

The Wyoming Plant Company Guide

to the

Best Plants for Your Landscape

Written by Tom Heald

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Introduction

So, who is Tom Heald? He is one of the most knowledgeable plant experts in the Rocky Mountain region. He has traveled thousands of miles and spent decades studying the best landscape plants for homeowners and gardeners in our area. He is the Managing Partner of The Wyoming Plant Company, LLC, located in Casper, Wyoming.

The plants in this guide are extraordinary, and they offer beauty and ruggedness for the home, rural property and business landscape. As you look over these plants, chances are many of these plants will be unfamiliar to you. One of the Wyoming Plant Company's core values is to educate our readers about these plants and their cultural needs. We've attempted to do so in our descriptions and tip boxes.

Our guide gives you photos of each plant, its common name, its scientific name, a description, its hardiness zone, water requirements and sun/shade tolerance.

We have divided the selections into 15 categories. For example in the "High Xerics" you will find plant selections that can handle our erratic climate conditions and our 6" to 15" annual precipitation with no additional watering needed (their first year they will need supplemental watering for establishment). Whereas "Sunny Garden Perennials" are very appropriate for more traditional garden.

Year after year, as the word drought continues to pop up in forecasts, we believe that sustainable low water usage landscapes should be the new normal.

DISCLAIMER: This guide is intended to give you ideas about choosing plants. Properly chosen plants will improve your success as a gardener. Check with your local plant supplier regarding availability, and ask them for suggestions regarding the plant's suitability for your exact location.

Symbols Used in the Guide

Rain Gauge

Throughout this site, the following are used as guidelines for watering established plants:

◆◆◆ These plants need regular watering somewhat like a bluegrass lawn so that they never dry to depth in the root system during the active growing season and need occasional winter watering to prevent root dessication and resultant plant death.

◆◆ These plants are adapted to intermittent deep watering with soil drying to a depth of a few inches between waterings. Watering frequency may be every couple of weeks during the active growing season and maybe only one winter watering for optimal care.

◆ These truly xeric plants can live with our 12 inches of natural precipitation and only need a winter watering during a multi-year drought but they will thrive with a monthly watering. Overwatering will kill some of these.

Hardiness Zones

The Zone description refers to the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map. The hardiness zone is a value placed on the plant's ability to over winter, given the lowest mean winter temperatures. Therefore, a hardiness zone of 1 is the equivalent of surviving through an arctic winter, whereas a Hardiness zone of 9 means it's suitable for overwintering in South Florida. A plant's hardiness zone designation tells you how suitable it is for your location. To learn more about hardiness zones, and to determine your location's hardiness zone, visit this website:

<http://www.usna.usda.gov/Hardzone/ushzmap.html>

The High Xerics

These plants are either natives or originate from places with similar characteristics to our climate. Exposed sites with mineral soils, probably high winds and definitely baking sun of steppe or high desert are the sources of these plants. They will thrive on your difficult low water sites. All are full sun, 🌞 drought resistant, require low water, and will survive once established on natural precipitation. These will announce triumphantly that your landscape is western and thriving!



One Seed Juniper (*Juniperus monosperma*)

Grayish-green to bluish foliage creates an irregularly rounded upright tree with stout reddish brown barked branches that turn up at the ends. Globular, one seeded pulpy fruits with dark blue waxy skin mature to copper toned bird food. Mature height is 10-30' spreading from 6-12' wide. Plant in full sun in locations receiving very low water. (Water carefully during establishment to encourage strong root growth without overwatering and rotting roots.)

Height: 10'-30' Width: 6'-12' Shape: Upright spreading Zone 3 🌞 Full sun



Utah Juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*)

This drought tolerant single or multiple trunked upright Juniper has yellow-green foliage and may produce berries that are brown with a blue coating. Like most Junipers this one is drought and alkaline soil tolerant, requiring low water and full sun.

Zone 3 🌞 Full sun



Wavy Leaf Oak (*Quercus undulata*)

A unique shrub/tree that is found in the plateau country of the southern Rocky Mountains. A true xeric plant that has thick leathery, blue-green leaves that have wavy margins- a real conversation piece! Our oak friends tell us that there are seven ancestors in this natural hybrid. The Cheyenne Experiment Station has one that is doing very well after some 70 years. This one is a character of the windswept west—it decides which way it will grow, upright like a tree or outward like a shrub! These oaks have become such pets for some people that each gets named when planted!

Height: 10-15' Width: 10-15' Shape: Irregular rounded Zone 4 🌞 Full sun



Black Sagebrush (*Artemisia nova*)

Black Sagebrush is very much a part of the western sagebrush steppe, living and flourishing in some of the most wicked environmental conditions found in the state, whether it be high wind, poor soils, and minimal water. This small, spreading shrub with three lobed leaves is a perfect addition to your rock garden or naturalized area. It prefers rocky to clay shallow soils kept on the dry side.

Height: 10"-18" Width: 10" -18" Shape: Open irregular Zone 3 🌞 Full sun



Tall Western Sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*)

This is another native artemesia found through out the western sagebrush steppe. Unlike Black sage it grows best in good draining soils. It's bluish-gray leaves and stately form stand out in the landscape. A great addition to your xeric garden!

Height: 3' - 4' Width: 3' - 4' Shape: Open irregular Zone 3 🌞 Full sun



Silver Buffaloberry (*Shepherdia argentea*)

Native tree-like shrub with silvery foliage and thorny branch tips. Yellow flowers in spring are followed by orange-red berries for jelly or birds on female plants. Must have a male plant to pollinate. Outstanding as an accent shrub where silvery foliage is desired, in a windbreak or as wildlife cover and food.

Height: 10'-15' Width: 10'-12' Shape: Rounded Zone 2 Full sun



Curl Leaf Mountain Mahogany (*Cercocarpus ledifolius*)

This drought tolerant native is found throughout the foothill country of the Bighorns. This shrub has an upright habit with dark green, leathery leaves with edges that curl under — giving it its name! Most winters the leaves stay green adding interest through out the year. In autumn, attractive, curled, fuzzy seed tails arise adding yet another reason to add this to your western landscape. Very long lived, in fact we believe that some near the 'Hole in the Wall' Country are over 2,000 years old! Consider using this for a western formal hedge. As a native plant it is regularly "pruned" by deer without detrimental effect. It will be a while before it needs shearing but when it gets to your chosen size it will tolerate it well.

Height: 8'-20' Width: 6'-10' Shape: Open spreading Zone 4 Full sun



True Leaf Mountain Mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*)

This native is found on limestone outcrops. This is the shrub on hillsides that looks dark rather than silvery like sagebrush. It is a durable xeric species suited to rocky or sandy soils. Enjoy the dark gray-green deeply lobed foliage and the autumnal fuzzy seed tails.

Height: 5'-8' Width: 5'-6' Shape: Open spreading Zone 2 Full sun



Hairy Mountain Mahogany (*Cercocarpus breviflorus*)

A native to the American Southwest, this shrub is similar to our native True Leaf mountain mahogany but grows bigger and has even larger twisted seed tails. The leaves are gray-green and persist going into winter. Very tolerant of harsh conditions.

Height: 8' - 12' Width: 8' - 12' (may take centuries to reach maturity) Shape: Broad upright Full sun



Littleleaf Mountain Mahogany (*Cercocarpus intricatus*)

A Rocky Mountain beauty for a small space or as an accent in a rock or alpine garden! A very dense and rounded shrub with stiff intertwining branches and tiny, almost needle-like evergreen leaves, evergreen! Very drought tolerant and slow growing.

Height: 3'-5' Width: 3'-5' Shape: Rounded Zone 4 Full sun



Fremont's Desert Holly (Mahonia fremontii)

A native of the arid canyons of the Southwest, this highly xeric evergreen broadleaf shrub possesses wonderful blue spiny holly-like foliage. Racemes of soft yellow May-blooming flowers are followed by red berries that can be spectacular in late summer. Seldom used in the landscape, but an excellent evergreen that withstands bright sunshine and drought.

Height: 3' – 5' Width: 3' – 6' Shape: Compact rounded Zone 4 🌞 Full Sun



Panchito Manzanita (Arctostaphylos x coloradoensis 'Panchito')

Plant Select '06! A native to the Uncompaghre Plateau of western Colorado, this broadleaf evergreen has tiny bright green oval leaves and produces tiny very light pink urn shaped flowers that bloom early in April. Established plants can produce small red berries. Will not do well in heavy soils as the root system needs air as much as water. Quite xeric upon establishment, and will cascade down rock walls and slopes.

Height: 10-15" Width: 24-36" Shape: Spreading Zone 4b 🌞 to 🌞🌞 Full Sun to Part Shade



Mock Bearberry Manzanita (Arctostaphylos x coloradoensis)

Shiny, oval, dark-green evergreen leaves cover mahogany red branches. Urn-shaped pale pink flowers bloom in earliest spring followed by small red berries. This cultivar grows lower and has smaller leaves than others. Plan on little to no additional water once established.

Height: 4-10" Width: 2-4' Shape: Spreading Zone 4b 🌞 to 🌞🌞 Full Sun to Part Shade



Rocky Mountain Sumac (Rhus glabra cismontana)

This native Rocky Mountain shrub is much like a short Staghorn sumac with shiny dark-green leaves turning into a brilliant red display in autumn. Red seed clusters stand above the foliage from mid-summer into winter. The look can be almost formal oriental when one is planted as a specimen, perhaps near a boulder. When massed, it can be used to form a tall groundcover for dry areas such as slopes.

Height: 3' – 6' Width: 3' – 10' Shape: Upright spreading Zone 2 🌞 to 🌞🌞 Full Sun



Fernbush (Chamaebatiaria millefolium)

Plant Select '06! Fine-textured, gray-green fern like foliage with a thick waxy coating gives rise to the name of this high desert aromatic plant. White flowers like a cluster of strawberry blooms top the stem from mid to late summer. Dr Crenshaw, CSU says this plant is one of the best pollinator plants he's come upon! Our friends at the Denver Botanical Garden recommend using it as an informal western hedge! Makes a great privacy screen for a hot patio or terrace.

H: 3'-5' W: 3'-5' Shape: Upright rounded Zone 4 🌞 Full sun



Apache Plume (Fallugia paradoxa)

A very attractive smaller western shrub that takes drought, poor soils and just basic neglect extraordinarily well! Fine textured foliage and slender branches support white flowers in spring that look like strawberry flowers. After petal drop feathery silver-pink tasseled seed heads persist into winter supplying continued interest. May be trimmed for size and shape control or allowed to grow into a billowing, rolling form—great on hillsides or as accents in naturalized plantings.

Height: 3'-4' Width: 3'-4' Shape: Irregular spreading Zone 4 🌞 Full sun



Western Sandcherry (Prunus besseyi)

A native shrub that is vastly underused in the landscape on hot, exposed, windy sites on clay as well as sandy soils. Multiple stems grow upright carrying beautiful white blooms in spring followed by edible berries for bird attraction later in the year. Silvery green foliage turns a showy soft red in fall.

Height: 5'-6' Width: 5'-6' Shape: Open spreading Zone 2 Full sun



Pawnee Buttes Sandcherry (Prunus Besseyi 'Pawnee Buttes')

Plant Select 2000. This shrub has a low arching branches making it a great choice for the perennial garden or nestled next to a boulder where the branches will spill around the rock.. White flowers in May open along the stems and are followed by dark edible berries. Autumn brings a bright red shade to the foliage. The Denver Botanical Gardens collected the parent plant near the Pawnee Buttes in Eastern Colorado.

Height 12"- 18" Width: 4' - 5' Shape: Creeping Zone 2 Full sun



Kannah Creek Buckwheat (Eriogonum umbellatum var. aureum 'Psdowns')

Plant Select '07 This mid-sized perennial puts on a glowing yellow show that turns orange as the flowers age during a May to July bloom season. These vigorous 12-15" tall by 12-24" wide plants adapt from xeric to moderately moist settings and tolerate conditions up to 10,000 ft!

Zone 3 Full sun to partial shade



Prairie Sunshine Hymenoxys (Hymenoxys scaposa 'Prairie Sunshine')

A very valuable hardy native xeric plant for garden and rock garden use. The crown, maturing to 12" diameter, is very hardy and even evergreen in mild winters. But who plants for a nice little tuffet in winter! Bright yellow 3/4" to 1" daisy-like flowers with golden centers top 8" tall leafless scapes (scaposa). For a long lived native plant, the bloom season is quite long, too! (don't drown in tight clay)

Zone 4 Full sun



Arizona Sun (G. aristata 'Arizona Sun')

This spectacular performer in All American Selection test trials, is a real shorty; at only 8" to 10" tall and 10" to 12" wide it even fits in pots and planters! Flower style is traditional with mahogany red petals edged in bright yellow blooms throughout the summer.

Zone 3 Full sun



White Evening Primrose (*Oenothera caespitosa*)

This one is a local native of clay soils, and has early May to August blooms of 2½" to 4" white flowers composed of four petals looking like hearts. Handles sandy to loamy soils too! Tough but oh so beautiful! 6" tall by 6" wide.

Zone 3 🌞 Full sun



Four Wing Saltbush (*Atriplex Canesens*)

This is one of the best kept secrets when it comes to beautiful shrubs for landscape sites that have poor, salty, soils. And it does well even if you don't have those conditions! The females develop four-winged fruit in late summer and a beautiful soft rose tint in autumn.

Height: 3' - 4' Width: 3'- 4' Shape: Upright spreading. Zone 3 🌞 Full sun



Bluestem Joint Fir (*Ephedra equisetina*)

Plant Select® 2004 Native to Russia, this slow growing compact shrub deals with harsh weather by being leafless and gets by with just finely textured blue-green stems. Small frothy yellow flowers are followed by bright red berries in mid-summer on female plants. This densely branched conifer relative exhibits great winter interest and a very wild look year-round. Makes a great accent on a high point or exposed site and unlike yucca, another accent plant for tough sites, this plant is not "pokey". It is very child friendly! Tolerates most soils and does well in hot dry areas.

Height: 4'-6' Width: 3'-8' Shape: Mounding Zone 4b 🌞 Full sun to partial shade

Rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*)

These western sagebrush are native shrubs and really convey a sense of place. The golden yellow blooms in August and September signify the approach of fall and provide bees with a late season chance to continue to feed and to store food in the hive for winter. In a larger landscape or out in the open in a more suburban setting these three species say that you more than accept where you live—you celebrate it! We advise planting away from patios and walkways due to bee attraction and pollen production. Companion plants: Artemisias, Mountain mahoganies, western sand cherries and other xeric shrubs and perennials. Full sun, very low water when established.



Tall Blue Rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus albicaulis*)

Matures to a 4-6' tall and wide open rounded silvery blue green shrub.

Height: 4-6' Width: 4-6' Shape: Open Rounded Zone 3 🌞 Full sun



Tall Green Rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus graveolens*)


Matures to a 4-6' tall and wide open rounded yellowish green shrub.

Height: 4-6' Width: 4-6' Shape: Open Rounded Zone 3 🌞 Full sun



Dwarf Blue Rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus nauseosus*)



When there isn't much space but you still want the look of the west, there is usually room for this one. The blue-gray leaved compact rounded shrub matures to 2-3' tall and 3-4' wide.

Height: 2-3' Width: 3-4' Shape: Compact Rounded Zone 3  Full sun



Trilobe Sumac (*Rhus trilobata*)


A very hardy native found in the open on the foothills of our mountains and along upland streams. A personal favorite because of its ability to handle nearly any extreme! This multi stemmed shrub has unique 'oak like' leaves that turn a brilliant red to orange in fall.

Height: 4-6' Width: 5-7' Shape: Spreading upright Zone 3  to  Full sun



Bridges Penstemon (*Penstemon rostriflorus*)

Plant Select® 2006 During later summer a continuous succession of small scarlet red tubular flowers in elongate panicles top slender stems with dark green narrow leaved foliage that forms a basal rosette and climb upward. Long lived if not pampered.

Height: 1'-2' and width: 1' at maturity Zone 4  Full sun

Perennial Flowers

The following perennials were picked for their true durability. These are the ones you want for those really tough locations where you want a bit of color whether it be poor soil, high wind or that sunny dry spot. These will survive without additional water but with occasional deep watering they will thrive.



Coronation Gold Yarrow (*Achillea ageratifolia*)

At 36-42" tall with 3-4' wide golden-yellow flower heads from later June through autumn above silvered green fern-like foliage, this reliable old standard fills a great place at the back of the border or as an accent near caryopteris or Russian Sage. This one does not run about through the flower bed and will stay around for years. Enjoy it as a cut or dried flower, too!

Zone 3 🌱 Full sun



Little Trudy Catmint (*Nepeta x Little Trudy*)

Plant Select® 2008 This catmint has a low spreading and long blooming habit. Well branched stems of rippled, soft gray foliage hug the ground for an 18" to 24" wide mound when this plant matures. Profuse lavender flower stalks 8" to 12" tall cover the plant from early to late summer. Deer resistant.

Zone 4 🌱 Full sun



Walker's Low Catmint (*Nepeta faassinii x 'Walker's Low'*)

Perennial Plant Association Plant of the Year for 2007 Compact mounding gray green leaves topped by lavender blue flowers recurring from late spring through autumn. This 10-14 inch tall sterile hybrid won't reseed around the garden. Full sun to part sun and like it's bigger brother, deer resistant!

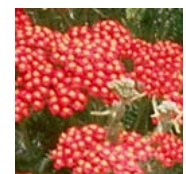
Zone 3 🌱🌱 Full sun to part sun



Dwarf Blue Flag Iris (*Iris cristata*)

We have enjoyed early summer patches of diminutive, blue blooms of this native iris along the roadside while driving through high desert, windblown areas. Individual plants will mature into clusters of strap-like foliage and blooms. Grow in sun to partial shade in soil with moisture in the spring, but like most iris they tolerate drier conditions the rest of the year. Consider these for border front, rockery or for a "rain garden."

Height: 6" Width: 8" Zone 3 🌱 to 🌱🌱 Sun to partial shade



Paprika Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium 'Paprika'*)

Fully color saturated brick red flowers with golden centers in flat clusters top 24" tall stems. Very feathery foliage in medium green forms basal clumps 18" to 24" wide. This millefolium is a well-behaved clump former and does not run across the garden.

Zone 3 🌱 Full sun to partial sun



'Lavender Ice' Ice Plant (*Delosperma 'Psfave' x Lavender Ice*)

Plant Select® 2009 Iridescent lavender flowers with dark eyes bloom on 2-3" tall mats of green foliage that spread from 1-2' wide. This sport of **Table Mountain** tolerates a wide range of soil conditions.

Height: 2-3" tall Width: 1-2' Zone 4 🌞 Full Sun to Partial Sun



Paper Flower Zinnia (*Zinnia grandiflora*)

Prairie Zinnia is another name for this easy to grow little perennial zinnia. From midsummer to fall 6-8" tall by 8-12" wide dense mounds of slender stems with narrow leaves are covered in papery golden yellow single flowers with red-brown centers. This highly xeric plant makes a great companion for hardy cacti and other very drought tolerant sun-lovers in a range of soil types. This species stays dormant until the weather is warm and settled. Do not clip them out of existence in an early spring clean-up. Also it is important to plant these in the first half of the growing season because the roots only grow in warm soil to get successful establishment.

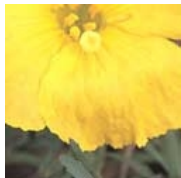
Height: 6-8" Width: 8-12" Zone 4 🌞 Full sun



Russian Sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*)

This vase shaped 3 to 4 foot accent plant makes a vivid statement behind xeric perennials or in the middle of a stand of plants! Blue-violet flower spikes top silvery gray foliage in late summer through hard freeze. This high desert native of Afghanistan thrives in lean soil on hot windy sites and has proven itself reliable on the West's high plains as well. Deer don't touch it!

Zone 4 🌞 Full sun



Lavender Leafed Sun Drops Primrose (*Calylophus lavandulifolia*)

Very large yellow flowers mature to apricot for most of summer on this Gt. Plains native sub-shrub. 15"-18" tall narrow gray-green foliage gives it the species name and the 18" width gives it a very noticeable presence in the landscape. Keep this one dry on clay soil and lightly watered in sands—it is not as picky as its little cousin.

Height: 15"-18" Width: 18" Zone 4 🌞 Full sun

Penstemons are wonderful natives and hybrids of all sizes with a wide range of bloom times for the water-wise garden or your patch of prairie! From white thru purple and from pale pastel to fully saturated hues, flowers are usually borne along stalks above basal foliage. Size ranges from tiny rock garden gems with grass-like foliage thru wild snapdragons with pink blooms on the top 3 feet of 5 foot tall stems! Keep yourself and hummingbirds happy and plant many species of penstemon!

The key to Penstemon success is two-fold, do not over water or they will grow floppy or die and second do not over fertilize. Most will live more years in our mineral soils than in a tended garden bed! You will be rewarded for your restraint. The hands on gardener can dead-head to prolong some species blossoming and add years to the plant's life.



Pineneedle Penstemon (Penstemon pinifolius)

These long-lived perennials covered in scarlet tubular flowers for nearly two months in the summer will be a hit with you and the hummingbirds! Later in the season this somewhat xeric plant will be a dark green mound looking a lot like a miniature evergreen, 8 inches tall.

Zone 4 🌞 Full sun



Red Rocks Penstemon (P. x mexicale 'Red Rocks')

Blooms in bright rose all summer. Introduced in 1999 and grow 12-15" high, mounding 8-12" wide.

Zone 4 🌞 Full Sun or Part Sun



Pikes Peak Purple (P. x mexicale 'Pikes Peak Purple')

Blooms in violet purple with intense veining in the throat area. Introduced in 1999 and grow 12-15" high mounding 8-12" wide

Zone 4 🌞 Full Sun or Part Sun



Shadow Mountain Penstemon (P. x mexicale 'Shadow Mountain')

Introduced in 2007, blooms in a softer luminous lavender-blue with red-purple veining in the white throat. It is a larger presence in the garden at 18-24" high by 18" wide and a hardier Zone 4 that is adaptable and easy to grow.

Zone 4 🌞 Full Sun or Part Sun



Palmer Penstemon (*Penstemon palmeri*)

This looks like a big bold pink snapdragon but it is really a xeric perennial that only thrives where grown as if only 15" or less of precipitation provide its moisture. Do not place where moisture will gather by pooling or from runoff. It may be a central accent to a xeric island planting, in the back row of a sunny xeric border, or as a foundation plant beside the south side of a house (reflected heat is tolerated).

Oblong leaves form basal rosettes giving rise to 2-4' tall bloom stocks that form clumps 18-24" wide at maturity. Bloom season is late spring through summer. This one is big enough to be a companion to xeric shrubs like Western or Pawnee Buttes Sand Cherry, Fernbush, or Curl Leaf Mountain Mahogany, but is equally at home with Russian Sage or other xeric perennials.

Zone 4/5 sun



Silverton Bluemat Penstemon (*P. linarioides* var. *coloradoensis* 'Silverton')

Plant Select® 2005 Spikes of lavender blue flowers top a 12-15 inch mound of silvery green foliage in early summer. The evergreen foliage of this plant gives it a year round presence in the garden! Removal of spent blooms help prolong the plant's lifespan. Plant in well drained loam or sandy soil.

Zone 4 Full sun to part sun



Powis Castle Artemisia (*A. arborescens* "Powis Castle")

Another great deer deterrent accent in the garden and at 24" tall by 24" wide it works as a windbreak within a planting area as well! This silvery foliated sterile hybrid (can't seed) looks delicate, seldom blooms, hales from a limestone-based area of England and is perfectly at home here! **Rabbit and Deer resistant.**

Height: 24" Width: 24" Zone 4 Full sun



Mongolian Bells Clematis (*Clematis integrifolia* ('psharlan'))

Plant Select® 2008 This very compact bush clematis hails from inner Mongolia. Blossom color is wide-ranging from white, pink, and lavender through blue with a May through September bloom season. Best uses are as a mounding clump in a xeriscape or border or as an edging in those settings. Fluffy seed heads add interest in late summer and fall. Size: 10-14" Tall by 12-15" Wide.

Zone 3 Full sun to part sun



Native Pasque Flower (*Pulastilla patens*)

GreatPlants Perennial of the Year '06 This delicate lavender cup shaped flower, the state flower of South Dakota, is such a harbinger of early spring and is equally at home in a dry garden bed as it is on the prairie.

Height: 6" Width: 18" Shape: Rounded Zone 3 to 4 to Full sun

"What if we had a drought and our garden plants didn't even know it?"

—Panayoti Kelaidis

Director of Education Outreach
Denver Botanic Garden



Seafoam Artemisia (*Artemisia versicolor*)

Plant Select® 2004 Finely filigreed silver-gray foliage gives a frothy appearance on a mound that will spread to nearly 3 feet wide and up to 18 inches tall. Never floppy due to the plants' woody underpinnings. Wonderful year-round textural accent plant for xeric gardens. Rabbit and Deer resistant.

Zone 4 🌞 Full sun



Fremont's Evening Primrose (*Oenothera macrocarpa* subsp. 'fremontii')

Large light yellow flowers from May on cover this very narrow leaved Nebraska and Kansas native. These drought tolerant plants mature into 10" tall by 18" wide mounds requiring little water.

Zone 4 🌞 Full sun to part sun



Jupiter's Beard (*Centranthus ruber*)

This durable plant stands up to wind and handles dry clay but will also thrive in more moisture as long as the soil drains well. The rose-red blooms last from late spring through summer. Give it room as it will grow to 24" tall and 30" wide and will reseed a bit for a natural look. Also this charmer can go around the corner from heat into partial shade successfully to help tie different parts of the landscape together! Butterflies love it but rabbits don't.

Height: 24" Width: 30" Zone 4 🌞 Full sun to part sun



Prairie Gayfeather (*Liatris punctata*)

The Butterfly attracting pink flower stalks of this Western dry Sunny prairie native become numerous in mid-late summer, especially on mature plants that can become 18" wide. During the recent drought years, in the wild few have been that tall or wide, but due to their long taproot for food and moisture storage they have survived. Other Liatris tend to be near surface bulb forming plants that lack survivability in our dry winter landscape.

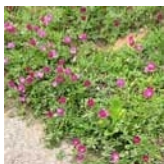
Height: 12-36" Width: 18" Zone 3 🌞 Full Sun



Bush Morning Glory (*Ipomoea leptophylla*)

Also called 'Old Man of the Prairie', this native of Sunny Nebraska prairies in sandy soil forms a large bush-like plant covered with dark-throated pink flowers from June through August. If trialed in clay soils—grow on the dry side!

Height: 3' Width: 3' Zone 4



Poppy Mallow 'Prairie Wine Cups' (*Callirhoe involucrata*)

Plant Select® 1999 This low growing native prairie plant blooms repeatedly during summer in bright burgundy cup-shaped flowers with white eyes on low arching stems with dark green deeply cut leaves. Flowers and foliage are reminiscent of Cranesbill Geraniums on this Poppy Mallow but at less than 1' tall and up to 3' in diameter, the form is not. The only drawback to keeping this darling besides drowning in wet clay is that rabbits munch too much during those years of cottontail population explosions. Plant in soil that drains or in clay kept on the dry side taking care to seat the plant at grade and not in a low spot.

Zone 4 🌞 Full sun to part sun



Anatolian Tanacetum (*Tanacetum albipannosum*)

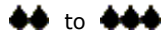
A mat of feathery silver-toned foliage 18" wide is topped at 18" tall by big white daisies with yellow centers suitable for cutting and attractive to butterflies. Tolerant of wide ranging conditions including different soils, Panayoti Kelaidis of the Denver Botanic Garden recommends it as a great plant from Anatolia (Asia Minor, on the Turkish part of the Asian Steppe).

Height: 18" Width: 18"

Zone 4 🌿 Full sun to part sun

Sunny Garden Perennials

These perennials are suited to our area, but need regular watering, so use them in traditionally tended gardens.



'First Love' Dianthus (Dianthus 'First Love')

Plant Select® 2001 Intensely fragrant clustered flowers change from white to deep rose (the opposite of fading!) while blooming from spring to frost (with dead heading). This selection is perennial and so much more graceful than a sweet William because the flower clusters are not in tight stiff helmets. 15-18" height allows cut flower use while the 12" wide clump forming basal foliage is pleasing in the winter garden. Zone 3 rated

Height: 15-18" Width: 12" Zone 3



Bushy Asters 'Wood's Blue and Wood's Pink' (Aster x dumosus 'Wood's Blue' and 'Wood's Pink')

For 4-6 weeks from late summer through early fall enjoy plentiful lavender-blue or clear pink yellow-centered **Butterfly** attracting flowers on compact plants. Mildew and rust resistant foliage is dark green and attractive all season. These are excellent in containers as well as when ground planted in Sun.

8-12" Height by 15" Width Zone 3 Sun



Moonshine Yarrow (Achillea 'Moonshine')

Light yellow flat cluster flowers top 24" tall stems over furry silver basal foliage. The nearly white foliage is quite an accent in a traditional flower bed. This yarrow is not as xeric as most others and is intolerant of soggy soil in tight clay. Upright stemmed clumps develop 18-24" Width at maturity. Plant in Full Sun.

Height: 24" Width: 18-24" Zone 3 Full sun



Hopflower Oregano (Origanum libanoticum)

Plant Select® 2004 Lovely trailing herb 18-24 inches wide by 10-15 inches tall. Lavender and chartreuse bi-color lantern-shaped bracts form throughout the summer months drying to brown in fall. Best suited to raised beds, rock gardens or containers. Plant in well-drained garden loam, clay or sandy soil. We tried this 2 years ago and it even over-wintered in bigger pots, an eye catcher for all who saw it! Oh and the smell of oregano! Attracts bees to help pollinate your garden. Full sun to part shade. Avoid too much reflected heat.

Zone 4b Full sun to part shade



Spanish Peaks Foxglove (Digitalis thapsi)

Plant Select® 1999! Raspberry- rose flowers in early summer are carried over a trim mat of furry leaves with a Height and Width of 12". This cousin of the familiar foxglove is perennial, hails from Spain and is adaptable to various soil types.

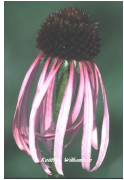
Height: 12" Width: 12" Zone 4 Sun to Part Shade

Echinacea: The Coneflowers

Echinacea—Developed from Tall Grass Prairie and Mixed Grass Prairie native species, the Coneflowers grow best in Sun in Semi-dry to Semi-moist but never soggy soil. With their background in prairie settings, mulch on the root zone or the soil-shading effect of other plants like grass does in a meadow will provide the right conditions for them to thrive. The genus Echinacea was named 2003 GreatPlants Perennial of the Year! Turn to the coneflowers for more color, form and bloom time than you could ever hope to get from a Shasta daisy. All have cut flower potential, butterfly attraction and winter food for small songbirds if you leave flower stalks with seed heads standing in the winter garden.

Full Sun to Part Sun Shape: Upright clustered stems  to 

Pale Purple Coneflower (Echinacea pallida)



Start your coneflower season off with this prairie native's large 3" diameter, pale pink flowers blooming for a month in early summer. At 4' Height by 2' Width they can anchor the back of a border or stand tall among a cluster of Karl Foerster Feather Reed Grass. The conspicuous black central cones will hold until late autumn to please any visiting pine siskins or other little songbirds.

4' Height by 2' Width Zone 4

Yellow Coneflower (Echinacea paradoxa)



This one is yellow and a summer blooming native from the Ozarks. Grower report Zone 3 hardiness, so their seed sources must be from especially selected areas.

Height: 2-4' by Width: 2' Zone 3

Echinacea angustifolia



Blooms in pink to creamy white with drooping petals around the central cone in July and August. The roots of this native species are recommended by herbalists for enhanced respiratory system immunity. While many growers are careless when differentiating between E. angustifolia and E. pallida ours assures us that these are grown from seed of the correct species collected in South Dakota.

Height: 18-36" Width: 18-24" Zone 3

Summer Sky Coneflower



This is a prolific bloomer of huge, 5", very fragrant bicolor flowers of light orange with a rose halo around an orange cone on 48" tall stalks in 18-24" wide clusters of stems.

Height: 48" Width: 18-24" Zone 4

Big Sky Sunrise Coneflower



Sturdy, basal branching plants produce a profusion of flower stems, each of which carries a large, bright lemon-yellow 3-4" fragrant, drooping petaled bloom.

Height: 30" Width: 18" Zone 4

Recent crosses of the various native Echinacea have led to the development of some vibrant new blossom colors, and heights. Some even have wonderfully fragrant blooms. As a group though they do not break dormancy as quickly in the spring as some of their ancestors. The selections that follow will probably not arrive from our grower as soon as most of our plants. We believe that their beauty makes them worth the wait.

Crane's Bill Geraniums

These hardy perennials remind us of mountain meadows and woodland edge gardens. With average garden watering and draining soils they are long-lived joys in Sunny to Partial Sun beds and borders. 🌱🌱 Garden Salvia, Echinacea, Alpine Willow Herb, Golden Jubilee Hyssop, Aster and Golden Rods make good companion plants with geraniums as they all need the same growing conditions and give a great garden look, with pleasing colors and forms all season long!



Bloody Crane's Bill (Geranium sanguineum)

2002 Great Plants Perennial of the Year! Bowl-shaped, magenta flowers cover the plants in late spring and early summer, shearing may reward you with a later rebloom. Deeply cut foliage is mounding in habit turning blood red in autumn.

Height: 12-15" Width: 12-18" Zone 3



Oliviana Soapwort(Saponaria x oliviana)

If you have used saponaria ocymoides as a rockery or semi-dry garden groundcover, it is time to look to the genus again! This large flowered hybrid cross of pumila and caespitosa forms attractive circular mounds of green foliage covered by cool, clear pink flowers in June. Attracts and feeds butterflies early in the garden season. Height: 2-3" Width: 12" Plant in Sun in well drained soil.

Height: 2-3 " Width: 12" Zone 4 🌱🌱 to 🌱🌱🌱





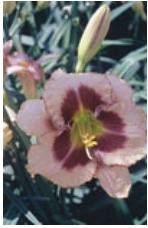
'Mongolian Mist' Pincushion Flower (Scabiosa superba 'Mongolian Mist')

If you love Pincushion flowers in the garden for butterflies and in vases for you but tire of losing them over winter try this **GreatPlants 2004** Release! The original plants were collected by Great Plants Members on a mountain north of Hotot, Inner Mongolia in 1997. Rigorous selection since then has made this large, purple-blue full pincushion flower on substantial 1' Height stems above textured deep green mounded 1' Width foliage, ready to come to western gardens, rockeries, and true alpine gardens. Don't over-water on tight soil.

Height: 1' Width: 1" Zone 3 🌱🌱 to 🌱🌱🌱 Sun to partial shade

Daylily (Hemerocallis)

Wide, straplike leaves, large trumpet flowers in a range of colors, great planted en mass or as clusters to hide maturing daffodil foliage, relatively low water needs except when flowering. Most blooms when planted in Sun to part Sun but forms attractive foliage in less light. Fall foliage color is usually a clear yellow. What's not to love about daylilies?  to 
(A word to the northern plains gardener: Avoid evergreen and semi-evergreen daylilies as they go into decline here).



Hemerocallis 'Daring Deception' Daylily

Heavily ruffled petals on 5" lavender flowers with deep purple edges and eye-zone with a contrasting yellow throat. Early summer to mid-season reblooming tetraploid.

Height: 2' maturing to Width : 2' Zone 3



Happy Returns Daylily (Hemerocallis 'Happy Returns')

This is the most continuously blooming variety that we have seen. Its season starts early and the 18" tall dwarf just keeps going with 3" fragrant light yellow (NO gold) flowers. Maturity will widen one plant to an 18-24" cluster. While daylilies are drought tolerant and survive lower watering, they will not bloom well without supplemental watering from blossom set through blooming. For most blooms plant in full sun but partial sun is also tolerated.

Zone 3  Full sun to part sun



Daylily Suggestions:

Plant daffodils and other spring bulbs inside daylily clusters allowing the bulb foliage to mature unobtrusively while developing spring flowers for next year. This combination gives two bloom seasons in one space and also adds a pleasing fall display when the strap-like leaves of the become a sea of golden yellow.



'Fontanelle' Iris (Iris spuria 'Fontanelle')

Found years ago at an abandoned sunny farmstead on the Nebraska prairie, this plant is open-blooming in habit with large violet-blue flowers with lavender-rose falls without beards but bearing a bright yellow spot. At 36-40" height they are almost as tall as Siberian Iris and with similar sword-like foliage, but with flower form more reminiscent of Japanese Iris. The plants mature into 18" width clumps with true Zone 4 hardiness.

Height: 36-40" Width: 18" Zone 4  to 



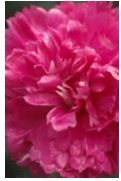
Whirling Butterflies (Gaura lindheimeri)

Really perennials, Gauras--also called Whirling Butterflies--have been tested in semi-protected neighborhoods and have wintered well for several years. The white blooms of the southern U.S. prairie native species look like a flock of little butterflies carried in loose sprays above a dense mound of dark green foliage for a total 2- 3' height and 18-24" width. 'Siskiyou Pink' matures shorter at 18-24" tall and 15" wide but what a knockout with red stems, petioles and flower buds!



The blooms are a rich rose pink. Both varieties make good cut flowers. Because they bloom all summer we expect the plants to not live for as many years as perennials with a more discrete flowering season. In the meantime they are charmers! Plant in sun to filtered shade providing relatively low water in semi-shade and a bit more regular watering especially when in bud and bloom when planted in the sun.

Zone 5  Full sun



Cheyenne Dianthus (Dianthus 'Cheyenne')

This is a pink fragrant, double, hardy long-blooming mini-carnation developed at the Cheyenne Horticulture Field Station. Survives in semi-dry mineral soil, thrives in emended soil with moderate watering. Plant in sun to partial sun for butterflies and hummingbirds if you don't pick them all for yourself!

Height: 1' Width: 1' Zone 4 Sun to partial sun



Ginger's Kiss Dianthus (Dianthus gratiopolitanus 'Ginger's Kiss')

Long blooming, two-toned pink flowers over fine, blue foliage stands up well in moist or dry garden soil and are also suitable for rock garden, dish, trough or border use.

Height: 5" Width: 8" Zone 4 Sun



Arkansas Bluestar (Amsonia hubrichtii)

2009 Great Plants Perennial Plant of the Year! In spring upright stems emerge, grow to 3' and become covered in fine threadlike dark green leaves forming an airy, fine textured mound of foliage. In later May and into June elongate panicles of palest blue long slender star flowers cover the plant. For fall the foliage turns golden yellow, brightest when planted in full sun. For a dependable long-lived addition to your landscape plant in emended well-drained soils in Full to Partial Sun. Allow several years for your plant to grow into an attractive 3' Height by 2-3' Width that is very effective planted en mass or as a specimen.

Height: 3' Width: 2-3' Zone 4 to Full to partial sun



Petite Delight' Bee Balm (Monarda 'Petite Delight')

Freely summer-flowering 2" wide lavender-rose Hummingbird and Butterfly attracting blooms on 15-24"H by 18-24"W clumps. Developed on the Canadian Plains of Manitoba at the Ag Canada Morden Research Station. Plant in sun to partial sun.

Height: 15-24" Width: 18-24" Zone 3 to Sun to Partial sun



Tequila Sunrise Coreopsis (Coreopsis 'Tequila Sunrise')

Coreopsis, the Golden Darlings of the Summer Garden! 18-24" tall golden-yellow classic coreopsis daisy-like blooms are carried above 12-15" Width clumps of Dark olive-green foliage variegated with cream and yellow. If you think that is striking wait until fall when the foliage turns deep rich mahogany to really accent a Full Sun garden. Deadhead to encourage reblooming.

Height: 18-24" Width 12-15" Zone 4 to Full sun



First Love Dianthus (Dianthus 'First Love')

Plant Select® 2001 Intensely fragrant rounded cluster flowers change from white to deep rose rather than starting dark and fading and attract butterflies, hummingbirds and gardeners with floral shears (great cut flower!). Flower stalks are 15-18" tall above 12" diameter clumps of moderately fine foliage. The overall effect is akin to Sweet Williams but perennial and much more graceful even maintaining a nice mounded foliar presence in winter. Full sun. Average flower garden watering.

Zone 3 Full sun



'After Midnight'

This is a dwarf (12" tall) with vivid magenta-purple fragrant flowers with overlapping petals, a black-red cone, black stems and blue-green foliage on 10"-12" wide plants.

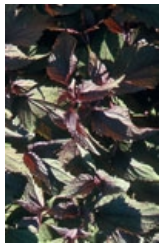
Height: 12" Width: 10-12" Zone 3 🌱🌱 Full sun to part sun



Golden Jubilee Hyssop (Agastache foeniculum 'Golden Jubilee')

This All American Selection of Anise Hyssop is bi-continental in that it has a history of use in English gardens and this variety was originally named to commemorate the then 50 year reign of Queen Elizabeth II. Anise Hyssops are bigger leaved than the Agastaches of the desert west but are clay tolerant, have nice mint fragrance, keep the butterflies and hummingbirds happy, bloom in dense spikes of lavender-blue florets in the midst of late summer and this one has golden foliage on 20" tall plants that grow 18"-24" wide. It is a striking accent in or out of bloom!

Zone 4 🌱🌱 Sun to part sun



Chocolate Mist Flower (Eupatorium rugosum 'Chocolate')

Joe Pye Weed has a striking cousin in this creamy white cluster-flowered late summer-early fall bloomer. The bronze-purple foliage looks like chocolate in Part Sun-Part Shade and grows to 3-4' Height, (shorter when grown dry) by 2-3' Width.

Height: 3-4" Width: 2-3' Zone 4 🌱🌱 Partial sun to partial shade



Orange Carpet Hummingbird Trumpet (Zauschneria garretti 'Orange Carpet')

Plant Select® 2001 A real eye catcher! It's vivid green foliage is topped with glowing orange-scarlet flowers from July to frost! Hummingbirds will be drawn to tubular flowers. Cascading in growth habit it stands **4-6"H** and spreads **18-24"W** so place it to the front of the garden bed and watch the show. A bit of afternoon shade makes this plant thrive and bloom the most.

Zone 4 🌱🌱 Full sun to part sun



'Purple Rain' Jacob's Ladder (Polemonium yezoense 'Purple Rain Strain')

Many experienced gardeners are familiar with the green-leaved form of this plant for partial shade beds. This large, violet flowered form with reddish-purple foliage adds another level of interest and is tolerant of more summer sun. Flower spikes are 24" tall. Dead head for repeat blooming. The cluster-stemmed plant will form clumps up to 18" width. Do not over-water in heavy soils. Plant in sun to partial shade.

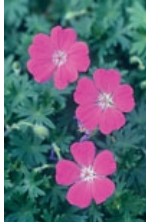
Height: 24" Width: 18" Zone 4 🌱🌱 to 🌱🌱🌱 Sun to Partial Shade



Adratic Geranium (*Geranium macrorrhizum*)

Light to dark pink flowers in summer, apple-scented foliage all season-long that turns red in fall. This one forms larger pleasing mounds.

Height: 18" Width: 15-18" Zone 3



Shepherd's Warning' Geranium

A Scottish selection that is a real ground hugging form, 6"H by 18"W dark foliaged and blooming in bright cerise-pink. A Royal Horticultural Society Award of Merit!

Height: 6" Width: 18" Zone 4



Geranium cantabrigiense 'Biokovo'

These 1' high by 1' wide mounds of semi-evergreen plants bloom in delicate pink with a deeper central flush in summer. They have potential for mid-height ground cover use and for gardens that tend a little more to formality than some of their more rambunctious cousins. Zone 4/5 rated but tough site tested for several years.

Height: 1' Width: 1' Zone 4/5



Geranium 'Rozanne'

Perennial Plant Association Plant of 2008! Very large violet blue, white centered flowers from e. summer to frost top mounds of slightly marbled deep green foliage. This Blooms of Bressingham selection is special because the flowers are larger, the blue deeper and the plant more heat tolerant than similar varieties. More added perks: reddish-brown fall foliage color, rejuvenation by shearing to 3" and butterfly attraction. Add compost to the soil for best

performance.

Height: 20" Width: 24" Zone 5 🌞🌞 Sun to partial shade



Alpine Willowherb (*Epilobium fleischeri*)

Plant Select 2002 Delicate pink flowers are borne from early summer to autumn on reddish stems with gray-green foliage. The 18" high by 12" wide perennial from the Alps is such a charmer in a moderately watered garden with Morning Sun. Even the silvery curling seed heads are attractive in autumn.

Height: 18" Width: 12" Zone 4 🌞🌞



'Purple Rain' Meadow Sage (*Salvia verticillata* 'Purple Rain')

Do you need to naturalize an area, add interest to a lightly watered prairie or fill out a "woodland's edge" garden? This June- August purple spiked bloomer standing 18" high by 15-18" wide is the one for you! Plant in Sun.

Height: 18" Width: 15-18" Zone 4 🌞🌞 to 🌞🌞🌞 Sun



'Max Frei' Soapwort (*Saponaria x lempergii* 'Max Frei')

This is a gem for a rockery or the foreground in of a perennial border. Bright pink 1" flowers cover the 8" Tall by 12-18" Wide circles of butterfly attraction and cut flower creation all summer. This species is showy! Sun in well drained soil.

Height: 8" Width: 12-18" Zone 4 to



Wichita Mountains Goldenrod (*Solidago* 'Wichita Mountains')

Great Plants '05 This outstanding, long standing specimen with tall rods of bright gold blooming in late summer will cheer you every time you look at their blooms in your prairie planting. Butterflies will stay in your late summer garden and the bees that we need to pollinate our garden crops will have a good source of pollen for winter food in the hive.

Zone 3 to Sun to Partial Sun



Hemerocallis 'Elegant Candy' Daylily

Very fragrant, rounded ruffled 4.5" pink flowers with a soft red eye zone around a lime green throat.

This tetraploid is an early to mid-season rebloomer.

Height: 2' Width: 2'



'Mars Midget' Knautia (*Knautia Macedonia* 'Mars Midget')

Try the Butterfly attracting ruby-red tall Knautia in the back of the border and for cutting. The plants tend to revert to paler pink blooms in subsequent years, totally changing the look of the bed. This cultivar with 16" Height flower stalks above dark green 12" Wide basal foliage stays true to color. Plant in Sun to Part Shade. Grow on the dry side or with good drainage if well watered.

Height: 16" Width: 12" Zone 5 to Sun to partial shade



'Sweet Dream' Catmint (*Nepeta Subsessilis* 'Sweet Dream')

Experience the gentle beauty of this soft two-toned pink upright catmint in semi-dry partial sun, especially when planted amongst Cranesbill Geraniums for a woodland Garden look. It will thrive in clay soils and difficult exposures.

Height: 1-2' Width: 1-2' clumps Zone 4 Sun to partial shade

Dry Shade

What to plant in that shady spot that you can't seem to get enough water to? These dry shade plants. Anyway if you did water it heavily the slugs would march in in force. Here are our recommendations.



Hardy Plumbago (Ceratostigma plumbaginoides)

In late summer intense true blue blossoms of Hardy Plumbago are a butterfly favorite and blossoming often continues into fall even while the foliage is turning mahogany red. What a visual treat for us humans! Mature height of 8 inches makes it useful for either an accent plant or as colorful ground cover. Sun without reflected heat to shade.

Zone 4 🌱🌱 Sun to shade



Lady's Mantle 'Thriller' (Alchemilla mollis 'Thriller')

Not as desired by deer or slugs as Hosta, these mounds of gray-green parasol like leaves are topped by primrose yellow blooms in late spring bringing a glow into an otherwise dark spot! 'Thriller' is different from the chartreuse variety you may remember.

Zone 3 🌱🌱 Part sun to shade



Hidcote Variegated Comfrey (Symphytum grandiflorum 'Hidcote Variegated')

A tough decorative groundcover for dry shade. This smaller selection grows 12" tall and matures to 18" wide. Glabrous green leaves are edged in a strong cream-yellow and flowers are light blue. This Zone 4 moderately low water plant belongs in part shade to shade.

Zone 4 🌱🌱 Part shade to shade



Cardinal Flower (Lobelia cardinalis)

Upright perennial lobelia is a beauty for the Partial Sun to Shade garden. Scarlet flower spikes rise up to 3' Height from July to September above 3' Width (at maturity) mounded green foliage. This Zone 3 hardy species is longer-lived than 'Queen Victoria.' Don't over-water in heavy soil.

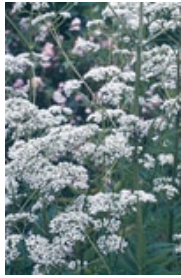
Height: 3' Width: 3' Zone 3 🌱🌱 to 🌱🌱🌱 Partial sun to shade



Snow Angel Coral Bells (Heuchera sanguinea 'Snow Angel')

Plant Select® 2003 When these were introduced, the Plant Select organization recognized their vigor and beauty. Mounded foliage up to 1' wide is a medium green with creamy variegation and the cerise-red flower spikes rise to 1' total height. Not only will the butterflies and hummingbirds visit but you may cut these for addition to bouquets! Sun without reflected heat to shade.

Zone 3 🌱🌱 to 🌱🌱🌱 Part sun to shade



White Valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*)

very sweetly fragrant, creamy-white panicles bloom in early summer atop 3-4' high dark green stems with palmate leaflets on plants 2' wide. Native to western mountains. While hiking near Jenny Lake it provided a wonderful burst of fragrance and the contrast of the white flower against the dark evergreens was a nice surprise!

Height: 3-4' Width: 2' Zone 4 🌿🌿 Partial Shade



Variegated Comfrey (*Symphytum grandiflorum* 'Hidcote Variegated')

This is a tough ground cover plant for dry shade, with strong cream-yellow variegation along the edges of the contrasting blue-green leaves. Clusters of bell shaped light blue flowers provide early summer interest.

Height: 12" Width: 18" Zone 4 🌿🌿 Partial shade to shade



Variegated Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum multiflorum* 'Variegatum')

2004 GreatPlants®. Pairs of medium green, white edged leaves line the 2' arching stems of this woodland native and small white bell-shaped flowers hang from the leaf axils in late Spring. The Loess Hills along the Missouri River between Nebraska and Iowa where Solomon's Seal is native have alkaline soils like ours. Use this plant as an accent or taller groundcover instead of or with Hosta. Iowa experience says that slugs and deer do not trouble this one!

Zone 3 🌿🌿 to 🌿🌿🌿 Shade, part shade



Mountain Lady's Mantle (*Alchemilla alpine*)

This compact plant makes a spectacular ground cover for an alpine or rock garden with morning sun to part shade. Small seven-lobed leaves are palmate compound and trimmed with a silvery edge. Yellow, foamy flower clusters appear in summer above the 6" tall foliage. Expect 24" spread in due time.

Zone 3 🌿🌿 Sun to part shade



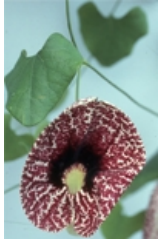
Carol Mackie Daphne (*Daphne x burkwoodii* 'Carol Mackie')

Plant Select® 1997 Semi-evergreen broad-leaved shrub suitable for life in our dry air are rare. This compact rounded mound of a shrub with medium green leaves edged in cream white belongs in shaded to morning sun gardens. (Best suited to cooler soils so keep out of reflected heat and full or afternoon sun.) In mid-spring intense cotton candy like fragrance, one half inch pink tubular flowers add to the allure.

Zone 4 🌿 Part shade to shade

Vines

Fences, walls, lattice work — spruce it up with a vine!



Dutchman's Pipe (Aristolochia durior)

This is a vigorous, old fashioned vine that could cover a structure in a single season when well watered. Large, 4" – 10" heart shaped leaves make this vine ideal for screening. Hidden among the leaves in May to June are yellow 1" – 1.5" yellow green flowers which resemble antique meerschaum pipes.

Height: 20' – 30' Zone 4 🌱🌱 to 🌱🌱🌱 Full Sun to Part Shade



Native Hop Vine (Humulus lupulus neomexicanus)

An attractive, fast growing, semi-wind tolerant vine. Leaves are rich green and maple-like that mix with clusters of yellow-green flowers followed by papery cone-like fruit in late summer. Trellising is highly recommended. Plant in amended garden soil and cut back in fall to force new spring growth. A great alternative to Virginia Creeper on a cedar fence or arbor!

Zone 3 🌱🌱 Full sun to filtered shade



Golden Hops (Humulus lupulus 'Aureus')

Plant this eye-popping chartreuse leaved cousin of the local native in Sun to Part Sun. Same cultural practices as the Native Hop.

Height: 20' Width:4-5 Zone 4 🌱🌱 Sun to partial sun



Kintzley's Ghost Honeysuckle Vine (Lonicera prolifera 'Kintzley's Ghost')

Plant Select® 2006 This is a great honeysuckle vine with pale blue-green leaves and pale yellow flowers in spring, but what makes this a standout is the unique flower bracts that make the whole vine look like, as the propagator described it, "A galaxy of full moons"! Not picky about soil type! The vine was found growing over the grave site of Dr Kintzley, its Ames, Iowa officinado (and subsequently taken to Fort Collins, Colorado), hence the name!

Height: 10 – 20' Zone 4 🌱🌱 Full sun to part shade



Dropmore Honeysuckle (Lonicera x brownii 'Dropmore Scarlet')


This vine will do well on a fence or trellis! This fast growing twining vine has fragrant orange-red blossoms that bloom in profusion in June and sporadically the rest of the season. This one is sure to spruce up a drab old fence or trellis! Not considered drought tolerant but certainly hardy!

Zone 3 🌱🌱🌱 Full sun to part shade



Bittersweet, Diane and Hercules (Celastrus scandens)

A hardy vigorous twining climber with rounded leaves and greenish flowers comes into its own in autumn when the seed pods split open showing yellow and red on the female plants! Grown for dried arrangements and bird food. This is an expensive treat at the florist in autumn, much more fun to grow your own! By having male and female plants in one pot you are set for the autumn display! Matures to 12' long vines by 4' wide.

Zone 2  Full Sun to Part Sun



Valiant Grape (Vitis 'Valiant')

This is the grape to cover an arbor going through hot summers and bitterly cold winters without dieback. It was developed at South Dakota State University on the plains. The yield is earlier than Concord and the semi-sweet fruit is very plentiful so you can really make jelly and jam and homemade raisins, too! This medium sized clustered blue grape is so vigorous that you don't need to prune the vines back to twelve buds to maximize fruit production and quality. Just let it go to the size you want

and enjoy!

Zone 3  Full sun


Premium Annuals

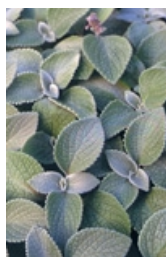
These perennials bloom so well for so long that we describe them as premium annuals. All will bloom this year. In protected spots, with some winter watering, you might be rewarded with repeat performances for years until a bitterly cold winter comes along! The tender perennial pot plants wintering in a south window may secure their life for coming years.



Denver Daisy (Rudbeckia "Denver Daisy')

Plant Select 2009. This hybrid was developed to honor the 150th Anniversary of the founding of Denver. Blooming from May into late summer, long golden ray petals with a dark red-brown eye zone surround the brown center. (As if the butterflies need a bigger target to come for snacks on this Black-Eyed Susan!) Plan on cut flower use, there should be enough for you to enjoy indoors and out. Grow semi dry to moderately watered in amended soils in Sun. Zone 3-9 rating implies hardiness here but our experience with Rudbeckias is that most do not winter well in either bone-dry soils or under soggy snow drifts. Try it for the season and if it survives, consider it a bonus!

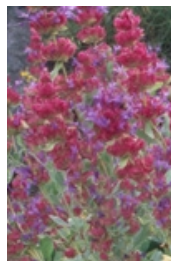
Height: 18-28" by Width: 10-25" Zone 3-9  Sun



Silver Dollar Plant (Plectranthus argentatus)


Plant Select 1999. Plush heavily textured silver leaves cover this coleus relative for large pots and planters. Grow this mounding tender perennial for contrast and to blend colors and forms for interest in. The first light frost will not kill it but to keep for future summers overwinter in an indoor sunny south window.

Height: 24-30" by Width: 24" Zone 8  Sun to partial sun



Mojave Sage (Salvia pachyphylla)


Plant Select 2005 Intensely aromatic silver-green foliage sets off the persistent mauve bracts and the accompanying large blue flowers on this woody evergreen western desert native. Plant in full sun in soil with good drainage and enjoy the show from June to hard freeze. The butterflies and hummingbirds will also visit. We are not certain about winter survivability but maybe as a semi-dormant plant in a sunny window of an unheated garage.

Height: 18-36" Width:30-36" Zone 5/6  Full sun



Coronado Red' Agastache (Agastache x 'Coronado Red' 'Pstessene')




Plant Select 2009 This distinct brilliant crimson and maroon spired selection from the northern Colorado Welby Gardens is not only a new color scheme but exhibits a summer-long bloom season providing hummingbird and butterfly food for a much longer season! No more waiting for the second half of summer for agastache bloom! Grow agastache's in Sun.

Height: 15-18" Width: 12-15" Zone 5  Sun



Red Birds in a Tree (Scrophularia macrantha)



Plant Select® 2008 This xeric penstemon cousin from southwestern uplands is a beauty! From June to frost panicles of bright cherry red tubular bird shaped flowers top 15"-30" tall dark green foliated stems. Plant width at maturity is 1'-3'. With winter protection it might be back, but for a year plan on heat tolerance and a great display.

Zone 5 - (4?)    Full Sun



Sonoran Sunset Agastache (Agastache cana 'Sinning' 'Sonoran Sunset')

Plant Select 2002 This compact lavender and rose, large flowered selection is showier than in the species providing more display for you and attractive food for hummingbirds and butterflies from late summer to fall.

Height: 15" Width: 12-15" Zone 5   Full sun



Killerton Red African Daisy (Arctotis 'Killerton Red')

Dark red flowers with a black eye bloom all summer over furry, silvery foliage on mid-sized plants. The high contrast provided by these beauties really puts some WOW into large pots and planters in hot Sun and windy sites.

Height: 12-15" by Width: 12-15"  



'Silver Spoons' Echevaria (Echivaria 'Silver Spoons')




Put this bluish white, cupped leaved Mexican Hen and Chicks in a pot on your hot, sunny patio table and enjoy! When frost threatens, bring it in to the sun in a south window until it is time to go out to the patio again!

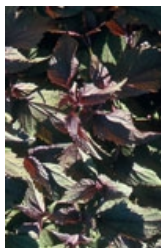
Height: 6", Width: 6" Zone 10



Purple Fountain Grass (Pennisetum setaceum 'Rubrum')

Burgundy-purple blades and golden tinged burgundy-red bloom spikes to add WOW to the later summer and fall garden and larger planters. This warm season grass is a clump forming classic but not xeric so it grows strongly in well-watered large mixed planters. Plant in sun and do not expect this Zone 9 perennial to over-winter here.

36-40" tall by 24" wide Zone 9    Full Sun



Chocolate Flower (*Berlandieria lyrata*)


Plant Select® 2004 Back by popular demand! Many of our customers have missed this great plains native that we decided to offer it again. Light yellow daisy type flowers top the 18" plant. The flowers bear the fragrance of chocolate early in the morning and towards evening! Could it be our customers are addicted to chocolate?

Zone 5  Sun



Sunset Hyssop (*Agastache rupestris*)


Plant Select® 1997 Sunset orange and lavender flower spikes top gray-green root beer scented foliage from later summer through fall in fairly hot summer settings. This hummingbird and butterfly magnet has a good record of surviving our winters when it is planted in drier mineral soil in spots without reflected warmth in winter. While the usual agastache needs full sun, Sunset tolerates part shade as well. Water needs are relatively low for this xeric plant once established.

Height: 18-24" by Width: 18-36" Zone 4b  Sun



Coronado Hyssop (*Agastache aurantiaca*)


Plant Select® 2001 An abundance of yellow hooded flowers stained with orange on spikes top this highly aromatic silvery leaved southwestern desert native from midsummer to frost. The size of this hummingbird and butterfly magnet is 2-3' tall by 3' wide. Plant in full sun and well drained soil or clay kept on the dry side. Low water need when established.

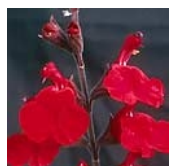
Zone 5/6  Sun



Corsican Violet (*Viola Corsica*)

Plant Select® 2003 Lovely bright purple violet from the Mediterranean with 1" flowers from spring to fall. Tolerates drought but blooms best through summer with supplemental water. The 8" tall by 6-8" wide plants only survive winter in protected spots but moderate seeding occurs in watered beds for a casual wild garden look.

Zone 5/6  Sun to partial shade



Salvia Furman's Red (*Salvia greggii* 'Furman's Red')

Plant Select® 2005 This southwestern everblooming sage repeatedly covers itself in crimson to scarlet flushes of color on a woody perennial. Expect the show to last from summer into fall but do not expect the Zone 5b plant to over winter. Suitable for bedding, borders and larger containers, quite heat tolerant and moderately xeric. Full sun and relatively low water need.

18-24" tall by 12-14" wide Zone 5b  Full sun



'Madeline Hill' Rosemary (*Rosemarinus officinalis* 'Madeline Hill')

This robust upright culinary variety is reported hardy to -15 degrees F! (That is a lot hardier than the variety 'Arp'.) That means Zone 5 hardiness for in-ground plantings. Form is 3' tall and 3' wide. Blooms are Wedgewood blue. Rosemary, whether in pot or ground needs to be sited in sun and to neither dry out nor drown. Soil drainage must be sharp in ground or pot. We recommend if you are attempting outdoor planting to put it in the sun, but not reflected heat and not in the place most exposed to wind.

Zone 5 🌞 Full sun

No matter how drought tolerant these plants are—they still have been grown in a potting mix and not your soil, so for the establishment year plan to water up to 3 times/week. Remember too, to water the surrounding soil. Roots don't grow into dry soil. During intense heat, it maybe necessary to water even more frequently!

Grasses

Whether you are creating a little patch of Western prairie, adding accents to a contemporary garden or creating a bold billowing landscape, grasses need to be part of your design. The role of grass in western home landscapes is powerful; it creates a sense of place by echoing the textures and colors in the prairie beyond our towns. Grasses thrive under sun and wind and preserve through our dry open winters.

Native and adapted grasses don't tax our water supply, are one of the most effective erosion control plantings and even provide food via their seeds for songbirds in winter. From the shortest tussock, looking like a sea urchin on land, to the tallest clump of blades and seed heads billowing in the wind, there are grasses to fit the bill.

For all the boldness of the texture and form, many gardeners really enjoy seeing subtle details of color and texture when the plants come into bloom and we all have noticed the continued year-round statement made by decorative grasses. It's hard to imagine an environmentally sustainable landscape without grasses.



Boulder Blue Fescue (*Festuca glauca* 'Boulder Blue')

This intense silver-blue grass is more upright than most Fescues and adds texture, and motion to a flower bed or a mixed prairie planting. Try mixing different blue fescues and Blue Avena Grass for an interesting range of sizes in a monochromatic color scheme! 15" tall and 12" wide.

Zone 4 🌱 to 🌱🌱 Full sun to part sun



Little Blue Stem 'Blaze' (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)

A drought tolerant warm season native grass that blooms from summer to fall. A foundation grass in the Great and High Plains. Form is a basal cluster of short blades followed by an 18 inch to 3 ft tower depending upon water amount. Fluffy russet seed heads ripen in fall above foliage that also takes on burgundy color through winter. Blaze is greener in summer and more russet red in winter than the species. Height is 2-3 foot.

Zone 4 🌱 Full sun



Saphirprudel Blue Oat or Avena Grass (*Helictotrichon sempervirens*)

This cool season grass forms a beautiful blue-gray spraying mound of foliage that contrasts nicely with Blue Fescues in size while echoing them in color. The shape of this plant reminds us of fireworks spraying out from the ground. We feature this cultivar because the blades are a little wider and show off the color better than the species plant. Does well in clay soils.

Height: 12-18" Zone 4 🌱🌱 Full sun to part sun



Feather Reed Grass 'Karl Foerster' (*Calamagrostis x acutiflora*)

This eastern native grows like a tower, the narrow dark green leaves are topped with frothy wheat colored blooms in early summer. Who would ever guess that it had to go to Europe to be found and brought back as a sterile hybrid. No need to clip seed heads to prevent seedlings. Great for adding height to the garden! 4' tall, 24" wide. **Windbreak.**

Zone 4 🌱🌱 Sun to part sun



Korean Feather Reed Grass (*Calamagrostis brachytricha*)

'09 Plant Select and '07 Great Plants Grass of the Year This elegant clump forming grass is airier and more open than its eastern American native cousin, Karl Foerster. The long, open feathery dark pink tinged flower panicles bloom from August to October unlike the June blooming familiar Karl Foerster. and the 12-15" width clumps are not quite as vertically stiff either. With moderate soil moisture in Full Sun to Partial Shade in most soils expect pleasing summer through winter presence.

Height: 24-40" Width: 12-15" Zone 4 Full sun to partial shade



Switch Grass 'Shenandoah' (*Panicum virgatum*)

Foliage emerges green with the ends tipped in red in spring on this cultivar of the warm season native grass. In summer reddish-pink seed heads form above reddish foliage that turns dark black purple in Fall, this selection is striking! Topping out at 3 feet.

Zone 4 Full to partial sun



Switch Grass 'Heavy Metal' (*Panicum virgatum* 'Heavy Metal')

Blue-gray blades form a dense upright clump topped by airy panicles 12" to 16" above the foliage in July. In fall the foliage turns yellow to red and the panicles become creamy tan. Expect to see this display through much of winter even with snow and wind. Tolerance of a wide range of soils and moisture levels make this warm season grass a great garden accent today. Originally, switch grasses grew in what are now nearly extinct remnants of tall grass prairie.

Height: 3'-3.5' Width: 2'. **Windbreak** Zone 4 Full sun



Switch Grass 'Prairie Sky' (*Panicum virgatum* v. 'Prairie Sky')

Bluest, hardiest, strongest and quickest growing switch grass! As a warm season grass, growth takes off in summer followed by wonderful soft pink panicles topping the 3-5 ft plants. Clumps mature to be as wide as tall. Tolerates clay well. **Windbreak.**

Zone 4 Full sun



Trailblazer Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum* 'Trailblazer)

Graceful, warm season bunch grass is a sod-former on its native tall grass prairie but here it makes a fine accent plant or garden screen. Beautiful orange-yellow winter color.

Height: 4-5' Width: 2-3' Zone 5



Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)


Great Plants® 2004 This is the western answer to Karl Foerster. A stalwart warm season plant: wide green to blue-green blades stand upright below golden plume-like seed heads that show bright pollen grains in late summer.

Height: 4'-5' Width: 1'-2' Zone 3 Full sun



Giant Sacaton (*Sporobolus wrightii*)

Plant Select® 2006 Think Big and Bold with this blue-green mounding fountain of a grass to add to your xeriscape garden or a well drained regular flower bed! At maturity the grass blades alone will be 3' - 4' tall and width to about 3' and the pinkish blooms maturing into white seed heads extending to 7 feet. Use as an accent, backdrop or even windbreak to show off this beauty! **Windbreak.**

Zone 4  Full sun to part shade



'Silver Sunrise' Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii* 'Silver Sunrise')


Great Plants® 2006 This selection of tall grass prairie species Big Bluestem was University of Nebraska evaluated and introduced due to its excellent color. The showy blue basal foliage turns rich purple in fall and wide golden bands in the flowering culms provide striking contrast.

Height: 5' Width: 2' **Windbreak** Zone 4  Full sun



Feather Reed Grass 'Avalanche' (*Calamagrostis acutiflora* 'Avalanche')



This variegated form of Karl Foerster has a wide white center stripe on each leaf blade. The feathery, golden seed plumes rise to about 3' tall in Casper in early summer and the overall shape of the 1-2' wide clump rounds out a bit more than the very vertical towering form of K. F. Like its sibling, it is a cool season grass that greens up early and will stay green through summer heat with supplemental watering. Plant in full sun to part sun. Occasionally water deeply in spring and fall, more often during summer heat.

Zone 4  Full sun to part shade



'Trailway' Sideoats Grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula* 'Trailway')

2005 GreatPlants Grass This fine-leaved, sod-forming warm season native prairie bunch grass makes a nice garden accent with airy delicate looking seed cascading down stalks that are 16-32"H (dependent upon amount of water) above short, basal foliage clumps 18"W. Plant in Sun

Zone 4  to  Sun



Blue Grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*)

The most important range grass of the Great Plains makes a durable low water lawn (usually started from seed) for Full Sun sites but as a garden accent it is precious! Get a few plugs to fill any empty spot in a Blue Grama lawn or place a few clumps of this curly, fine-bladed warm season bunch grass with spikes of eye-lash-like inflorescence above (at maturity) clumped basal foliage.

Height: 16-20" Width: 18"W Zone 4  to  Full sun



Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*)



2003 Great Plants Grass of the Year! This bunchgrass, native of northern prairies, where it occurs with Junegrass, little bluestem and needlegrass), is a major component of sod-formation in **Sunny** sites. The grass blades are narrow and fragrant on 2'Height by 1'Widthclumps that are particularly attractive in bloom and seed.

Zone 3  to 



Indian Steel Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans* 'Indian Steel')



This native bunch grass is a strong, upright warm season grower with bluer foliage than the species and latest summer-early fall golden, plume-like seed heads above clumped broad bladed leaves. Plant in **Sun**.

Height 32-42" Width: 24-32" Zone 4  to  Sun



'Pawnee' Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii* 'Pawnee')

This deep blue-green bladed tall grass prairie native with contrasting "turkey-foot" seed heads makes quite an accent in a western garden. Like many western native grasses it is a warm season bunch grass suited to **Full Sun** and will fail to thrive if planted in tight clay. We like the 'Pawnee' cultivar because it is more vigorous than the species here in our growing conditions. After frost expect the foliage to become light red before fading into a softer winter color.

Height: 5-6" Width: 1-2' Zone 4  to 

Two very divergent growth patterns characterize grasses: Cool season forms "green up" early in the growing season and come into bloom by mid summer. Depending upon moisture levels and temperature of air and soil these may go dormant in the hottest part of summer and will exhibit dried seed heads before fall. Some cool season grasses, especially turf-type will grow new blades in the cooler weather of early fall, others won't. In spring, warm season grasses sometimes get mistaken for dead by impatient gardeners because the plants need the warmth of late spring to get growing. Once they get going they are gorgeous and usually stand through winter. Of the cool season species only Karl Foerster can hold its own display intact for winter!

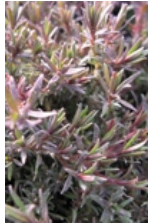
Plant Select® is a cooperative research program of the Denver Botanical Garden, the horticulture industry and Colorado State University. The goal is to evaluate and introduce plants that are suited to the Rocky Mountain West. They are found either in the wild or in regional experimental stations like at Cheyenne. We value this research and are proud to offer Plant Select.

Great Plants® is the prairie plant selection program of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln that features natives and adapted plants with great characteristics for Great Plains gardens. Some are also high plains appropriate - for here!

Grass care is simple! Clip or use a string trimmer to remove the old growth in March before green-up. This is vital for clump formers otherwise new growth will be choked out by old, dead foliage and an ugly mix of dried blades and new growth will result as well as setting the stage for the plant to go into decline. In the natural setting, a balance exists with in-situ recycling of plant material and no other fertilization is required. We advocate little if any fertilization.

Ground Covers or Lawn Alternatives

These plants are an alternative to high maintenance sod when planted in mass in small areas. Think of those hard to mow and water areas like around posts and benches where the mower doesn't fit, on slopes and near foundations! The plants we offer compliment each other visually, have the same water needs and soil tolerances—So go a head and mix and match!



'Spicy Orange' Thyme (Thymus 'Spicy Orange')

Massed, small pale pink flowers provide **Butterfly** food in early summer. **Light foot traffic** is tolerated and releases strong spicy-orange fragrance from the evergreen plants with needle-shaped leaves. Plant in Sun.

Height: 2-3" Width: 10-12" Zone 4 Sun



'Doretta Klaber' Thyme (Thymus serpyllum 'Doretta Klaber')


This dwarf thyme with tiny hairy leaves on tight, mounding mats with tufts of lavender flowers in summer is great for use between steppingstones or as an edging.

Height: 2" Width: 12" Zone 4 Sun



Persian Stonecress (Aethionema grandiflora Pulchella Group)

Delightful, alkaline soil tolerant dry rock garden plant that blooms in bright, light pink from May to August. Bloom stalks are carried over a 6-8" tall by 12" wide helmet of powdery blue foliage. Full sun, don't accidentally drown this one by planting in a low spot.

Zone 5  Full sun to partial shade



'John Proffitt' Table Mountain Ice Plant (Delosperma 'John Proffitt')

Plant Select® 2002 Lustrous fuchsia flowers bloom and repeat on this fast spreading South African succulent ground cover. Leaves persisting through winter will remain green and may become tinged with purple. Plants mature to 2" tall by 18" wide.

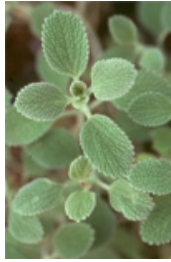
Zone 4  Full sun



'Lavender Ice' Ice Plant (Delosperma 'Psfave' x Lavender Ice)

Plant Select® 2009 Iridescent lavender flowers with dark eyes bloom on 2-3" tall mats of green foliage that spread from 1-2' wide. This sport of **Table Mountain** tolerates a wide range of soil conditions.

Height: 2-3" tall Width: 1-2' Zone 4  Full Sun to Partial Sun



'Silverheels Horehound' (*Marrubium rotundifolium* 'Silverheels')

2009 Plant Select! This Turkish native is excellent in rock gardens as either groundcover or accent plant and useful in other Full Sun dry locations. The evergreen mat of foliage with upturned silvery edges looks like a collection of up-turned horse hooves. This species has been tested for several years on windy, exposed, west-facing slopes, proving its true xeric nature, hardiness and clay tolerance!

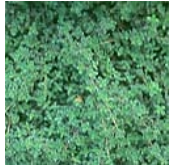
Height: 2-4" Width: 24-36" Zone 4 🌞 Full sun



Mayfair Lemon Thyme (*Thymus citriodorus* 'Mayfair')

A choice, vigorous multi-purpose hardy landscape plant. Whether as a replacement for lawn, as a rock garden accent, or as a garden edging you will like the way this one winters and how it tastes when harvested for culinary use.

Zone 4 🌞🌞 Full sun to part sun



Wooly Thyme (*Thymus praecox pseudolanuginosus*)

Ground hugging cushion of wool-gray foliage, 1 ft diameter, with purple flowers in summer. Tolerates winter exposure better than many thymes. Great for light foot traffic and handles partial shade. A reliable choice for planting rock walls, as it will spill over the edge with the least winter die-back.

Zone 4 🌞🌞 Sun to part shade



Veronica x 'Crystal Rivers'

Plant Select® 2003 A wonderful little perennial that has proved itself through five drought years. One plant forms 4" x 18" mat of glossy dark green foliage with deep blue flowers in summer. This hybrid cross of wooly and Turkish speedwell is better than either parent!

Zone 4 🌞🌞 Full sun for the most blooms



Purple Winter Savory (*Satureja Montana* ssp. *Illyrica*)

Plant Select® 2007 We've used regular culinary winter savory as a hot rock garden accent and groundcover for years. This hardier selection is prostrate growing, evergreen, well covered in purple (vs. white) flowers August to hard freeze and just as useful in the kitchen as the regular culinary herb. While not picky about soil, grow on the dry side in tight clay.

Height: 4"-6" Width: 12"-15" Zone 3b 🌞 Full sun to partial shade



Sedum Angelina (*Sedum rupestre* 'Angelina')

This Proven Winners' plant from Croatia really is a winner. Brilliant yellow tipped light green conifer shaped leaves become orange tinged during early and late season growing conditions. The 6-8" tall by up to 12" wide plant is a strong grower and is as tough as nails: successfully overwintering in rock pockets and at the edges of planters left outdoors and ignored. Use this one not only in the traditional sunny dry garden as a groundcover, edging, or accent but also in combination hanging baskets, as planter or barrel edging. Best color develops in full sun.

Zone 3 🌞 Full sun



Turkish Veronica (*Veronica liwanensis*)

Plant Select® 1997 Cobalt blue flowers cover the mat-forming glossy green leaved groundcover in late spring to early summer. Height 1-2" by 12" diameter. Plant this Zone 4 low water groundcover, accent or edging in full to part sun.

Zone 4 🌞 Full sun to part sun



Red Mountain Ice Plant (*Delosperma dyeri* 'Psdold')

Plant Select® 2007 Blazing scarlet flowers form a red carpet atop this 2" tall succulent throughout the growing season. Individual plants will become 15-20" wide making a striking, fire-resistant ground cover for drought tolerant xeric plantings in sand, loam or clay. For best bloom plant in full sun but partial shade is also tolerated.

Zone 4-8 🌞 Full sun to partial shade



'Kelaidis' Mesa Verde Ice Plant (*Delosperma* 'kelaidis')

Plant Select® 2002 Iridescent salmon-pink blooms top this 2" tall succulent that will be an 18" wide groundcover at maturity. Blooms and repeats slightly out of sync with Table Mountain to help extend the season of color on these carpet-like plants.

Zone 4 🌞 Full sun



Starburst Ice Plant (*Delosperma floribundum* 'Starburst')

Plant Select® 1998 This upright clumping succulent produces a dome of bright pink flowers with eye-catching centers on a 4" tall by 10" wide plant. The petals have an almost metallic shimmer. Blooming starts in June and repeats until fall.

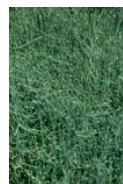
Zone 4/5 🌞 Full sun



Sedum ewersii var. homophyllum

This cultivar blooms in pink for a long part of summer over evergreen diminutive glaucous foliage. The look is delicate and dainty for rockery or border but our experience with another ewersii cultivar is one of tough-as-nails over-winter-in-the-pot-outside!

Height: 3" Width: 6-8" Zone 4 🌞 Full sun



Ephedra regeliana

This is a tiny Joint Fir, a prehistoric survivor and rare conifer relative bearing small red cones for rockery, or limited groundcover use. Plant this blue-green beauty in draining soil in Sun to part Sun.

3-6" Height by 6" Width Zone 4 🌞 to 🌞🌞 Sun to partial sun



Greek Yarrow (*Achillea ageratifolia*)

Ground hugging 12" diameter circular mats of deeply cut gray-white foliage are topped by 6"-10" tall flower stalks of cheery white blooms in late spring. Makes a good edging in a xeric or well drained garden and an accent in a rock garden. This one will not run!

Zone 3 🌿 Full sun

Ice plant info: Dryland ground covers, rock garden accents, xeric garden edgings, trough plantings, all are good uses for these. They thrive in low water settings in clay and tolerate more moisture in sharp draining soils. Unlike sedum, they are not a deer or rabbit magnet and can be used on sloping sand for erosion control and around structures as part of a fire resistant landscape. Consider planting these between stepping stones in spots that seem too hot and dry for thymes.

Crystal Rivers and Turkish Veronicas and *Hymenoxys scaposa* are good companion plants as are the ground covers like Angelina sedum, Silverton Bluemat Penstemon, Purple Winter Savory and Greek Yarrow. Gravel is the preferred mulch around these xeric ground covers for both weed control and decorative interest. Be careful to not apply mulch over or too deeply around plant crowns.


Shade Trees & Medium Trees

The ability to block hot sun from windows, patios and roofs, actually being able to play under a natural "roof" or enjoy sitting with a cold drink on a hot summer's day. Shade trees do all this and more! In winter, branch patterns and bark texture are there for enjoyment, while letting the "wanted" sun get to the very places you didn't "want it" in the summer. Best time to plant a shade tree? Twenty years ago! But since that's not an option, don't delay a season more! Do it this year!



Ohio Buckeye (Aesculus glabra)


is certainly not new to the trade but it has shown remarkable adaptability to Western conditions. As tall as it is wide, this charmer has dense dark green leaves which migrate to yellow and brilliant reds in autumn. Large greenish yellow flowers in spring are followed by prickly seed pods. Adapted to alkaline soils including clay! (The seeds are poisonous to people but not squirrels, they are too hard to chew on and too large to swallow)

Height: 30'-40' Width: 30' - 40' Zone 3  Full sun



Western River Birch (Betula occidentalis)

A beautiful native with glossy, burgundy bark dotted with white lenticels! Found along the lower parts of mountain streams, this is a gorgeous native tree. This Birch has built in insect resistance. Multi-stemmed and grown as an accent or under story tree along streams or near downspouts and watered lawns.

Height: 15-20' Width: 15'-20' Shape: Broad rounded Zone 3  Full sun to part shade



Brandon-American Elm (Ulmus Americana 'Brandon')

Some of you may remember American elms arching over the boulevards in your youth, but with Dutch Elm Disease few remained alive. However after years of research, new varieties such as the Brandon Elm developed out of Manitoba have shown excellent resistance to this disease. Be the first to reintroduce this large vase shaped shade tree to your yard or boulevard strip. The leaves are dark green and toothed and turn golden in autumn.

Height: 40'-60' Width: 30' - 40' Zone 3  Full sun to partial shade



Purple Robe Locust (Robinia pseudoacacia 'Purple Robe')

Racemes of deep rose-pink pea-like flowers in late spring are the first reason to choose this tree then add the overall tree shape with a wonderfully textured dark-barked trunk and the bluish-green open canopy of pinnate, fernlike foliage. Tolerance of dry alkaline soil is good. Height: 33' Width: 25' Shape: Open upright.

Zone 4 Full sun 



Sensation Boxelder (Acer negundo)


This one is destined to become one of the great shade trees of the West. This specimen tree does well in difficult soils, limited water and heavy wind. The growth rate is exceptional often putting on 3' of new growth/year. The Boxelder is a native to Wyoming, but this one is a seedless male clone, thus it will not attract the Boxelder bugs and has magnificent red-orange autumn color! Make no mistake, this is a go-to shade tree that few have planted.

Height: 40 - 50' Width: 30 - 40' Shape: Rounded Zone 2  Full sun



Highland Cottonwood (*Populus acuminata* x *sargentii* 'Highland')

This is the only cottonwood I know of that has natural pest resistance Since it is a hybrid cross, no cottonwood seed filling the air in summer! Expect the same virtues of fast growth associated with *Populus* genus but with minimal pest issues. This variety has a more upright and narrower canopy than our native Plains Cottonwood. Not picky about soil type – if anything, plant in heavier soils.

Height: 45 - 50' Width: 35 - 40' Shape: Upright Oval Zone 3  Full sun



Dropmore Linden (*Tilia flavescens* 'Dropmore')

Everyone loves the fragrance of Linden during early summer bloom. This species is also prairie hardy and has extra summer protection in the form of silvery, hairy undersides of the large heart-shaped leaves to diminish evapotranspiration. Fall color is clear yellow. The dense crown matures into a beautiful source of shade.

Height: 33' Width: 23' Shape: Pyramidal Zone 3  Full sun



Western Catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*)

A standout western native with wonderfully fragrant, orchid like white flowers borne in 4–8 inch panicles which appear in late June followed by 12–18 inch long thin seed pods! Its narrow canopy with large light green heart shaped leaves makes this a perfect choice for those of you who want a tall tree in limited space.


Height: 35'-45' Width: 25'-30' Shape: Narrow irregular

Zone 4  Full sun



Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)

This native of the Black Hills is right at home in the plains and basins. Describing this tree is like describing a warrior. Early in its life it will tend to be pyramidal and as it matures it will develop into a tall tree with a massive trunk and very stout branches. Bark is rough and deeply furrowed. The leaves are a dark green on top, gray-green beneath. Acorns up to 1" are enclosed by a heavily fringed cap and prized by wildlife. Withstands drought, wind, extreme cold and heavy soils. Let this warrior be a part of your landscape!

Height: 50'-60' Width: 20-35' Shape: Upright oval Zone 4  Full sun


Medium Sized Trees

Accents in the lawn, a bit of patio shade, summer and autumnal foliage colors, for some flowers and berries, winter twig and bark pattern. Plant these just for enjoyment, seeing them and watching them grow! Where a yard is small or an overhead utility line comes into play there is still room for these. These can be added for a windbreak layer in larger suburban or rural settings.



Bigtooth Maple (*Acer granidentatum*)

An outstanding native, considered a small tree or large shrub, with five-lobed dark green leaves turning shades of yellow, orange, or red in the fall. The seed source for these trees come from the sunny dry slopes of the Hoback in Teton County. Ecologists believe that this maple and the Sugar Maple of the N.E. US are essentially the same tree but developed separately as the ice ages came and went. Tolerates drought and poor soils.

Height: 25-30' Width: 20 -25' Shape: Broad rounded Zone 3  Full sun to partial shade



Oak Leaf Mountain Ash (*Sorbus hybrida*)

This cross of European and Swedish Mountain Ash is longer lived than the native species and has been thriving on decades of inattention at the Cheyenne Experiment Station. Grey-green lobed oak-shaped leaves provide yellow fall color. Flat white flower clusters are showy in late spring and the resulting red berry clusters persist through winter unless waxwings or other birds come for a feast. Fireblight resistance is good. Plant in our typically alkaline soil but not in the most exposed site and never in a water-logged site.

Height: 30' Width: 17'-20' Shape: Upright oval Zone 3  Full Sun to part shade



Tower Poplar (*Populus x canescens* 'Tower')

Do you need privacy for a skinny space? This narrow, columnar tree has green leaves with silvery undersides and golden yellow fall color. Of course it grows quickly, is seedless, is hardy and healthy. Don't compare this one to the thick trunked, branch shedding short-lived Lombardy that dies young and leaves a wide stump. Uses: Small space windbreak, screen, vertical accent plant.

Height: 33' Width: 8' Shape: Narrow column Zone 2  to  Full Sun to part sun



Mountain Ash Cardinal Royal (*Sorbus aucuparia* 'Michred')

An improved selection of Mountain Ash that for years and years has avoided getting Fireblight when other varieties and species have been lost to this disease! An excellent yard accent with flat white flower clusters in May that become red fruit cluster in autumn and hang on till the birds eat them in winter! The leaves are the classic dark green pinnately compound leaves with silvery undersides. Autumn color is russet red. In winter, you can still enjoy the narrow oval twig and branch form. Avoid tight soils if over-watered.

Height: 20—30' Width: 15—20' Shape: Narrow oval Zone 2  Full Sun to part shade

Establishment is the time frame during which a plant is spreading its root system and becoming ballanced in the ability of top and roots to support each other. A one gallon container-grown plant will take about a year to establish. Woody shrub plants in a 3 to 5-gallon container may need two years to become truly established. Container grown trees follow a rule-of-thumb of one year for transpanting and an additional year for each inch of trunk diameter. In five years time the container grown tree will look better and possibly be bigger than the balled-and-burlap that has struggled while trying to get established.

Drinking and driving don't mix and neither do the roots of trees and lawn grasses! Newly planted trees in a lawn area can actually be stunted for years because the roots of grasses out compete the roots of young trees even in well watered lawns. Give your trees a competitive advantage by removing all the lawn grass around the planting site. Give a tree a 5' wide grass-free zone and reap the benefits of better establishment, especially during the drought. Replace the sod with wood chips up to 4 inches thick. In high wind areas use a rock mulch up to 3 inches deep. Mulch insulates the soil and helps to conserve water plus there's no grass roots to interfere with the trees performance!



Small Trees and Large Shrubs

All of the good attributes of medium sized trees apply to these also, only for even tighter spots and with more windbreak potential because shrubs carry foliage to the ground in most cases.



Ventura Maple (Acer x Ventura)



This is a cross between tartarian and amur maple (natives of the Russian Steppe) and has an excellent growth rate with exceptional alkaline soil tolerance. The leaves in summer are dark green and lobed and produce exceptional orange autumn color. The plentiful red samaras (helicopter seeds) come into their own by midsummer giving it a summer time Christmas tree effect. An excellent tree for small areas as an accent or planted en mass for visual screening.

Height: 20' Width: 15' Zone 2   Full sun to partial shade



Indian Summer Crabapple (Malus 'Indian Summer')

Crabs have a history of getting a bacterial disease called fireblight. We set out to find a tree with regionally proven resistance to this disease and have chosen this one. It has very attractive rose red flowers in spring, develops 5/8" bright red fruit in late summer that persists on the tree. Great autumn color of yellow to orange. This one is considered medium to small as crabs go. An excellent tree for a small area, planted en mass to create a visual screen or as an accent. It is tolerant of many environmental challenges—just not salty soil.

Height: 15' – 20' Width: 15' – 20' Zone 4   Full sun



Seven Son Flower (Heptacodium miconioides)



Plant Select® 2008 Also called Northern Crepe Myrtle, this fast growing large lush looking shrub or small tree from China blooms from August into September in seven-tiered fragrant panicles of creamy white flowers. The show isn't over as rosy-red clustered sepals that remain after petal drop in contrast to the dark green leaves that persist late into fall. For winter interest after leaf drop, the exfoliating bark reveals a light brown under bark. This unusual member of the honeysuckle family is upright spreading and multi-stemmed in habit. Culture is full sun to partial shade in sandy or loamy soil with reports of adaptability to heavier soils. Moderate soil moisture requirements indicate a need for a setting much like a watered lawn or garden. (recommend below 7,000')

Height: 12 – 20' Width: 8-15 Shape: Upright spreading Zone 4-9   Full sun



Princess Kay Plum (Prunus nigra 'Princess Kay')

Plant Select 2000 What an outstanding hardy small ornamental tree! This upright small plum has dark brown to almost black bark with showy, fragrant double white flowers in May before leaves appear, followed by 1" red fruit ripening in August. Autumn brings a beautiful orange-red foliage display. The dark bark with its prominent lenticels provides excellent winter interest.

Height: 12' – 15' Width: 8'-10' Shape: Upright Zone 2   Full sun



Russian Hawthorn (*Crataegus ambigua*)

This accent tree is loved for its unique growth habit, it looks rugged and windswept when young. It's an attractive broad-headed tree, with small 3/8" thorns. Leaves are deeply lobed and medium green in summer. Numerous white flowers emerge in the spring and by late September the whole tree begins to glow as the abundant cherry like fruit ripens. They decorate the branches like ornaments for 2- 3 weeks and make a great bird attractant! This one wants full sun.

Height: 15 – 20' Width: 18 - 22' Shape: Broad rounded Zone 3 Full sun



Gambel Oak (*Quercus gambelli*)

This member of the oak tree family can be considered a small tree/large shrub with the ability to withstand just about anything Mother Nature can conjure - wind, drought, sun, and difficult soils. Consider planting them in multiples - much like an Aspen grove or for a windbreak. Excellent choice for wildlife (Especially squirrels and turkeys!) because of the acorns it produces. Glossy green leaves turn yellow to an occasional orange or red in autumn.

Height: 15' – 30' Width: 12 – 20' Shape: Open irregular Zone 3 Full sun



Canada Red Chokecherry, Yellow Fruited Chokecherry and Green Leaved Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana melanocarpa* "Canada Red" , P. v. "Yellow Fruited" P. v. 'melanocarpa') Shrub form

Fragrant white flowers in pendulous racemes appear in spring, followed by fruit you and the birds will fight over (homemade jelly!). Both the statewide native green leafed form and the maroon leafed Canada Red grow in some very rugged conditions. The yellow fruited variety is the same, and the fruit gives the appearance of a bright second bloom in late July and August. (Birds aren't as tuned in to seek out that color to eat.) All three are excellent choices for a Screen or Windbreak because of fast growth. All sucker, so planting in an area that allows for new stems to spring up only adds to the screening effect!

Height: 15'-25' Width: 15'-20' Zone 2 Full sun to partial shade



Tartarian Maple Hot Wings (*Acer tataricum* 'GarAnn')

Plant Select® 2007 Consistent, breath-taking scarlet red samaras (seeds) appear in summer giving the tree the appearance of being in bloom! Outstanding autumn color as the leaf color migrates from orange-red on the outside to yellow in the middle of the tree. Tolerates a wide range of soils, and is drought tolerant to boot.

Height: 20-25' Width: 18-20' Shape: Broad Irregular Zone 3 Full Sun



Yellowhorn (*Xanthoceras sorbifolia*)

This variety is a sibling to the Plant Select® 2007 Popcorn Shrub, another name for this small shrubby May-blooming ornamental tree that bears extremely showy elongate clusters of white flowers with yellow eyes that turn maroon. The resulting leathery seed pods persist to provide winter interest. Dark green foliage is pinnately compound resembling that on Mountain Ash. Tolerance of alkalinity and moderate drought tolerance in clay, loam or sand is a welcome attribute! Place this one in semi-protected spots without reflected heat in winter and enjoy the show that usually begins in a 3' tall plant.




Height: 15'-25' Width: 15'-20' Shape: Broadly Upright Zone 5 Full sun



Columnar Buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula* 'Columnaris')


As the name suggests, it is 'columnar' and an excellent choice for a dense hedge or privacy screen in tight places! (think about those neighbors you want to screen-out!) Surprisingly rugged for our conditions, this handsome shrub with glossy green foliage and in late summer purple fruit and yellow autumn leaf color is even thornless. Great windbreak and screen potential!

Height: 8-12' Width: 3-4' Shape: Upright Zone 3  Full sun



Fine Line Buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula* 'Fine Line')


a narrow, almost columnar with narrow, dark green foliage which is distinctly dissected and covers densely arranged branches. A plant with a very formal appearance. Useful to flank entries or to place in formal large pots. A larger accent plant in a rock garden, an ideal Japanese garden accent due to branch density—provides a strong winter presence. Thornless.

Height: 5—7' Width: 3—5' Shape: narrow upright Zone 3  Full sun



Fernleaf Buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula* 'Asplenifolia')

A low branching vase shaped shrub which lends a lacy, fern like fine texture to the landscape with its linear leaves that have a very undulating margin! This is a standout amongst buckthorns and quite resilient to our conditions! Attractive red summer berries turn black as they mature – a real bird attractant! Removing the lower branches turns this plant into an outstanding small multi-stemmed thornless specimen. Some people see this buckthorn as an excellent replacement for Japanese Maples which can't handle our conditions. Best use is as an accent or specimen plant. Yellow autumn color.


Height: 10 – 12' Width 6' – 10' Shape: Broad Upright Zone 3  Full sun to part shade



New Mexico Olive (Privet) (*Foresteria neo-mexicana*)

If you like the look of Aspens but just can't get them to survive, we recommend this as an alternative. "Limbing up" to expose the smooth whitish-blond trunks gives an Aspen-like look. We like it for its own look and high desert-edge heritage. It really performs under hot, dry and windy conditions! Yellow flowers (on female trees) precede leaves in the spring followed by small dark blue fruit in August - a real treat for birds. The leaves are small, light green ovals and wind tolerant. In the six years we've been growing this species we've seen no deer damage. An excellent choice for a


windbreak.

Height: 8' -15' Width: 8'-10' Shape: Broad upright Zone 4  Full sun



Ivory Silk Lilac Tree (*Syringa reticulata* 'Ivory Silk')


Most people don't know that lilacs come in tree form and this one is spectacular! It blooms in June - after bloom killing frosts - with fragrant, upright panicles of creamy white flowers. Another great feature is that the bark is glossy red to cinnamon brown and exfoliates as the tree ages making for a winter presence in the landscape. Place this one where people gather!

Height: 15'-20' Width: 10' -15' Shape: Compact rounded Zone 2  Full sun



Saugeana Chinese Lilac (*Syringa x chinensis* 'Saugeana')


If you like profuse blooming, fragrant purple lilacs – look no further! But it doesn't stop there –this one is considered to be one of the best lilacs for hedge or screen planting because it holds its foliage down to the ground and grows so quickly! The leaves are smaller than on most lilacs and we think more decorative and the flower clusters are more open and airy.

Height: 8-10' Width: 7 – 9' Shape Broad oval Zone 4  Full sun



Cheyenne Lilac (*Syringa x* 'Cheyenne')


Another great survivor from the Cheyenne Experiment Station! This lilac blooms in profusion in June (like prestoniae lilacs, frosts won't get these blooms!) with fragrant deep pink to red color (what a treat for the senses!). The leaves are small and decorative like microphylla lilacs. To the best of our knowledge this is the first time this plant has been offered to gardening public!

Height: 10-15' Width: 10-12' Shape: upright Zone 2  Full sun



Beauty of Moscow Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris* 'Beauty of Moscow')


This lilac was developed in 1943 in tribute to the city of Moscow and today it still is one of the most striking lilacs. It blooms in late May and exhibits an array of small pink buds that open into large white double flowers with a star-like appearance. This stunning combination of pink and white creates a beautiful bouquet effect. As the flower matures, its exceptional fragrance becomes strikingly stronger. Each year folks huddle around these lilacs taking turns inhaling – and it's not illegal!

Height: 10-12' Width: 8-10' Shape: Upright Zone 3  Full sun



Sensation Lilac (*S. vulgaris* 'Sensation')

This may be the common species of lilac but there is nothing common about the purple florets that are tipped in white. This one is shorter and more upright in habit than "common purple" but just as healthy and hardy.

Height: 8'-10' Width: 8'-12' Shape: Upright Zone 3  Full sun



Blue Velvet Honeysuckle (*Lonicera korolkowi* var. *floribunda*)


This is an outstanding find from the Cheyenne Experiment Station! This is a fine large honeysuckle, yet it is rarely used. Drought and poor soils have little effect on this shrub. This is simply one of the best shrubs we've seen for use in windbreaks or as a stand alone specimen. This lilac has pale pink flowers, which bloom in profusion in early summer. You won't see witches' broom or aphids on this one, and rabbit and deer avoid it.

Height: 7 – 9' Width: 7 – 11' Shape: Upright Zone 3  Full sun



'Mongolian Silver Spires Caragana' (*Caragana microphylla* 'Mongolian Silver Spires')

2007 GreatPlants Introduction Seed collected on a Mongolian Steppe provided the parentage for this new xeric shrub. Plant form is narrow with upright arching stems covered in sparkling, ferny silver leaves, as opposed to traditional caraganna. Large yellow legume-type flowers add interest in spring, followed by slender seed pods that turn red in summer. Plant in sun even in adverse soil and weather conditions for a slightly spiny living fence, hedge or low windbreak.

Height: 8-9' Width: 4-5' Sun 



Nocturne Lilac (*Syringa x prestoniae* 'nocturne')

This lilac as well as many others prestoniae lilacs was developed around 1920 by the Canadian plant breeder Isabella Preston. They bloom two weeks later than common lilacs with dark blue lavender clusters of small trumpet shaped florets with spicy oriental fragrance. Growth habit is more upright than common lilacs and the leaves are thick and leathery. Not prone to sucker.

This variety is the most easily trained lilac for single stem culture.

Height: 10-12' Width: 10-12' Shape: Broadly rounded Zone 2  Full sun



Cheyenne Privet (*Ligustrum vulgare* 'Cheyenne')

Upright rapid growing hedge plant with extremely fragrant clusters of small white flowers in early summer. Takes shearing well, making it excellent for screening and formal hedge use. The most famous of all the Cheyenne Horticulture Field Station plants. Establishes easily in difficult sites. Originally found near Sarajevo, Bosnia.

Height: 8 - 16' Width: 4-8' Full sun to partial shade 


Medium Shrubs

Accent, hedge, patio privacy, central anchors to larger planting islands are uses that come to mind for these, the classic sized shrubs. Plant these where they have space to grow into their natural form and you will be rewarded with their true beauty, maximized flower production and minimized work from not pruning. In the suburban yard these are often useful for windbreak to increase your enjoyment of outdoor time and to protect floral and vegetable garden areas.



Skinners Strain Ashleaf Spirea (*Sorbaria sorbifolia* 'Skinners Strain')

This is an extremely hardy broadly upright shrub with dark green compound leaves (almost fern like). These shrubs gives the landscape a lush tropical look. Blooms in late summer in large panicles of creamy white flowers. Multi-stemmed, can be used on shady slopes for its thicket forming habit or in a smaller landscape as a nice screening plant.

Height: 4' – 6' Width: 4' – 6' Zone 2  Full sun to partial sun



Silver Fountain Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia alternifolia* 'Argentea')


Plant Select® 1998 As the only *Buddleia* hardy in Zone 4. That alone is a real plus but the arching, thin pendulous branches covered in fine textured silvergray foliage are quietly graceful. When the fragrant lilac hued blooms twirl around last year's growth like stripes on a candy cane, it is a stunning addition to the early summer garden. And, it's a butterfly magnet. Windbreak.

Height: 8'- 10' (be patient) Width: 6'-8' Shape: Open vase Zone 4  to  Full sun



Dwarf Korean Lilac (*Syringa meyeri* 'Palabin')


This lilac was discovered by Frank N. Meyer in gardens near Beijing, China in 1909 and has never been observed in the wild leading to the belief that it is a hybrid. Growth habit is full and evenly shaped from a young age with small, wavy, dark green leaves. Fragrant lavender flower clusters bloom in May (not early May) from establishment and annually onward. This lilac is not as xeric as some others, but it is a handy size and blooms well with less than full sun.

Height: 4-6' Width: 4-6' Shape: Broad oval Zone 3  to  Sun to Partial sun



'Cheyenne' Mockorange (*Philadelphus lewisii* 'Cheyenne')



Plant Select® 2001 This is the only Mock Orange at the Experiment Station in Cheyenne that was prospering after years of neglect! Perhaps that is because this native western strain is suited to growth on alkaline soils (doesn't get chlorotic) unlike many of the eastern or developed varieties. This tough but beautiful shrub named after Meriweather Lewis has dense racemes of 1"-1.25" pure white flowers in early summer that provide sweet orange-blossom like fragrance. Use it where you will get to see and smell it, but not where reflected heat will be a challenge.

Height: 5 – 8' Width: 5 – 8' Shape: Broadly upright Zone 4  Full sun



'Tiger Eyes' Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina* 'Bailtiger')

Chartreuse spring foliage matures into yellow leaf color above fuzzy rosy-pink stems in this form of Cutleaf Staghorn Sumac. In autumn the show gets even brighter as the leaves become a variegated yellow, orange and scarlet. The branches angle upward and the deeply cut leaflets drape downward creating a rather oriental look. An easy to grow accent plant with only one caution: protect the stems from buck deer damage.

Height: 6.5' Width: 6.5' Shape: Upright spreading  to  Zone 4 Full sun



Szechuan Fire Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster ignaavus*)

This species stays more compact than Peking Cotoneaster and is disease resistant! The leaves are heavily pubescent lending them a blue cast until the yellow autumn color develops. White May blooms are followed by 1/4" dark red berries in August. A very good choice for an informal hedge or patio windbreak.

Height: 6'-8' Width: 4'-6' Shape: Upright Oval Zone 2  Full sun



Minuet Lilac (*Syringa x prestoniae 'Minuet'*)

Developed out of Canada, this lilac blooms about two weeks later than traditional lilacs — hence no late frosts killing the blooms. But what makes this spectacular is its size — which is dwarf with a maximum height of only 6 feet. Fragrant lavender flowers. Consider planting this one where space may be limited or as an accent to larger lilacs.

Height: 4'-6' Width: 4'-6' Shape: Upright rounded Zone 2  Full sun



Flowering Quince 'Cheyenne' (*Chaenomeles japonica*)

Discovered at the Cheyenne Experiment station, this flowering quince is the most durable and alkaline tolerant of the genus. Expect glossy green foliage with deep rosy red blooms in May. Quince have an exotic southern mountain or oriental garden look and you can enjoy this one in your garden.

Height: 4-5' Width: 3-4' Shape: Upright. Zone 4  Sun to Filtered shade



Gwen's Buffalo Currant (*Ribes aureum 'Gwen's Buffalo'*)


This one has good fruit production. Very fragrant yellow blooms appear in spring, followed by black tear drop edible fruit. Autumn color ranges from wonderful oranges to reds. Tolerates wind and dry soils very well. An excellent shrub for seasonal interest.

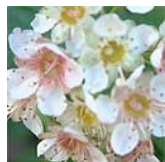
Height 5 – 6' Width 5 – 6' Shape: Vase Zone 3  Full sun



Crandall Clove Currant (*Ribes odoratum 'Crandall'*)

In spring, the yellow trumpet-shaped flowers have a strong clove fragrance followed by up to 3/4" black fruit that have a sweet spicy fragrance. Light green tri-lobed foliage turns orange in autumn. This shrub was selected by fruit growers beginning in the late 1800's for its excellent fruit quality and is still used today. Tolerates wind and dry soils very well.


Height: 4 – 6' Width: 4'-6' Shape: Open arching Zone 4  Full Sun



Mountain Ninebark (*Physocarpus monogynus*)

A Compact native shrub with medium green foliage found on slopes near creeks and in mountain


meadow edges, and it has interest for every season! Rose tinged, white flower clusters appear in early summer. Beautiful orange to red autumn color and exfoliating bark for winter interest round out the year. Useful for low hedge and massed plantings on the north and east sides of homes! Avoid planting in high wind and reflected heat or where irrigation water or the soil is saline.

Height: 3'-4' Width: 3'-5' Shape: Compact upright Zone 3  Full sun to part shade



Summer Wine Mountain Ninebark (Physocarpus opulifolius 'Seward')

Beautiful deep burgundy foliage all season long on arching stems with pinkish-white flower clusters in early summer provide a stunning accent in the sunny shrub border. Tolerates alkaline ground but not salt in its irrigation water.

Height: 5'-6' Width: 5'-6' Shape: Compact mounded Zone 2  Full sun to part shade

Small to Spreading Shrubs

These shrubs are wonderful accents that fit on all sizes of properties and are vital on the new small lots of many new homes/ town houses. Their natural size and form means that you won't spend your time pruning to keep them in bounds. They have a full range of character, foliage texture and colors, many bloom and not just in the spring. Outstanding autumn colors and exposed winter form provide interest in our quiet season. They are also good as anchors for perennial flower beds.



Prairie Petite Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris* 'Prairie Petite')

This was developed at the U. of Nebraska and is the most dwarf specie of its kind. With a mature height of only 3 feet, this lilac with light pink flowers can be planted in tight places where other lilacs could not fit. If you love lilacs but have space limitations, plant this one. Great drought tolerance after establishment.

Height: 3' W: 2.5" Zone 2 🌞 Full sun



Cheyenne Snowmound Spirea (*Spiraea nipponica* var. *tosaenis*)

The hardiest of all the Spireas. This selection produces profuse clusters of pure white flowers in May against small dark green leaves, more compact than traditional spireas. The parent plant continues to thrive after 50 years. This is a great shrub for an informal hedge or as a foundation planting near the front porch—a classic old fashion plant.

Height: 3'- 5' Width: 3' - 5' Zone 3 🌞 Full sun to partial shade



Dark Knight and Blue Mist Spirea (*Caryopteris x clandonensis* 'Dark Knight' and *C. x incana* 'Blue Mist')

Darker graygreen foliage and darker violet flowers differentiate Dark Knight from Blue Mist. In late summer these shrubs provide a vivid display of flowers that is simply exceptional. They may die back in winter so prune to the ground each spring -- it's ok, flowers are borne on new wood. A favorite of bees, so avoid placement near entry ways. Excellent drought tolerance for this Mongolia native.

Height: 1-3' Width: 1-3 Shape: Mounding Zone 4 🌞 Full sun



'Sem' Ash Leaf Spirea (*Sorbaria sorbifolia* 'Sem')

This compact shrub opens its leaflets similar to mountain ash, but in orange that mature to green and are topped by elongate panicles of creamy white flowers in later summer.

Height 3' Width: 3' Shape: Broad upright Zone 2 🌞 to 🌞🌞 Sun to Partial shade

Hardy Hibiscus

Hardy Hibiscus form rounded shrubs bearing huge hummingbird attracting flowers in later summer that put hollyhocks to shame. They break dormancy later in spring, thus avoiding freeze damage to buds. Plant them in Sun 3 inches deeper than potted to provide extra winter protection and to encourage more branching. The regular watering of a bluegrass lawn setting matches their needs for best flower production.

Shape: Rounded Zone 4



Hibiscus 'Disco Belle Rosy Red' (Hibiscus moscheutos 'Disco Belle Rosy Red')

These look like the florists' pot plants with big vibrant blooms, but they can survive a Zone 4 winter. Provide regular garden watering (also winter water to prevent root desiccation) and plant in sun. They look great with Purple Fountain Grass. Hummingbirds will thank you and you will have a bit of tropical looking WOW power. At 20-30" tall and 24" wide, these will stay more out of the wind both summer and winter than the original cultivar, thus performing acceptably in our conditions. These break dormancy late, thus avoiding spring frost damage and you may plant 3 inches deeper to provide more winter protection to new buds that will become branches.

Zone 4 🌱🌱 Full sun to part sun



Pink Clouds Hardy Hibiscus (Hibiscus m. Pink Clouds)

Vigorous Bluebird selection, long blooming with large, intense deep pink flowers and leaves that are the size, color and shape of Norway Maple.

4-5' Height: 4-5' Width: 3'



'Gro Low' Sumac (Rhus aromatica)

Its low spreading form and fast growth rate make this plant excellent for mass plantings as a groundcover, or for erosion control. Stunning autumn color turning brilliant scarlet to orange. This one can handle most Western soils and weather.

Height: 2- 3' Width: 6 - 7' Shape: Rounded Zone 4 🌱 Full sun



'Autumn Amber' Sumac (Rhus trilobata 'Autumn Amber')


A prostrate form of R. trilobata which forms a dense groundcover, and will cascade over walls! Much more ground hugging than Gro Low and hardier! Autumn color is amber to brick red. This cultivar was found growing over limestone outcroppings, so you know its alkalinity tolerance is as good as the species. Consider this one with groundcover Juniper for textural and color interest.

Height: 6-18" Width: 6-8' Shape: spreading Zone 3 🌱 to 🌱🌱 Full sun



Lead Plant (*Amorpha canescens*)

Nitrogen fixing native western prairie shrub with 3-4" spikes of blue-purple flowers in midsummer. Arching stems with finely pinnate compound leaves composed of small gray-green leaflets form a 3-4' tall and wide shrub with open spreading habit. When in bloom, this is one of the more showy western plants. Plant in sun and relatively dry soil.

Height: 3-4' Width: 3-4' Shape: Open spreading Zone 4  Full sun

Fruits

Even with the limitations of the erratic climate of the western US, fruit growing is a lost art worthy of reconsideration, bringing simple pleasures and surprises to all who give it a chance!



Raspberries (Rubus species) 'Autumn Britten'

This is an extra large sweet red raspberry. It starts bearing two weeks earlier than Heritage, the standard for which all other hardy red raspberries are judged. Golden fruited 'Anne' is everbearing, highly branched with excellent flavor and sweetness. You don't see the golden ones at the stores because they don't travel well. They hold together well enough to go from garden to table but they taste so good many will never make it that far! For both raspberries, cut back the old canes in early spring as fruit develops on new wood.

Zone 4  Full sun



St. Theresa Seedless Grape

Plant Select® 2008 Excellent flavor characterizes this purple slip-skin table grape from Elmer Swenson's breeding trials in Wisconsin. Ripening in early September, fruit may contain a crunchy bit small enough to still allow the "seedless" designation. Tolerant of alkaline soil, the vine is vigorous enough for wonderful arbor coverage and for screens.

Zone 4  Full sun



Swenson Red Grape (Vitis 'Swenson Red')

Developed by Elmer Swenson from the University of Wisconsin, this vine is winter hardy and a great choice if your palate craves red grapes in salads or for dessert. The fruit is large, round, red, and crisp with a high sugar content and non-slip skins.

Zone 4  Full sun



Swenson White Grape (Vitis 'Swenson White')


Medium large somewhat loose clusters. Large thick skinned, yellow green berries. Good sugar content and medium acidity, a great hardy wine grape but sweet and juicy enough for eating out of hand.

Zone 4  Full Sun



Toka Plum (Prunus 'Toka')

This has such good flavor for fresh eating or jam making. Fruit is medium sized, richly flavored with apricot colored skin and red flesh. Ripens in early autumn. Expect your first crop in a couple years from this semi-dwarf tree. Self pollinating but expect higher yields with cross pollination.

Height: 10-13' Width: 10-13' Zone 3  Full sun



Kerr Apple (Malus 'Kerr')


A dwarf apple-crab tree that is very hardy and productive. As with all dwarf trees, fruit production starts in a year or two. The small red apples are just the right size and flavor to send in a youngster's lunch with good keeping quality for long winters. Decorative blushed pink blooms, narrow, upright habit and excellent fireblight resistance.

H: 7-10' W: 4-7' Zone 3  Full sun



September Ruby Apple (Malus 'September Ruby')

This fireblight resistant semi-dwarf tree produces large, sweet bright red apples excellent for fresh eating, juicing and good winter storage.

H: 16.5' W: 13' Zone 3  Full sun



Honeycrisp Apple (malus 'Honeycrisp')


Semi dwarf tree with flavor and texture reminiscent of the name. Fruit ripens late in September. This one is a sweet one, not a tart one, so the sugar content in the fruit helps to prevent freeze damage. Exhibits good fireblight resistance. Perhaps you've tried this from the grocery store and noticed their premium pricing - grow your own and avoid the high cost! Great winter storage.

Height: 12-16' Width: 12-16' Shape: Rounded Zone 4  Full sun



Early Gold Pear (Pyrus ussuriensis 'early gold')

Early maturing—green-gold fruit for fresh eating and preserves. Enjoy beautiful white flower production in spring with glossy green leaves in summer turning yellow to purple in autumn. Pears are so decorative many people have planted only one just to enjoy the show without fruit production. Good fireblight resistance.

Height 20' Width: 16' Shape: Upright oval Zone 3  Full sun



Golden Spice Pear (Pyrus ussuriensis 'Golden Spice')

A small, golden pear for canning and preserves. This tree is blanketed with luminous white flowers. Long thorns on branches help keep the deer away with glossy green foliage which turns orange in autumn. Good fireblight resistance.

Height: 23' Width: 16' Shape: Upright oval Zone 3  Full sun



Montmorency Cherry (Prunus 'Montmorency')



Semi dwarfed size, one of the most dependable fruit trees for Rocky Mountain culture. Bright red tart pie cherries ripen in June to early July from mid May blooming white flowers. Makes a wonderful decorative tree for a small yard. Good fireblight resistance.

Height: 12-16' Width: 12-16' Shape Rounded Zone 4  Full sun

Any two apples or crab apple combinations that bloom at the same time will cross pollinate resulting in ample fruit production. Our selections work well together. Expect fruit production from dwarf trees in a year or two and the semi dwarfs two to three years. Pear trees also need cross pollination from two different varieties of pear. Fruit production will take about 5 years. Our Cherry tree selection is self pollinating—no other tree is needed. Fruit production in about 3 years. Plums get a bit more confusing but suffice to say that the Toka is self-pollinating. Fruit production in about 2—3 years. As a rule Japanese plums need Japanese plum varieties to pollinate. American Plums need American plums. Blue Plums are self fruitful. Many plums pollinate with sand cherries. Confusing, isn't it?

Roses

You have to grow these beauties! We feature roses developed at the Morden Experiment Station on the plains of Canada that are wind, alkaline soil, and winter tolerant. There is no need to mound soil over a graft or to lay canes down and cover for winter. These all grow on their own roots and any winter die-back doesn't remove varietal character. They, climbers included, bloom on new wood so a bad winter never results in a year without blooms.

Put the rose spray and dust away, they are disease resistant and we've not seen cane borers bother these either. Bloom season is from summer to frost with just a bit of a slump during the hottest part of July. Leave the late season blooms on the plants to develop large, showy rose hips for winter color and to encourage canes to harden off before winter. Pruning is best left until April to remove any die-back. These are truly easy care! Consider surrounding your plants with nepeta, thyme, oregano and agastaches to keep the deer at bay and to provide shaded soil for the rose plants. Full sun,  to  , water during periods of peak bloom in hot, drying winds.

Parkland Series –Bush and Shrub Roses Zone 3



Adelaide Hoodless

Extremely floriferous vigorous arching stemmed shrub that develops beautiful form over several years. Foliage is a fine-textured dark green, slightly fragrant blooms are in clusters of up to 25 semi-double darkest pink to bright red flowers, hips are orange. Resistant to powdery mildew.



Morden Blush

At 2.5' tall by 1.5' wide, this little gem is very classic in form. Plentiful pointed buds open into semi-double lightest blush pink, sweetly scented flowers followed by orange hips in fall. The longest blooming Morden rose, this one is resistant to powdery mildew and black spot.



Cuthbert Grant

Fragrant, velvety crimson red 4" double flowers on dark green broad, upright 3-4' by 3-4' medium sized shrub. Recurrent bloom (First flush in June then repeated late July to frost.)



Morden Fireglow

Unique bi-color 3" double flowers are fiery orange with red reverse on a 2' by 1.5' dark green upright bush. Enjoy the lightly fragranced show from early summer to frost.



Morden Sunrise

If you love Peace Rose this fragrant beauty is for you. Bright yellow-orange buds become 3" semi-double open-faced flowers with wavy orange petals grading to clear yellow at the base where orange stamens add to the show. Foliage is glossy, dark green on this 3' by 3' compact rounded Everblooming plant.



Winnipeg Parks

This is perhaps the most planted Parkland rose. The fully double 3 inch recurrent blooms are a bright fuchsia burgundy shade that pop out against medium green foliage trimmed in reddish edges and with reddish new growth. We've seen a young bush with nine blooms at once plus unopened buds. These compact rounded almost 3 foot tall bushes have big rose hips added for winter interest.



Morden Centennial

Vivid pink buds open into 4" double, lightly fragranced blooms recurring from June until frost. At 4-6' by 4-6' this rounded shrub is the biggest of the Morden Experiment station beauties unless you prune for size control. Abundant orange rose hips add striking winter interest.



Hope for Humanity

This is a blood-red 3" double everblooming (June-September) member of the Canadian Parkland Series of roses developed at the Morden Research Station. Growth habit is upright-rounded. Mature size is 4-6' Tall and Wide.

Zone 3 Full sun

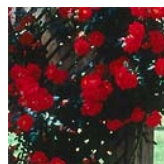


Prairie Joy

This is an Upright arching member of the Canadian Parkland Series that grows 6-8' tall by 5-6' wide if not pruned for size control. After an early summer heavy flush of double pale pink blooms flowering will continue to be produced throughout the season.

Zone 2 Full sun

Canadian Explorer Series: Hardy to Zone 2



Henry Kelsey

This 6' pillar rose with clusters of 9 to 15 deep burgundy 2" double blooms with bright gold stamens is a spicy fragranced recurrent bloomer—from June to frost. Don't prune late season blooms, and enjoy clusters of small orange hips until birds have a winter snack. (Wax wings are fond of these.)



John Cabot

Vigorous 8-10' climber or pillar with arching stems and 2½" fuchsia pink double fragrant blooms. It may have a few splashes of white on the petals in summer. This recurrent bloomer—June to frost —will need some post winter pruning but a few minutes' snipping is no big deal compared to the summer display!



William Baffin

This easily trellised arching 6-10' pillar rose is the hardiest from a favorite grower. Really large clusters of 2.5" clear pink slightly fragranced semi-double blooms are recurrent from June to September.

Other Hardy Roses



Darlow's Enigma

This is an heirloom rose of unknown ancestry with intense rose fragrance also hinting of citrus. 2" white single to semi-double blooms, opening to expose a golden yellow center are borne in clusters of 20 or more. Glossy dark green foliage covers the broad-rounded to rambling shrub that tolerates alkaline soils growing 4-6' Tall and Wide. Bloom time: June-September.

Zone 4 Full sun



Linda Campbell

This is an upright arching 5-6' tall and wide Rugosa hybrid rose from the Morden Ag Research station on the Canadian plains. Clusters of 2.5" dark velvety red semi-double blooms will recur from June until frost.

Zone 4 Full sun

Plant the more strongly fragrant rose varieties near seating areas, doors and windows. Place white-blooming plants where you can enjoy them as twilight falls. As the light fades you will see the palest blooms longest and in cooling evening air fragrances will become stronger. Roses also benefit from companion plants to shade the roses roots.


Evergreen Trees and Shrubs

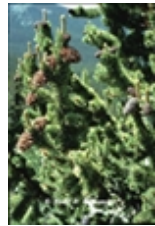
Just as we long for a bit of green in midwinter and put an evergreen up inside for Christmas, we also want to see that bit of green outside all winter when shades of brown and straw dominate the landscape. Given our wind, dry climate and soil types, here are some reliable beauties for your yard.



Cologreen Juniper (*Juniper scopulorum* 'Cologreen')


a true green upright Juniper with soft small scale like foliage. The silvery blue varieties (moonglow) handle the winter winds especially well - but so does Cologreen.! Mixing the two cultivars provides a wonderful contrast year-round. Another female cultivar—thus no pollen. Both cultivars are ideal candidates as an accent or windbreak.

Height: 16-20' Width: 8-12' Zone 3  Full sun



Bristlecone Pine (*Pinus aristata*)

has been documented to be one of the oldest living organisms in the world, some in the high Sierras are 6,000 + years old. We admire that kind of durability but we love its irregular, bushy growth habit with dark green needles dotted with white pitch. The branch form extends out from the trunk and then turns upward at the tips. A fantastic specimen in an evergreen cluster or as a back drop in a xeric garden. Do not plant this tree in a traditionally watered lawn area.

Height: 20' – 30' Width: 15' -20' (may take centuries to reach maturity!) Zone 2  Full sun



Arizona Cypress (*Cupressus arizonica glabra*)

shouldn't live here! But it has been trialed under exposed conditions for 8 years, they have outperformed expectations. This is a columnar conifer in youth, becoming broad spreading with age. The foliage is glaucous-green to silvery blue. The cherry red bark exfoliates in thin papery thin plates. Its color and needle structure is unlike any other evergreen we offer. Be the very first to grow this specimen evergreen! Limit the wind exposure but intense sun is not a problem. Zone 5 in the literature, Zone 4 in our experience.


Height: 20'-40' Width: 8' – 30' Zone 4-5  Full sun to partial shade



Table Top Blue Juniper (*Juniperus Scopulorum* 'Table Top Blue')


Upright, yet spreading and flat-topped (now that's an oxymoron!). Foliage is the soft-scale type (not prickly like common pfitzer) bright blue-gray in color. Handles wind and when established, drought too! This native sport is not an imported disease and damage-prone selection. This is a big bold statement of a shrub perfect on a slope or for privacy without blocking out the sky like a tree. Windbreak and screen.

Height: 6'-8' Width: 6'-10' Shape: Upright spreading Zone 3  Full sun



'Effusa' Juniper (*Juniperus communis* 'Effusa')


Look for this low-growing mounding Juniper with stiff, spreading branches on the forest floor in the partial to full shade of evergreens and on the edge of mountain meadows. Foliage is bright green awl-shaped needles with a whitish streak. Winter color may be slightly brownish. This is a female cultivar, not a pollen-bearer. Low water need.

Height: 6'-8' Width: 6'-10' Shape: Upright spreading Zone 4  Full sun to shade



Vanderwolf's Pine (*Pinus flexilis* 'Vanderwolf')

A distinctive, densely branched pyramidal selection of our native limber pine. Its branches display long twisting blue-green needles with a light blue line on the undersides, very pleasing visually. A great replacement tree for Colorado Blue Spruce. Like other pines, it will not perform well in slow to drain heavy soils.

Height: 20'- 25' Width: 10' – 15 Zone 4  Full sun to partial shade



Moonglow Juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum* 'Moonglow')

This is a cultivar of the native western upright Juniper with very showy, intense silver blue foliage on broad pyramidal form with a dense compact branching structure.



Blueberry Delight Juniper (*Juniperus comminus depressa* 'AmiDak')

This has its origins from the North Dakota Badlands, a dry windy exposed setting, making it one of the most hardy ground cover junipers. It has beautiful dark green to blue-gray foliage with blue cones. A perfect addition near drive way entrances (never have to prune to see over the top), and it is good along patios and a way to step down from higher perennial plantings.

Height: 1' Width: 4'-5' Zone 3 Full Sun to Part Shade

Establishment

Establishment is the time frame during which a plant is spreading its root system and becoming balanced in the ability of top and roots to support each other. A one gallon container grown plant will take about a year to establish. Woody shrub plants in a 3-to 5-gallon container may need two years to become truly established. Container-grown trees follow a rule of thumb of one year for transplanting and an additional year for each inch of trunk diameter.

In five years time, the container grown tree will look better and possibly be bigger than the Balled and Burlap that has struggled trying to get established. One property comes to mind where the protected front yard got big balled and burlap Canada Red Chokecherries and the windy backyard got 5 gallon container grown Canada Reds with both on the same sprinkler system, and 10 years time, the backyard trees are big and still look better than the ones in Front!

Killed by Kindness

Unfortunately conifers can actually drown when over watered. Clay soils do not allow water to drain off and roots are cut off from oxygen that they require. Pines are particularly at risk of drowning if planted in soil that does not drain or low spots with standing water. For tight clay in hot sunny and windy sites the Junipers and Mesa Verde Spruce are good choices. Wichita Blue, Table Top Blue and to a slightly lesser degree Cologreen Juniper are your best selections for extreme wind conditions and in clay soils. Follow our guide on watering for establishment and pay extra attention to be sure that the tree or shrub is not standing in water before more water is applied.

Winter Watering

Even though we consider the evergreens to be some of the toughest plants, they are not totally dormant in winter and continue to lose moisture through their needles year round. For establishment purposes we recommend watering new plants monthly in dry open winters. Water established plants once or twice a winter depending on soil moisture and temperature. Our water is hard, focus your attention on the roots and not on the foliage! Newly planted deciduous trees and shrubs should be watered once or twice a winter.

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Gardening Tips & Best Practices

Weed control is the gardeners bane in a new garden or one gifted with a yearly supply of windblown seeds! Hand digging does not need to be your only strategy. Glyphosate herbicide, at label dilution, spot applied to weeds with a small sponge paintbrush is effective on most young weeds. Attached the paintbrush handle to a dowel and you've eliminated bending over! This direct application means no possibility of herbicide drift to garden plants via our Wyoming breezes.

Applying pre-emergent herbicides is a choice for many people to prevent germination of those weed seeds. Apply in early spring before germination begins and repeated per label directions throughout the season to be most effective.

The best gardens seem to have an element of serendipity and the happiest gardeners allow themselves to be pleasantly surprised by chance pairings: a fuchsia blossom beside a plant with chartreuse foliage, volunteer groundcover helping a new bed to get established.

Given our intense sun, wind, and alkaline soil it is easier to be successful at English Cottage, Mediterranean, and Western Prairie Styles than it is with more formal French or Italianate Gardens. Gravel mulched rock gardens are also a good choice.

Create garden windbreaks with shrubs, fences, durable perennials, and grasses so that your "Sunny Garden" perennials can thrive through the intensity of summer. Many are tall grass prairie derived and are accustomed to natural shelter from the brunt of wind and continual beating of summer sun. Just match plants by water need and sun level. That is the way to long life and vigor in the garden. Plan the basics now and if need be tweak it next year. Perennials are forgiving!

Ugh slugs! The bane of shade gardeners. Don't create damp slug havens by overwatering well mulched beds. Salt shaken on a slug is only a temporary irritation to them but a long term detriment to your soil and plants. Metaldehyde based baits are not suited to use around pets and desirable wildlife—don't let them eat it.

"Natural" baits can kill but are they too much work to keep tending traps? Are you doing everything right but an uneducable neighbor isn't, so the pests slither in every night? Try a line of pure uncoated copper tape that they must cross to enter your garden (or planter!). It must stay unburied to be effective by giving them a little natural electrical zap! If only we could get the Robins to eat at night!

Plant Select® is a cooperative research program of the Denver Botanical Garden, the horticulture industry and Colorado State University. The goal is to evaluate and introduce plants that are suited to the Rocky Mountain West. They are found either in the wild or in regional experimental stations like at Cheyenne. We value this research and are proud to offer Plant Select.

Great Plants® is the prairie plant selection program of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln that features natives and adapted plants with great characteristics for Great Plains gardens. Some are also high plains appropriate - for here!

Landscaping is an upfront cost! But consider the value that landscaping can have on your property—upwards of 30%. A few neighborhoods have mature landscapes, or are in the 'big tree' area in local real estate jargon and come with the inherent enhanced value and 'curb appeal'. Most of us don't live there though but we can create 'curb appeal' and enhanced value an order of magnitude above the initial expense in a few short years! Besides, landscaping has an added benefit—the pleasure derived while watching the results of your efforts grow!

Deer damage is ugly and may be deadly. When rut comes in fall and through the winter bucks rub on thin barked trees to show territorial claims. On multi-stemmed shrubs the result is usually only annoying but on a tree with one irreplaceable trunk damage is permanent and weakens or kills the tree. You may cage trees or put flexible translucent covers like drain pipe slit lengthwise over the trunk from the ground to the lower branches. Two important considerations are not to girdle the tree by caging tightly and to use translucent covers if you choose to protect only the trunk. Thin barked trees photosynthesize through the trunk whenever a warmer winter day comes along. Our efforts should not cancel this beneficial action. (Also avoid light-blocking tree wrap sold to prevent deer damage and frost cracks. "Frost cracks" are really the result of root damage .)

Tip on formal hedge pruning: Whether you choose Curl Leaf Mountain Mahogany, Cheyenne Privet or another species for a formal hedge, you must prune so that the base of the plant is wider than the top if you want the plant to carry foliage to the ground and not become leafless and twiggy in its lower parts. The sun must reach all parts of the side of the hedge to keep it in active foliar growth.

Wind is such a constant factor in the West. Whether you live in town or the country, windbreak plantings can offer you a sanctuary from its draining effect. In town, this may mean clustered plantings of trees and shrubs whereas a country property has space for traditional layered rows. Consider these species for the job: Utah Serviceberry, Wichita Blue and Cologreen Juniper, Gambel Oak, Russian Hawthorn, New Mexico Olive, Cheyenne Privet, Columnar Buckthorn, and don't forget the chokecherries!

If trees and shrubs are in your future, consider dormant planting in March and April. There is less heat and water stress associated with planting then for you and your trees!

"Lilacs could very likely be the first plants brought into the High Plains by early settlers. We say this not because they have been mentioned in the literature, but because we see them growing beside long abandoned homesteads. The sturdiness and beauty that inspired the early settlers to bring them west are still good qualities that encourage us to use them today. Even small children can *recognize* lilacs, responding to their unmistakable blooms and fragrance."

—Amy Zabloudil
editor of the Fort Collins Wholesale Nursery Descriptive Guide

Consider planting Allegheny Viburnum, Cheyenne Flowering Quince, Cheyenne Mock Orange, Fernleaf Buckthorn and the Ninebarks together for a lush landscape in semi-protected sites. The Currant species belong in both this plant grouping and the next. You will enjoy the foliage and fragrances. Where wind and exposure are more intense use Cheyenne Privet, Szechuan Cotoneaster, the Lilacs, Tiger Eyes Sumac, Golden Elder and Silver Fountain Butterfly Bush. Consider Blue Velvet Honeysuckle, Chokecherries and New Mexico Olive in both the previous grouping and the next. They are quite strong plants! The various Mountain Mahoganies, Utah Service, Silver Buffaloberry, the Sagebrushes, Rabbitbrushes, and Junipers belong on the toughest sites. You may plant this last grouping in less stressful sites if you do not situate them in any soggy spot without good drainage.

No matter how drought tolerant our plants are, you will need to plan on watering twice maybe three times a week during the establishment year. We're talking three good soakings a week in hot weather and only once a week during more moderate temperatures. Roots don't grow into dry ground, so water both the potting soil and the surrounding ground.

All this said, we don't want you to leave a plant sitting in hole full of water surrounded by slow to drain tight clay. You still have to poke your finger in the ground to check for moisture in both the potting soil and surrounding ground. During intense heat, we sometimes pour a cup of water at the plant's center for a gallon sized plant and up to 5 gallons on a 15 gallon pot because the potting soil dries out faster than the surrounding natural soil.

What makes living in our part of the country so powerful? The sky goes on forever, sagebrush flats are anything but flat, rocks aren't hidden by the prairie grasses, you can see 20 miles to the next rise. Home for most of us is on the Sagebrush Steppe. Using our native plant materials from these places and those from the Asian Steppe echoes our surroundings and celebrates where we are. On the practical side of things, using these plants means you won't be fighting to keep them alive. You'll be enjoying your landscape more and intervening in the garden less. After all we want time to go play in our surroundings! Doesn't sustainable landscaping make more sense than trying to maintain a fiction of being someplace else?

Our Audubon friends say that providing water is even more important than a feeding station for attracting birds. Planting in layers of different heights and textures provides safe haven for birds as they dry and groom after visits to the bird bath and will get you even more avian action in your yard. We recommend planting these trees and shrubs for giving shelter and natural food: Russian Hawthorn, New Mexico Olive, Silver Buffaloberry, Crandall Clove and Gwen's Buffalo Currants, Pawnee Buttes Sandcherry, Utah Serviceberry and Winnipeg Parks Rose. Even the Cone flowers provide natural seed for small songbirds in winter, and last but not least the native and adapted grasses! Our native bird habitats are diminishing...by carefully selecting the right plants, you will have developed a sanctuary for birds and dare we say for you!

Really BIG rocks are a natural part of the arid western environment and using them in created landscapes ties your property to its surroundings reinforcing a western sense of place. To make your landscape element look right be sure to sink the big rock into the ground enough to look natural. Bury it up to a third or more and add mid sized and smaller rocks along one side as if they were caught there during erosion or stream flow. Now you have planting micro-climates: a cool north side where reflected heat won't be a problem so sensitive plants won't break dormancy at the wrong time of year if planted there and a nicely warm south side for those heat lovers.