



A Guide to Planting Trees, Shrubs, and Groundcovers on Fort Huachuca

Plants selected for Fort Huachuca are to require very little water once they are established. However, all plants will need supplemental water during their first year or so to assure their survival.

Selected Fort Huachuca Approved Trees

Afghan Pine (*Pinus eldarica*) Evergreen
40' h x 20' w; low to moderate water

Aleppo Pine (*Pinus halepensis*) Evergreen
40' h x 25' w, low to moderate water

Arizona Cypress (*Cupressus arizonica*) Evergreen
30' h x 20' w; low water

Chaste Tree (*Vitex agnus-custas*) Deciduous
20' h x 20' w; low to moderate water

Chinaberry (*Melia azedarach*) Deciduous
30' h x 30' w; low to moderate water

Chinese Pistache (*Pistachia chinensis*) Deciduous
40' h x 30' h; low to moderate water

Deodar Cedar (*Cedrus deodara*) Evergreen
60' h x 40' w; low water

Desert Willow (*Chilopsis linearis*) Deciduous
30' h x 20' w; low to moderate water

European Olive (*Olea europaea* Swan Hill)
Evergreen; 30' h x 25' w, low water

Honey Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*) Deciduous
20' h x 15' w; low water

Sweet Acacia (*Acacia smallii*) Evergreen
15' h x 15' w; low water

Velvet Mesquite (*Prosopis velutina*) Deciduous
15' h x 15' w; low water

Selected Fort Huachuca Approved Shrubs and Groundcover

Bottlebrush (*Callistemon citrinus*) Evergreen
15' h x 10' w; full sun; low to moderate water; red flowers

Bright-bead Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster glaucophyllus*) Evergreen; 6' h x 6' w; full sun/partial shade; low water; flowers then berries

Fairy Duster (*Calliandra eriophylla*) Deciduous
3' h x 4' w; full sun; low water; red flowers

Glossy Abelia (*Abelia grandiflora*) Evergreen
5' h x 5' w; filtered shade; low to moderate water; pinkish-white flowers

Heavenly Bamboo (*Nandina domestica*) Evergreen;
4' h x 2' w; sun/partial shade; low water

Pomegranate (*Punica granatum*) Deciduous
10' h x 6' w; full sun; low water; orange-red flowers

Purple Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*)
Foliage browns in winter; 4' h x 4' w; full sun; low water; purple seed plumes

Pyracantha (*Pyracantha* species) Evergreen
15' h x 10' w; full sun; low water

Red Yucca (*Hesperaloe parviflora*) Evergreen
3' h x 3' w; full sun; low water; red or yellow flowers

Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) Evergreen
4' h x 4' w; full sun; low water; blue flowers

Salvia (*Salvia* species) Deciduous or Evergreen
Various sizes; full sun/filtered shade; low to moderate water; various colors

Texas Ranger/Sage (*Leucophyllum* species)
Evergreen; Various sizes; full sun; low water; various colors

Texas Mountain Laurel (*Sophora secundiflora*)
Evergreen; 15' h x 10' w; full sun/partial shade; low to moderate water

Yellow Bird of Paradise (*Caesalpinia gilliesii*)
Semi-deciduous; 6' h x 5' w; full sun; low water; yellow flowers

Choosing a Planting Site

Plant small but think big. Before planting, visualize the size the plant will be at maturity. For example, a tree that is 30' high by 20' wide will need to be properly located to avoid future problems with buildings, sidewalks and driveways. In considering a site for a plant, do not forget to look up to avoid planting under overhead lines.

Before planting a tree or shrub of any kind, obtain approval from the Directorate of Public Works (DPW), Housing Division at 533-3611.

New Plant Watering Tips

A young tree or shrub requires a regular watering schedule in order to get the roots off to a healthy start. It is best to deep soak the root zone at least 18" deep once a week for the first week after it is planted. Deep soaking means watering down to a level slightly below the roots. Continue to water the plant for the first year by deep soaking at least twice a month, making appropriate adjustments depending on weather conditions. If using a water absorbing soil amendment, carefully follow the application directions to allow water to be properly released back into the soil.

Established Plant Watering Tips

The soil area surrounding plant roots, called the root zone, serves as a storage tank from which the plant draws moisture and nutrients. Most trees and shrubs shed rainwater to the drip line much like an umbrella. The smaller roots at the drip line are the roots that absorb the moisture that plants need, not the larger roots found near the plant's trunk. Always water at the drip line—not close to the trunk. Water to a plant's root zone every time. The typical root zone depth for mature plants is 12 to 24 inches for shrubs and 18 to 36 inches for trees.

To establish the appropriate length of time and depth to water, use a soil probe, which is a smooth metal rod approximately 40 inches in length and ¼ inch in diameter that is used to assess moisture in the soil. A soil probe can be constructed or can be checked out from the Self Help store on Fort Huachuca. To properly use the probe you will need to time the period the plant is being watered.

After irrigating at the drip line, push the soil probe into the ground. It should easily press through the wet soil and stop once dry soil is reached. Continue to water the plant and monitor the time until the

probe reaches the appropriate depth. Record the time that the water requires to cover the root zone.

Always water the same duration. Use the soil probe to determine frequency of watering, making adjustments based on weather.

Root depth has a major impact on how often plants need water. Plants that are more deeply rooted need less frequent watering. Get to know each plant's needs and encourage a deep, drought resistant root zone by watering deeply and as infrequently as possible.

During May and June, plants will need extra care. This is the hottest, driest time of the year on Fort Huachuca. Assure that trees and shrubs get enough water to ensure their continued health and development. Healthy plants are much less susceptible to insects, fungus, and disease.

Use of Mulch

Mulches are organic (bark or wood chips, compost, etc.) or inorganic (rock) materials that reduce the loss of moisture from the soil by evaporation. A two-inch to three-inch layer of organic or inorganic mulch on top of a plant's root zone will greatly reduce the frequency of watering. Mulches aid in weed control and in the case of organic mulches, keep the soil cooler.

For additional information or to answer any questions, please contact:

The Fort Huachuca Installation Forester at 533-5701 or the Fort Huachuca Water Wise and Energy Smart Program at 538-7283.

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