

“SOUTHWEST STYLE ZEN RETREAT”

Christina’s Garden

Phoenix Homes and Gardens Magazine described my gardens as a Southwest Style Zen Retreat. I love that description and it perfectly fits how relaxing the gardens can be for me. The gardens have evolved over the past 10 years as I shamelessly steal ideas from other’s gardens. Gardens in the front of the house are primarily cactus and succulents (including many from TCSS rescues and sales).

In the natural area to the west of the house I have planted saguaros rescued from the TCSS program. Foot bridges and paths wander through the gardens in the back of the house which are primarily native and desert-adapted flowering plants that attract birds, hummingbirds, butterflies and lizards. Interspersed are cactus and many succulents. A water feature nourishes wildlife. The property is one acre and primarily natural Sonoran desert landscape, with cultivated gardens occupying about 1/4 of the property. Potted plants and cactus are scattered around to add visual interest. I got my inspiration to use more potted plants from another TCSS member garden tour.



SOIL MIX YOU PREFER: I just use the native sandy soil. Leaf and blossom litter from the flowering plants helps add organic material.

WATERING SCHEDULE OR PATTERN: It depends on the rainfall. Most plants are on drip irrigation, except for the cactus in the center drive and in the native areas.

GARDEN PESTS: I Endure them

TIPS FOR OTHER DESERT GARDENERS: Be prepared for some plants to not like your property – let them go and find ones that will flourish in your conditions. It is fun to experiment and hope.

