City of Mesa
Tree Selection Guide

The list of trees below has been compiled to assist in the proper tree selection for City of Mesa landscape projects. When selecting appropriate species, the following should be considered:

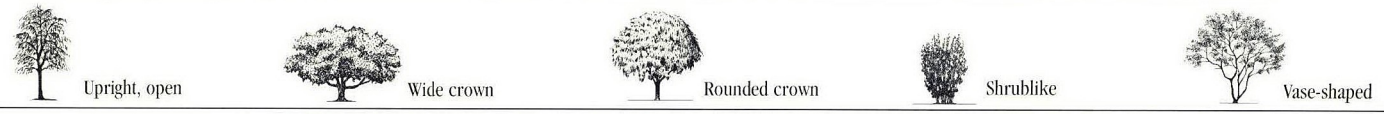
- Mature size and space available
- Plant characteristics (form, allergens, fragrance, color)
- Maintenance requirements (ease of care, litter)
- Plant tolerances to site characteristics (heat, air pollution, soil compaction)
- Functional uses (shading, screening, erosion control, safety)
- Suitability (streets, electric lines, pedestrian traffic, drought conditions)

All of plants in this document are listed in and comply with the Arizona Department of Water Resources ***Low Water Use/Drought Tolerant Plant List*** (find the complete list of plants at www.azwater.gov/azdwr/WaterManagement/AMAs/documents/LWU_Plants1.pdf). Only those plants on this list are allowed on Mesa public right-of-ways. However, this does not imply that every plant listed is suited to every right-of-way or low water use landscape situation. It is the responsibility of the landscape designer, architect or contractor to determine which plants are suitable for a specific location and situation.

For detailed characteristics of the trees below, including basic growing requirements, size, seasonal color and special features, be sure to look through our booklet ***Landscape Plants for the Arizona Desert***, or the online version located at www.amwua.org.

Tree Forms

When selecting and planting trees, be sure the tree's form is suited to the location and space available. Some common forms of desert trees are shown below.



UPRIGHT	
Willow Acacia	*Acacia salicina*
Shoestring Acacia	*Acacia stenophylla*
Palo Blanco	*Acacia willardiana*
Floss-Silk Tree	*Chorisia speciosa*
Indian Rosewood	*Dalbergia sissoo*
Red-Cap Gum	*Eucalyptus erythrocorys*
Coolibah	*Eucalyptus microtheca*
Afghan Pine	*Pinus eldarica*
Canary Island Pine	*Pinus canariensis*
Mexican Ebony	*Pithecellobium mexicanum*
Tipu Tree	*Tipuana tipu*

Tipu Tree

WIDE CROWN	
Palo Brea	*Cercidium praecox*
Honey Mesquite	*Prosopis glandulosa*
Chilean Mesquite	*Prosopis* species
Velvet Mesquite	*Prosopis velutina*
Screwbean Mesquite	*Prosopis pubescens*
Live Oak	*Quercus virginiana*
Evergreen Elm	*Ulmus parvifolia*

Screwbean Mesquite

ROUNDED CROWN	
Leather-Leaf Acacia	*Acacia craspedocarpa*
Mulga	*Acacia aneura*
Fruitless Olive	*Olea europaea*
Ironwood	*Olneya tesota*
Chinese Pistache	*Pistacia chinensis*

Desert Willow

SHRUBLIKE	
White Thorn Acacia	*Acacia constricta*
Catclaw Acacia	*Acacia greggii*
Blackbrush Acacia	*Acacia rigidula*
Anacacho Orchid Tree	*Bauhinia lunarioides*
Mexican Bird of Paradise	*Caesalpinia mexicana*
Foothill Palo Verde	*Cercidium microphyllum*
Texas Olive	*Cordia boissieri*
Kidneywood	*Eysenhardtia orthocarpa*
Mastic Tree	*Pistacia lentiscus*
Texas Ebony	*Pithecellobium flexicaule*
Tenaza	*Pithecellobium pallens*
Texas Mountain Laurel	*Sophora secundiflora*
Mexican Buckeye	*Ungnadia speciosa*
Chaste Tree	*Vitex agnus-castus*

VASE - SHAPED	
Guajillo	*Acacia berlandieri*
Sweet Acacia	*Acacia farnesiana*
Cascalote	*Caesalpinia cacalaco*
Canyon Hackberry	*Celtis reticulata*
Blue Palo Verde	*Cercidium floridum*
Hybrid Palo Verde	*Cercidium* hybrid
Desert Willow	*Chilopsis linearis*
Feather Bush	*Lysiloma thornberi*

Sweet Acacia

Mexican Blue Palm

PALMS	
Mexican Blue Palm	*Brahea armata*
Mediterranean Fan Palm	*Chamaerops humilis*

mesa·az
BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY
mesaaz.gov/sustainability

Compiled by Donna DiFrancesco and Hannah Wells, City of Mesa, January 2011