



Plant Select®
Smart plants for the right places

CLICK TO SEARCH RIGHT PLANT RIGHT
PLACE

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



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

A BIG welcome to our newest Plant Select members!

- [Floralia Nursery](#) – Spokane, Wash. – Retail Garden Center Member
- [Old Valley Nursery](#) – Eagle, Idaho – Retail Garden Center Member
- [Alicia Bell Landscape Design](#) – Denver, Colo. – Landscape Professional Member
- [Meadow Pro](#) – Louisville, Colo. – Landscape Professional Member
- [Russell + Mills Studios](#) – Fort Collins & Denver, Colo. – Landscape Professional Member
- [The Sage Gardeners](#) – Colorado Springs, Colo. – Landscape Professional Member
- Boris Brglez – Individual Ambassador
- Catherine Wygant – Individual Ambassador
- Cathy Radueg – Individual Ambassador
- Celia Baldwin – Individual Ambassador
- Clinton Kearns – Individual Ambassador
- Cynthia Hartman – Individual Ambassador
- Ellen Marder – Individual Ambassador

- Jan Moran – Individual Ambassador
- Jessica Andersen – Individual Ambassador
- JoAnn Arnold – Individual Ambassador
- Karen Latuchie – Individual Ambassador
- Karen Taylor – Individual Ambassador
- Kathryn Musson – Individual Ambassador
- Lesley Janis – Individual Ambassador
- Lori Rochelle – Individual Ambassador
- Lucy Gasaway – Individual Ambassador
- Margaret Williams – Individual Ambassador
- Marissa Bingham – Individual Ambassador
- Marta Vengoechea – Individual Ambassador
- Mary Heuwinkel – Individual Ambassador
- Mary Nusser – Individual Ambassador
- Mary Karner – Individual Ambassador
- Megan Knight – Individual Ambassador
- Pam McFarland – Individual Ambassador
- Pamela Deulley – Individual Ambassador
- Paul Westerberg – Individual Ambassador
- Ruthbeth Finerman – Individual Ambassador
- Sabrina Kershman – Individual Ambassador
- Scott Meyers – Individual Ambassador
- Susan Turner – Individual Ambassador
- Sydney Kilgore – Individual Ambassador
- Vivian Wilson – Individual Ambassador
- Zoe Flanagan – Individual Ambassador

And thanks to all who've renewed their memberships!

Coming up in our winter webinar series for members...Growing meadow gardens from seeds, western pollinators, and for growers and researchers, an intro to the U.S. National Plant Germplasm System (NPGS). Consider joining us!

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

Introducing CRYSTAL FROST™ Arizona cypress New for 2024



Looking for a resilient tree that can handle extreme temperatures and



drought? We're excited to share one of our new introductions for 2024: [CRYSTAL FROST™ Arizona cypress](#) (*Hesperocyparis arizonica* 'Fandango').

In this video, join **Ross Shrigley** of Plant Select as he explores key things to know about this xeric western tree.

Watch this quick video

[See all of Plant Select's new plants >](#)

"Where can I get this tree?" CRYSTAL FROST™ will be spread among Plant Select wholesale and retail garden centers across the West. Interest in this new tree is high and numbers are limited, so get it when you see it. We anticipate it will sell out. (Rest assured, more are being grown and supplies will expand in future years.)

Waterwise trees and shrubs for diverse landscapes

It can take a few years for new trees and shrubs to build up availability across the region. Here are recent Plant Select introductions to look for this spring. (If your garden center isn't carrying these plants, ask for them!)



[Dwarf lead plant](#)

Amorpha nana

A small, versatile shrub (native to the Great Plains, Colorado and New Mexico) that fits beautifully into naturalistic gardens, as well as more structured landscapes. This dryland shrub looks green and healthy in our toughest western soils. Purple flowers



[Tidy littleleaf peashrub](#)

Caragana microphylla 'Tidy'

A low-water, heat-tolerant peashrub that makes a beautiful patio or courtyard tree. It has airy, bright green, fern-like foliage that offers privacy, as well as beauty. It can be trained as a small tree or a large shrub. Look for yellow flowers in the spring. Tolerant of challenging soils like clay.

emerge in June. Xeric once established.



HOT WINGS® Tatarian maple
Acer tataricum 'GarAnn' PP 15,023

A drought-tolerant, ornamental maple with multiple seasons of beauty—from yellow-white flowers in spring, to red samaras in July, to vibrant fall color. HOT WINGS® adapts better to alkaline soils than traditional ornamental maples. Avoid planting in places with heavy snow loads, such as under eaves.



SILVER TOTEM® buffaloberry
Shepherdia argentea 'Totem'

A columnar native shrub/tree with narrow, silver-green leaves. It's ideal for many uses—from accents, to privacy screens, to colonnades. It thrives in sunny, dry locations, but does equally well in moist conditions. Tolerates clay. Cold hardy to zone 3.

Readily available wholesale. Retail: Look for SILVER TOTEM® this spring at at spring plant sales (eg, [Red Butte Garden](#), [Denver Botanic Gardens](#)) and at retailers: [Echter's](#), [Fossil Creek](#), [Harlequin's](#), [The Flower Bin](#). Don't see your garden center? Ask them to carry it!

HOAs: When to find shrubs and trees (It may not be when you think)

It's natural to want to buy shrubs and trees when they burst into bloom or get their vibrant foliage. That's when they're top of mind!

Often times, though, nurseries and garden centers get their big shipments of shrubs and trees in late February, March or April.

Now's a great time to stop by or contact your favorite retailer, and ask when their big shipments of woody plants arrive.

Pro tip: Most [Plant Select nurseries and garden centers](#) will special order shrubs or trees for you in the spring. Ask what your options are.



Pictured above: CRYSTAL FROST™ Arizona cypress trees

Hint: Spring is a good time to find sought-after shrubs like [waxflower](#), [hardy manzanitas](#) and [Baby Blue dwarf rabbitbrush](#).

Upcoming events that may interest you



[Landscaping With Colorado Native Plants Conference](#) | Boulder, Colo.
February 24, 2024

[Flip Your Strip](#) | West Jordan, Utah | *Live webinar for Utah residents*
February 29, 2024

[High Plains Landscape Symposium](#) | Fort Collins, Colo. | *In-person and live stream*
March 2, 2024

[Envisioning a Changing DurangoScape 2024](#) |

Durango, Colo.
March 16, 2024

[Western Landscape Symposium](#) | Pueblo, Colo.
March 30, 2024

Wasatch Rock Garden Society: Crevice Garden Lecture | Salt Lake City, Utah
April 27, 2024

Save these dates

Plant Select Day | Participating garden centers
Saturday, May 25, 2024

Plant Select Annual Conference | Denver Botanic Gardens, Colo.
Thursday, June 13, 2024
Exciting speakers from across the region...Details to come!



Winter best practices for western shrubs

Want more winter beauty for less work?

In the latest issue of *Colorado Builder* magazine, we share 4 planting tips for western shrubs to avoid winter maintenance hassles.

[Read the article >](#)

COLOREADO
BUILDER

IN THE DIRT BY ANN KENDALL

Winter Best Practices for Western Shrubs

Four planting tips to improve your homeowner experience

AS WE LOOK to the future, native plants are likely to play a greater role in our residential landscapes. Western drought-tolerant shrubs like heuchera, feathered hollyhock, manzanita, sumac and Apache plume—put Colorado front and center in our communities. They create a sense of place, tend to be lower maintenance, use minimal water and support birds and pollinators.

Plus, many of these shrubs grow horizontally. This means you don't have to use as many of them in your residential landscape designs, saving you money.

But when it comes to native drought shrubs, consider these planting tips, so you create easier winter landscapes for your buyers.

Tip 1: Give western shrubs breathing room near sidewalks and driveways.

Many of these shrubs expand and grow wide like cockles on a baking sheet, so give them extra room near hardscapes. Don't pop



them next to a border where they'll need a hard and unnatural sheer to avoid getting mangled in snow-blows. You'll enhance their natural beauty when you give them room to spread.

Tip 2: Avoid creating unintended ice rinks.

Regionally native shrubs like fernbush (*Chamaebatiaria millefolium*) offer beautiful alternatives to water-gardening plants like hydrangeas. But some of these shrubs can be dense, so think about where you plant them. Avoid placing them directly along the south side of driveways or sidewalks where they can cast water shadows and create ice build-up. Instead, choose lower-growing shrubs for edges or more dense shrubs farther away.

Tip 3: Think about microclimates. Location, location, location!

Western shrubs thrive in well-drained locations that are hot, sunny and dry, including slopes. They don't like to sit in wet soils, and cold, winter soils don't dry out quickly. With that in mind, skip using these shrubs in damp, north-facing locations or under downspouts that get snowmelt and summer from much of the roof.

Tip 4: Skip weed barrier and watch how you apply your mulch.

Weed barriers can accidentally trap moisture from rain and snow near root crowns, encouraging rot. Organic mulch can do the same thing, so avoid piling mulch near stems.)

In addition, weed barriers can throw off the microorganisms and health of the soil, affecting how well plants grow. These fabrics make it difficult for pollinators to reach the ground. And over time, weeds are likely to grow on top of weed barriers anyway. Mother Nature doesn't like bare spots.



Four western shrubs, the Holly manzanita, room to expand horizontally. (Photo courtesy of Ann Kendall/Plant Select)

Ann Kendall is a master gardener and a residential garden writer for Plant Select. She can reach her at info@plantselect.org.

Smart plants for the right places

Dreaming of spring



SNOWMASS® Blue-Eyed Veronica



SUNSET® Foxglove



Desert Beardtongue

Botanical names:

Veronica x 'P018S' | *Digitalis obscura* | *Penstemon pseudospectabilis*

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