

# Mt. Lemmon

## Seed Mix

Funding provided by a grant from the University of Arizona Forest Health Program.



Sponsored by Trees for Mt. Lemmon and the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension – Fire Education Program



### *Sky Islands*

The Santa Catalina Mountains are one mountain range in the southwestern United States that is classified as a “sky island”. Sky islands are those mountain ranges “whose boundaries at their lowest elevation are desert scrub, grasslands, or oak woodlands” (Warshall 1995).

These areas typically support many perennial streams in an arid climate, have a high number of native species, and harbor most threatened and endangered species in the Southwest. Sky island ecosystems contain a unique mixture of species, and include in many cases, species that are not found elsewhere on the planet.

When these ecosystems are impacted by landscape-level events such as a wildfire, they are susceptible to adverse impacts from a variety of non-indigenous species. To prevent the introduction of non-native and invasive plants to the Santa Catalina Mountains sky island, we are providing you with this brochure and accompanying seed packet for your property.

### REFERENCES:

**Warshall, Peter. 1995.** Southwestern Sky Island Ecosystems. *In*: Our Living Resources: A Report to the Nation on the Distribution, Abundance, and Health of U.S. Plants, Animals, and Ecosystems. USDI-National Biological Service. <http://biology.usgs.gov/s+t/index.htm>

### *Seed Mix*

The accompanying seed packet includes a mixture of seeds of various plants to provide your property with a “jump start” for rehabilitation. The seed mixture contains approximately 20% legumes, 30% grasses, and 50% wildflowers.

### *Planting Instructions*

1. Determine the area to be treated.
2. Plant during the rainy season, but before the first frost.
3. Remove pine needles and ground cover and gently scratch soil surface with a rake.
4. Spread seeds evenly and compress into soil by pressing gently with your hand.
5. Do not cover seeds with soil or mulch.
6. Keep seeds moist until seedlings are about 4 inches tall, if desired.

Legumes will assist the mountain soil in recovering from the effects of the Aspen fire by fixing nitrogen. Grasses and wildflowers will provide much-needed ground cover and a thick root mat just below the soil surface, which will help prevent soil erosion.

Legumes



silver lupine  
(*Lupinus argenteus*)



white sweet clover  
(*Melilotus albus*)



American vetch  
(*Vicia americana*)

Wildflowers



desert marigold  
(*Baileya multiradiata*)

western yarrow  
(*Achillea millefolium*)



Southwestern cosmos  
(*Cosmos parviflorus*)

Grasses



tufted hairgrass  
(*Deschampsia cespitosa*)



prairie junegrass  
(*Koeleria macrantha*)



longleaf squirreltail  
(*Elymus elymoides*)



Arizona fescue  
(*Festuca arizonica*)



blue flax (*Linum lewisii*)



showy goldeneye  
(*Viguiera multiflora*)