


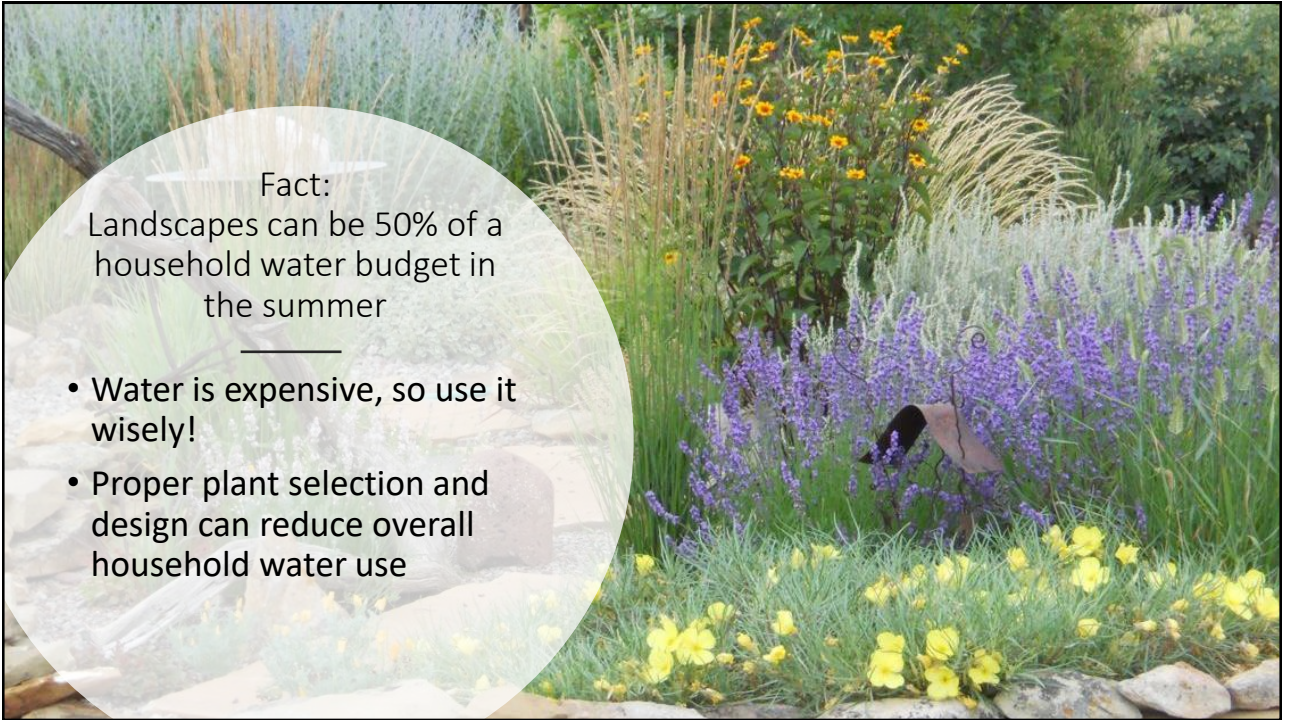


1



- Colorado is a semi-arid state with 8 to 15 inches of precipitation per year.
- Increasing populations will put more demand on our water supply.
- A well thought out Xeriscape can reduce outdoor water use by 60%!

2



3



4

## Plants and Planting

### Plant for the long term

- Perennial plants add color and interest to the landscape, without the need for annual replacement
- Consider perennials adapted for the region (Plant Select®)



5

## Resources for Colorado Gardeners

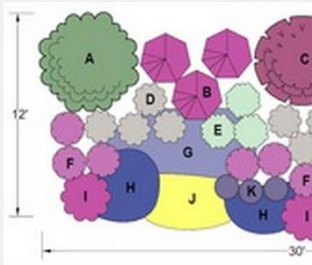
- CSU Extension:  
[extension.colostate.edu](http://extension.colostate.edu)
  - Fact Sheets, PlantTalk Colorado, Master Gardener Garden Notes
- CO-Horts Blog: [csuhort.blogspot.com](http://csuhort.blogspot.com)
  - Subscribe to get recent posts
- Front Range Tree Recommendation List
- CSU Perennial and Annual Trials:  
[flowertrials.colostate.edu](http://flowertrials.colostate.edu)



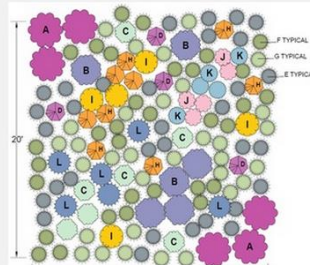
6

## Garden Ideas

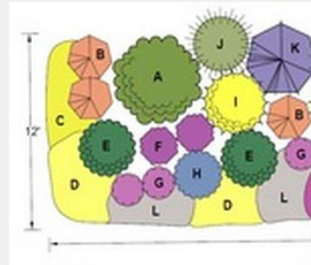
Looking for design ideas for your own garden or landscape? These designs were donated by some of the region's finest designers for a wide range of situations and needs. Feel free to copy the design entirely, or to try out some of the great plant combinations recommended. If you try one of these designs, we'd love to see your pictures, too!



Waterwise Cottage - Lauren Springer  
Ogden Collection

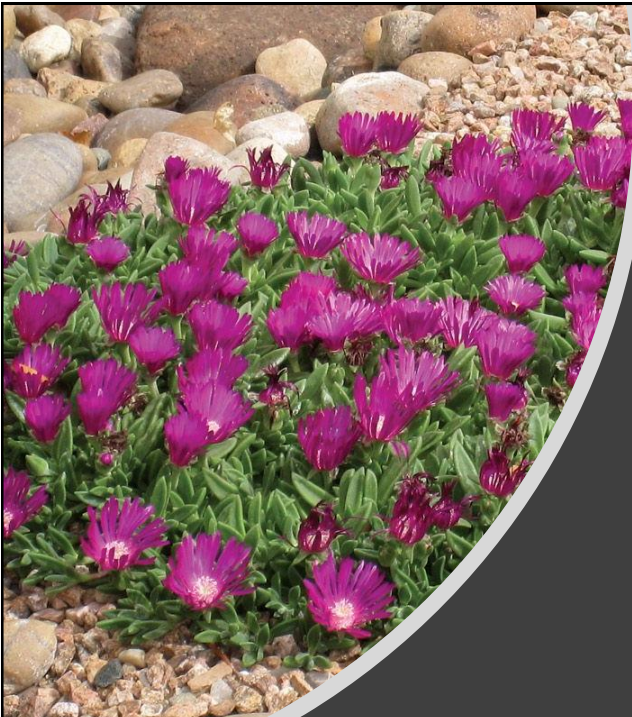


Prairie-Inspired - Lauren Springer  
Ogden Collection



Chaparral/Xeric Mixed Border - Lauren  
Springer Ogden Collection

7



## Sun-Loving Perennials

8

## What's a perennial?

- Perennials return year-after-year
- They are herbaceous (not woody)
- They regrow from the crown of the plant
- Usually have a set bloom time
- Perennials will take time to establish...
  - Year 1: They sleep
  - Year 2: They creep
  - Year 3: They leap!

Sedum 'Thundercloud'



9



Penstemon (also known as beardtongue)

10



## Penstemon

---

- Most bloom in late spring and early summer, different foliage types and flower colors.
- 1 to 3 feet tall, depending on cultivar.
- More than 250 varieties (*not all are hardy in Colorado so buy local*).
- Attract hummingbirds, bees
- Tend to be DEER RESISTANT
- Does better in sandy soils with lower fertility, even gravelly soils
- Full Sun

11

'Red Rocks'  
penstemon



12



‘Carolyn’s Hope’  
penstemon



13

---

Hummingbird Trumpet  
(*Zauschneria garrettii*)



14

## Hummingbird Trumpet

- Groundcover mat of small, soft leaves
- Orange trumpet flowers
- Blooms mid-summer – fall
- Attracts hummingbirds, butterflies



15

## Hummingbird Trumpet

- Plant in full sun to part shade
- Water 1<sup>st</sup> year to establish, then tolerates dry soil
- Must have good drainage in winter
- If needed, light pruning in spring only
- Zones 3-9

© Janet Davis – All Rights Reserved

16





17



18

## Hopflower Oregano

---

- *Technically* a groundcover
- Prolific flowering plant that has unique hop-like lime green bracts accented with purple flowers
- Blooms summer to fall
- Flowers add interest into the autumn as they dry to brown
- A perfect plant when positioned to cascade over the edge of a raised bed or in a rock garden



19



## Hopflower Oregano

---

- 2004 Plant Select® introduction
- Reaches a height of 14"
- Full to part sun
- Pollinators love it!
- Deer and rabbits seem to avoid

20



Hopflower Oregano

- Flowers can be used in cut flower displays
- Drought tolerant once established

21



## Sedum/Stonecrop

- Loves it hot and dry
- Will tolerate poor, rocky soils
- Ranges in height from a groundcover to 24" tall
- Flowers will attract bees
- Deer resistant

22



---

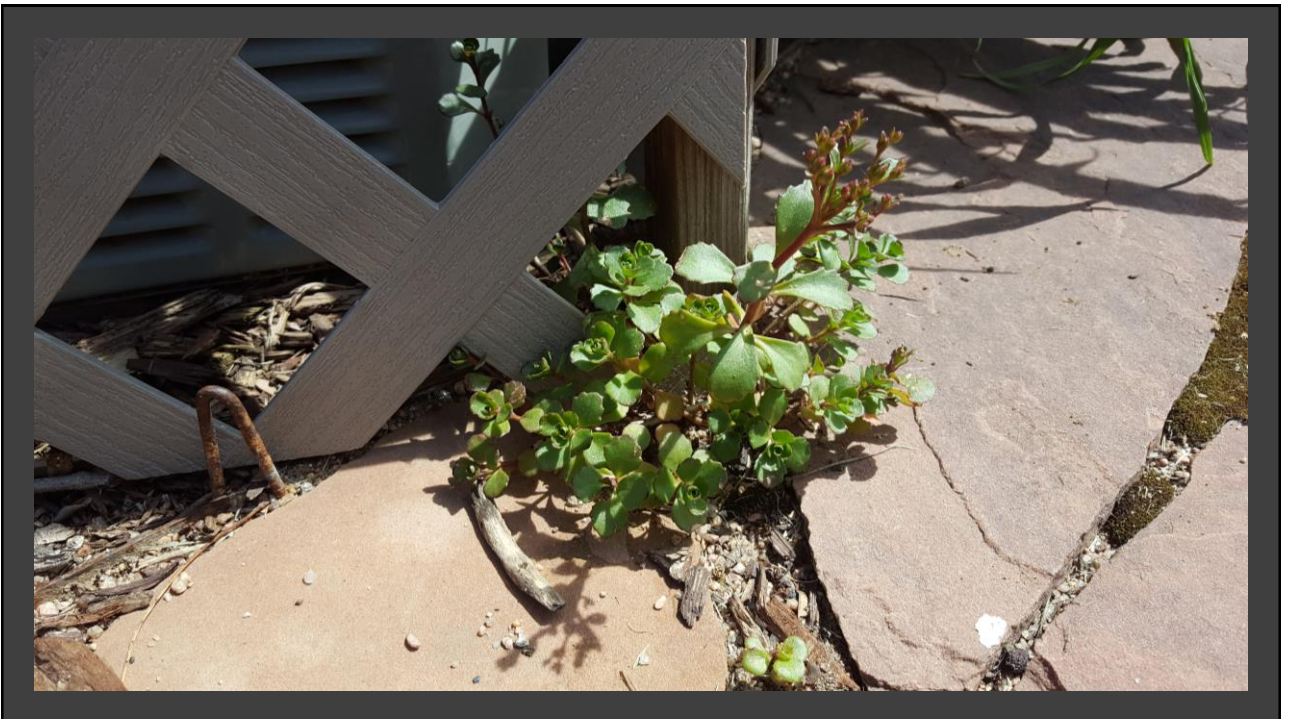
## Sedum/Stonecrop

---

- Water to get established and then let them grow
- A few have spectacular flower blooms
- Some species will gently replant in tough garden spots

'Autumn Joy' sedum

23



24



25



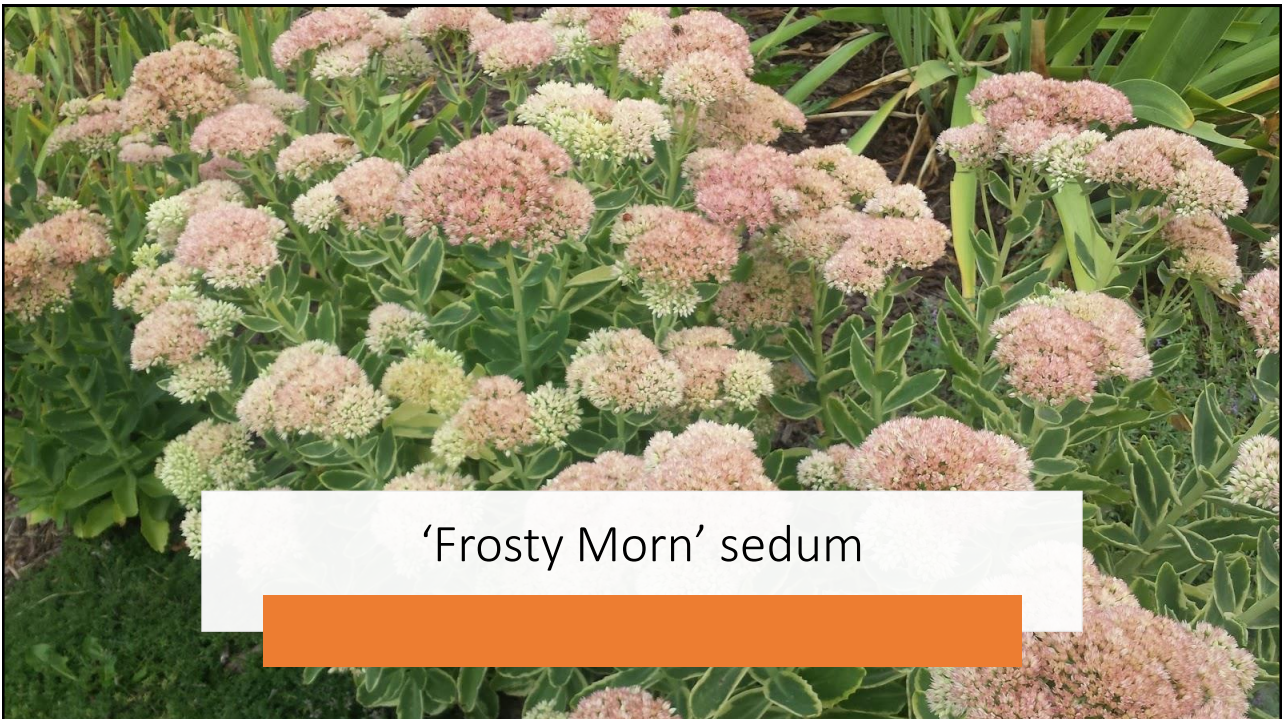
'Turquoise Tails'  
sedum

26

# 'Angelina' sedum



27



# 'Frosty Morn' sedum

28

## Lavender (*Lavendula angustifolia*)

- A versatile herb
- Thrives in alkaline soils
- Drought tolerant, loves full sun
- Colorado is the perfect spot for this plant



29



## Lavender

- Prefer full sun and soils not heavily amended with organic matter
- Spring-planted lavender has better winter survival
- Will need some water during summer to produce flowers and keep an ideal plant shape

30

## English Lavender

- Hardy to zone 5
- Often blooms twice in one season
- Various colors and sizes
- Cultivars: 'Hidcote', 'Munstead', 'Goldberg' and 'Mitcham Gray'



31

## 'Wee One' lavender



32



## Blonde Ambition grama grass

- An ornamental form of a Colorado native with tall, upright stems
- Chartreuse, aging-to-blonde seed heads hold their shape through winter
- Full sun
- Up to 30" tall
- Deer resistant



33

## Blonde Ambition grama grass

- It does reseed but the seedlings are not true-to-type, so pull them
- Warm season and will green up in June
- Very low maintenance!



34



## Standing Ovation little bluestem

- A warm season grass
- Does well in poor, dry soils
- Keeps a tight habit throughout the entire growing season
- 24-36" tall

35

## Standing Ovation little bluestem

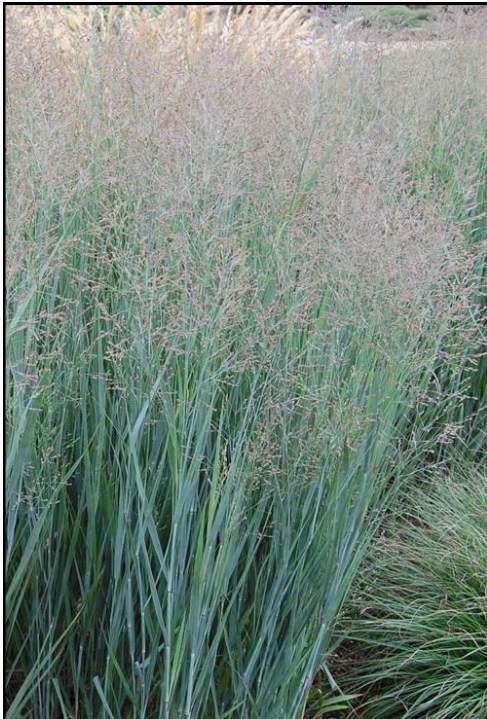
- Bluish-green leaves transition to a brilliant display of shades of red changing to deep purple in the autumn
- Seed heads remain upright through winter and provide winter interest and food for birds



36



37



## *Panicum virgatum* Switchgrass

---

- Many ornamental introductions
- Up to five feet tall
- Some selections have great fall color
- Warm season—will green up in late spring

38



## Switchgrass

- Doesn't lodge (fall over) in winter, so great for winter interest
- Dense, upright form
- May get red or yellow fall color, depending on cultivar

39

## Switchgrass cultivars

- Heavy Metal
- Shenandoah
- Cloud Nine
- Dallas Blues
- **Northwind**
- Prairie Sky
- Prairie Fire



40



## 'Shenandoah' switchgrass

41

## To wrap it up



- Plant a variety of perennials that bloom throughout the growing season
- Leave plants with winter interest standing in the garden (coneflower, ornamental grasses)
- Need to move or divide plants?
  - Spring-blooming perennials = divide or move in summer
  - Summer-blooming perennials = divide or move in spring
- Fall or spring clean-up?
  - That's up to you and your energy levels!

42

# Questions?

Contact information:  
Alison O'Connor  
astoven@larimer.org  
csuhort.blogspot.com

