

Denise's short list (tough as nails, season long interest, spreads nicely, underused)

Ground covers

- Thyme (many varieties, drought resistant)
- Sweet woodruff (can take shade or sun, appreciates moist soil)
- Epimedium (dry shade)
- Veronica liwanensis (aka Turkish speedwell, sun or shade)
- Sedum sieboldii mediovariegatum (very drought resistant, sun)
- Ornamental Oregano (sun or shade, beautiful color change as weather cools)
- Silene Druett's variegated (sun, can take the heat)
- Hens and Chicks (many new stunning colors, drought resistant but needs attention when establishing)
- Allegheny Spurge (don't confuse with invasive Japanese pachysandra)

Ornamental

- Solomon's Seal (takes awhile to get going, worth the wait. Shade)
- Japanese Anemone (many beautiful varieties online, sun or shade)
- Goat's Beard (shade/partial shade, doesn't need much water)
- Balloon Flowers (likes partial shade here in the desert, blooms off and on through the growing season)
- Lady's Mantle (sun or shade, can be a tall ground cover)
- Anemones (the kind that grows from corms, partial shade, will multiply)
- Honeywort* (aka Cerinthe, enchanting, good filler, reseeds easily, appreciates a little shade)
- Orlaya* (reseeds easily—the seeds look like stickers but they are not! good filler)
- Kniphofia (not just red hot poker anymore, lots of lovely colors, loves the heat! watch for zone hardiness if buying online)
- Hellebores (shade, expensive but worth it, blooms last a long time, structural foliage, many colors)
- Gaura (aka whirling butterflies, drought resistant, can take the heat, blooms for a long time)
- Bush Sage Raspberry Delight (sun, loves the heat, drought resistant, blooms for a long time)

Shrubs/Small Trees

- Boxwoods (sun or shade, can trim to shape or keep natural form)
- Carolina All Spice tree Aphrodite (stunning!!! long lasting blooms, shade)
- Japanese Kerria (shade, loveliest yellow blooms in spring)
- Coral Berry (shade)
- Harby Hibiscus: late to emerge but once it starts blooming it flowers the whole season, heat lover, Huge blooms

*annuals