

THE secret OF THE southwest

It's more than just cactus!

The Southwest U.S. and Mexico are home to a rich variety of plant and animal communities that change dramatically with elevation.

Explore the Southwest U.S. and Mexican Plant Collection to learn more about these bold, beautiful, and water-wise plants.



The plants in this garden come from the shaded region on the map, which includes a variety of desert and mountain habitats.



Look for autumn sage (*Salvia greggii*), a hummingbird-attracting Arboretum All-Star, in front of you.

High Elevation

Forests are dominated by pines, oaks, maples (shown here in glorious fall color), and other trees. Shrubby sages make a beautiful understory.

Middle Elevation

Grasslands and open woodlands are dominated by drought-tolerant trees, shrubs, and perennial grasses, like bullgrass.

Low Elevation

Desert communities are dominated by extremely drought-tolerant shrubs, succulents, and fiber plants, like desert spoon.

more cool and moist

Elevation Change

more hot and dry

Look for bullgrass (*Muhlenbergia emersleyi*), a tough and beautiful ornamental grass, in front of you.

Look for desert spoon (*Dasyliirion wheeleri*), a dramatic Arboretum All-Star, in front of you.



Home on the Range

Middle elevation grasslands provide an important natural food source for livestock and wildlife.

Cattle and sheep ranching are the most viable forms of agriculture in much of the Southwest. Dry conditions and lack of irrigation water make growing crops challenging.



Follow the side path to the Animal Science GATEway Garden to learn more.

- See UC Davis horses and other animals up close
- Learn about the work of the Animal Science Department
- Relax in a shaded seating area with beautiful plantings

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ARBORETUM AND PUBLIC GARDEN

Southwest U.S. and Mexican Collection

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