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## SUMMER HOURS

6:30 am to 3:30 pm Monday through Friday  
Closed Weekends and Holidays

# UPCOMING EVENTS

### September 9–10

#### Southwest Horticultural Trade Show & Conference

Phoenix Civic Plaza, Phoenix, AZ. Sponsored by the Arizona Nursery Association. Information: Contact ANA, (480) 966-1610; e-mail azna@globalcrossing.net; website: <http://www.azna.org>

### September 15

#### New Member Network & Trade Show Night

The Waterfront, Tempe, AZ. Sponsored by the Arizona Landscape Contractor's Association. Information: Contact Judy Gausman (480) 296-2064; Toll Free: (888) 490-0000; e-mail judy@azlca.com

### September 22–23

#### Western Nursery & Garden Expo

Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, NV. Sponsored by the California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers. Information: Contact CANGC, (800) 748-6214; e-mail westernexpo@cangc.org; website: <http://westernexpo.com>

### October 13–14

#### Turfgrass & Landscape Expo

Fairplex, Pomona, CA. Sponsored by the Southern California Turf Council. Information: Contact SCTC (800) 500-7282; e-mail expo@turfCouncil.org.

### October 21

#### Horticulture Research & Education Conference

Mission Inn, Riverside, CA. Sponsored by the University of California and the California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers. Information: Contact John Kabashima, UC Cooperative Extension Center, (949) 733-3970; fax (949) 653-1800; e-mail jnk-abashima@ucanr.org

### October 22

#### Mountain States Wholesale Nursery 35th Anniversary Open House

Mountain States Nursery, 100020 W. Glendale Ave., Glendale, AZ. Contact the Nursery to R.S.V.P. at 800-840-8509 or 623-247-8509.

### October 24–26

#### 30th Annual Conference & Agri-Expo "CAPCA 30 Years—Celebrate"

Disneyland Hotel, Anaheim, CA. Sponsored by the California Association of Pest Control Advisors (CAPCA). Information: Contact Kim Crum at (916) 928-1625.

### October 29–November 2

#### American Society of Landscape Architects Annual Meeting & EXPO

Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City, UT. Information: Call (202) 898-2444 or visit the website: [www.asla.org](http://www.asla.org)

# TREES FOR SPECIAL SITES

Landscape architects and designers often face many challenges when it comes to choosing the right tree for the right place. So often they must perform this exercise each time they put pen to paper. To simplify the process, perhaps a checklist of environmental conditions could be useful. The list could include tree species by climatic zone, those that can sustain reflected sun or extreme shade, or perhaps poor soil conditions like alkalinity, salinity or inadequate drainage, and let us not forget windy sites. Each tree species must be checked against the list of conditions to determine if they will be satisfactory.

The check list could include specific design criteria, such as those species suitable for use in narrow locations, proximity to pools, height restrictions, use in containers or restricted root zones and seasonal color. Obviously, by inserting these considerations the focus narrows considerably. We thought it might be interesting to look at a few of these items from a design standpoint.

One of the most challenging design features today is ultimate size. With home lot sizes shrinking to postage stamp proportions, trees used 10 years ago might seem a bit large in proportion to these yards. Designers must challenge the plant palette to locate just the right specimen tree that does not become out of balance with the size of the landscape. Some designers have begun using plants once considered large shrubs. These plants are particularly effective as small stature trees especially if they can be found in relatively large containers. From this perspective the list of suitable species is rather extensive. Of the lesser known plants,

*Acacia greggii* (Catclaw Acacia), *Chilopsis linearis* (Desert Willow), *Cordia boissieri* (Texas Olive) and *Vauquelinia californica* (Arizona Rosewood) are just a few possibilities.

Some professionals might think this approach to design is a disgrace to the species, perhaps bordering on 'plant abuse.' Many arborists feel that a tree is not truly a tree unless it naturally reaches a height of 15 feet, without excessive training. But if you review the plant palette for a climatic zone, one may find shrubs of a large stature that will comfortably mature to the desired size, offering shade, screening and beauty.

Small trees might be convenient for use near overhead obstructions such as power lines or overhanging buildings. Occasionally there will be CC&R restrictions that mandate maximum height limitations to maintain unobstructed scenic views of perhaps a lake or the skyline of a valley. Such circumstances require that the designer take into account mature height and foliage density.

On the other end of the spectrum, small properties sometimes demand petite, non-invasive root systems. Plants are often subjected to such treatment in urban conditions. Talk about your plant abuse, this is the ultimate. Restricted root zones, often coupled with reflected heat and glaring sun from concrete driveways and patios, presents the most challenging design requirements. We must find plants that can withstand such harsh conditions. A short list might include *Vitex agnus-castus* (Chaste Tree) *Caesalpinia cacalaco* (Cascalote) and *Bauhinia mexicana* (Orchid Tree).

When looking for trees for use in limited root areas, think of soil type and drainage. Many plants found in nature survive in overly moist soils, heavy clay and poor water infiltration. Trees native to riparian areas or bottom lands might be the most successful for use in confined, shallow spaces with limited aeration and drainage. Consider trees such as *Platanus wrightii* (Arizona Sycamore), *Platanus mexicana* (Mexican Sycamore) and *Salix gooddingii* (Goodding's Willow) and *Salix exigua* (Coyote Willow).

Trees for use near swimming pools offer additional concern. It is incredible how often one hears that palm trees planted near a pool have caused enough damage to warrant removal. Most homeowners and some landscape designers do not realize the relative size of a mature palm tree root system, especially species within the genera *Washingtonia* and *Phoenix*. The narrow space between concrete block masonry walls and swimming pools is far too small in most situations for these potentially large plants. Concrete surfaces such as pool decks are no match for the incredible force exerted by the massive root systems. Choose trees carefully to match the site restrictions. Additionally, avoid trees with potentially invasive roots such as willows and sycamores near water features and septic tanks. And remember, large leaves and abundant leaf or flower litter can wreak havoc with pool filtration systems too. Some trees to consider near pools are *Acacia aneura* (Mulga), *Acacia stenophylla* (Shoestring Acacia), *Dalbergia sissoo* (Rosewood) or *Pittosporum phillyraeoides* (Willow Pittosporum). (cont'd)

### Trees for Special Sites (cont'd)

While in the design mode, consider plants with interesting features, such as attractive bark, exquisite branching systems, or flowering habits. Many landscapers recognize these attributes and take advantage of them in the design process. For example, check out the zigzag branch patterns of *Ebenopsis ebano* (Texas Ebony) or the *Zizyphus obtusifolia* (Graythorn). Don't forget

fragrance as a design element, with the sweet smell of grape bubblegum from *Sophora secundiflora* (Texas Mountain Laurel) and the vanilla scent of the *Eysenhardtia orthocarpa* (Kidneywood). Fall color is a prized design factor, for which we should consider the vivid reds and oranges of *Pistacia chinensis* (Chinese Pistache), many of the Oak species including *Quercus buckleyi* and *Q. muhlenbergii*. And spring or summer floral

displays abound in nature with *Acacia* and *Parkinsonia* species as prime examples.

There are so many possibilities. Just remember to keep everything in perspective. Be open minded, giving consideration to every plant on the palette. Weigh the list of desirable features with the design constraints, gradually reducing the list to match suitability. By finding the right associations, you are sure to find the perfect specialty tree.

### BEST SITES FOR...

|   | SEASONAL WET SOIL | WINDY AREAS | REFLECTED HEAT | SHADY SPOTS | POOR SOILS | SALT TOLERANT | NARROW SPACES | SWIMMING POOLS | SEASONAL COLOR | SMALL HEIGHT | CONTAINERS | LTD H <sub>2</sub> O |
|---|-------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|------------|----------------------|
| <i>Acacia aneura</i> (Mulga)                                    |                   |             | X              |             | X          | X             | X             |                |                | 20'          |            | X                    |
| <i>Acacia berlandieri</i> (Guajillo)                            |                   |             |                |             |            |               |               | X              |                | 10'–15'      | X          | X                    |
| <i>Acacia farnesiana</i> syn. <i>smallii</i> (Sweet Acacia)     | X                 |             | X              | X           | X          |               |               | X              |                |              |            |                      |
| <i>Acacia greggii</i> (Catclaw Acacia)                          |                   |             | X              |             | X          |               |               | X              |                | 15'          |            | X                    |
| <i>Acacia occidentalis</i> (Sonoran Catclaw)                    |                   | X           | X              |             | X          |               |               | X              |                | 25'          |            | X                    |
| <i>Acacia rigidula</i> (Blackbrush Acacia)                      |                   |             |                |             |            | X             |               | X              |                | 10'–15'      | X          |                      |
| <i>Acacia salicina</i> (Willow Acacia)                          |                   |             |                |             |            |               | X             |                |                |              |            |                      |
| <i>Acacia saligna</i> (Orange Wattle)                           |                   |             |                | X           |            |               |               | X              |                | 15'–35'      | X          |                      |
| <i>Acacia schaffneri</i> (Twisted Acacia)                       |                   |             |                | X           |            |               |               |                |                | 20'          |            | X                    |
| <i>Acacia stenophylla</i> (Shoestring Acacia)                   |                   |             |                |             | X          | X             | X             |                |                |              |            |                      |
| <i>Acacia willardiana</i> (Palo Blanco)                         |                   |             |                | X           |            | X             |               |                |                |              |            | X                    |
| <i>Bauhinia mexicana</i> (Orchid Tree)                          |                   |             |                |             |            | X             |               | X              |                | 10'–18'      | X          |                      |
| <i>Caesalpinia cacalaco</i> (Casalote)                          |                   |             | X              |             |            | X             |               | X              |                | 15'          | X          |                      |
| <i>Celtis laevigata</i> v. <i>reticulata</i> (Canyon Hackberry) | X                 |             | X              | X           | X          |               |               |                |                |              |            |                      |
| <i>Celtis occidentalis</i> (Hackberry)                          | X                 | X           |                |             |            |               |               |                |                |              |            |                      |
| <i>Cercis canadensis</i> v. <i>mexicana</i> (Redbud)            |                   |             |                | X           |            | X             |               | X              |                | 15'–25'      | X          |                      |
| <i>Cercocarpus ledifolius</i> (Curl Leaf Mtn. Mahogany)         |                   | X           |                |             | X          | X             |               |                |                | 25'          | X          |                      |
| <i>Chilopsis linearis</i> (Desert Willow)                       | X                 | X           | X              |             | X          | X             |               | X              |                | 25'–30'      | X          |                      |
| <i>Cordia boissieri</i> (Texas Olive)                           |                   |             | X              |             |            | X             |               | X              |                | 10'–25'      | X          |                      |
| <i>Dalbergia sissoo</i> (Rosewood)                              | X                 |             | X              |             | X          |               | X             |                |                |              |            |                      |
| <i>Ebenopsis ebano</i> (Texas Ebony)                            |                   |             |                |             | X          |               |               |                |                |              |            |                      |
| <i>Eucalyptus microtheca</i> (Coolibah)                         | X                 | X           | X              |             | X          | X             |               |                |                |              |            |                      |
| <i>Eucalyptus salubris</i> (Gimlet)                             |                   |             | X              |             |            |               |               | Clay           |                |              |            |                      |
| <i>Eucalyptus sargentii</i> (Salt River Mallet)                 |                   |             |                |             | X          | X             |               |                |                |              |            |                      |
| <i>Eysenhardtia orthocarpa</i> (Kidneywood)                     |                   | X           |                |             | X          | X             |               | X              |                | 10'          | X          | X                    |
| <i>Fraxinus greggii</i> (Littleleaf Ash)                        | X                 | X           |                | X           | X          | X             | X             |                |                | 12'          | X          |                      |
| <i>Fraxinus velutina</i> (Arizona Ash)                          |                   |             |                |             | X          | X             |               |                |                |              |            |                      |
| <i>Havardia mexicana</i> (Mexican Ebony)                        |                   | X           | X              |             |            |               |               |                |                |              |            | X                    |
| <i>Havardia pallens</i> (Tenaza)                                |                   |             | X              | X           |            |               |               |                |                |              |            | X                    |
| <i>Juglans major</i> (Arizona Walnut)                           | X                 | X           |                |             |            |               |               |                |                |              |            |                      |
| <i>Leucaena retusa</i> (Golden Leadball Tree)                   |                   |             |                |             |            | X             |               | X              |                | 15'–25'      | X          |                      |
| <i>Olneya tesota</i> (Ironwood)                                 |                   |             | X              |             | X          |               |               | X              |                |              |            | X                    |
| <i>Parkinsonia florida</i> (Blue Palo Verde)                    |                   |             | X              |             | X          | X             |               | X              |                |              |            | X                    |

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|---|-------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|------------|----------------------|---|
| <i>Parkinsonia microphylla</i> (Foothill Palo Verde)        |                   |             | X              |             | X          | X             |               |                | X              |              |            | X                    |   |
| <i>Parkinsonia praecox</i> (Sonoran Palo Verde)             |                   |             | X              |             | X          | X             |               |                | X              |              |            |                      |   |
| <i>Parkinsonia hybrid</i> 'Desert Museum'                   |                   |             | X              |             | X          | X             |               |                | X              |              |            |                      |   |
| <i>Pistacia chinensis</i> (Chinese Pistache)                |                   | X           |                |             |            |               |               |                | X              |              |            |                      |   |
| <i>Pistacia</i> x 'Red Push' (Red Push Pistache)            |                   | X           |                |             |            |               |               |                | X              |              |            |                      |   |
| <i>Pittosporum phylliraeoides</i> (Willow Pittosporum)      |                   | X           | X              |             |            |               | X             | X              |                | 20'–25'      |            |                      |   |
| <i>Platanus mexicana</i> (Mexican Sycamore)                 | X                 |             |                |             |            |               |               | X              |                |              |            |                      |   |
| <i>Platanus wrightii</i> (Arizona Sycamore)                 | X                 |             |                |             |            |               |               | X              |                |              |            |                      |   |
| <i>Prosopis Phoenix</i> ™ Thornless Mesquite                | X                 |             |                | X           |            |               |               | X              | X              |              |            |                      |   |
| <i>Prosopis glandulosa</i> (Texas Honey Mesquite)           | X                 | X           | X              |             |            |               |               | X              | X              |              |            |                      |   |
| <i>Prosopis juliflora</i> (Arizona Honey Mesquite)          | X                 | X           | X              |             |            |               |               | X              | X              |              |            | X                    |   |
| <i>Prosopis pubescens</i> (Screwbean Mesquite, Tornillo)    |                   | X           | X              |             |            |               |               | X              | X              |              |            | X                    |   |
| <i>Quercus buckleyi</i> (Texas Red Oak)                     |                   |             |                |             |            |               |               |                | X              |              |            |                      |   |
| <i>Quercus fusiformis</i> (Escarpment Oak)                  |                   |             | X              | X           |            |               |               | X              | X              |              |            |                      |   |
| <i>Quercus muhlenbergii</i> (Chinquapin Aak)                |                   |             |                |             |            |               |               | X              |                |              |            |                      |   |
| <i>Quercus polymorpha</i> (Monterrey Oak)                   |                   |             |                |             |            |               |               | X              |                |              |            |                      |   |
| <i>Rhus virens</i> v. <i>choriophylla</i> (Evergreen Sumac) |                   |             |                | X           |            |               | X             |                | X              | 15'–18'      |            |                      |   |
| <i>Salix exigua</i> (Coyote Willow)                         | X                 |             |                |             |            |               |               | X              | X              |              |            |                      |   |
| <i>Salix gooddingii</i> (Goodding's Willow)                 | X                 |             |                |             |            |               |               | Clay           |                | 20'–30'      |            |                      |   |
| <i>Salix taxifolia</i> (Yewleaf Willow)                     | X                 | X           |                |             |            |               |               | X              | X              | X            |            | X                    |   |
| <i>Sambucus nigra</i> ssp. <i>cerulea</i> (Elderberry)      |                   |             |                |             |            |               |               | X              |                |              | X          | 15'–30'              |   |
| <i>Sophora secundiflora</i> (Texas Mountain Laurel)         |                   |             |                | X           | X          |               | X             | X              | X              | X            | X          | 15'–20'              | X |
| <i>Ungnadia speciosa</i> (Mexican Buckeye)                  |                   |             |                |             |            |               |               | X              |                | X            | X          | 12'–25'              | X |
| <i>Vauquelinia</i> sp. (Rosewood)                           |                   |             | X              |             |            |               | X             |                | X              | 10'–20'      | X          | X                    |   |
| <i>Vitex agnus-castus</i> (Monk's Pepper Tree)              |                   |             |                | X           |            |               |               | X              | X              | 15'–25'      | X          |                      |   |
| <i>Zizyphus obtusifolia</i> (Graythorn)                     |                   | X           | X              |             |            |               |               | X              | X              | X            |            |                      |   |

## PLANTIS™ IS HERE!

The Mountain States web site just got smarter! If you have visited the web site, then you know it is a veritable encyclopedia of information on plants. George Hull, our Product Development Manager, in conjunction with Greg Stradryniak, have spent several years in the development of a new tool for use in the web site. Known as **PLANTIS™** the searchable data base offers even more on-line answers for all your plant questions.

**PLANTIS™** is easy to use and requires no downloads to your computer. To use the program, one only needs to visit the web site at [www.mswn.com](http://www.mswn.com). Once there, click on the Mountain States logo to find the Home Page. On the left side

of the page will be an array of buttons. Choose the one marked **PLANTIS™** to open the program. A new window will open with an attractive photo of an Agave. If you are a first time user you will be asked to register by filling out a short form. The registration allows us to keep tabs on how the program is utilized and by type of customer.

While on the entry page you may also enter a power point program that provides details on **PLANTIS™** and how to best utilize the program. Once you are registered and logged into the program, you may begin to explore the wealth of information inside. The data base is searchable by common or scientific name or if you prefer, you may select plants by desired characteristics. For example, you may search by items such as ultimate size, landscape use, flower color and so on.

When **PLANTIS™** brings up the list of possible species that match your criteria, you may click on the name and you will be presented with a brief description of the plant, urban locations for which it is adapted, and landscape uses. For this plant, there are four photos available and a link to a printable Adobe info page in pdf format.

This incredible program is easy to use and the wealth of information contained within is updated on a regular basis. We hope that you will enjoy the **PLANTIS™** program and find it useful in your daily work. Please feel free to use the information and photos; we only ask that you show credit as to the origin. If you find discrepancies or wish to add information that is missing, please feel free to contact George at [george@mswn.com](mailto:george@mswn.com) or call 800-840-8509. We welcome your comments and input.