

XERISCAPE PLANTS

SHRUBS

Craig R. Miller
Parks & Open Space Manager
www.cpnmd.org



Deciduous Shrubs

Four Wing Saltbush (*Artriplex canescens*)

- Native throughout the Rocky Mountain Region from South Dakota to Mexico and west to California.
- A four-winged fruit appears in late summer on female plants and ranges in color from tan to rose.
- Native Americans of the Southwest harvested the leaves and seeds for food.
- Male and female flowers occur on separate plants. Tends to get leggy when overwatered.
- Mature height and spread 3 to 6'. Zone 4
- Full sun. Extremely tolerant of dry, saline and alkaline soils. Max. Elev. 8,000 ft.

Leadplant (*Amorpha canescens*)

- A small native shrub that typically occurs in open woodlands, glades and prairies.
- Showy 3" to 4" flower spikes of dense, tiny bluish-purple flowers in June and July.
- Open growth habit with arching stems and gray-green fuzzy fern-like foliage.
- The common name refers to the once held belief that the plant was an indicator of lead in the ground.
- Mature height and spread 2 to 4'. Zone 3
- Full sun; deer resistant. May die back to the ground in winter, but will regrow in the spring. Max. Elev. 8,000 ft.



Dark Knight Spirea (*Caryopteris* × *clandonensis* 'Dark Knight')

- One of the best Blue Mist Spirea varieties, 'Dark Knight' has the deepest blue flower of them all.
- Dark blue flowers appear in summer when few other shrubs are flowering.
- Flowers heavily every year; great for a specimen plant or in hedges. Very attractive to bees.
- As weather turns cooler, leaves drop and flowers develop a papery texture with a wheat color – great winter interest.
- Mature height and spread 3'. Zone 5
- Full sun; deer resistant. Avoid heavy, wet clay soils. Max. Elev. 7,500 ft.



Littleleaf Mountain Mahogany (*Cercocarpus intricatus*)

- Native to western Colorado, Utah, Arizona and California, this slow-growing shrub is a 2009 Plant Select introduction.
- Dwarf, semi-evergreen with thin leaves; densely covered with small fragrant reddish-yellow flowers in spring.



- Long-tailed seeds cover the plant summer to fall, producing a feathery “glow” until wind disperses the seed.
- This plant will grow in the harshest conditions. Once established (2 years), it requires no additional irrigation.
- Mature height and spread 4'. Zone 3
- Full sun; deer resistant. Use as a specimen in dry gardens or as a small hedge. Max. Elev. 7,000 ft.

Fernbush (*Chamaebatiara millefolium*)

- A 2006 Plant Select introduction. This little known Colorado native makes a great specimen or hedge.
- Showy flower spikes in mid-summer resemble those of lilacs from a distance, but close up resemble a single rose.
- Foliage has a fern-like appearance with a greenish-gray color.
- A great plant for enhancing the garden's habitat value as the flowers are highly attractive to native bees.
- Mature height and spread 4 to 5'. Zone 4
- Full sun; deer resistant. Thrives in poor soils and dry conditions. Max. Elev. 7,500 ft.



New Mexico Privet (*Forestiera neomexicanana*)

- A handsome native large shrub/small tree with great adaptability to different growing conditions.
- While not a true privet, this fast growing dense plant is good for hedges and screens.
- The beautiful whitish bark accentuates the bright yellow fall foliage.
- Female plants produce large quantities of blue-black berries that are eaten by birds.
- Mature height 8', spread 6'. Zone 4
- Full sun; tolerant of clay and sandy soil. Very drought resistant once established. Max. Elev. 7,500 ft.

Royal Gold Woadwaxen (*Genista tinctoria* 'Royal Gold')

- A multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading growth habit.
- Stunning clusters of golden pea-like flowers cover the branches from late-spring to early summer.
- Small oval leaves are light green and have no appreciable fall color. Very tolerant of urban pollution.
- Relatively low maintenance – an excellent plant for the toughest locations.
- Mature height and spread 2'. Zone 4
- Full sun; prefers poor, alkaline, low fertility sandy soils. Max. Elev. 8,000 ft.

Rock Spirea (*Holodiscus dumosus*)

- Tolerant of both heat and drought; the leaves, when crushed, have a spicy scent.
- Fragrant pinkish-white flowers create 7" plumes that rest on slender arching branches.
- Flowers appear in late June and persist through the winter, with the color deepening to russet in the fall.
- The fine textured foliage turns to reddish bronze in the fall. Tolerant of any soil type as long as it is well drained.
- Mature height and spread 4'. Zone 4



- Full to partial shade; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 10,000 ft.

Sunburst Hypericum (*Hypericum frondosum* 'Sunburst')

- A rugged, upright, mounded shrub that will grow almost anywhere. Reddish brown bark with blue-green leaves.
- Midsummer to early fall blooms are 2" golden yellow flowers with striking, bushy center stamens.
- Reddish –brown fruit capsules ripen in September and persist into the winter.
- Very attractive to bees; once established, it requires little to no care.
- Mature height 2 to 3', spread 3 to 4'. Zone 5
- Full to partial shade; prefers a well-drained alkaline soil; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 7,500 ft.



Waxflower (*Jamesia americana*)

- A 2003 Plant Select® introduction, this native shrub is excellent for dry shade.
- Intensely fragrant and showy clusters of white, waxy flower appear in April/May.
- Added interest comes from the flaking, reddish-brown bark.
- Leaves are green with a whitish underside. Fall color is red with orange and pink tones.
- Mature height 5', spread 4'. Zone 3
- Full sun to partial shade; prefers dry soil with good drainage. Max. Elev. 9,000 ft.

Beautybush (*Kolkwitzia amabilis*)

- Upright arching branches with gray-brown exfoliating bark. Great winter interest.
- Pale to deep pink bell-shaped flowers with yellow throats appear in late May/early June.
- Flowers are followed by brown, hairy seeds that remain into winter. Yellow to red fall color.
- Thrives in dry sandy soils and clay soils, very drought tolerant.
- Mature height 8 to 10', spread 5'. Zone 4
- Full sun for best flowering, but also tolerant of partial shade; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 9,500 ft.



Littleleaf Mockorange (*Philadelphus microphyllus*)

- Noted for its small leaves, fine texture, fragrant summer flowers, exfoliating bark and drought tolerance.
- Native to the western United States from Wyoming to California and Texas.
- Fragrant cross-shaped 1" flowers appear in June. The scent is described as orange sherbet/vanilla ice cream/grape gum.
- Water once per week for the first season. It will survive on natural rainfall thereafter.
- Mature height and spread 4'. Zone 4
- Full sun. Must have well drained soil, as it will not tolerate wet feet. Max. Elev. 9,000 ft.

Fineline® Fern Leaf Buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula* 'Ron Williams')

- Lacy fern-like foliage and a narrow columnar growth habit provides great texture and shape to the garden.
- Perfect for hedges and screens, this thornless buckthorn does not self-seed, so is not invasive.
- Ideal for containers and narrow beds, or as a backdrop for perennial plantings.
- Drought tolerant once established, it is adaptable to a variety of soils. Yellow fall color.



- Mature height 7 to 8', spread 2 to 3'. Zone 3
- Full sun, deer resistant. Max. Elev. 8,000 ft.

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

- A creeping groundcover cultivar of Three Leaf Sumac. A 2014 Plant Select® introduction.
- In spring a profusion of small chartreuse-colored flowers bloom in delicate clusters before new foliage appears.
- Tiny, red berry-like fruits appear shortly after, persisting into the winter season.
- Lustrous, aromatic deep green foliage changes to radiant shades of amber, yellow, orange and red in the fall.
- Mature height 16 to 18", spread 6 to 8'. Zone 4
- Full sun; deer resistant. Does well in dry alkaline soils. Max. Elev. 7,500 ft.



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

- Tiger Eyes is a dwarf, golden-leaved, staghorn sumac cultivar, discovered in a nursery in 1985 as a mutation.
- A superior selection of sumac because of its dwarf size, quality yellow foliage and minimal suckering.
- Deeply dissected, compound leaves (1-2' long) emerge chartreuse in spring, but quickly mature to bright yellow.
- Foliage contrasts well with the purplish stems. Fall color is unrivaled with intense yellows, oranges and scarlets.
- Mature height and spread 6'. Zone 4
- Full sun to partial shade. Drought tolerant once established, thrives in well-drained clay soils. Max. Elev. 7,500 ft.

Boulder Raspberry (*Rubus deliciosus*)

- A native shrub with an arching growth habit and exfoliating cinnamon-colored bark.
- Large, showy, white single flowers appear in late spring.
- The flowers produce fuzzy, coarse and seedy raspberries that range in taste from tart to sweet.
- Berries are attractive to birds and other wildlife, but are generally considered unpalatable.
- Mature height 4 to 5', spread 5'. Zone 4
- Full sun to partial shade. Works great as an understory plant in dry shade; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 9,000 ft.



Hancock Chenault Coralberry (*Symphoricarpos* × *chenault* 'Hancock')

- This dwarf hybrid coralberry has a spreading growth habit with pink flowers in late June.
- Excellent groundcover for planting on slopes; grows well in difficult situations – sand, clay, alkaline and dry soils.
- Reddish-pink fruit appear in dense clusters, ripening in October.
- Branches can root into surrounding soil; insect and disease free.
- Mature height 2 to 3', spread 6 to 10'. Zone 4
- Full sun to partial shade; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 7,500 ft.



Miss Kim Lilac (*Syringa patula* 'Miss Kim')



- This upright, compact lilac blooms later than others, extending the season for lilacs.
- It is the most fragrant of all lilacs (even more fragrant than roses!).
- The green foliage turns a deep burgundy red in the autumn months.
- Typically hardy to drought after root establishment, it will not bloom if it receives too much or too little water.
- Mature height and spread 5'. Zone 3
- Full sun to partial shade; deer resistant. Prefers a well-drained soil. Max. Elev. 8,500 ft.

Charles Joly Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris* 'Charles Joly')



- This French hybrid lilac has an upright, open-branched habit and bright green foliage.
- A strong, sturdy plant with minimal suckering. Once established, it needs only occasional watering.
- Gorgeous deep wine-red double flower clusters are very fragrant. Blooms mid-season, typically in mid-May.
- Attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds. Adaptable to dry and moist locations, not particular about soils.
- Mature height 12', spread 6 to 8'. Zone 3
- Full sun; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 8,000 ft.

Wayfaring Viburnum (*Viburnum lantana*)



- An excellent shrub for landscape use, featuring showy flat-topped clusters of creamy white flowers.
- Fruit appears shortly after bloom, starting off pink, changing to red and finally black in the fall.
- Dark green fuzzy foliage turns an outstanding deep purple-maroon in the fall.
- Very tough and adaptable; tolerant of both dry and moist locations. Not particular about soil type or pH.
- Mature height 10', spread 6' to 10'. Zone 4
- Full sun to partial shade; deer resistant. A dwarf cultivar, 'Mohican' is available (6' x 6'). Max. Elev. 8,500 ft.

Panchito™ Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos* × *coloradensis*)

- A 2006 Plant Select® introduction, this low growing evergreen is a great substitute for junipers.
- Small urn-shaped pink to white flowers appear February to April, followed by red fruit.
- Very attractive evergreen foliage; reddish colored stems and bark.
- Slow grower the first 1 to 2 years; requires little water or maintenance once established.
- Mature height 1 to 2', spread 4'. Zone 4
- Full sun to light shade; performs best in well-drained soils. Max. Elev. 6,000 ft.

Kinnikinnick/Bearberry



- A trailing evergreen groundcover shrub with glossy green, paddle-shaped leaves on flexible branches.

- Clusters of small, bell-shaped pink to white flowers occur on bright red stems in May.
- Bright red berries follow the flowers and persist into winter. Berries are indeed eaten by bears.
- Found throughout North America from Labrador to Alaska and south to Virginia and California.
- Mature height 4 to 6", spread 5 to 6'. Zone 1
- Shade to partial shade; deer resistant; coarse, rocky, slightly acidic soils preferred. Max. Elev. 10,000 ft.

Spanish Gold Broom (*Cytisus purgans* 'Spanish Gold')

- Native to the high mountains of Spain, this unusual evergreen is a 2000 Plant Select® introduction.
- The stems are green and stick-like, and covered with tiny green leaves from spring to early fall.
- Bright yellow pea-like blossoms appear for several weeks all along the stems in early spring.
- Stems remain green all year, providing great winter interest.
- Mature height 3 to 4', spread 5 to 6'. Zone 4
- Full sun to partial shade; deer resistant; dry, well-drained soils preferred. Max. Elev. 8,000 ft.



Red Yucca (*Hesperaloe parviflora*)

- This native of Texas and Mexico has arching, evergreen grass-like leaves edged with curly white filaments.
- Rose-coral flower stalks up to 4 feet tall appear June through fall. A 2010 Plant Select® introduction.
- This plant thrives in hot, sunny areas and requires little supplemental watering once established.
- Effective in rock gardens or as a landscape accent. Avoid excessive moisture during the winter.
- Mature height and spread 3 to 4'. Zone 5
- Full sun and dry, well-drained soil required; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 6,000 ft.



Blue Star Juniper (*Juniperus squamata* 'Blue Star')

- Slow growing juniper with a compact habit and mounding growth pattern.
- Attractive sparkling blue foliage on dense, spreading branches.
- Perfect for the front of the border, in rock gardens or as a focal point to be admired for its shape and color.
- Water regularly until established. Prefers average well-drained soils.
- Mature height 2 to 3', spread 4 to 5'. Zone 4
- Full sun to partial shade; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 7,500 ft.



Mother Lode Juniper (*Juniperus horizontalis* 'Mother Lode')

- Bright, golden-yellow foliage in spring and summer which softens with burgundy plum undertones in winter.
- Extremely low and ground hugging. Creeping branches root as they grow along the ground.
- Adaptable to a wide range of soil conditions, but prefers a dry, sandy soil.
- Tolerant of hot dry conditions; an excellent groundcover which is very low maintenance.
- Mature height 4", spread 4 to 10'. Zone 3
- Full sun to light shade; deer resistant. Max. Elev. 8,500 ft.



Creeping Oregon Grape Holly (*Mahonia repens*)

- This native evergreen groundcover with holly-like leaves does well in shade gardens.
- Low spreading form displays bright yellow flowers followed by blue-black fruit clusters.
- Leaves turn shades of red in the fall and remain until new growth in the spring.
- This is an essential species for providing native bee species with pollen and nectar.
- Mature height 12 to 18", spread 2 to 4'. Zone 5
- Shade to partial sun; deer resistant. Tolerant of most soils. Max. Elev. 10,000 ft.



Dwarf Globe Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens* 'Glauca Globosa')

- 'Glauca Globosa' is a dwarf, globe-shaped blue-needled Blue Spruce cultivar with a distinctive flattened top.
- Slow growing (2 to 3" a year); powder blue needles provide year round interest.
- Provide consistent water in the first 2 to 3 years to develop best drought tolerance.
- Makes an outstanding specimen plant - use as a focal point in a shrub border, rock garden or as a low hedge.
- Mature height 3 to 5', spread 4 to 6'. Zone 3
- Full sun for best color; deer resistant. Prefers a well-drained dry soil. Max. Elev. 8,000 ft.



Mops Mugo Pine (*Pinus mugo* 'Mops')

- A true dwarf conifer, this selection of Mugo Pine is perfect for confined spaces.
- Dense symmetrical growth habit and compact, rounded form.
- Tight, medium green needles take on a golden hue during the winter months.
- May reach 5 feet tall and wide in 30 years; the slow growth habit makes this a great specimen in smaller gardens.
- Mature height and spread 5'. Zone 2
- Full sun; well-drained soil preferred. Water regularly the first season to establish deep roots. Max. Elev. 7,500 ft.

Hillside Creeper Scotch Pine (*Pinus sylvestris* 'Hillside Creeper')

- 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.

