



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.

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:

- [ROOT Landscape and Design](#) - Wheat Ridge, Colo. - Landscape Professional Member
- [Barbara Duno](#) - Individual Ambassador
- [Courtney Cowgill](#) - Individual Ambassador
- [Debra Steading](#) - Individual Ambassador
- [Diane Cribley](#) - Individual Ambassador
- [Donna Stepan](#) - Individual Ambassador
- [Holly Brandt](#) - Individual Ambassador
- [Patricia Greer](#) - Individual Ambassador
- [Patricia Wasson](#) - Individual Ambassador
- [Russell Hinkle](#) - Individual Ambassador
- [Susan Beatty](#) - 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

Penstemons for the win

Pretty, pollinator friendly, and practical for drought conditions

Penstemons smash the myth that low-water landscapes have to look dull or desert-like. Their vibrant, tubular flowers attract hummingbirds, pollinating insects, and admiring neighbors alike.

Most of Plant Select's penstemons have interesting foliage in the winter too, so your landscape can turn heads year-round.



Pictured above: [HALF PINT® pineleaf penstemon](#) (*Penstemon pinifolius* 'Compactum'), [Bridges' penstemon](#) (*Penstemon rostriflorus*), [SteppeSuns® Sunset Glow penstemon](#) (*Penstemon pinifolius* 'P019S0).



Pictured above: [Desert penstemon](#) (*Penstemon pseudospectabilis*), [RED ROCKS® penstemon](#) (*Penstemon* 'P008S' | Mexicali hybrid), [Coral Baby penstemon](#) (*Penstemon barbatus* 'Coral Baby').



Pictured above: [Tushar bluemats penstemon](#) (*Penstemon xylus*). [PRAIRIE JEWEL® penstemon](#) (*Penstemon grandiflorus* 'P010S'). [PIKE'S PEAK PURPLE® penstemon](#) (*Penstemon* 'P007S' | Mexicali hybrid).



Pictured above: [WAGGON WHEEL® bluemats penstemon](#) (*Penstemon caespitosus* 'P022S'). [Grand Mesa beardtongue](#) (*Penstemon mensarum*). [SILVERTON® bluemats penstemon](#) (*Penstemon linarioides* subsp. *coloradoensis* 'P014S').

There are about 250 species of *Penstemon* native to the United States with the majority in the western U.S. (Utah wins the prize for the most.) These plants range from towering prima donnas to humble species that hug the ground. And yes, they span the rainbow.

While many penstemons bloom in late spring and early summer, there are exceptions like later-blooming [Bridges' penstemon](#) (*Penstemon rostriflorus*) and reblooming [Coral Baby penstemon](#) (*Penstemon barbatus* 'Coral Baby').

Bring on the hummingbirds!

Explore our full penstemon collection

Penstemon design & care (Red Butte Garden PDF)

Rocky Mountain goldenrod

A dwarf goldenrod with May-June flowers



Rocky Mountain goldenrod (*Solidago multiradiata*) is a small, well-behaved goldenrod. Some goldenrods have a reputation for taking over landscapes (we're looking at you, *Solidago rigida*), but Rocky Mountain goldenrod plays nice.

What makes Rocky Mountain goldenrod special is its size. It only grows 6 to 12 inches tall and wide! This dwarf goldenrod produces cheerful, golden-yellow flowers in late May and June.

Rocky Mountain goldenrod is [native to the western United States](#), including Utah, Colorado and Idaho. It offers big pollinator benefits and is a "keystone plant" for much of the West, meaning it has significant ecosystem value.

Full sun. Clay to sandy soils. Zones 4-9. Up to 8500+ feet. Deer resistant.

Get plant details

Landscape smarter, not harder

As you navigate drought conditions, higher water prices, and/or watering restrictions, check out these helpful landscaping videos from our friends at Denver Water.



Build your own waterwise landscape

Discover how Ryan Harter (@TheXericGarden) transformed his suburban yard and the value of starting small. [Watch >](#)



Explore drought-tolerant gems from Plant Select

Join Ross Shrigley of Plant Select as he chats about resilient, low-water plants that wow in early summer. [Watch >](#)



Learn your soil type, planting methods & more

Get planting, watering and mulching tips from John Murgel of Colorado State University Extension. [Explore multiple videos >](#)



Denver Water promotes vibrant, diverse Coloradoscapes that fit naturally into our semi-arid climate. Explore their [rebates and conservation tips here](#).

Upcoming events that may interest you

It's garden tour season



Registration may be required:

First Annual CNGA Member Home Garden Tour (open to the public)

Sat., June 6 | 10 am-3 pm MT

Front Range, Colo.

Offered by Colorado Nursery Growers Association (CNGA)

Waterwise Plants Tour

Thurs., June 11 | 6-7:30 pm MT

Conservation Garden Park

West Jordan, Utah

Conservation Garden Park Tour

Sat., June 20 | 10-11:30 am MT

Conservation Garden Park

West Jordan, Utah

Gardens on Tour

Sat., June 27 | 9 am-4 pm MT

Durango, Colo.

Offered by Durango Botanic Gardens

Final call for 2026 Plant Select Annual Conference

Livestream tickets close soon | In-person event sold out



Whether you're passionate about waterwise landscaping or you're just getting into it, you're invited to watch our 2026 Annual Conference on **Thursday, June 11** from the comfort of your home or office!

Livestream tickets are available until June 4.

Get inspired as regional experts discuss hot topics like... designing immersive spaces with drought-tolerant plantings, a fresh take on native plants, tough-as-nails trees, and bird and hummingbird havens.

[Learn more and hold your spot](#)

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YOUR QUESTIONS... ANSWERED

"Do big plants or small plants get established faster?"

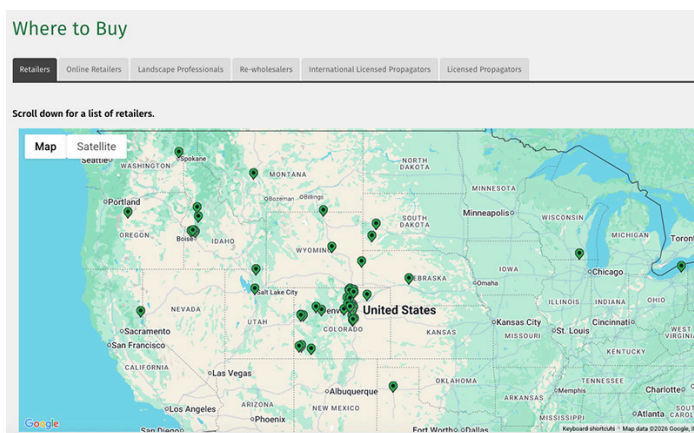
Drought-tolerant plants need more moisture when they're newly planted, so their roots can establish. (Happy roots equal happy plants!)

As you look for ways to use water wisely, it's worth asking, do big plants or small plants establish faster in landscapes?

Typically, smaller plants tend to establish faster. Don't shy away from perennials in 4" pots at your local garden center. They may help you reduce your watering sooner.



"Where can I find Plant Select plants?"



We added a map to our website to help you locate [Plant Select garden center members](#) near you.

Want plants delivered to your door? Explore our [online retail members](#). High Country Gardens carries [75+ Plant Select plants](#).

Landscape pros: Check out our [wholesale members](#) too.

Garden centers: Make it easier for gardeners to find your Plant Select plants! [Become a Plant Select garden center member](#).

Smart plants for the right places
Warm season grasses for heat and drought

Pro tip: May is usually an [ideal time to plant warm season grasses](#), even though they don't look their showiest at the garden center right now. (They're just waking up.)



UNDAUNTED®
Ruby muhly grass



Standing Ovation little
bluestem grass



Dog Tuff™ turf grass

Botanical names:

Muhlenbergia reverchonii 'PUND01S' | *Schizachyrium scoparium* 'Standing Ovation' | *Cynodon* 'PWIN04S'

Quick links

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[Native plants](#)

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