



Resilience Blooms in the Desert

What is Resilience?

"The power or ability of a material to return to its original form, position, etc., after being bent, compressed, or stretched; elasticity." (dictionary.com)

One of the arboretum's missions is to connect people with plants through highlighting the healing benefits of nature, especially in urban settings. The new **Resilience Garden** on campus helps visitors interpret how we can take the scientific principles from plant communities and translate those into uplifting lessons we can bring into our own communities.



A Garden Rooted in Science

With help from the **Desert Legume Program**, eight legume tree species were selected for their ability to thrive in arid climates. These mature trees were at risk of being lost due to stress at their original location and were salvaged and planted near the south end of the **Gould Simpson building**. This location would grow to become the **Resilience Garden**, inspired by resilient plant characteristics that can be relevant in our own lives.



The garden was co-created with students from the schools of Environmental Science, Natural Resources, and Plant Sciences. These young scientists designed water harvesting basins for the garden, and added sensors to assess water infiltration rates and overall basin performance. They selected drought tolerant species, designed layout, and installed understory plants to create a cohesive ecosystem complete with interactive signage to highlight inspiring botanical lessons.



Desert plants are great models of resilience as they have evolved over thousands of years in response to stress. They not only withstand stress, but thrive beyond it. As you walk around the garden, use the camera app on your mobile device to scan the QR codes on the red signs to learn more about strategies plants use to boost their resilience, horticultural applications, cultural associations, and folklore.

The ability of the initial trees to survive transplanting and drought stress, the collaboration of students in different fields, and the garden that is mindful of climate and available resources; all demonstrate resilience and interconnection between the plants, people, and environment that created this space.

[Click Here to read more about the garden](#)

10 Lessons Plants Can Teach Us About Resilience
click on the icons to learn more

Contribute

Plants contribute goods and services for people and the planet

Find your tribe

When plants grow in groups and connect with other organisms, they are more resilient and perform better

Shine on

Plants can turn to face the sun, capture radiant energy, and fuel the entire ecosystem

You belong

Plants are examples of teamwork, each member of the community has a role to play

Build your community

Resilient communities have diverse yet compatible members of plants and organisms who share a common environment

Go with the flow

Plants thrive when they are placed in an environment that suits them best

Breathe

Plants produce the oxygen that humans and aerobic organisms need to breathe

Be present

Plants are fixed in place, they must adapt and develop abilities to endure tough times

Perfect as you are

Shrubs often have a naturally rounded form- no need to control nature

Tomorrow is a new day

One strategy plants employ to escape stress is to rest during difficult seasons

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Promote stewardship and conservation of urban trees in Arizona.

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA CAMPUS ARBORETUM

P.O. Box 210036 Tucson, AZ 85721-0036

PHONE: (520) 621-1582

E-MAIL: infoarboretum@ag.arizona.edu

WEBSITE: <http://arboretum.arizona.edu>



University of Arizona Campus Arboretum | P.O. Box 210036, Tucson, AZ 85721-0036

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