

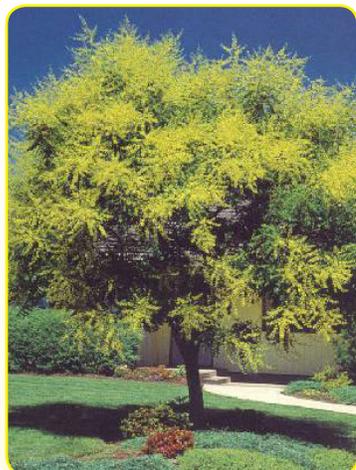


Xeriscape Plants for Front Range Gardens



Miss Kim Lilac

Miss Kim Lilac (*Syringa patula* 'Miss Kim') is the perfect lilac for smaller spaces. The rich orchid-pink flowers, which bloom among the latest of all lilac species (mid-May to June), are borne in abundance and can literally smother the plant in flowers. There are many lilac connoisseurs that regard this variety as the most fragrant of all, it's sweet and spicy scent able to permeate an entire yard. Miss Kim has the best fall color of any lilac, a dark reddish-purple. Compact and upright-rounded in form, this low water shrub slowly grows to five feet tall and wide, and is an outstanding foundation plant. Hardy to an elevation of 8500 ft.



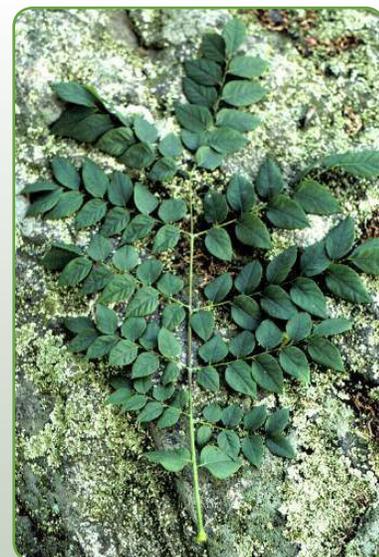
Golden Raintree

Golden Raintree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*) is a native of China, Japan and Korea. It is a mid-size flowering tree that typically grows to 30 feet tall and wide with golden yellow flowers produced from early June through July. The flowers are borne in large panicles up to 18 inches long and 12 inches wide. Two-inch long papery seed pods form after bloom, each resembling a Chinese lantern in shape. In the summer, the pods are lime green in color, providing an excellent contrast to the dark green lacy foliage. As fall approaches, they turn a light brown and hang on the tree until late winter. The seed pods are considered by many to be as attractive as the flowers. This adaptable tree tolerates drought well and is hardy to 7500 feet.



Kentucky Coffeetree

Kentucky Coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioica*) is a native to Midwestern North America. It can grow to 60 feet in height, with a spread of 50 feet. This outstanding shade tree has an open, spreading form with bluish-green foliage that turns yellow in the fall. Minimally branched when young, it is remarkably adaptable to alkaline soils and dry areas. Great winter interest is provided by a coarse branch texture and an attractive gray bark with prominent overlapping plates. Female trees produce large seed pods which can be a litter problem, depending on where the tree is planted. This short coming is more than made up for by the fact that the tree is virtually immune to insect and disease problems. Hardy to 7500 feet.



Bristlecone Pine



Bristlecone Pine (*Pinus aristata*), also called Foxtail Pine, is known as one of the oldest living trees in the United States, ranging from 1,500 to 2,500 years of age. The native habitat of this pine is the Rocky Mountains, extending south from Wyoming to New Mexico. The plants survival depends on its ability to overcome extreme temperature changes, deficient amounts of water, and exposure to strong winds. This makes it ideally suited for the highly changeable weather we have along the Front Range. Once established, these trees will subsist on naturally occurring precipitation, and will grow to 30 feet in height, with a spread of 15 feet. White speckles of resin on the needles create a bluish cast over the entire plant and provide additional interest. This tree does very well at elevations of 10,000 feet or more.



Blue Grama



Blue Grama as a
Lawn Substitute

Blue Grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*) is a warm season, perennial native grass found throughout the Great Plains of the U.S. and is also the state grass of Colorado. Along with buffalo grass, this was the major native grass species of the short grass prairie. It possesses excellent drought and cold hardiness and is a great xeric substitute for bluegrass in areas where foot traffic is not an issue. Blue grama, with its interesting eyebrow shaped seed heads, forms a very attractive unmowed turf, and when properly maintained, only requires watering once or twice per month to maintain a rich green color. It grows to a height of 10 to 16 inches, but can be mowed for a more formal appearance. Regular mowing, however, will increase watering needs and allow weeds to come in, so it is best left alone until fall, when a late season mowing will help to redistribute the seeds. Hardy to 7000 feet.



Cockspur Thornless Hawthorn



The Cockspur Thornless Hawthorn (*Crataegus crusgalli* var. *inermis*) is a short squat tree with dense horizontal branching. It is available as a single trunk or multi-stem tree. It grows best in well drained locations but will tolerate clay soils. This tree reaches a mature height of 15 to 18 feet with a spread of 20 to 25 feet. Once the tree is established it will grow 12 to 18 inches a season. This Hawthorn is extremely drought resistant and has no major insect or disease problems. White flowers in clusters 2" to 3" across appear profusely in the spring, followed by masses of brilliant red fruit in late summer that persist into fall and early winter. The glossy dark green foliage turns a bright orange to red in the fall. This tree is a true zone 4 plant, and will tolerate elevations up to 7500 feet.



Fernbush



Fernbush (*Chamaebatiaria millefolium*), also known as Desert Sweet or Tansy bush, is an attractive aromatic shrub producing a profuse amount of small showy white five-petaled flowers in the middle of summer. The feathery fern-like leaves and fragrant flowers are clustered at the ends of the branches. Although it is considered a semi-evergreen, most of the older leaves typically drop during winter, revealing a smooth to flaky russet bark. This long lived shrub grows to 4 feet tall and wide, and is extremely drought tolerant once established. After flowering, large brown seed heads are formed. These can be removed for a cleaner appearance. This plant is native to the western United States at elevations of 4000 to 7000 feet, and makes an excellent specimen or accent plant. Fernbush is cold hardy to minus 30° F and prefers a well-drained soil and full sun exposure.



Ice Plant



There are many different varieties of Ice Plant available, all of which make excellent xeric groundcover plantings. Two selections in particular are readily available at local garden centers, and provide low maintenance color and interest year round.

Yellow Ice Plant (*Delosperma nubigenum*) has succulent jelly-bean like foliage and vibrant daisy-like yellow flowers in May and June. In the fall, this plant turns red and remains that way throughout the winter, greening up again in the spring.

Starburst Ice Plant (*Delosperma floribunda*) is characterized by iridescent purple-pink flowers with large white eyes. This variety blooms continuously May through September.

Ice plant forms a dense mat 2 to 4 inches in height, and once established, requires very little supplemental moisture. A great choice for hot, dry areas, it is exceptional as a groundcover, in the rock garden, for edging, and especially as a lawn substitute. Try replacing turf on steep slopes, in median islands or along front parking areas with this sturdy semi-evergreen. It is easily propagated by breaking off short pieces and simply sticking them into the ground - new roots will form within just a few weeks.



Snow-in-Summer



Snow-in-Summer (*Cerastium tomentosum*) is a very useful groundcover perennial, often grown in dry, sunny areas with poor soil. Hardy to 10,000 feet in elevation, plants form a low, fast-spreading mat of silvery grey leaves, studded with bright-white, fragrant star shaped flowers in April and May. An indestructible and very drought tolerant choice for difficult sites, it is beautiful spilling over rock walls or planted on steep sunny slopes, and grows well in tubs or mixed containers. This plant also makes a great replacement for traditional turf-grass, but only tolerates very light foot traffic, so be sure to use it in passive areas of your yard.

Easily divided in spring or fall, plants should be sheared or mowed to remove the faded flowers after bloom, which will produce a tidy mat of fuzzy leaves for the remainder of the growing season. This hardy plant thrives in full sun to light shade, and prefers a well-drained sandy to loamy soil. Snow-in-Summer holds its color throughout the winter, and is deer and rabbit resistant. It grows 4 to 8 inches tall with a spread of 2 to 3 feet. For quick coverage, space plants 10 to 12 inches apart.



Northern Catalpa



Northern Catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*) is a deciduous tree that grows to a mature height of 40 to 60 feet with a spread of 30 feet. Its crown is rounded and upright with large (up to 12" long) heart shaped, medium green leaves. Catalpa is very tolerant of a wide range of soil types, and withstands wet or dry alkaline soils as well as extremely hot and dry environments. Originally native to Illinois and Indiana and south to western Tennessee and northern Arkansas, it is often referred to as Western Catalpa here in Colorado. This hardy shade tree produces upright panicles of white, bell shaped fragrant flowers in late spring with yellow, orange or purple interior spotting or streaking. The long bean like fruit can be 12" to 16" in length, and provides this tree with another of its common names, Cigar Tree. It has a moderate to fast rate of growth. Hardy to 7000 feet.



European settlers planted it to produce fence posts. Railroad companies grew plantations of it for use as track ties and fuel wood. It was also used for making packing materials, furniture and telephone poles. The biggest problem with a Catalpa used as an ornamental tree is litter. It will drop a heavy load of flowers in the spring, then a plentiful supply of leaves in the fall and finally a lot of large seed pods in the winter.

Wafer Ash



Wafer Ash (*Ptelea trifoliata* - pronounced TEA-lee-uh), also known as Hop tree, is native to Colorado south of Colorado Springs from 5000' to 9000', and along rocky stream banks, canyons and ravines in Oklahoma, Texas, Arizona and New Mexico. In spite of its name, it is not related to the white and green Ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.) that are so commonly planted in Colorado. It is a small tree, 10'-15' tall and wide, often multi-trunked. The leaves are ash-like, shiny and deep green with leaflets grouped in threes (trifoliate). These leaves have a pungent, hop-like smell if crushed and turn a beautiful yellow in the fall. The effect of the rich yellow blanket of leaves under the bare tree, which has a cherry tree like bark, can be stunning.



The small flowers are greenish-white in 2" clusters and bloom in June with a pleasant vanilla fragrance that becomes stronger as the tree gets bigger and bears more flowers. These flowers are not very showy, but the circular winged seeds (wafers) that follow in late summer are conspicuous and very ornamental. These flat fruits have been used as a hops substitute. *Ptelea* can be grown very dry, and it will do well in full sun and light shade.

Buffalo Grass



Mowed Buffalo grass

Buffalo grass (*Buchloe dactyloides*) is a perennial, low growing, warm season grass. This durable short-grass prairie native is naturally drought and cold tolerant, as well as disease resistant. In the High Plains of Colorado, it is often found growing with another native grass, blue grama.



Buffalo grass unmowed

Buffalo grass produces a uniform and attractive turf that ranges in color from spring green to gray-green, and it reaches a mature height of 4 to 6 inches. The narrow leaves curl downward to produce a shorter-looking grass even without mowing. It can be left longer for a soft, prairie look, or cut to 2 ½ to 3 inches for a neater looking lawn.

Being a warm season grass, it does green up several weeks later than traditional bluegrass. Since buffalograss is hardy and disease resistant, there is little need for supplemental fertilizer or pesticides. The lower, slower growth rate of buffalograss also means less watering and mowing is necessary.

Buffalograss is a beautiful and water thrifty alternative to traditional landscaping turfs. It can be established either from seed, sod or plugs. For those interested in creating a more native, water conserving landscape, buffalo grass is the natural choice. Hardy to 6500 feet.



Moonlight Broom



Moonlight Broom (*Cytisus scoparius* 'Moonlight') is a rounded shrub with thin, nodding branches, green in hue and peppered with small, narrow, bright green leaves. It grows to a height of 4 to 6 feet with an equal spread. It prefers full sun and well-drained soil, tolerates a wide pH range and is extremely drought tolerant.

Flowers bloom on old wood in late April to early June and are a pale, creamy yellow in color and very fragrant. The slender green stems of this plant are more conspicuous than the tiny

leaves, and are evergreen and very ornamental once the leaves drop in the fall. Moonlight Broom is an excellent choice for poor soils and can be used in dry areas where other shrubs may have trouble succeeding. Hardy to 6500 feet.



Hyssop



Agastache, also known as Hummingbird Mints or Hyssop, are a showy, extraordinarily fragrant group of perennial herbs with trumpet shaped blossoms. They are rich with nectar, making them most attractive to hummingbirds and butterflies. *Agastache* are frequently used in xeriscapes because of their heat tolerance and ability to thrive in dry, nutrient-poor soil. Their stiff, angular stems hold up well in high winds, and the spectacular blooms appear July to October. They prefer a deep but infrequent watering once established.

Agastache cana (Texas Hummingbird Mint or Double Bubble Mint Hyssop) has prolific raspberry-pink flowers with bubble gum scented foliage. *Agastache rupestris* (Sunset Hyssop or Licorice Mint) has salmon and purple flowers and a

unique root beer/licorice fragrance. These are but 2 of nearly a dozen types of *Agastache* that are available to the Colorado gardener. All are hardy to 7500 to 8000 feet.



Southwestern White Pine



Southwestern White Pine (*Pinus strobiformis*) is native to the mountains of western Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and southwestern Colorado and into the mountains of central Mexico. It does very well in urban landscapes and thrives in a variety of soils, preferring loamy well drained sites. It tolerates heat and wind very well and is hardy to 8500 feet.

Southwestern White Pine has a moderate rate of growth. Young trees are dense, symmetrical and pyramidal in form. In most urban settings, it will reach 35 to 50 feet in height, but can grow to 90 feet in its native habitat. As it matures, it develops an open irregular crown with long, horizontal branches and a mature spread of 20 to 30 feet. The mostly horizontal branch structure with long, soft bluish-green needles provide an attractive landscape element year round.



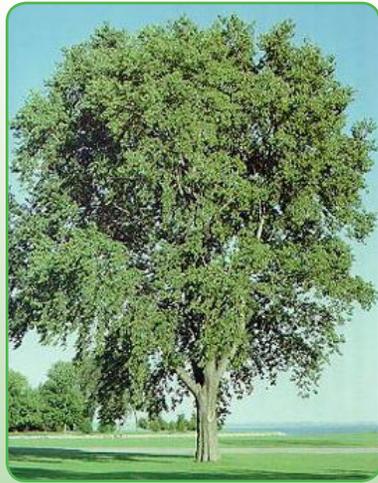


Hummingbird Trumpet

Orange Carpet® Hummingbird Trumpet (*Zauschneria garrettii*) is a rapidly spreading perennial ground cover that produces masses of tubular orange-scarlet flowers from mid-summer to fall. This 2001 Plant Select® introduction grows 4-6" tall by 15-18" wide and forms a loose mat of low growing, bright green foliage. The flowers are very attractive to hummingbirds and butterflies, and the plant is fairly deer resistant.



This selection was made from seed collected in Idaho and is the best form of hummingbird trumpet for high altitude or cool climate gardens. Evergreen in mild winter regions and somewhat shrubby in habit, this plant is very drought tolerant once established. It should be planted in a well drained, compost-enriched soil, and prefers full sun to partial shade, with soil moisture moderate to dry. It is hardy up to 9,000' in elevation.



Hackberry

Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) is in the same family as and similar in habit to the American elm. It is a medium to large sized deciduous tree that typically grows 40 to 60 feet tall with upright arching branches and a rounded spreading crown. Mature gray bark develops corky ridges and an interesting warty texture. Insignificant greenish flowers appear in spring and give way to an abundant fruit crop of small edible purple berries. The leaves are asymmetrical and coarsely textured and have a yellow fall color.

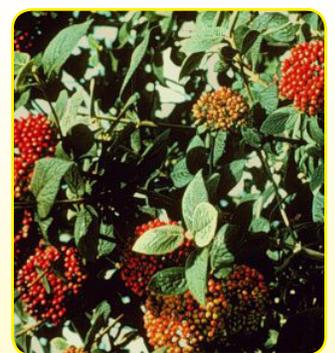


This xeric and deer-resistant tree is highly adaptable to many adverse conditions, including wet soils, dry soils, poor soils, compacted soils, rocky soils, soils of various pH, heat, drought, flooding, pollution, and windswept areas. Hackberry makes a great shade tree in the yard, and works well as a street tree. Seeds can pose clean up problems if trees are positioned near sidewalks or patios. Hardy to 7500 feet.



Mohican Viburnum

Mohican Viburnum (*Viburnum lantana* 'Mohican') is an introduction from the U.S. National Arboretum. This compact variety of Wayfaring Viburnum is more useful in the landscape due to its smaller size (up to 8' tall and wide, usually smaller). Creamy white flower clusters and expanding pale green leaves appear together for a week in early May. The foliage turns dark green and is leathery in appearance, but the most outstanding ornamental attribute of this plant are the fruit, which retain their orange-red coloring for a month or more in midsummer before they darken to blue and black in the fall. Leaves turn maroon to red in the fall.



Like all viburnums, 'Mohican' grows well in many exposures and soils, but is especially well suited for full sun, drier situations, and alkaline soils. It works well in the landscape as a specimen plant, or in a hedge, shrub border or as a foundation planting for large buildings. Hardy to 7500 feet.



Candytuft, Basket of Gold & Phlox



Candytuft and Phlox



Basket of Gold

Candytuft (*Iberis sempervirens*), Basket of Gold (*Aurinia saxatilis*) and Creeping Phlox (*Phlox subulata*) are three xeric perennials that bloom at virtually the same time, creating a stunning combination of color and texture that will brilliantly announce the arrival of spring. Candytuft (10 to 12 inches tall with a spread of 2 to 3 feet) has attractive narrow evergreen foliage, and explodes in masses of flat white flower clusters April through June. Basket of Gold (10 to 12 inches tall with a spread of 1 to 2 feet) has an attractive gray-green foliage that persists year round, and is completely covered with bright yellow flowers April through May. Add Creeping Phlox (4 to 6 inches tall with a spread of 1 to 3 feet) to the mix, in your choice of colors (try the bright pink or red for some real contrast), and its bloom time of April-May and the needle-shaped evergreen foliage will put the finishing touches on an attractive, water efficient grouping of perennials that will provide you with decades of reliable spring color and year round interest.



Candytuft (above)
Pink and blue Phlox (below)



Charles Joly Lilac



Charles Joly Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris* 'Charles Joly') is an old fashioned lilac selection from France. It produces numerous panicles of deep magenta blooms that open from reddish-purple buds in May. The thick, sweet scented double flowered clusters are superb for cutting - the perfume will fill your whole house!

The plants reach 12' tall and 10' wide and like most common lilac cultivars, are extremely tolerant of alkaline soils and drought conditions. This lilac can be used as a border plant, hedge plant, or windbreak, and is attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds when in bloom. Follow a regular watering schedule (6 to 10 gallons once per week) during the first growing season to establish an extensive, deep root system - it will require minimal watering after that. To ensure reliable blooming, feed with a general purpose fertilizer before new growth begins in spring and only prune immediately after flowering. Maximum elevation 8000 feet.



Turkish Filbert

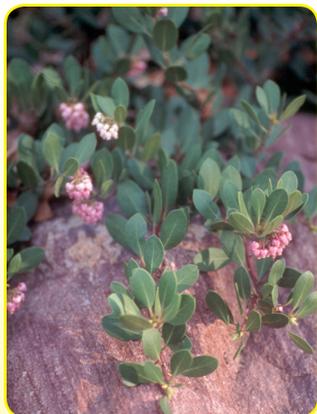


Turkish Filbert (*Corylus colurna*) is a wonderful, little known or used shade tree that has a tight, consistently shaped pyramidal crown and the ability to withstand air pollution and a wide range of soil types. It is extremely well suited for use as a street tree in urban areas. Once established, the tree should require little if any pruning or other maintenance, and is relatively free of insect and disease problems. It grows to 40 to 50 feet in height, with a spread of 30 to 40 feet. Attractive 5" long dark green leaves on nearly horizontal branches turn yellow in the fall. Ornamental catkins in early spring may produce small edible nuts inside textured and fringed 2" husks. The flaky brown bark and symmetry of form provide strong winter interest.

Turkish Filbert is an extremely tolerant tree, surviving hot summers, cold winters, wind, drought, and heavy or alkaline soils with ease. Other trees may scorch during summer drought, but this is one tree that will stay green when the heat is on! Hardy to 6500 feet.



Panchito Manzanita



Plant Select[®] is a cooperative program administered by Denver Botanic Gardens and Colorado State University in concert with horticulturists and nurseries throughout the Rocky Mountain region and beyond. The purpose of Plant Select[®] is to seek out, identify and distribute the very best plants for landscapes and gardens from the intermountain region to the high plains (www.plantselect.org).



Panchito Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos x coloradoensis*) was chosen as one of the Plant Select[®] introductions for 2006. It is an outstanding selection of a native, broadleaf evergreen from the Uncompaghre plateau in western Colorado.

This natural hybrid of Kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) and Greenleaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos patula*) is a versatile shrub that may be grown as a specimen feature or planted in groupings as a ground cover. Initial growth is moderately slow, taking about five years to spread 3 feet. It grows best with moderate watering for the first two years, but needs little supplemental water after that. Small pink flowers appear February to early April on this shrub that has a height of 10 - 15 inches, and a spread of 24 - 36 inches. When used as a groundcover in the garden, space the plants 30 inches apart. Panchito manzanita thrives in average well drained loam or sandy soil.

Dwarf Fountain Grass



Small garden spaces lend themselves well to Dwarf Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Hameln'). This ornamental grass grows to 2 to 3 feet in height and 2 feet in spread and is clump forming. Foliage emerges fairly early for an ornamental grass but does not significantly expand until consistently warm weather hits. Medium-green foliage turns shades of yellow, chartreuse and amber in late summer before frost; after frosts and freezes, it matures to light tan.



Bottlebrush-like flowers emerge lime green in late August to early September, rapidly changing to a blend of green, pink and violet before maturing to light tan.

Dwarf Fountain Grass is most effective when mass planted, but also useful as a specimen accent in the garden or in containers. It is deer resistant, prefers full sun and tolerates a wide range of soils, as long as they are well drained. Flowers are excellent for cutting, fresh or dried. This plant is drought tolerant once established. The cultivar name 'Hameln' refers to the German town of Hamelin, most famous for the folk tale of the Pied Piper. Hardy to 6500 feet.

Silverlace Vine



Silverlace Vine (*Polygonum aubertii*) is an extremely hardy, rampant and twining vine that produces a cloud of white flowers. The plant is valued for its adaptability, not necessarily its refinement. Silverlace Vine tolerates dry soil and grows quickly to 25 feet, possibly in a single year! It has a mature height exceeding 40 feet, with an unlimited spread and is hardy to 8500 feet. Plant it in full sun to light shade in well drained soil. This vigorous vine grows great in poor soils and typically requires a strong support structure.



The leaves are bronzy-red when young, and mature to bright green. Small, fragrant, creamy white flowers appear from mid summer until fall. Due to its vigorous growth habit, it is an excellent choice for quickly covering fences, arbors, and large trellises.





Pawnee Buttes® Sand Cherry

A native shrub from the high plains, Pawnee Buttes® Sand Cherry (*Prunus besseyi*), is a graceful ground cover with lustrous, green leaves that turn bright red and purple in the fall. Fragrant, white flowers in April produce abundant crops of reddish-black cherries in summer that are attractive to birds and other wildlife.



This unique groundcover variety of Western Sand Cherry was discovered near Pawnee Buttes in Weld County, Colorado, and was named a Plant Select for 2000. It grows 15-18" high with a spread of 4 to 8 feet and is hardy to 9,000 feet. Preferring full sun, it adapts to heat and can be used in hot, dry areas of the landscape. This shrub is also cold tolerant and adapted to USDA zones 2 to 8.



Well-drained soil is preferable, but it will adapt to most soils, including clay. Supplemental water needs are low to none once it is established. Pawnee Buttes® Sand Cherry is rarely bothered by insects or diseases.



Double Sunray Coreopsis

Double Sunray Coreopsis (*Coreopsis grandiflora* 'Sunray'), also known as Tickseed, has double to semi-double deep yellow flowers that begin blooming in June and continue through September. This plant has a compact growth habit, with a height of 18-24" and a spread of 12-18" and prefers full sun. It is not picky about the soil it grows in, as long as it is well-drained, and it is very heat and drought tolerant.

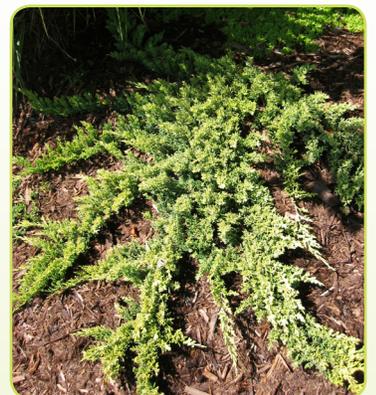


Double Sunray Coreopsis produces an incredible number of double golden yellow flowers on 6- to 10-inch stems; as cut flowers, these last well in water. The first flowers this coreopsis puts out are typically single; doubleness comes as plants mature. Clipping dead flowers to increase future flowering is the only maintenance required. The species is native to the central and southeastern U.S. and is hardy up to 8500 feet.



'Mother Lode' Juniper

'Mother Lode' Juniper (*Juniperus horizontalis* 'Mother Lode') was discovered as a sport of a Blue Rug Juniper. It is a creeping, flat, low-growing, evergreen shrub which features brilliant lemon yellow foliage which changes to a deep yellow-orange tinged with plum in winter. The soft, feathery, scale-like foliage of this unique cultivar will slowly spread 8 to 10 feet, but will only rise 4 inches off the ground. Creeping branches root as they grow along the ground, and the plant will occasionally produce a small round bluish fruit. An excellent groundcover which is relatively low maintenance once established, 'Mother Lode' is also a great rock garden plant and can be used for erosion control on slopes. It is very effective in mass plantings around homes, and as a border planting in front of taller shrubs. Hardy to 8000 feet, this plant is adaptable to a wide range of soils, but prefers a dryish, sandy soil. It is very tolerant of hot, dry conditions and is also deer and rabbit resistant.



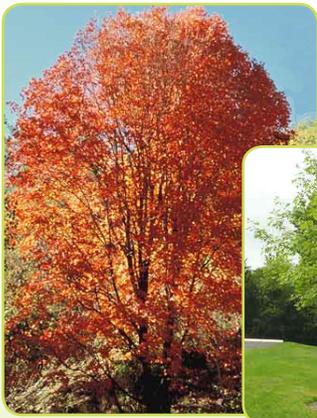
Swamp White Oak



Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*) is noted for its bicolored foliage, rugged, ornamental bark and bold winter texture. The Latin name bicolor refers to the distinctive two-colored appearance of the leaves: glossy green on the upper surface, and whitish and velvety beneath. This hardy oak grows well in clay soils, and although this tree is very xeric in nature, as its name implies, it will also do well in damp soils. Swamp White Oak sets an oblong shaped acorn approximately 1" in length that is shiny brown in color. Growing to a mature height and spread of 40 to 60 feet, this tree attains a broad conical to rounded form and provides a dense shade. It is easy to transplant and has a relatively fast rate of growth for an oak. Fall color ranges from russet to red, and it will do well up to 8000 feet in elevation.



Bigtooth Maple



Bigtooth Maple (*Acer grandidentatum*) is an outstanding Rocky Mountain native that can take the form of a small tree or large shrub. Flowers are small, yellowish, and found in clusters appearing in early spring. It usually only flowers every 2-3 years. Fruits are the typical double samaras, characteristic of maples. This impressive plant has small five lobed dark green leaves that turn vibrant shades of yellow, orange and rosy-red in the fall.



One of the few maples that is tolerant of both dry and alkaline-clay soils, Bigtooth Maple prefers full sun but will tolerate partial shade. This tree grows slowly to a mature height and spread of 20 to 30 feet, and is hardy to an elevation of 8000 feet. It makes a great accent plant for a dryland garden. Because this tree is closely related to the sugar maple of the Northeastern United States, it can and has been used as a source of sugar and syrup.

Bosnian Pine



Bosnian Pine (*Pinus heldreichii* var. *leucodermis*) is a slow growing pine (3" to 6" per year) that is a popular ornamental tree used extensively in Europe. With its thick evergreen foliage and full, pyramidal form, this tree most resembles a densely branched, compact Austrian Pine. Young candle growth in the spring is grayish-white, and the needles are stiff and dark green. This intriguing specimen plant is outstanding for small spaces and is also noted for its very decorative purple-blue cones that ripen to brown. It grows to a mature height of 15 to 25 feet, with a spread of 10 to 15 feet, and will tolerate a wide range of soils. It is very tolerant of severe winter cold, hardy



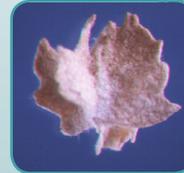
down to at least -49° , and tolerant of salt spray and severe wind exposure. Maximum elevation 8000 feet.

Four Wing Saltbush



Four Wing Saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*) is a native shrub with grayish-green foliage and an upright spreading habit. Tiny light yellow flowers are borne on the tips of the branches in spring. These lead to clusters of four winged light green seeds that may take on a rose tint late summer into fall. This plant is well adapted to a wide range of temperature and soil conditions, and is highly tolerant of drought, salinity, and alkalinity.

Interestingly enough, the whole plant is edible! The seeds can be ground into meal. The young shoots can be used as greens. Burn the leaves and the ashes can be used as baking powder. Four Wing Saltbush is also a plant that is very attractive to birds. It will grow to a mature height of 3 to 6 feet, with a spread of 2 to 4 feet. It becomes very drought tolerant after a few good waterings and requires full sun for best performance. Hardy to 8000 feet.



Gambel Oak



Gambel Oak (*Quercus gambelii*), commonly called scrub oak, is a Rocky Mountain native with a shrubby growth habit. It can also take the form of a small to medium sized tree.

Gambel oak is an informal, deciduous tree that is best used in a mass plantings. It can be used to screen parking lots and undesirable views. Due to its small size, Gambel oak fits well on residential lots. Glossy green leaves emerge late in the spring, allowing open sunlight conditions for spring flowering bulbs near the tree. The leaves change to a golden yellow with occasional orange or red in the fall. This tree is very tolerant of both dry conditions and alkaline soils and is hardy to 9000', where it can often be found in beautiful groves that may cover entire mountainsides. Gambel oak will grow to a mature height of 15 to 30', with a spread ranging from 12 to 20'.



The plant rarely reproduces by acorns but instead spreads by underground stems, forming a dense thicket. It does best in full sun and after establishment, requires no supplemental irrigation.

Rocky Mountain Juniper



Rocky Mountain Juniper

Rocky Mountain Juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*) is a pyramidal evergreen tree that is native to the Rocky Mountains and the Northwestern Great Plains. This upright juniper varies from dark green to bluish-green, and grows to a mature height of 20 to 30 feet with a spread of 8 to 12 feet. It is commonly used as a windbreak species, but the many cultivated varieties that are available work well in the home landscape. Among the more popular cultivars are Cologreen (bright green color, compact habit with dense branching), Gray Gleam (compact upright form with silvery, gray-blue foliage), Medora (slow



Wichita Blue Juniper



Skyrocket Juniper

growing, narrow columnar habit that keeps its shape without pruning), Wichita Blue (feathery silver-blue foliage with a more open form) and Skyrocket (best for tight spaces with a 20 foot height and a 2-3 foot width; blue-green foliage). All varieties are extremely drought tolerant once established, hardy to 8000 feet, and prefer full sun.

Heavy Metal Switch Grass



Heavy Metal Switch Grass (*Panicum virgatum* 'Heavy Metal') is a stiffly upright switch grass cultivar characterized by metallic blue foliage with a waxy white bloom. In the fall, it turns bright yellow and displays dark burgundy seed heads that gradually age to beige. This grass has a very upright, erect growth habit and will not fall over in a heavy rain.

Use this plant in borders or as a low screen. Combine with Shasta daisies, Little Bluestem, Blue Fescues, or plant among Blue Oat Grass for contrasts of texture and height.

It is quite handsome when used in groupings. It thrives in full to partial sun and prefers a sandy loam soil. Heavy Metal Switch Grass is drought tolerant once established, yet it will tolerate wet, soggy soil for short periods. This plant can be grown up to 7000 feet in elevation, and has a mature height of 3 to 4 feet, with a 12" to 18" spread.



Russian Hawthorn



A small, shrub-like tree with horizontal branching, Russian Hawthorn (*Crataegus ambigua*) fits well in any landscape, providing year-round interest. It is covered with clusters of single white flowers in May, nicely highlighted with medium green deeply lobed leaves. In mid to late summer, the entire tree begins to glow with very abundant 1/2" cherry-like bright red fruits that are great for attracting birds. The fruit is persistent, making it a great source of food for birds throughout the winter.



Available in both single and multi-stemmed forms, Russian Hawthorn is hardy to 9500 feet and is deer resistant. Fall color ranges from yellow to orange. One of its most striking characteristics is the exfoliating golden yellow bark, which combined with its gnarled growth habit, provides great color and texture in the winter. It grows to a height and spread of 15 to 20 feet at maturity.



Turkish Veronica



For the Colorado gardener, there is no finer groundcover than Turkish Veronica (*Veronica liwanensis*). This vigorous fast growing plant thrives in poor soils, creating a thick green carpet of round, glossy evergreen leaves. With the first hint of warm weather, the plant is covered with small bright cobalt blue flowers that persist May through June. With a little extra water, it can rebloom lightly later in the summer. Turkish Veronica looks great in perennial or rock gardens, and can be used as a groundcover between stepping stones or as a lawn substitute (it is tolerant of light foot traffic). With a height of 1-2" and a spread of 18", this plant is easily propagated by digging and dividing the clump into smaller pieces, spring or early fall. Maximum elevation 8500 feet. Looking to add some low maintenance, late spring excitement and color to your garden? This is it!



Waxflower



Waxflower (*Jamesia americana*), also known as Cliffbush, is a western native and a 2003 Plant Select® recommendation. In late spring, intensely fragrant and showy clusters of waxy, white flowers appear, contrasting nicely with the flaky, reddish-brown bark. Bright green, distinctly veined leaves with downy white undersides turn to brilliant orange and pink tones in the fall. It has a flat-topped, rounded growth habit with upright spreading branches.



An excellent choice for dry conditions, it grows to a mature height of 3 to 6', with a spread of 4 to 6'. This Xeric shrub prefers dry soils with good drainage, and it does well in full sun to shade. In its native habitat, it typically grows among boulders in shady locations. It is hardy to 10,000 feet in elevation.



Hot Wings® Maple



Hot Wings® Maple (*Acer tartaricum* 'GarAnn') was discovered as a chance seedling in the growing fields of Ft. Collins Nursery. It gets its name from the brilliant scarlet red samaras (winged seeds) that cover the tree in the summertime. From a distance, the tree appears to be in full bloom all summer long! Fall color ranges from orange-red on the outside of the plant to yellow in the middle.



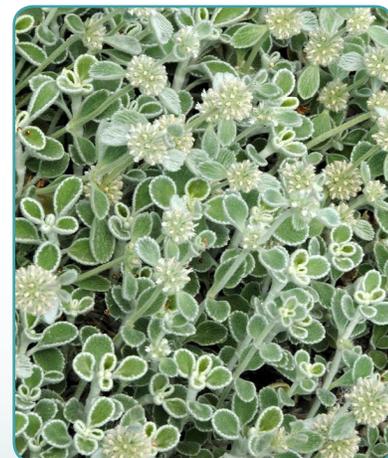
Strong branch unions make it less prone to storm breakage than the species. This 2007 Plant Select® introduction tolerates a wide range of soils, prefers full sun and is hardy up to 8500 feet in elevation. It has a mature height of 20 to 25', and a spread of 18 to 20', with a crown shape that is rounded to upright oval.



Silverheels Horehound



Silverheels Horehound (*Marrubium rotundifolium*) is a 2009 Plant Select® perennial that is sure to add some excitement to your garden. This native of Turkey forms a dense patch of small rounded velvety leaves, each lined along the edges and undersides with silvery white. This is a tough and durable plant for hot and dry western regions, suitable for the rock garden or edging pathways.



You will find this to be a vigorous, low maintenance plant if soil drainage is good. Blooms are considered to be insignificant, but still a nice accent to this stunning groundcover. Plants may be sheared lightly in spring or after blooming, if desired. This semi-evergreen plant requires full sun and will tolerate clay, sandy soils or loam. It grows 2-4" in height with a spread of 2 to 3 feet. Hardy to 6500 feet.

Leadplant



Leadplant (*Amorpha canescens*) is a small native shrub that typically occurs in open woodlands, glades and prairies. This deciduous shrub grows 2 to 4 feet tall with showy 3" to 4" spikes of dense, tiny, bluish-purple flowers in June and July. When in bloom, you will find this to be one of the most attractive western native plants around! It has an open growth habit with arching stems and gray-green, fuzzy fern-like foliage. Leadplant is not particular about soil type and does well in poor, dry soils. Harsh winters may cause it to die back to the ground, but it has very deep roots and typically will grow new stems the following spring.

The common name refers to the once held belief that the plant was an indicator of the presence of lead in the ground. This adaptable plant is hardy to 8000'.



Bluestem Joint Fir



Bluestem Joint Fir (*Ephedra equisetina*) derives its common name from its finely textured blue stems, which are leafless. Small, yellow blooms are often followed by bright red berries in midsummer that glow against the blue stems. It is perfect for naturalized areas since it reliably spreads. This 2004 Plant Select® shrub is also an exceptional plant for winter interest in the xeriscape due to its dense branching and evergreen appearance. It prefers full sun to partial shade and grows well in garden loam, clay, or sandy soil. It can take moderately moist to xeric conditions and is extremely heat and drought tolerant, which makes it a good choice for groupings in difficult areas. It grows to 3-4 feet in height with a spread of 5-6 feet, and is a zone 5 plant that is hardy to 7000' in elevation. Ephedra is the oldest known cultivated medicinal herb, also known as Ma Huang, and is used by the Chinese for many ailments.



Autumn Joy Sedum



Autumn Joy Sedum (*Sedum spectabile* 'Autumn Joy') is a hardy, succulent perennial that is easy to cultivate, even in poor soils. Growing 18" to 24" in height, with a spread of 2 feet, it forms an upright clump of thick rounded leaves, blue-green in color. Before they open in late summer to early fall, the large clusters of flower buds look like broccoli. The flower color ranges from pink to red, aging to an attractive combination of copper, red and yellow-green. This native of China and Korea does best in full sun, but will endure a light shade. It does very well in the dryland garden, but can even tolerate seasonally wet conditions. This plant is hardy to 8000', and is attractive to bees, butterflies and birds. It provides outstanding winter interest if you leave the stalks with the seedheads over the winter.





Ivory Silk Japanese Tree Lilac

Ivory Silk Japanese Tree Lilac (*Syringa reticulata* 'Ivory Silk') grows 20 to 25 feet tall with a spread of 15 to 20 feet. Extremely fragrant, creamy white blooms appear in early summer, much later than traditional lilacs. Trees bloom at a young age and are compact with a dense, rounded form. Bark and stems are a glossy reddish-brown, similar to cherry tree bark. This tree adapts well to difficult or urban sites, and is an excellent choice for use as a specimen tree, in group plantings as a screen, or as a street tree. A 1997 Urban Tree of the Year as selected by the Society of Municipal Arborists, it has a moderate rate of growth and is hardy to 8500 feet. With very few insect or disease problems, and its adaptability to poor, compacted or dry soils, it has a reputation as being the most trouble-free of all lilacs.



Hillside Creeper Scotch Pine

Hillside Creeper Scotch Pine (*Pinus sylvestris* 'Hillside Creeper') is a creeping variety of Scotch Pine that tends to crawl along the ground and over rocks or walls. This vigorous and hardy evergreen spreads out and forms a dense groundcover of layered branches covered with thick green needles. It is relatively low maintenance and has no



significant problems. Deer don't particularly care for this plant, and will usually leave it alone. It has a moderate rate of growth, maturing to a height of 2 to 3 feet with a spread of 7 to 8 feet. This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade and is quite drought tolerant. It thrives in most any soil and is highly tolerant of urban pollution. This unique pine is hardy to up to 6,500 feet.



Little Bluestem

Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) is a warm season bunch grass that is native to 45 of the 50 states, making it the most abundant of all native grasses. It is named for the lavender-blue tinge on the flattened bases of its stems. It makes a stunning display when planted in large groupings. The fine foliage and distinctive upright flowers gradually change to shades of red, orange, purple and tan late summer into fall. The flowers appear



late July through September in alternate pairs along zig-zag stems 1-2 inches long. There are several on each stem, which makes the small blooms appear to be scattered throughout the top half of the foliage. The little seed spikes mature in the fall and are fringed with silky silvery-white hairs. This plant grows to a height of 3-4 feet, with a spread of 2 feet. It is deer resistant and prefers full sun and less fertile, well drained soils. Drought tolerance is excellent. Hardy to 8000 feet.





Boulder Raspberry

A Rocky Mountain native with an open, vase-shaped growth habit, Boulder Raspberry (*Rubus deliciosus*) produces large white single flowers in May and June that demand your attention! Dry shade is a tough environment for most plants, but Boulder Raspberry thrives there. Also tolerant of full sun, you will find this shrub on Rocky Mountain slopes and ravines at elevations between 4,500 feet and 9,000 feet.

Growing 3 to 5 feet tall with a 6 foot spread, this durable plant produces small reddish-purple raspberry-like fruit that, while edible, are not that pleasant to the taste - birds love them though! Bright green lobed leaves turn yellow in the fall, and the arching thornless branches are covered with an exfoliating, cinnamon-colored bark which provides great winter interest. This plant can become fuller and denser in appearance if old canes are pruned out every few years.



Partridge Feather

Partridge Feather (*Tanacetum densum* ssp. *amani*) is grown mainly for the finely cut, silvery white foliage, which will attract the attention of everyone who sees it. Introduced from southeastern Turkey in the 1950's, it retains its foliage year round, although not as attractively in winter as during the growing season. This durable groundcover plant (6" tall, 15" - 24" wide at maturity) forms a dense carpet of foliage, topped with clusters of yellow button flowers in early summer.

It thrives in the sunniest, hottest spot you can find, but does need a well drained soil (it does poorly in wet or humid conditions). It works well planted around Penstemon, Agastache and Salvia, or in the rock garden, where it will inch its way up and down slopes. A Plant Select® choice from 2010, this plant requires little to no irrigation once established. Hardy to 8000 feet.



Prarifire Crabapple

There are few plants that provide the visual impact during all four seasons than the flowering crabapple. And one of the finest specimens available is Prarifire Crabapple (*Malus* 'Prairifire'). In the spring, abundant clusters of single crimson-red buds open to vivid, dark pink flowers. Purple-red leaves turn to green with a red cast during the summer, nicely complimenting the dark purple-red ½ inch diameter fruit. In the fall, leaves change to a spectacular reddish-orange color. The reddish-brown cherry tree-like bark accents the thick clusters of persistent fruit throughout the winter. There are no littering problems,



as birds relish the fruit and will eat it directly off the tree. With a mature height and spread of 15 to 20 feet and excellent disease resistance, 'Prairifire' is an outstanding crabapple selection that will become one of your all-time favorites. Hardy to 8000 feet.

Bur Oak



Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) is able to withstand drought, wind, extreme cold and heavy soils. This makes it an excellent tree for Colorado! Growing to a mature height of 60' with a spread of 40', this slow growing oak is one of the most tolerant of urban conditions. Young branches have corky ridges that add texture and interest to the tree.

Among the most majestic of the native North American oaks, it also features attractive, deeply-lobed dark green leaves that are grey-green beneath. The fall color is yellow to brown. Acorns, $\frac{3}{4}$ " to $1\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter are almost completely enclosed by a heavily fringed cap, and are the largest of all oaks. It grows in a wide range of soil types, including dry clay, and is one of the most cold-tolerant oak species available. Hardy to 8000 feet.



Paprika Yarrow



Paprika Yarrow (*Achillea millifolium* 'Paprika') is one of the most colorful of the hybrid Yarrows. It is well known for its large clusters of bright red flowers. Each individual flower in the cluster also has a distinctive yellow eye, making this a real stunner in the garden. As is the case with all yarrows, the blooms fade as they age, going from red to pink.

The fern-like deep green foliage also adds to this plants charm. Paprika Yarrow is everblooming with regular deadheading and prefers a well drained soil in full sun. Once established, it is drought tolerant. Good companion plants are yellow Coreopsis and blue Salvias. Growing to 18-24" in height, with a spread of 12-18", this deer resistant plant is also attractive to butterflies. Hardy to 9000 feet.



Three-Leaf Sumac



Three-Leaf Sumac (*Rhus trilobata*), saddled with common names like Skunk Bush and Stinking Sumac, is clearly a shrub that needs some positive publicity! Referring to the strong scent emitted from the leaves and stems when they are crushed, these names should not put you off from this wonderful xeric ornamental. Add it to your garden, and you will be thrilled with the rich orange-red fall color.

Tiny clusters of yellow flowers in spring become tart red berries which are favored by birds. A tangy lemonade-like drink can be made by steeping the berries in water. Growing to a mature height and spread of 3 to 6 feet, this shrub is very tolerant of poor soils and prefers full sun and very little water once established. Hardy to 9000 feet.





Little Trudy® Catmint

A 2008 Plant Select® introduction, Little Trudy® Catmint (*Nepeta 'Psfike'*) is a hybrid catnip known for its distinctive silvery-green foliage and long season of lavender bloom. The most compact cultivar of catnip available, Little Trudy® will grow 8-10" tall and spreads 12-16".

This plant works great at the front of a garden border or along walkways where its aroma can be enjoyed. Its spreading growth habit makes it useful as a non-invasive groundcover. Catmint will thrive in partial shade, but for best flowering, plant in full sun. This deer-resistant perennial thrives in dry conditions after it has been established. Hardy to 8000 feet.



Big Tuna Mugo Pine

Big Tuna Mugo Pine (*Pinus mugo* var. *rostrata* 'Big Tuna') is a hardy selection of Mugo Pine with a uniquely dense, compact upright growth habit. Growing to 6' - 8' in height with a spread of 4' - 6' feet, this slow growing multi-stemmed evergreen shrub is not particular about the type of soil it grows in as long as it is well drained.

Ideal for the rock garden or in small garden areas as a specimen plant, Big Tuna is highly tolerant of urban pollution. Colorful purplish "pollen cones" form in the spring (photo lower left), and maturing pine cones (lower right) provide additional color and interest. Planted in full sun or partial shade, 'Big Tuna' will do well at elevations up to 7500 feet.



Pink Chintz Thyme



Woolly Thyme

Creeping Thyme

There are quite a few ground covers that can be walked on, but creeping thyme (*Thymus* spp.) is one of the best. It makes an ideal ground cover to use between stepping stones, in the foreground of bed areas, or as a lawn substitute. Creeping thyme grows about 2 to 4 inches high and can spread up to two or more feet. The leaves are very small but dense, forming a thick carpet of aromatic foliage. Many different cultivars are available, such as Lemon Thyme, Elfin Thyme and Woolly Thyme. All are hardy to 8500 feet. Leaf color varies from light to dark green and even a silvery gray-green. They flower so prolifically in the late spring and early summer, you can hardly see the evergreen leaves below! Creeping thyme is simple to maintain, as it can easily be confined to a specific area. It requires a well-drained soil, and does best in full sun. Isn't it about "thyme" to replace some of those water-hungry plants in your yard (like your lawn?) with a steppable groundcover?



Pink Creeping Thyme Lawn



Elfin Thyme

Scotch Pine



Close up of the needles



Orange-brown bark and branches

Scotch, or Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) is native to Europe, from Norway to Spain, and parts of Asia. It is a medium sized evergreen tree, growing to 30-50 feet in height with a spread of 20-30 feet. Growth is fairly dense as a young tree, becoming more open and spreading with age. Green to blue-green needles contrast nicely with the orange-brown exfoliating bark. One of the most popular of Christmas trees, it accounts for 30% of trees grown for that purpose. Scotch pine prefers full sun and well-drained soil. It is very tolerant of dry and infertile soils, very durable and wind resistant, and is hardy up to 7,500 feet in elevation.



Scotch pine growing in a Christmas tree farm



Mature Scotch pine

Beautybush



Beautybush form



June flowers

Native to central China, Beautybush (*Kolkwitzia amabilis*) became very popular in the eastern United States following World War I - a "must have" in the landscapes that were established in the 1930's and 1940's. This problem free shrub, whose scientific name *amabilis* means "lovely", has graceful arching branches and grows to 8 feet tall and 5 to 8 feet wide. A profusion of light pink bell-shaped flowers appear in late spring, forming showy sprays in clusters along the branches. Brown, hairy seeds appear shortly after, providing interest from early summer into the winter months. A reddish fall color and light brown exfoliating bark provide further visual impact. In the garden, Beautybush needs plenty of room to develop its long arching branches. It prefers full sun to light shade and prospers in dry, sandy, poor soil. Once established, it is quite drought tolerant. Hardy to 9500 feet.



Fall color



Bark detail

Silver Fountain Butterfly Bush



Silver Fountain Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia alternifolia* 'Argentea') is a 1998 Plant Select® introduction. It can be grown as a small tree or a large shrub and tolerates most soils and exposures in our region, although it does not like wet feet.

The twigs are long and thin, giving the plant a wide spreading and pendulous habit. The colorful and fragrant clusters of lavender to violet flowers are produced in early June, and spiral along the previous year's branches in candy-cane fashion. The foliage is blue-gray or sometimes silver and finely textured. It blends well in naturalistic designs and shrub borders or can be used as a specimen in a mixed border or lawn.

With a mature height of 8 feet, and a spread of 6 to 8 feet, this plant grows well in full sun to partial shade, and prefers low to moderate moisture. Hardy to 8000 feet.



Littleleaf Mountain Mahogany

Littleleaf Mountain Mahogany (*Cercocarpus intricatus*) is a medium to small evergreen shrub native to the western United States. Small pinkish flowers completely cover the plant in late-spring, turning to attractive plumed seeds in the summer months. It has ornamental deep green, pine needle like leaves covering its densely branched stems. In late summer the feathery seed tails are quite showy when they catch the late afternoon sun. Use this slow growing plant in hot, dry places where its foliage and zig-zagging stems provide much appreciated year-round interest. A 2009 Plant Select®, it requires no additional irrigation once established and prefers well-drained soils. Littleleaf Mountain Mahogany can work equally well as a specimen shrub or in a hedge where it is regularly trimmed. Judicious pruning in spring to remove any dead twigs and crossing branches help to improve the plants form. Growing to a mature height and spread of 4 feet, this superb plant is hardy to 8500 feet.



Spring flowers



Seeds



Leaves



Form

Chocolate Flower

A small native plant that is very attractive to birds and butterflies, Chocolate Flower (*Berlandiera lyrata*) is most impressive and most fragrant when planted in groups. A distinctive milk chocolate fragrance emanates from the bright yellow daisy-like flowers, which are produced early summer through fall. These flowers open in the early morning and droop in the heat of day. Leaves are medium green and fiddle-shaped, with the flowers borne on slender stems held above the foliage. The seed heads are very ornamental and work great in dried arrangements. Native to Southwestern grasslands, Chocolate Flower's compact size (1 foot tall, 18 inches wide) makes it an ideal plant for perennial borders. It prefers full sun and a well drained soil, and is very xeric once established. If plants start to look scraggly, they can be sheared to initiate fresh growth. Hardy to a maximum elevation of 6,000'.



Flowers



Leaves



Seeds



Mass planting

English Oak

English Oak (*Quercus robur*) is native to Europe, western Asia and northern Africa. It was a major component of the original forests in England, and it was brought to the American Colonies from there in the 17th century. A broad round-topped tree with branches growing out almost horizontally, this tree is tolerant of alkaline, heavy clay soils and urban growing conditions. English oaks have a moderate growth rate once established, putting on a foot or so a year when young. Dark green lobed leaves turn golden yellow in the fall, with dry brown leaves persisting through winter. Acorns, which provide winter food for many birds and other wildlife, are elongated, about an inch long, with a cup that covers 1/3 of the nut. Hardy to 8500 feet, it prefers full sun. Mature height 50 feet, spread 35 feet.



Mature Form



Fall color



Young Tree Form

Globe Thistle



Grouping in the garden



Close up of flower

Globe Thistle (*Echinops ritro*) is easily grown in dryland gardens in full sun. It tolerates a wide range of soils, including poor, infertile, dry ones, as long as they are well-drained. Avoid rich soils with this plant.

This unusual perennial is a clump-forming, 4-foot tall plant with golf ball sized blue flower heads atop stiff, rigid stems that have deeply lobed, dark green, spiny, thistle-like foliage. The cultivar 'Veitch's Blue' grows slightly smaller (3-3.5' tall) and features darker blue flowers and more abundant flowering than the species.

Globular, deep steel blue flower heads (1-2" diameter) bloom at the stem tops July through September. Globe thistle provides great color and contrast in the perennial border, especially toward the back, or in the cut flower garden. Hardy to 7000 feet.



Flowers and leaves

Seafoam Artemisia



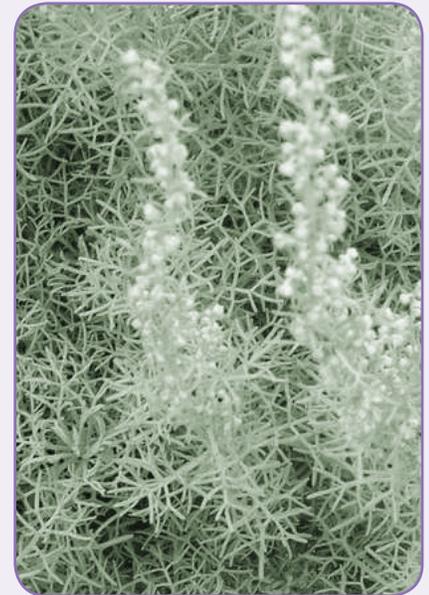
Plant form



Close up of unique foliage

Seafoam Artemisia (*Artemisia versicolor* 'Seafoam'), is a low growing perennial that adds an amazing textural quality to any landscape. 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. Also known as Coral Sage (because it gives the impression of a coral bed in your garden), it is useful as a groundcover under taller colorful perennials.

'Seafoam' will occasionally bloom with attractive silver and yellow flower spikes. To keep it's desired compact shape, cut off flower stalks after blooming, which is the only maintenance required. A 2004 Plant Select® introduction, it is rabbit and deer resistant, prefers full sun and will thrive in dry, well-drained soils. Hardy to 7000 feet.



Flower spikes in August

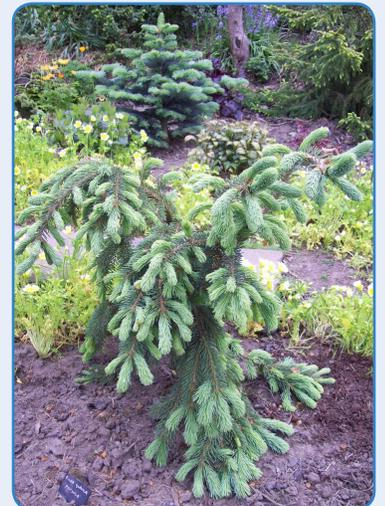
Weeping White Spruce



Mature Form

Evergreens such as pine, spruce and junipers are common here in Colorado, but few are as adaptable to the extremes we experience in both the weather and site conditions as this graceful Weeping White Spruce (*Picea glauca* 'Pendula'). Standard forms of white spruce are native to the mountains of the northern U.S. and Canada, thriving in rugged, cold conditions. This weeping selection, with its narrow silhouette and pendulous branches, is naturally adapted to our heavy snow loads.

Growing to 20 to 30 feet in height, with a spread of only 6 feet, this specimen prefers moderate to dry conditions, full to partial sun and loamy to sandy soils. A 2012 Plant Select® introduction, this elegant spruce grows at a rate of 1 to 2 feet per year once established. Hardy to 9000 feet.



Young plant

Pussytoes



Mature form

Pussytoes (*Antennaria rosea*) is native to much of North America, including most of Canada and the western United States. This outstanding groundcover perennial has woolly grayish-green spoonlike leaves approximately 1" in length. Blooms appear in early summer, and are clustered like the toes of a cat and primarily pink, but it is also available in white and rose.

Plants do self-sow freely and can spread rapidly into surrounding areas; deadhead if you do not want volunteer seedlings next season. Pussytoes prefers a sandy, well-drained soil, but adapts well to poor clay soils. It makes a great plant for in between flagstones in a walkway, or plant in a rock or wildflower garden - anywhere you need a hardy drought tolerant groundcover. Does well up to 10,000 feet elevation.



Flower close up



In bloom

Prairie Winecups



Foliage

Prairie Winecups (*Callirhoe involucrata*), also known as Purple Poppy Mallow, or Buffalo Rose, is a Colorado native perennial that grows in a low mound of trailing stems covered in 5-lobed dark-green leaves. The plant produces a large number of cup shaped wine red colored flowers from late spring through summer.

Because this is a native plant, it is well adapted to our local climate and requires little maintenance. Winecups are ideal at the edge of a flowerbed, hanging from a rock wall or over a bank. It begins to bloom in spring and continues for several months on new growth.

Prairie Winecups grow best in full sun in well-drained sandy or loamy soils and are drought tolerant once established. A 1999 Plant Select® introduction, it has a mature height of 5 - 8" with a spread to 3 feet or more. Hardy to 7500 feet.



Mature plant with Purple Coneflower in background



Flower close up



In bloom

Vanderwolf's Limber Pine



Young tree

Vanderwolf's Limber Pine (*Pinus flexilis* 'Vanderwolf's Pyramid') has striking bluish-green needles blanketing the uniform ascending branches, forming an upright pyramidal tree. This variety is an offspring of a moderately sized forest tree that is native to a large range of the Rocky Mountains, from Wyoming to New Mexico and into parts of California.

It adapts very well to dry conditions in Colorado, both in semidesert and mountain foothill regions where soils are thin and poor. A very graceful single specimen for front yards, it grows slowly to a mature height of 20-25 feet, with a spread of 10-15 feet. Insect and disease resistant, it needs only occasional watering once established. Hardy to 8,500 feet elevation.



Branch



Mature Tree



Fire Spinner® Ice Plant

Fire Spinner® Ice Plant (*Delosperma* 'P001S') is a unique cultivar of Ice Plant that traces its ancestry to the Eastern Cape of South Africa. This 2012 Plant Select® winner was selected for outstanding garden performance throughout the high plains and inter-mountain areas of the Rocky Mountain region.

Stunning tri-colored flowers cover a tight mat of succulent evergreen leaves, forming a carpet of flowers and foliage 2 inches high and 12 to 18 inches in spread. The flowers are most prolific in spring, reappearing throughout the summer. Green-apple foliage persists through the winter. Best in full sun, water regularly during the first growing season to establish a deep, extensive root system. Once established, water deeply and infrequently during summer months. Hardy to 7000 feet.



Close up of foliage



Cheyenne Mockorange

A 2001 Plant Select® winner, Cheyenne Mockorange (*Philadelphus lewisii* 'Cheyenne') is a selection of the western native shrub made from long established plants at the Cheyenne High Plains Horticulture Research Center in Cheyenne, Wyoming. This is the only Mock Orange at the Center that was prospering after decades of neglect! Perhaps that is because this native western strain is suited to growth in our alkaline soils, unlike many of the eastern or developed varieties.

Blooming in early summer, this tough but beautiful shrub has profuse clusters of 1 inch pure white flowers that produce a sweet orange-blossom like fragrance. Arching branches bear bright green finely toothed leaves. Use it where you will get to see and smell it! Plant in full sun and water deeply but infrequently once established. Mature height and spread ranges from 5 to 8 feet. Hardy to 8000 feet.



Flowers and foliage



Washington Hawthorn

Washington Hawthorn (*Crataegus phaenopyrum*) is a native of the United States growing from Virginia to Alabama and west into Missouri. This highly ornamental tree has year round appeal and grows to 20' in height and 15' in spread. It is often multi-trunked, densely branched, and twiggy. It prefers full sun and well-drained soils but will tolerate poor soils, various soil pHs, compacted soils, drought, heat and winter salt spray.

Foliage emerges reddish, but quickly matures to dark green. Older twigs have 1 to 3 inch thorns, which can be a problem depending on the tree's location. Otherwise, the thorns do not detract from the tree's overall value in the landscape. Flowers are white, covering the tree in June and lasting about 2 weeks. Fruit is initially green, turning to orange by late summer and red-orange in the fall. It persists into winter when not eaten by birds. This tree's greatest value is its brilliant orange to red fall leaf color, which is accented by the small showy reddish-orange fruit clusters. Hardy to 7500 feet.



Rock Spirea



Rock Spirea (*Holodiscus dumosus*) is not a spirea at all but a rugged xeric plant that thrives in the toughest environments. The common name of rock spirea came about because the flower sprays are much like those of the *Spiraea* genus. Pyramidal plumes of small creamy white flowers appear on the ends of slender arching branches in early to mid-summer. Seed heads turn pink, then rust colored. The reddish-brown bark adds interest as it peels off, complementing the reddish-orange leaves in fall.



Growing to 4-5 feet in height and width, this native of the western United States and Mexico does well in both full sun and filtered shade. It is usually seen at upper elevations in mixed conifer forests along the roadside with the flowering twigs bending in towards the roadway. Hardy to 10,000 feet elevation.



Blue Oat Grass



More enduring than blue fescues, Blue Oat Grass (*Helictotrichon sempervirens*), also known as Blue Avena Grass, is the best choice for accents. Soft, drooping oat-like seed heads appear above the foliage in early summer, lasting through the winter.



Blue Oat Grass is at home in desert gardens as well as in the traditional perennial border. Plant beside landscape boulders, in rock gardens or at the edges of natural pools. It is particularly beautiful planted in masses and paired with other blue-gray foliage plants like Lavender, May Night Salvia and Stonecrop for a water wise garden. It also contrasts well with the purple leaf foliage of Barberry or Smoke Bush and red or magenta bloomers like Daylily and Geranium. Hardy to 8,500 feet, it grows to 2 to 3 feet in height, with a spread of 2 to 4 feet. Plant in full sun.



Red Yucca



Red Yucca (*Hesperaloe parviflora*) is a clump-forming succulent, rising to between 2 and 3 feet tall, with a spread of 3 to 4 feet. A 2010 Plant Select® introduction, this hardy evergreen shrub has long narrow leaf blades (like rolled grass) with attractive curly threads along the edge of the blade margins. Deep coral pink flowers with golden yellow throats crowd the length of the stalks that reach 4 to 5 feet tall. The flowers, appearing June through fall, are very attractive to hummingbirds.



The fruit is a distinctive ping-pong ball sized capsule with multiple seed-filled chambers. The foliage has a reddish-bronze hue during the winter for year-round interest. Grow in poor to moderately fertile well drained soil in full sun. Red Yucca is virtually maintenance free and perfectly xeric once established. Moderate growth rate, hardy to 6000 feet.



Goldflame Honeysuckle



The perfect quick cover for any vertical structure, Goldflame Honeysuckle (*Lonicera × heckrottii* 'Gold Flame') produces incredibly fragrant, bright bicolored blooms from late spring all the way till frost. Rose-pink tubular buds open in June, exposing very pale tangerine to yellow colored interior surfaces. These are the most lusciously fragrant flowers, like gardenias, and they are irresistible to hummingbirds!



Whether you want to create a formal espaliered vine, blanket an unsightly fence, or cover poor dry soil, this Honeysuckle is the solution. Plant where the perfume can permeate the air and drift your way, preferably in full sun and average soil. Goldflame Honeysuckle is fast growing, up to 15' tall. It can be trimmed back in late fall or early spring - foliage remains green well into winter. Hardy to 6500 feet.



Autumn Amber Sumac



Mature plant

A prostrate form of Three-leaf sumac, Autumn Amber Sumac (*Rhus trilobata* 'Autumn Amber') forms a dense ground cover and has a trailing habit that rarely reaches over 3 feet in height, and often will maintain a running height of only 6 inches! Extending out 5 to 6 feet or more, this shrub covers a lot of ground and is useful for erosion control. It also has excellent alkalinity tolerance, and is hardy in hot, dry, and windy conditions.



Young plant



Fruit

It is native to the western United States, Canada, and Mexico, at elevations from 3000 to 10,000 feet. The aromatic leaves have three lobed, dark green leaflets that change to yellow, orange and red in the fall. In the spring, dense clusters of tiny yellow flowers appear before the new leaves, followed by fleshy orange-red fruit. Plant in full sun to part shade, and provide good drainage.



Fall color

Sunburst St. John's Wort



Mature planting

An excellent upright growing groundcover shrub, Sunburst St. John's Wort (*Hypericum frondosum* 'Sunburst') works great in mass plantings or informal hedges. It forms a small, dense growing deciduous shrub, noted for its showy golden yellow flowers and attractive blue-green foliage.



Flower

This is a more compact version of St. John's Wort, at 2-3 feet tall and wide, and rarely requires pruning. The 2-inch wide bright yellow flowers appear in late June, lasting through summer. Flowers are borne on new wood, and are not threatened by sudden cold temperature snaps in the spring. This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers rich, alkaline soils, and is hardy to -20°F and 6,500' elevation. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations.





Flowers



Form

Cascading Hopflower Oregano

Cascading Hopflower Oregano (*Origanum libanoticum*) is an exceptional sun-loving ornamental herb with fragrant foliage. Pale green and blush colored paper-lantern like bracts dangle from arching wiry stems, each embellished with a tiny rose-pink flower. The flowers turn brown and dry in autumn and are useful as cut flowers or in dried flower arrangements. It looks best when cascading over the edge of raised beds and berms or in window boxes.

A 2004 Plant Select® introduction, this hardy perennial is easily grown in average, well-drained soil. Follow a regular watering schedule during the first growing season to establish a deep, extensive root system. Hopflower Oregano tolerates heat and drought once established. For a neat appearance, shear spent flowers at the end of season. Hardy to 8000 feet.



Form



Flowers

Russian Sage

Tall, airy spike-like clusters create a lavender-blue cloud of color above the finely textured aromatic foliage of Russian Sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*), from mid to late summer. This vigorous, hardy, heat loving and drought tolerant semi-woody perennial resists deer and pests. It is a superb companion for perennials, succulents and ornamental grasses and grows to 3 to 4 feet tall and wide. Use it in dry landscapes with other xeric plants or in gardens filled with natives.

Plant Russian Sage in full sun in medium to dry soil. When pruning, wait until spring when signs of new growth appear and then do not cut any lower than 6 inches. A dwarf version of this plant (*Perovskia atriplicifolia* 'Little Spire') is also available, growing to 2 feet in height and spread. Forgotten for many years at the USDA Cheyenne High Plains Horticulture Research Station, this dwarf version has survived 30 years without any supplemental water! Hardy to 8500 feet.



Russian Sage with Tiger Eye Sumac



Leaves



Flower



Form

Rose Campion

A rose by any other name would have thorns. Rose Campion (*Lychnis coronaria*) is not a rose at all, but a hardy, early summer flowering biennial or short-lived perennial with brilliant, magenta-colored flowers and contrasting thick, fuzzy, gray-green foliage. The plant grows from 2 to 3 feet tall and 1 to 3 feet wide. The small, long-stemmed, rose-pink or purple flowers (June-September) do not usually appear until the second year, last for one day and are replaced by new blooms.

The plant dies in the third year but is replaced by new plants, as it reseeds prolifically. Plant rose campion in full sun and slightly moist to dry soil for the best results. The plant is hardy in zone five through eight and is deer resistant. Popular in English gardens as long ago as 1597, this classic garden plant makes a great cut flower. Hardy to 8000 feet.





Flowers



Seedpods

Clear Creek® Golden Yellowhorn

Clear Creek® Golden Yellowhorn (*Xanthocerus sorbifolium* 'Psgan') is a small tree often grown as a large shrub. The growth habit of this plant is more upright and vase shaped with attractive, ferny leaves. The plant is extremely eye-catching when the beautiful flowers appear in April and May. The fragrant flowers are nearly an inch in diameter and occur in 6 to 10 inch long clusters. They feature five bright white petals with a blotch at the base which changes from yellow to red.

Unique leathery seedpods form in the summer, with edible seeds that taste somewhat like macadamia nuts when roasted. A 2007 Plant Select® introduction, this tree grows to 18 to 22 feet in height, 10 to 15 feet in width and does well in garden loam, clay or sandy soil. It prefers full sun to partial shade and is hardy to 6000 feet.



Leaves



Form

Honeylocust



Imperial Locust

Thornless Honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos inermis*) is a rapid grower that transplants easily. This thornless and seedless tree is commonly available in Colorado in many varieties that vary in size and shape.

Imperial Locust (35' to 40' height and spread), is a smaller growing cultivar that is more compact, rounded and uniform in growth habit than other locusts.



Shademaster Locust

Shademaster Locust (50' height, 35' to 40' spread) is more vase-shaped to oval-rectangular, with an upright branching habit. Older specimens typically have lower branches that are held horizontally.

Skyline Locust (50' height, 35' spread) has a more pyramidal form, with darker green and slightly larger leaves. All Locusts have attractive fern-like foliage consisting of small leaflets and a yellow fall color. They prefer full sun and are deer resistant. Hardy to 7500 feet.



Skyline Locust



Leaves

Mexican Feather Grass



Form

Mexican Feather Grass (*Nassella tenuissima*), also known as Stipa or Silky Thread Grass, is a southwest native with a fine, hair-like form that gives this plant a texture like none other. Early in the summer the fine tufts of grass are bright green, then they fade to a striking harvest gold in the mid summer through the fall and winter.

The way that this grass moves brings a graceful movement to the landscape. The slightest wind will send the delicate flower stalks and thin leaves of this grass into motion. The silky seed heads backlight well and form waves in mass plantings. This grass becomes dormant in hot, dry weather, and tolerates light shade. Hardy to -20 degrees, it often dies over the winter along the Front Range, but it reseeds well. It grows to 2 to 3 feet in height and spread.



Seedheads



In the garden



Lining a pathway

Creeping Oregon Grape Holly

Creeping Oregon Grape Holly (*Mahonia repens*) offers a full four seasons of interest. This low growing and spreading evergreen shrub is native throughout the Rocky Mountains. Bright yellow flowers in spring are followed by blue to black berries in summer and reddish winter foliage. The leaves are thick, glossy and holly shaped.

Creeping Oregon grape holly prefers amended, humusy soil that replicates its native habitat as an understory plant in woodlands, but it will tolerate most soils, including clay. Drought tolerant once established, it will spread to cover an area, but is not invasive. One of the great groundcovers for dry shady areas, it can also take full sunlight when planted in a relatively sheltered location. It grows to 12-18" tall and 24 to 30" wide and is deer resistant. Hardy to 10,000 feet.



Morden Sunrise Rose

Morden Sunrise Rose, (*Rosa* × 'Morden Sunrise'), produces creamy orange buds that open to 3" wavy semi-double orange blossoms with yellow highlights near the base of the petals. Morden Sunrise blooms from June to frost in clusters of 2 to 15, with the intensely fragrant flowers turning to a peach color as they age.

This low growing plant (2' to 3' in height and spread) is useful as a hedge and really makes a statement planted in large masses. A Canadian bred rose, it develops large rose hips which persist all winter, attracting birds and wildlife. This rose is grown on its own root - if the top growth dies back during the winter, the crown will send up new growth in the spring which will be the same plant as the one you purchased. Extremely hardy to 9000 feet.



Globe Japanese Red Pine

Globe Japanese Red Pine, (*Pinus densiflora* 'Globosa'), also known as Compact Tanyosho Pine, is a unique large shrub or small tree that has a very nice dark green color and requires minimal maintenance. It is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen with a more or less rounded to egg shaped form. Globe Japanese Red Pine will grow to be about 8 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 7 feet. It grows at a slow rate (3' to 4' in 10 years), and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 70 years or more.

It prefers full sun and dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil - it will often die in standing water. It is not particular as to soil type, and is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Needles are emerald green and stand up well to both cold and drought. Hardy to 7000 feet.

