

## Level Two

# Desert Landscaping



Desert landscaping can reduce or eliminate the need for supplemental water from irrigation. It is promoted in regions, like Arizona, that do not have easily accessible, plentiful, or reliable supplies of fresh water. This type of landscape can also be an alternative to various types of traditional gardening in the desert. It encompasses a diverse range of people and motivations to redevelop and reimagine their neighborhoods. Since there is a lot of open land in Apache Junction within the communities, and around business centers; desert landscaping can encourage growth and help beautify the neighborhoods by growing vegetables, desert plants, or by making a wildlife plot through guerilla landscaping.

### 1. Determine Plant Types

- a. Remember that planting vegetation in your yard or on public land requires a lot of maintenance and regular watering, especially during the first year.
- b. Despite living in a desert, there are many plants that do well in this climate. Some examples include:
  - i. Cacti: prickly pear, barrel cactus and jojoba
  - ii. Succulents: Aloe, Ocotillo, and Yucca
  - iii. Shrubs: sagebrush, Desert Bloom, and bottlebrush
  - iv. For more recommended low water use plants go to [azwater.gov](http://azwater.gov).

### 2. Choose a Location

- a. Once you have determined what type of plants you would like, pick a suitable location to plant your landscape. . Figure the size and place that would be best all year round. If you want to start a desert landscape on your own private property (front yard, backyard, etc) continue to **Step Four**.
- b. If you want to start a garden on public property (near business, empty plot of land, alley etc.) continue to **Step Three**.

### 3. Public Property Landscaping

- a. Public Works is responsible for the construction and maintenance of all public property in the city of Apache Junction. If you would like to plant a garden near or on public property it must be first approved by Heather Patel and then Public Works.
- b. Once you complete the "[Request Form](#)", submit online and Heather Patel and Public Works will review it.
- c. Also see "[Adopt a Street or Median](#)" for more information.

### 4. Determine the Quality of the Land

- a. Before planting, review the quality of the soil you are working with. Is it more Clay, Silt, or Rock? This is important, because it will determine what type of soil and fertilizer you will need to improve the soil for your plants.
- b. Remove any unwanted plants or weeds.

### 5. Buy Materials

- a. When you begin your garden remember to buy flower seeds, young plants, fertilizer, and rocks to get you started. Supplies like rakes, digging hoe, shovel, soil, and water are also needed.

### 6. Designing Your Garden

- a. Begin by building a pathway to the area of the garden for easy access. Make sure the area is level.
- b. Once completed, lay down fertilizer to help maintain healthy plants overtime. Dig small holes in the ground to place seeds or small grown plants.
- c. Place seeds or plants gently in small holes and cover over with fertilizer. After all holes are filled, water the soil at least once a day!

### 7. Overtime Your Garden Will Transform into Something Magnificent

- a. Starting from seeds will take time until you finally see your seeds begin to sprout so patience is key! Once you see your plants begin to bloom above the soil, maintain the quality of the soil and keep them refreshed with water and keep growing more!

