

12 'More' Drought-Tolerant Plants to Make Your Yard Feel Lush, But Lean!

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- Typical home in Las Cruces, NM.
- Neglected for many, many years.
- No updates, or improvements since the 1970's.
- No where to go but up, home bought in 2010.

March 2010

14-year-old garden started from barren ground in Las Cruces, New Mexico 2025



Landscaping by a One Man Show!



"Buffalo grass" by John Tann is licensed under CC BY 2.0.



"Bouteloua dactyloides" by CK Kelly is licensed under CC BY 4.0.



Name: Buffalograss



"bison" by Royalty-free image collection is licensed under CC BY 2.0.

Bouteloua dactyloides (commonly known as buffalograss) is native to the Great Plains of North America. It grows 4" to 12" tall. Drought tolerant.

Bouteloua dactyloides

‘Kurapia’



A semi-**evergreen** groundcover that requires **minimal maintenance** and **75% less water** than traditional turf grasses. Kurapia provides great **erosion control** and **weed abatement** and is excellent on flat ground or slopes. Native of Japan and Korea

Kurapia planted in April 2025, photo taken August 2025



Kurapia planted
in April 2025,
photo taken
August 2025

Phyla nodiflora
'Kurapia' is a low-growing, drought-tolerant groundcover that originates from Japan, though its wild ancestor, *Phyla nodiflora*, is native to warm regions around the world, including parts of the Americas, Asia, Africa, and Australia.



It Grows Where Grass Can't!

by VALLEY SOD FARMS, LLC



- **Far Less Mowing and Maintenance!**
- **Low Water Use**
60%-70% less water than fescue
40%-50% less water than Bermuda
- **Handles Shade Better than Grass**
- **Adapts to Temps from 20-120°F!**
- **Grows Great on Slopes**

Choose Your Look!
Flowering or Grass-Like



No Mowing



After Mowing



3725 W. Teco Ave., #9
Las Vegas, NV 89118

Tel: (702) 645-4070
www.valleysod.com



by VALLEY SOD FARMS, LLC

What is Kurapia?

Kurapia is a newly patented, highly versatile groundcover. Once established, it requires little maintenance and needs less water than cool and warm season turfgrasses.

Kurapia's sturdy structure makes it ideal for many uses. Kurapia works well to cover front yards, medians, shady areas, public utility areas, commercial properties, slopes, and many other low-traffic areas.

Kurapia will tolerate light foot traffic, but is not recommended for heavy traffic areas like playgrounds or sports fields.

Kurapia grows close to the ground and rarely exceeds 2" of height. Most of the year, the plant is covered in small, white flowers that are sterile which means it's unable to reproduce by seed.

Kurapia was bred from the native plant *Lippia nodiflora*, found in the coastal regions of Japan. It is found to be highly tolerant of saline, acidic, and basic soils.

Kurapia has been thoroughly tested at universities and areas in southern California and Nevada and has been proven to thrive in this southwest climate.

PLANT DESCRIPTION

Name: *Lippia nodiflora* ("Kurapia")
Common Name: Kurapia
Plant Type: Perennial
Growth Habit: Prostrate, Spreading, Non-invasive
Origin: Japan
Planting Season: Best in March to September
Flowers: Small, White, May to November
Height: Low growing, less than 2" high
Width: Spreading to 1 foot
Exposure: Full sun to part shade
Drought Tolerant: ETo 20%, by drip irrigation and ETo 60% by sprinkler irrigation
pH Tolerant: pH 4-9
Salinity Tolerant: Up to EC 14dSm
Temperature: 20-120°F (has grown in temps up to 122°F)
USDA Hardiness Zones: 7-13b

UC TESTED - LOW WATER USE



2012 UC Riverside Test - Overhead Irrigation 40% of ETo
2014 UC Davis & UC ANR Test - Drip Irrigation 20% of ETo



LOW MAINTENANCE



Kurapia establishes quickly. Its prostrate growth habit reduces need for mowing.

EROSION CONTROL



75 degree angle slope holds well by Kurapia's mat-like thick root architecture.

RAPID ESTABLISHMENT



Fills in ground rapidly and is evergreen in the southwest states.

In collaboration with: UC RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA



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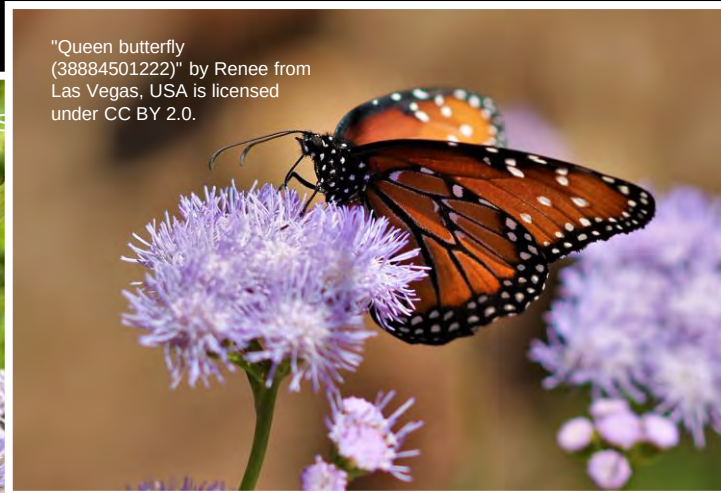
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Conoclinium dissectum — commonly known as Blue Mist Flower, Palmleaf mistflower or Palm-leaf thoroughwort — is native to the southwestern United States and northern Mexico.



"palm-leaf mistflower" by Cyrus Harp is licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0.



"Queen butterfly (38884501222)" by Renee from Las Vegas, USA is licensed under CC BY 2.0.



"Queen butterflies t.stone" by Terry stone is licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0.



"palm-leaf mistflower" by Cody Stricker is licensed under CC BY 4.0.

Conoclinium dissectum 'Boot Hill' is native to the southwestern United States and northern Mexico



"Salvia Greggii Desert Blaze" by Les Serres Fortier is licensed under CC BY 2.0.

Salvia greggii
'Cherry Sage'
Edwards Plateau of Texas & N. Mexico



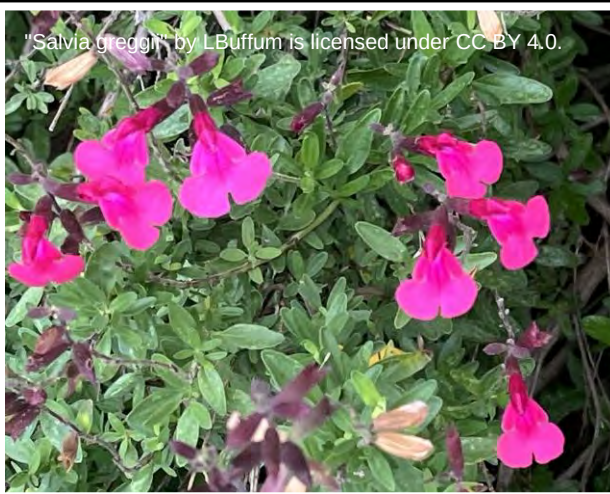
"Salvia greggii 'Savannah Purple' - Σάλβια 01" by Ανώνυμος Βικιπαιδιστής is licensed under CC BY 3.0.

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Salvia greggii
'Cherry Sage'
Edwards Plateau of Texas & N. Mexico

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"Salvia greggii" by Bruce Homer-Smith
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"turpentine bush" by Chloe and Trevor Van Loon is licensed under CC BY 4.0.



Turpentine Bush



"turpentine bush" by Sue Carnahan is licensed under CC BY 4.0.

Ericameria laricifolia



"turpentine bush" by CK Kelly is licensed under CC BY 4.0.

Turpentine Bush,
Ericameria laricifolia, native to
the southwestern USA and
Northern Mexico



Nolina microcarpa 'Beargrass' is native to the southwestern United States and northern Mexico.





"Cestrum aurantiacum -
Orange Cestrum at Ooty
2014 (20)" by Vinayaraj is
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Cestrum aurantiacum
'Orange Peel Jessamine'
Mexico & Central America





Cestrum aurantiacum
'Orange Peel Jessamine'
Mexico & Central America





"Mimosa dysocarpa" by Daniel McNair is licensed under CC BY 4.0.



"MIMOSA, VELVET-POD (Mimosa dysocarpa) (8-17-2016) (78 circulo montana, patagonia lake ranch estates, soc, az, -01)" by Sloan is marked with CC0 1.0

Mimosa dysocarpa, commonly known as 'velvet pod mimosa', is native to the southwestern United States and northern Mexico.



"Acacia constricta flower" by Stan Shebs is licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0.

Vachellia (*Acacia constricta*), commonly known as whitethorn acacia or viscid acacia, is native to the southwestern United States and northern Mexico.



"Vachellia constricta" by Dominic Gentilecore is licensed under CC BY 4.0.



Little-leaf sumac is a much-branched, deciduous shrub, 4-15 ft. tall, with small, pinnate leaves composed of tiny, leather, shiny leaflets. Axillary and terminal clusters of white flowers, which appear before the leaves, are followed by 2-4 in. clusters of orange-red berries. Flowers and fruits are usually not very numerous. Fall color is muted rose and purple.

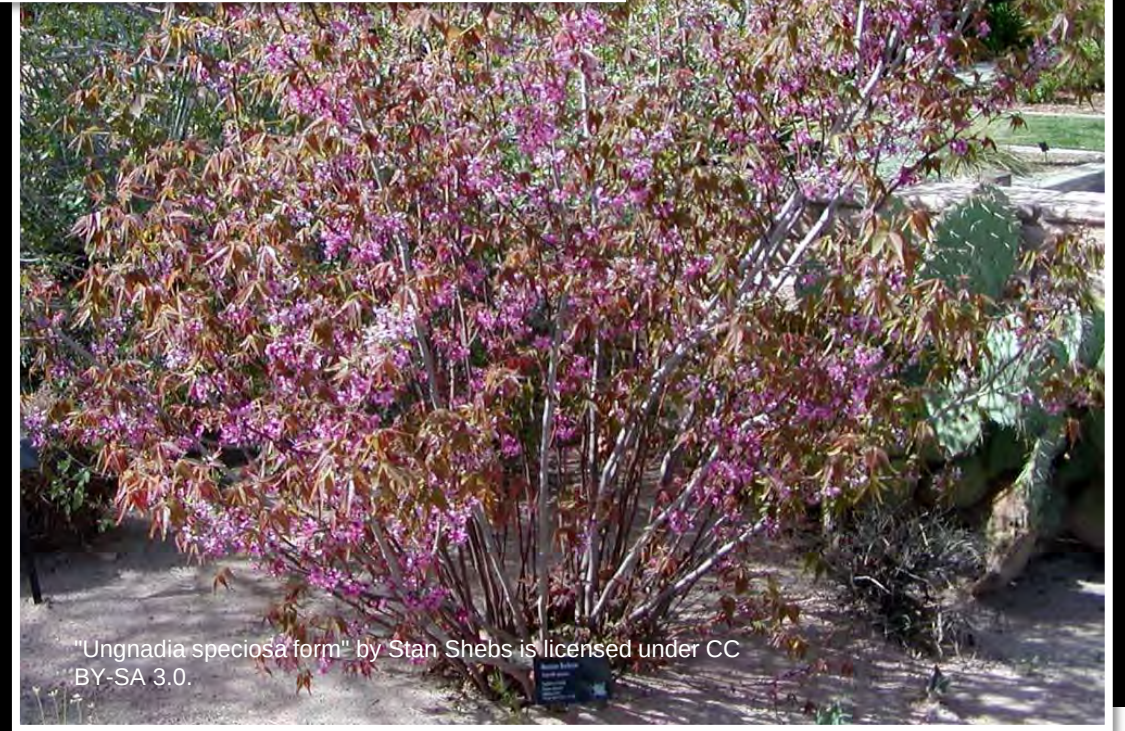
Rhus microphylla 'Little Leaf Sumac', native to the southwestern USA and Northern Mexico



"Ungnadia speciosa flowers" by Stan Shebs is licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0.



"MEXICAN BUCKEYE (Ungnadia speciosa) late april 2017, big bend national park, tx -01" by Stoalan is marked with CC0 1.0.



"Ungnadia speciosa form" by Stan Shebs is licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0.

Ungnadia speciosa, commonly known as Mexican buckeye, is native to Texas, New Mexico, and northern Mexico.



Yucca gloriosa, commonly known as Spanish dagger or Mound lily yucca, is native to the southeastern United States, specifically the coastal regions of the Carolinas, Georgia, and northern Florida.



"190608 110 Kensington Garden Tour - House 3 on Westminster Terrace, Yucca rostrata, Agave lophanthus 'Quadriflorus', Agave nickelsiae, Agave 'Blue Glow', Cleistocactus strausii, Pachypodium lamerei, Euphorbia ammak 'Variegata', Strelitzia nicotina" by cultural413 is licensed under CC BY 2.0.



"190608 013 Kensington Garden Tour - House 6 on Kensington Drive, Yucca rostrata, Euphorbia tirucalli 'Sticks on Fire' Red Pencil Tree" by cultural413 is licensed under CC BY 2.0.

Yucca rostrata, commonly known as beaked yucca or blue yucca, is native to the Chihuahuan Desert region of northern Mexico and the southwestern United States. 'Sapphire Skies' is an especially blue cultivar



"Quercus buckleyi" by lanechaffin is marked with CC0 1.0.



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"Quercus buckleyi" by lanechaffin is marked with CC0 1.0.

'Texas Red Oak'

Quercus buckleyi, is native to the south-central United States, primarily in Texas and southern Oklahoma.



Platycladus orientalis 'Oriental Arborvitae' is native to northwestern China



"Pistacia lentiscus" by Pere Barnola is licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0.



"Anacardiaceae - Pistacia lentiscus - Lentisco-1" by Ettore Balocchi is licensed under CC BY 2.0.



"Pistacia lentiscus 001" by H. Zell is licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0.

Pistacia lentiscus 'Mastic Gum Tree' is native to the Mediterranean region

Doña Ana County Extension Service, ACES-NMSU

'Vegetable Gardening & Native Plants' -Workshop-

November 4, 2025
8:30 am to 11:30 am

La Mesa Community Center
744 San Jose Road,
La Mesa, NM 88044



BE BOLD. Shape the Future.
**College of Agricultural, Consumer
and Environmental Sciences**
Cooperative Extension Service
Doña Ana County Extension Office



Veggies



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"Pomegranate fruit - whole and
piece with arils" by Ivar Aelhus is
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Pomegranate



Texas Sage



Desert Willow 'Bubba'



Yellowhorn

Ground Covers

1. Kurapia (702.645.4070)
2. Bermuda Grass
3. Buffalo Grass/Blue Gramma
4. Ruschia nana/minor (702.245.3978)
5. Ice Plant
6. Dalea greggii
7. Teucrium chamaedrys 'Germander'
8. Zephyranthes candida

Accent Plants

1. Hesperaloe 'Red Yucca'
2. Yucca gloriosa (var. *variegata*)
3. Hymenocallis 'Spider Lilies'
4. Crinum Lilies
5. Salvia sp.
6. Lantana sp. 'New Gold', 'Gold Mound'
7. Muhlenbergia capillaris 'Regal Mist'
8. Hesperaloe sp.
9. Lomandra sp. 'Australian Mat Rush'
10. Cistus sp.
11. Conoclinium dissectum
12. Cestrum aurantiacum

Shrubs

1. Texas Ranger/Sage
2. Buddleja marrubifolia
3. Turpentine Bush
4. Tecoma stans
5. Apache Plume
6. Aloysia wrightii
7. Cordia parvifolia
8. Teucrium fruiticans
9. Sabal minor
10. Rosemary
11. Bear Grass *Nolina sp.*
12. Anisacanthus quadrifidus var. *wrightii*
'Mexican Firecracker Bush'

Small Trees

1. Desert Willow 'Bubba'
2. Scrub Oak
3. Golden Ball Lead Tree
4. Arroyo Sweetwood
5. Yucca rostrata
6. Vitex 'Shoal Creek'
7. Mediterranean Fan Palm
8. Crape Myrtle 'Natchez' or 'Muskogee'
9. Hibiscus syriacus
10. Arizona Rosewood
11. Texas Mountain Laurel
12. Vachellia constricta 'White Thorn Acacia'

Trees

1. 'Red Push' Pistache hyb.
2. Mesquite
3. Spartan juniper
4. Alligator Juniper
5. Rocky Mountain Juniper
6. 'Joan Leonetti' Live Oak
7. Cedar Elm Ulmus crassifolia
8. Mastic Gum Pistacia lentiscus
9. Blue Palo Verde
10. Mexican Blue Oak
11. Eucalyptus microtheca
12. Eucalyptus neglecta
13. California Fan Palm
14. Mexican Sabal Palm
15. 'Yellowhorn' Xanthoceras sorbifolium
16. Platyclusus orientalis
17. Quercus buckleyi 'Texas Red Oak'
18. Pistacia lentiscus 'Mastic Gum'
19. Ungnadia speciosum

Questions & Answers



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?????



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"Atriplex canescens kz17" by Kenraiz is licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0.

Atriplex canescens



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What makes fourwing saltbush unusual is that the sex of any given plant is not fixed genetically (as in most animals) but can change based on environmental cues.



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Atriplex lentiformis 'Big Saltbush'



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