



SELECTION AND CULTURE OF LANDSCAPE PLANTS IN UTAH

A GUIDE FOR HIGH MOUNTAIN VALLEYS (RICH, MORGAN, SUMMIT, DAGGETT, AND WASATCH COUNTIES)

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What traveler, driving across Utah, has not marveled at its diversity of geography, climate and vegetation? From Joshua-trees in the Mojave Desert, to alpine meadows, to pinion-juniper forests set against the red sandstone of the Colorado Plateau, it is truly a state of contrasts.

Ideally, Utah landscapes should be designed to be adapted to local conditions and to enhance the natural beauty of the state. Unfortunately, most of our landscapes are patterned after those found in Europe or northeastern America. Such landscapes are difficult to maintain and require more resources, such as water and fertilizer, than adapted landscapes. While there is no simple recommendation that would be valid state-wide, localized guidelines can address the diversities of climate, soils, and other factors which affect plant growth.

The purpose of this series of publications is to recommend plants and landscape management procedures for various regions of the state. This edition targets the communities of the high mountain valleys of the state (Rich, Morgan, Summit, and Wasatch counties). These valleys are characterized by cold temperatures and short growing seasons.

Proper landscape design and management can help prevent plant stress and death in these conditions. It also makes landscapes easier to maintain. The first step to successful landscaping is to understand the local climate and soil.

The high elevation regions of Utah are characterized by record cold temperatures (lows of - 25 to - 43°F), and short growing seasons of 50-109 frost free days. Snowfall amounts vary tremendously depending on the location. Frost-free season information is critical to successful production of fruit and vegetables, and gardens should be planned accordingly. It is also important because of the damaging effect that early and late frosts can have on some landscape plants. Equally if not more important to landscape plants, is the average minimum temperature of the region.

"Cold hardiness" refers to a plant's tolerance to winter cold. A cold hardiness map, published by the USDA in 1990, lists hardiness "zones" for the entire United States. Highelevation Utah encompasses zones 2b to 4a (- 45°F to - 25°F average minimum temperatures).

		Record	Annual	Frost	USDA Hardiness
Town	Elev.(ft)	Low (°F)	Snow (in)	Free Days	Zones*
Bear Lake	6000	-25	41	109	
Coalville	5552	-33	73	78	5, 3
Flaming Gorge	6270	-38	61	100	5, 3
Heber City	5630	-36	68	90	5, 3
Kamas	6475	-31	87	82	5, 3
Laketown	5980	-37	42	85	5, 3
Morgan	5060	-33	72	96	5, 3
Park City	7140	-30	140	105	
Randolph	6268	-43	34	50	3, 2

The Landscape Environment - Climatic Factors

*The hardiness zones listed for each location are based on the mean minimum temperatures recorded from 1961 to 1990 (mean over 30 years of each year's lowest temperature) and the absolute lowest temperature recorded during that time. Moroni, for example, has a zone 5 based on its mean minimum temperatures and a 4 based on it's all-time low between 1961 and 1990. The advantage of the zones in this table is they are based on local weather station data rather than interpolating from a large-scale map. See various gardening books or go to extension.usu.edu/forestry/HomeTown/Select_HardinessZoneTable.htm or www.usna.usda.gov/Hardzone/ for more information on USDA hardiness zones.

The USDA map can give misleading information in Utah because of rapid changes in elevation. It is also possible to have occasional years with extreme winter cold that may cause plant damage beyond what would be expected based on the hardiness map. The data in Table 1 provide more detailed climate characteristics for communities and locations in the high valleys. There can be even more local effects (called microclimates) that are the result of topography, canyons, walls, buildings, and courtyards. Cold hardiness **must** be a major consideration in choosing any landscape plant.

Climatic records also tell us how much moisture enters the landscape as precipitation, and how much water is lost from the landscape. Because of rain shadow effects and elevation, precipitation in higher elevations can vary. Water lost from a landscape through transpiration by plants or evaporation from the soil surface is called evapotranspiration or ET. Climatic data for the month of July estimates that a turf area in a cool spot, such as Brighton, would use about 0.13 inches of water per day (3.8 inches per month), while warmer spots, such as Kamas, may use up to 0.15 inches per day (4.4 inches per month). These values are estimates only, and are influenced by local climatic conditions. Cool summer temperatures at high elevations mean that less water is needed for irrigation. However, this does not mean water must not be conserved. Many of the communities within this classification are restricted in the amount of water available to them, so water must be used wisely.

THE LANDSCAPE ENVIRONMENT - SOIL FACTORS

Soils within this region fall within the broad classification of being cold to moderate in temperature, and generally dry. Soil textures include loam, clay loam, fine sand, fine sandy loam, and others. Some soils in this area may contain excess salt, which creates problems in many landscape situations. It is important to remember that even excellent native soils are usually reduced in quality during construction. Construction often results in the mixing of subsoils with topsoil, compaction, and contamination of the soil with debris and chemicals. Compaction is a very common problem and is serious because it restricts root growth, reduces water infiltration, and limits aeration.

Plant growth and ease of maintenance are improved immensely by high quality soils. Landscape soil quality can be improved by keeping it clean during construction, tillage to reduce compaction, and amending with fertilizers and organic matter. To amend soils correctly requires an understanding of the following characteristics.

Soil texture: This refers to the percentages of sand, silt, and clay in a soil. Sandy soils drain quickly and retain little water or nutrients. Clay soils consist of much smaller particles and have less drainage, but better nutrient retention than sandy soils. Soils with appropriate balances of sand, silt, and clay are described as loamy. Loam soils, or close relatives such as clay loams or silt loams, are the best soils for plant growth.

Soil structure: Structure refers to the degree to which small soil particles clump together, forming both large and small pores throughout the soil. This clumping aids water and air movement in the soil because water and air can move freely through the large pores. At the same time, the smaller pores within the aggregates hold water for plant use.

Soil organic matter: Organic matter is beneficial in soil because it decomposes to provide plant nutrients. Organic matter also improves water infiltration, drainage and retention in the soil, largely due to its ability to improve soil structure. Manure, compost, leaves, and grass clippings are sources of soil organic matter.

Nutrient status: The nutrient status of the soil refers to the amount of nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium in the soil. These nutrients and several others are essential for proper plant growth. If nutrients are limited then plant growth suffers because of deficiencies. On the other hand, excessive levels of nutrients or other compounds such as sodium chloride can result in salty soils. Saline soils are difficult for plants to grow in because high levels of salts make it hard for plant roots to absorb water.

Soil pH: This refers to the acidity or alkalinity of the soil. It is important because the pH of the soil affects the availability of mineral nutrients to plants. For example, Utah soils have high levels of iron, an essential mineral. However, due to the high pH of these soils, the iron present is not readily available for plant growth.

The most effective way to determine a soil's characteristics is to have a soil test done. Soil testing is done by commercial laboratories, or through agencies such as the Soil Testing Laboratory at Utah State University (435-797-2217). Instructions and sampling kits for soil tests are available at county Cooperative Extension offices.

MANAGING THE LANDSCAPE ENVIRONMENT - WATER MANAGEMENT

Summer landscape irrigation requirements are primarily met through irrigation. A problem common to arid regions is the tendency for over-irrigation, which wastes water and can damage many plants. Water supplies in Utah are limited, and will become more so as demand for water continues to increase. Conservation of water is important from both environmental and proper plant management perspectives. Remember though, limited water does not mean that landscaping must be limited. It is possible to retain beautiful and functional landscapes while conserving water. There are several things that can be done to conserve water in the landscape.

1. **Planning:** Planning for water conservation can provide many ways to save water within a highly functional and desirable landscape. Factors that should be planned for in the design include selecting appropriate plants, installing a well-designed irrigation system, proper preparation of the soil before planting, landscape weed control, and efficient maintenance. Information on plant materials and designs for water conservation can be obtained from this publication and the many references listed in the bibliography. Visits to

local parks, gardens, golf courses and other landscaped areas can also provide a wealth of information.

2. Irrigation systems: Proper design and use of irrigation systems can provide substantial water savings in the landscape. Proper design insures that irrigation water is applied uniformly to the landscape. Uniform application prevents over-watering of large portions of the landscape when the system is left on long enough to get that one stubborn dry spot green. Design can also specify the use of water saving systems such as drip irrigation.

Even the most perfectly designed system will waste water if not managed correctly. Fortunately, there are a number of techniques which can be used singly, or together, to conserve water while irrigating.

- Know how much water you are applying. Irrigation should be applied based on *quantity* of water, not the length of application time. Sprinkler system application rates can be determined by placing several straight sided containers (soup cans) in the landscape and measuring the water applied in a given time period. This information also gives some idea of how uniformly water is being applied.
- The landscape should be designed so that plants are grouped according to irrigation requirements. With such a design, each control station can be set to provide the appropriate amount of water for the plants within that station. For example, a station covering the north side of a home will require less water (per square foot) than one on the south side.
- The amount of water applied at any one time should be sufficient to moisten the entire root zone. Sandy soils will require less water to do this than clay soils. Shallow soils will also require less than deep soils. The best way to determine depth of irrigation is to use a soil probe (moisture probe, long screwdriver or soil corer) to determine how far the water has penetrated the soil. More information on this technique can be found in the Utah State University Fact Sheet entitled: Water Wise Landscaping: Monitoring Soil Moisture with Probes (http://extension.usu.edu/publica/gardpub2.htm). It may be necessary to apply water in a series of frequent, short applications to prevent surface runoff while thoroughly moistening the soil profile.
- Irrigate when plants need it, not on a predetermined day of the week. There are a number of observational techniques that can be used to determine when to irrigate. The easiest is to observe the landscapes and watch for signs of water stress in plants. Water stress usually shows up first in turf, and is characterized by a change in color from a bright green, to a dull blue-green. Dry turf will also show foot prints after it is walked on. There may be other plants in the landscape that show water stress before anything else, and they too can be used to schedule irrigation. If water is applied soon after stress appears, there is usually no harmful effect to the landscape. Irrigation scheduling can also be based on ET.

3. Plant hydrozones: Grouping plants together according to similar water requirements avoids wasteful over-watering and encourages proper growth. For many water efficient plants, there is such a thing as too *much* water. This guide provides recommended levels of watering as a general guide to "zone" planting. It is important to realize that there are not any magic numbers available which say exactly how much water should be applied to the landscape for any given plant. Water needs are dependent on the soil type, weather conditions, plant material, and the amount of competition with weeds or other desirable plants. The ratings given in any publication are simply guidelines.

4. Use mulches: One of the best things that can be done with any landscape is to use mulches of organic matter. It is hard to go wrong when adding such material to the soil,

especially in the desert soils of Utah where organic matter is often very low. Mulches keep soil temperatures lower and reduce surface evaporation, thus holding the water near roots longer. Mulches suppress weed growth, reducing competition with desirable plants. They also decompose over time and provide needed organic matter to the soil.

5. Proper use of turf: There is a constant debate on how much water turf uses compared to other plants. Currently, researchers are looking for turfgrasses that can do well in low irrigation situations. Since turfgrasses are actively growing all summer long, they tend to use more water than other plants. For many types of activities, there is no good substitute for turf, so eliminating turf from the American landscape is usually not an option. However, reducing the amount of turf can save water. For instance, if the only time a turf area is walked on is when it is mowed, then it may be prudent to consider an alternative. Perennials can be more water efficient and offer the benefit of color. Shrub beds installed with weed barriers can be very attractive and very low maintenance. There are also nontraditional turfgrasses, such as buffalograss, which can survive with little supplemental water. However, such grasses do not function the same as bluegrass in the landscape.

6. Control weeds: The ideal water conserving landscape loses no water through evaporation from the soil or use by weeds. Evaporation can be controlled by mulches. Weeds can also be controlled by mulches, and by cultivation and herbicides. Remember, label directions must be followed when using herbicides in landscapes. A good reference is the Utah Horticultural Weed Control Handbook available through Cooperative Extension.

MANAGING THE LANDSCAPE ENVIRONMENT - SOIL MANAGEMENT

One of the main causes of landscape problems is inadequate soil preparation. Landscape soils are often compacted or contaminated by construction practices. If these problems are not corrected, plant growth will suffer for years. There are many simple practices that can dramatically improve soils damaged by construction.

When preparing a soil for planting, the first step is to reduce compaction by deep tillage or ripping of soil. This insures appropriate drainage and aeration. This cultivation should be done to the subsoil following construction and before the addition of top soil. The depth of cultivation should be 12-18 inches, and only needs to be enough to break up compacted soil layers. Finer tillage and grading can be done after topsoil is added.

Organic matter can also improve soil characteristics. Addition of organic matter is beneficial because it may temporarily reduce the pH (if acidic materials are used), improve nutrient and water retention, and insure good structure and aeration. Organic matter is best when used to modify an entire area rather than just a planting hole. When amending with organic matter, the best method is to spread a layer on the surface of the topsoil and then cultivate it into the soil. It is usually not appropriate to amend a soil with sand or clay. Such practices may damage the soil more than they improve it.

Two common problems in these areas are alkaline soils (high pH) and salinity. Lowering soil pH is difficult for large areas, and is very expensive for an entire landscape. The best solution is to choose plants adapted to the existing pH, rather than trying to change the pH to support non-adapted plants. Irrigation with high quality water (low salts) in soils with adequate drainage controls most soil salinity since salts move freely with soil water. Improve drainage by reducing compaction and adding organic matter to the soil, or by the installation of drain tiles in areas with severe problems. Salinity problems can be reduced by applying an extra 10% of water to help flush salts down past the root zone. It is also possible to select plants that are salt tolerant.

MANAGING THE LANDSCAPE ENVIRONMENT - LANDSCAPE PLANT Selection

The answer to many landscape problems is as simple as selecting appropriate plants. Plants that are native or adapted to the local environment can thrive under minimum maintenance, while non-adapted plants often will not survive the soil and climatic conditions. Cold tolerance is the first criterion in selecting landscape plants. Plant irrigation requirements and other factors are less critical because we can economically provide water, fertilizers, and pesticides. However, providing supplemental heat for landscape plants is too expensive to be an option. For some reason, people tend to choose plants that are at the very limit of their hardiness capability. The result of such selections is that many of these plants are injured or killed outright during periodic cold spells. To avoid the discouragement of seeing a carefully nurtured 10-year-old tree die, it is much better to select plants that are hardy for the zone they are grown in. Most plant material publications and catalogs are good sources of hardiness information.

While hardiness is the most critical aspect of plant selection, other factors are also very important. In a water conserving landscape, plants should be selected that tolerate minimum irrigation and extended dry periods. In areas with high pH soils, plants should be chosen that are not susceptible to iron chlorosis. Plants should also be chosen based on their resistance to local disease and insect problems. For example, plants such as European weeping birch, silver maple, rhododendrons, and others are not recommended because of serious problems that occur with them in the landscape.

Some think that only native plants should be used in drought tolerant landscapes. While many native plants function extremely well as landscape plants, it is important to realize that some natives may not be adapted to the site in question. Just because a plant is native to Utah does not mean it is native to all of the habitats in Utah. In addition, there are many introduced plants that function as well as, or better than, some natives in low maintenance landscapes.

The following tables are lists of plants that are suitable for much of the high mountain valleys. Plants are classified as trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials, and grasses. Each plant is listed with common and botanical names, and a host of characteristics. While not comprehensive, these lists are a good place to start when choosing plants for a landscape, or when sitting down with a landscape architect. In these lists, 'zone' refers to the plant hardiness zone, and water refers to relative water requirements for acceptable growth. Water requirements are based on a scale of 0-3, with the definitions as follows:

- **0** No supplemental water is required after plants are established.
- 1 At least 1-inch of supplemental water per month may be required after plants are established.
- 2 At least 1-inch of supplemental water every two weeks may be required after plants are established.
- 3 At least 1-inch of supplemental water each week may be required after plants are established.

TREES

Abies lasiocarpa - Subalpine Firzone 1-5water 3Native, evergreen tree occurring at elevations of 6500-10,000 feet. This tree is narrowly
pyramidal and grows to 60'-80' tall. Only for cool, moist environments.water 2-3Abies concolor - White Firzone 3-7water 2-3

Native, evergreen tree occurring at elevations of 6000-8000 feet. Broadly pyramidal, to 80'. The needles have a white or frosty appearance. Currently available in the nursery trade. One of the best firs for landscaping. Acer ginnala - Amur or ginnala maple zone 2-8 water 2 Native to central and northern China, Manchuria, and Japan. Moderately shade tolerant. Many varieties are available commercially that vary from small shrubs to small trees. The main problem with this species in Utah is occasional chlorosis on high pH soils. Fall color can be excellent. Acer glabrum - Rocky Mountain Maple zone 3 water 1 Native, deciduous, small tree growing rapidly to 20' x 15'. Green leaf color changing to vellow to orange in fall; does well in sun or shade. Grown easily from seed, but hard to transplant. Stays shrub-like on poor sites. Acer grandidentatum - Big Tooth Maple zone 3 water 1-2 Native, small, deciduous tree with bright fall colors of vellow to orange and red. Slow growth to 30' x 20'; requires well-drained soils and full sun. Easily grown from seed, transplants well if container-grown. Thought to be a close relative of the sugar maple. Acer negundo - Boxelder zone 2-9 water 1 A large, native, deciduous tree common to riparian areas throughout Utah. Rapidly growing and weak-wooded. Female trees are susceptible to the boxelder bug. Not the best choice, but in wet sites selected cultivars may be a good option. Acer platanoides - Norway Maple zone 3-7 water 3 Deciduous; green to purple leaves depending on cultivar; very dense shade; moderate growth rate to 50' x 40'; full sun; tolerant as to soil type if well-drained; pH of 6-8. Tolerant of air pollution. Problems with aphids, *verticillium* wilt, and leaf scorch, somewhat weedy. Acer tataricum - Tatarian Maple zone 3-8 water 2 Deciduous; small tree (20' x 20'); slow-moderate growth rate; often multi-stemmed; wide range of fall colors; adaptable to a wide range of conditions and somewhat drought tolerant when established. Few disease or insect problems. Aesculus hipposcastanum - Horsechestnut zone 3-8 water 2 Deciduous tree, growing to 50'-70'. Very showy flowers. It has a slow growth rate and is susceptible to leaf scorch. Aesculus x carnea (Red Horsechestnut) may be more scorch tolerant. Has large, inedible seeds. Alnus glutinosa - European Alder zone 3-7 water 3 Deciduous tree growing to 40'-60'. Attractive dark, green leaves. Best used as an alternative for moist, poorly drained soils. Has the ability to fix nitrogen. Alnus incana - Mountain Alder zone 1-6 water 3 A native, deciduous tree or shrub. Occurs in riparian areas in mountainous regions throughout the state. Selected varieties are available. An excellent choice for cold, wet environments. Betula occidentalis - Western River Birch zone 3 water 3 Deciduous, multi-stemmed small tree which grows rapidly to 35' x 15'. Occurs naturally as a riparian plant. Multiple stems and copper-colored bark provide nice winter appearance. Transplants easily. Should not be confused with Betula nigra a nonnative River Birch. Celtis occidentalis - Common Hackberry zone 2-9 water 1 Deciduous; coarse, green leaves with yellow fall color; ridged, corky bark; moderate grower to 40' x 40'; full sun; tolerates a wide range of soils with pH of 6-8. Largely pest free except for leaf nipple gall, a cosmetic insect problem on leaves.

	2.0	4 2
Cercis canadensis - Eastern Redbud	zone 3-9	water 2
A small, flowering, deciduous tree growing to 20'-30'. The		
magenta and open before the leaves. Widely adaptable, th drained soil. A member of the legume family.	lough does requ	life well
Crataegus douglasii – Black or Douglas Hawthorn	zone 2-8	
Native, small (25'), deciduous tree occurring in riparian a		$a_{\rm s}$ of 4000
8400 feet. It has small, white flowers and 1/2-inch black		
hawthorns, it is quite thorny.	munt. Like most	oulei
Crataegus crusgalli - Cockspur Hawthorn	zone 3-8	water 1
A small, flowering, deciduous tree that grows to 20'-30'.		
by persistent red fruit. A slow growing tree. Large thorns		
some situations, but a thornless variety exists (var. <i>inerm</i>		
Crataegus phaenopyrum - Washington Hawthorn	zone 3-8	water 2
A 25'-30' tall flowering tree. Broadly rounded form with		
flowers followed by 1/4-inch diameter persistent fruit.	dense, morny of	anenes. winte
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i> - Russian-Olive	zone 2-7	water 1
Deciduous; silvery-grey foliage; fast growth to 20' x 20';		
conditions including high pH and salts. Susceptible to ver		
<i>extremely difficult situations</i> , but invasive. Check local w		-
Ginkgo biloba - Ginkgo/Maidenhair tree	zone 3-8	water 2
Deciduous; green leaf with yellow fall color; slow to esta		
rate to 50' x 30'; full sun; adaptable to soil conditions, air		-
well in urban conditions. Avoid extremely high pH condi	-	
problems. Use male cultivars (no fruit).		
Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis - Thornless Honeylocust	zone 3-9	water 1
Deciduous; green compound leaf with small leaflets; fast	growth to 40' x	40'; full sun;
tolerant to high pH and salt. Provides light shade, no hear	vy leaf litter. Su	sceptible to
midge pod gall and thironectria canker.		
Gymnocladus dioicus - Kentucky Coffeetree	zone 3-8	water 1
Deciduous; large green doubly pinnate leaves; slow to es	-	
full sun; adaptable to soil conditions, but prefers deep loa		
no serious diseases or insects. Female trees will produce		
Juniperus scopulorum - Rocky Mtn. Juniper	zone 2-7	water 0
Evergreen native; bluish-green foliage; slow growing to 3		
variety; full sun; tolerant to wide range of soil conditions		Good screen
for harsh sites. May suffer root rot if over irrigated. Many		
Juniperus virginiana - Eastern Redcedar	zone 2-9	water 0
Evergreen; moderate growth to 40' x 10'; full sun; soil an drained; salt telerant. Tough plant for screening and nature		
drained; salt tolerant. Tough plant for screening and natu	falizing. No ser	ious disease of
insect problems. Many cultivars. <i>Larix decidua</i> - European larch	zone 2-6	water 3
Native to the mountains of northern and central Europe; of		
moderate growth rate and is quite cold-tolerant; prefers n		
This is a beautiful tree with great, golden fall color. Deci-		
but not everyone likes its winter appearance.		
Malus species - Crabapple	zone 2-8	water 2
Deciduous; green to red leaves; a wide variety of forms, s		
size and color. Truly one of the hardiest flowering trees available. Adaptable as to soil		
type if well-drained; full sun. Over 200 cultivars in the tr	-	
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<i>Picea abies</i> - Norway Spruce	zone 2-7	water 2
This spruce is distinguished from the more common Color		
branchlets, though there are many cultivars with many dif	ferent forms. N	fedium to fast
growth rate to 40'-60'. Readily transplanted. Spruce ips ba	rk beetles can b	be serious pests
on water-stressed plants.		
Picea engelmannii - Engelmann Spruce	zone 2-5	water 1
A native conifer occurring at elevations of 8000-10400 fee	et. Only use on	cool-moist
sites. Spruce ips bark beetles can be serious pests on water		
<i>Picea glauca</i> - White or Blackhills Spruce	zone 2-6	water 2
Native in Black Hills, northern Lake States, northeastern U		
and Alaska; but not in Utah. Slow growing. Prefers moist		
	-	
fairly adaptable. Shade tolerant. Seldom planted in Utah (-	
spruce), but a very desirable landscape tree. Narrow-crow		
interesting. Dwarf Alberta spruce (P. glauca 'Conica') is a	commonly ava	allable cultivar
that is overused in many landscapes.	2.5	
Picea pungens - Blue Spruce	zone 2-7	water 3
Evergreen native; green to blue foliage; slow growing to 4		
account for eventual size of this tree when planting in land		
mainly a cosmetic problem. Spruce ips bark beetles can be	e serious pests o	on water-
stressed plants.		
Pinus edulis - Pinyon Pine	zone 2	water 0
Evergreen native; gray-green, double needled pine; slow g	growing to 20' x	x 15'; full sun;
tolerant to well-drained, high pH soils. No serious disease	or insect probl	ems. Has
edible pine nut.	_	
-	4-7(Dirr)	water 1
Native, slow growing evergreen. With a maximum height		n excellent
small pine for use in landscapes as an accent or rock garde		
Pinus nigra - Austrian Pine	zone 4-7	water 1
Evergreen; dark green, long needles; moderate growth rate		
Tolerant of city conditions, soils, heat, and alkalinity. No		
problems.		i discuse
Pinus sylvestris - Scotch Pine	zone 2-8	water 1
Evergreen; relatively short needles; moderate growth to 40		
if well-drained. Unique form and color. No serious insect	zone 3-8	water 1
Populus alba 'Bolleana' - Bolleana Poplar		
Deciduous; green leaves with white underside; columnar i		
15'; full sun; tolerant to high pH soils, air pollution, and sa		
rapid growing screen or windbreak, but susceptible to man	-	
Populus deltoides - Eastern Cottonwood	zone 3	water 2
Deciduous; large green leaves with yellow fall color; very		
full sun; tolerant to high pH soils. Good for a rapid growin	ng shade tree in	areas with
ample room. Weak wooded, susceptible to multiple pests.		
Populus tremuloides - Quaking Aspen	zone 3-7	water 3
A native, deciduous tree occurring in montane regions three		
fast growing. Not recommended for warmer valleys becau	se of borers, su	ickers, and
failure to produce desired white stems. May be an option	for cooler mour	ntain valleys.
Yellow fall color.		
Prunus virginiana 'Canada Red' - Canada Red Chokecherry	zone 2	water 1
Deciduous, small tree/shrub with maroon red foliage; grow	ws to 20' x 10'.	Red fruit in

mid summer Dequires well drained coroted soils. Will a	ualtar		
mid-summer. Requires well-drained, aerated soils. Will s		water 0	
Quercus gambelii - Gambel's Oak	zone 2	water 0	
Deciduous, native oak; green leaves with brown fall color			
full sun; tolerant of high soil pH, but must have well-drai	ned soils. Susc	eptible to a	
number of native pests including the formation of galls.	2.0		
Quercus macrocarpa – Bur Oak	zone 3-8	water 1	
Deciduous, dark green leaves with yellow to brown fall c	•	wing to 70'-80'.	
Full sun. Tolerant of high soil pH. Produces large acorns.			
<i>Robinia x ambigua</i> 'Idaho' - Idaho Flowering Locust	zone 3-8	water 1	
Deciduous, green leaves; attractive purple blossoms; fast	0 0		
tolerant to a wide range of soils. Good for use in difficult	-	ible to borers.	
<i>Syringa reticulata</i> - Japanese Tree Lilac	zone 3-7	water 2	
Deciduous; green foliage; no fall color. Moderate growth			
drained soil and full sun. Is pH tolerant. Resistant to lilac	borer and pow	dery mildew	
that occur on common lilac. Flowers in May-June.			
<i>Thuja occidentalis -</i> Northern Whitecedar	zone 2-8	water 2	
Native to northeast U.S., Lake States, Appalachian Mountains, and southern			
Canada. Not a true cedar. Medium to fairly large tree, medium to slow growth. Often			
found in swampy areas. Intermediate shade tolerance. More commonly planted in Utah			
in the past than now, though these are very desirable trees. Many different crown forms			
are available, from shrubby, to large pyramidal, to weeping. Good as hedge, visual			
screen, windbreak, or as specimen trees. Cold hardy but r	nay need prote	ction on harsh,	
dry, windy sites. Does not like extreme heat and dry cond	litions. Few ins	sect or disease	
problems.			
<i>Tilia americana</i> - American Linden	zone 2-9	water 2	
Large, deciduous tree (60'-80'). Flowers are fragrant and	bloom in June.	May be too	
large for many landscapes. 'Redmond' is a common culti	var though bro	ader crowned	
varieties are better. A good choice for a large, hardy shad	e tree for park	situations.	
Tilia cordata - Littleleaf Linden	zone 3-7	water 3	
Deciduous; often pyramidal-shaped tree; grows to 60' x 30'. Easily transplanted; full			
sun; prefers well-drained soil and is soil-pH tolerant. Aphids can be a problem.			
Excellent shade tree with several nice cultivars.			

SHRUBS

Amorpha canescens - Leadplant, False Indigo	zone 2	water 1	
Deciduous, pinnately compound leaves changing to ye	ellow in fall; purpl	e flower;	
moderate growth to 2'-4' x 4'-5'. Full sun; tolerant to w	vide range of soils;	pH of 7-8.	
Amorpha fructicosa – Indigo Bush Amorpha	zone 2	water 1	
Deciduous, multi-stemmed shrub with a spread to 4'-10'. Blue flowers. Full sun.			
Arctostaphylos patula – Greenleaf Manzanita	zone 2-6	water 1	
Native, evergreen shrub growing to 3'-6' in height. Bright green leaves with red stems.			
Full sun. Pink flowers in spring.			
Aronia melanocarpa - Black Chokeberry	zone 3-8	water 2	
A small, deciduous shrub growing to 5'-10' in height. Suckers to form large thickets.			
Red fall color, purple/black fruit, adaptable to many conditions. Variety <i>elata</i> is best for			
landscapes. Use as a mass planting.			

	_	_	
Artemisia cana - Silver Sagebrush	zone 3	water 0	
Native, silver-leafed sage; evergreen leaves. Moderate gre	with of $3'-4' \times 3'$	5'-10' width.	
Full sun; tolerant of most soils. Suckers profusely.			
Artemisia frigida - Fringed Sage	zone 2	water 0	
Native, silver-leafed evergreen; rapid growing to 1' x 1'; f		erant. Used for	
border or color accent. Flower stalks which may need to b	be trimmed.		
Caragana arborescens - Siberian Peashrub	zone 2-7	water 1	
Introduced, deciduous shrub with moderate to fast growth	up to 15'-20' x	12'-18'.	
Yellow flowers; full sun; tolerant of saline soils and spray	vs, most soils, a	lkalinity, wind	
and drought. Good for hedge or windbreak in difficult site			
Caragana pygmaea - Pygmy Peashrub	zone 3-7	water 1	
Deciduous; moderate growth rate; height of 2'-3' x 4'-5'; y	ellow flowers.	Full sun.	
Tolerant of various soil types, salt, and high pH.			
Cercocarpus ledifolius - Curl-leaf Mtn. Mahogany	zone 2	water 0	
Evergreen native; dull green leaf color year-round; slow g			
well-drained soils and a pH of 6-7. Withstands shearing.		20 X 10 . 1100005	
<i>Cercocarpus montanus</i> - Mountain Mahogany	zone 2	water 0	
Native, deciduous shrub with pink flowers and white fruit			
sun. Poor tolerance to salts. Grows best in well-drained so			
	zone 4	water 1	
Chamaebatiaria millefolium - Fernbush			
Native, deciduous shrub with finely pinnate foliage; white		g the summer,	
grows to 8' x 8'. Tolerant to high pH soils.		water 2	
Cornus sericea - Redstem Dogwood	zone 2-8	water 2	
Native, deciduous shrub with outstanding red bark; fast g			
full sun; low salt tolerance. Adaptable to a wide range of			
Handsome utilitarian shrub, native to riparian areas. Susc			
Holodiscus dumosus - Rockspray Spiraea	zone 3	water 1	
Deciduous native shrub; green leaves; white/pink flower			
growing to variable height and width; requires well drained soils; can tolerate high pH.			
No significant pest problems. Largely uncultivated.	2.0	. 1	
Juniperus chinensis - Chinese Juniper	zone 3-9		
Evergreen shrub; highly variable in size and color; full su	-		
soils, pH tolerant . Susceptible to root rot when over-irrig	ated. Many cul	tivars	
available, including old Pfitzer types.			
Juniperus communis - Common Juniper	zone 2-6	water 1	
Evergreen shrub; slow growth to 5'-10' x 8'-12'. Gray-gree	•		
sun; wind tolerant. Adaptable to any well-drained soil. Ve			
<i>Juniperus horizontalis</i> - Creeping Juniper	zone 3-9	water 1	
Evergreen; green to blue/green color; moderate growth to		,	
to most soils. More tolerant of heavy soils than other juni	pers. Many cul	tivars.	
<i>Juniperus sabina</i> - Savin Juniper	zone 3-7	water 1	
Evergreen; green needles; moderate growth to 4'-6' x 5'-10	0', depending o	n cultivar. Full	
sun; well-drained, dry soils. Tolerant of urban conditions.	Good cultivars	s are	
'Broadmoor', 'Buffalo', Calgary Carpet, and var. tamarisc	ifolia Potentia	l for root rots.	
Mahonia fremontii - Fremont Barberry/Utah Holly	zone 3	water 0	
Native broadleaf evergreen; gray/green leaf color; holly-l	ike leaf. Slow g	growing to 5' x	
3'. Full sun; well-drained soil.			
Mahonia repens - Creeping Mahonia	zone 3	water 1	
Native broadleaf evergreen groundcover; green leaves cha	anging to hues	of green to red	
		-	

in fall; holly-like leaf; slow growing to 1' x 1'; partial shad pH; low salt tolerance; requires well drained soils. No maj		-
Pinus mugo - Mugo Pine	zone 2-7	water 1
Evergreen; two-needled pine; slow growing to variable siz	e [.] full sun Tol	erant to high
pH. Excellent alternative to junipers. Few disease or insect		
	-	vivoton 1
Potentilla fruticosa - Potentilla	zone 2-7	water 1
Deciduous native plant with many selected cultivars; slow	-	
range of flower colors; full sun to partial shade. Withstand	s poor, dry soil	s if well-
drained. Tolerant of high pH. Few diseases or pests. Good	color and bloo	ming period.
Prunus besseyi - Sand Cherry	zone 3-6	water 1
Deciduous shrub; shiny gray-green leaves with yellow fall		
Moderate growth to 4' tall; suckers. Low salt tolerance, bu	t toterant to nea	a and mgn
pH. Few disease or insect problems.		
<i>Prunus virginiana</i> - Chokecherry	zone 2-6	water 1
Native deciduous shrub; green leaves changing to yellow i	n fall; unique v	white flower
followed by red-black berries; full sun. Moderate growth r		
wide range of soils; riparian. Susceptible to black knot; su	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
jellies.	erens prorusery	, munt used for
5	2.0	. 1
Rhus glabra - Smooth Sumac	zone 2-9	water 1
Native deciduous shrub; green foliage with bright red fruit		
growing to 9'-15'; full sun. Soil and salt spray tolerant; few	v pests; suckers	
<i>Rhus glabra</i> 'Cismontana' - Dwarf Mountain Sumac	zone 2-9	water 1
Deciduous, dwarf shrub; green foliage with bright red fruit	t and fall leaf c	olor: fast
growing to 2'-5' x 3'-4"; full sun. Suckers and can be invasi		oror, 1 u st
Rhus trilobata - Oakleaf Sumac	zone 2	water 0
Native deciduous shrub; green foliage with red fall color a		
Moderate growth rate to 6' x 10'; tolerant of most soils. No	serious pest pi	oblems.
<i>Rhus typhina</i> - Staghorn Sumac	zone 3-8	water 1
Deciduous shrub; green leaves with bright red fall color ar	nd fruit; full sur	n. Fast
growing to 12' tall; suckers readily and can be invasive; to		
conditions. Few disease problems.		ii unu uroun
1	zone 2-8	water 1
Rosa rubrifolia - Redleaf Rose		water 1
Deciduous; red/green foliage with pink flowers and orange	e hips; full sun.	Moderate
growth to 4' x 4'.		
Rosa rugosa - Rugosa Rose	zone 2-7	water 1
Deciduous; leaves green to orange/red in fall; fast growing	g to 5' x 5'. Tole	erant to salt,
pH, most soils if well-drained. Very trouble free for a rose		
Rosa woodsii - Woods Rose	zone 2	water 1
Deciduous, native rose; green foliage with pink blooms an		
	-	iun sun.
Moderate growth to 4' x 4'; salt tolerant; requires well-drai		
Shepherdia argentea - Silver Buffaloberry	zone 2-6	water 0
Native, deciduous shrub; silver foliage with red/orange flo		-
sun. Moderate growth to 10' x 10'; Tolerant to high pH and	l moderate sali	nity.
Shepherdia rotundifolia – Roundleaf Buffaloberry	zone 3-6	water 0
Native, deciduous shrub. Silver foliage with soft gray hairs	s on the undern	eath side.
Slow growth rate to 3'-4'. Tolerant of high pH and modera		
• • •	•	water ?
Spirea x bumalda - Bumald Spiraea	zone 3-8	water 3
Deciduous shrub; light green leaves with lavender blooms.		-
to 2' x 2'; not tolerant to high pH or soil salinity. Susceptib	le to iron chlor	osis. Fruit and

spent blossoms rather unsightly.

Symphoricarpos albus - Snowberry water 2 zone 3-7 Deciduous; white flowers with white berry and green leaves; full to partial shade. Fast growth to 4' x 4'; tolerant to high pH but not soil salinity. Suckers. No serious disease or insect problems. Symphoricarpos oreophilus - Mountain Snowberry zone 2 water 2 Native snowberry; green foliage with white flowers and berries; full sun to partial shade. Fast growing to 5' x 3'; requires well-drained soil, low salinity and neutral pH. Syringa meyeri 'Palibin' - Dwarf Korean Lilac zone 3-7 water 2 Deciduous, dwarf shrub. Flowers lilac to lavender in color. Syringa patula - Miss Kim Lilac zone 3-7 water 2 Deciduous dwarf shrub growing to 3'-5' x 3'-5'; glossy green leaves turn burgundy red in fall; pale, lilac colored flowers. Svringa vulgaris - Common Lilac zone 3-7 water 1 Deciduous shrub; green foliage with white to purple flowers; fragrant; full sun. Moderate growth to 10' x 10'; tolerant of high pH and salt spray. Affected by powdery mildew and ash borer, but not seriously. Very tough, traditional plant. Many cultivars available. **GRASSES**

Festuca arundinacea - Tall Fescue cool season water 2 Turf-type; bunch grass; dark green color; tall; partial shade to full sun; requires well drained soil. Festuca ovina - Sheep Fescue cool season water 0 Ornamental/ground cover; bunch grass; blue/green color; low-moderate height; full sun; requires low salinity and well drained soil. Festuca rubra - Red Fescue cool season water 3 Turf-type; rhizomatous; green color. Lolium perenne - Perennial Rye cool season water 3 Turf-type; bunch grass; green color; partial shade to full sun **Oryzopsis hymenoides - Indian Ricegrass** cool season water 0 Native; ornamental; bunch grass; green color; moderate height; moderately salt tolerant; requires well-drained soil. **Poa pratensis** - Kentucky Bluegrass cool season water 3 Native; turf-type; rhizomatous; green color; moderate height; low salinity tolerance; needs well drained soils.

HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS

Achillea millefolium - Yarrow	zone 3	water 0
Native; pink, red, white, and yellow flowers over green of	dissected leaf; r	nib to late
season bloomer; height 12"-36"; use for borders or natura	alized areas. Ne	eds well-
drained soils, full sun. Susceptible to mildew.		
Aegopodium podagraria 'Variegatum' - Bishop's Weed	zone 4-8	water 3
Leaves light green with white margins; height 8"-10"; vi	gorously growi	ng and
spreading. Full sun or shade, with shade best in warmer a	areas. No soil p	reference. Used

as a ground cover. Can be invasive. Tends to scorch and l summer.	ook unsightly ii	n heat of
Anaphalis margaritacea - Pearly Everlasting	zone 4	water 1
Native; white flower with gray foliage; mid to late season		
for borders. Needs well drained soils and partial shade. C		21 50 , use
-		water)
Antennaria rosea - Field Pussytoes	zone 4	water 2
Native; white to pink flowers with white/gray foliage; blo 3"-12"; use for rock gardens. Tolerant to wide range of so		
Armeria maritima - Sea Pink	zone 4	water 2
Evergreen leaves in clumps with pink or white flowers; le	aves 3"-4" with	flowers to
12" tall. Blooms in mid to late spring. Full sun; dry soils.		
edges and rock gardens.		
Artemisia frigida - Fringed Sage	zone 3	water 0
Native; gray foliage with inconspicuous flowers; height 1		
Tolerant to various soil types; full sun. Requires trimming		lage effects.
Artemisia schmidtiana - Silver Mound	zone 3	water 0
Gray foliage with inconspicuous flowers; height 12"; used	d for foliage and	l as a border.
Requires well-drained soils and full sun. Susceptible to ru		
growing.		
Asclepias tuberosa - Butterfly Weed	zone 3	water 1
Native; multiple flower colors with green foliage; blooms		-
24"-36"; used for border or naturalized areas. Tolerant to		
Aubrieta deltoidea - Purple Rock Cress	zone 4	water 1
Purple flowers; blooms early to mid-season; height 6"; us		
garden. Use in full sun with well-drained soil. Should be	trimmed to main	ntain compact
form. No serious diseases or insects.		
Aurinia saxatile compactum - Dwarf Basket of Gold	zone 4	water 2
Yellow blooms with gray foliage; early season bloomer; h	neight 4"-6"; be	st use is for
rock gardens. Requires a well-drained soil and full sun.	-	
Baptisia australis - Blue False Indigo	zone 4	water 2
Blue flowers. Good as a border plant. Full sun, well-drain		
legume family. Easy to grow and pest free.	•••••••••••••	
Callirhoe involucrata - Poppy Mallow	zone 3	water 0
White or purple blooms with green foliage; blooms all sea		
		11 0 -12, use
in border or rock garden. Tolerant of soil extremes; full su		
Campanula rotundifolia - Bluebells of Scotland	zone 3	water 3
Bright blue 1-inch flowers in early to late summer; self se	eding. Grows 1	-2 high;
requires well drained soils and full sun.		
Centaurea montana - Bachelor Button	zone 3	water 1
Blue or white flowers with green to gray foliage; blooms	early to mid-sea	uson; height
12"-18"; use for border. Requires well-drained soil; partia	I shade to full s	un. Invasive.
Centranthus ruber - Jupiter's Beard	zone 4	water 1
Pink, white, or red flowers with green foliage; blooms in a	mid-season [.] hei	ght 24"-36"
used for borders and naturalized areas. Requires well drai		-
partial shade to full sun.	lieu sons, torere	int to high pri,
Cerastium tomentosum - Snow-in-Summer	zone 3	water 2
White blooms on green to gray foliage; blooms early to m		
used for borders, rock gardens and as a ground cover. Rec	juires well drain	ned soils and
full sun.		

	_	_
Dianthus barbatus - Sweet William	zone 2	water 2
A self-sowing biennial, 6"-10" tall, with a flat cluster of fl	owers. Used in	borders or
rock gardens. No scent.		
Dianthus 'Zing Rose' - Zing Rose Dianthus	zone 2	water 2
Grows to 6" tall, blooms from June to summer with rose re	ed flowers. Den	ise green
foliage.		
Dicentra eximia - Fringed Bleeding-heart	zone 3	water 3
Finely dissected gray-blue evergreen leaves, 12"-18" tall v	vith pink to pur	ple flowers.
Partial shade with well-drained soil. Excellent for borders	and rock garde	ns.
Dicentra spectabilis - Bleeding-heart	zone 2	water 3
Pink, white, and red flowers with green foliage; blooms in	mid-season; he	eight 6"-36".
Used for borders, requires well drained loam, partial shade		-
Echinacea purpurea - Purple Coneflower	zone 3	water 0
Purple flowers with green foliage; blooms in mid- to late s	eason; height 3	0"-40"; use in
borders or naturalized areas. Requires a well-drained soil;		
Gaillardia aristata - Indian Blanket Flower	zone 3	water 0
Native; flowers are a mix of orange, red, and yellow; bloo	ms mid- to late	season: height
12"-30"; use for cutting, border or naturalized areas. Toler		
Few serious problems.		
Hemerocallis Hybrids - Daylily	zone 3	water 1
Multiple flower colors with green, grassy foliage; blooms	20110 0	
30"; use for borders or naturalized areas. Tolerant to most		
sun. Very few problems.	sons, purtier sh	
<i>Iberis sempervirens -</i> Candytuft	zone 3	water 2
Forms a mound 6"-12" by 24" with linear, evergreen leave		
cover the whole plant. Needs full sun and well-drained so		
edging. Should be cut back after blooming to keep full.		k gurdens und
<i>Iris</i> Hybrids - Iris	zone 3	water 1
Multiple flower colors with green, grassy foliage; early bl		
for borders and cut flowers. Tolerant to most soils, should		
Can be minor problems with borers and rots.	be well-drained	a, full sull.
Linum perenne - Flax	zone 3	water 0
Blue or white flowers with green foliage; blooms in mid-		
use for naturalized areas or borders. Well drained soils, no		
Lupinus 'Russell Hybrid' - Lupine	zone 3	water 3
Multiple flower colors with green foliage; blooms in mid-		
borders. Requires well-drained soils, quite tolerant to othe full sun.	r son raciors, p	artial shade to
	zone 3	water ?
Monarda didyma - Bee Balm		water 3
Multiple flower colors in white/red/purple; blooms in mid		
use in mass plantings and naturalized areas. Full sun to pa	Itial shade. Few	pesis, but
may be invasive.		water 2
Narcissus species - Daffodil	zone 3	water 2
Flowers of white, orange, or yellow; blooms early; height		
or naturalized areas. Loam soil; full sun. Best of spring flo	owering builds for	or
naturalizing.	2	
Oenothera elata - Showy Primrose	zone 2	water 2
Native primrose with yellow, orange, or red flowers; blood		September;
height 24"-48"; use as a border or naturalized areas. Full s	un.	

Oenothera missourensis - Missouri Primrose	zone 3	water 1
Yellow, 3"-4" wide blossoms that open in summer ever		
full sun. Works well in rock gardens, edges, and raised		poor sons and
Papaver orientale - Oriental Poppy	zone 3	water 2
Red, orange or pink flowers with green foliage; blooms		
24"-48"; use as border or cut flowers. Needs well-drain		
sun.	eu sons una pura	
Penstemon species - Penstemon	zone 2	water 0
Native group of several species with a wide range of flo		
season; height 12"-36"; use as border or naturalized. Re		
sun. Over irrigation causes root rot. Barbatus (Beardlip		
species.	,	
Phlox subulata - Creeping Phlox	zone 3	water 1
Purple, pink or white flowers with green foliage form a	carpet-like mass	of color in the
spring; blooms in mid-season; height 3"-9"; use as a roo		
cover. Needs well drained soils and full sun for best per		C
Physostegia virginiana - Obedient Plant	zone 3	water 3
Rose-purple or white flowers on spikes to 2'-4' tall. Gro	ows well in full su	un or partial
shade; may require staking if in fertile soils. An aggress	sive spreader, it is	s good for back
grounds and cut flowers.		
Ratibida columnifera - Prairie Coneflower	zone 4	water 1
Native with yellow and purple flower and green foliage		
height 12"-20" use in naturalized areas. Needs well-dra	ined soils and ful	ll sun.
Rudbeckia hirta - Gloriosa Daisy	zone 3	water 1
Flowers in shades of red/yellow with green foliage; blo		
24"-36"; use as a border plant. Tolerant of most soils; f	ull sun to partial	shade.
Susceptible to mildew and sawfly damage.		
Saponaria ocymoides - Soap Wort	zone 3	water 2
A 4"-10" trailing plant with a pink flower in late spring		
drained, even poor quality soils. Good for rock gardens	and stone walls.	Should be cut
back annually.	1	
Sedum species - Sedum	zone 4	water 0
Multiple flower colors with succulent foliage in shades height 8"-18"; use as ground cover or rock garden plant	-	-
	t. Wen dramed so	
sun. <i>Solidago hybrids -</i> Goldenrod	zone 2	water 2
Native with yellow flowers and green foliage; height 30		
naturalized areas. Requires well-drained soils and partia	· ·	
to rust.		
Stachys bysantia - Lamb's Ear	zone 4	water 1
Lavendar blossom with gray foliage; blooms mid- late		
border. Does best in well-drained soils and full sun. Us		,
Thymus species - Thyme	zone 3	water 3
Pink, red or white flowers with gray foliage; blooms in	mid-season; heig	ght 3"-8"; use as
a rock garden plant. Tolerant to most soils; requires full		,
<i>Tulipa</i> Hybrids - Tulip	zone 2	water 1
Multiple flower colors and forms with green foliage; bl	ooms early; heig	ht 8"-24"; use
naturalized or as a border plant. Must have well-drained	d soils and full su	in for good
performance and prevention of bulb rots.		

Veronica spicata - Spike Speedwell	zone 3	water 1	
Blue, pink, or red flowers; blooms early to mid-season; h	neight 6"-24";	use in border or	
rock gardens. Best performance in well-drained loams with partial shade to full sun.			
Vinca minor - Periwinkle	zone 4	water 3	
Evergreen groundcover with blue blossoms; blooms early; height 6"-8"; use as a			
ground cover in full sun to full shade.			

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