

XERISCAPE

NATURE'S CHOICE OF LANDSCAPE



Verbena

Verbenas are heat-loving, perennial groundcovers that provide spectacular color from spring through summer. When used in mass, verbenas add splashes of color and interest to the landscape. Verbenas prefer growing in sunny locations and in well-drained soil. During their blooming period, weekly watering helps produce glorious flower displays. Irrigation can be reduced after the plants have finished blooming. Light application of nitrogen revitalizes the plants during the hot summers, but additional fertilization is not generally required. Pruning off the dried flower stalks and spent foliage in early summer will give the plants a cleaner appearance. Verbenas are short-lived, so you should anticipate replacing them after two or three years. However, some species can re-seed and naturalize in the landscape.

Verbena gooddingii

Goodding's Verbena

This verbena is native to Arizona and other parts of the southwest. The foliage is light green, deeply lobed, and covered with white hairs. This plant forms a soft mound 8 to 12 inches tall by 3 feet wide. Its colorful lavender flowers compliment many other native perennials like Paper Flower, Desert Marigold, Blackfoot Daisy and Penstemons. Planted in masses, its flowers provide spectacular springtime color and attract many species of butterflies. Since *Verbena gooddingii* can look scruffy in the summer, it is most effective when mixed with more evergreen plants or treated as a spring annual. It requires supplemental water to make it through the hot summer months. The lifespan of this species is limited to two or three years.

Verbena peruviana

Peruvian Verbena

Verbena peruviana is native to Argentina and southern Brazil, and thrives in semi-shaded or filtered sun locations in our desert climate. This species is very low-growing, to only 6 to 8 inches tall, and spreads to 3 or more feet across. Although the most common color is hot pink, local nurseries offer color selections ranging from white to red to purple. The foliage is dark green and fine-textured. While Peruvian verbena tolerates our summer heat and blooms profusely in the spring and early summer, plants often die out and need to be replaced after several years.

Verbena pulchella

Moss Verbena

This fine textured groundcover creates a carpet of purple over a long season and is helpful for erosion control on slopes and banks. It has a flat growth habit from 6 to 12 inches high to 2 to 5 feet across with dark green finely divided leaves. Moss verbena's small flower clusters are blue to purple to violet and bloom from late winter into fall in warm desert locations. This verbena is drought tolerant but performs best when established plants are watered every two weeks in the summer. Native to South America.