

Love Those Leucophyllums!

Plant Texas Rangers in full sun and reflected heat locations. These adaptable beauties are also very cold tolerant, down to 10° F. They prefer well-drained soils, and will rot out if overwatered. If you plant them in full sun, and allow ample room for growth, very little pruning should be required. If you must prune them, do so in the spring, since the summer heat will produce a flush of new growth.

Leucophyllum candidum Thunder Cloud™

Proof that good things come in small packages, Thunder Cloud™ is one of the most popular Texas Rangers. It has a tight, compact form with stiff branches, growing slowly to only 3 feet tall and wide. Its silver-white foliage provides a stunning backdrop for the deep purple flowers. Thunder Cloud™ blooms repeatedly during the summer and fall, making it one of the most floriferous selections on the market. It is also the most likely to rot out if over-watered, so be judicious with your irrigation. It is trademarked by Texas A & M University.

Leucophyllum zygophyllum Cimarron™

Another petite choice, Cimarron™ tops out at about 3 feet tall and wide. It has a softer silhouette than Thunder Cloud™, grey-green foliage, and blue flowers. This species is sometimes called Blue Ranger. The distinctive cupped leaves easily identify this clone. It seems less likely to rot out than the Thunder Cloud™.

Leucophyllum frutescens 'Compacta'

Although this is one of the oldest Leucophyllum selections, it is still a favorite. Its dense, rounded form requires little or no pruning, and its mature size of 5 feet tall and wide is still small enough to warrant a space in most residential gardens. 'Compacta' has grey-silver foliage and produces oodles of pink flowers when the humidity rises. It tolerates more water and heavier soils than the other selections.

Leucophyllum pruinatum Sierra Bouquet™

Sierra Bouquet™ has the most fragrant flowers of all the Texas Rangers. If you plant a cluster of these shrubs in your garden, the air will be perfumed with the scent of grape bubble gum whenever they burst into bloom. Its larger stature, to 6 feet tall and wide, makes it an ideal backdrop for some of the smaller selections. Open and sprawling in form, Sierra Bouquet™ is a good choice for more natural desert landscapes. Violet blossoms enhance the silver-grey foliage.

Leucophyllum laevigatum...Chihuahuan Sage

Chihuahuan Sage has an informal, relaxed growth habit. Its loose, spiky form and small olive-green leaves blend in well with our Arizona natives. Periodically throughout the summer and fall they explode with fragrant lavender flowers. They are a reasonable size for most gardens, growing to about 4 feet tall by 5 feet wide.

Leucophyllum langmaniae 'Lynn's Legacy'

This plant was collected by Lynn Lowrey, a very special plantsman from Texas. 'Lynn's Legacy' grows slowly to about 5 feet tall and wide, with a dense, rounded form. Its sage green foliage is a wonderful backdrop for the lavender flowers. Compared to most selections of Texas sage, this clone is not as dependent on changes in relative humidity for flowering. This means that it blooms more often during the course of the summer than other selections. In fact, this clone is called 'Lynn's Everblooming' in Texas. In many ways, 'Lynn's Legacy' is very similar to Rio Bravo', but grows more slowly, blooms more frequently, and has lighter green foliage.

Leucophyllum langmaniae Rio Bravo™

If you prefer a more formal look, you might consider using Rio Bravo™. It is very similar in appearance to Chihuahuan Sage, but maintains a tight, rounded form without any pruning. It forms a dense mound to 5 feet tall and wide. Its foliage is a slightly richer green than Chihuahuan Sage and 'Lynn's Legacy', providing a lush appearance. Although it has the same lavender flowers as Chihuahuan Sage and 'Lynn's Legacy', it does not bloom as profusely.

Leucophyllum frutescens Green Cloud™

Since its introduction to the nursery trade in the early 1980's, Green Cloud™ has become the most widely-used selection. Compared to the other clones, it has the largest leaves, and a lush green color. Frequent summer flowering, with large rose-pink blossoms, are other selling points. Green Cloud™ is fast-growing, and relatively carefree. However, many people are not aware that Green Cloud™ is one of the largest Texas Rangers, easily attaining a size of 6-8 feet tall and wide. This clone is the most deciduous of the selections discussed in this handout.

Leucophyllum revolutum Houdini™

Collected from a higher elevation in Mexico, this species is especially well-suited to colder climates. It is completely evergreen in the Phoenix area, and blooms later than some of the other species, preferring the cooler fall weather. The texture of the foliage is very different from the other Texas rangers. Its succulent, light green leaves have the texture of rosemary. It blooms profusely in the fall with large, medium purple flowers. This plant grows slowly to 4 feet tall by 4-5 feet wide.



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