

A photograph of a garden in autumn. The scene features a stone path leading through a landscape with various plants. In the foreground, there are large, light-colored rocks and some purple flowers. The middle ground shows a path lined with rocks, leading towards a larger area with more trees and shrubs. The background includes a house on the left and right, and a cloudy sky. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and scenic.

*The* **LOW DOWN** *on*  
**LOW WATER PLANTS**

Presented by  
Anne Clark  
and  
Sally Guthart

# Our Goals:

Introduce you to some great plants for Colorado



Inspire you to spend time in your garden

# Xeriscape Plant Selection

Xeriscape embraces plants considered xeric or  
**Drought tolerant plants**

- **Drought tolerance** - ability to withstand drought without dying
- **Drought resistance** – can endure drought and still look good
- **Drought** is a subjective and relative term to the region you live in
- **Definition** - a long period of no rain or absence of rain



How dry is dry?.....How low can we go?

# Schools of Thought

## Dryland gardening

Purist level – no additional water – little to no soil amendments – use only native and adapted plants for your local growing environment.



## Water wise and adaptable gardening

**Xeriscape** principles for plant selection

- 1) Planning and design
- 2) Soil improvements
- 3) Limit Turf – have room for more plants!
- 4) Efficient irrigation
- 5) Right Plant - Right Place - Hydrozone
- 6) Mulch
- 7) Maintenance

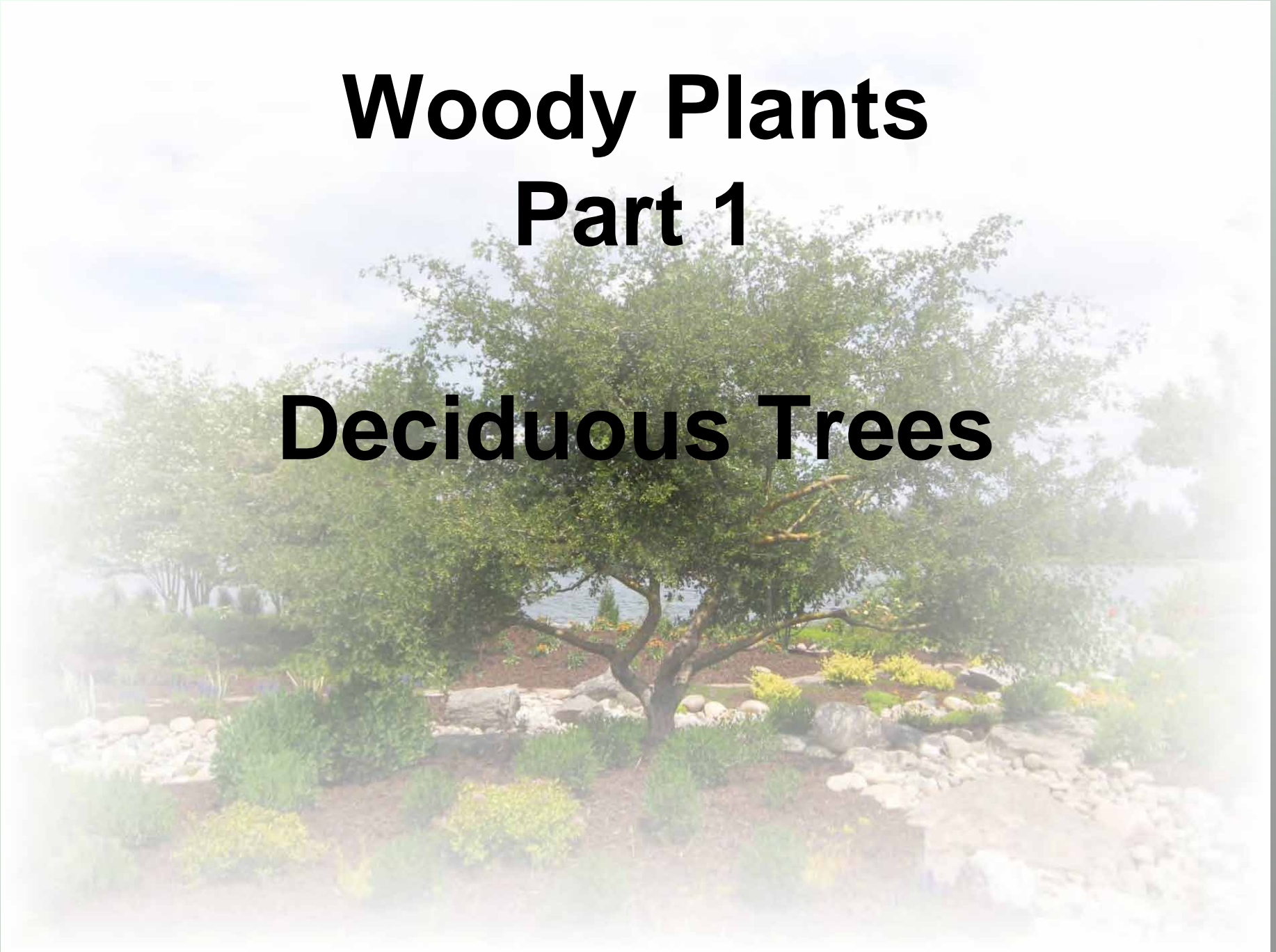


Xeriscape Colorado  
Colorado WaterWise  
Council

# **Woody Plants**

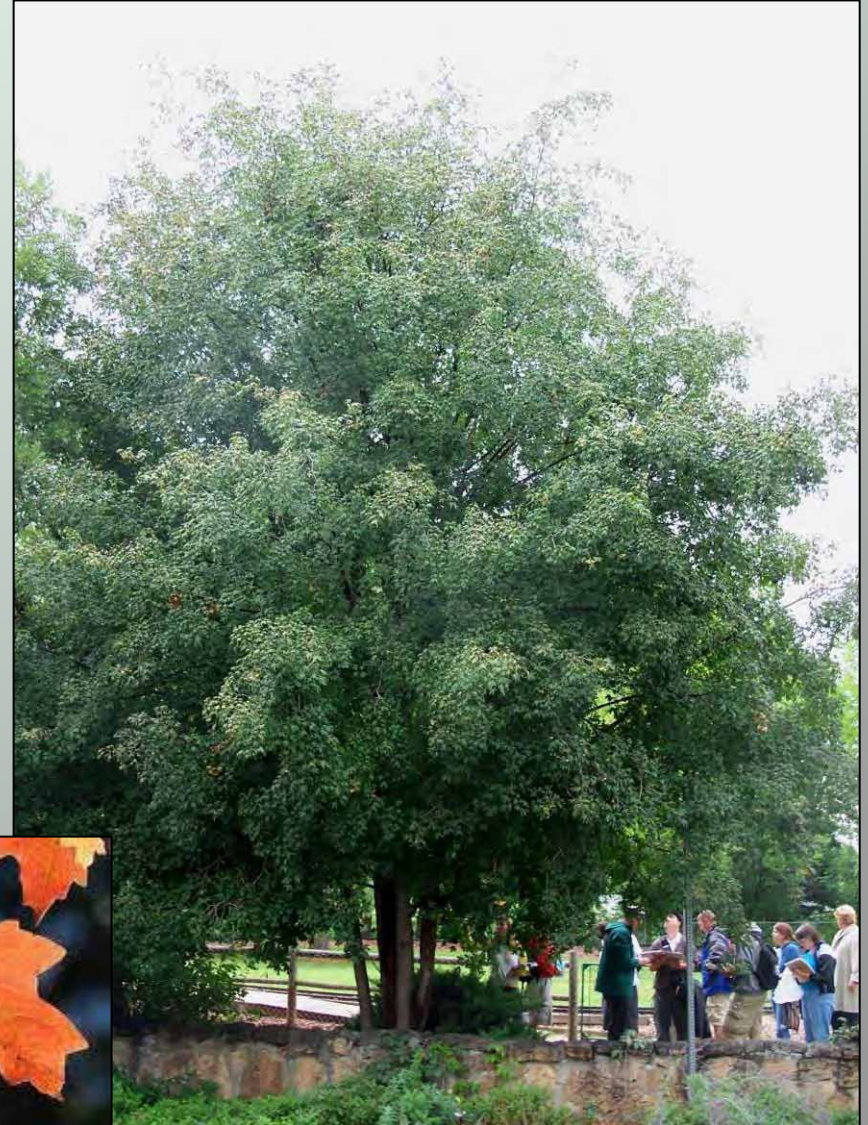
## **Part 1**

### **Deciduous Trees**



# Bigtooth Maple

*Acer grandidentatum*



# Tatarian Maple

*Acer tataricum*



Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry  
*Amelanchier x grandiflora*  
'Autumn Brilliance'





Western Catalpa  
*Catalpa speciosa*



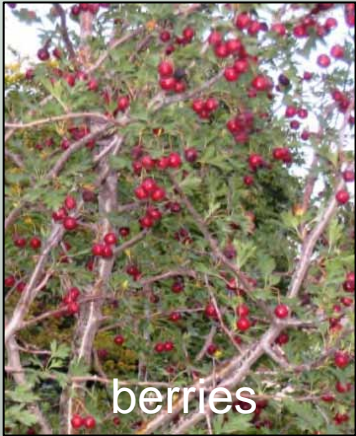
# Common Hackberry

*Celtis occidentalis*



# Russian Hawthorn

*Crataegus ambigua*



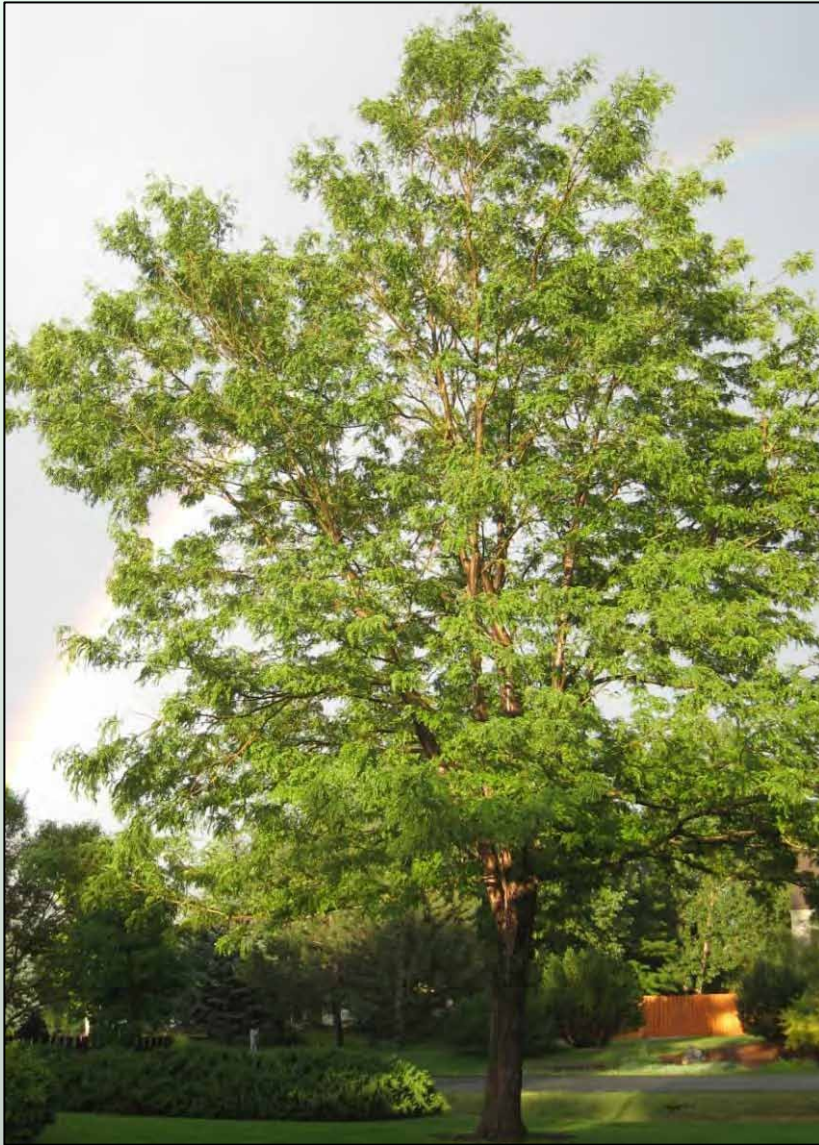
# Thornless Cockspur Hawthorn

*Crataegus crus-gali inermis*



# Imperial Thornless Honeylocust

*Gleditsia triacanthos inermis*



# Kentucky Coffeetree

*Gymnocladus dioicus*



'Espresso' = seedless cultivar

Wafer Ash  
*Ptelea trifoliata*





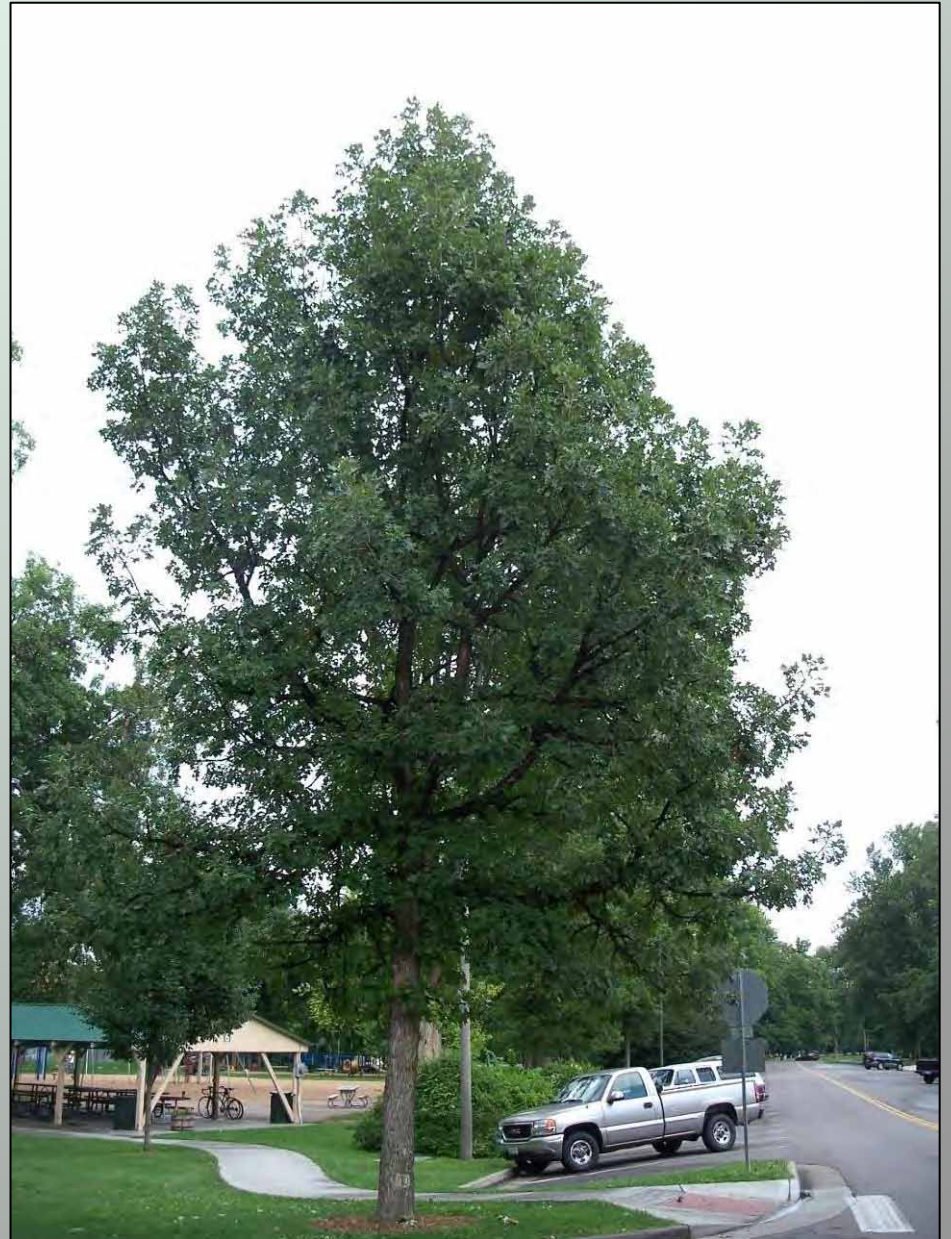
# Gambel Oak

*Quercus gambelii*





Bur Oak  
*Quercus macrocarpa*



# Chinquapin Oak

*Quercus muehlenbergii*



Photo credit:  
[www.coloradotrees.org](http://www.coloradotrees.org)

# Shumard Red Oak

*Quercus shumardii*



# Wavyleaf Oak

*Quercus undulata*



Fall color  
Multi-stem



Foliage



Summer color  
Single-stem



# Evergreen Trees

# Rocky Mountain Juniper Cultivars

*Juniperus scopulorum*



Cologreen Juniper



Wichita Blue Juniper



Woodward Columnar Juniper

# Chinese Juniper Cultivars

*Juniperus chinensis*



Spartan Juniper



Colorado Blue Spruce  
*Picea pungens*







# Colorado Blue Spruce

*Picea pungens*



‘Pendula’



‘Montgomery’



‘Fastigata’

# Colorado Blue Spruce

*Picea pungens*



Fat Albert Spruce



Baker's Blue Spruce

# Bristlecone Pine

*Pinus aristata*

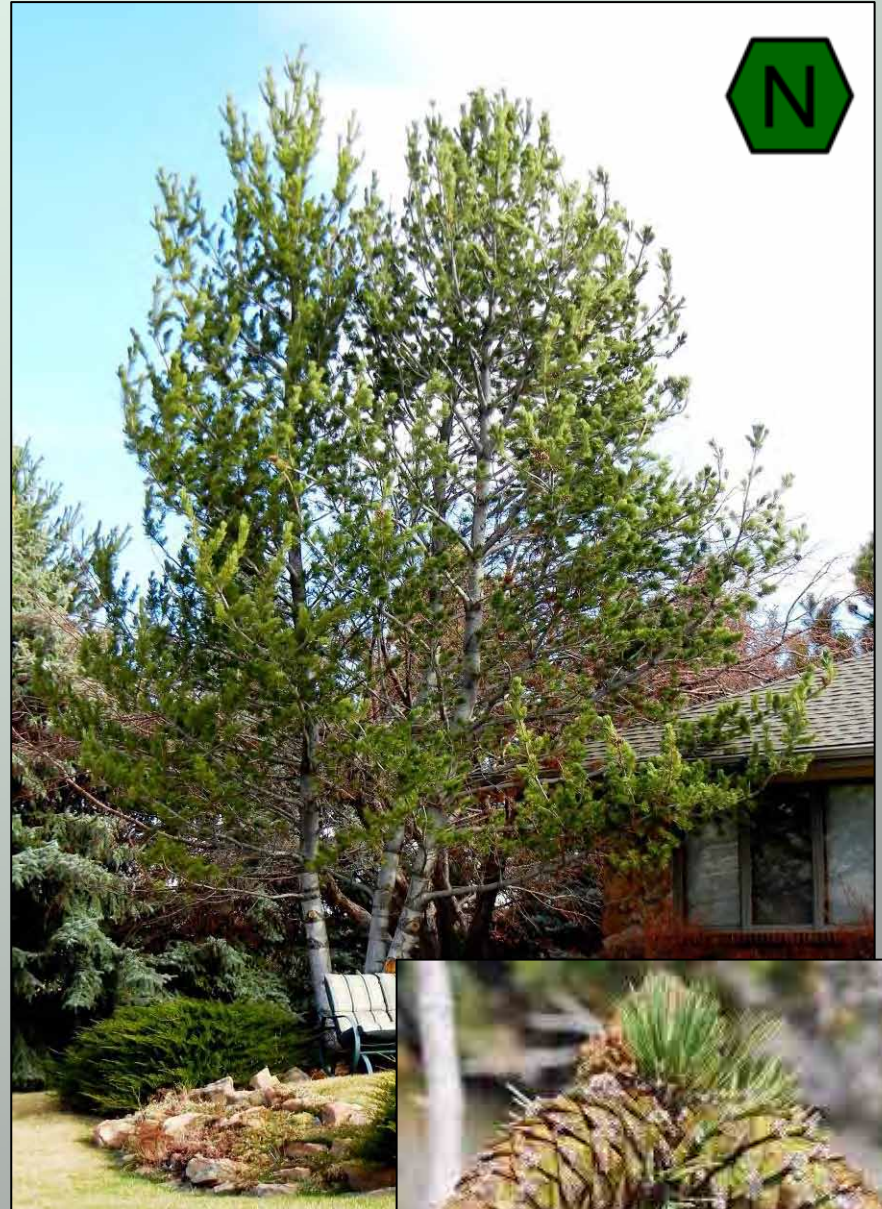




Pinyon Pine  
*Pinus edulis*



Limber Pine  
*Pinus flexilis*



# Limber Pine Cultivars

*Pinus flexilis*



Damfino Dwarf



Photo Credit Laporte Avenue Nursery

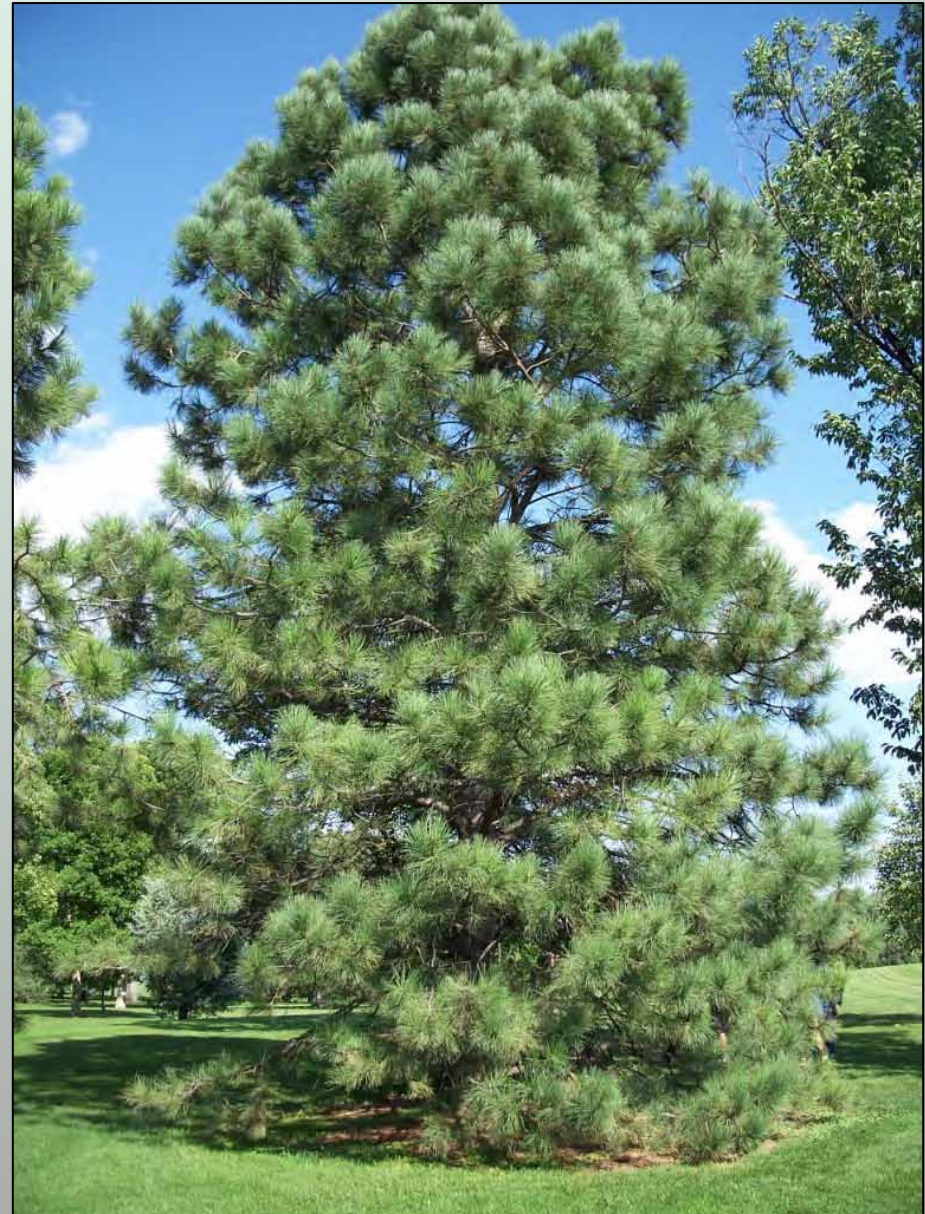
Glenmore Dwarf



Glenmore Dwarf



Ponderosa Pine  
*Pinus ponderosa*

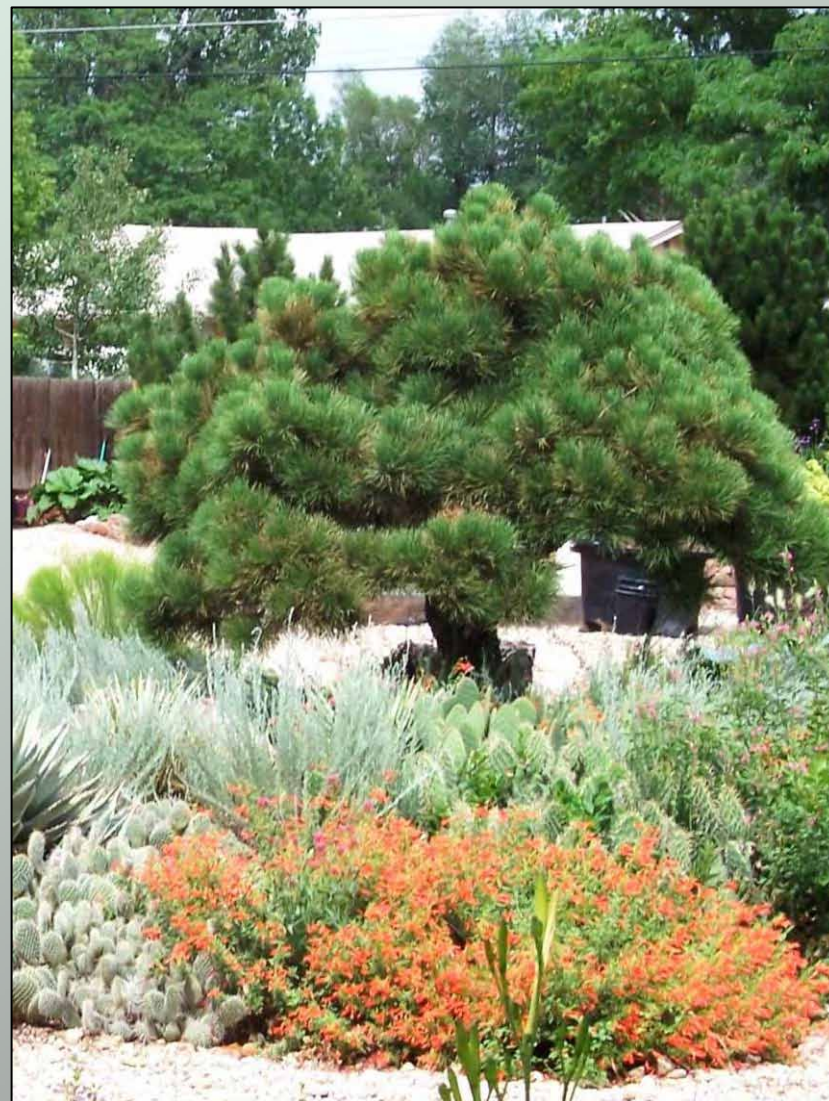




## Ponderosa Pine Cultivars



'Mary Ann Heacock'  
Dwarf Ponderosa Pine





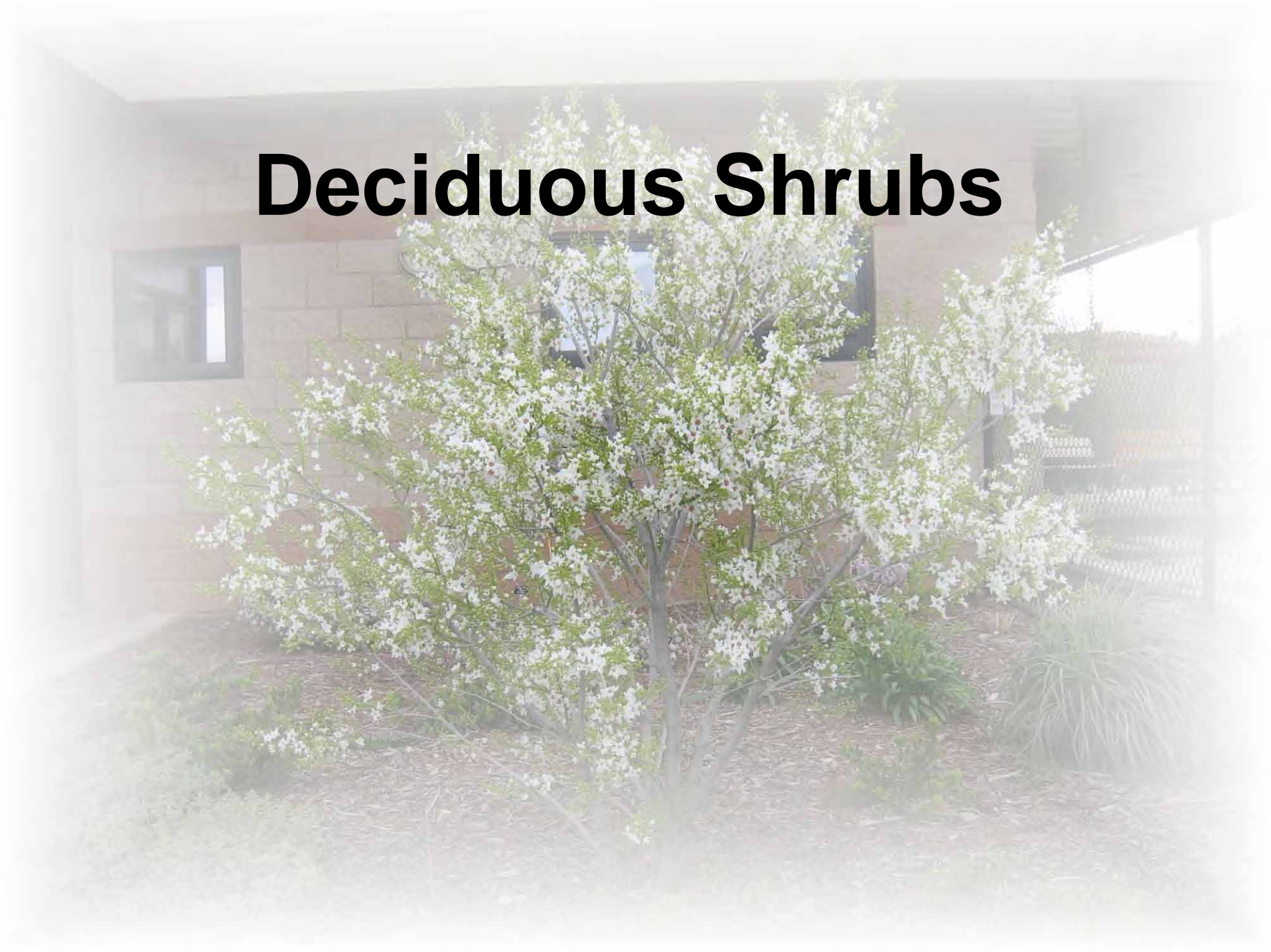


# Southwestern White Pine

*Pinus strobiformis*

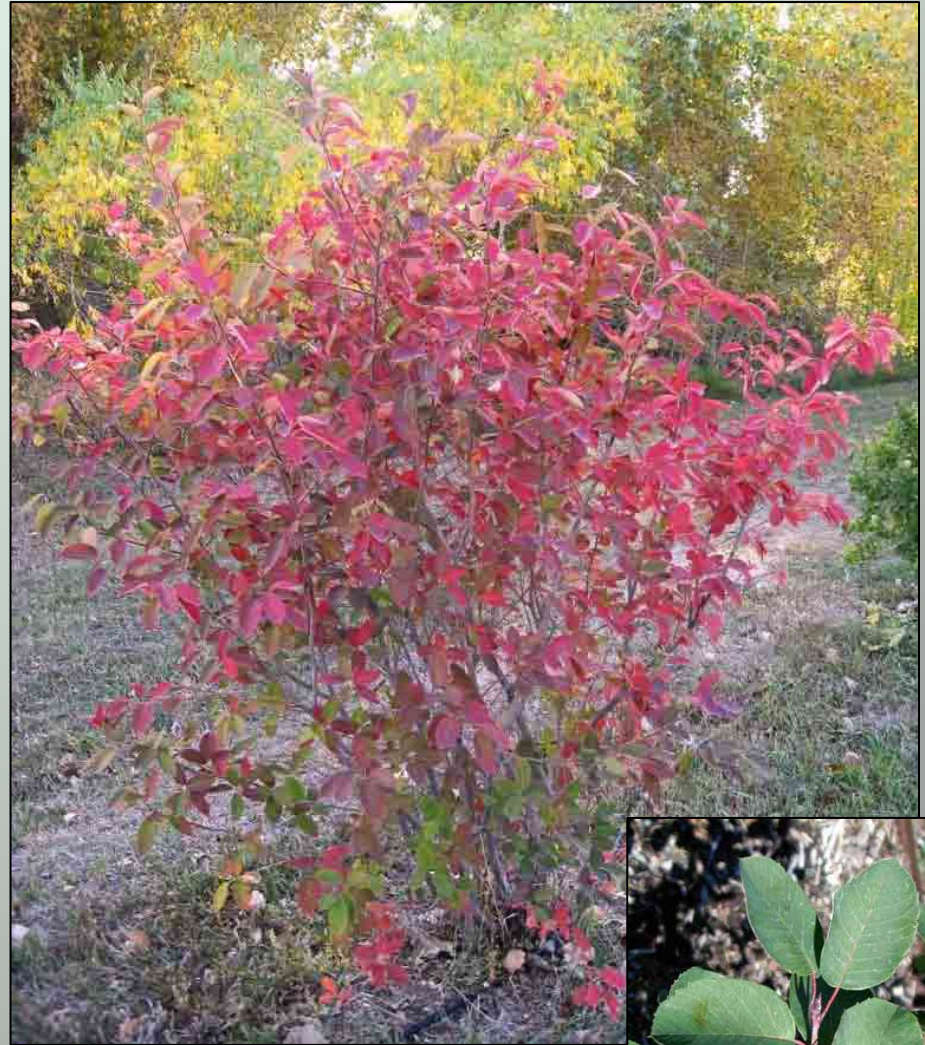


# Deciduous Shrubs



# Saskatoon Serviceberry

*Amelanchier alnifolia*



# Dwarf Leadplant

*Amorpha nana*



# Caragana spp.



Siberian Peashrub  
*Caragana arborescens*



Pygmy Peashrub  
*Caragana pygmaea*



Tidy Peashrub  
*Caragana microphylla* 'Tidy'

# Carol Mackie Daphne

*Daphne x burkwoodi* 'Carol Mackie'





Rock Spirea  
*Holodiscus dumosus*



Photo credit Sally Guthart  
Earthborn Landscape Design

Summer Wine Ninebark  
*Physocarpus opulifolius* 'Seward'





# Pawnee Buttes Sandcherry

*Prunus besseyi* 'Pawnee Buttes'



Fernbush

*Chamaebatiaria millifolium*



Apache Plume  
*Fallugia paradoxa*



Fernleaf Buckthorn  
*Rhamnus frangula* 'Asplenifolia'



Gro-Low Sumac  
*Rhus aromatica*



*Autumn Amber Sumac*  
*Rhus trilobata*  
'Autumn Amber'



# Staghorn Sumac

*Rhus thyphina*





Golden Current  
*Ribes aureum*





# Alleghany Viburnum

*Viburnum x rhytidophylloides*



Yellowhorn  
*Xanthocercus sorbifolium*



# Evergreen Shrubs



'Panchito' Manzanita  
*Arctostaphylos coloradoensis*



# Curl-Leaf Mountain Mahogany

*Cercocarpus ledifolius*



Bluestem Joint Fir  
*Ephedra equisetina*



Common Juniper  
*Juniperus communis*



'Blueberry delight'



Juniper spp.



Icee Blue Juniper



Tam Juniper



Fremont's Desert Holly  
*Mahonia fremontii*





Yucca spp.



Banana Yucca

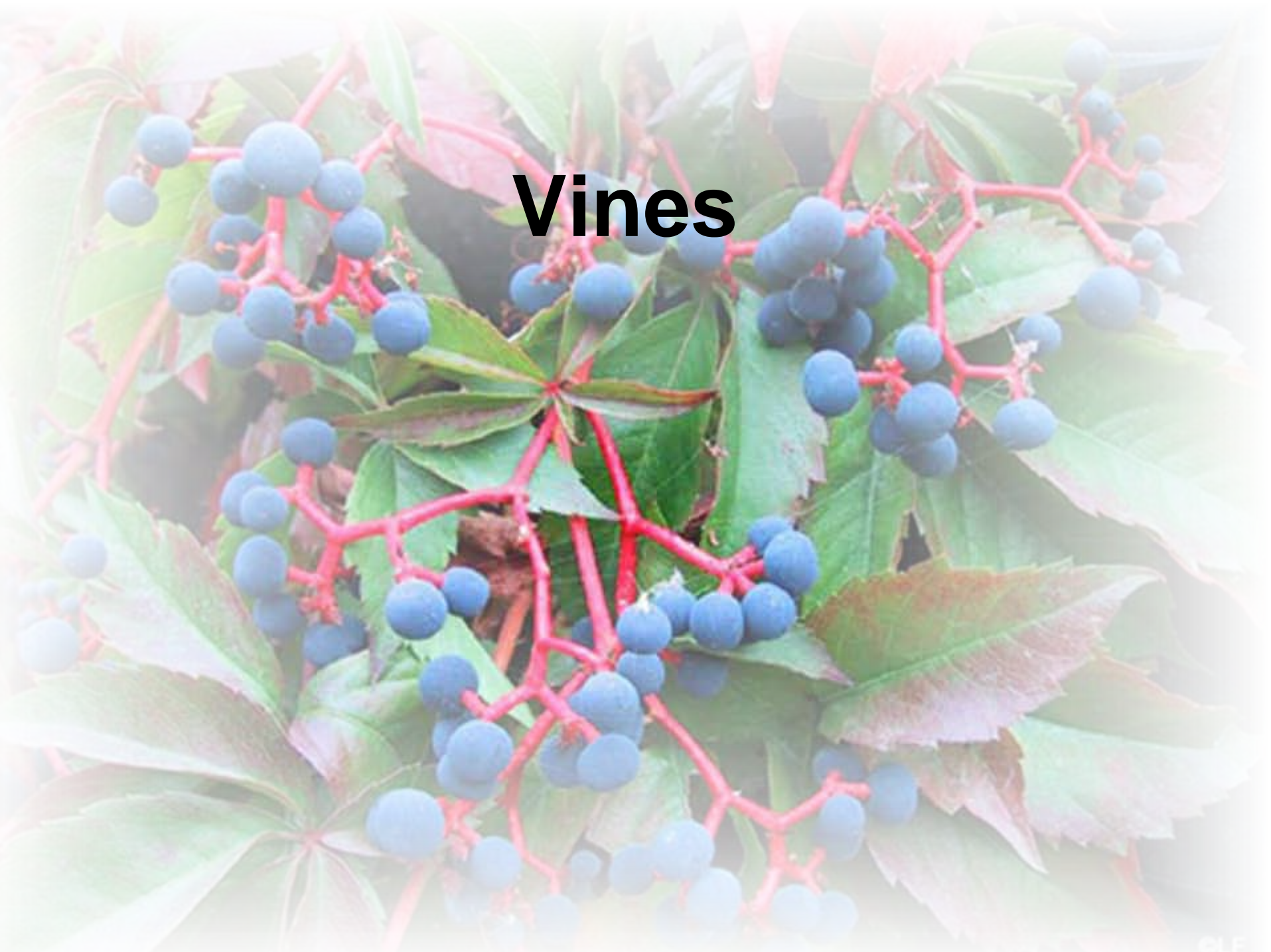


Red Yucca

# Cactus Garden – Timberline Gardens Arvada, Colorado



# Vines

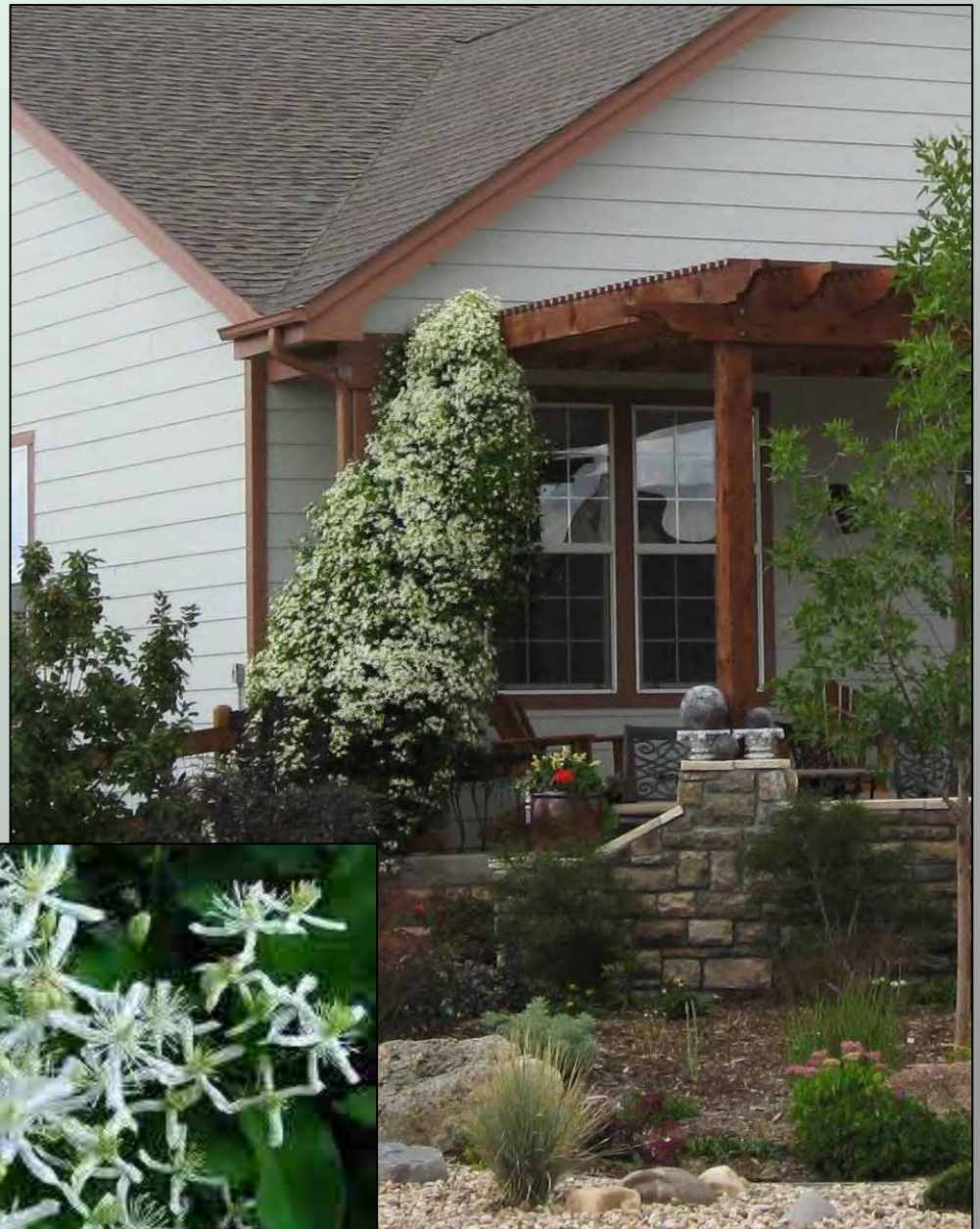


Trumpet Vine  
*Campsis radicans*



# Sweet Autumn Clematis

*Clematis terniflora*



Trumpet Honeysuckle  
*Lonicera sempervirens*  
'Blanche Sandman'



Virginia Creeper  
*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*





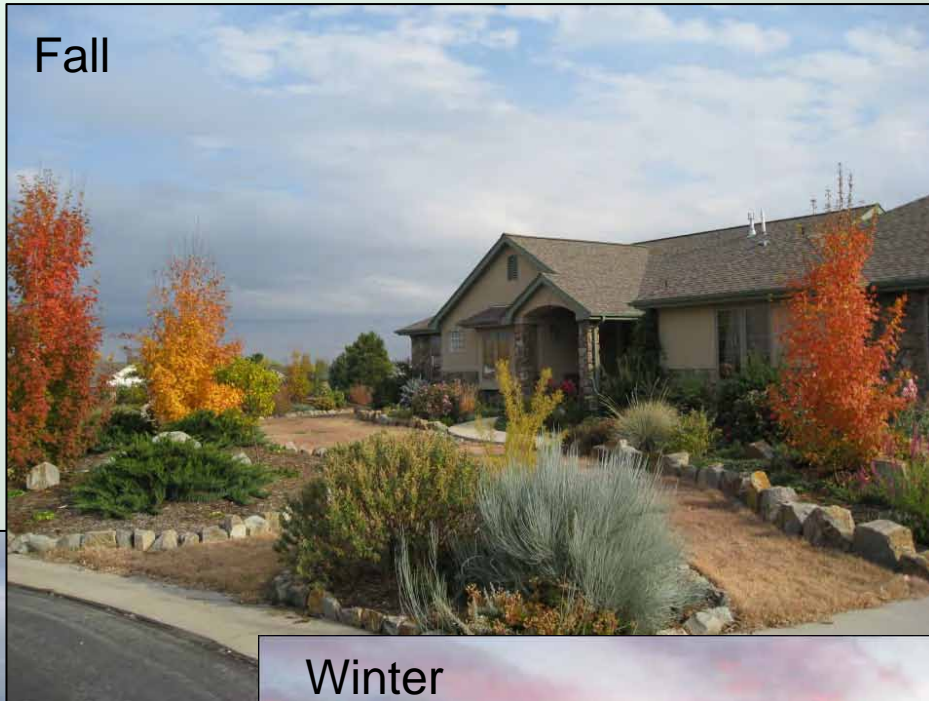
# Silver Lace Vine

*Polygonum aubertii*



# Through the Seasons Clark yard

Fall



Summer



Winter





**THE LOWDOWN  
ON  
LOW WATER PLANTS**

***Part Two:  
Grasses and Perennials***

# **HERBACEOUS PLANTS**

## **(GRASSES AND PERENNIALS)**

**Plants that do not produce woody tissue and generally die back at the end of each growing season.**

A photograph of a field of ornamental grasses. The grasses have long, thin, green blades and several tall, upright seed heads that are a light pinkish-purple color. The background is a soft-focus field of similar grasses, creating a sense of depth. The overall lighting is bright and natural, suggesting an outdoor setting.

# ORNAMENTAL GRASSES

# Why Plant Ornamental Grasses?



# Ornamental Grass - Basics

- *Clump-Forming vs Runners*
- *Cool-Season vs Warm-Season*
  - Cool-Season grasses start to grow as soon as the temperatures rise above freezing in the spring. They begin flowering in the early summer.
  - Warm-Season grasses grow in warm weather. They require warm soil temperatures for about 2 weeks before they start to grow.
- *Cutting Back Grasses*
  - Cool-Season grasses: cut back in the later winter
  - Warm-Season grasses: cut back in early to mid spring
- *Spacing Plants*
  - Clump-Formers: use individually or plant in groups
  - Runners: use for erosion control or as a ground cover

# Big Bluestem Grass

*Andropogon gerardii*



Summer Flowers and Foliage



Fall Foliage



Winter Foliage



# Overdam Variegated Feather Reed Grass

*Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Overdam'



Spring Foliage



Summer Flowers



Early Fall Seed Heads

# Korean Feather Reed Grass

*Calamagrostis brachytricha*



Late Summer Flowers (PERC)

# Northern Sea Oats

*Chasmanthium latifolium*



# Blue Avena Grass

*Helictotrichon sempervirens*



Form



Summer Foliage (with Autumn Joy Sedum)

Photo credit: Anne Clark

# Mexican Feather Grass

*Nassella tenuissima*



Summer



Late Winter Color and Form



# Switch Grass - variety

*Panicum virgatum* spp.



Prairie Fire - Winter Color and Form



Northwind – Summer Foliage



Dallas Blues - Summer Flowers and Foliage

# Karly Rose Grass

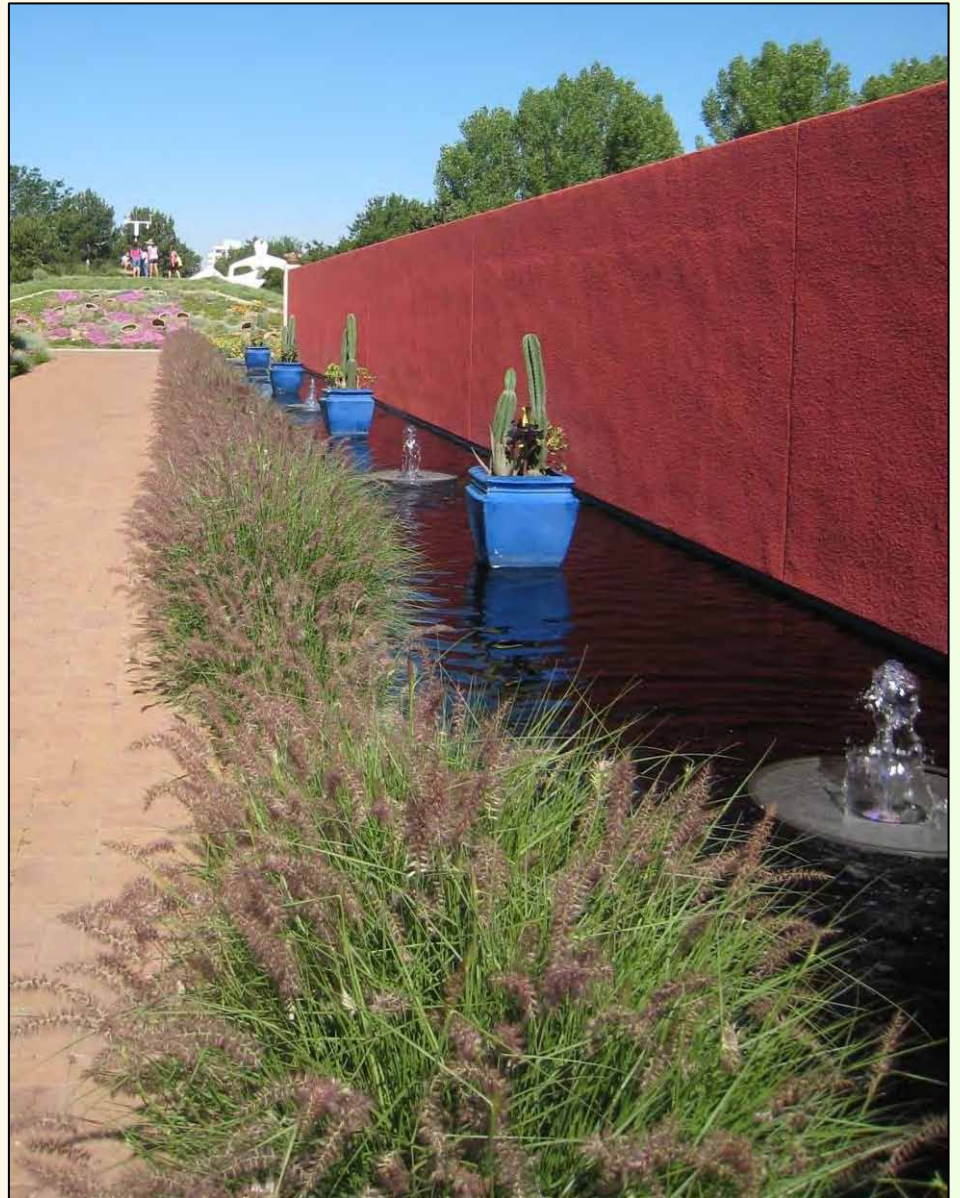
*Pennisetum orientale* 'Karly Rose'



Late Winter Color and Form



Summer Flowers in the Early Morning Light



Summer Flowers – Denver Botanic Gardens

# Blaze Little Bluestem Grass

*Schizachyrium scoparium* 'Blaze'





# The Blues Little Bluestem

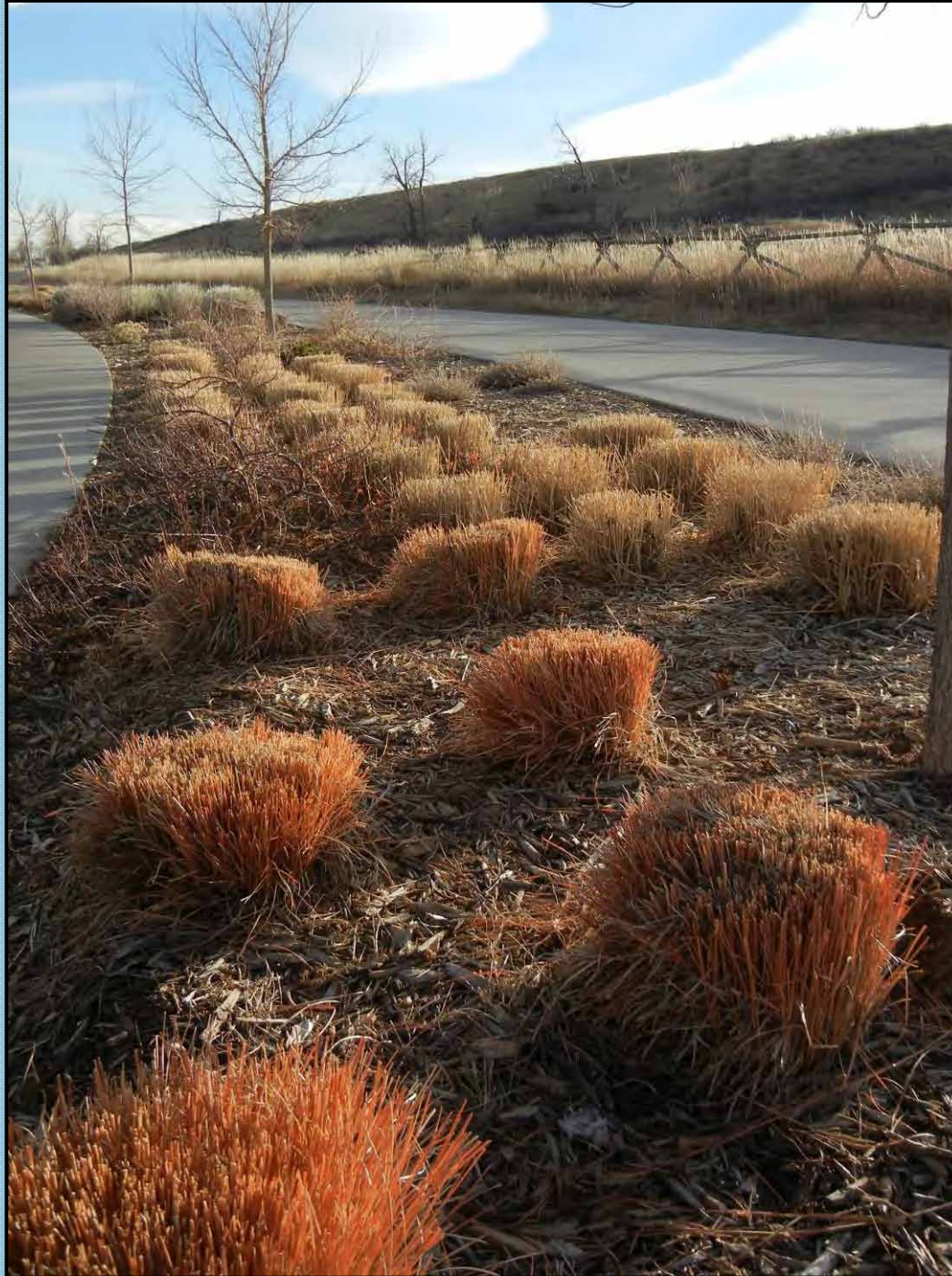
*Schizachyrium scoparium* 'The Blues'



Late Summer Color (shown with Black Jack Sedum)



The Blues Little Bluestem - Winter Color



What *NOT* to do...

Don't cut back ornamental grasses until late winter or early spring.

# Giant Sacaton

*Sporobolus wrightii*



# Prairie Dropseed Grass

*Sporobolus heterolepis*



A photograph of a large field of blue flowers, likely Delphinium, with several white, feathery seed heads in the foreground. The word "PERENNIALS" is overlaid in the center in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

# PERENNIALS

# Serbian Yarrow

*Achillea serbica*



Winter Foliage



Spring Flowers and Foliage

# Sonoran Sunset Hyssop

*Agastache cana* 'Sonoran Sunset'





# Sunset Hyssop/Hummingbird Mint

*Agastache rupestris*



Foliage and Form – Early Fall



Hyssops Attract Bees, Butterflies and Hummingbirds

# Mt. Atlas Daisy

*Anacyclus depressus*



Spring Flowers

Growth Habit



Mt. Atlas Daisy reseeds along flagstone pathway

# Orange Butterfly Weed

*Asclepias tuberosa*



Summer Flowers and Foliage



Fall – Seed Pods



Winter Form



# Chocolate Flower/Chocolate Daisy

*Berlandiera lyrata*



Bud and Emerging Petals



Seeds



Growth Habit



Flowers – Late Spring Through Summer

# False Forget-Me-Not

*Brunnera macrophylla*





Jack Frost Brunnera



# Thousand Flowered Aster

*Calamintha nepeta* spp. *nepeta*



Flowers, Foliage and Form

# Prairie Winecups/Poppy Mallow

*Callirhoe involucrata*



Flowers, Foliage and Form

# Hardy Plumbago/Leadwort

*Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*



Late Summer Flowers and Foliage



Fall Foliage



Fall Flowers and Foliage

# Ice Plant

*Delosperma ssp.*



Purple



Hardy Yellow



Mesa Verde

# Bleeding Heart

*Dicentra spectabilis*



White



Pink

# Purple Coneflower

*Echinacea purpurea*



Summer Flowers



Fall Texture



Winter Interest



**Orange Meadowbrite and Purple Coneflowers**

# Globe Thistle

*Echinops spp.*



Taplow Blue Globe Thistle



Blue Glow Globe Thistle



# Kannah Creek Buckwheat

*Eriogonum umbellatum* 'Kannah Creek'



Spring Flowers



Winter – Evergreen Foliage Changes to Burgundy



Summer – Flowers Age to Orange

# Sweet Woodruff

*Galium odoratum*





Sweet Woodruff growing under Aspen trees

# Coral Bells – variety

## *Heuchera*



Bressingham Hybrid



Marmalade



Amethyst Mist



Lime Ricky



Tiramisu



Dolce Licorice



Green Spice



Crimson Curls

# Variegated Iris

*Iris pallida* 'Aurea Variegata' (white/green)



*Iris pallida* 'Argentea Variegata' (gold/green)

# Spotted Dead Nettle, variety

*Lamium maculatum*



White Nancy



Beacon Silver



Orchid Frost



Pink Pewter



Golden Anniversary

# Gay Feather/Blazing Star

*Liatris spp.*



Floristan White  
Gay Feather



Kobold Gay Feather



Winter Form and Texture

# Desert Four-O'Clock

*Mirabilis multiflora*





# Sundrops

*Oenothera* spp.



Ozark Sundrops/ Missouri Evening Primrose



Winged Seed Pods



Silver Blade Sundrops

# Penstemon Basics



- **Soil and Drainage** – Soil should drain freely and quickly to keep moisture away from the crown of the plant. Grow Penstemons in lean soil and go light on fertilizer.
- **Planting** – Plant Penstemons about an inch higher than the surrounding soil so that water doesn't collect around the crown and rot it.
- **Deadheading** – Let some of your Penstemons set seed by not cutting back the spent flowers. *The resulting seedlings will often live longer and be more durable than the parent plant.*
- **Cutting Down** – Do not cut down Penstemons in the fall - leave all growth intact until early or mid-spring. Old stems will help protect the plant's crown through the winter.

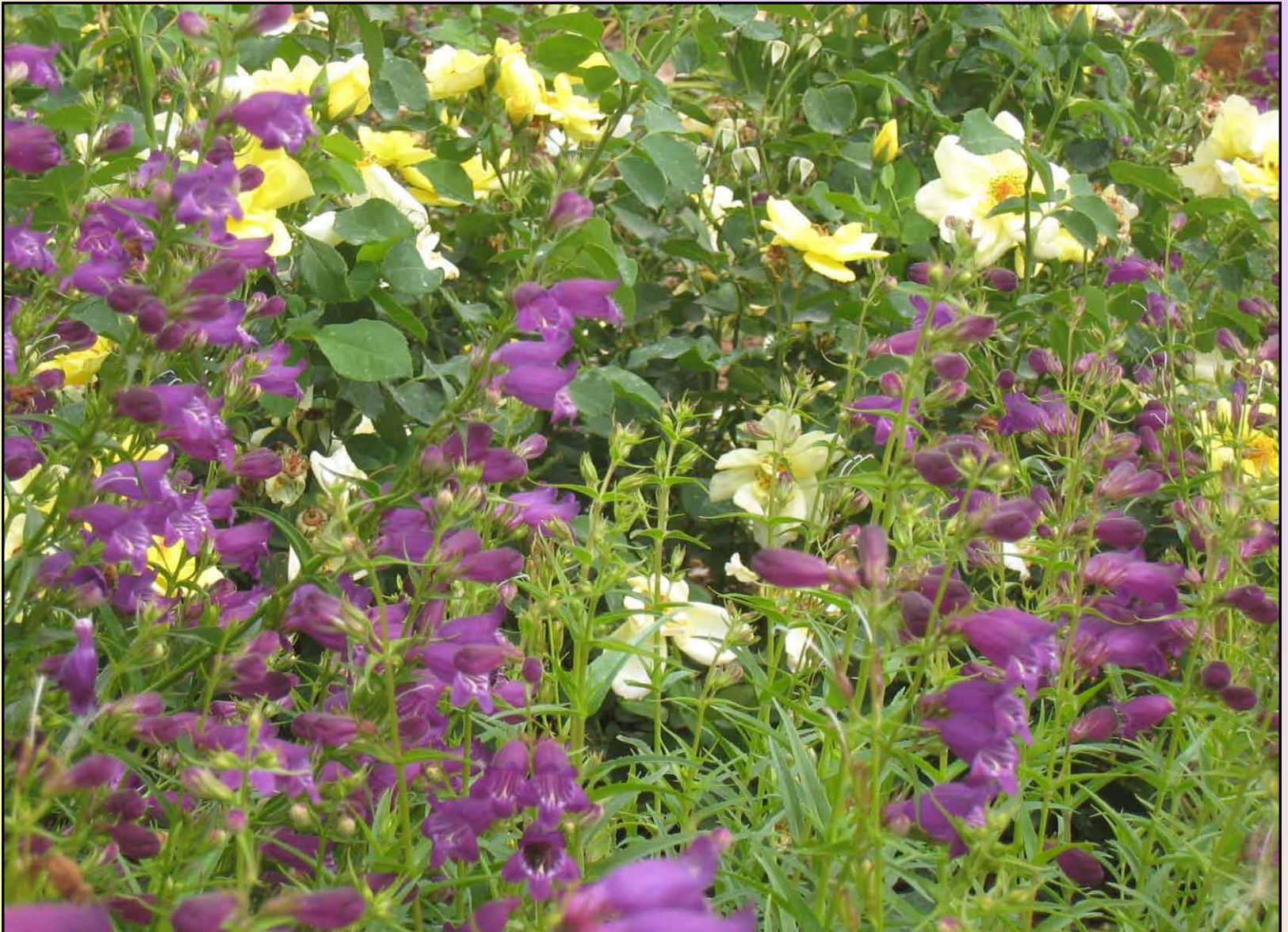
# Firecracker Penstemon/Eaton's Penstemon

*Penstemon eatonii*



# Pikes Peak Purple Penstemon

*Penstemon x mexicale* 'Pikes Peak Purple'



Pikes Peak Purple Penstemon – Summer (with Carefree Sunshine Roses)

# Penstemon – variety

*Penstemon spp.*



Yellow Pineleaf Penstemon



Red Rocks Penstemon



Electric Blue Penstemon

# Russian Sage

*Perovskia atriplicifolia*



# Pasque Flower

*Pulsatilla* spp.



# Prairie Coneflower/Mexican Hat

*Ratibida columnifera*



GHS



Ratibida readily reseeds!



Red Prairie Coneflower

Yellow Prairie Coneflower



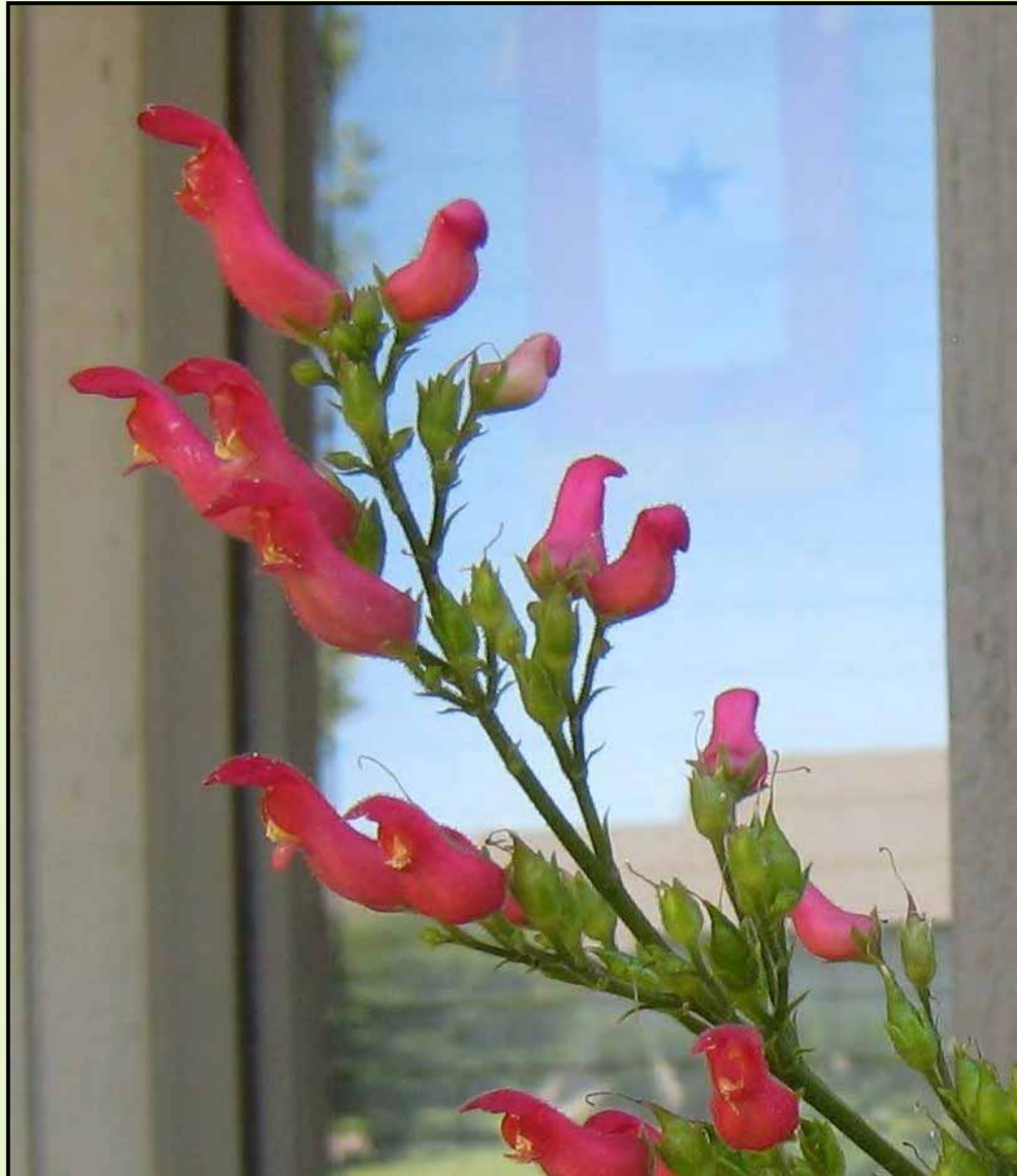
# Caradonna Salvia

*Salvia nemorosa* 'Caradonna'



# Red Birds in a Tree

*Scrophularia macrantha*



# Autumn Fire Sedum

*Sedum x 'Autumn Fire'*



Spring Foliage



Late Summer/Fall Flowers



Winter Flowers and Form

# Orange Carpet Hummingbird Trumpet

*Zauschneria garrettii* 'Orange Carpet'



Summer Flowers



Growth Habit

# Rocky Mountain Zinnia/Paper Flower

*Zinnia grandiflora*



# Bulbs

*Fall Planted, Spring Blooming*



# Nodding Onion

*Allium cernuum*



# ***Hair Ornamental Onion***

***Allium 'Hair'***





# Schubertii Ornamental Onion

*Allium 'Schubertii'*



Late Spring Flowers (shown with Caradonna Salvia)



Early Spring Growth



Late Spring Flowers

# Reticulated Iris/Snow Iris

*Iris reticulata*



# Species Tulips

*Tulipa spp.*



Tulipa clusiana 'Lady Jane'



Tarda Tulip (*Tulipa tarda*)

## **Gentle Reminder...**

***All plants require regular watering  
until they are fully established!***

***What to do  
with all this information...***

- Visit display gardens that feature xeric plants
- Read inspiring books by passionate local gardeners
- Participate in local gardening classes
- Consult with a local nursery professional or a landscape designer for advise and planning

***Be brave – and just do it!***

# Garden Tour

# NCWCD Berthoud Colorado



# NCWCD Berthoud Colorado





Kendrick Lakes  
Lakewood, Colorado



# Denver Botanical Gardens



# Gardens on Spring Creek Ft. Collins, Colorado

