

XERISCAPE PLANTS

Perennials

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Perennials

Paprika Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium* 'Paprika')

- Luscious apple-red and paprika colored flowers with sulphur yellow centers appear June – September.
- Finely textured, gray-green foliage creates a soft background for the tall flat flower heads.
- A proven performer in hot, dry situations with poor soil. Flower heads can be dried.
- Plants grown in rich soil tend to be tall and floppy. It thrives in average to poor soil that is well-drained.
- Mature height 24 to 36", spread 12 to 24". Zone 3
- Full sun; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 9,500 ft.



Hyssop/Agastache (*Agastache* spp.)

- Also known as Hummingbird Mint, this plant is essential to a pollinator friendly garden.
- This showy, fragrant group of plants prefers well drained soils with low fertility, and deep infrequent watering.
- 'Blue Fortune' – violet blue flowers, licorice scented. 'Sonoran Sunset' – dark pink flowers, bubble gum scented.
- 'Coronado Red' – Crimson red flowers darken as they mature. 'Sunset' – bronze-orange-purple flowers.
- Mature height and spread 15" to 36", depending on variety. Zone 4
- Full sun; deer resistant. All varieties tend to bloom July – October. Max. Elev. 8,000 ft.



Pussytoes (*Antennaria dioica*)

- Soft, gray foliage is one of the best ornamental features of this spreading ground cover.
- A low mat of woolly, silver-gray evergreen leaves produces short stalks with compact clusters of furry flowers.
- Blooms occur in early summer. The flowers resemble the toes of a cat.
- Male flowers are white and females are pinkish. This plant sends out runners just like strawberries.
- Mature height 2 to 3", spread 18 to 24". Zone 3
- Full sun; deer resistant. 'Rubra' is a true pink flowering cultivar. Max. Elev. 10,000 ft.



Seafoam Artemisia (*Artemisia versicolor* 'Seafoam')

- A 2004 Plant Select® introduction, this vigorous groundcover is grown for its curlicue silver foliage.
- Plant it in hot, sunny areas under taller plants like Russian Sage or Moonshine Yarrow.



- Remove flower spikes to maintain the compact shape – the leaves are the main attraction.
- Prefers well-drained, low fertility soils. Requires no supplemental irrigation once established.
- Mature height 8 to 12", spread 18 to 24". Zone 4
- Full sun; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 7,500 ft.

Basket of Gold (*Aurinia saxatilis*)

- Iridescent lemon-yellow flowers cover the grayish-green leaves from April through May.
- After bloom, clip back plants by 1/3 to keep a dense form and ensure abundant blooms each season.
- The foliage is evergreen, and provides great winter interest.
- Does best in well-drained soil that is kept on the dry side. Plants grown in rich moist soil tend to rot.
- Mature height 12" spread 24 to 36". Zone 4
- Full sun; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 9,500 ft.



Chocolate Flower (*Berlandiera lyrata*)

- A 2004 Plant Select® introduction, this southwestern wildflower blooms from spring to frost.
- The daisy-like flowers have striking red striped undersides.
- A night bloomer, the flowers offer up their rich cocoa scent in the morning.
- Flowers close or drop as daytime temperatures rise and the fragrance recedes.
- Full sun; deer resistant. The plant dies back to the ground in the winter; freely reseeds itself. Max. Elev. 7,000 ft.
- Mature height 12 to 18", spread 18 to 24". Zone 4



Snow-in-Summer (*Cerastium tomentosum*)

- An indestructible choice for difficult sites, it is often grown in dry, sunny areas with poor soils.
- Plants form a low, fast-spreading mat of silvery-gray leaves.
- Small snow-white flowers appear and cover the entire plant from late spring to early summer.
- Plants should be clipped hard or mowed to 2 inches after blooming to maintain a tight growth habit.
- Mature height 4 to 8", spread 24 to 36". Zone 2
- Full sun; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 10,000 ft.+



Coreopsis (*Coreopsis grandiflora*, *Coreopsis verticillata*)

- Coreopsis are native American prairie and woodland plants.
- Their ruggedness and profuse blooms have made them popular with plant breeders, with over 100 types available.
- Most are clump forming, holding their daisy-like flowers on tall stems above the foliage.
- *C. grandiflora* – bright yellow flowers on tall stems bloom all summer. *C. verticillata* – fine thread-like leaves.
- Mature height 12 to 24" spread 18 to 20". Zone 4
- Full sun; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 8,000 ft.



Iceplant (*Delosperma* spp.)



- Ice Plants are an indispensable component of drought tolerant landscapes.
- *Delosperma* is a genus of @ 100 species of succulent plants, common to southern and eastern Africa.
- Bloom times vary from May – July to spring to frost, depending on the species.
- Flowers are daisy-like. The genus gets its name because the flowers and leaves seem to shimmer as if covered in ice.
- Mature height 2 to 4", spread 12 to 24". Zone 5
- Full sun; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 7,000 ft.

Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)



- Showy, daisy-like purple flowers (up to 5" diameter) bloom throughout the summer on top of stiff stems.
- Plants usually rebloom without deadheading, but prompt removal of spent flowers improves appearance.
- Seed heads are attractive to birds in the winter. Coneflower freely self-seeds if seed heads are left in place.
- An adaptable plant that is tolerant of drought, heat, humidity and poor soil. Divide clumps every 4 years to maintain vigor.
- Mature height 30 to 36", spread 18 to 24". Zone 3
- Full sun; deer resistant. Many cultivars are available. Max. Elev. 7,000 ft.

Globe Thistle (*Echinops ritro*)



- Echinops are not thistles, despite their common name. Showy silvery-green foliage has a wooly appearance.
- Beginning in early summer, metallic blue spheres measuring 1 ½" across appear on tall branched stems.
- Flower heads continue through fall and are very attractive to bees and other pollinators.
- Prefers poor, well-drained soil, but will tolerate a wide range of soils. Deadhead to prevent self-sowing.
- Mature height 2 to 3', spread 3 to 4'. Zone 3
- Full sun; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 7,500 ft.

Hummingbird Trumpet (*Epilobium canum* ssp. *garrettii* 'PWWG01S' Orange Carpet®)



- A 2001 Plant Select® introduction, this vigorous groundcover is perfect for slopes or cascading over walls.
- Bright orange, trumpet-shaped flowers bloom from July through October.
- Regular watering during bloom keeps the flowers coming. Very attractive to hummingbirds!
- Forms a loose mat of low growing bright green foliage when not in bloom. Prefers some afternoon sun.
- Mature height 4 to 6", spread 18 to 24". Zone 5
- Full sun to partial shade; deer resistant. Prefers compost enriched soil with good drainage. Max. Elev. 9,000 ft.

Blanket Flower (*Gaillardia* spp.)



- A member of the sunflower family, Blanket Flower is widespread across most of North America.
- Daisy-like flowers are produced from early summer to fall in shades of red, orange, yellow and peach.
- The petals of some varieties are frilled, while others have a unique, tubular shape.
- Prefers a loose, sandy well-drained, low fertility soil. Deadhead to keep them blooming.
- Mature height and spread 12 to 24". Zone 3
- Full sun; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 8,500 ft.

English Lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*)



- *Lavandula angustifolia* is the most widely cultivated species of lavender, of which there are 39 known species.
- Despite its name, this variety is not native to England. Blooms July-August.
- A fragrant addition to the garden, this shrubby perennial can also be pruned into an informal hedge or used as edging.
- Deadheading after first bloom can encourage rebloom. Avoid pruning after late summer. Cut to 6" tall every 2-3 years.
- Mature height and spread 4'. Zone 4
- Full sun; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 9,000 ft.

Rose Campion (*Lychnis coronaria*)



- This is not a rose at all, but a hardy summer blooming biennial or short-lived perennial.
- The small, long-stemmed, rose-pink to purple flowers do not usually appear until the second year.
- Blooms June-September; blooms last one day and are replaced by new ones. This plant will self-seed for many years.
- Popular in English gardens as long ago as 1597, this classic garden plant makes a great cut flower.
- Mature height 2 to 3', spread 1 to 3'. Zone 5
- Full sun; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 8,000 ft.

Silverheels Horehound (*Marrubium rotundifolium*)



- An extremely versatile and low maintenance ground cover, this plant is native to the low mountains of Turkey.
- Medium green foliage is edged in silver. Undersides of the leaves are white to silver.
- A 2009 Plant Select® introduction, this member of the mint family adds interest in hard-to-grow areas.
- Flowers are not much to speak of, and should be sheared off to keep the mat looking its best.
- Mature height 2 to 4", spread 24 to 30". Zone 4
- Full sun; deer resistant; avoid poorly drained soils and frequent irrigation. Max. Elev. 10,000 ft.

Catmint (*Nepeta* spp.)



- This easy-to-grow perennial thrives in harsh landscapes. Many varieties available.
- Hardy and long lived, *Nepeta* prefers average, well-drained soils. Blooms late April through September.
- To promote continued blooms, shear flower spikes after initial flowering.
- Great plant or a pollinator garden. Gray-green foliage is attractive throughout the growing season.
- Mature height 10" to 48", spread 12" to 36". Zone 4
- Full sun to partial shade; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 8,500 ft.

Penstemon (*Penstemon* spp.)



- With hundreds of Penstemon species to choose from, finding beautiful native plants is easy.
- From dwarf groundcovers to tall shrub-like plants, Penstemons are a very diverse genus.
- These plants generally have tall loose spikes of small flowers above small or thin leaves.
- Bloom periods range from May-June to all spring and summer long. They love hot, sunny, dry growing conditions.
- Mature height 6 to 30", spread 12" to 24". Zone 3
- Full sun; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 7,500 to 11,000 ft.

Creeping Phlox (*Phlox subulata*)



- Also known as Moss Phlox, this dense evergreen groundcover is blanketed flowers in April and May.
- Flower colors range from hot pink, bright rose and magenta, to white, lavender blue and bicolors.
- Evergreen foliage is narrow, short and stiff. Reliable and low maintenance, it adapts well to dry, sandy soils.
- Shearing back the foliage after bloom will encourage a denser look, making it more attractive in the summer.
- Mature height 4 to 6", spread 12 to 24". Zone 3
- Full sun; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 7,500 ft.

Prairie Coneflower (*Ratibida columnifera*)



- Also known as Mexican Hat or Thimble flower, this plant is native to most of North America.
- The mature seed head has a pleasant odor when crushed that is similar to anise or licorice.
- Wide oval petals can be all yellow, all red, or red edged with yellow.
- Attracts bees and butterflies with its flowers and birds with its seed. Unfussy about soil type.
- Mature height and spread 18 to 24". Zone 3
- Full sun, deer resistant. Max. Elev. 8,000 ft.

Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *sullivantii* 'Goldsturm')

- Perennial of the Year for 1999, this coneflower cultivar features large, daisy-like flowers (3 to 4" across).
- Deep yellow flowers with a dark brownish-black center appear singly on stiff branching stems July – October.
- Tolerates light shade, but does best in full sun. Deadhead to keep neat and prolong bloom.
- Easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soil. Divide when clumps become overcrowded.
- Mature height 30 to 36", spread 16 to 24". Zone 3
- Full sun; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 9,000 ft.



May Night Salvia (*Salvia sylvestris* × 'Mainacht')

- Perennial of the year for 1997, this clump forming compact *Salvia* produces dense, upright flower spikes May-June.
- Deep violet-blue flowers rise above gray-green foliage to a height of up to 2 feet.
- Bloom period can be extended all summer long with regular deadheading.
- This member of the mint family is very effective in combination with yellow flowering plants such as yarrow and *Rudbeckia*.
- Mature height 18 to 24", spread 12 to 18". Zone 4
- Full sun; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 8,500 ft.



Autumn Joy Sedum (*Sedum spectabile* 'Autumn Joy')

- A taller-growing variety of sedum, this plant is a durable and dependable as they come.
- Flowers appear in August and last into late October/early November.
- Large, broccoli-like green buds turn to red or pink and mature to a bronzy-red color befitting of autumn.
- Succulent stems and leaves provide winter interest and food for birds if left standing.
- Mature height 18 to 36", spread 18 to 24". Zone 3
- Full sun; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 8,000 ft.



Partridge Feather (*Tanacetum densum* ssp. *amani*)

- Finely divided fern-like leaves in intense silver-white carpet the ground on this low growing plant.
- Small golden button flowers appear a few inches above the mat in the summer.
- Useful for rock gardens and as a small scale groundcover in bright, sunny areas with good drainage.
- A 2010 Plant Select® introduction, this native of the mountains of Turkey does well in most soils and exposures.
- Mature height 6 to 12", spread 15 to 18". Zone 4
- Full sun; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 8,000 ft.



Thyme (*Thymus* spp.)



- Thymes produce carpets of blossoms in shades of pink, purple and white. They can be creeping, mounding or shrub-like.
- Groundcover varieties can be walked on (“Stepables”) and make a great light traffic lawn substitute.
- All thymes have edible leaves and some degree of fragrance and flavor. A few are used for cooking and making tea.
- An evergreen plant, it prefers well-drained, average, neutral to alkaline soils.
- Mature height 2” to 12”, spread 18 to 24”. Zone 4
- Full sun; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 8,500 ft.

Turkish Veronica (*Veronica liwanensis*)



- A 1997 Plant Select® introduction, this vigorous fast growing plant thrives in poor soils.
- It forms a thick green carpet of round, glossy evergreen leaves.
- As the weather warms in April/May, the plant is covered with bright cobalt blue flowers that persist through June.
- With a little extra water, it can rebloom lightly in summer. This “Stepable” groundcover is great between stepping stones.
- Mature height 1 to 2”, spread 18”. Zone 4
- Full sun to partial shade; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 8,500 ft.

Grasses

Blue Grama (*Bouteloua gracillis*)

- Blue grama is a warm-season perennial native grass found throughout the Great Plains of the United States.
- Under proper management, it makes a great low maintenance lawn. This is a bunch forming grass.
- To prevent summer dormancy, provide 2 to 4” per growing month of combined irrigation and precipitation.
- Excessive irrigation and fertilization will promote weed and cool-season grass invasion.
- Mature height 10 to 16”. Zone 3
- Full sun; well-drained soil preferred. Mow once a year in October. Max. Elev. 7,000 ft.

Buffalograss (*Buchloë dactyloides*)

- Buffalograss is another warm-season species that makes a great lawn substitute.
- It is a sod forming grass that takes more foot traffic than blue grama.
- Establish by seed, plugs or sod. Can be mowed or left natural; quality turf can be maintained with minimal irrigation.
- Bison, Bowie, Plains and Topgun are best for seeded lawns. Legacy, Prestige and Turfalo are best for sodded lawns.
- Mature height 3 to 6”. Zone 3
- Full sun; well-drained soil preferred. Deer will eat this grass! Max. Elev. 6,500 ft.

Blue Avena Grass (*Helictotrichon sempevirens*)

- Also known as Blue Oatgrass, this plant is striking with its stiff, bright blue foliage and rounded form.
- Ornamental 4 foot tall flowers spikes appear late spring, ripening to soft brown by mid-summer
- Seed heads last through the winter, as does the blue color, providing true 4 season interest.
- Cut back in April to encourage vigorous new growth. Prefers a low fertility, well-drained soil.
- Mature height 3 to 5', spread 4 to 6'. Zone 4
- Full sun to partial shade; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 8,500 ft.



Mexican Feather Grass (*Nassella tenuissima*)

- A multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a ground-hugging habit.
- Medium green needles turn an attractive yellowish green in the winter, complementing its unique form.
- Extremely hardy and adaptable, this shrub crawls along the ground and over rocks and walls.
- Tolerates a wide range of soil conditions as long as drainage is good. Highly tolerant of urban pollution.
- Mature height 2 to 3', spread 7 to 8'. Zone 3
- Full sun; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 6,500 ft.



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

- This stiffly upright switch grass cultivar has metallic blue foliage with a waxy white bloom.
- In the fall, it turns bright yellow and displays pink to burgundy seed heads that gradually age to beige.
- Use this plant in borders or as a low screen. The upright erect growth habit will not fall over in a heavy rain.
- It prefers a sandy loam soil. Drought tolerant once established, it will tolerate wet, soggy soils for short periods.
- Mature height 3 to 4', spread 12 to 18". Zone 4
- Full sun; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 7,000 ft.



Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)

- Little Bluestem is a bunch grass that is native to 45 of the 50 states, making it the most abundant of native grasses.
- It is named for the lavender-blue tinge on the base of the flattened stems.
- The fine foliage and distinctive upright flowers change to red, orange, purple and tan late summer into fall.
- Flowers in zig-zag pairs appear on stems late July – September. Seed spikes are fringed with silky silvery-white hairs.
- Mature height 30 to 40", spread 2'. Zone 3
- Full sun; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 7,500 ft.

