

Tohono Chul Park Greenhouse

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RABBIT-RESISTANT LANDSCAPES

When planning a landscape that will be resistant to predatory bunnies, remember the following: use plants large enough to withstand occasional nibbling, cage small plants with chicken wire, experiment with plants that are particularly aromatic like mint, bury all drip lines to prevent chewing, and remember. Rabbit-resistant does not mean rabbitproof – they will eat anything when pressed!

Aloe spp. – clustering rosettes of fleshy, upright leaves with yellow to orange to red to pink flowers spikes; very attractive to hummingbirds.

Ardiola platy-phylla - year-round blooming bush. 3’x5’ with white flowers. Does suffer some frost damage but will recover quickly.

Dalea greggii/Trailing Indigo Bush – fast growing gray-green ground cover with purple bloom; once established, highly tolerant of heat, drought and poor desert soils.

Eremophila

Euphorbia, *E. lathyris* or Gopher Plant, sprawling plant with fleshy pale green leaves and chartreuse yellow flowers.

Lantana camara/Bush Lantana – dense, spreading shrub; flowers throughout the warm season

Larrea tridentata/Creosote Bush – native shrub extremely drought and heat tolerant, but with ample water can be lush; great as wildlife cover plant; what the desert smells like when it rains!

Oenothera/Mexican Evening Primrose – also *O. casepitosa*/White Evening Primrose

Salvia spp. – examples are *S. chamaedryoides* (grayish leaves, blue-purple flowers), *S. coccinea* (cherry red flowers, freezes to ground but will reseed profusely), *S. clevelandii* (tall, gray green foliage, blue-violet flowers).

Sophora secundiflora/Texas Mountain Laurel or Mescal Bean – shrub or small tree, dark green leaves with grape-scented, lilac-like flower clusters in spring; seeds are poisonous.

Tagetes/Marigold

Verbena – try *V. gooddingii* (Southwest native susceptible to drought), *V. rigida* (hardest, great for erosion control, somewhat invasive).



Salvia, like the type shown above are rabbit-resistant and beautiful.