

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 high plains and intermountain regions, so you can create waterwise landscapes that are beautiful, low maintenance and have a positive environmental impact—no matter what your skill level.



Pictured: Colorful ice plants on a hot June day
Waterwise front yard | Homeowner Gary Mass

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:

- [Peiffer's Greenhouse](#) – Lakewood, Colo. – Retail Garden Center Member
- [Dobro Design](#) – Denver, Colo. – Landscape Professional Member
- [OSO Gardening, LLC](#) – Denver, Colo. – Landscape Professional Member
- **Debbie Aldridge** – Individual Ambassador
- **Johnanna Greiner** – Individual Ambassador
- **Linda Hadlow** – Individual Ambassador

- Lisa Scheid – Individual Ambassador
- MaryLou Smith – Individual Ambassador
- Mona Shoup – Individual Ambassador
- William Cisney – 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

In the garden with Grace Rabbit-resistant plants for early summer



Rabbits: Fluffy, cute... and hungry. If bunnies are chomping their way through your garden (or you'd like to keep them from doing so), watch as Horticulturist **Grace Johnson of [Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms](#)** discusses why rabbits don't like some plants. Plus, discover **rabbit-resistant plants for early summer** from the Plant Select Garden.

Keep in mind, there is no rabbit-proof plant. If critters are hungry enough, they'll eat what's available, and rabbit tastes can vary by area. But "resistant" plants may make your landscape less appetizing!

[Watch Grace's video](#)



Support hummingbirds with these nectar-rich plants

Hummingbirds bring so much energy (and joy!) to a landscape. One of the best ways to attract them is to add native plants that are rich in nectar and bloom during different parts of the year.

We've teamed up with Audubon Rockies to share **nine, regionally native perennials for hummingbirds** that fit beautifully in waterwise landscapes—from home gardens, to municipal spaces, to [office parks](#).



Pictured: Broad-tailed hummingbird at a penstemon
Credit: Evan Barrientos, Audubon Rockies

Upcoming event that may interest you

Hosted by Denver Botanic Gardens



Much of the western United States is part of the shrub steppe, and it offers unique landscape challenges. (Difficult soils, anyone?)

At the **2024 Global Steppe Symposium on Friday, July 12**, you'll get a unique look at the geology of our North American sandsage prairie, including how this geology affects landscape solutions. You'll explore naturally-occurring plant communities for a variety of western soils, as well as strategies to translate these ecosystems into beautiful, resilient home gardens, reflective of our unique western landscapes. And speakers will look to the future, drawing inspiration from other steppe regions of the world.

[Learn more and sign up here](#)

Lovely border plants

Beautiful, tough and waterwise

These perennials shine with flowers in early summer, but their foliage adds interest long beyond. Plant them along sidewalks, in park strips or along borders.



Smoky Hills skullcap
Scutellaria resinosa 'Smoky Hills'



SILVER BLADE® evening primrose
Oenothera macrocarpa subsp. *incana*

Looks phenomenal in hot, dry locations. Long blooming. Can self sow close to itself. Native to Nebraska. Almost no maintenance needed.



Bellina pink cornflower
Psephellus simplicicaulis

Interesting foliage that adds a lot of texture to a garden. In the right places, it acts like an herbaceous evergreen. (Translation: Winter interest!) Attractive seedheads and airy, pink flowers.

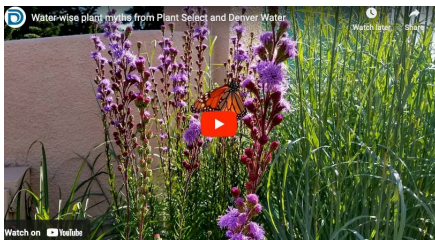
Silvery-green foliage with big yellow flowers. A showstopper! Attractive to bees and hawk moths. Native to the Great Plains.



Indigo blue dragonhead
Dracocephalum ruyschiana

Long-blooming flowers that are a true blue. Shiny, pointed, elegant leaves. Hardy to zone 3. Very drought tolerant. If you like Smoky Hills skullcap, be sure to check this one out too.

6 misconceptions about waterwise plants



In this new video, watch as Ross Shrigley of Plant Select and Bea Stratton of [Denver Water](#) chat about some of the biggest myths around waterwise plants, how to choose plants well and how to get your new plants off to a great start.

HOA tip: Don't judge waterwise plants by what you see on the shelves

Many waterwise plants don't love being grown in pots, and some of them can look quite "blah" on garden center shelves.

Don't let that fool you!

Waterwise plants can offer big beauty and showy color once they're established in the ground.

Avoid impulse buying plants based



on how they look in pots. The plants that win the garden center "beauty contest" often require extra water and work. (We're looking at you, hydrangeas.)

Instead, [explore plants online](#) first to make a list of beautiful, low-fuss plants. Or, look at the photo and info on the plant tag.

What you're really buying at the garden center is healthy roots.



Meadow blazing star (*Liatris ligulistylis*) can look weedy in a pot, but it turns into a stunner in the ground. A butterfly magnet!

Many thanks to all who joined us Our annual garden center event was May 25

What a fun morning! Special thanks to the [17 garden centers](#), the [Colorado State University Extension](#) and the Colorado Master Gardener volunteers who helped us spread the word about vibrant, waterwise plants.



Smart plants for the right places Foliage plants for texture, contrast and elevated design



Silverheels
horehound

Leprechaun
southernwood

Sea foam
sage

Botanical names:

Marrubium rotundifolium | *Artemisia abrotanum* 'Leprechaun' | *Artemisia versicolor* 'Sea Foam'

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