



Colonia Encantada Homeowner Association Plant Palette



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INTRODUCTION

Plants perform vital functions in a landscape. Large plants may screen unsightly views or provide desired shade. An accent plant with a strong form or silhouette may be used to create a focal point or complement the architecture of a site. Groundcovers decrease weed growth, prevent erosion, and help lower ambient temperature.

Plants also increase the beauty of a site. Examples of some basic aesthetic principles commonly applied are:

- Combining plant types to create a mass of foliage
- Creating contrast between colors of flowers or leaves
- Creating contrast against other materials such as walls.

The plants recommended in this guide are chosen to complement the Mediterranean-influenced architecture and existing plants at Colonia Encantada. They are grouped by the type of sun exposure in which they thrive.

However, plant success depends on more than exposure. Soil quality, drainage, and irrigation scheduling significantly influence plant health. It is recommended to get soil testing done on planting beds if they are less than successful, to identify any lacking or excess soil nutrients.

NOTE

Many of the plants in this book--especially trees--can thrive in a variety of exposures. For this reason, they may be included in multiple sections.

TERMS TO KNOW

Exposure: The amount and intensity of sunlight that a particular location gets. Depends on adjacent buildings, trees, etc.

Northern exposure:
Shade in the winter,
midday sun in the summer.

Western exposure:
Intense sun in the
hottest part of
the day.



Eastern exposure:
Morning sun,
afternoon shade.
“Part sun.”

Southern exposure:
All-day direct sunlight.
“Full sun.”

TERMS TO KNOW

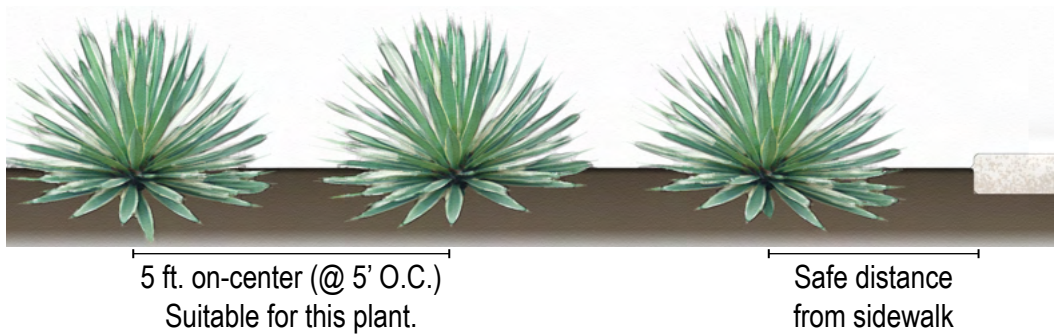
Reflected heat: Heat that is reflected off pavement or walls. Increases the temperature. Common in western exposures.

Dappled Shade: Light shade, such as shade provided by a tree or lattice. Can reduce the intensity of afternoon sun.

Cultivar: Refers to a cultivated variety of a plant species. Like a breed of dog, except a plant.

On-center spacing (O.C.): How far apart plants are planted, measured from the center or trunk of the plant. Proper spacing depends on the plant's mature size, and it gives plants room to reach their natural size and shape. Having a bit of space between plants makes maintenance easier and can prevent moisture buildup that may lead to fungal infections or other plant diseases.

This guide provides recommended minimum on-center (O.C.) spacing. However, there are a few situations in which it is appropriate to space plants more closely together. To create a hedge, shrubs may be placed more closely together and allowed to grow into a continuous mass. Similarly, it may be desirable to completely blanket the ground with a continuous mass of groundcover.



DEALING WITH EASTERN EXPOSURES

Characteristics of this exposure:

- The eastern side of a building or tall wall, which allows direct morning sun but blocks afternoon shade
- OR a spot that gets direct morning sun and afternoon shade from an overhead shade structure or a dense tree canopy (e.g. a mature elm or fig tree)
- OR a spot under a tree with an airy canopy that lets dappled light in all day (e.g. a palo verde or a mesquite)

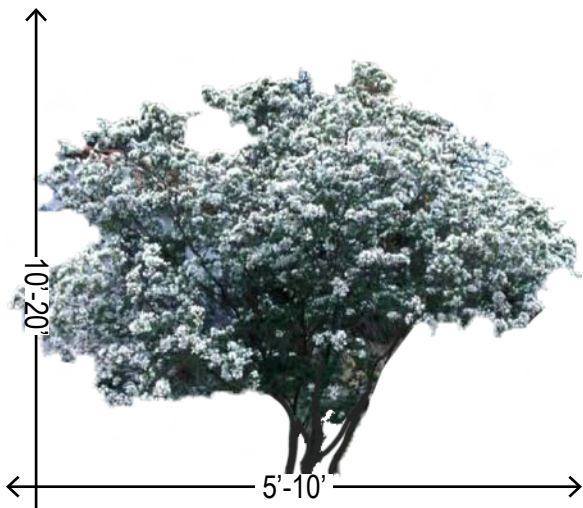
Because the afternoon summer sun is so intense in Phoenix, some plants need protection from it even though they tolerate full-day sun in other climates. Those plants tend to do well in eastern exposures or light shade exposures.

If a spot gets morning shade but afternoon sun, it needs plants that can tolerate the intense afternoon summer sun. Refer to the Western Exposure section for plants that do well in this condition.

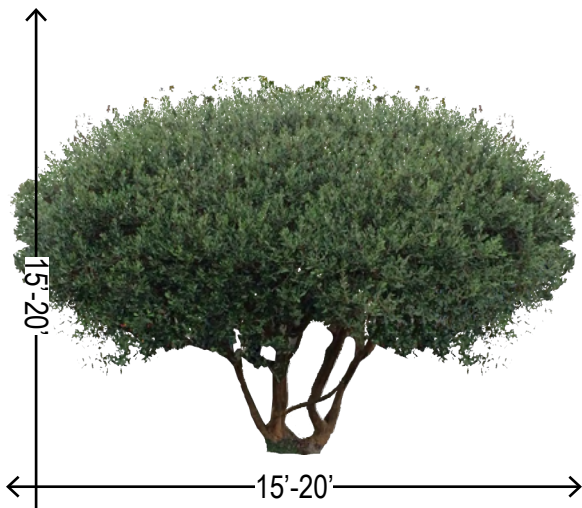
Above left: An existing eastern exposure.

Above right: Dwarf bottlebrush is included to add color. Totem pole cactus is added as a vertical accent to contrast with the lower, shrubbier plants.

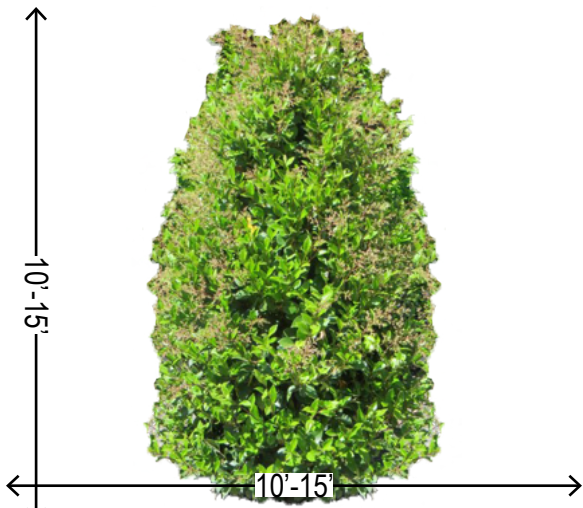
TREES



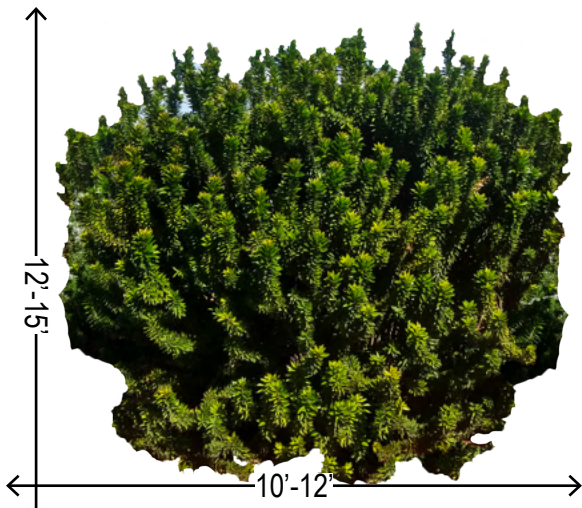
Anacacho Orchid | *Bauhinia lunarioides*
Space at 15' O. C | Use as focal space.



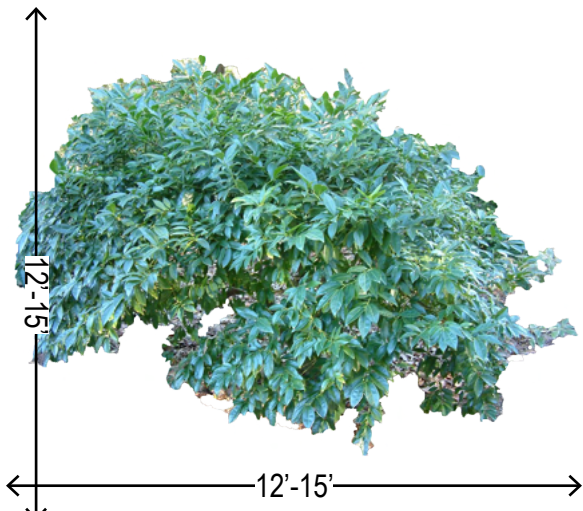
Pineapple Guava | *Feijoa sellowiana*
Space at 10'-18' O.C. | Use tree form



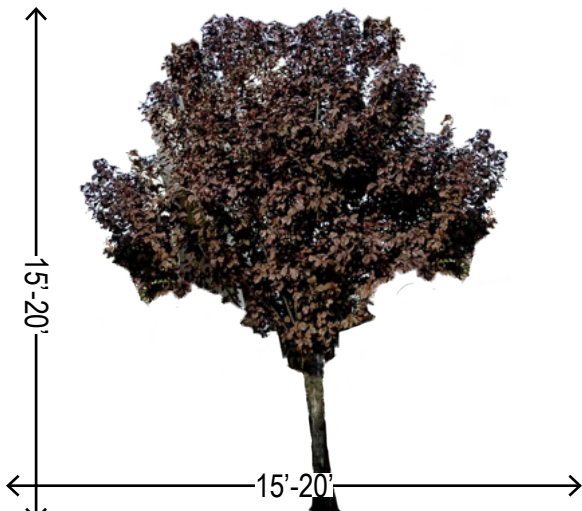
Japanese Privet | *Ligustrum japonicum*
Space at 15'-18' O. C. | Pruned as a tree or hedge



Twisted Myrtle | *Myrtus 'Boetica'*
Space at 12' O.C.. | Use as focal point



Laurel-Leaf | *Cocculus laurifolius*
Space at 15'-18' O. C. | Pruned as a tree

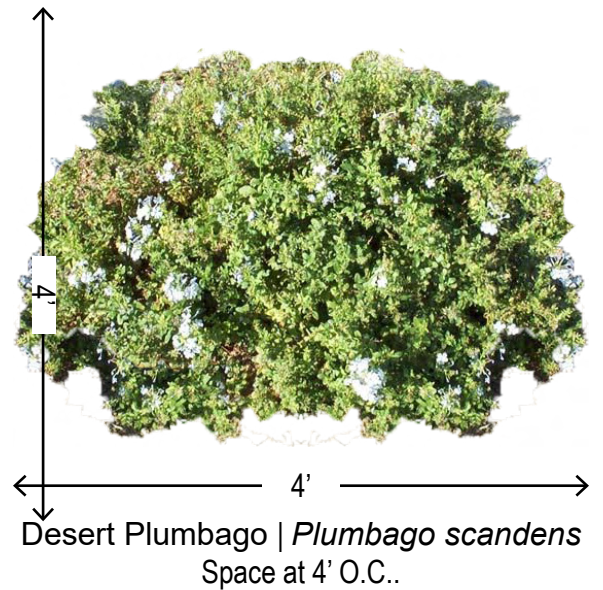
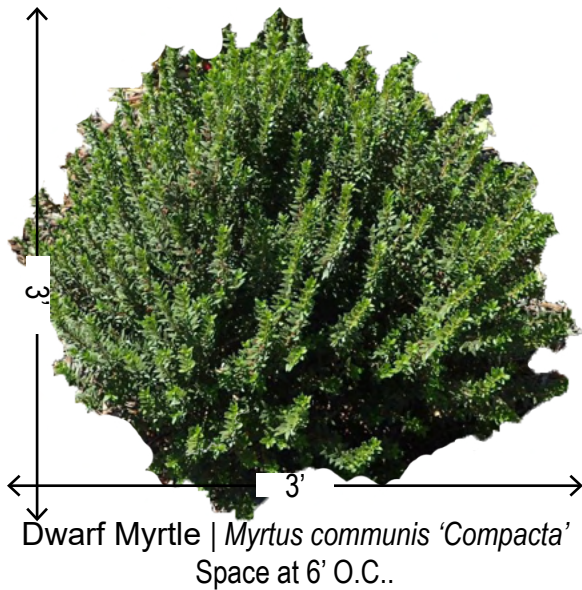
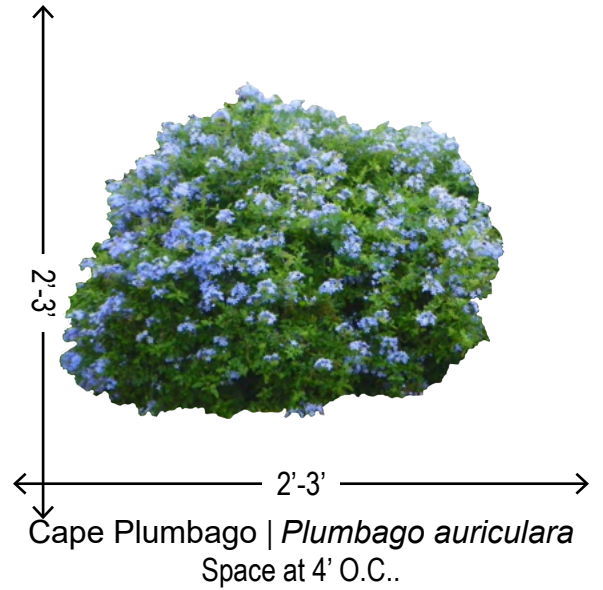
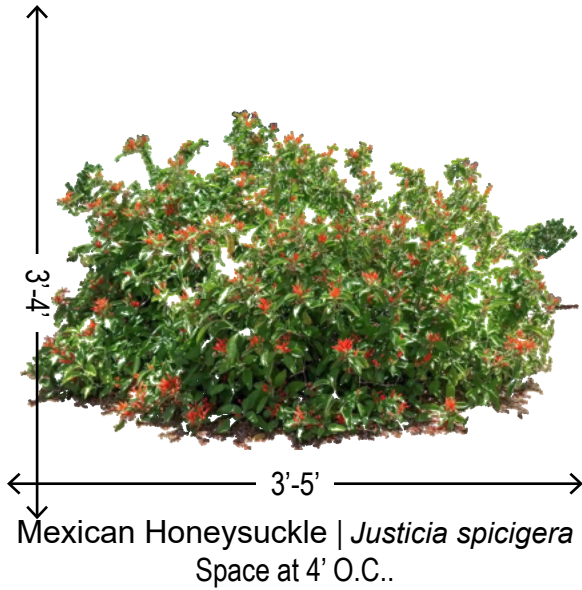
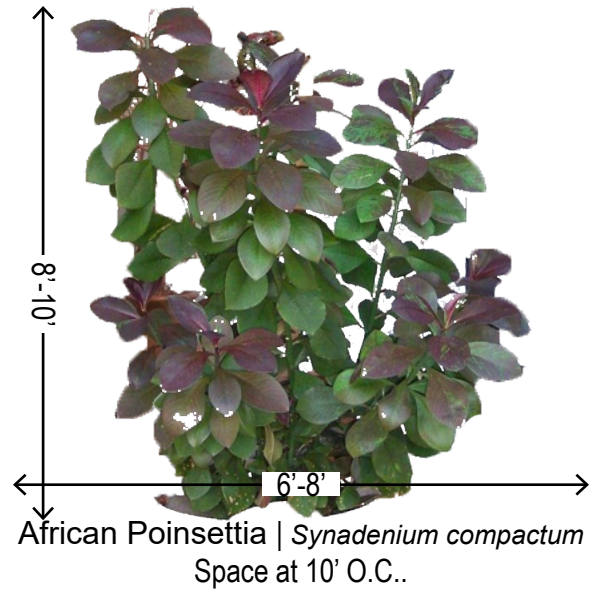
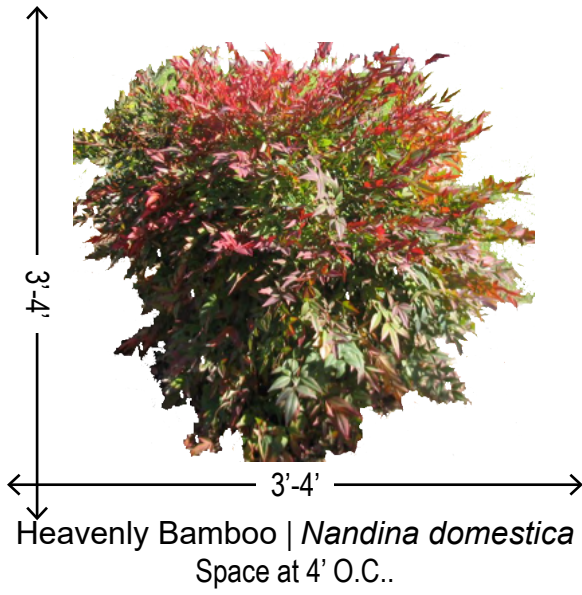


Purple-Leaf Plum | *Prunus cerasifera*
Space at 10' O. C. | Avoid large cultivars

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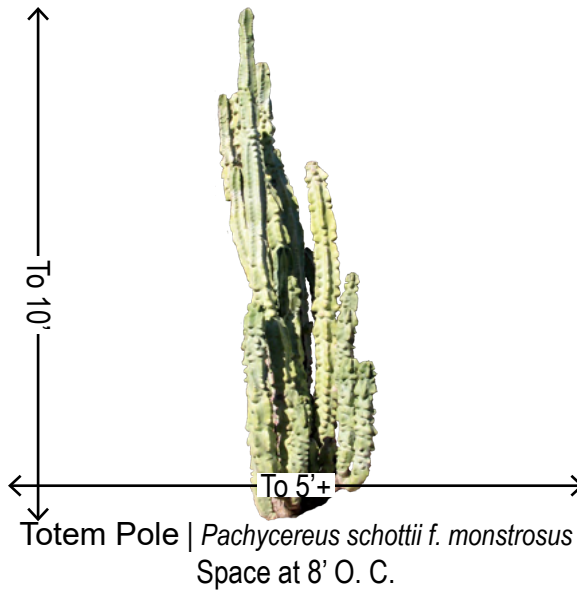
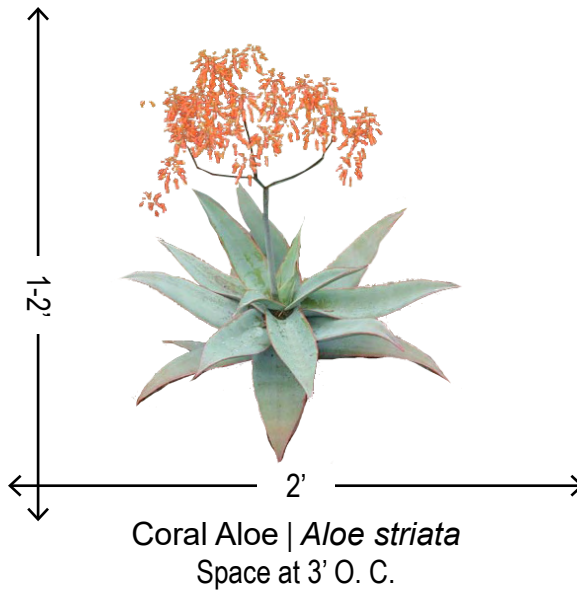
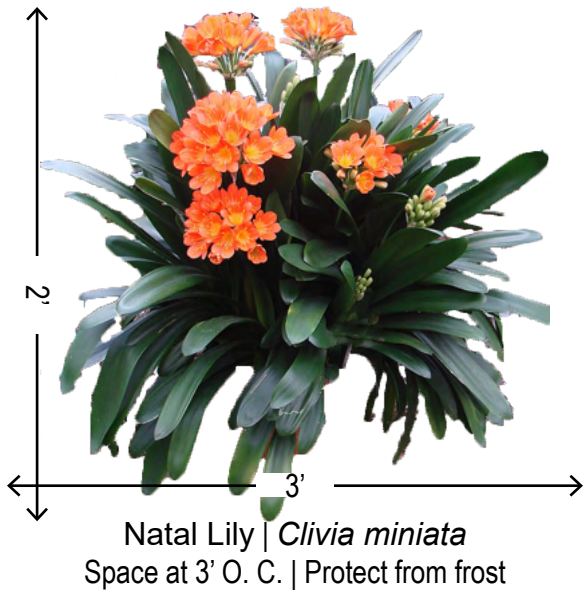
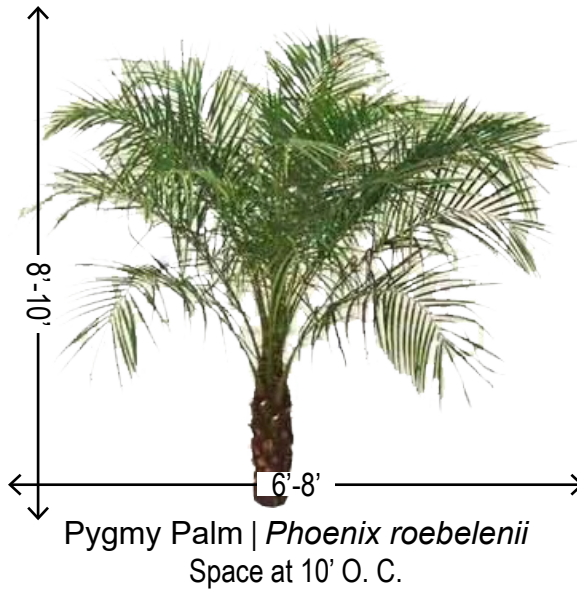
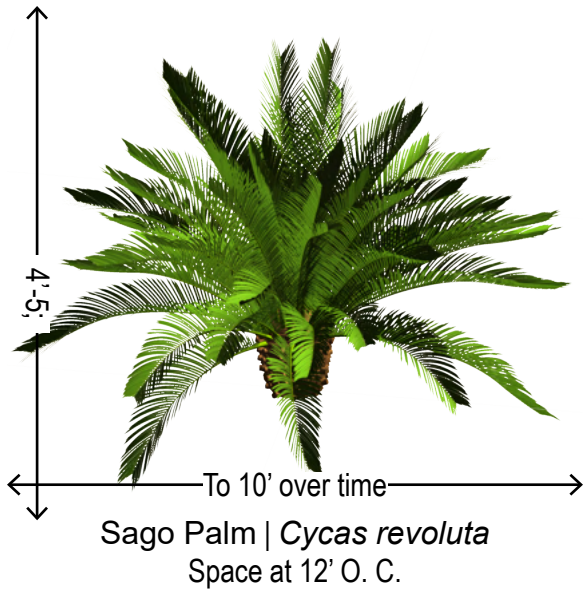


SHRUBS



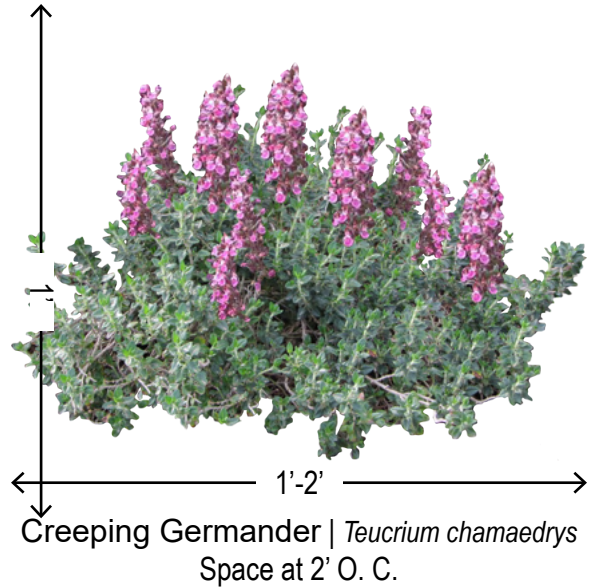
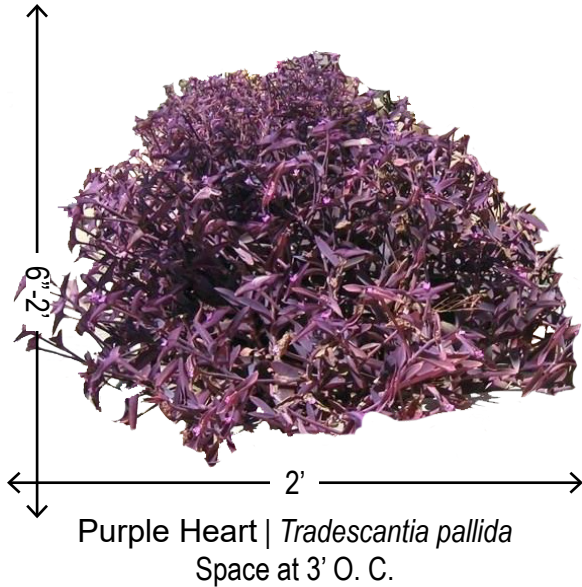
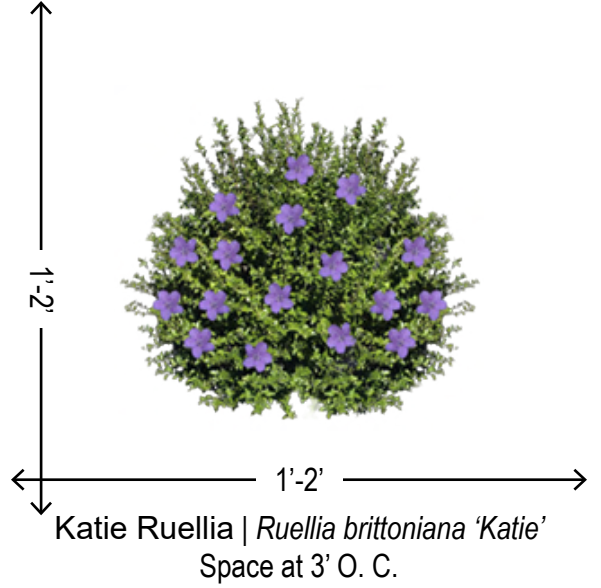
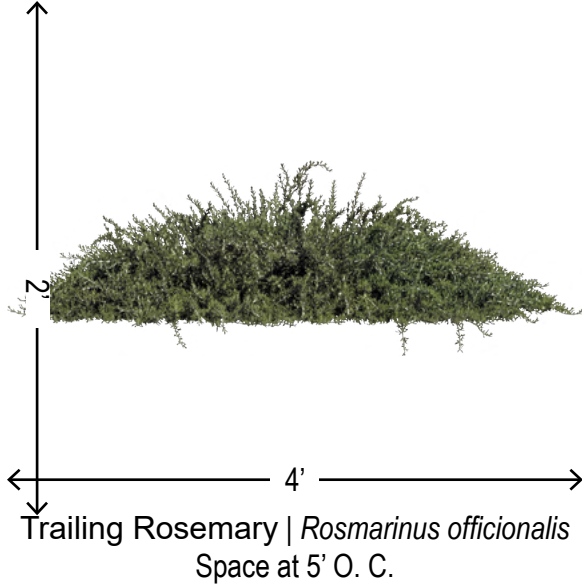
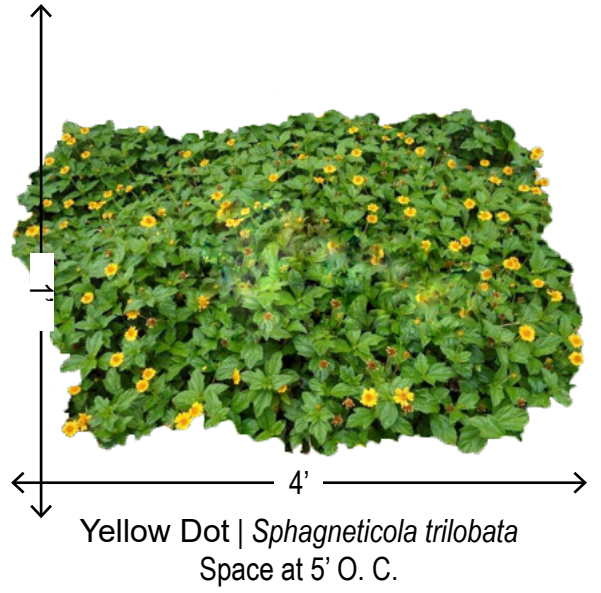
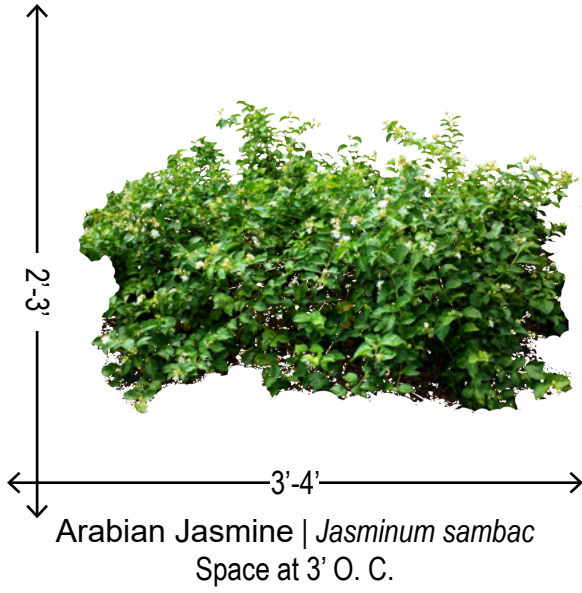
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ACCENTS & SUCCULENTS



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GROUNDCOVERS



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DEALING WITH SOUTHERN EXPOSURES

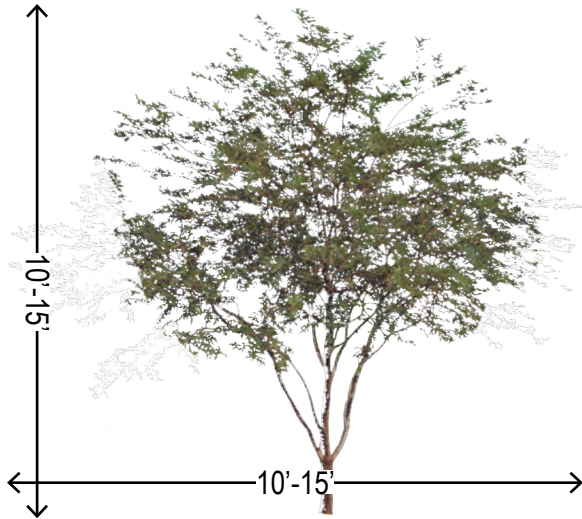
Southern exposures can be harsh, but are generally not as harsh as western exposures. Southern exposures get direct sunlight for most of the day, but generally do not receive the hottest, most intense afternoon sun from the west. For this reason, plants that prefer full sun but cannot tolerate reflected heat or western exposures can still do very well on southern exposures.

Above left: An existing southern exposure.

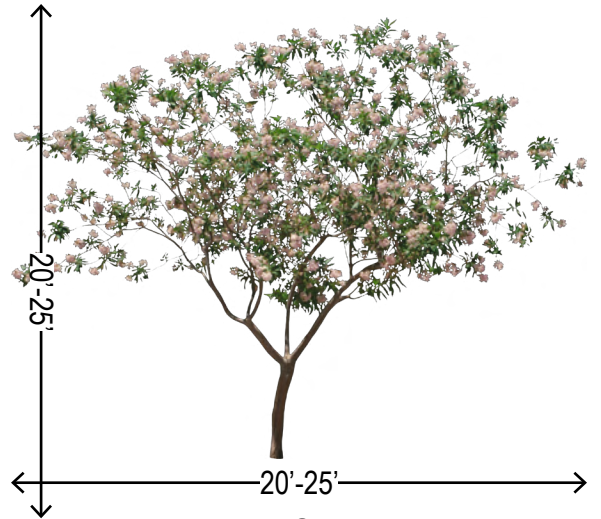
Above right: Accent plants are added to stand out against the existing oleander hedge. A dark accent green accent (Mexican grass tree) is used in the background. In the foreground are contrasting light colors: a gray-green and chartreuse succulent (gopher plant) and a soft, feathery gray-green groundcover (santolina).

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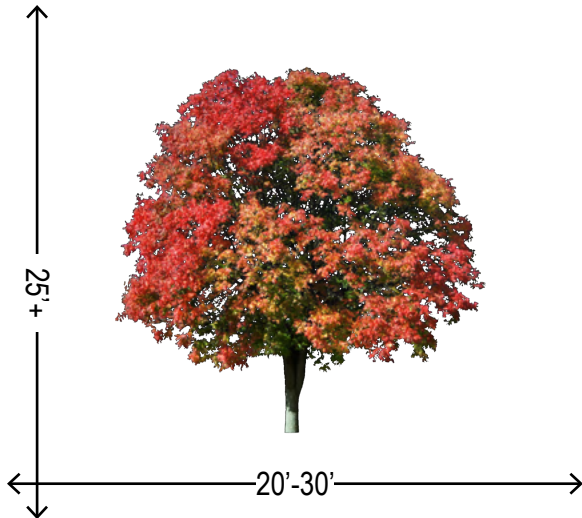
TREES



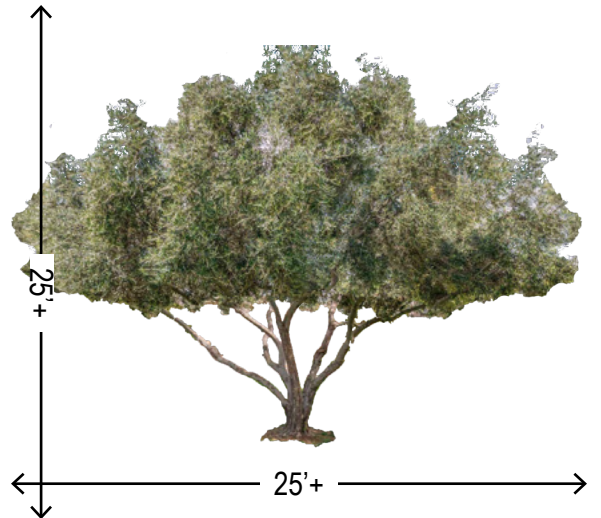
Mulga | *Acacia aneura*
Space at 20' O. C.



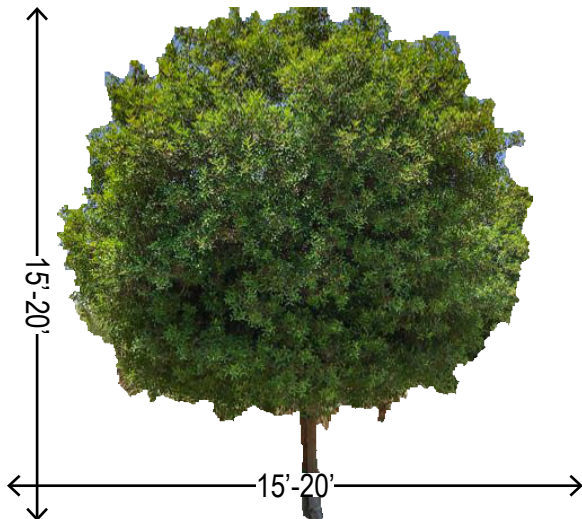
Desert Willow | *Chilopsis linearis*
Space at 25' O. C.



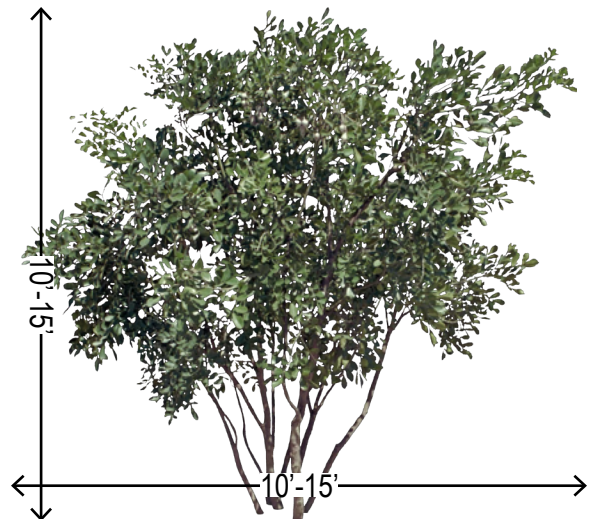
Red Push Pistache | *Pistacia x 'Red Push'*
Space at 25'-30' O. C.



Fruitless Olive | *Olea europea 'Fruitless'*
Space at 25'-30' O. C. | **Must be fruitless**



Mastic Tree | *Pistacia lentiscus*
Space at 20'-25' O. C.

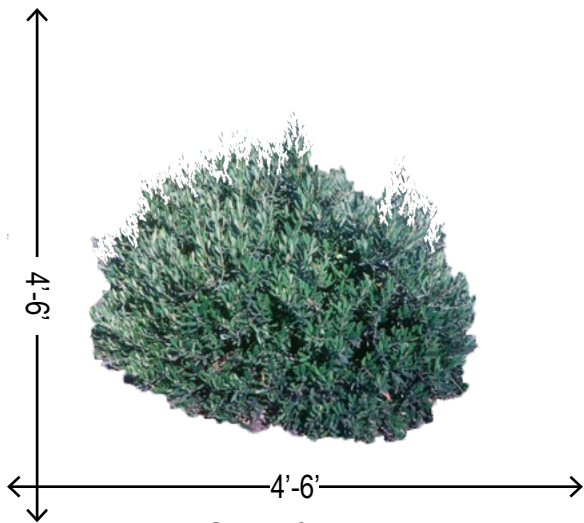


Texas Mountain Laurel | *Sophora secundiflora*
Space at 25'-30' O. C.

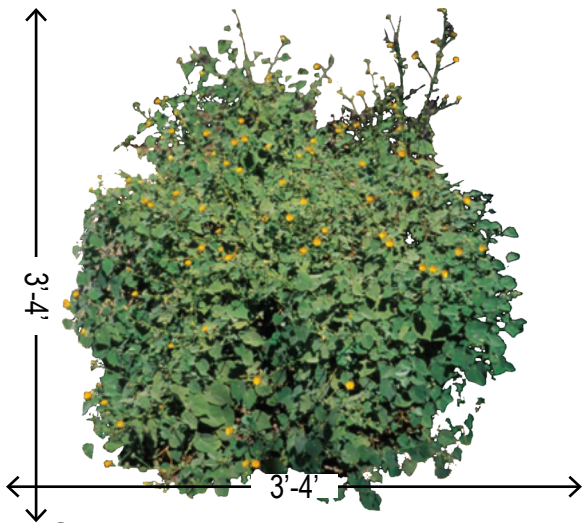


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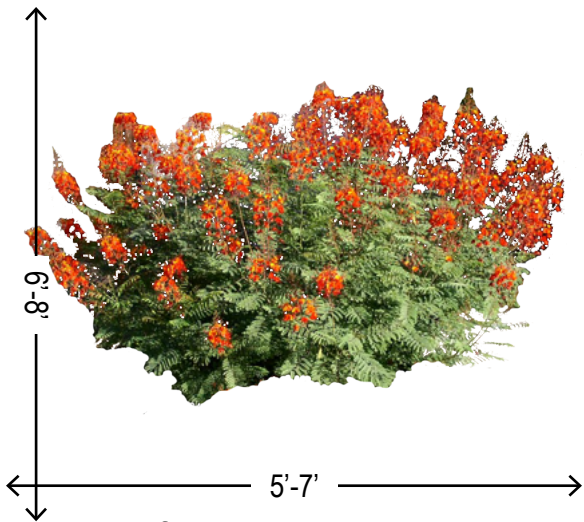
Little Ollie | *Olea europaea*
Space at 4' O. C.



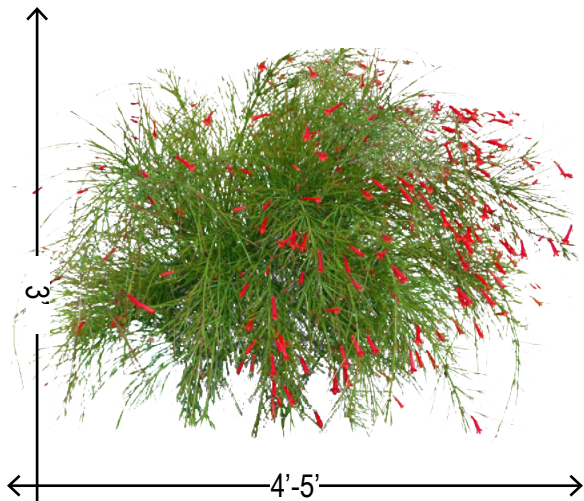
Superstition Mallow | *Abutilon palmeri*
Space at 5' O. C.



Bandana Rose | *Lantana 'LANZ0001'*
Space at 3' O. C.



Red Bird of Paradise | *Caesalpinia pulcherrima*
Space at 8' O. C.



Coral Fountain | *Russelia equisetiformis*
Space at 6' O. C.

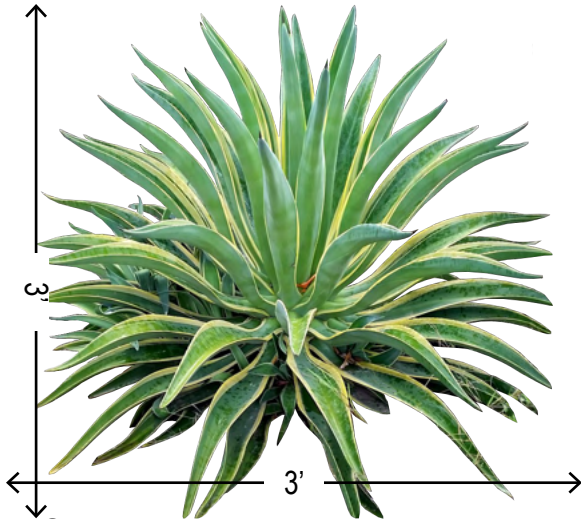


Orange Jubilee | *Tecoma x 'Orange Jubilee'*
Spacing varies

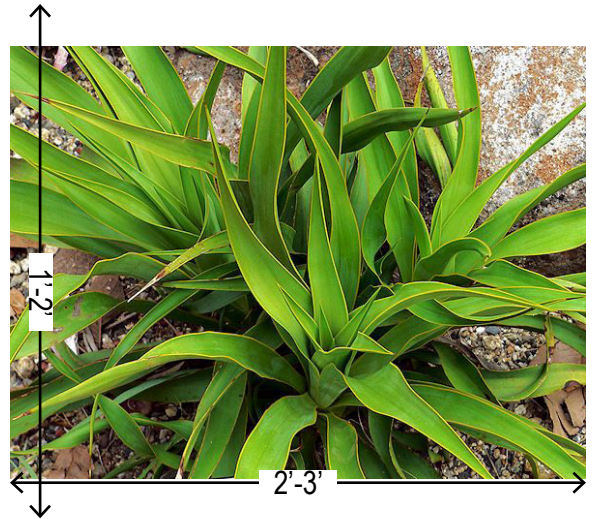
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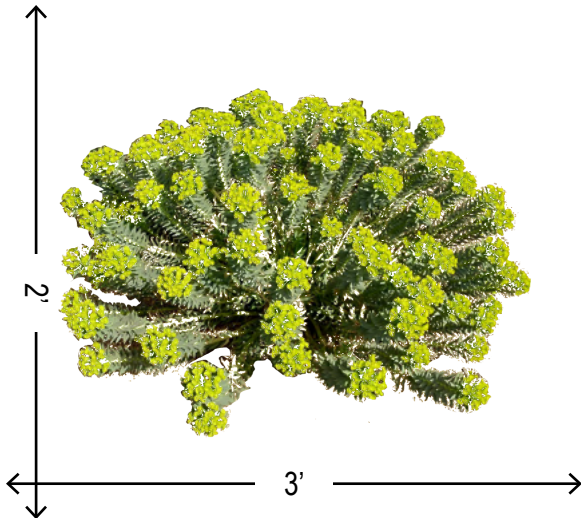
ACCENTS & SUCCULENTS



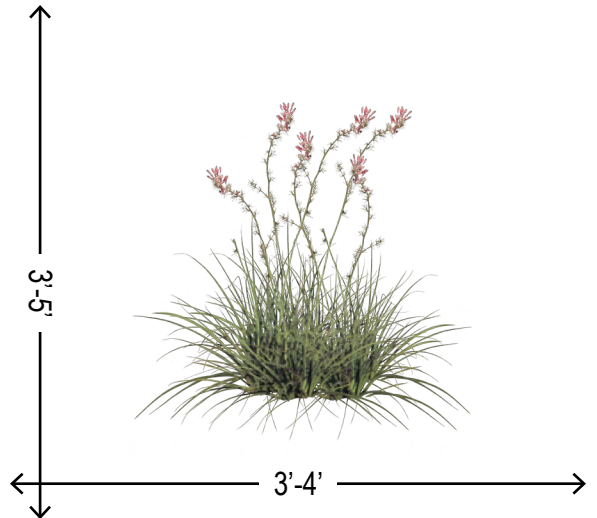
Smooth Agave | *Agave desmettiana*
Space at 4' O. C.



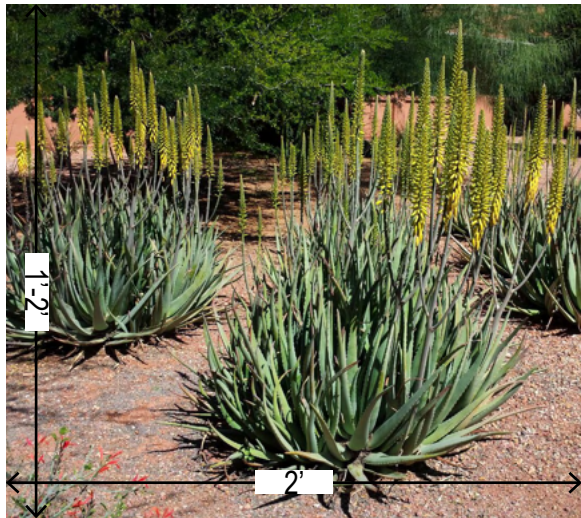
Twisted Yucca | *Yucca rupicola*
Space at 3' O. C.



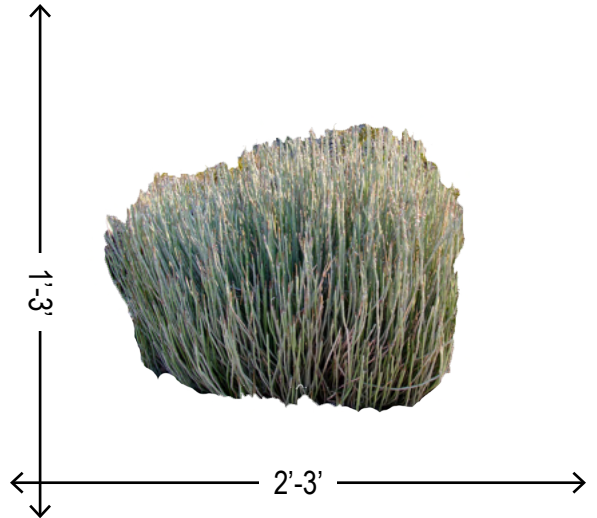
Gopher Plant | *Euphorbia rigida*
Space at 4' O. C.



Red Yucca | *Hesperaloe parvifolia* 'Perpa'
Space at 4' O. C.



Medicinal Aloe | *Aloe vera*
Space at 3' O. C.

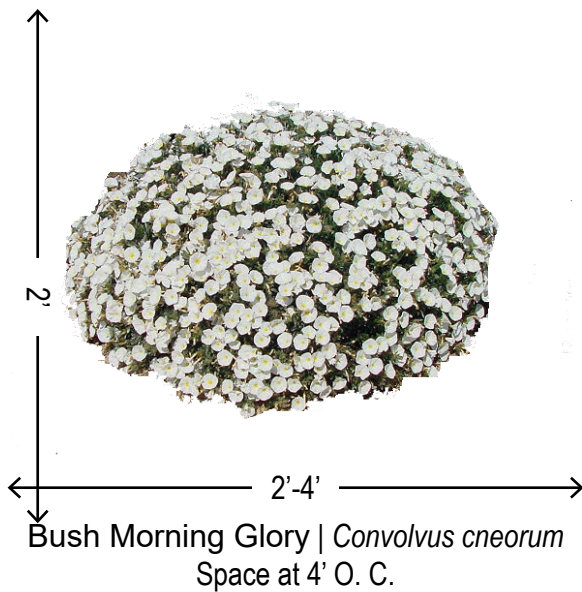
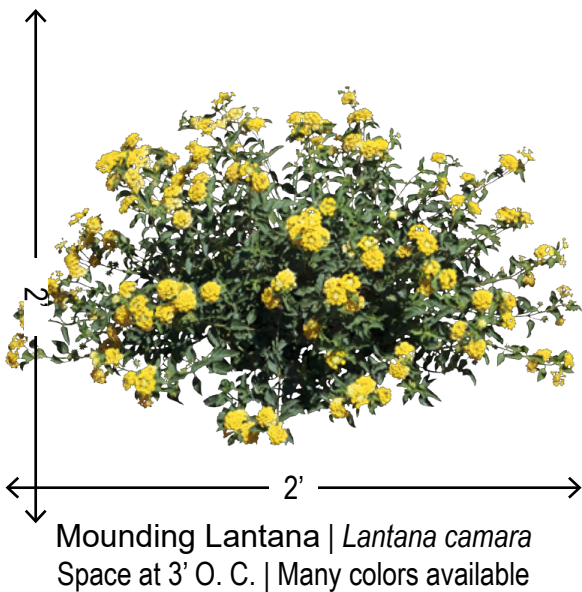
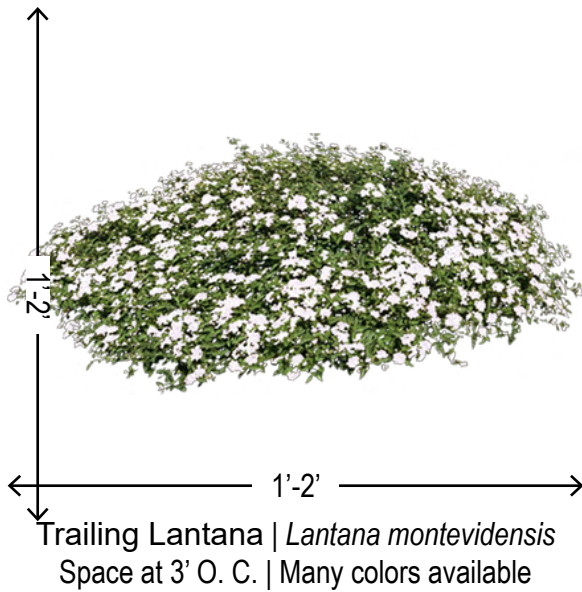
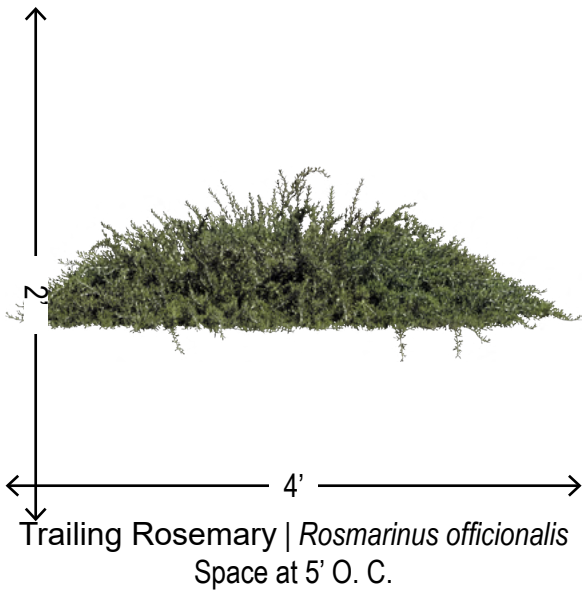
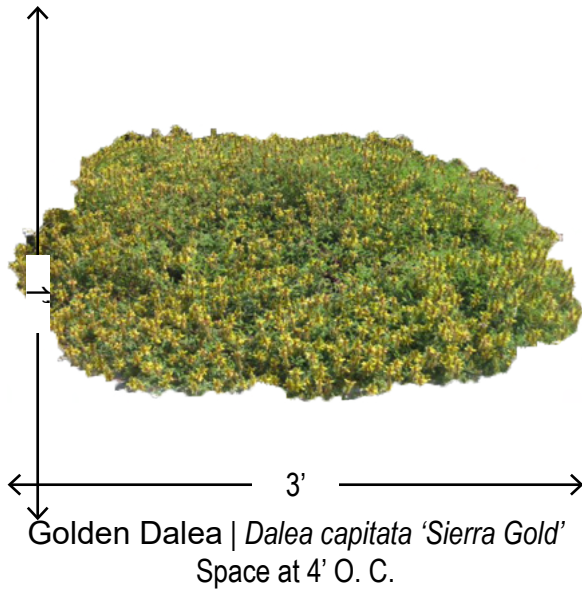
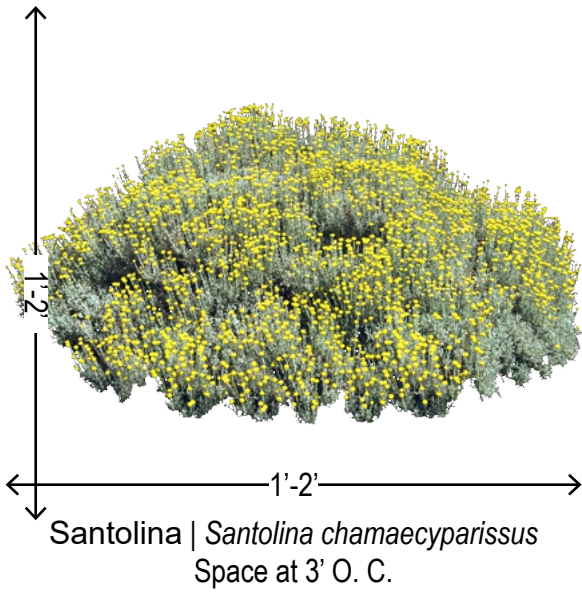


Candelilla | *Euphorbia antisiphilitica*
Space at 3' O. C.



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GROUNDCOVERS



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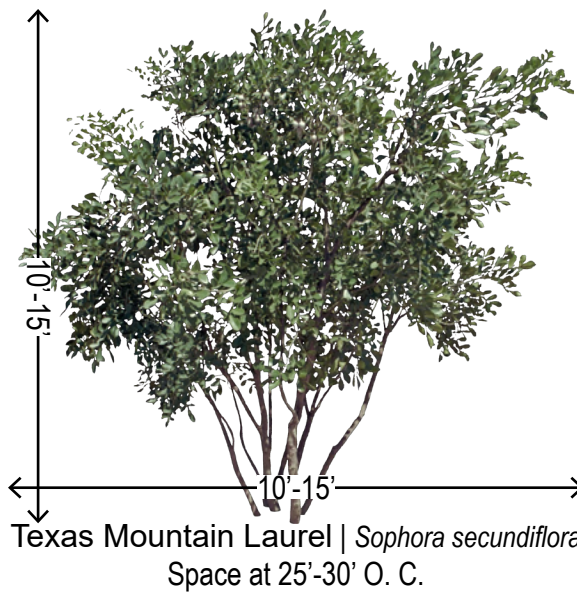
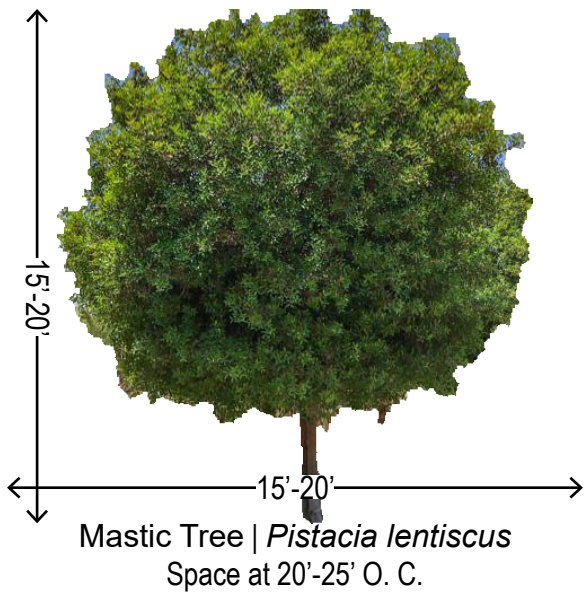
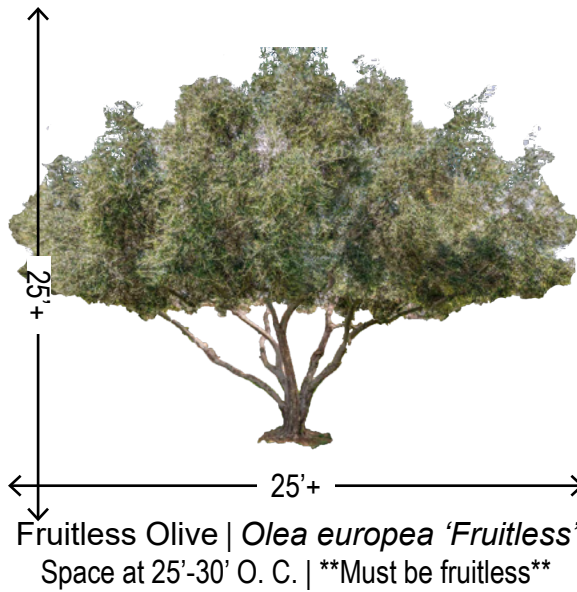
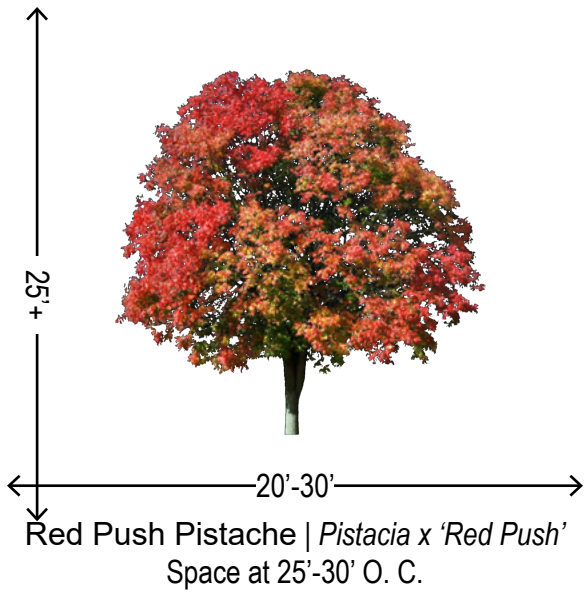
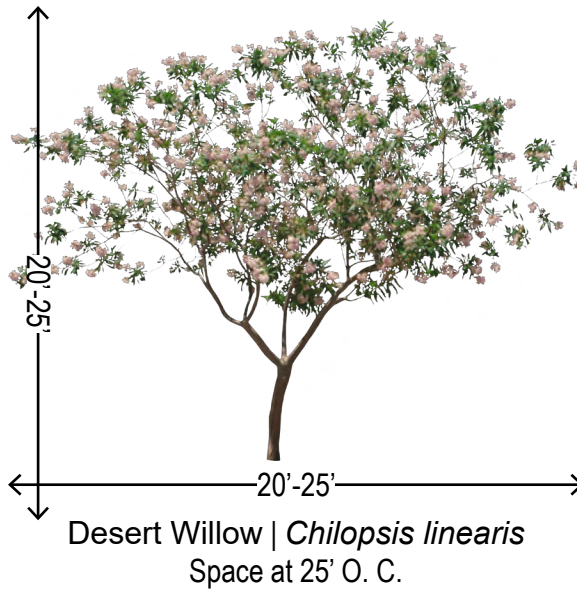
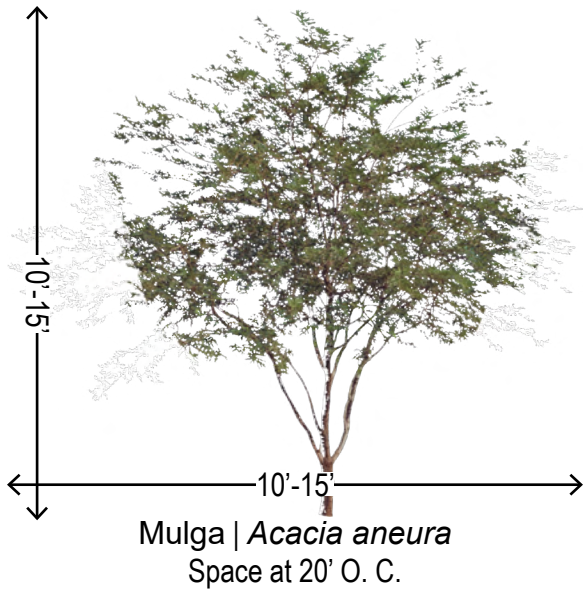
DEALING WITH WESTERN EXPOSURES

Western exposures are harsh. They receive direct sun in the afternoon in the hottest part of the day. Plants that thrive in western exposures must be able to tolerate intense summer heat and direct sunlight as well as reflected heat when pavement surrounds a planting space.

Above left: An existing western exposure with reflected heat.

Above right: Spanish bayonet yuccas stand as accents on either side of a window. Their bright green color contrasts with the beige wall and the blue-green rosemary bushes.

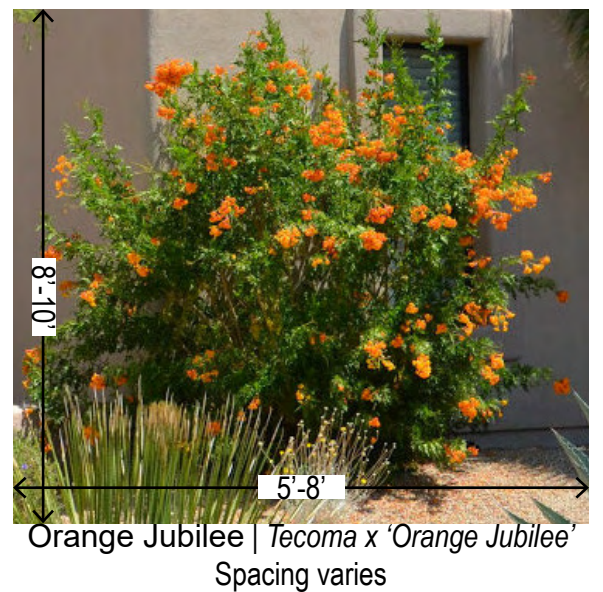
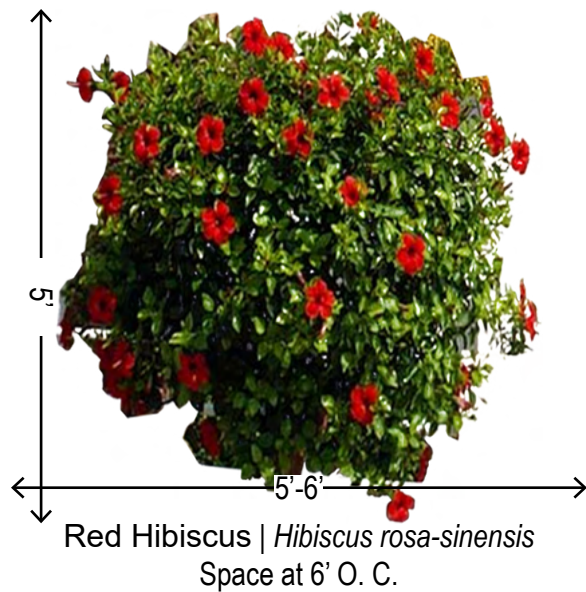
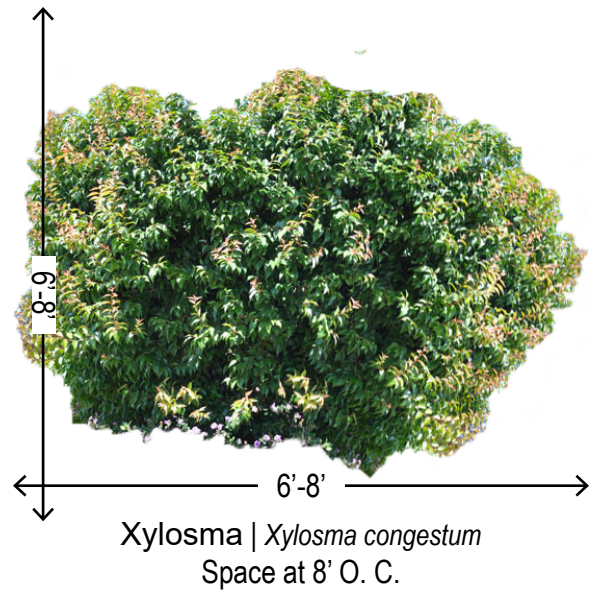
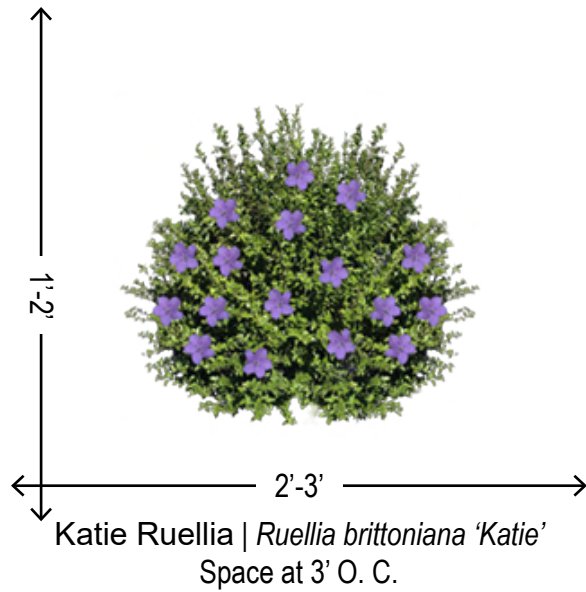
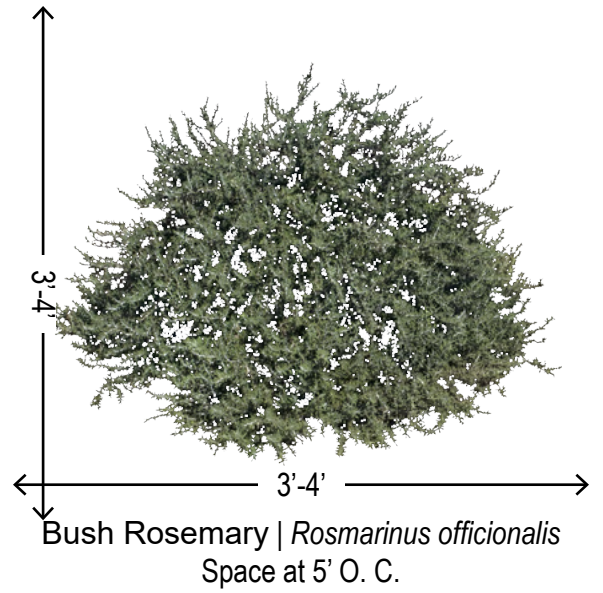
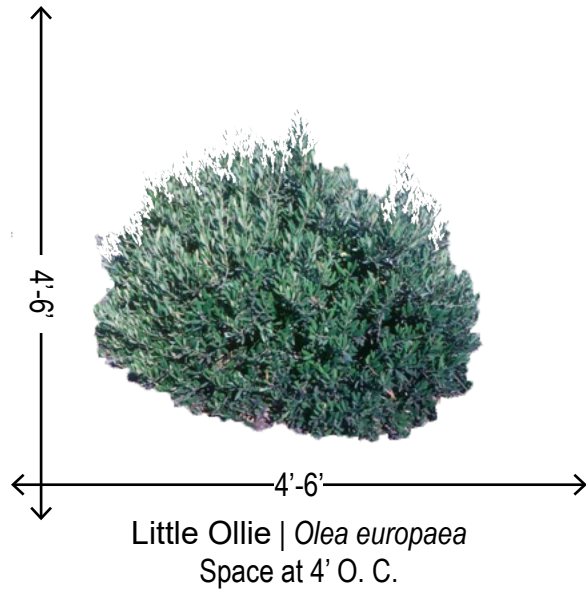
TREES



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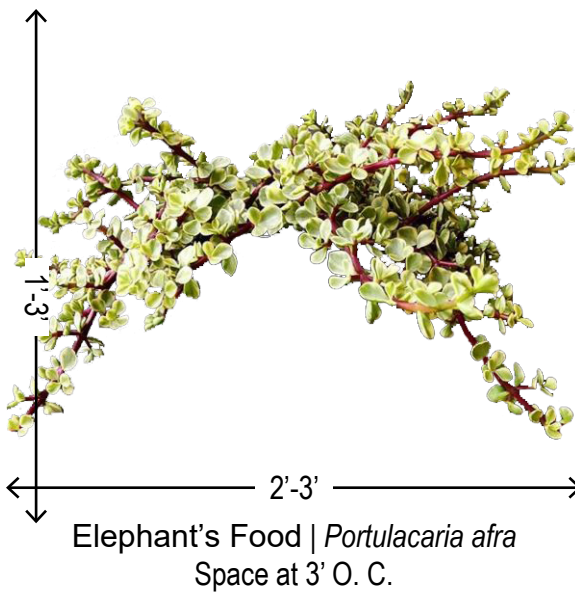
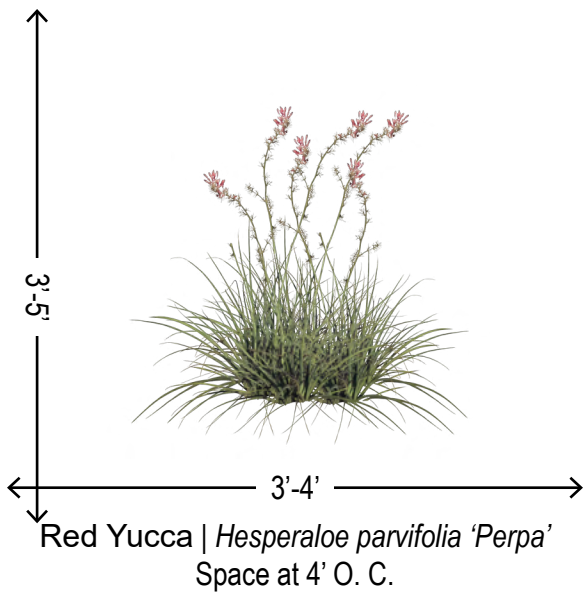
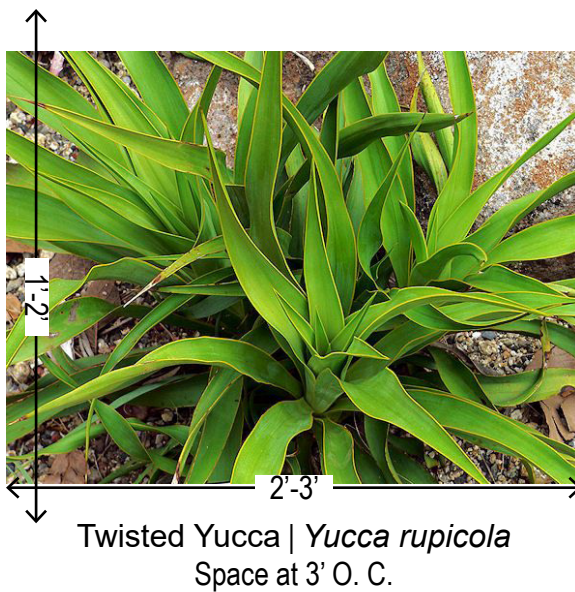
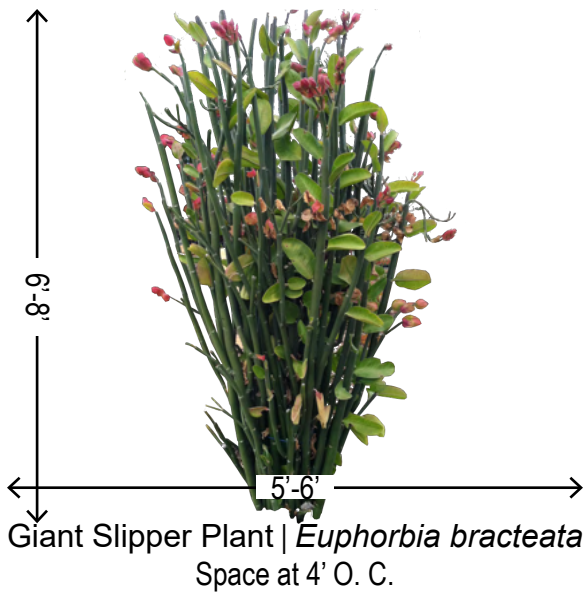
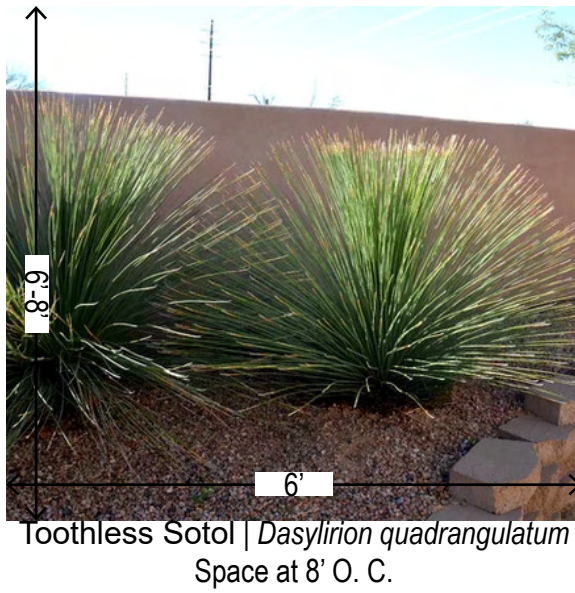
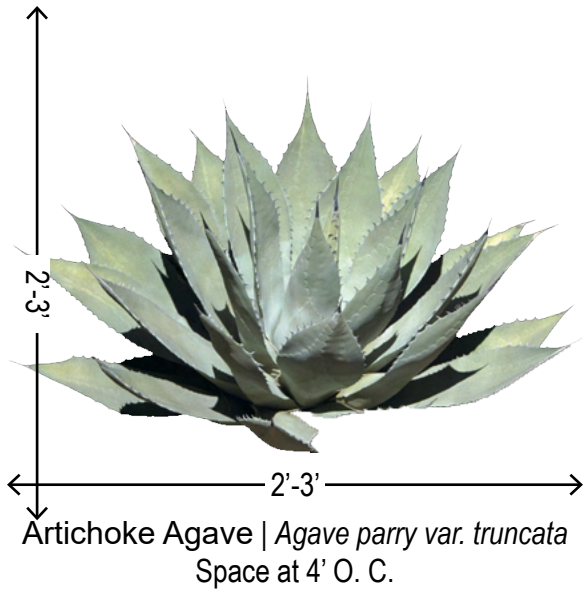


SHRUBS



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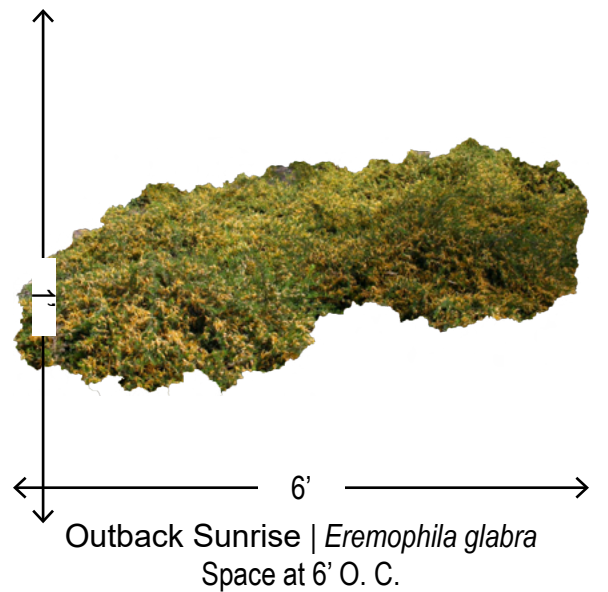
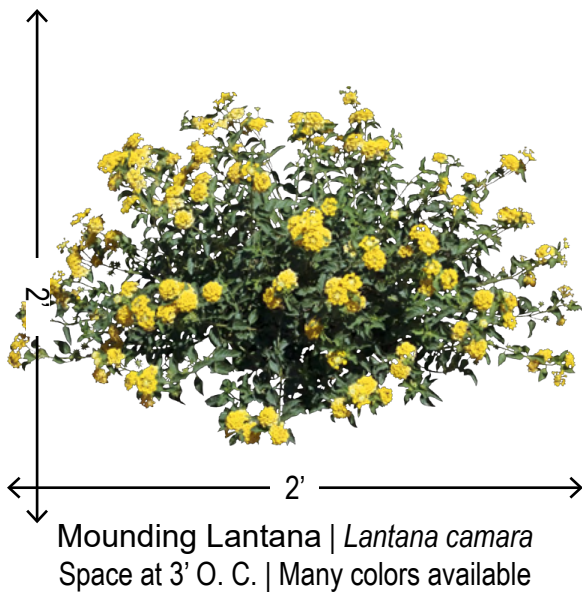
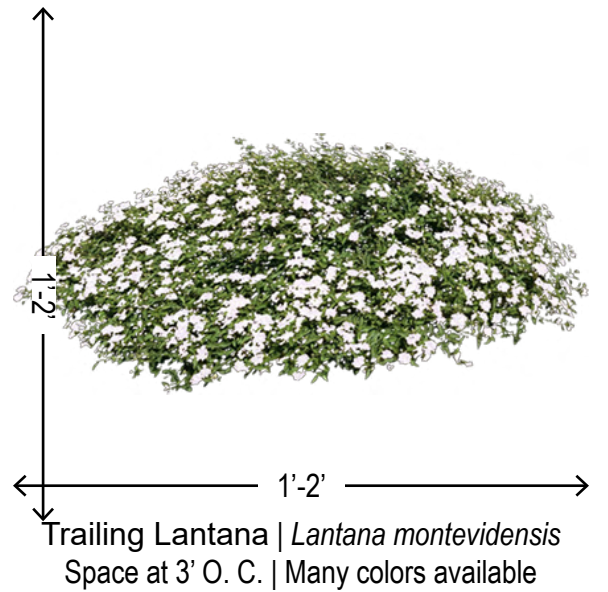
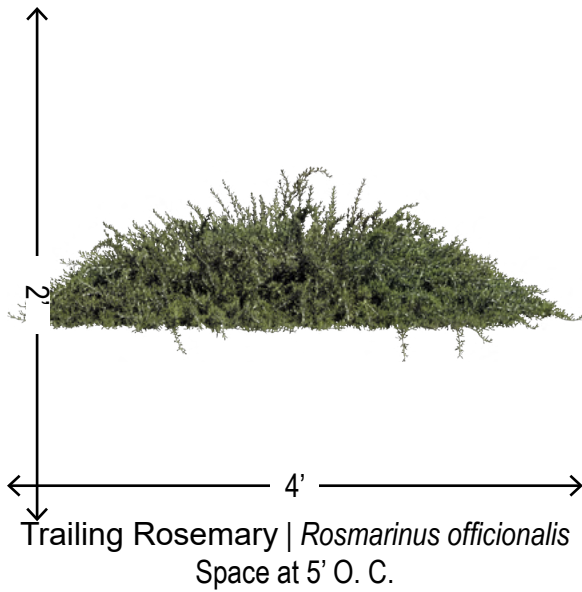
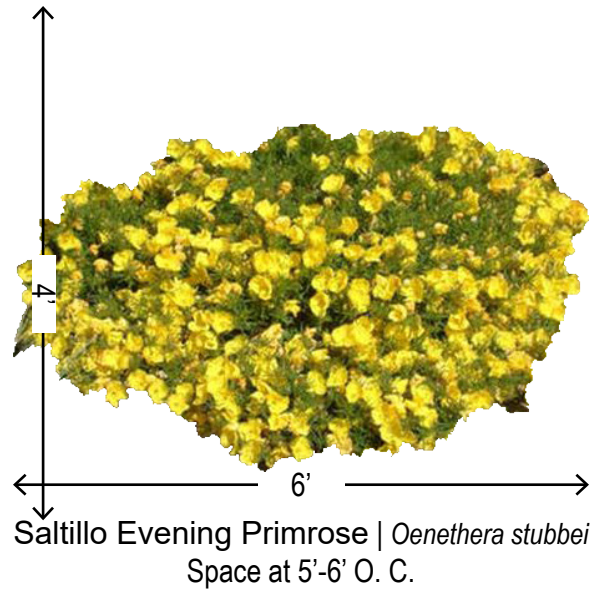
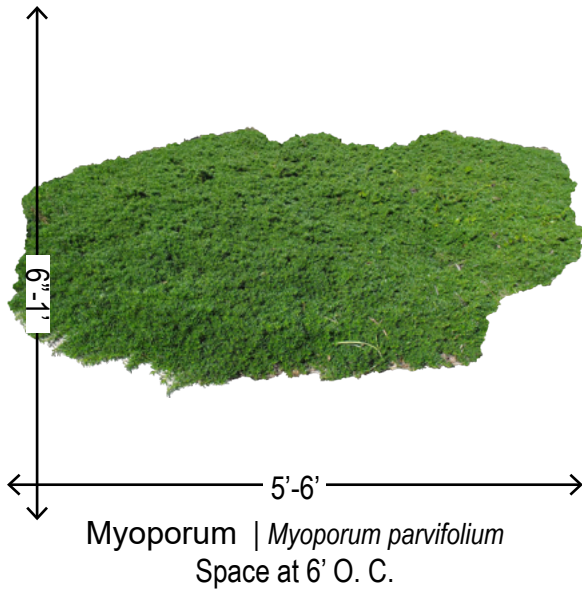
ACCENTS & SUCCULENTS



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GROUNDCOVERS



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DEALING WITH NORTHERN EXPOSURES

At our latitude, northern exposures often receive full shade in the winter but full sun in the summer. Plants in a northern exposure need to be able to handle intense summer heat, but also significant shade and low temperatures in winter.

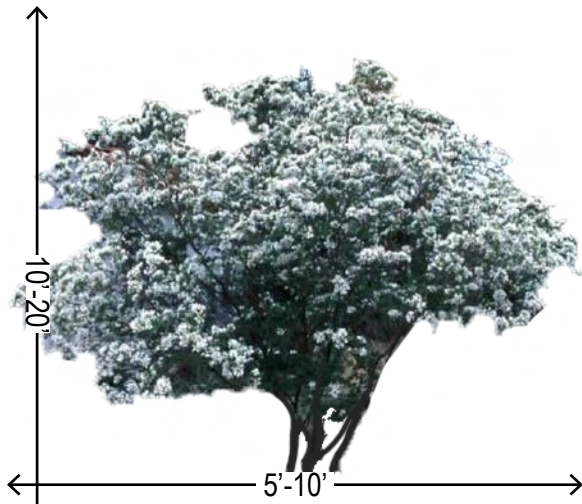
If a northern exposure receives shade in the summer, consider using plants from the “Full Shade” section, page 29.

Above left: An existing northern exposure.

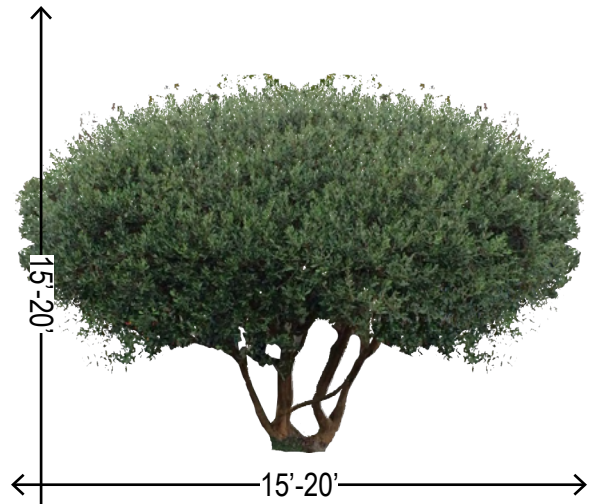
Above right: New low groundcovers allow existing structural forms to be easily seen and admired. Red lantana and red Peruvian verbena correlate with existing red flowers.

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TREES



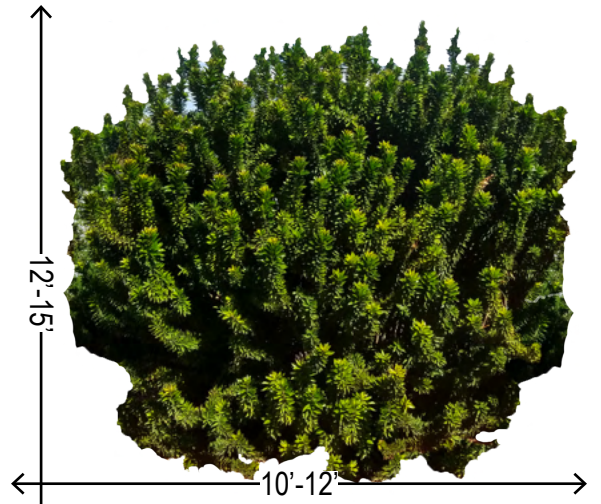
Anacacho Orchid | *Bauhinia lunariodes*
Space at 15' O. C | Use as focal space.



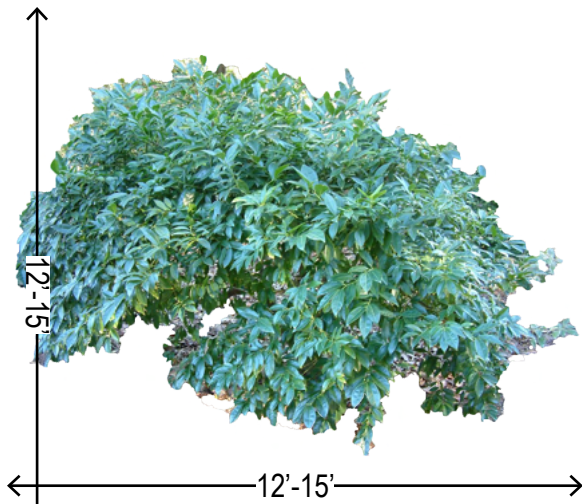
Pineapple Guava | *Feijoa sellowiana*
Space at 10'-18' O.C. | Use tree form



Japanese Privet | *Ligustrum japonicum*
Space at 15'-18' O. C. | Pruned as a tree or hedge



Twisted Myrtle | *Myrtus 'Boetica'*
Space at 12' O.C.. | Use as focal point



Laurel-Leaf | *Cocculus laurifolius*
Space at 15'-18' O. C. | Pruned as a tree

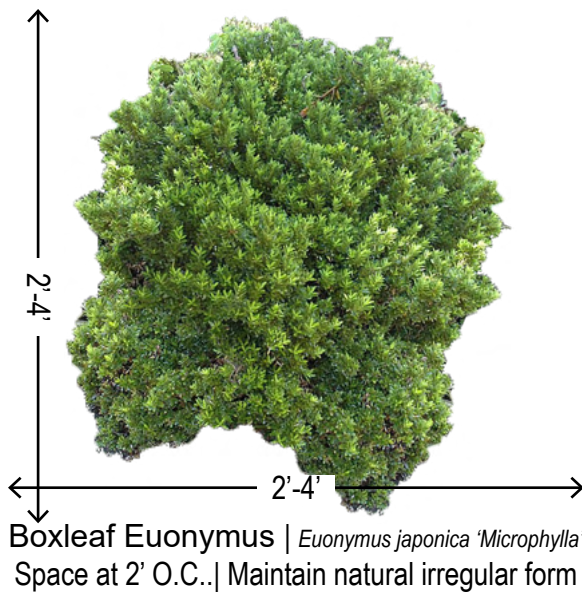
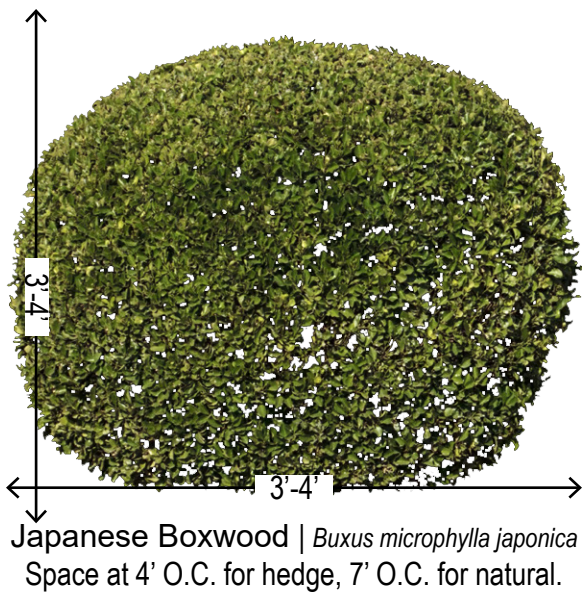
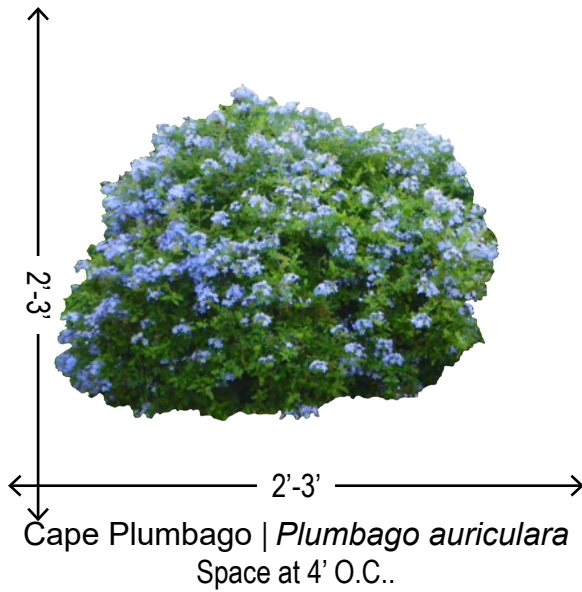
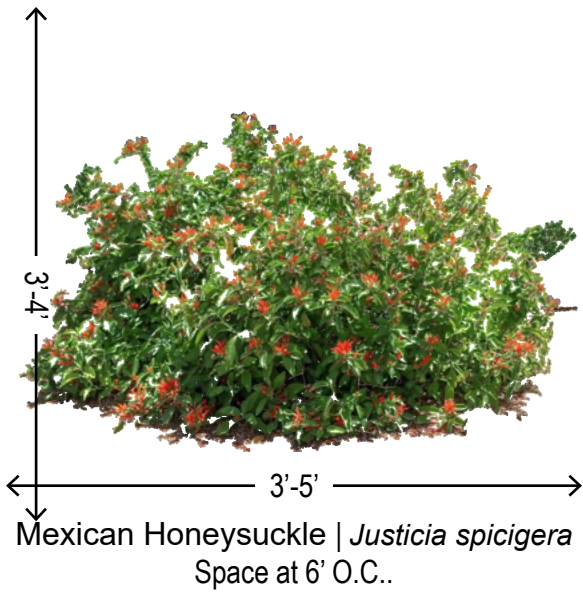
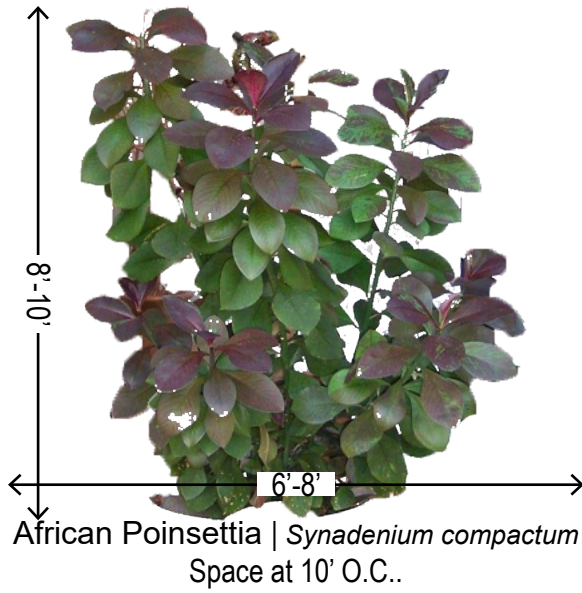
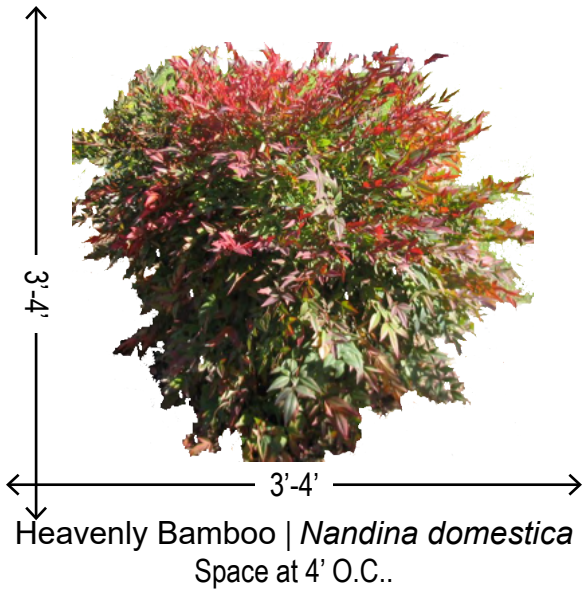


Mexican Blue Palm | *Brahea armata*
Space at 18'-20' O. C.



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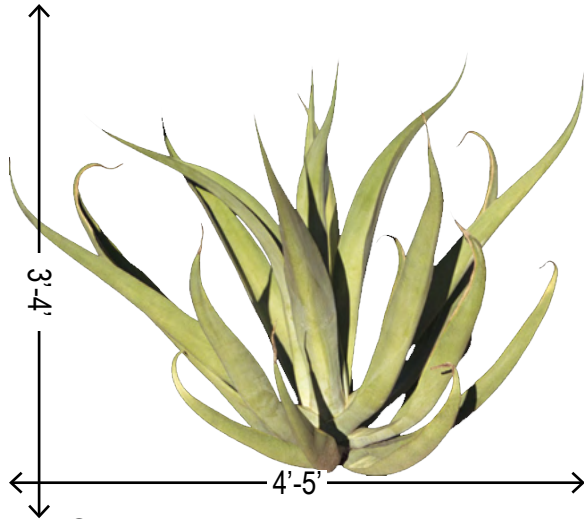
SHRUBS



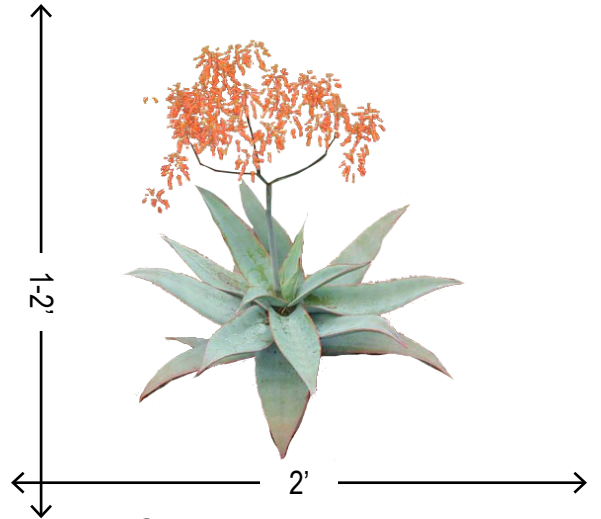
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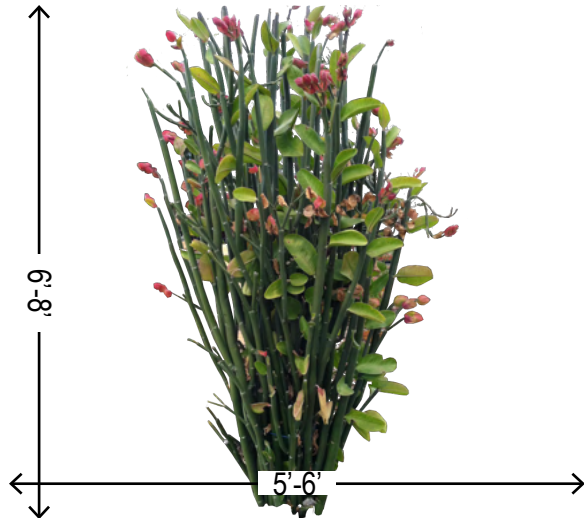
ACCENTS & SUCCULENTS



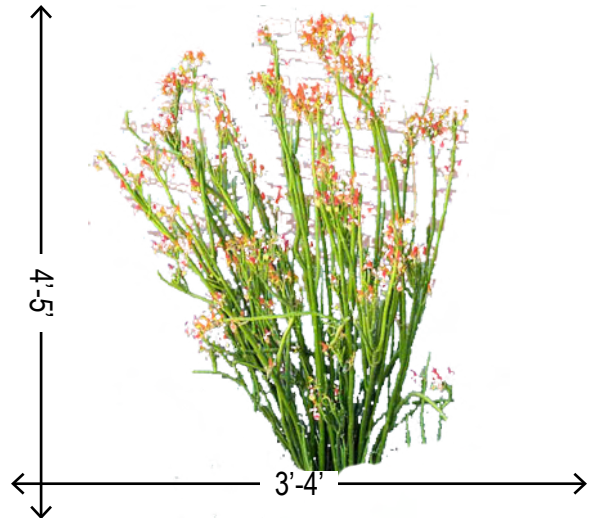
Octopus Agave | *Agave vilmoriniana*
Space at 6' O. C.



Coral Aloe | *Aloe striata*
Space at 3' O. C.



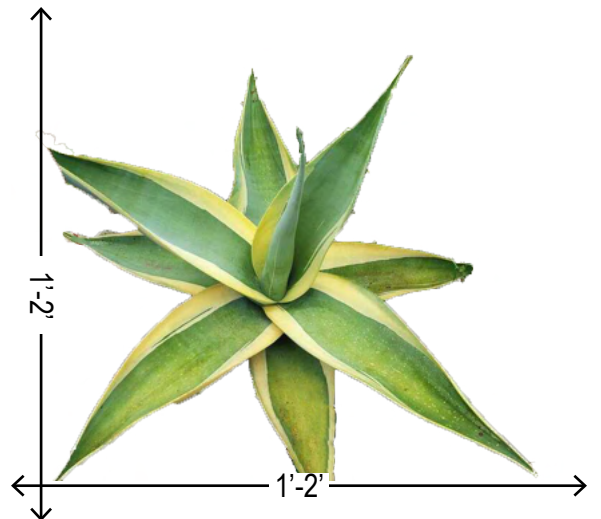
Giant Slipper Plant | *Euphorbia bracteata*
Space at 4' O. C.



Lady Slipper | *Euphorbia lomellii*
Space at 5' O. C.



Rain Lily | *Zephyranthes candida*
Space at 1' O. C.

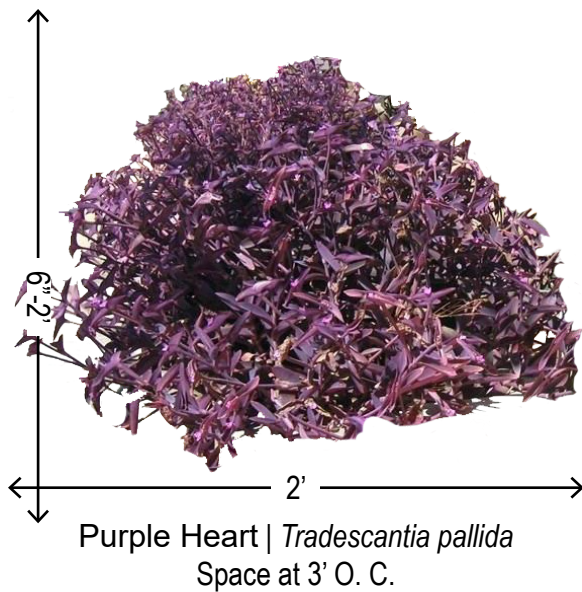
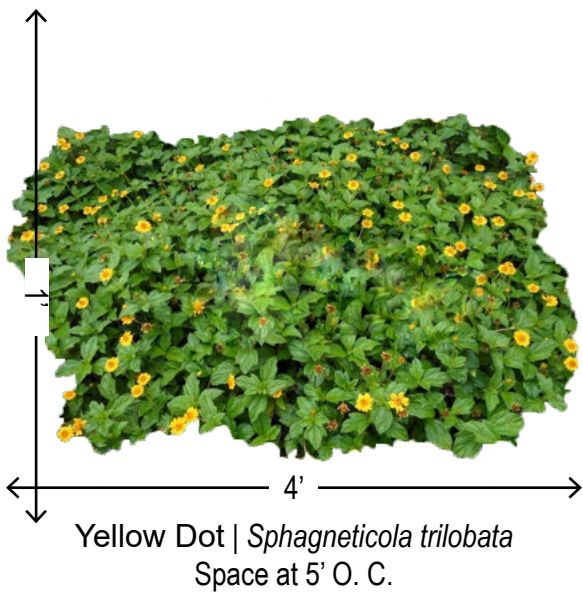
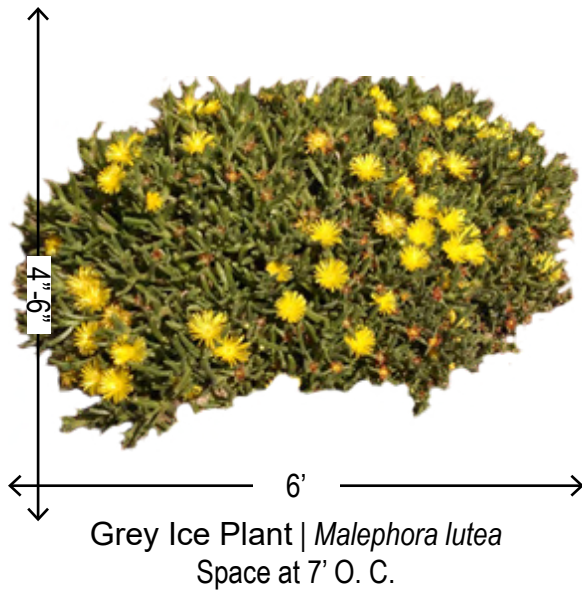
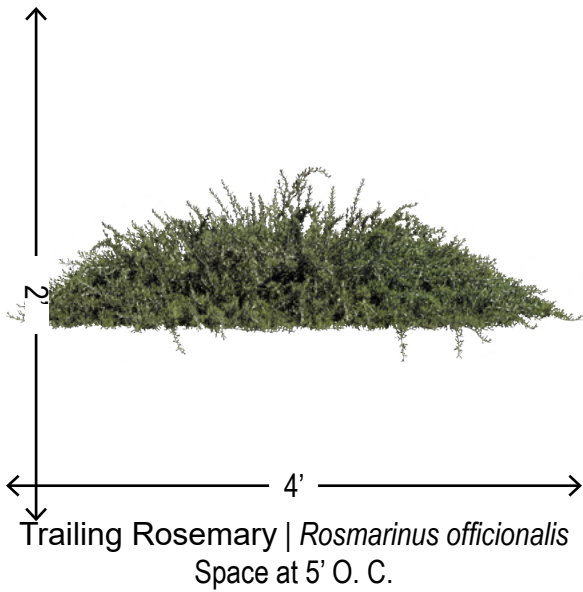
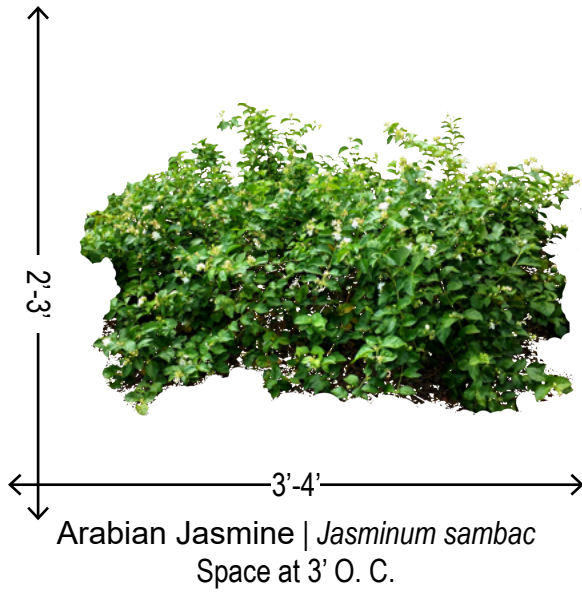
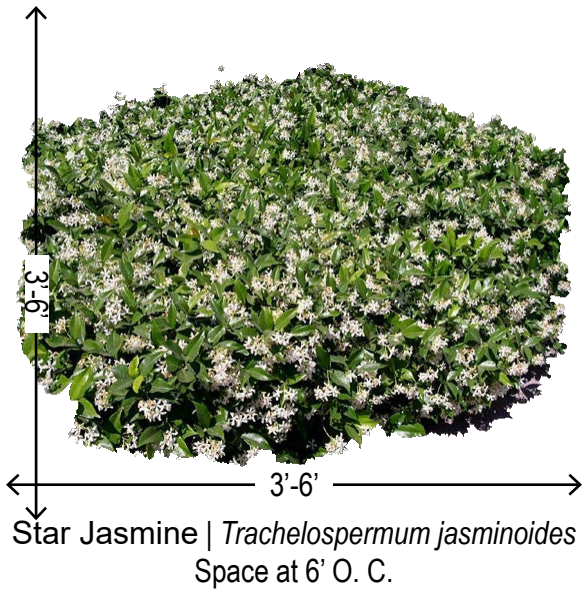


Creme Brule Agave | *Agave guiengola*
Space at 3' O. C.



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GROUNDCOVERS



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DEALING WITH FULL SHADE

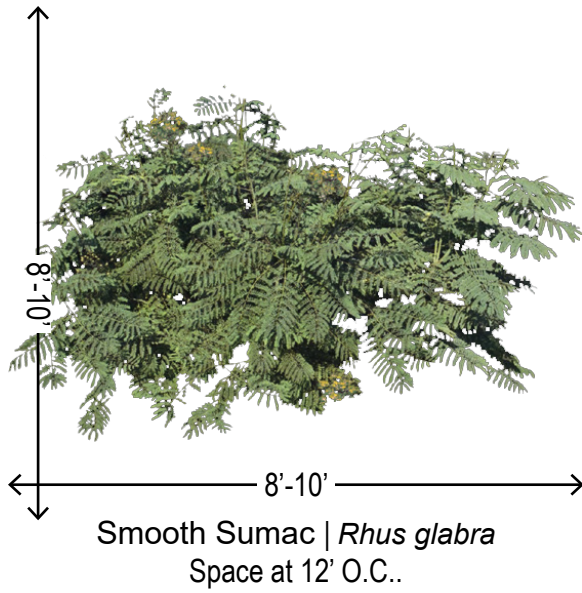
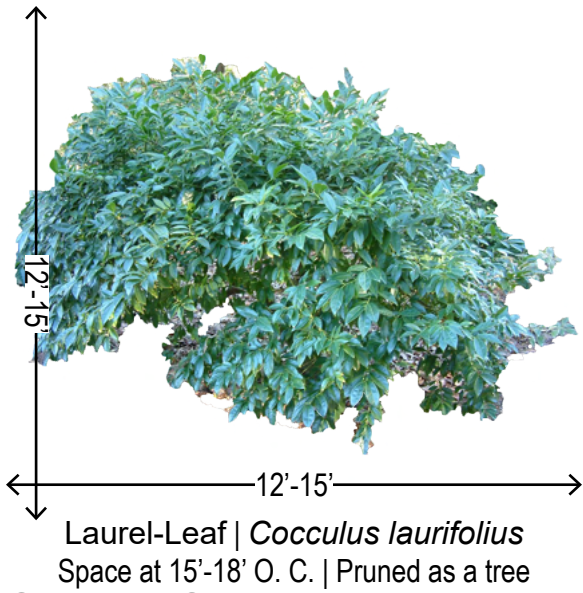
All-day, dense shade poses a particular challenge in the desert. To do well in shade in Arizona, plants need to be able to tolerate extreme summer heat but also survive on little to no direct light. Most of Arizona's native shade plants are adapted to grow in canyons or along rivers, meaning they prefer moist soils and need to be watered more frequently.

All-day dappled shade does not pose the same problem. For example, a spot under a shade structure or under a tree might received filtered sunlight for 6 to 8 hours every day. Such a spot could be planted with the species in the section, "Eastern Exposure and Afternoon Shade," page 5.

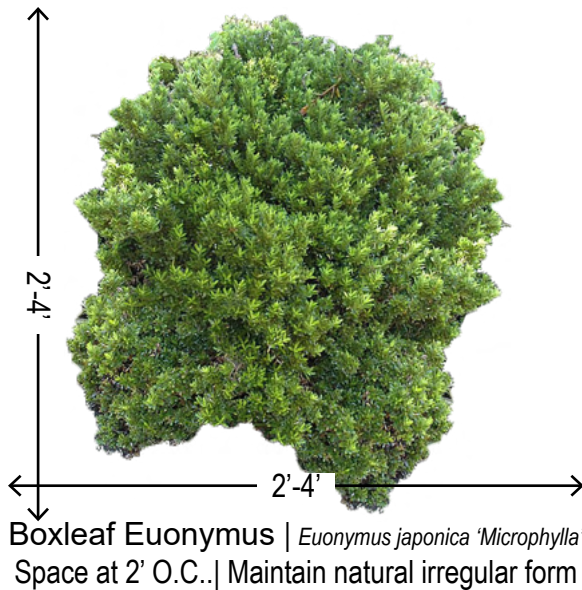
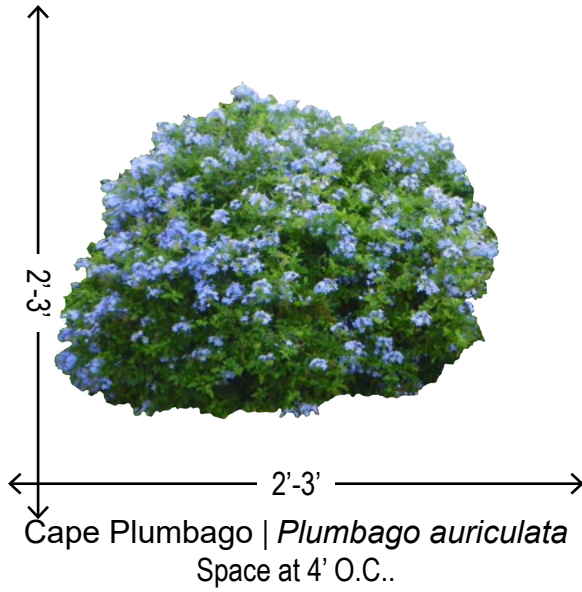
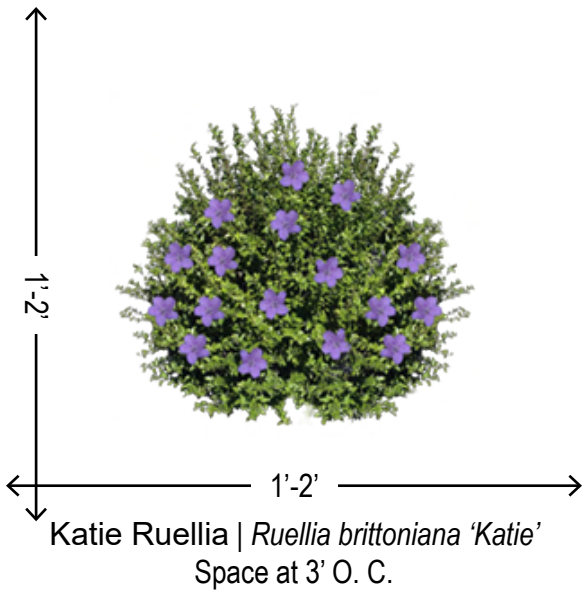
Above left: An existing shaded area.

Above right: Red autumn sage and more aloes add a pop of color to the pocket of shade created by a fig tree near houses.

TREES



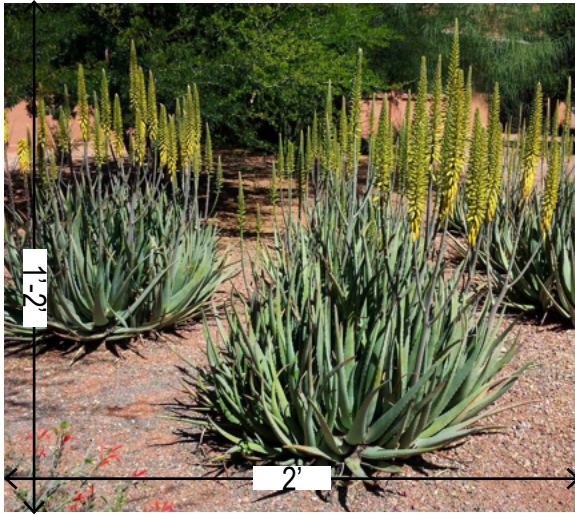
SHRUBS



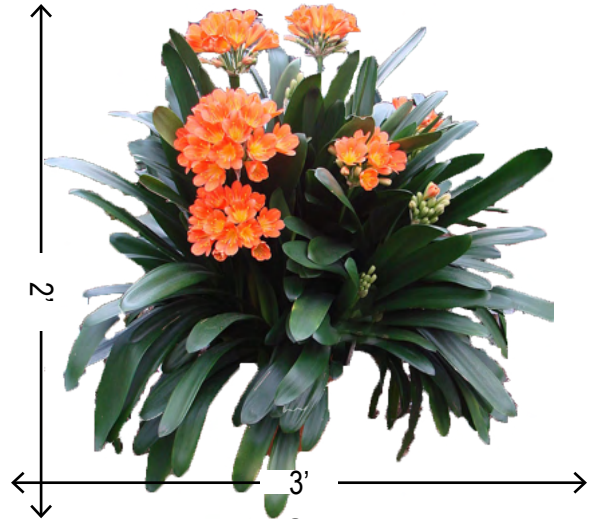
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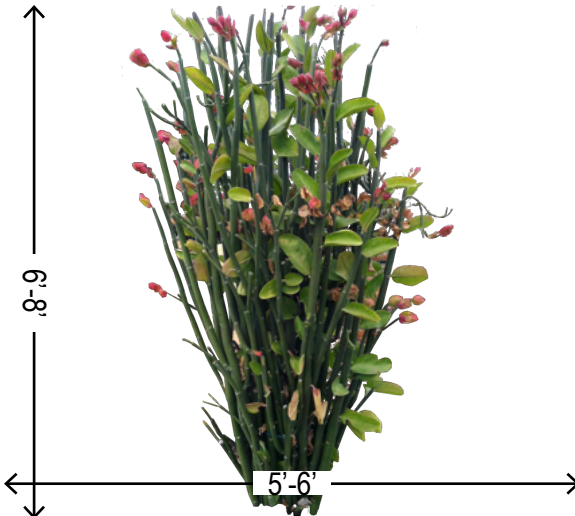
ACCENTS & SUCCULENTS



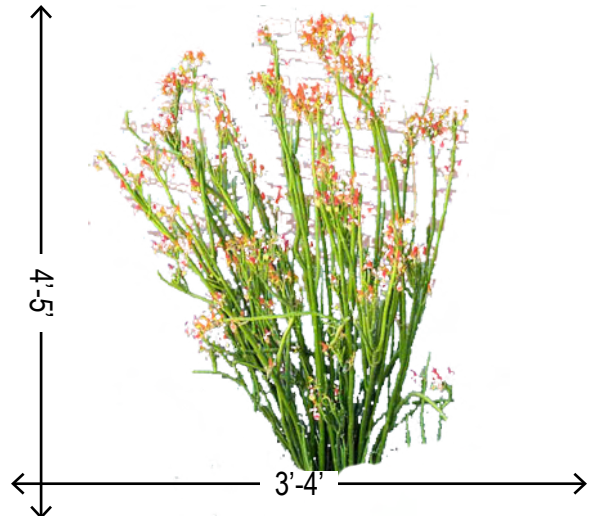
Medicinal Aloe | *Aloe vera*
Space at 3' O. C.



Natal Lily | *Clivia miniata*
Space at 3' O. C. | Protect from frost



Giant Slipper Plant | *Euphorbia bracteata*
Space at 4' O. C.



Lady Slipper | *Euphorbia lomellii*
Space at 5' O. C.



Star Jasmine | *Trachelospermum jasminoides*
Space at 6' O. C.

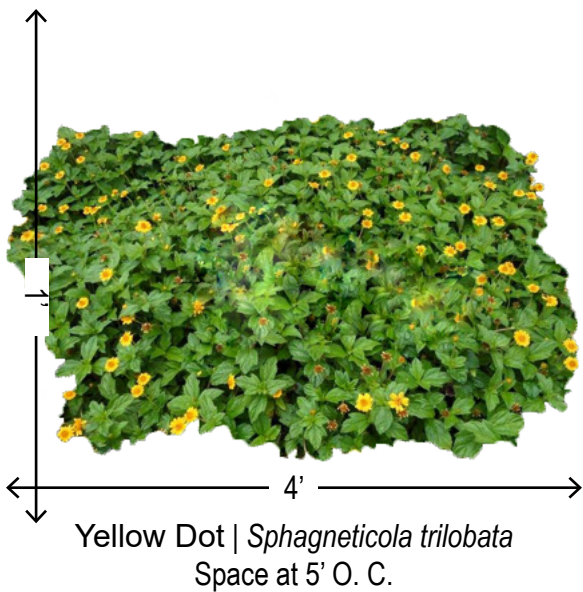
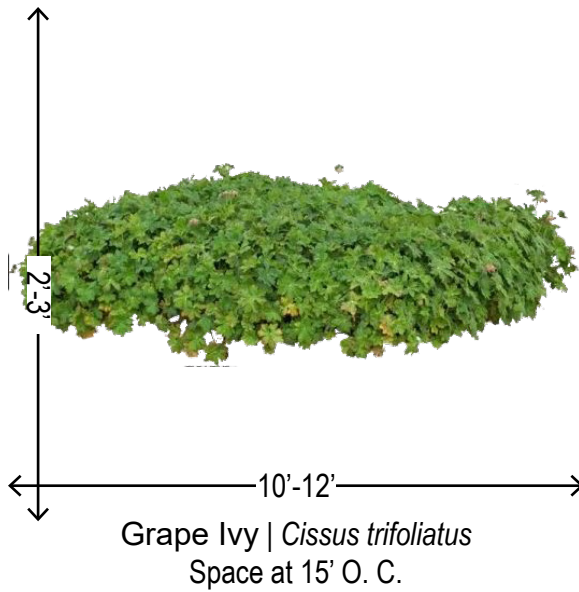
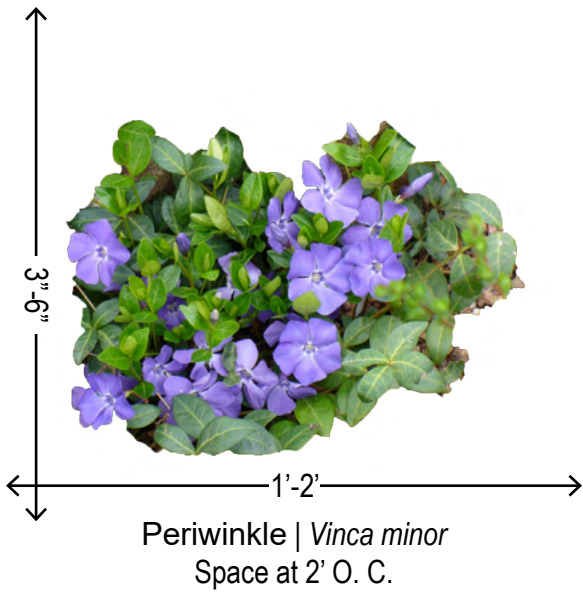
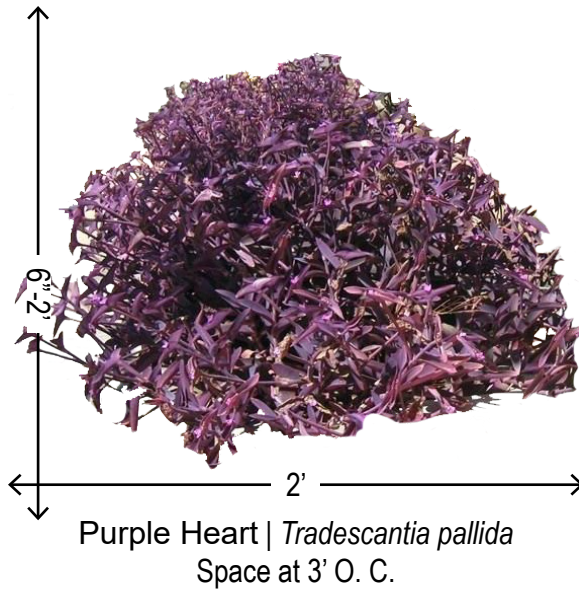
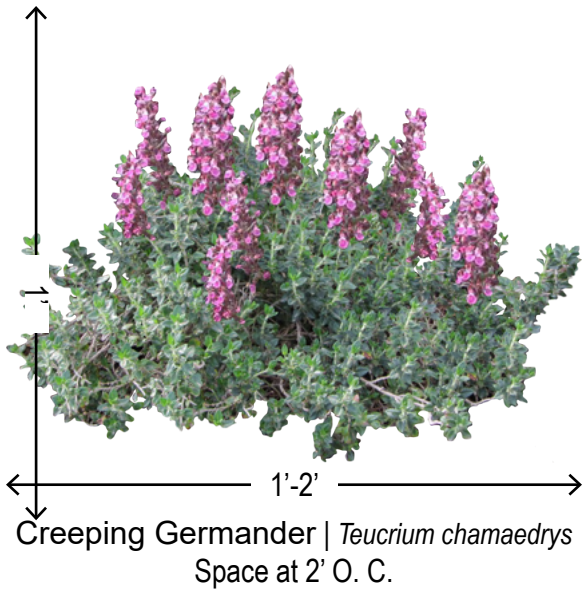


Lilyturf | *Liriope muscari*
Space at 3' O. C.



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GROUNDCOVERS



NOTE
Many smaller annuals and perennials are shade-tolerant. Check your local nursery or home improvement store for options. Know that non-native annuals and perennials generally prefer a soil with added organic matter, such as compost.