

# ABQ Backyard Refuge Program • [abqBackyardRefuge.org](http://abqBackyardRefuge.org)

## Plant List for the Middle Rio Grande Valley, Albuquerque Metro Area, and East Mountains

All plants are suitable for the Middle Rio Grande Valley and Albuquerque Metro Area.

Plants suitable for the **East Mountains** are marked with: ^

Plants best for **container gardening** are marked with: @

Trees from The Nature Conservancy's **Climate Ready Tree** List are marked with: \*

*Climate ready tree species are those that will thrive in our current and future climate here in Albuquerque, NM as determined by The Nature Conservancy and a coalition of partners.*

*To learn more about these species, and how to choose the right tree for the right location visit:*

<https://www.nature.org/content/dam/tnc/nature/en/documents/Climate-Ready-Trees-Location-Lists-Nov2020.pdf>

To learn more about each of the ABQ Backyard Refuge plants and where they are found around this area, go to our iNaturalist guide:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/guides/13425>



## ABQ Backyard Refuge Program

Scientific Name	Common Name	Approx. Size Height x Width	Deciduous or Evergreen	Light Exposure	Water Use	Flowering and Fruiting Seasons	Habitat Value
<b>DESERT ACCENTS</b>							
<i>Agave havardiana</i> ^	Havard Agave	4' X 4'	Evergreen	Full Sun	Dry RW	Spring-Summer	nectar hummingbirds, bats; larval host; seeds for birds
<i>Agave palmeri</i> ^	Palmer's Agave	3' X 4'	Evergreen	Full Sun	Dry RW	Spring-Summer	nectar hummingbirds, bats; larval host; seeds for birds
<i>Cylindropuntia imbricata</i> ^	Tree / Walkingstick Cholla	8' X 6'	Evergreen	Full Sun	Dry RW	Summer	pollen/nectar bees
<i>Cylindropuntia leptocaulis</i> ^	Desert / Christmas / Pencil Cholla	4' X 6'	Evergreen	Full Sun	Dry RW	Summer	pollen/nectar bees
<i>Cylindropuntia spinosior</i> ^	Cane Cholla	8' X 6'	Evergreen	Full Sun	Dry RW	Summer	pollen/nectar bees; bird nesting site; thrashers and roadrunners both use chollas for nesting sites
<i>Echinocereus coccineus</i> ^@	Scarlet Hedgehog Cactus	10" X 15"	Evergreen	Full Sun	Dry RW	Spring	pollen/nectar bees and hummingbirds
<i>Echinocereus triglochidiatus</i>	Claret Cup	12" X 18"	Evergreen	Full Sun	Dry RW	Spring	pollen/nectar bees and hummingbirds
<i>Fouquieria splendens</i>	Ocotillo	15' X 10'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry RW	Spring-Summer	nectar for hummingbirds, bats
<i>Opuntia cacanapa "ellisiana"</i> @	Spineless Prickly Pear	4' X 5'	Evergreen	Full Sun	Dry RW	Spring	pollen/nectar bees and hummingbirds
<i>Opuntia engelmannii</i> ^@	Desert / Engelmann Prickly Pear	5' X 8'	Evergreen	Full Sun	Dry RW	Spring	pollen/nectar bees and hummingbirds
<i>Opuntia macrocentra</i> ^@	Purple Prickly Pear	3' X 3'	Evergreen	Full Sun	Dry RW	Spring	pollen/nectar bees and hummingbirds
<i>Opuntia phaeacantha</i> ^@	Brown-spined Prickly Pear	3' X 5'	Evergreen	Full Sun	Dry RW	Spring	pollen/nectar bees and hummingbirds
<i>Yucca baccata</i> ^	Datil / Banana Yucca	4' X 5'	Evergreen	Full Sun	Dry RW	Spring	Pronuba moth and hummingbirds
<i>Yucca elata</i> ^	Soaptree Yucca	20' X 5'	Evergreen	Full Sun	Dry RW	Spring	Pronuba moth
<i>Yucca glauca</i> ^	Soapweed Yucca	3' X 3'	Evergreen	Full Sun	Dry RW	Spring	pronuba moth pollinator; larval host for Giant Skipper butterfly
<i>Hesperaloe funifera</i>	Giant / Coahuilian Hesperaloe	6' X 5'	Evergreen	Full Sun	Dry	Summer	nectar for bees and wasps
<i>Agave parryi ssp. neomexicana</i> @	Parry's / Mescal Agave	2' X 2'	Evergreen	Sun/shade	Dry RW	Spring-Summer	nectar hummingbirds, bats; larval host; seeds for birds
<i>Cylindropuntia kleiniae</i> ^	Candle Cholla	8' X 6'	Evergreen	Sun/shade	Dry RW	Summer	pollen/nectar bees

Plants suitable for the East Mountains: ^ Plants for container gardening: @

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<b>DESERT ACCENTS, continued.</b>							
<i>Dasyliirion texanum</i> ^	Texas Sotol	5' X 5'	Evergreen	Sun/shade	Dry RW	Summer	pollen/nectar bees and wasps; bird perch; Say's Phoebes often use sotol as a perch
<i>Dasyliirion wheeleri</i>	Blue Sotol / Desert Spoon	5' X 5'	Evergreen	Sun/shade	Dry RW	Summer	pollen/nectar bees and wasps
<i>Nolina microcarpa</i> ^	Sacahuista / Beargrass	5' X 6'	Evergreen	Sun/shade	Dry RW	Spring-Summer	pollen/nectar bees and wasps
<i>Nolina texana</i> ^	Beargrass	4' X 5'	Evergreen	Sun/shade	Dry RW	Spring-Summer	pollen/nectar bees and wasps
<i>Hesperaloe parviflora</i> ^@	Red/Yellow-flowering Yucca	3' X 4'	Evergreen	Sun/shade	Dry+	Spring-Summer	pollen/nectar hummingbirds, bees
<b>WILDFLOWERS</b>							
<i>Argemone pleiacantha</i> ^	Prickly Poppy	3' X 2'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry RW	Summer	nectar for butterflies; seeds for birds
<i>Berlandiera lyrata</i> ^	Chocolate Flower	1' X 2'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry RW	Spring-Fall	bees, butterflies nectar; seeds for birds
<i>Eriogonum spp.</i> ^	Wild Buckwheat	1' X 18"	Evergreen	Full Sun	Dry RW	Summer-Fall	nectar & pollen butterflies & bees; seeds for birds
<i>Penstemon barbatus</i>	Scarlet Bugler	2' X 2'	Evergreen	Full Sun	Dry RW	Spring	hummingbirds, native bees, seed for birds
<i>Penstemon palmeri</i> ^,+	Palmer Penstemon	4' X 2'	Evergreen	Full Sun	Dry RW	Spring	hummingbirds; hawkmoths; bees (native bees, great for bumble bees)
<i>Scabrethia scabra</i> ^@	Desert Mule's Ear	2' X 3'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry RW	Spring-Summer	butterflies, bees; seed for birds
<i>Senecio flaccidus</i> ^	Silver Groundsel	2' X 2'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry RW	Spring-Fall	butterflies, bees
<i>Sphaeralcea spp.</i> ^	Globemallow	2' X 2'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry RW	Spring-Summer	nectar for bees; larval host for Skipper butterflies
<i>Thymophylla acerosa</i> ^	Wild Marigold	1' X 1'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry RW	Spring-Fall	butterflies, bees
<i>Zinnia grandiflora</i> ^	Desert Zinnia	8" X 16"	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry RW	Summer-Fall	butterflies, bees
<i>Calylophus spp.</i> ^	Sundrops	1' X 2'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry	Spring-Fall	nectar for hawk moths, bees
<i>Datura wrightii</i> ^	Sacred Datura	2' X 6'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry	Summer-Fall	nectar for hummingbirds, bees, and bats
<i>Gaillardia spp.</i> ^@	Blanketflowers	1' X 1'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry	Summer-Fall	butterflies, bumble bees, hummingbirds; seeds for birds
<i>Machaeranthera tanacetifolia</i> ^@	Tansy Aster	1' X 1'	Annual	Full Sun	Dry	Spring-Fall	nectar for bees and butterflies; seed for birds
<i>Melampodium leucanthum</i> ^	Blackfoot Daisy	1' X 1'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry	Spring-Summer	nectar for bees and butterflies; seed for birds
<i>Psilostrophe tagetina</i> ^	Paperflower	16" X 16"	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry	Spring-Fall	butterflies, bees
<i>Thelesperma filifolium</i> ^	Greenthread	18" X 12"	Annual	Full Sun	Dry	Summer	nectar for bees and butterflies; seed for birds
<i>Verbena rigida</i> ^	Sandpaper Verbena	1' X 3'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry	Summer-Fall	butterflies, bees
<i>Agastache rupestris</i> ^@	Licorice Mint	2' X 2'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry+	Summer	hummingbirds and bees
<i>Cleome serrulata</i> ^	Rocky Mountain Bee Plant	3' X 1'	Annual	Full Sun	Dry+	Summer-Fall	nectar and pollen for bees; seeds for birds
<i>Dalea purpurea</i> ^	Purple Prairieclover	2' X 2'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry+	Summer	nectar & pollen for native bees, great for bumble bees; seeds for birds
<i>Engelmannia peristenia</i> ^@	Engelmann Daisy	2' X 18"	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry+	Spring-Fall	nectar & pollen for bees & butterflies; seeds for birds
<i>Epilobium garrettii</i> ^	Hummingbird Plant	2' X 3'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry+	Summer-Fall	nectar for hummingbirds and bees
<i>Helianthus petiolaris</i> ^	Prairie Sunflower	3' X 1'	Annual	Full Sun	Dry+	Summer-Fall	pollen and nectar for bees; seeds for birds; winter cover for birds
<i>Liatriis punctata</i> ^	Gayfeather	2' X 3'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry +	Fall	nectar for butterflies & bees (native bees, great for bumble bees); seeds for birds
<i>Mirabilis multiflora</i> ^	Native Four O'clock	2' X 5'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry +	Spring-Fall	nectar for hawkmoths, hummingbirds; seed for birds

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<b>WILDFLOWERS, continued.</b>							
<i>Origanum species</i> ^@	Oreganos	1' X 2'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry +	Spring-Summer	bees; Culinary herb
<i>Ratibida columnifera</i> ^@	Coneflower	32" X 32"	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry +	Spring-Summer	butterflies, bees; seed for birds
<i>Salvia darcyi</i> ^	Texas Red Sage	30" X 2'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry +	Summer	hummingbirds
<i>Agastache cana</i> ^	Giant Hyssop	2' X 2'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Medium	Summer	nectar for hummingbirds & bees (native bees, great for bumble bees)
<i>Erigeron spp.</i> ^	Fleabane Daisy	1' X 1'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Medium	Spring-Fall	nectar and pollen for bees
<i>Helianthus annuus</i> ^	Sunflower	varies	Deciduous	Full Sun	Medium	Summer-Fall	pollen & nectar for bees; great winter cover & seed for birds. Leave standing until spring, then remove last year's growth
<i>Helianthus maximiliani</i> ^	Maximillian Sunflower	6' X 8'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Medium	Summer-Fall	pollen and nectar for bees; fall / winter seed and cover for birds
<i>Heliomeris multiflora</i> ^	Showy Goldeneye	2' X 1'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Medium	Summer-Fall	pollen and nectar for bees; seeds for birds
<i>Oenothera lindheimeri</i> ^@	Gaura / Lindheimer's Beeblossom	3' X 3'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Medium	Spring-Summer	bees, hawkmoths
<i>Ruta graveolens</i> ^	Rue	2' X 2'	Evergreen	Full Sun	Medium	Summer	bees, host for Swallowtail larva
<i>Verbesina encelioides</i> ^	Crownsbeard Cowpen Daisy	2' X 2'	Annual	Full Sun	Medium	Fall	butterflies, bees; seed for birds
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> ^	Butterflyweed	18" X 18"	Deciduous	Part shade	Moist	Summer	nectar for butterflies; larval food
<i>Aquilegia chrysantha</i> ^@	Golden Columbine	2' X 2'	Deciduous	Shade	Medium	Spring	nectar for hummingbirds and bees; larval host butterflies
<i>Asclepias latifolia</i> ^	Broadleaf Milkweed	18" X 18"	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Dry RW	Summer	nectar for butterflies, native bees, great for bumble bees; larval food
<i>Asclepias subverticillata</i> ^	Horsetail Milkweed	2' X 2'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Dry	Summer	nectar for butterflies, great for bumble bees; larval food
<i>Castilleja integra et al</i> ^	Paintbrush	1' X 1'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Dry	Spring-Fall	nectar for hummingbirds and bees; larval host for Checkerspots
<i>Glandularia bipinnatifida</i>	Prairie Verbena	1' X 18"	Deciduous	Sun/Part shade	Dry	Spring-Fall	butterflies, bees, birds
<i>Conoclinium greggii</i>	Gregg's Mistflower	2' X 2'	Deciduous	Sun/Part shade	Dry+	Spring-Fall	pollen for bees & butterflies
<i>Penstemon strictus</i> ^,+	Rocky Mountain Penstemon	2' X 2'	Evergreen	Sun/shade	Dry +	Spring	hummingbirds; checkerspot larval host; native bees
<i>Achillea millefolium</i> ^@	Yarrow	2' X 2'	Evergreen	Sun/shade	Medium	Summer	nectar for butterflies
<i>Asclepias speciosa</i> ^	Showy Milkweed	2' X 2'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Medium	Summer	nectar for butterflies, native bees, great for bumble bees; larval food
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i> ^	Wild Bergamot	18" X 18"	Annual	Sun/shade	Medium	Summer	bees (native bees, great for bumble bees); Culinary herb
<i>Oenothera macrocarpa</i> ^@,+	Yellow Evening Primrose	1' X 2'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Medium	Spring	nectar for hawkmoths, bees
<i>Salvia azurea var grandiflora</i> ^	Giant Blue Sage	3' X 3'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Medium	Summer-Fall	hummingbirds, bees, great for bumblebees; seeds for birds
<i>Solidago dwarf spp.</i> ^	Dwarf Goldenrod	18" X 2'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Medium	Summer-Fall	butterflies, bees
<i>Symphyotrichum ericoides</i> ^	White Heath Aster	2' X 2'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Medium	Summer-Fall	bees, butterflies nectar; seeds for birds
<b>NATIVE GRASSES</b>							
<i>Aristida purpurea</i> ^	Purple Threeawn	1' X 1'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry RW	Spring	Larval food; seeds for birds through winter
<i>Eriocoma hymenoides</i> ^@	Sand Ricegrass	18" X 18"	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry RW	Spring	Larval food; seeds for birds through winter
<i>Muhlenbergia porteri</i> ^@	Bush Muhly	1' X 2'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry RW	Summer	Larval food; seeds for birds through winter
<i>Pleuraphis jamesii</i> ^	Galleta	14" X 14"	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry RW	Summer-Fall	Larval food; seeds for birds through winter
<i>Sporobolus airoides</i> ^	Alkali Sacaton	2' X 2'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry RW	Summer-Fall	Larval food; seeds for birds through winter

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<b>NATIVE GRASSES, continued.</b>							
<i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i> ^	Sand Dropseed	2' X 2'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry RW	Summer-Fall	Larval food; seeds for birds through winter
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i> ^	Sideoats Grama	30" X 2'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry	Summer	Larval food; seeds for birds through winter
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> ^	Blue Grama	2' X 2'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry	Summer	<b>Larval food; seeds for birds through winter</b>
<i>Stipa tenuissima</i> ^	Threadgrass	2' X 2'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry	Summer-Fall	Larval food; bird seeds; winter cover for birds
<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i> ^	Deer Grass	4' X 4'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry +	Summer-Fall	Larval food; seeds for birds through winter
<i>Muhlenbergia rigida</i> ^@	Purple Muhly	2' X 3'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry +	Summer-Fall	Larval food; seeds for birds through winter
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> ^@	Little Bluestem	2' X 2'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry +	Summer-Fall	Larval food; seeds for birds through winter
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> ^	Indiangrass	4' X 2'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry +	Summer-Fall	Larval food; seeds for birds through winter
<i>Sporobolus wrightii</i> ^	Giant Sacaton	5' X 5'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Medium	Summer-Fall	Larval food; seeds for birds through winter
<i>Panicum virgatum</i> ^	Switchgrass	4' X 3'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Medium	Summer-Fall	Larval food; cover and seeds for birds through winter
<b>SHRUBS</b>							
<i>Ephedra spp.</i> ^	Joint-fir / Mormon Tea	2'+ X 5'+	Evergreen	Full Sun	Dry RW	Winter	cover, nesting for small birds
<i>Ericameria laricifolia</i>	Turpentine Bush	3' X 4'	Evergreen	Full Sun	Dry RW	Fall	butterflies and bees
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i> var. <i>polifolium</i> ^	Flattop Buckwheat	2' X 2'	Evergreen	Full Sun	Dry RW	Summer-Fall	butterflies, bees, bird seeds
<i>Fallugia paradoxa</i> ^	Apache Plume	6' X 7'	Evergreen	Full Sun	Dry RW	Spring-Fall	bees, butterflies; cover and seeds for birds
<i>Larrea tridentata</i>	Creosote Bush	6' X 8'	Evergreen	Full Sun	Dry RW	Spring-Fall	bees; seeds for birds
<i>Rhus microphylla</i> ^	Littleleaf Sumac	8' x 9'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry RW	Spring-Summer	bees; seeds for birds; cover
<i>Rhus trilobata</i> ^	Three-leaf Sumac	6' X 6'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry RW	Spring-Summer	bees; seeds for birds; cover
<i>Viguiera stenoloba</i> (syn: <i>Sidneya tenuifolia</i> )	Skeletonleaf Goldeneye	3' X 4'	Semi- Evergreen	Full Sun	Dry RW	Summer	bees and butterflies
<i>Salvia greggii</i>	Autumn or Cherry Sage	2' X 3'	Semi- Evergreen	Full Sun	Dry+	Spring-Fall	bees and hummingbirds
<i>Salvia mohavensis</i>	Mojave Sage	30" X 3'	Evergreen	Full Sun	Dry+	Spring-Summer	bees and butterflies
<i>Salvia rosmarinus</i>	Rosemary	4' X 4'	Evergreen	Full Sun	Medium	Spring-Fall	bees (native bees, great for bumble bees); Culinary herb
<i>Prunus pumila</i> var. <i>besseyi</i> ^	Western Sand Cherry	4' X 4'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Medium	Spring-Summer	bees; fruits for birds; cover
<i>Quercus turbinella</i> ^	Shrub Live Oak	10'+ X 10'+	Evergreen	Full Sun	Medium	Summer	bees, butterfly larval food; acorns for birds; cover
<i>Salvia officinalis</i> ^	Garden Sage	2' X 2'	Evergreen	Full Sun	Medium	Spring	bees; Culinary herb
<i>Fendlera rupicola</i> ^	Cliff Fendlerbush	4' X 4'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Dry +	Spring	bees; potential bird nest sites as it gets larger.
<i>Garrya wrightii</i> ^	Wright's Silktassel	10' X 10'	Evergreen	Sun/shade	Dry+	Fall	birds fruits
<i>Salvia lycioides</i> x <i>greggii</i> ^@	Ultra-Violet Sage	2' X 2'	Semi- Evergreen	Sun/shade	Dry+	Spring-Fall	bees and hummingbirds
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i> ^	Snowberry	3' X 3'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Medium	Summer- Winter	bee, butterfly nectar and larval food; fruit for birds
<i>Salix exigua</i> ^	Coyote Willow	8' X 5'+	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Moist	Spring	Food (buds and new leaves) and cover for birds, early source of pollen for native bees; potential bird nest sites as it gets larger.

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<b>TREES</b>		*more details about Climate Ready Species on the last page					
<i>Chilopsis linearis</i> ^*	<b>Desert Willow</b>	20' X 25'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry RW	Summer-Fall	hummingbirds and orioles; native solitary bees, bumble bees, wasps *Climate Ready Species
<i>Juniperus monosperma</i> ^*	<b>Oneseed Juniper</b>	15' X 15'	Evergreen	Full Sun	Dry RW	Spring-Winter	butterfly larval host; fruits for birds; cover and nesting *Climate Ready Species
<i>Prosopis pubescens</i> *	<b>Screwbean Mesquite</b>	20' X 20'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry RW	Spring-Fall	nectar for honey bees and native solitary bees, and butterflies *Climate Ready Species
<i>Morus microphylaa</i> *	<b>Littleleaf Mulberry</b>	25' X 25'	Deciduous	Full sun	Dry	Spring-Summer	fruits for birds, squirrels, raccoons, foxes and other wildlife *Climate Ready Species
<i>Parkinsonia Cercidium</i> e.g. <i>Cercidium texanum</i>	<b>Palo Verde Hybrids</b>	20' X 20'	Evergreen	Full sun	Dry	Spring-Summer	bees pollinate; browse for deer, bighorn sheep, jackrabbits
<i>Platanus mexicana</i> *	<b>Mexican Sycamore</b>	50' X 30'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry	Spring-Fall	Swallowtail larval food; seed for bird *Climate Ready Species
<i>Prosopis velutina</i> *	<b>Velvet Mesquite</b>	20' X 20'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry	Spring-Fall	nectar for honey bees, native solitary bees, and butterflies; larval host for Marine blue butterflies; seeds for birds an mammals *Climate Ready Species
<i>Prosopis glandulosa</i> *	<b>Honey Mesquite</b>	25' X 30'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry +	Spring-Fall	nectar for honey bees, native solitary bees, and butterflies; larval host Marine blue, Reickers blue, and long- tailed skipper; seeds for birds and mammals *Climate Ready Species"
<i>Fraxinus cuspidata</i> ^	<b>Fragrant Ash</b>	20' X 20'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry +	Spring-Fall	Swallowtail larval host *Climate Ready Species
<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> ^	<b>Juniper Trees, females only</b>	25' X 20'	Evergreen	Full Sun	Dry +	Spring-Winter	butterfly larval host; fruits for birds; cover and nesting
<i>Juniperus deppeana</i> ^*	<b>Alligator Juniper</b>	60' X 40'	Evergreen	Full Sun	Dry +	Spring-Winter	butterfly larval host; fruits for birds; cover and nesting
<i>Leucaena retusa</i> *	<b>Golden Ball Leadtree</b>	15' X 15'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry +	Summer	bees, butterflies *Climate Ready Species
<i>Sambucus mexicana</i>	<b>Mexican Elder</b>	20' X 25'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry +	Spring-Summer	Bee and butterfly nectar; fruits for birds; cover
<i>Sapindus saponaria var.</i> <i>drummondii</i> ^*	<b>Western Soapberry</b>	30' X 30'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry +	Spring-Summer	bee, native wasp nectar; roosting, nesting; cover *Climate Ready Species
<i>Arbutus xalapensis</i> *	<b>Texas Madrone</b>	30' X 30'	Evergreen	Full Sun	Medium	Spring-Summer	"bees and butterflies; cover and nesting for birds *Climate Ready Species
<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	<b>Catalpa</b>	40' X 40'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Medium	Spring	bees, hummingbirds; roosting and nesting
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i> ^	<b>Common Hackberry</b>	40' X 40'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Medium	Spring-Summer	butterfly larval host; seeds, roosting, nesting cover for birds
<i>Cotinus obovatus</i> ^*	<b>American Smoketree</b>	30' X 30'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Medium	Summer-Fall	honey bees and butterflies *Climate Ready Species
<i>Cupressus arizonica</i>	<b>Arizona Cypress</b>	50' X 30'	Evergreen	Full Sun	Medium	Spring-Fall	butterfly larval host; cover, nesting; seed for birds
<i>Cydonia oblonga</i> ^	<b>Quince</b>	15' X 15'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Medium	Spring-Summer	honey bees, butterflies; fruits for wildlife
<i>Diospyros kaki</i> *	<b>Japanese Persimmon</b>	30' X 20'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Medium	Spring-Fall	bees; fruits for wildlife *Climate Ready Species
<i>Diospyros texana</i> *	<b>Texas Persimmon</b>	15' X 15'	Deciduous	Full sun	Medium	Spring-Fall	bee nectar; Gray Hairstreak & Henry's elfin larval host; fruit for birds *Climate Ready Species
<i>Juglans microcarpa</i> ^	<b>Little Walnut</b>	40' X 40'	Deciduous	Full sun	Medium	Spring-Fall	Hairstreak larval host; nuts for squirrels, raccoons, other wildlife
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> *	<b>Eastern Red Cedar</b>	60' X 40'	Evergreen	Full Sun	Medium	Spring-Winter	"Juniper Hairstreak larval host; roosting/nesting; browse; fruits eaten by cedar waxwings *Climate Ready Species

Plants suitable for the East Mountains: ^ Plants for container gardening: @

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Approx. Size Height x Width	Deciduous or Evergreen	Light Exposure	Water Use	Flowering and Fruiting Seasons	Habitat Value
<b>TREES, continued.</b>		*more details about Climate Ready Species on the last page					
<i>Pinus aristata</i> ^	<b>Bristlecone Pine</b>	30' X 20'	Evergreen	Full Sun	Medium	Spring-Winter	Elfin butterfly larval hosts; seeds for birds; cover and nesting
<i>Pinus edulis</i> ^	<b>Piñon Pine</b>	30' X 20'	Evergreen	Full Sun	Medium	Spring-Winter	Elfin butterfly larval hosts; seeds for birds; cover and nesting
<i>Pinus eldarica</i> *	<b>Afghan Pine</b>	40' X 18'	Evergreen	Full Sun	Medium	Spring-Winter	Elfin butterfly larval hosts; seeds for birds, cover, and nesting *Climate Ready Species
<i>Pinus flexilis</i> ^	<b>Limber Pine</b>	30' X 20'	Evergreen	Full Sun	Medium	Spring-Winter	Elfin butterfly larval hosts; seeds for birds; cover and nesting
<i>Pinus pinea</i> *	<b>Italian Stone Pine</b>	60' X 50'	Evergreen	Full Sun	Medium	Spring-Winter	Elfin butterfly larval hosts; seeds for birds; cover and nesting *Climate Ready Species
<i>Pistacia chinensis</i> ^*	<b>Chinese Pistache</b>	60' X 60'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Medium	Spring-Fall	seeds for White-wing Dove, other birds *Climate Ready Species
<i>Pistacia vera</i> *	<b>Pistachio</b>	25' X 25'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Medium	Spring-Summer	nuts for birds, other wildlife *Climate Ready Species
<i>Punica granatum</i> *	<b>Pomegranate</b>	20' X 15'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Medium	Summer-Fall	nectar for honey bees, hummingbirds; fruit/seed eaten by birds, mammals; cover *Climate Ready Species
<i>Ulmus X 'Frontier'</i> ^*	<b>Frontier Elm</b>	40' X 30'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Medium	Spring-Summer	butterfly larval food; seeds for birds; cover *Climate Ready Species
<i>Ulmus X 'Morton' Accolade</i> ^*	<b>Accolade Elm</b>	40' X 30'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Medium	Spring-Summer	"butterfly larval food; seeds for birds; cover *Climate Ready Species
<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> *	<b>Lacebark Elm</b>	40' X 40'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Medium	Spring-Summer	""Comma, Question Mark and Angelwing butterfly larval food; cover *Climate Ready Species
<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i> *	<b>Chaste Tree</b>	20' X 20'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Medium	Summer-Fall	nectar for native Solitary bees, bumble bees, honey bees, butterflies, fruits for birds; cover *Climate Ready Species
<i>Zelkova serrata</i> *	<b>Japanese Zelkova</b>	70' X 70'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Medium	Spring-Summer	butterfly larval food; nesting, roosting, seeds for birds; cover *Climate Ready Species
<i>Ziziphus jujuba</i> ^	<b>Jujube</b>	30' X 25'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Medium	Spring-Fall	"bee nectar, Syrphid flies, wasps; fruits for birds and mammals; cover *Climate Ready Species
<i>Platycladus species</i> ^	<b>Arborvitae</b>	15'+ X 12'+	Evergreen	Full Sun	Medium+	Summer- Winter	butterfly larval food; nesting, roosting, seeds for birds
<i>Populus acuminata</i> ^	<b>Mountain / Lanceleaf Cottonwood</b>	50' X 50'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Medium+	Spring-Fall	Swallowtail larval food; insects for many birds; nesting, roosting
<i>Populus deltoides ssp. wislizeni</i> ^*	<b>Valley Cottonwood</b>	50' X 60'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Medium+	Spring-Fall	Swallowtail larval food; insects for many birds; nesting, roosting *Climate Ready Species
<i>Prunus virginiana melanocarpa</i> ^	<b>Chokecherry</b>	20' X 20'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Medium+	Spring-Summer	nectar bees; fruit birds; Admiral butterfly larval host
<i>Acer saccharum var. grandidentatum</i> ^	<b>Bigtooth Maple</b>	25' X 25'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Moist	Spring-Summer	nesting, roosting for birds; squirrels eat seeds; cover *Climate Ready Species
<i>Carya illinoensis</i> *	<b>Pecan</b>	70' X 40'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Moist	Spring-Summer	bees and butterflies; nuts for deer, raccoon, fox, birds; host plant for hairstreak butterflies *Climate Ready Species
<i>Lagerstroemia indica x fauriei</i> *	<b>Crape Myrtle</b>	15' X 15'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Moist	Summer	hummingbirds, honey bees, native solitary bees, and butterflies *Climate Ready Species
<i>Malus cultivars</i> ^	<b>Crabapple</b>	varies	Deciduous	Full Sun	Moist	Spring-Winter	nectar for bees (native bees, great for bumble bees); butterfly larval host; fruits for birds; cover and nesting
<i>Platanus wrightii</i>	<b>Arizona Sycamore</b>	60' X 70'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Moist	Spring-Fall	Swallowtail larval food

Plants suitable for the East Mountains: ^ Plants for container gardening: @

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<b>TREES, continued.</b>		*more details about Climate Ready Species on the last page					
<i>Populus deltoides</i> *	<b>Eastern Cottonwood</b>	50' X 60'	Deciduous	Full sun	Moist	Spring-Fall	Swallowtail, Viceroy larval food; insects for many birds; nesting, roosting *Climate Ready Species
<i>Quercus oblongifolia</i> *	<b>Blue Live Oak</b>	25' X 20'	Evergreen	Sun/shade	Dry	Spring-Fall	butterfly larval food; deer browse; acorns for birds, other wildlife; nesting for birds; cover *Climate Ready Species
<i>Quercus suber</i> *	<b>Cork Oak</b>	50' X 50'	Evergreen	Sun/shade	Dry	Spring-Fall	butterfly larval food; deer browse; acorns for birds, other wildlife; cover *Climate Ready Species
<i>Forestiera neomexicana</i> <i>syn: pubescens var. pubescens</i> ^	<b>New Mexico Olive</b>	15' X 15'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Dry +	Spring-Winter	honey bee nectar; native solitary bees; fruit for songbirds *Climate Ready Species
<i>Quercus grisea</i> ^	<b>Gray Oak</b>	30' X 30'	Evergreen	Sun/shade	Dry +	Spring-Fall	butterfly larval food; acorns for birds; cover
<i>Rhus lanceolata</i> *	<b>Prairie Flameleaf Sumac</b>	20' X 20'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Dry +	Spring-Fall	butterfly larval food: Hairstreaks; native solitary bees; seeds for birds; cover *Climate Ready Species
<i>Sophora secundiflora</i>	<b>Texas Mountain Laurel</b>	15' X 15'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Dry+	Spring	butterflies, bees, larval host, nesting, cover - seeds are poisonous *Climate Ready Species
<i>Cercis orbiculata (syn. Occidentalis)</i> ^*	<b>Western Redbud</b>	10' X 12'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Medium	Spring	Bumble bees, native solitary bees, wasps, syrphid flies, butterflies, Elfin butterflies; bird roosting and nesting *Climate Ready Species
<i>Cercis canadensis var. mexicana</i> ^*	<b>Mexican Redbud</b>	15' X 12'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Medium	Spring	Bumble bees, native solitary bees, wasps, syrphid flies, butterflies, Elfin butterflies; bird roosting and nesting *Climate Ready Species
<i>Cercis canadensis var. texensis</i> ^*	<b>Texas Redbud</b>	15' X 12'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Medium	Spring	Bumble bees, native solitary bees, wasps, syrphid flies, butterflies, Elfin butterflies; bird roosting and nesting *Climate Ready Species
<i>Cercis reniformis texensis</i> ^*	<b>Oklahoma Redbud</b>	15' X 12'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Medium	Spring	Bumble bees, native solitary bees, wasps, syrphid flies, butterflies, Elfin butterflies; bird roosting and nesting *Climate Ready Species
<i>Crataegus ambigua</i> ^*	<b>Russian Hawthorn</b>	20' X 20'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Medium	Spring-Winter	Bee nectar/pollen; Hairstreaks and Viceroy larval host; fruit for birds *Climate Ready Species
<i>Ficus carica 'Mission'</i> *	<b>Black Mission Fig</b>	20' X 20'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Medium	Spring-Fall	Gall wasp; fruits for squirrels, raccoons, deer, birds
<i>Prunus americana</i> ^	<b>American Plum</b>	20' X 20'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Medium	Spring-Summer	Bumble bees, solitary bees, honey bees, wasps, syrphid flies, butterflies; fruits for birds and people
<i>Prunus armeniaca</i> ^	<b>Apricot</b>	20' X 20'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Medium	Spring-Summer	Bumble bees, solitary bees, honey bees, wasps, syrphid flies; fruits for birds and people
<i>Prunus mexicana</i> *	<b>Mexican Plum</b>	20' X 20'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Medium	Spring-Summer	Bumble bees, solitary bees, honey bees, wasps, syrphid flies; larval host for Swallowtail and Viceroy butterflies, cecopia moth; fruits for birds and mammals *Climate Ready Species
<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i> ^	<b>Hoptree</b>	20' X 20'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Medium	Spring-Summer	nectar bees; seeds eaten by birds and small mammals; cover
<i>Quercus arizonica</i> *	<b>Arizona White Oak</b>	40' X 40'	Evergreen	Sun/shade	Medium	Spring-Fall	butterfly larval food: Short-tailed skipper, Meridean duskywing; deer browse; acorns for birds, other wildlife *Climate Ready Species"
<i>Quercus buckleyi</i> ^	<b>Texas Red Oak</b>	40' X 40'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Medium	Spring-Fall	butterfly larval food: Skippers, Hairstreaks; acorns and nesting for birds
<i>Quercus fusiformis</i> *	<b>Escarpment / Texas Live Oak</b>	25' X 30'	Evergreen	Sun/shade	Medium	Spring-Summer	butterfly larval food: Skippers, Hairstreaks, Arizona Sister; acorns for birds; cover *Climate Ready Species
<i>Quercus gambelii</i> ^	<b>Gambel Oak</b>	25' X 25'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Medium	Spring-Fall	butterfly larval food; acorns for birds, nesting for birds; cover

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<b>TREES, continued.</b>		*more details about Climate Ready Species on the last page					
<i>Quercus gravesii</i> *	<b>Chisos Red Oak</b>	25' X 25'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Medium	Spring-Fall	butterfly larval food; acorns & cover for birds; *Climate Ready Species
<i>Quercus virginiana</i> *	<b>Southern Live Oak</b>	50' X 50'	Evergreen	Sun/shade	Medium	Spring-Fall	butterfly larval food; deer browse; acorns for birds, other wildlife; cover *Climate Ready Species
<i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i> *	<b>Chinquapin Oak</b>	40' X 40'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Medium	Spring-Fall	"butterfly larval food; acorns for birds, nesting for birds; cover *Climate Ready Species
<i>Styphnolobium japonicum</i> ^	<b>Japanese Pagoda Tree / Scholar Tree</b>	35' X 35'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Medium	Summer- Winter	Bee nectar; roosting, nesting; cover
<i>Cedrus deodara</i> ^*	<b>Deodar Cedar</b>	50' X 30'	Evergreen	Sun/shade	Moist	Spring-Winter	butterfly larval host; fruits, cover & nesting for birds *Climate Ready Species
<i>Cedrus atlantica</i> ^*	<b>Atlas cedar</b>	60' X 40'	Evergreen	Sun/shade	Moist	Spring-Winter	butterfly larval host; fruits for birds; cover and nesting *Climate Ready Species
<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i> ^	<b>Thornless Cockspur Hawthorn</b>	15' X 15'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Moist	Spring-Winter	Bee nectar/pollen; Hairstreak larval host; fruit for birds
<i>Crataegus phaenopyrum</i> ^	<b>Washington Hawthorn</b>	20' X 20'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Moist	Spring-Winter	Bee nectar/pollen; Hairstreak larval host; fruit for birds
<i>Salix goodingii</i> *	<b>Goodding's Willow</b>	40' X 25'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Moist	Spring-Summer	"butterfly/moth larval host: Mourning cloak; browse for deer; cover & nesting for birds *Climate Ready Species
<i>Taxodium mucronatum</i> *	<b>Montezuma Cypress</b>	70' X 35'	Evergreen	Sun/shade	Moist	Spring-Fall	roosting, nesting for birds; cover *Climate ready specie
<b>VINES</b>							
<i>Polygonum aubertii</i> ^	<b>Silver Lacevine</b>	Climbing X 40'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Dry +	Spring-Fall	nectar for bees, parasitic wasps
<i>Campsis radicans</i> ^	<b>Trumpet Vine</b>	Climbing X 40'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Medium+	Summer	hummingbirds, bees and bats
<i>Vitis cultivars</i>	<b>Table Grapes</b>	Climbing X 30'	Deciduous	Full Sun	Medium+	Spring-Fall	nectar for bees; fruit for birds
<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	<b>Passionflower</b>	Climbing X 15'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Dry +	Summer	butterfly larval host
<i>Rosa banksiae</i> ^	<b>Rose Lady Banks</b>	Climbing X 40'	Evergreen	Sun/shade	Dry +	Spring-Winter	cover for birds; nectar for butterflies bees (native bees, great for bumble bees)
<i>Clematis ligusticifolia</i> ^	<b>Western White Clematis</b>	Climbing X 15'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Medium	Spring-Summer	Native bee nectar
<i>Parthenocissus vitacea</i> ^	<b>Woodbine</b>	Climbing X 40'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Medium	Spring-Summer	nectar for bees; fruit for birds
<i>Periploca graeca</i> ^	<b>Silk vine</b>	Climbing X 40'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Medium	Spring-Summer	nectar and larval host for butterflies
<i>Vitis arizonica</i> ^	<b>Canyon Grape</b>	<b>Climbing X 20'</b>	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Medium	Spring-Summer	<b>nectar for bees; fruit for birds</b>
<i>Wisteria spp.</i> ^	<b>Wisteria</b>	Climbing X 20'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Medium	Spring-Summer	nectar for bees; larval food for Skipper butterflies

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<b>VINES, continued.</b>							
<i>Humulus lupulus var. neomexicanus</i> ^	Common Hop	Climbing X 6'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Medium+	Summer	bees, butterfly larval host
<i>Rosa hybrid and species climbers</i> ^	Climbing Roses	Climbing X 15'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Medium+	Spring-Fall	nectar for bees and butterflies
<i>Clematis hybrids</i> ^	Clematis	Climbing X 10'	Deciduous	Sun/shade	Moist	Spring-Summer	Bee, butterfly nectar
<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i> ^	Coral Honeysuckle	Climbing X 8'	Deciduous	Shade/part sun	Medium	Spring-Summer	hummingbirds and bees (native bees, great for bumble bees)

**ABQ Backyard Refuge Program Plant List for the Middle Rio Grande Valley, Albuquerque Metro Area, and the East Mountains**

All plants are suitable for the Middle Rio Grande Valley and Albuquerque Metro Area.

Plants suitable for the **East Mountains** are marked with: ^ Plants suitable for container gardening: @

Tree species from The Nature Conservancy's **Climate Ready Tree** List are marked with: \*

*Climate ready trees are both native and introduced species that will thrive in our current and future climate here in Albuquerque, NM as determined by The Nature Conservancy and a coalition of partners. To learn more about these species, and how to choose the right tree for the right location download the full list at:*

<https://friendsofvalledeoro.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Climate-Ready-Trees-Location-Lists-Nov2020.pdf>

Visit iNaturalist for a guide with pictures and the geographic distribution of each species across our area:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/guides/13425>

You can find a guide to the plants in the Backyard Refuge Learning Garden at the Valle de Oro NWR visitor center here:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/guides/15912>

For more resources, visit: **abqBackyardRefuge.org**



# Backyard Refuge Plant List General Notes

This list contains information about a few hundred plants that can be a great addition to your backyard refuge. The plants are grouped as follows: **Desert Accents, Wildflowers, Native Grasses, Shrubs, Trees, and Vines.**

They are sorted by sunlight requirements and then by water needs, from those who can often survive on rainwater alone, to those who require a moist environment.

Grasses are larval hosts for butterflies and seed for over-wintering birds; shrubs provide structure, cover and nesting sites as well as nectar and seeds; trees and vines provide layers of canopy cover in addition to specific foods.

Deciduous indicates **perennials** that die back to the ground when dormant; **annuals** indicate plants that generally live for one growing season and often self-sow under favorable conditions.

Approximate sizes are based on suggested watering for 10 + years in the garden. Since wildlife need open spaces as well as more densely planted areas, spacing of plants should be based on mature sizes to avoid diminishing the habitat value of the garden as plants mature.

A mix of deciduous and evergreen plants allow winter cover and increases diversity of visiting and year-round wildlife.

**Light exposure** describes which plants can provide understory cover and which are the canopy layer.

**Water use** varies with the soil and exposure (plants need more water on sunny, windy sites); plants may take less water when planted in protected, shady spaces. Generally, larger plants will need water over a wider area as they develop a larger canopy. Rainwater harvesting, directing stormwater into streambeds and basins is beneficial to most plants in the landscape, but only those noted as requiring the most moisture and those native to streambank ecosystems will tolerate standing water for more than a few hours in poorly draining soils.

**Dry RW** are plants that will thrive on rainwater with little or no irrigation once they are well rooted (typically after 3 or more growing seasons). They may still require supplemental water in times of extreme drought and heat.

**Dry** are plants that prefer periodic soaking to a depth of 24 to 30 inches monthly during the growing season once well-rooted.

**Dry +** are plants that might need watering twice monthly in summer especially when rainfall is lacking or in sandy soils.

**Medium** are plants that may need water every two weeks, May through August, monthly or less during cooler weather.

**Medium +** are plants that may need water every two weeks April through September, monthly while dormant.

**Moist** are plants that are native along streams and/or at higher/cooler elevations that may need watering to a depth of 24 to 30 inches weekly, May through August, every two weeks in spring and fall and monthly in winter.

**Seasonal Flowering and Fruiting** notes help guide you in providing the most diverse year-round habitat.

**Habitat Value** is a short list of possible visitors/residents the plant will attract to your backyard refuge.

