

Plant Select®

Smart plants for the right places

CLICK TO SEARCH RIGHT PLANT RIGHT PLACE

If you're new to our newsletter, cheers! For 28 years, our nonprofit has tested and selected plants that thrive in the intermountain regions and high plains, so you can create waterwise landscapes that are beautiful, low maintenance and have a positive environmental impact — no matter your skill level.



Rocky Mountain goldenrod (*Solidago multiradiata*) is a well-behaved, dwarf-sized goldenrod native to much of the western United States. It's considered a "keystone plant" in several ecoregions in the West (including western Colorado, Utah and Idaho), offering substantial insect and wildlife benefits. Photo: Sophia Rye.

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:

- Channah Horst – Individual Ambassador
- Charlotte Coles – Individual Ambassador
- Deborah Gossett – Individual Ambassador
- Diana Reavis – Individual Ambassador
- Elaine Taravella – Individual Ambassador
- Helen Mary Coates – Individual Ambassador
- Jo Ann Ward – Individual Ambassador
- Kathryn Cole – Individual Ambassador
- Ruth Beck – Individual Ambassador
- Scott Genaw – Individual Ambassador
- Sheila Broderick – Individual Ambassador
- Sheri Copeland – Individual Ambassador
- Susan Marich – Individual Ambassador
- Teresa Bessette – 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

Spring beauties for waterwise landscapes Recent introductions that have become more widely available

These low-water gems are having a moment, but you may not know them yet! They're all Plant Select selections from the last few years, and they're **much more widely available** at retailers this year. (It can take a few years to build up availability.)

Border plants, living mulches and crevice garden plants



Tushar bluemat penstemon

Penstemon xylus

Low-growing penstemon with steely blue, nearly evergreen foliage and pink to lavender flowers. Offers lovely year-round interest. Native to Utah.



WAGGON WHEEL® bluemat penstemon

Penstemon caespitosus 'P022S'

Circular, low-growing penstemon with vibrant green, nearly evergreen foliage and petite blue flowers. Another year-round interest plant. [Rocky Mountain regional native](#).



EVERSILVER™ creeping germander

Teucrium 'Harlequin's Silver'

Groundcover with frosty, silver foliage for year-round beauty. Needs very little supplemental water once established. Ideal for medians and tough-to-water locations.

Early spring color

Golden candles



Thermopsis lupinoides

Vibrant, yellow flowers start blooming in April. ABUNDANT color! Plus, a season extender for pollinators, offering food to early emerging bees before other plants have caught up. Beautiful, leafy-green foliage all summer. Resembles false indigo (*Baptisia*), but blooms earlier.

Another great median and early season, low-water plant. [Watch short video >](#)

Where to find these plants

Please ask for them from [Plant Select retailers](#) and [wholesalers](#). If your favorite garden center doesn't have a plant, they may be able to order it for you.

In the garden with Grace What exactly is Plant Select?

Horticulturist **Grace Johnson** and our friends at [Denver Botanic Gardens](#) have created a fun series of video shorts offering a quick introduction to Plant Select.



[What is Plant Select?](#)



[Trialing Plants](#)

**What do hummingbirds
really eat?**
The answer may surprise you!

Do you love when hummingbirds visit your landscape? Discover what hummingbirds really eat in the Rocky Mountain region and how to best support their food needs.

Hint: [Nectar-rich plants](#) play an essential role in their diet, but nectar is only part of the story.

[Read article](#)



*[Broad-tailed Hummingbird](#)
at [Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms](#)
Photo: Ann Kendall*

NATIVE PLANT FEATURE

Baby Blue rabbitbrush A drought-tolerant delight



[Baby Blue rabbitbrush](#) (*Ericameria nauseosa* var. *nauseosa*) is a dwarf rabbitbrush that fits well in a variety of landscapes, including teeny-tiny yards.

Dwarf forms of rabbitbrush occur throughout the West, but this compact, mounded strain [found in the north-central plains](#)—including Colorado's Front Range, Wyoming, Montana and Idaho—is especially dense. It has silvery-blue, needle-like leaves that look attractive across seasons.

Baby Blue rabbitbrush gets bright, golden flowers in late summer into fall, attracting butterflies, native bees and other beneficial insects.

Water this rabbitbrush as needed during its first year, so you can get it established. But once established, you can cut the water way back. If it gets too much water, it may need pruning to keep its shape.

[See plant details](#)

Where to find Baby Blue rabbitbrush

While this shrub shines in late summer, now is an ideal time to ask for it at [Plant Select retailers](#) and [wholesalers](#). If your favorite plant source doesn't have it, they may be able to order it for you.

Baby Blue rabbitbrush is sometimes called **dwarf rabbitbrush**. Look for it in the shrub section under the botanical name: *Ericameria nauseosa* var. *nauseosa*.



Photo: Sophia Rye

Crevice garden demo garden Find inspiration and ideas

Crevice gardens are a natural fit for western landscapes, whether you're creating retaining walls or stunning landscape features.

Last September, Horticulturist [Kenton Seth of Paintbrush Gardens](#) and Plant Select teamed up for a masterclass on [crevice gardens on the Colorado State University \(CSU\) campus](#) in Fort Collins, Colo.

This spring, the new crevice garden demonstration area is leaping to life.

If you or your clients are considering crevice gardens, you're welcome to visit the demo garden outside the CSU Horticulture Center (1707 Centre Avenue, Fort Collins, Colo.) for examples of different materials and looks.



Our 2025 Annual Conference is sold out Join the wait list!

The Plant Select Annual Conference on Thursday, June 26 is sold out, but we're keeping a wait list. If you'd like to be contacted if seats become available, please [join the wait list](#).

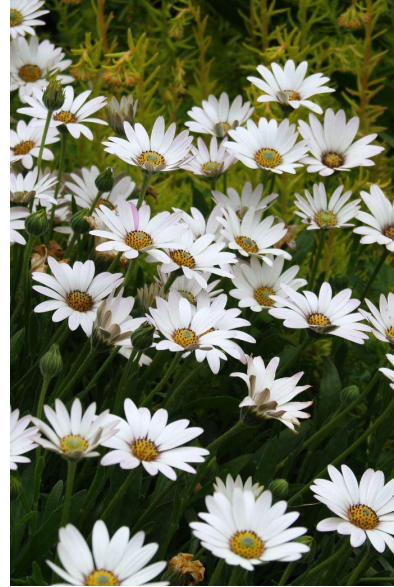
Smart plants for the right places Drought? These perennials didn't get the memo



Indigo blue
dragonhead



KANNAH
CREEK®
buckwheat



Avalanche white sun
daisy

Botanical names:

Eriogonum umbellatum var. *aureum* 'Psdowns' | *Dracocephalum ruyschiana* |

Osteospermum 'Avalanche' PP 22,705

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