Here it is, 2012, and we are already aged about possibilities. Program Services supplemental funding, and are encouraged to a local philanthropic foundation for families we serve. Also, we have submitted the progress of the amazing children and to keep going, as we see the positive are determined program, we have taken a 5% cut we have just taken a 5% cut in our State funding for this program, we are determined to keep going, as we see the positive results of the intervention we provide in the progress of the amazing children and families we serve. Also, we have submitted to a local philanthropic foundation for supplemental funding, and are encouraged about possibilities.

Fortunately, we have a new contract with Pima County for Adult Services. We send out two crews daily to assist with work at the Sweetwater Nursery or to help with clean up on the Santa Cruz River Park adjacent to Desert Survivors. We have also been working closely with the folks from the City of Tucson’s Mission Garden project, located just adjacent to us on Mission Road. Within a few months we will begin assigning a crew there once a week to help with the upkeep of the garden. It is great to be involved in projects around our neighborhood, and to play a part in keeping our desert beautiful. Never has your support been more important. Every dollar you spend at our sales (and throughout the year) helps us to keep these wonderful programs going. Thank you for your continued support. See you at the Sale.

Karen Wilson
Director of Program Services
**Featured Plants Spring 2012**

**Cylindropuntia testijio (Baja pencil cholla)**
This unusual, small cholla is endemic to the Baja California peninsula in Mexico. Plants typically don’t get too much over a foot or two tall, with a nice compact appearance. Baja pencil cholla have somewhat stout stems with small patches of glochids, and are sparsely covered with straw-colored spines. With age and stress, plants will blush a reddish color. This member of the cactus family (Cactaceae) is extremely tolerant of low water usage, like our local chollas. In Tucson, C. testiijio seems to be very cold tolerant and does not seem to suffer much from frost damage. Plants produce yellow flowers in May and June. It is a lovely small cholla, highly recommended for landscaping.

**Mammillaria sabore ssp. handeana**
(Sabo’s pincushion cactus)
This pincushion cactus is native to the Sonoran Desert in Mexico in the general vicinity of Yecora. In the wild, these plants naturally grow on volcanic substrates. During periods of drought and dry periods, plants will shrivel down and go partially under the soil level. When this occurs, flowers actually start blooming below the ground and thrust through the soil blooming just above ground level. The individual cacti themselves are very small, up to a few inches wide, but they produce huge flowers that range from magenta to deep pink—typically blooming in May. This species has an unusual reproductive cycle, where fruits remain buried inside of the stems for years as they ripen. The seeds are distributed either when a mammal eats the stems containing the ripe seeds and then relocates them elsewhere via the digestive tract, or the stems for years as they ripen. The seeds are distributed either when a mammal eats the stems containing the ripe seeds and then relocates them elsewhere via the digestive tract, or the plants develop flower spikes about six inches tall with clusters of red flowers with yellow dots towards the center of the petals. The flowers have a distinctive aroma that may well be appreciated by fans of such exotic plants as Amorphophallus (although they do not smell the same). Leatherpetales are the exclusive larval host for the ever-popular Xami hairstreak butterfly (Callophrys xami). G. bartramii, a spring-flowering host for the ever-popular Xami hairstreak butterfly (Callophrys xami). G. bartramii, a spring-flowering host for the ever-popular Xami hairstreak butterfly (Callophrys xami). G. bartramii, a spring-flowering host for the ever-popular Xami hairstreak butterfly (Callophrys xami). G. bartramii, a spring-flowering host for the ever-popular Xami hairstreak butterfly (Callophrys xami). G. bartramii, G. bartramii, G. bartramii.

**Graptopetalum rusbyi**
(San Francisco River leatherpetae)
This is the first time we have offered this rarely cultivated succulent in the stonecrop family (Crassulaceae). In North America, there are two species of Graptopetalum and both occur in southern Arizona. The leatherpetae is a small succulent plant that forms a beautiful rosette typically no bigger than two inches wide in habitat, but to about four inches in cultivation. In the wild, these plants grow exclusively on the shady sides of boulders and rock crevices. They are usually found growing within five or ten feet of seasonal waterflows in canyons. In the springtime, plants will divide and form clusters of rosettes that can be watered as soon as the soil dries out. Happy plants will benefit from a protected location.

**Agave gigantea (gigante)**
This medium-sized agave is known only from the Sierra de la Giganta (Mountain of the Giantess) in Baja California, Mexico. The rosette grows to approximately three feet, and eventually produces yellow flowers on a ten to fifteen foot stalk. Plants are graced with attractive stout and curved leaf spikes. This species can be hard to find in commercial nurseries and is uncommon in cultivation. They are relatively cold hardy in Tucson, taking damage in the low 20s. They grow well in full or partial sun, and are extremely tolerant of the heat. When establishing these plants, water once a week during the summer for the first year or two. Once the agaves are established, we recommend a monthly irrigation during the heat of the summer. Agaves are cur- rently classified in the Asparagus family (Asparagaceae).

**Graptopetalum bartramii**
This is the first time we have offered this rarely cultivated succulent in the stonecrop family (Crassulaceae). In North America, there are two species of Graptopetalum and both occur in southern Arizona. The leatherpetae is a small succulent plant that forms a beautiful rosette typically no bigger than two inches wide in habitat, but to about four inches in cultivation. In the wild, these plants grow exclusively on the shady sides of boulders and rock crevices. They are usually found growing within five or ten feet of seasonal waterflows in canyons. In the springtime, plants will divide and form clusters of rosettes that can be watered as soon as the soil dries out. Happy plants will divide and form clusters of rosettes that can be separated by ambitious gardeners who cannot resist the urge to produce more plants.

**Pitaya del deserto**
This small, fast growing cactus (San Francisco River leatherpetae) is native to the Sonoran Desert in Mexico in the general vicinity of Yecora. In the wild, these plants naturally grow on volcanic substrates. During periods of drought and dry periods, plants will shrivel down and go partially under the soil level. When this occurs, flowers actually start blooming below the ground and thrust through the soil blooming just above ground level. The individual cacti themselves are very small, up to a few inches wide, but they produce huge flowers that range from magenta to deep pink—typically blooming in May. This species has an unusual reproductive cycle, where fruits remain buried inside of the stems for years as they ripen. The seeds are distributed either when a mammal eats the stems containing the ripe seeds and then relocates them elsewhere via the digestive tract, or the plants develop flower spikes about six inches tall with clusters of red flowers with yellow dots towards the center of the petals. The flowers have a distinctive aroma that may well be appreciated by fans of such exotic plants as Amorphophallus (although they do not smell the same). Leatherpetales are the exclusive larval host for the ever-popular Xami hairstreak butterfly (Callophrys xami). G. bartramii, a spring-flowering host for the ever-popular Xami hairstreak butterfly (Callophrys xami). G. bartramii, a spring-flowering host for the ever-popular Xami hairstreak butterfly (Callophrys xami). G. bartramii, a spring-flowering host for the ever-popular Xami hairstreak butterfly (Callophrys xami). G. bartramii. Obviously, planting fruit trees in the desert requires much more preparation and care than our lovely and easy natives. We recommend digging the hole several times larger than the container and adding lots of organic material. Peat moss can be used in holes provided the soils are not heavy in clay. Fruit trees consume high amounts of water, so it is best to water them with graywater or utilize water-harvesting strategies. The Oracle plum will benefit from a good organic fertilization in early spring, just before a profusion of pink flowers emerges on the tree.

**Oracle plum**
(Kino Heritage “Oracle” Plum)
In celebration of the initial planting of the Mission Gardens, we will have a number of Kino Heritage plums available for sale. Plums, like most stonefruits, are in the rose family (Rosaceae). This delicious plum comes from cuttings of an old heirloom tree in the town of Oracle, located on a private residence where a spring still exists (although it no longer flows above ground). It is located not too far from the historic post office in Oracle. Obviously, planting fruit trees in the desert requires much more preparation and care than our lovely and easy natives. We recommend digging the hole several times larger than the container and adding lots of organic material. Peat moss can be used in holes provided the soils are not heavy in clay. Fruit trees consume high amounts of water, so it is best to water them with graywater or utilize water-harvesting strategies. The Oracle plum will benefit from a good organic fertilization in early spring, just before a profusion of pink flowers emerges on the tree.

**Pitaya del deserto**
This small, fast growing cactus (San Francisco River leatherpetae) is native to the Sonoran Desert in Mexico in the general vicinity of Yecora. In the wild, these plants naturally grow on volcanic substrates. During periods of drought and dry periods, plants will shrivel down and go partially under the soil level. When this occurs, flowers actually start blooming below the ground and thrust through the soil blooming just above ground level. The individual cacti themselves are very small, up to a few inches wide, but they produce huge flowers that range from magenta to deep pink—typically blooming in May. This species has an unusual reproductive cycle, where fruits remain buried inside of the stems for years as they ripen. The seeds are distributed either when a mammal eats the stems containing the ripe seeds and then relocates them elsewhere via the digestive tract, or the plants develop flower spikes about six inches tall with clusters of red flowers with yellow dots towards the center of the petals. The flowers have a distinctive aroma that may well be appreciated by fans of such exotic plants as Amorphophallus (although they do not smell the same). Leatherpetales are the exclusive larval host for the ever-popular Xami hairstreak butterfly (Callophrys xami). G. bartramii, a spring-flowering host for the ever-popular Xami hairstreak butterfly (Callophrys xami). G. bartramii, a spring-flowering host for the ever-popular Xami hairstreak butterfly (Callophrys xami). G. bartramii, a spring-flowering host for the ever-popular Xami hairstreak butterfly (Callophrys xami). G. bartramii. Obviously, planting fruit trees in the desert requires much more preparation and care than our lovely and easy natives. We recommend digging the hole several times larger than the container and adding lots of organic material. Peat moss can be used in holes provided the soils are not heavy in clay. Fruit trees consume high amounts of water, so it is best to water them with graywater or utilize water-harvesting strategies. The Oracle plum will benefit from a good organic fertilization in early spring, just before a profusion of pink flowers emerges on the tree.