

Plant Select[®]

Smart plants for the right places

CLICK TO SEARCH RIGHT PLANT RIGHT PLACE



If you're new to our newsletter, cheers!

For 29 years, our nonprofit has tested and selected low-water 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 your skill level.

*Photos: Pops of color from the Plant Select Demonstration Garden at [Denver Botanic Gardens](#) in early May. **Upper row:** [KANNAH CREEK[®] buckwheat](#). [Red feathers](#). **Middle row:** [Silver Shield French sorrel](#). [COLORADO GOLD[®] gazania](#). [FIRE SPINNER[®] ice plant](#). **Lower row:** [Indigo blue dragonhead](#). [Russian hawthorn](#).*

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 new Plant Select members:

- [Huebner's Nursery, Lawn, & Garden Center](#) - North Platte, Neb. - Retail Garden Center Member
- [Gardenspace Design](#) - Hailey, Idaho - Landscape Professional Member
- [Joan Sapp Landscape, LLC](#) - Estes, Colo. - Landscape Professional Member
- [The Perfect Lawn Landscaping](#) - Parker, Colo. - Landscape Professional Member
- [Anna Rodgers](#) - Individual Ambassador
- [Bill Bathurst](#) - Individual Ambassador

- **Dania Laubach** - Individual Ambassador
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- **Michael Davis** - Individual Ambassador
- **Pat Moss** - Individual Ambassador
- **Robert Kocar** - Individual Ambassador
- **Tegan Hollen** - Individual Ambassador
- **Thomas Riedel** - Individual Ambassador
- **Tonya Schwolert** - Individual Ambassador
- **Valarie Davey** - 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

U.S. drought monitor

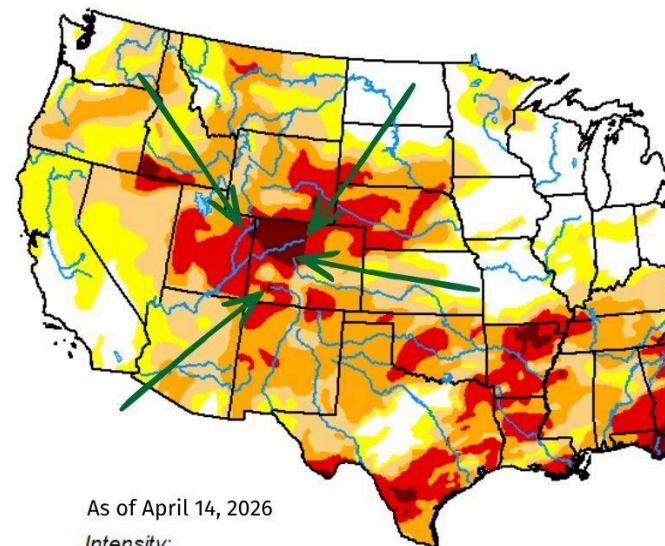
A tool for tracking our drought conditions

Looking for tools to help your clients (or your HOA) understand our changing drought conditions?

One of our go-to resources is the [U.S. drought monitor](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu).

In the map, notice how many rivers start or run through mountainous areas with extreme and exceptional drought conditions. (Follow the green arrows.)

These are the headwaters for much of the West—the upper streams and rivers that supply our water. Please understand, this drought will have a wide-reaching effect, even if you live outside of Colorado or Utah.



As of April 14, 2026

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>.

Author:

Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

6 simple ways to start reducing your landscape water use... without compromising curb appeal

(Please **don't** replace your yard with rocks!)



Schedule a sprinkler checkup.

Eliminate overspray on sidewalks, patios and driveways, and fix inefficient sprinkler heads.

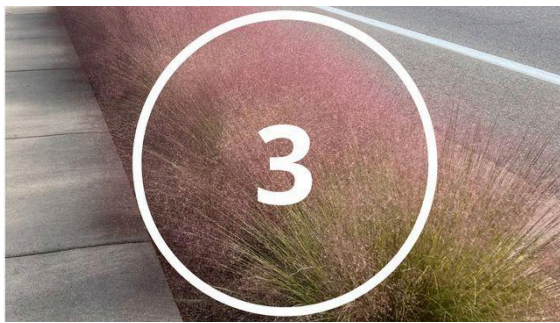
Tip: Some cities, states and water providers offer money-saving rebates for switching to efficient irrigation, like smart controllers or rotary sprinkler nozzles. Two examples: [Residential Water Conservation program in Fort Collins, Colo.](#) and [Utah Water Savers.](#)



Group plants with similar water needs in the same irrigation zone.

"Hydrozoning" helps you water more efficiently (less wasted water!) and grow healthier plants.

[Tips for hydrozoning >](#)



Plant waterwise plants in strategic areas. It's okay to start small!

While it's tempting to rip out all your traditional lawn, sometimes this isn't practical, economical or even recommended during severe drought.

Here are [3 ideal spots in landscapes to switch to waterwise plants.](#)



Plant in the spring and the fall.

Even low-water plants need moisture as they get established! Plant when temps are cooler, less water is needed, and there are fewer watering restrictions.

Be sure to follow your city's drought watering rules. Often times, hand watering and drip irrigation are allowed.



Plan for the future.

Now's a good time to look objectively at your landscape and put a long-term plan in place.

Where can you better use drought-tolerant plants, like [waterwise native shrubs](#), [colorful](#)



Mulch landscape areas that aren't grass to conserve soil moisture.

[Match your mulch to your situation.](#) Inorganic mulches, like pea gravel, may work better for xeric plants or if you live in a high-risk area for wildfires.

[low-water perennials](#), or [Dog Tuff lawns](#)?

Tip: Leave some bare soil in areas where ground nesting bees are present.

Find more tips on [retrofitting your yard to less-thirsty plants](#) from Colorado State University Extension. If you live in Utah, check out the [Localscapes approach](#).

Leprechaun southernwood

A versatile sub-shrub for drought-tolerant landscapes

We don't want to go as far as to call [Leprechaun southernwood](#) (*Artemisia abrotanum* 'Leprechaun') the Swiss Army knife of drought-tolerant plants, but there's no question that it's highly versatile and multi-functional.

It's a problem solver.

This vibrant sub-shrub can be planted in full sun or shade. (Yep, shade.)

It can serve as a low-water substitute for boxwoods in more traditional landscapes, or it can seamlessly fit into naturalistic designs, offering texture and refreshing green color.



Our friends at [Tree of Life Landscapes](#), a landscaping firm in northern Colorado, have used Leprechaun southernwood in matrix plantings along Colorado's Front Range.

Matrix designs are dense, naturalistic plantings in which you cover the entire space with plants.

Here's a look at several of their projects.

[See photos and story](#)



Inspiration Landscapes

Find more low-water inspiration landscapes

Visit our website for more [eye-catching, low-water yards](#). You'll find examples of vibrant, drought-tolerant landscapes for both residential and commercial projects.

The **Design** section of [PlantSelect.org](#) also contains [downloadable landscape designs](#).

Pictured: Ryan Harter's wonderfully colorful and xeric front yard ([@TheXericGarden](#)).

In the garden with Grace How to bare root plant perennials

Watch as Grace Johnson of [Denver Botanic Gardens](#) demonstrates "bare root planting"—the practice of removing potting soil from perennial roots and watering in new plants.

Bare root planting can create good root contact with your garden's soil, encouraging greater root growth ("root mass") and deeper, cooler roots.



Watch video

Upcoming spring plant sales

Find popular and rare plants from Plant Select

Spring plant sales at local botanic gardens can be awesome places to find Plant Select's waterwise plants, including many of our [new plants for 2026](#). These events are often open to the public, but **registration may be required**.



Denver, Colo.

Denver Botanic Gardens | Spring Plant Sale

Friday, May 8-Saturday May 9

[Get event details](#)



Salt Lake City, Utah

Red Butte Garden | Spring Plant Sale

Friday, May 8 (Members)-Saturday May 9 (Public)

[Get event details](#)



Boise, Idaho

Idaho Botanical Garden Plant Sale

Friday, May 8 (Members)-Saturday May 9 (Public)

[Get event details](#)



Fort Collins, Colo.

The Gardens on Spring Creek Plant Sale

Saturday, May 16-Sunday, May 17

[Get event details](#)

Public gardens: If you're interested in becoming a Plant Select licensed propagator, reach out to Ross Shrigley at director@plantselect.org.

Join us for a day of inspiration and idea sharing

There's a spot waiting for you!

Calling all plant enthusiasts! Join us on **Thursday, June 11 via Zoom** for our 2026 Annual Conference.

Whether you want to create a waterwise yard that's beautiful, resilient or habitat friendly, you'll find loads of inspiration with talks from regional experts like:

- **Lauren Springer:** "Designing Immersive Plantings—A Garden Maker's Perspectives"
- **Bryan Fischer:** "A Fresh Look at Native Plants"
- **Kenton Seth:** "Trees for the Apocalypse"
- **Dave Leatherman:** "How and Why Bird Diets Change During the Year (and How Gardens Play a Role)"
- **Pat Hayward:** "Hummer Havens"

[Learn about our speakers and talks](#)



Get your livestream ticket

In-person tickets are sold out. If you'd like early access to future Plant Select events—often at special rates—[become a Plant Select member](#).

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Smart plants for the right places

Western native shrubs with spring-blooming flowers



PAWNEE BUTTES®
sand cherry



Dwarf leadplant



CHEYENNE® mock
orange

Botanical names:

Prunus pumila var. *besseyi* 'P011S' | *Amorpha nana* | *Philadelphus lewisii* 'PWY01S'

Quick links


[Hummingbird plants](#)

[Native plants](#)

[High elevation plants](#)

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