Eremophila

This group of evergreen plants comes from the semi-arid to arid regions of Australia. In fact the translation of the scientific name, eremos, means desert or lonely place. The eremophilas, or emu bushes, grow in a variety of soil types very similar to those we have in the southwest. Most are very drought tolerant, surviving long periods without water.

The flowers of the various varieties of eremophila range from white, yellow, violet, purple, pink and red. The throats of the tubular flowers are sometimes spotted, but always attract hummingbirds and other nectar feeders.

Eremophila maculata
Red Eremophila.
The lipstick red, tubular flowers begin appearing in January, making this shrub a welcome splash of color in our winter landscapes. It has a long bloom period that extends through March and occasional re-bloom in May. Red eremophila grows to 4 feet by 5 feet with deep green foliage and a dense rounded form. It will tolerate temperatures down to 15 degrees and seems unaffected by hot dry summers.

Eremophila maculata aurea
Yellow Eremophila
Look for this cultivar which produces light yellow flowers over a long period from late winter through spring. Yellow eremophila has a spreading habit and grows 3 to 5 feet tall and wide. It will tolerate heavy clay soils and looks best growing in full sun. ‘If pruning is required, do it in late spring and use ‘natural’ or ‘selective’ pruning (don’t shear).

Eremophila
Blue Eremophila
This shrub has a spreading growth habit to a mature size of 6 feet tall and wide. Its leaves are light green and narrow. During the warm season tubular lilac-blue flowers cover this medium sized shrub.

Eremophila laanii
Pink Eremophila
Pink eremophila’s bloom season runs from April through October. Excellent as a screening plant, pink eremophila will reach 6 feet tall by 6 feet wide.

Eremopnila racemosa
Bicolor Eremophila
Sometimes called the Easter Egg Bush, this shrub’s flowers start out as yellow, turning orange and maturing as pink or purple. Bicolor eremophila has an erect growth habit to 5 feet tall and wide. It requires full sun and good drainage and is hardy to 25 degrees F.