

Plant Select®

Smart plants for the right places

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If you're new to our newsletter, cheers! For 27 years, our nonprofit has tested and selected plants that thrive in the intermountain regions and high plains, so you can create waterwise landscapes that are beautiful, low maintenance and have a positive environmental impact — no matter your skill level.

Photo: Swallowtail butterfly on [SUNSET® hyssop](#)
([Agastache rupestris](#))



Plant Select's goal is to create smart plant choices for a new American landscape inspired by the Rocky Mountain region

A warm welcome to our newest Plant Select members:

- Anne Krum – Individual Ambassador
- David Doerffel – Individual Ambassador
- Donna Anderson – Individual Ambassador
- Mary Jenson – Individual Ambassador
- Nancy Shepard – Individual Ambassador
- Olivia Hall – Individual Ambassador
- Ryan McDonald – Individual Ambassador

And thanks to all who've renewed their memberships!

Learn how to become a Plant Select member: Landscape Professional, Retail, Wholesale, Mail Order, Local Government or Individual Ambassador

A beneficial alternative to Karl Foerster grass
Mix up your grass game with Thin Man golden prairie grass

Stroll through your neighborhood, and



Photos: [Sorghastrum nutans 'Thin Man'](#)

you're bound to see Karl Foerster feather reed grass (*Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster'). It's the Starbucks of the plant world—present on every corner.

But wouldn't it be nice to mix up your ornamental grass game? If you'd like an upright grass that uses less water and offers more benefits for pollinators and birds, check out:

Thin Man golden prairie grass
(formerly, Indian grass)
Sorghastrum nutans 'Thin Man'

Thin Man golden prairie grass is a beautiful, drought-tolerant, native grass that offers multiple seasons of interest and acts as a natural bird feeder.

Keep reading

New crevice garden display opens in Fort Collins

Thanks to the efforts of many people and organizations!

A utilitarian bike rack. Compacted soil. An island of mulch. For years, that's what existed outside the front doors of the Colorado State University (CSU) Horticulture Center in Fort Collins, Colo.

But today, that lonely island of mulch has been transformed into a beautiful crevice garden demonstration area.

The new display features different kinds of low-water, western-inspired crevice gardens that support a diverse range of plants, insects, birds and wildlife.

See how this new garden came to life, including a peek at a crevice garden masterclass led by Horticulturist [Kenton Seth of Paintbrush Gardens](#).

Read the story



"This type of garden solves
so many landscape problems
and builds natural habitat
right into our gardens."

-- Ross Shrigley, Plant Select



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10 ways to boost your curb appeal... with ornamental grasses



Photo: [Blonde Ambition blue grama grass](#) (*Bouteloua gracilis* 'Blonde Ambition' PP 22,048) paired with sedums and lavenders. Photo courtesy of David Winger.

Ornamental grasses are in their glory right now, but are you using them to their full potential?

If you'd like fresh inspiration, check out our recent article on [ornamental grass design](#) in [Bloom Gardens](#) magazine.

Horticulturist [Jennifer Miller](#) of [Denver Botanic Gardens](#) shares 10 awesome design tips for ornamental grasses, so your home landscape looks welcoming and beautiful.

See the 10 tips

In the garden with Grace Water-wise perennials that shine in late summer

Many plants can look a little run down by late summer, but not these water-wise perennials!

Watch as Horticulturist [Grace Johnson](#) of [Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms](#) shares six of her favorite Plant Select perennials for August and September. These plants offer beautiful color and can feed hungry pollinators when other

plants are done blooming.



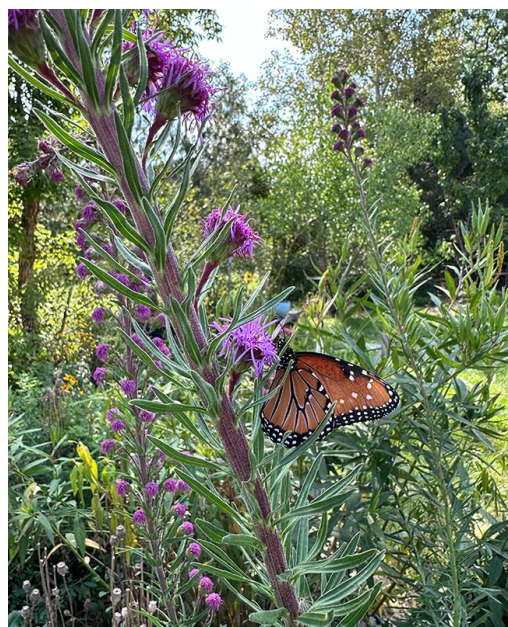
Watch this quick video

Monarch butterflies are on the move

It's that time of year when monarch butterflies are catching air currents and heading to warmer climates for the winter. If you'd like to feed butterflies in late August and September, add [meadow blazing star \(*Liatris ligulistylis*\)](#) to your garden. This [native plant](#) is a magnet for a variety of adult butterflies, including monarchs and one of their lookalikes: the queen butterfly.



Monarch butterfly on *Liatris ligulistylis*. Photo courtesy of Ann Kendall.



Queen butterfly on *Liatris ligulistylis*. Photo courtesy of Scott Skogerboe.

How to tell these butterflies apart

Meadow blazing star attracts other wildlife too, from bees, to songbirds like finches.

Helpful tips:

- This native perennial is a late-summer bloomer, but you're more likely to find it in garden centers in May and June. Add it to your 2025 plant list!
- Use the scientific name— *Liatris ligulistylis* — to identify this liatris. This plant has a wide range of common names, including meadow blazing star, Rocky Mountain blazing star and Rocky Mountain gayfeather.

Bring on fall color



PAWNEE
BUTTES® sand
cherry



Autumn Amber
sumac



HOT WINGS® Tatarian
maple

Botanical names:

Prunus besseyi 'P011S' | *Rhus trilobata* 'Autumn Amber' | *Acer tataricum* 'GarAnn' PP 15,023

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