



Trees

- Hackberry
- Russian Hawthorn
- Thornless Cockspur Hawthorn
- Thornless Honeylocust

New PPHFH homeowners can choose 1 of the following trees.


All information & photos were taken from the Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) Water Wise Plant website with permission. All plants can be seen at the CSU Conservation & Environmental Center's Xeriscape Demonstration Garden:

2855 Mesa Road
Colorado Springs, CO

(719) 668-8232

Hackberry

Details

- **Water use:** very low 
- **Flower color:** inconspicuous
- **Bloom time:** May
- **Mature height:** 40 to 50 ft.
- **Mature spread:** 40 to 50 ft.
- **Colorado native:** Yes
- **Native habitat:** central and eastern North America
- **Light requirements:** sun
- **Cold hardiness:** USDA zones 3-9
- **Elevation limit:** hardy to 7,000 ft.
- **Botanic name:** *Celtis occidentalis*
- **Pronunciation:** SEL-tis ok-sih-den-TAY-liss

Description

Common hackberry is a medium-sized shade tree. It is commonly planted in urban landscapes because of its drought tolerance and resilience to erratic weather. It doesn't have noticeable flowers or outstanding fall color, but it does have a pleasing vase-shaped crown when mature.

Young trees have an irregular habit and take a while to develop into attractive trees. Fall leaf color is yellow. The light brown to grey bark is corky and ridged. This tree almost always has lumps on its leaves due to hackberry nipple galls, but this causes no damage to the tree.

Common hackberry is a tough, xeric shade tree that works well in the Pikes Peak area.

Performance

These trees are planted in the very low water zone at the Xeriscape Demonstration Garden. They have made good shade trees under low water conditions and have performed very well during drought conditions and water restrictions.


Maintenance

Prune young trees strategically to develop a central leader branch. Prune out any dead or damaged branches. Highly susceptible to hackberry nipple gall on the leaves, but this causes no damage to the tree and does not require insecticide treatments.



Russian Hawthorn

Details

- **Water use:** low to very low 
- **Flower color:** white
- **Bloom time:** late May through early June
Mature height: 15 to 25 ft.
- **Mature spread:** 10 to 15 ft.
- **Colorado native:** No
- **Native habitat:** Russia
- **Light requirements:** sun
- **Cold hardiness:** USDA zones 4-8
- **Elevation limit:** hardy to 9,500 ft.
- **Botanic name:** *Crataegus ambigua*
- **Pronunciation:** krah-TEE-gus am-BIG-yoo-uh

Description

Russian hawthorn is a small, beautiful, drought-tolerant tree with interesting characteristics throughout the year.

In spring, after the small, glossy green leaves emerge, it explodes with numerous clusters of bright white flowers. By August, the flowers mature into vibrant red fruit. As the leaves turn yellow in fall, the fruit ages to a rusty red color.

Its upright branches have a gnarled and irregular branching habit, bearing ¼ to ½ inch long thorns. Russian hawthorn's branching pattern and ridged bark create a pleasing structure in winter.

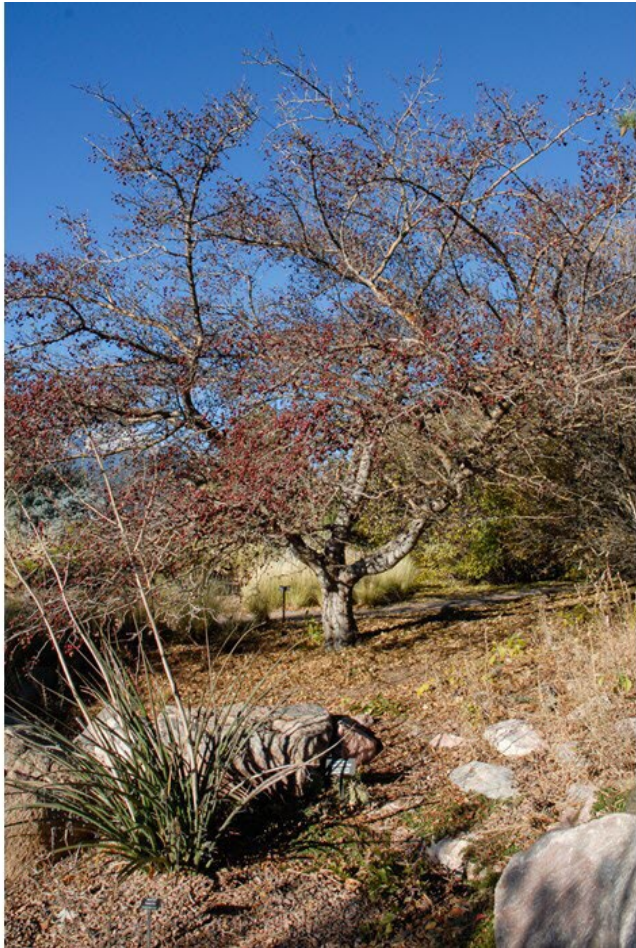
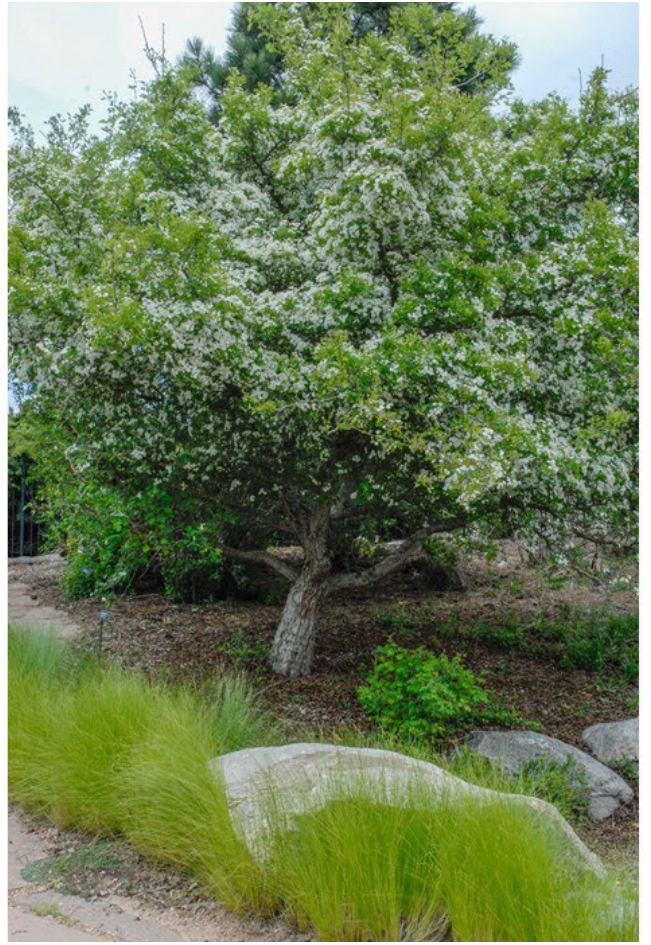
Russian hawthorn is a fantastic small tree for dry areas. Out of all the hawthorns, it has the brightest, glossiest red fruit.

Performance

This tree is growing very well in the very low water zone at the Xeriscape Demonstration Garden. It offers ornamental value throughout the growing season.


Maintenance

Prune when young to achieve desired shape when mature.



Thornless Cockspur Hawthorn

Details

- **Water use:** low 
- **Flower color:** white
- **Bloom time:** spring
- **Mature height:** 15 to 25 ft.
- **Mature spread:** 15 to 20 ft.
- **Colorado native:** No
- **Native habitat:** eastern and midwestern US
- **Light requirements:** sun
- **Cold hardiness:** USDA zones 4-8
- **Elevation limit:** hardy to 8,000 ft.
- **Botanic name:** *Crataegus crus-galli* var. *inermis*
- **Pronunciation:** krah-TEE-gus KRUS GAL-ee

Description

An excellent choice for a small, deciduous tree, thornless cockspur hawthorn is a drought tolerant option with three-season interest.

Its branches grow horizontally. Clusters of white flowers appear in spring, followed by dark red berries. Throughout the growing season, it has rounded, glossy green leaves. In fall, the leaves turn bright yellow to orange.

Performance

Thornless cockspur hawthorn performs well throughout Colorado Springs. There are two planted at the Xeriscape Demonstration Garden that have proven to be trouble-free trees. They are drought-tolerant and resilient to Colorado's changing weather.

Make sure to plant this tree where the branches will have enough space to grow naturally without creating an obstacle. Since it's a small tree, it can be challenging to limb up the branches high enough to allow people to walk underneath it.


Maintenance

Prune when young to create a healthy, well-shaped specimen tree. No other maintenance required.



Thornless Honeylocust

Details

- **Water use:** low 
- **Flower color:** N/A
- **Bloom time:** inconspicuous
- **Mature height:** 35 to 45 ft.
- **Mature spread:** 30 to 40 ft.
- **Colorado native:** Yes
- **Native habitat:** species is native to North America, mainly central US
- **Light requirements:** sun
- **Cold hardiness:** USDA zones 5-8
- **Elevation limit:** hardy to 6,500 ft.
- **Botanic name:** *Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis*
- **Pronunciation:** gleh-DIT-see-uh try-a-KAN-thos

Description

Honeylocusts are medium-size shade trees with small leaflets. Because their leaves are small, they cast a light, dappled shade in summer. Most cultivars available at nurseries are thornless and seedless. The fall leaf color is yellow before the leaflets drop and blow away.

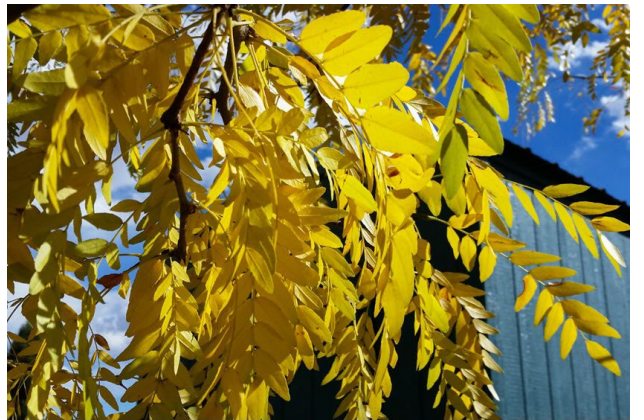
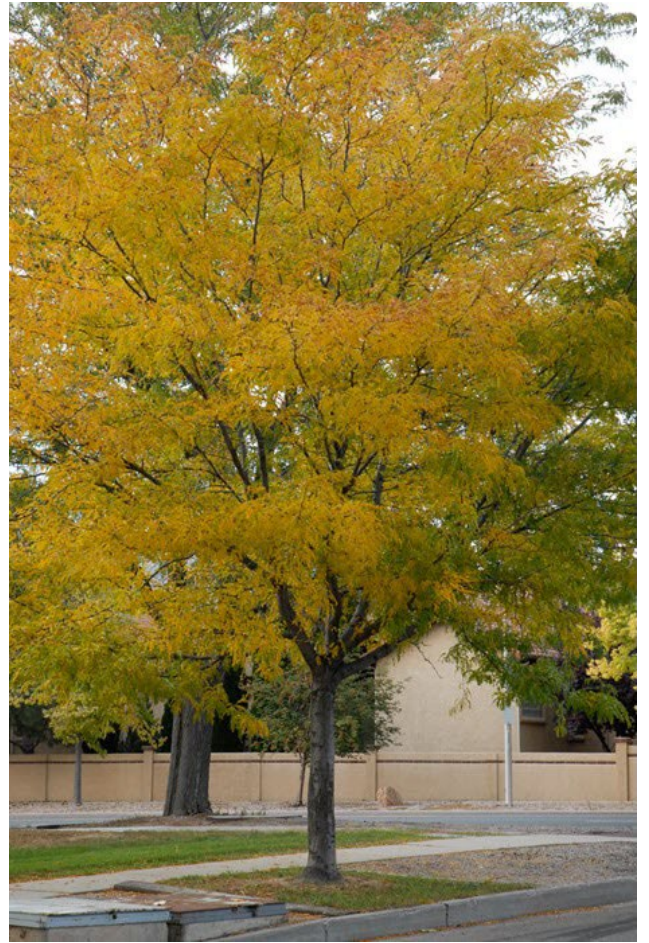
Honeylocusts are generally very easy to grow and drought tolerant, making them a great choice for the Colorado Springs area.

Performance

There are several nice thornless honeylocust growing at the Xeriscape Garden. Honeylocusts can be susceptible to several insect and disease problems, but they have not been problematic at the Xeriscape Garden. It is a good tree to consider where light shade, low maintenance, and low water are important.

Maintenance

Prune when young to develop a structurally strong tree when mature.





Pikes Peak
Habitat
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Shrubs & Flowers

Shrubs

- Leadplant
- Panchito Manzanita
- Baby Blue Rabbitbrush

Flowers

- Moonshine Yarrow
- Sunset Hyssop
- Table Mountain Iceplant
- Common Gaillardia
- Maximilian Sunflower
- Red Hesperaloe
- Dotted Blazing Star
- Colorado Four O'clock
- Little Trudy Catmint
- Rocky Mountain Penstemon
- May Night Sage
- Partridge Feather

New PPHFH homeowners can choose any combination of 12 of the following shrubs & flowers.


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2855 Mesa Road
Colorado Springs, CO

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Leadplant

Details

- **Water use:** low to very low 
- **Flower color:** purple with orange centers
- **Bloom time:** mid to late summer
- **Mature height:** 2 to 4 ft.
- **Mature spread:** 3 to 4 ft.
- **Colorado native:** Yes
- **Native habitat:** central North America
- **Light requirements:** sun
- **Cold hardiness:** USDA zones 2-8
- **Elevation limit:** hardy to 8,000 ft.
- **Botanic name:** *Amorpha canescens*
- **Pronunciation:** a-MOR-fa kan-ESS-kens

Description

Leadplant is an excellent small shrub for low water areas. It grows naturally on the high plains of the easternmost counties of Colorado, so it is very tolerant of extreme weather conditions.

Slightly arching stems create an open rounded shrub with soft, gray-green, finely cut, fern-like leaves.

The flowers are fragrant and similar in shape to those of butterfly bush. The flowers are very showy at peak bloom, with a unique flower color combination of purple and orange. Prospers under hot, dry conditions.

Performance

Leadplant has grown very well in the low water zones at the Xeriscape Garden. When in bloom, the flowers are quite eye-catching. The leaves have a graceful appearance.

Site around other plants with winter interest since leadplant has thin, dull grey stems in winter.


Maintenance

Remove last year's spent flower stalks after the shrub has leafed out in spring. Remove any dead branches at that time.



Panchito Manzanita

Details

- **Water use:** low, very low 
- **Flower color:** pink
- **Bloom time:** very early spring
Mature height: 10 to 15 in.
- **Mature spread:** 24 to 36 in.
- **Colorado native:** Yes
- **Native habitat:** Uncompaghre Plateau in western Colorado
- **Light requirements:** sun, part shade
- **Cold hardiness:** USDA zones 4-8
- **Elevation limit:** hardy to 7,000 ft.
- **Botanic name:** *Arctostaphylos x coloradoensis* 'Panchito'
- **Pronunciation:** ark-toh-STAF-ih-los kol-oh-rad-oh-EN-sis

Description

This low growing, evergreen shrub is grown for the cover provided by its leathery green leaves. It produces tiny pink urn-shaped flowers in early spring.

A natural hybrid of kinnikinnik and greenleaf manzanita, Panchito manzanita is one of the few broadleaf evergreens that can tolerate Colorado Springs' dry winters and periodic droughts. It can be grown as a groundcover or planted close to the edge of a wall or boulder.

Moderate watering is needed until the plant is established (2 years). After establishment, Panchito manzanita requires little supplemental watering. The initial growth rate is slow, spreading 3 feet in 5 years.

Performance

Panchito manzanita has been one of the best-performing manzanitas at the Xeriscape Garden. Its vibrant green leaves provide an attractive background for other plants.

It also is beautiful in winter, providing a spot of green when most plants are brown. It has grown well in part-shade and full sun locations, plus very low to moderate water zones. Panchito manzanita is highly admired by many visitors.


Maintenance

No maintenance is needed. Grows slowly initially, so it will require a few years before it fills in.



Baby Blue Rabbitbrush

Details

- **Water use:** very low 
- **Flower color:** golden yellow
- **Bloom time:** September to October
- **Mature height:** 1-3 feet
- **Mature spread:** 2 to 3 feet
- **Colorado native:** Yes
- **Native habitat:** Western US
- **Light requirements:** sun to light shade
- **Cold hardiness:** USDA zones 4-9
- **Elevation limit:** 7,500 feet
- **Botanic name:** *Ericameria nauseosus* var. *nauseosus*
- **Pronunciation:** AIR-ic-uh-MAIR-ee-uh NOS-ee-oh-sus

Description

Baby blue rabbitbrush is a small, mounding, sliver-leaved shrub. It's rounded shape gives it a very neat and tidy appearance. Growing only one to three feet tall, it fits well into most plant beds. This dwarf form of rabbitbrush is native to the western US and supports many insects and pollinators.

In September, each stem grows a cluster of golden yellow flowers that together, cover the entire plant. It's bright gold appearance can be the highlight of a fall landscape.

Baby blue rabbitbrush is very water-wise once established. Requiring only occasional watering, it is a great option for hot, dry areas where you want to minimize landscape maintenance.

Performance

Baby blue rabbitbrush has been a very reliable plant at the Demonstration Garden. We highly recommend it due to its low water requirements, tidy appearance and low maintenance needs.


Maintenance

Prune or shear off last year's seedheads and outer third of branches in late winter. This will create a tidy, bun-like mounding shape as the shrub leafs out in spring.



Moonshine Yarrow

Details

- **Water use:** low 
- **Flower color:** lemon yellow
- **Bloom time:** early summer to early autumn
- **Mature height:** 24 to 30 in.
- **Mature spread:** 18 to 24 in.
- **Colorado native:** No
- **Native habitat:** Caucasus
- **Light requirements:** sun
- **Cold hardiness:** USDA zones 3-9
- **Elevation limit:** hardy to 9,000 ft.
- **Botanic name:** Achillea 'Moonshine'
- **Pronunciation:** uh-KILL-ee-a

Description

Moonshine yarrow is a tough, dependable, and beautiful perennial flower.

In mid summer, flat-topped clusters of lemon yellow flowers rise above the feathery, grey-green leaves. Besides being very easy to care for, it is a great plant to use in perennial borders because of its adaptability to varied soil and water conditions.

It can tolerate low water conditions quite well.

Performance

Moonshine yarrow performs beautifully at the Xeriscape Garden and throughout Colorado Springs. One of the most reliable, easy-care perennial flowers on the market.

Maintenance


Moonshine yarrow tends to bloom twice during the growing season when irrigated regularly, but only once in very low water areas.

If irrigated, remove the spent flower clusters as they fade to promote the second set of blooms. If it doesn't receive any supplemental water, leave the seed heads on the plant for winter interest and cut back the entire plant in early spring.



Sunset Hyssop

Details

- **Water use:** low, very low 
- **Flower color:** orange with hints of purple
- **Bloom time:** summer to fall
- **Mature height:** 2 to 3 ft.
- **Mature spread:** 2 to 3 ft.
- **Colorado native:** No
- **Native habitat:** high deserts of Arizona, New Mexico
- **Light requirements:** sun
- **Cold hardiness:** USDA zones 4b - 10
- **Elevation limit:** hardy to 7,000 ft.
- **Botanic name:** *Agastache rupestris*
- **Pronunciation:** ah-guh-STAH-kee rue-PES-tris

Description

Sunset hyssop is an upright, clump-forming, flowering perennial with spikes of soft orange and purple flowers.

The narrow gray-green leaves emit a fragrance like root beer. It is very attractive to hummingbirds and hawk moths.

It is one of the best perennial flowers to add color to a xeriscape. We highly recommend this plant.

Performance

Sunset hyssop is the most reliable of the hyssops planted at the Xeriscape Garden. It grows best in full sun and can tolerate low and very low water conditions.

We highly recommend this plant because it is easy to care for and adds so many wonderful features to landscapes.


Maintenance

Prune dead stems to ground level after the new leaves have emerged at the base of the plant in spring. Cutting back in spring (rather than fall) improves the winter survival.



Table Mountain Iceplant

Details

- **Water use:** low 
- **Flower color:** fuchsia
- **Bloom time:** early summer to fall
- **Mature height:** 2 to 4 in.
- **Mature spread:** 12 to 18 in.
- **Colorado native:** No
- **Native habitat:** parent plants are native to South Africa
- **Light requirements:** sun
- **Cold hardiness:** USDA zones 4-9
- **Elevation limit:** hardy to 7,000 ft.
- **Botanic name:** *Delosperma 'John Proffitt'*
- **Pronunciation:** del-oh-SPUR-muh

Description

Table Mountain iceplant is an excellent choice for a low-growing, drought tolerant groundcover. It is very resilient, and the flowers are incredible. The shimmering bright purple blooms put on the best show in May, but periodically reappear throughout the summer.

Table Mountain iceplant grows as a mat-forming succulent with dark green leaves. The leaves, often tinged with purple, remain through winter.

Performance

Table Mountain iceplant is growing in several locations at the Xeriscape Garden. It is a vigorous, showy, low maintenance groundcover. It is one of the most impressive low water groundcovers available.


Maintenance

No maintenance is required, except raking debris off the plant as needed. Be sure to plant this in an area with excellent drainage and pea gravel mulch. Some iceplants perform poorly in wood or bark mulch.



Common Gaillardia

Details

- **Water use:** very low 
- **Flower color:** yellow with red centers
- **Bloom time:** mid-summer
- **Mature height:** 18 to 24 in.
- **Mature spread:** 18 to 24 in.
- **Colorado native:** Yes
- **Native habitat:** western United States and Canada
- **Light requirements:** sun
- **Cold hardiness:** USDA zones 3-8
- **Elevation limit:** hardy to 8,500 ft.
- **Other common names:** Native Blanket Flower
- **Botanic name:** *Gaillardia aristata*
- **Pronunciation:** gah-LAR-dee-uh a-ris-TAH-tuh

Description

Native blanket flower is an ornamental wildflower that naturally grows in prairies and opening in ponderosa pine forests. It has light green, fuzzy leaves.

The flowers are daisy-like and produced on sturdy stalks above the foliage. They have reddish brown centers and yellow or yellow/red bicolor petals. The seedheads turn red, white, and finally brown.

This is a nice native wildflower for a naturalistic landscape or to mix with native grasses.

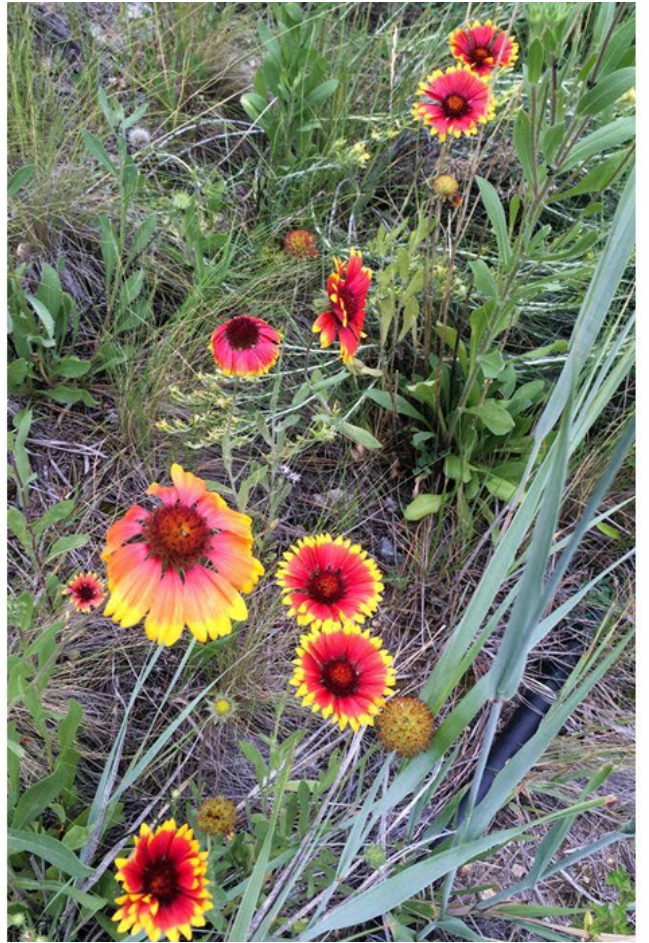
Performance

At the Xeriscape Demonstration Garden, common gaillardia's flowers are very attractive when in bloom in July. The seedheads are showy for a brief period.

Since the individual plants are short-lived and the leaves are small, native blanket flower is best suited to naturalistic gardens or prairies rather than traditional landscapes. Some of the improved cultivars are more appropriate for traditional gardens.


Maintenance

Remove old stems and leaves in late fall or early spring before new growth starts. Deadhead as desired to encourage rebloom, which is usually done after the seedhead loses its attractiveness as the seeds disperse.



Maximilian Sunflower

Details

- **Water use:** very low 
- **Flower color:** yellow
- **Bloom time:** September
- **Mature height:** 6 to 10 ft.
- **Mature spread:** 4 to 6 ft.
- **Colorado native:** Yes
- **Native habitat:** North America
- **Light requirements:** sun
- **Cold hardiness:** USDA zones 5-9
- **Elevation limit:** hardy to 6,500 ft.
- **Other common names:** New Mexico Sunflower, Prairie Sunflower
- **Botanic name:** Helianthus maximiliani
- **Pronunciation:** hee-lee-AN-thus maks-ih-mill-ee-ANE-ee-eye

Description

Maximilian sunflower is a tall, native perennial of the sunflower family. It has lance-shaped, green leaves that grow on upright stems.

In September, each stem produces a spike of golden yellow sunflowers that bloom up the stalk. It adds a brilliant, impressive splash of color late in the growing season.

This is a good plant for hot spots and can tolerate dry conditions once established.

Performance

There is one Maximilian sunflower growing at the Xeriscape Garden and another at the Cottonwood Creek Garden. They are both large plants that bloom just before the first fall frost.

The flowers are quite attractive. It is a good plant for warm microclimates that offers color from late summer to early fall.

The brown stems can appear a little messy over the winter, so we cut them back once they're not attractive anymore.

Maintenance


Cut old stems to ground level in late winter before new growth starts.

If irrigated, remove the spent flower clusters as they fade to promote the second set of blooms. If it doesn't receive any supplemental water, leave the seed heads on the plant for winter interest and cut back the entire plant in early spring.



Red Hesperaloe

Details

- **Water use:** very low 
- **Flower color:** red
- **Bloom time:** June through autumn
- **Mature height:** 3 to 4 ft.
- **Mature spread:** 3 to 4 ft.
- **Colorado native:** No
- **Native habitat:** Texas and Mexico
- **Light requirements:** sun
- **Cold hardiness:** USDA zones 5-10
- **Elevation limit:** hardy to 5,800 ft.
- **Other common names:** Red Yucca
- **Botanic name:** Hesperaloe parviflora
- **Pronunciation:** hes-per-AL-oh par-vi-FLOR-uh

Description

Red hesperaloe is a succulent plant native to Texas and Mexico. It has stiff, grass-like evergreen leaves that arch around the tall spikes of cherry red tubular flowers. The edges of the tough deep green leaves are decorated with long curly threads.

The spikes of red flowers last for weeks and are followed by large pods of seeds that persist into winter.

Red hesperaloe does best in dry conditions with very occasional deep waterings. It is almost maintenance-free once established.

Performance

The red hesperaloe plants took several years to establish at the Xeriscape Garden. Now, they are very attractive and bloom for a long time. Deer like to eat the flowers sometimes.

Maintenance


Red hesperaloe does best in dry conditions with very occasional deep waterings. It is almost maintenance-free once established.

The flower stalks should be trimmed down to the leaves after blooming or in late winter, if desired.



Dotted Blazing Star

Details

- **Water use:** low 
- **Flower color:** purple
- **Bloom time:** August through September
- **Mature height:** 12 to 18 in.
- **Mature spread:** 6 to 12 in.
- **Colorado native:** Yes
- **Native habitat:** Great Plains of United States
- **Light requirements:** sun
- **Cold hardiness:** USDA zones 3-8
- **Elevation limit:** hardy to 8,500 ft.
- **Botanic name:** *Liatris punctata*
- **Pronunciation:** ly-AT-riss punk-TAH-tah

Description

Dotted blazing star is a native plant that grows naturally on the Great Plains. It is an upright plant with one to several stems that arise from a central crown.

In late summer, dense purple flower spikes adorn the plant. The flower clusters bloom over a period of time, starting at the top and progressing downward.

Dotted blazing star gets its name from the light-colored glandular dots that occur on the narrow, dark green leaves. Because it's adapted to the central prairies, it can grow well in landscapes with dry, sandy soils. It can also blend well with native grasses in a prairie-style landscape.

Performance

At the Xeriscape Demonstration Garden, this species is located in a very dry location. The flowers are very attractive and draw attention with their unusual color and shape. They reseed themselves, but not enough to be noted as a nuisance.


Maintenance

Remove spikes of spent flowers after bloom.



Colorado Four O'clock

Details

- **Water use:** very low 
- **Flower color:** purple-pink
- **Bloom time:** July through August
- **Mature height:** 12 to 18 in.
- **Mature spread:** 4 to 6 ft.
- **Colorado native:** Yes
- **Native habitat:** southern Utah, Colorado to Texas, northern Arizona
- **Light requirements:** sun
- **Cold hardiness:** USDA zones 4-8
- **Elevation limit:** hardy to 8,000 ft.
- **Botanic name:** *Mirabilis multiflora*
- **Pronunciation:** mih-RAB-ih-liss mul-tih-FLOR-uh

Description

Colorado four o'clock is a native perennial flower that is naturally found in dry, stony desert areas.

It produces a profusion of deep rose-pink trumpet-shaped flowers for several months, which are only open from dusk to dawn-- or on very cloudy days. This plant has an enormous taproot, which allows it to grow in unwatered areas once it is established.

Colorado four o'clock grows as a mounded plant with fleshy leaves. The leaves emerge in spring with a purple color, then turn green once they fully expand.

Performance

Colorado four o'clock has grown with variable results at the Xeriscape Demonstration Garden. Some plants have grown very well, producing large mounds of leaves and lots of flowers. Other plants have suffered from insect damage. A piercing-sucking insect feeds on the leaves until they brown and shrivel. It is worth planting in a sunny, dry location. When not damaged by insects, it is a spectacular plant that supports native pollinators and hummingbirds.

This plant spreads 4 to 6 feet wide when mature, so plant it in a spot where its width won't be problematic.

Maintenance

The current year's growth is killed by the first frost. All the stems and leaves turn brown and should be removed.



Little Trudy Catmint

Details

- **Water use:** low, very low 
- **Flower color:** lavender
- **Bloom time:** April to October
- **Mature height:** 8 to 10 in.
- **Mature spread:** 12 to 16 in.
- **Colorado native:** No
- **Native habitat:** native to Europe, Asia and north Africa
- **Light requirements:** sun , part shade
- **Cold hardiness:** USDA zones 4-9
- **Elevation limit:** hardy to 8,500 ft.
- **Other common names:** Little Trudy Catnip
- **Botanic name:** Nepeta 'Psfike'
- **Pronunciation:** NEP-eh-tuh

Description

Little Trudy catmint is a short perennial flower. It is the most compact of the catmints available, which makes it ideal for the front of the garden beds.

The silvery serrated foliage has a pleasant aroma, and the spikes of tubular lavender flowers are long-lasting. The flowers will be more abundant if grown in full sun. Bees are attracted to the flowers.

Performance

Little Trudy catmint has been an excellent perennial flower at the Xeriscape Demonstration Garden. It blooms for an extended period, is resistant to deer and rabbits, and doesn't spread by seed. If you're looking for a small catmint, or even a low-maintenance, drought-tolerant flower, Little Trudy is a great choice.


Maintenance

In early spring, cut the old growth to ground level. Cut back the spent flower stalks to encourage a second flush of flowers.



Rocky Mountain Penstemon

Details

- **Water use:** very low 
- **Flower color:** purple
- **Bloom time:** May to June
- **Mature height:** 18 to 24 in.
- **Mature spread:** 12 to 18 in.
- **Colorado native:** Yes
- **Native habitat:** southwestern United States
- **Light requirements:** sun to part shade
- **Cold hardiness:** USDA zones 4-9
- **Elevation limit:** hardy to 8,000 ft.
- **Botanic name:** Penstemon strictus
- **Pronunciation:** PEN-stem-on STRIK-tus

Description

Rocky Mountain penstemon is a native perennial flower. It has an upright form and broad, dark green leaves that lay very close to the ground.

The sturdy funnel-shaped flowers of royal blue-purple are borne on one side of a spike. The beautiful flowers may last up to a month.

One of the easiest wildflowers to grow, this native plant is a good addition to low water gardens in the Pikes Peak area. It tolerates many different types of soil and is a vigorous, easy-care plant.

Performance

At the Xeriscape Demonstration Garden, this penstemon has spread to several different gardens. At full bloom, the flowers are quite beautiful and are a favorite of garden visitors.

This plant will spread easily by seed. Once the flowers are finished blooming, it's important to cut off the flower stalks to keep them from spreading too much.

Maintenance

Cut flower stalks down to the mat of leaves after flowering to keep the plant attractive and to minimize reseeding.



May Night Sage

Details

- **Water use:** low 
- **Flower color:** purple
- **Bloom time:** June through August
- **Mature height:** 18 to 24 in.
- **Mature spread:** 18 to 24 in.
- **Colorado native:** No
- **Native habitat:** species is native to Europe
- **Light requirements:** sun
- **Cold hardiness:** USDA zones 4-8
- **Elevation limit:** hardy to 8,500 ft.
- **Other common names:** May Night
- **Botanic name:** *Salvia x sylvestris*
- **Pronunciation:** SAL-vee-uh sil-VESS-tris

Description

May night sage is one of the most commonly used perennial flowers in the Colorado Springs area. It is best known for its upright spikes of deep blue-purple flowers in May. It is a clump-forming plant with fragrant, leathery green leaves.

May night sage is heat and drought tolerant. Because it can withstand a variety of conditions, it is an easy-to-grow choice that adds beautiful color to Colorado Springs landscapes.

Performance

May night sage has been an attractive plant at the Xeriscape Garden. Its bright blue flowers, drought tolerance and easy-to-grow nature make it a great landscape plant.


Maintenance

Remove spent flowers stalks to encourage a new flush of blooms. If the stems and leaves have become unattractive after flowering, they can be cut just above the newly forming leaves in mid-summer to rejuvenate its appearance. Cut the old stems and leaves to ground level in early spring.



Partridge Feather

Details

- **Water use:** very low 
- **Flower color:** yellow
- **Bloom time:** June
- **Mature height:** 4 to 6 in.
- **Mature spread:** 18 to 24 in.
- **Colorado native:** No
- **Native habitat:** Southeastern Turkey
- **Light requirements:** sun, part shade
- **Cold hardiness:** USDA zones 3-9
- **Elevation limit:** hardy to 8,500 ft.
- **Botanic name:** *Tanacetum densum* ssp. *amani*
- **Pronunciation:** tan-uh-SEE-tum DEN-sum ah-MON-ee

Description

Partridge feather is a groundcover grown for its feathery silver leaves. The leaves grow as a low mat that spreads slowly over the years.

It is very heat-tolerant and able to withstand dry conditions, making it a great choice for a xeric landscape.

In June, it grows yellow button-like flowers that rise above the leaves. It does not grow well with soggy soil or regular watering from overhead sprinklers.

Performance

Partridge feather has impressed our staff with its heat and drought tolerance. It seems to grow best either with drip irrigation or in unwatered locations. Over time it grows into a moderate-sized mat.

With regular overhead watering, it often develops a fungus on the leaves. Due to the weather, it grows better some years than others, so expect some shrinking of its size periodically. We highly recommend it.

Maintenance

Clean up this plant in spring by raking out the old leaves. It is not necessary to cut back in late winter because new leaves will eventually cover last year's growth, but dead sections can be removed as needed.

