



Landscape Plants for the Arizona Desert

Summer Color Combinations

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

- **Desert Marigold (*Baileya multiradiata*) & Cherry Red Sage (*Salvia coccinea*)**
A worthwhile summer combination is the bright yellow flowers of Desert Marigold in contrast to the intense red, hummingbird-attracting flowers of Cherry Red Sage.
- **Queen's Wreath or Coral Vine (*Antigonon leptopus*) & Yuca Vine (*Merremia aurea*)**
The attractive summer combination of the red flowers of Coral Vine interplanted with the brilliant yellow flowers of Yuca Vine can be seen naturally occurring in the Cape Region of Baja California.
- **Red & Yellow Mexican Hat (*Ratibida columnaris*)**
A great summer, Arizona native wildflower combination is to interplant the red and yellow flower clones of Mexican Hat.
- **Trailing Lantana (*Lantana montevidensis*) with Yellow Lantana (*Lantana sp.*)**
Trailing Lantana provides splashes of lavender to contrast with the profusion of yellow provided by the Yellow Lantana. Both will attract butterflies.
- **Chocolate Flower (*Berlandiera lyrata*) & Purple Verbena (*Verbena tenuisecta*)**
The 'chocolate-scented', yellow, daisy-like blooms of the Chocolate Flower contrast well with the purple flowers of ground-covering Purple Verbena.
- **Red Bird of Paradise & yellow flowering selections (*Caesalpinia pulcherrima*)**
Interplanting the red Bird of Paradise with the contrasting yellow-flowering selections of this plant creates an outstanding summer shrub combination.
- **Purple Ruellia (*Ruellia brittoniana*) & Yellow Bells (*Tecoma stans*)**
The brilliant yellow flowers of shrubby Yellow Bells contrast well with the purple flowers of the Purple Ruellia.
- **Thunder Cloud Sage (*Leucophyllum candidum* 'Thunder Cloud') & Yellow Bells (*Tecoma stans*)**
The gray foliage and intense purple flowers of Thunder Cloud Sage provide a distinctive contrast to the brilliant yellow flowers and green foliage of Yellow Bells.
- **Littleleaf Cordia (*Cordia parvifolia*) & Trailing Lantana (*Lantana montevidensis*) or Katie Ruellia (*Ruellia brittoniana* 'Katie')**
Small, oval, gray-green leaves cover the tough, Sonoran Desert native, Littleleaf Cordia. From March to October, it is covered with crisp white flowers. Blues, purples, and pinks are especially nice in combination with the white blooms. Try Trailing Lantana or Katie Ruellia for purple flowers and green foliage to contrast with the white-flowering Cordia.
- **Baja Ruellia (*Ruellia peninsularis*) with Yellow Lantana (*Lantana sp.*) & Purple Prickly Pear (*Opuntia santa-rita*)**
This triple combination provides a splash of bright yellow to contrast with the purple flowers of the Baja Ruellia and the green-purple flesh of the Purple Prickly Pear.
- **Bougainvillea (*Bougainvillea spectabilis*) with Yellow Lantana (*Lantana sp.*)**
The bright flowers of the Bougainvillea contrast well with the splash of yellow provided by the Yellow Lantana.