

Seven Years of SLAM

This issue marks the end of seven years of our monthly SLAM publication. We have covered current events, design issues, successful award winning projects, the people who are SLA, landscape installation and maintenance techniques, the plant of the month, and even an occasional philosophical look into life in general. Sometimes it has been a bit of a struggle to come up with worthwhile content but I hope that you have enjoyed reading the SLAM and have found something useful over the last seven years.

Remember that we love to feature the photos of our readers in the photo of the month section. A few of you have sent in some really great pics. I would encourage you to send us your favorite shot. We love to see where you have been and what you have seen.

I would like to get your input on the past SLAM articles. Do you have any requests for topics of interest? What was your favorite article? Should the articles focus on one aspect of landscape architecture only? Have you enjoyed reading the SLAM or does it get deleted immediately? Take just a minute and reply to the SLAM email and let me know how we can improve our efforts. I look forward to hearing from you so that the next seven years of SLAM are even better.



"Summer afternoon—summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language."
— Henry James

FAVORITE FLORA: RHUS LANCEA - AFRICAN SUMAC



June's favorite flora is the African Sumac (*Rhus lancea*). This evergreen tree is native to South Africa and can grow from 15 to 30 feet tall and wide in the Las Vegas Valley. The African Sumac can be trained as a single trunk to make a great shade tree or as a multi-trunked specimen for some added interest and form. Its dark green leaves contrast nicely with attractive gray fissured bark exposing an orange tint beneath. Hardy to around 15 degrees Fahrenheit, the African Sumac handles Las Vegas winters nicely. This tree does best planted in full sun but will also thrive in light conditions ranging from reflected light to partial sun. *Rhus lancea* is drought tolerant once established, surviving on the limited watering of other desert adapted trees and can also thrive in turf where watering is more frequent.

African Sumac, as mentioned earlier, has a dense canopy that makes it a wonderful shade tree. Its small

size makes it perfect for residential applications or other areas where a larger shade tree is not an option. This tree is very versatile in terms of plant pairings. A multi trunked specimen can be paired with aloes (*Aloe sp.*), Lily-of-the-Nile (*Agapanthus africanus*) and Gazania (*Gazania rigens*) for a sub tropical feel. A standard trunk tree might be paired with Boxwood (*Buxus microphylla*), English Lavender (*Lavendula angustifolia*) and Dwarf Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*) for a more refined look. The one downside to this tree is its leaf litter almost all year long.



Photo of the Month

Sunset Silhouette
Boulder City, NV
Becki Brown