1x or 2x a week during the summer months, and 2x a month rest of the year.



Blue grama grass, *Bouteloua gracilis*. This is a great alternative lawn grass for the Albuquerque area. It's a clumping grass about 12-18" high by 6-8" wide. Beautiful seed heads, look for these to curl in the fall and create a pretty winter lawn. It does well in full sun or part shade, adapting to poor soils. For lawns, I like to seed this with buffalo grass in May for a nice clumping meadow grass. It takes about 2-3 years to fill in completely.

Care and Maintenance: Once established water weekly during the summer for a fresh green look and monthly the rest of the year. This grass will re-seed every year thus filling in any open spaces in the lawn, but regular weeding is critical during the early years.

DESERT ACCENTS



Yucca softleaf, *Yucca recurvifolia*. A great accent plant in a native garden, only needing well-drained soil. This yucca grows to a height of 4' high by 3' wide sending up flower spikes in the spring. Agave, *Agave neomexicana*. The agave is a great sculptural plant. It enjoys well-drained soils and does well in full sun or under the shade of a desert willow. Mulch with gravel to prevent wet feet.

Care and Maintenance: Requires deep monthly watering during the summer with no additional watering during the winter. Remove spent leaves in late winter.



Red yucca, *Hesperaloe parviflora*, grows well in sun or shade, getting 3' high by 4' wide. I use it as an accent plant in the garden. It sends up flower stalks in spring, then fills with red blooms mid to late summer. I like to keep the flower stalks on through winter to add interest to the garden. There is also a yellow flowering variety that does well south of Albuquerque. Desert Four'O'clock, *Mirabilis multiflora* produces a pretty purple trumpet flower perfect for border plantings. It diesback in freezing temperatures. It's spread via seeds so you may find more in your garden year after year.

Care and Maintenance: Once established it thrives with deep watering 2x a month. Late winter pruning of the flower stalks, seed pods and dead growth make this plant look tidy come springtime.



Prickly pear, *Opuntia* Species. This is the quintessential desert plant. If you want a low or no maintenance plant, look no further. There are many types. *O. macrocentra* is purple and *O. engelmannii* is large, growing 4' high by 8' wide. They produce spectacular flowers in early summer. Plant in full sun and any soil, the poorer the better. Want more? Just prune a pad or three, dry them, and bury them 1/2 way down in loosened soil. I like to use the one pictured here, called spineless prickly pear. A word of warning, though. Even though it's called spineless, it does produce barely visible spines that readily attach themselves to you or your kids, and are difficult to find and pull out.

Care and Maintenance: It requires little to no water except for during plant establishment. Remove individual pads from the joint by hand if they need to be pruned. Be sure to wear gloves.

VINES

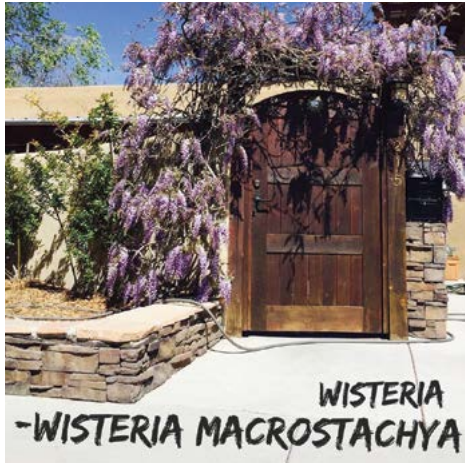


Silver lace vine, *Fallopia baldschuanica*. Silver lace vine is a fast growing, attractive vine laced with small white flowers from early summer to frost; it remains fairly evergreen during winter dormancy. One plant can spread over 20'. This vine does become invasive, but in a good way. Keep other ornamental plants at least 5' away or it will envelop them. I recommend this plant for covering chain link fences, or walls. It is a lightweight vine so it should not damage wire fences. The bright yellow flower is the perennial Goldenrod, a showy long lived polinator.

Care and Maintenance: Water two times a month during summer months and once monthly the rest of the year. Heavily prune well established plants in late winter.



Lady banks rose, *Rosa banksea*. Lady banks rose is a show stopper for a couple weeks in early spring. It's perfect for small narrow places that need screening. It does best in sun/part shade. It's a fantastic climber, only needs a 2' area at its base making it great for tight spaces. Give it a trellis, regular water and watch it go.



Wisteria macrostachya, wisteria. You know Spring has officially arrived when you see this vines flowers. It sends out its blooms before its leaves. Gorgeous for sure for a week or two. Gorgeous purple blooming vine perfect on trellises and arbors. Once the flowers have past it's bright green leaves will provide shade on a pergola all summer long. Deep water 2x a month.

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GLOSSARY

Late winter - February 1st

Deep or deeply water - Deep watering promotes deep rooting which will help plants evade drought.

1x - one time, 2x - two times, etc.

Under plant, understory - planting vegetation underneath a tree or large shrub.

THANK YOU!

I hope you enjoyed this plant book as much as I enjoyed writing it for you. For more great content where this came from visit **mylandscapecoach.com** where you can check out our blog, sign up for our monthly newsletter plus shop all our products and services.

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I look forward to seeing you and your yard! You are well on your way to unearthing your yard's potential.

YOUR LANDSCAPE COACH,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



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