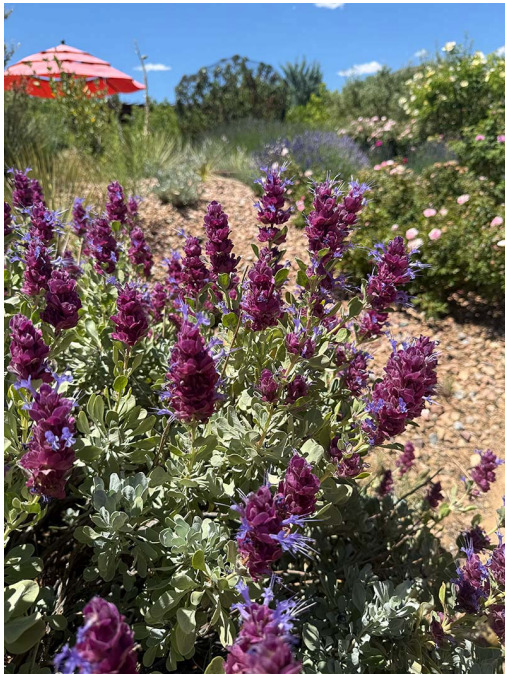


Plant Select®

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.

Pictured: [Mojave sage](#) (*Salvia pachyphylla*) in all its midsummer glory. Credit: Ross Shrigley.

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:

- [Garden Gateway](#) - Hyde Park, Utah – Retail Garden Center Member
- [Tracie Meachum](#) - Superior, Colo. – Landscape Professional Member
- [Helena van Heiningen](#) – Individual Ambassador
- [Kathi Thistlethwaite](#) – Individual Ambassador
- [Leeann Roessler](#) – Individual Ambassador
- [Michele Fuerst](#) – Individual Ambassador
- [Natalie Smith](#) – Individual Ambassador
- [Wendy Fink](#) – Individual Ambassador

And thanks to all who've renewed their memberships!

Too hot to plant?

Use summer heat to reduce your lawn

Are you thinking about turning part of your bluegrass lawn into a gathering space, a waterwise garden, or a low-water shrub bed?

Hold off on planting until temps cool off. This will help you use less water. Plus, it'll be less stressful for new plants.



Instead, take advantage of summer heat to kill your lawn, so you can plant this fall or next spring. When it's hot, you can solarize a bluegrass lawn in just 4-6 weeks. Lawn solarization uses the sun's rays to heat the soil and destroy plant roots.

Watch as our friends from [Denver Water](#) share tips on how to solarize a lawn.

Watch video

Want more details? Dig into "[Soil Solarization for Gardens and Landscapes](#)" from the University of California Extension.

What if we had a drought and our landscape plants didn't even know it?

Tom Heald, *University of Wyoming Extension*
Panayoti Kelaidis, *Denver Botanic Gardens*



15 low-water plants (and we mean low!)

Unscrew the hose and put your feet up

Plants fall along a spectrum for how much water they need to survive and thrive.

In our semi-arid climate, some plants need moisture multiple times per week just to stay alive in the heat. (We're looking at you, Kentucky bluegrass.)

In contrast, waterwise plants often need water only once every 7 to 14 days during the hottest parts of summer. And some plants need even less water than that!

If you want to dramatically cut your water use while keeping your curb appeal up, here are **15 low-water plants**. Typically, these plants should receive irrigation to get established and then only during prolonged drought (if needed).

Perennials



HALF PINT® pineleaf
penstemon
Penstemon pinifolius
'Compactum'



Gold on Blue prairie zinnia
Zinnia grandiflora 'Gold on
Blue'



Sea Foam sage
Artemisia versicolor 'Sea
Foam'



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



SteppeSuns® Sunset Glow
penstemon
Penstemon pinifolius 'P019S'



Turquoise Tails blue sedum
Sedum sediforme

Shrubby perennials and ornamental grasses



Baby Blue rabbitbrush
(aka, dwarf rabbitbrush)
Ericameria nauseosa var.
nauseosa



Mojave sage
Salvia pachyphylla



Giant sacaton
Sporobolus wrightii
(Plants are being grown; look
for more availability next
year)

Shrubs



Autumn Amber sumac
Rhus trilobata 'Autumn
Amber'



Bluestem joint fir
Ephedra equisetina
(Good for dry shade)



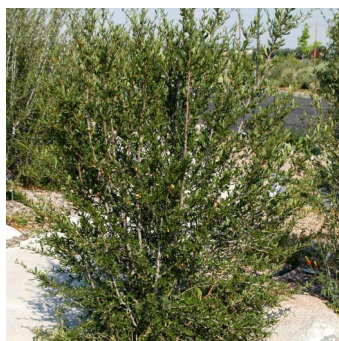
Canyon plume (formerly
Apache plume)
Fallugia paradoxa



Dwarf leadplant
Amorpha nana



Fernbush
Chamaebatiaria millefolium



Littleleaf mountain mahogany
Cercocarpus intricatus

We're developing a more comprehensive list of our lowest water plants for our website.
More on that in a future newsletter!

In the garden with Grace

A July and August bloomer that's a hummingbird fave

ORANGE CARPET®
hummingbird trumpet
(*Epilobium canum* subsp.
garrettii) is a showy,
drought-tolerant perennial
that's a magnet for
hummingbirds.

Watch as Horticulturalist
Grace Johnson from
Denver Botanic Gardens
shares what makes this
plant special.



Watch video

Love hummingbird trumpet's vibrant look, but want it for fall?



[UNFORGETTABLE™ hummingbird trumpet](#) (*Epilobium canum* 'PUND03S') is one of the [newest plants in the Plant Select program](#). It's a taller, more upright form of *Epilobium canum* with lengthy, scarlet-orange flowers. It shines in September and beyond.

[Learn more](#)

NATIVE PLANT FEATURE

Ferny, fabulous fernbush

A midsummer bloomer that thrives in tough conditions

Many shrubs bloom in the spring or the fall, but [fern bush](#) (*Chamaebatiaria millefolium*) doesn't follow that script.

Instead, it takes center stage in midsummer, producing panicles of showy, white flowers that beckon to pollinators.

Fernbush has lacy, green, fern-like foliage with a sweet fragrance like pine needles. It sheds its leaves for the winter, revealing cinnamon-color branches and next year's leaf buds (which give the shrub a more evergreen look).

This [regional native](#) responds well to pruning, making it a good fit for traditional landscapes, as well as naturalistic ones. Fernbush is used to pruning. Deer trim it back in the wild.





Fernbush grows naturally in semi-arid canyonlands across the Great Basin.

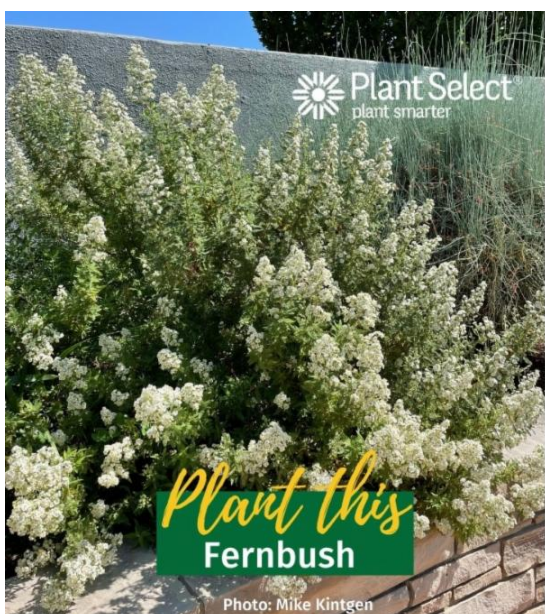
Its native habitat is an austere setting where plants have learned to thrive with lean soils, erratic rainfall, wide temperature swings, and low humidity.

In urban landscapes, fernbush is a great fit for hot, sunny, and dry locations with lean soils.

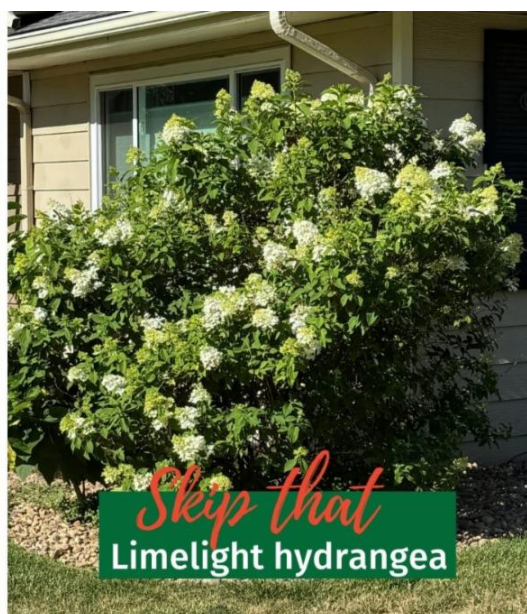
[Get plant details](#)

Plant this, skip that

Consider fernbush instead of limelight hydrangeas



Plant this... Think of [fernbush](#) as the hydrangea of the West. It blooms at a similar time as limelight hydrangeas, but it flourishes with very little water in our hot and dry conditions. It's a distinctly western plant.



Skip that... Limelight hydrangeas thrive in moist soils.

In Massachusetts—a state that gets two to four times more natural moisture than we get in the Intermountain West—the [UMass Extension](#) says hydrangeas need two inches

(Fernbush isn't a hydrangea. It's a primitive member of the rose family.)

of supplemental irrigation per week during hot, dry weather.

In our semi-arid climate, that could be 30+ inches from mid June through September. If you'd like to reduce your water bill, consider fernbush instead!

Smart plants for the right places

Pretty in pink, good for midsummer heat



Cherry skullcap



MANDY™ sun daisy



SONORAN
SUNSET® hyssop

Botanical names:

Scutellaria suffrutescens | *Osteospermum* "Mandy" | *Agastache cana* 'Sinning'

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