

10 Best Desert Shrubs

1. **Mexicali Fairy Duster** - *Calliandra californica* 'Mexicali'

Mature size: 4 ft tall × 4 ft wide

Key features: Compact form with year-round red blooms. Pollinator magnet.

2. **Blue Bell Emu / 'Grey Horizon'** - *Eremophila hygrophana*

Mature size: 3 ft tall × 4 ft wide

Key features: Lavender flowers nearly all year. Silvery foliage and low water use.

3. **Desert Globemallow – 'Orange Crush'** - *Sphaeralcea ambigua* 'Orange Crush'

Mature size: 2 ft tall × 3 ft wide

Key features: Compact, tidy shape. Long bloom from November to May.

4. **Texas Sage – 'Little Lynn'** - *Leucophyllum frutescens* 'Little Lynn'

Mature size: 4 ft tall × 4 ft wide

Key features: Evergreen with lavender flowers. Naturally rounded and dense.

5. **Little Rascal Buckwheat** - *Eriogonum fasciculatum* 'Little Rascal'

Mature size: 2 ft tall × 3 ft wide

Key features: Native with silvery foliage. Great for pollinators and slopes.

6. **Dwarf Olive – 'Little Ollie'** - *Olea europaea* 'Little Ollie'

Mature size: 4 ft tall × 4 ft wide (up to 10 ft unpruned)

Key features: Evergreen and tidy. No fruit, minimal pruning.

7. **Desert Ruellia** - *Ruellia peninsularis*

Mature size: 4 ft tall × 5–6 ft wide

Key features: Lush green look with purple blooms. Handles full sun and reflected heat.

8. **Shrubby Germander** - *Teucrium fruticans*

Mature size: 3–4 ft tall × 5 ft wide

Key features: Blue flowers, no pruning needed. Wind and heat tolerant.

9. **Lantana (Bush Form)** - *Lantana camara*

Mature size: 4–5 ft tall × 4–5 ft wide

Key features: Butterfly favorite. Nonstop color and frost-hardy with spring cutback.

10. **Butterfly Magic Desert Milkweed** - *Asclepias subulata* 'Butterfly Magic'

Mature size: 3–4 ft tall × 2–3 ft wide

Key features: Monarch host plant. Tougher stems and better drainage tolerance.

Bonus: **Creosote** *Larrea tridentata* Mature size: 6 ft tall × 6 ft wide (can grow larger)

Key features: Native desert scent after rain. Pollinator-friendly and drought-proof