

XERISCAPE

NATURE'S CHOICE OF LANDSCAPE



Senna (Cassia)

Sennas are native to the warm regions of Australia and Africa and North America. Most sennas have fine textured foliage and bloom from late winter through spring. Most are evergreen, but those that bloom during the summer tend to be deciduous. While sennas have many uses in the landscape, they are most widely used for screening, and can reach a mature height and width of six to eight feet. They have varying degrees of cold hardiness, and require full sun. Sennas tolerate heavier soils if given infrequent, deep watering, but prefer soils that drain rapidly. Sennas are extremely drought tolerant and require little or no supplemental fertilization or irrigation once established in the landscape (after 2 – 3 years).

Their abundant color display is followed by a prolific crop of seed pods. The natural round form of sennas reduces the need for severe pruning, but lightly pruning after flowering will minimize the production of seed pods. As with most flowering plants, the butter-yellow flowers will attract pollinators including butterflies and bees. Plant your landscape carefully, keeping the ultimate size of the species in mind.

Senna artemisioides **Feathery Senna**

Feathery senna's fine, gray, needle-like foliage provides a great backdrop for its fragrant yellow flowers. It contrasts well with other colors and textures in the landscape. Feathery senna is especially suited for mass plantings, informal screens, and natural desert or wild gardens that require little or no maintenance. Feathery senna is a native of Australia. It requires full sun and the flowers can be damaged during late winter frosts.

Senna neomophila **Desert Senna**

Desert senna has deep green, needle-like foliage, providing a lush alternative in the desert landscape. When used as a background plant, its dark green color accents plants with gray or silver foliage. Desert senna makes a nice screen barrier and shows extremely well in mass plantings. It can be used in arid or transitional plantings to add color. This Australian senna is more cold-hardy than feathery or silver-leaf sennas.

Senna phyllodenia **Silver-leaf Senna**

Silver-leaf senna lives up to its name because of the rich silver color of the foliage. The leaves are flat and sickle-shaped. Silver-leaf senna provides a ripple effect in the wind, thereby creating a living sculpture in the landscape. Its golden yellow flowers bloom in the winter and early spring. As with other silver or gray leaf plants, it needs full sun. This senna is also a native of Australia.

Senna wislizenii **Shrubby Senna**

Native to the Chihuahuan Desert, Shrubby senna features small, medium green, rounded leaves and clusters of bright yellow flowers in the summer. Reaching a mature size of 4 feet by 6 feet, this plant is unique in that it is deciduous in winter. Shrubby senna prefers full sun and is hardy to 10 degrees.