

PLANTING PALETTE

Creating an Identity

The landscape plants provide a variety of attributes within the streetscape. Plants are often the closest thing to the pedestrian, finding groundcover at our feet, shrubs near our hands, and trees near our shoulders and right above our heads. Our eyes and nose see and smell plants, while our hands reach to touch them for an instinctual connection to our natural world. We are naturally familiar with the plants in the streetscape, which gives the streetscape a “user friendly” appeal which offsets the strict forms and function of the surrounding roadway and adjacent structures, creating a balanced experience.

Streets without landscaping are more auto oriented and are not perceived as approachable, accessible, safe or aesthetically pleasing as a streetscape with landscaping. Studies have documented that shade trees and other associated landscaping entice users to visit businesses more often, to stay longer, to spend at higher price points, and to recommend the area to other people.

Street trees and plants adjacent to roadways tend to “calm” traffic and reduce speeds by indicating to motorists that they are travelling through an inhabited area shared with pedestrians and cyclists. Plant lined streets present an enclosed space to cautiously navigate through, in contrast to a roadway without plants which appears to be “wide open” and to be sped through.

Ground Cover

Ground cover completes the pedestrian outdoor room and also acts as an environmental catchment for storm water and debris. Other low water use options not shown below include– Lantana, Coyote Brush, Gazania, Germander, Juniper, and Myoporium.



Emerald Carpet Manzanita



Kurapia

Street Trees

Street trees provide the canopy above our heads that serve as an umbrella for cooling shade, acting as giant air-conditioners. Trees provide the outdoor “roof” for a sense of scale and enclosure, a repeating form for identity, and leaves and flowers for interest and to indicate the change of season. Other low water use options not shown below include– Holly Oak, Fruitless Olive, Crepe Myrtle, Western Redbud, and Strawberry Tree.



Chinese Pistache



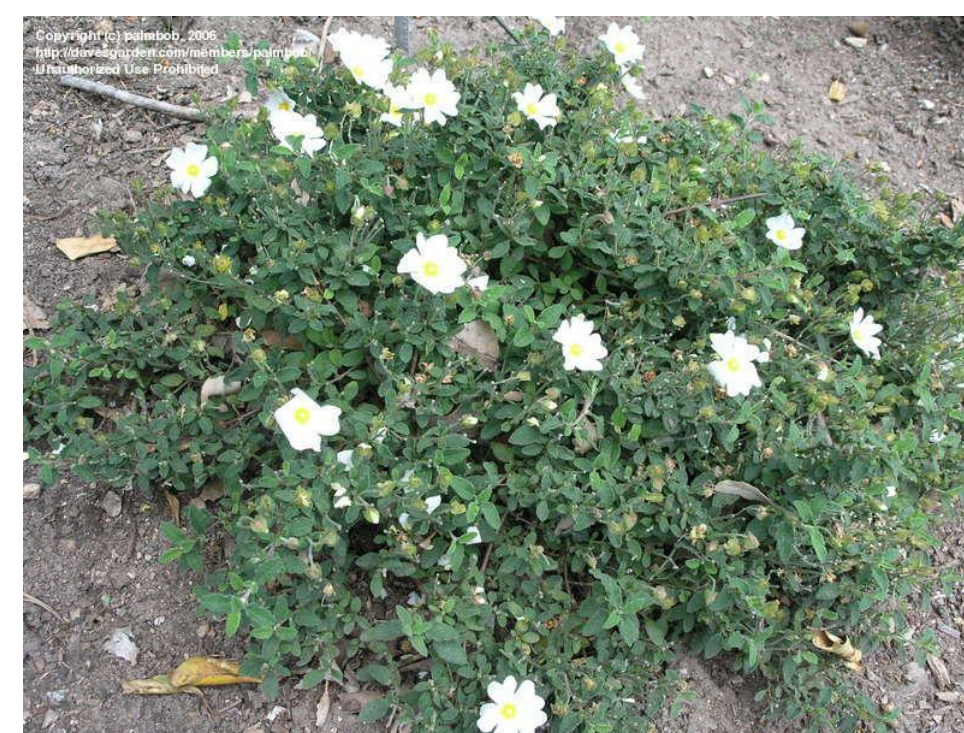
Valley Oak



Desert Willow

Shrubs

Shrubs provide form, texture, color, scent and buffering next to roads and buildings, serving to create spaces by dividing the hardscape into outdoor rooms and bordering travel paths. Other low water use options not shown below include– India Hawthorn, Rosemary, Coprosma, and Myrtle.



Sageleaf Rockrose



Deer Grass

Accent Plantings

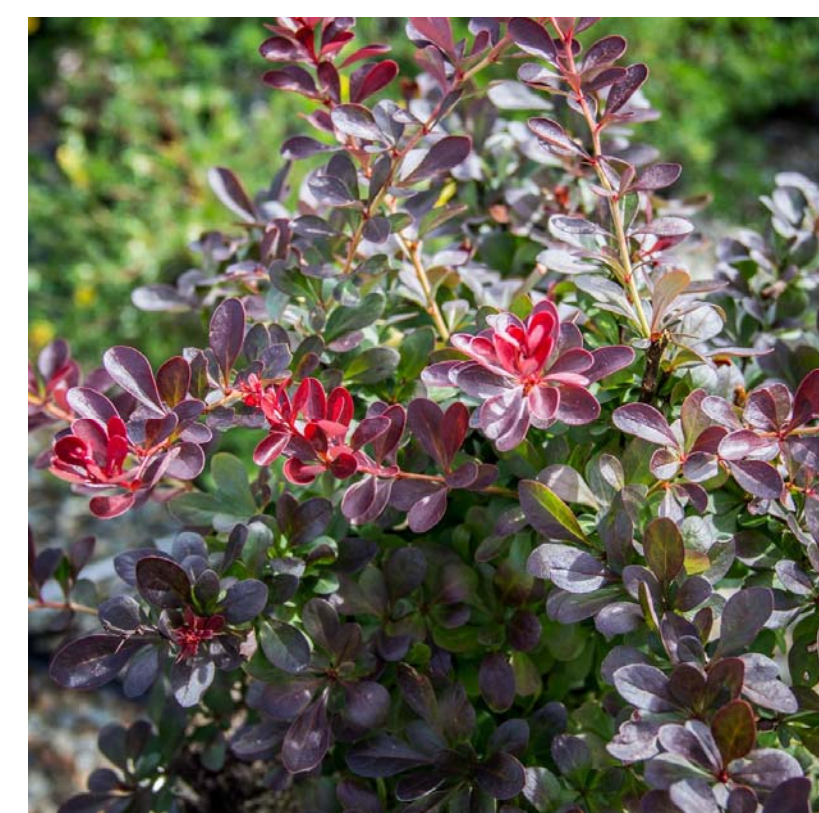
As named, accent plantings accentuate and highlight themselves at focal points to break up the monotony and give character and identity to the streetscape. Other low water use options not shown below include – Fortnight Lily, Fan Flower, and Society Garlic.



Hidcote Blue Lavender



Blue Oat Grass



Cherry Bomb Barberry



Winifred Gilman Sage



California Fuchsia



Color Guard Yucca