

# Purple Reign

Designed by Cassey Anderson, Horticulture Agent for CSU Extension Adams County



The Purple Reign garden is the perfect addition to any lower light area in your landscape. Early season beauties like Palace Purple Coral Bells and European Pasque Flower will bring royal elegance to your landscape. Create a peaceful place to relax with the soft hues of blues, pinks, and purples in this part shade garden. Smell the magnificent Zing Roses during the sweltering summer heat. The Purple Reign garden covers 60 square feet and features 15 show-stopping xeric perennials creating a view fit for royalty!

- Part shade exposure (requires only 4 hrs of direct or indirect sun per day)
- Planting maps cover 60 sq. ft.
- Blooms early spring to fall
- Low to medium water needs
- Hardiness maximum of 7,000 ft.

## Individual Plant Information

### ALPINE COLUMBINE - *Aquilegia alpina*

QTY. 1



Nodding blue flowers with short spurs are produced on slender stems among a full mound of rounded, rich green foliage.

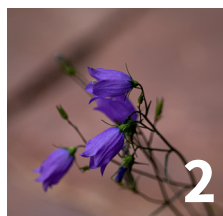
- Mature height 1-2' Mature spread 12-18"
- Part shade
- Medium water needs

- Blooms late spring to early summer
- Attracts butterflies, hummingbirds
- Resists deer, rabbits

**CARE:** This columbine variety is drought tolerant but does not like poorly draining soils! Division is not recommended; the deep taproot system of mature plants does not like to be disturbed.

### BLUE NATIVE HAREBELL - *Campanula rotundifolia*

QTY. 1



Coming from the Latin word *campana* meaning "bell," this perennial features loose rosettes of foliage with blue, bell-shaped flowers on wiry stems.

- Mature height 6-18" Mature spread 12-18"
- Full sun to part shade
- Low water needs

- Blooms spring to summer
- Attracts hummingbirds
- Resists deer, rabbits

**CARE:** This adaptable plant performs well on rocky mountain slopes, dry meadows and prairies, and open woods with moist soils.

### CORSICAN VIOLET - *Viola corsica*

QTY. 2



Prolific purplish-blue flowers hang over a low growing tuft of rich green foliage. Corsican Violets can self-seed over time to create a river of purple blooms.

- Mature height 6-8" Mature spread 6-8"
- Full sun to part shade
- Medium water needs

- Blooms spring to late summer

**CARE:** This plant will self-sow well when the conditions of the site suit it. More reliably perennial than most other pansies, it is both drought and shade tolerant. Corsican violets do enjoy compost enriched soils! They will also do well in sun to partial shade exposure.

CRYSTAL RIVER SPEEDWELL - *Veronica x reavis* 'Crystal River'

QTY. 1



Masses of tiny, blue flowers bloom in spring almost completely covering the plant, and later recur lightly sprinkled amongst the foliage throughout the summer.



Mature height 2-3"  
Mature spread 20-30"



Full sun to part shade



Low water needs



Blooms spring



Attracts butterflies



Resists deer, rabbits



**CARE:** This plant is low maintenance and grows best in full sun to part shade.

EUROPEAN PASQUE FLOWER - *Pulsatilla vulgaris*

QTY. 1



The harbingers of spring, Pasque Flowers boast starchy, five-petaled, purple-flowers with fuzzy orange-yellow stamen.



Mature height 6-12"  
Mature spread 8-12"



Full sun to part shade



Low water needs



Blooms early spring



Attracts bees, butterflies



Resists rabbits



**CARE:** Pasque Flowers are adapted to chalky and sandy soils at high elevations, and will not tolerate soggy soils. Overall, it likes to be left alone! Due to its long taproot, Pasque Flower resents transplanting or division. Goes dormant in summer - mark its spot with a stake to avoid accidentally digging it up.

JACOB'S LADDER - *Polemonium caeruleum*

QTY. 1



Jacob's Ladder stands with its pale blue flowers in upright clumps. These flowers are bell shaped, and most often appear in shades of purple and lavender, which contrast well against the long yellow stamens.



Mature height 18-24"  
Mature spread 12-18"



Part shade to shade



Medium water needs



Blooms late spring to early summer



Attracts bees, hummingbirds



Resists deer



**CARE:** Needs very little sunlight and medium amounts of water to keep it happy. You can cut these down to the base, and the flowers will still stem back out and rebloom.

MINIATURE HOLLYHOCK - *Malva alcea* 'Fastigiata'

QTY. 2



This hollyhock variety is a clump-forming perennial that features delicate, pink flowers that bloom atop intricate bright green stems.



Mature height 3-4"  
Mature spread 2-3'



Full sun to part shade



Medium water needs



Blooms summer



Attracts bees, birds, butterflies



**CARE:** Best grown in well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Tolerates some drought but does like to be watered routinely.

PALACE PURPLE CORAL BELLS - *Heuchera micrantha* 'Palace Purple'

QTY. 3



A dome-like mound of rounded, mahogany-red leaves gives way to slender stalks that boast loose spikes of small, white bell-shaped flowers.



Mature height 12-18"  
Mature spread 12-18"



Part shade to shade



Medium water needs



Blooms early summer



Attracts hummingbirds



Resists deer



**CARE:** The foliage of this variety deepens in color with exposure to sun. Two to three hours of sunlight a day is sufficient to create a rich color.

PLUMBAGO - *Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*

QTY. 2



This hardy perennial's striking blue flowers intermingle with shiny, green, ovate leaves that form an attractive spreading mound. In late autumn leaves turn burgundy red.



Mature height 8-12"  
Mature spread 18-24"



Full sun to part shade



Low water needs



Blooms mid-summer to fall



Attracts butterflies




Resists deer





**CARE:** During the winter, it will go dormant and it is late to emerge in spring so be sure to mark its spot in the garden to avoid accidental damage to the plant. Does not tolerate poorly drained soils.




Spreading mats of narrow dark green leaves, tinged red, produce lightly branched stalks capped by magenta-red flowers.

 Mature height 6-8"  
Mature spread 8-12"


 Full sun to part shade

 Medium water needs

 Blooms early to mid summer

 Attracts butterflies

 Resists deer

 **CARE:** These are heat-tolerant and low-maintenance beauties.

## Plant Maintenance by Season

### MAINTENANCE TASKS

### PLANT

#### SPRING (AFTER FIRST GROWING SEASON)

Divide mature plants in early spring every 3 years, as needed.

“Comb out” or remove dead foliage.

Stems may be cut in spring if shorter plants are desired.

Deadhead first round of spent blooms to encourage new blooms.

Crystal River Speedwell, Palace Purple Coral Bells, Plumbago, Maiden Pinks

Alpine Columbine, Crystal River Speedwell, European Pasque Flower, Palace Purple Coral Bells, Plumbago

Miniature Hollyhock

Corsican Violet

#### SUMMER

If foliage becomes ragged during summer heat, cut foliage back to 3 inches above ground and new leaves will grow in.

A relatively short-lived plant, allow some blooms to go to seed and self-sow.

Deadhead spent flowers to encourage new blooms or to prevent too much self-seeding.

Benefits from shearing back by about a third after first round of blooms.

Blue Native Harebell, Jacob’s Ladder

Alpine Columbine, Miniature Hollyhock

Alpine Columbine, Blue Native Harebell, Crystal River Speedwell, Miniature Hollyhock, Palace Purple Coral Bells

Crystal River Speedwell, Maiden Pinks

#### FALL

Leave last round of blooms to self-seed and/or to provide food for birds or to protect from the cold.

Cut plants down to the basal foliage.

Cut back to 6 inches in the late fall to refresh foliage.

Corsican Violet, Miniature Hollyhock, Plumbago

Alpine Columbine

Palace Purple Coral Bells

#### WINTER

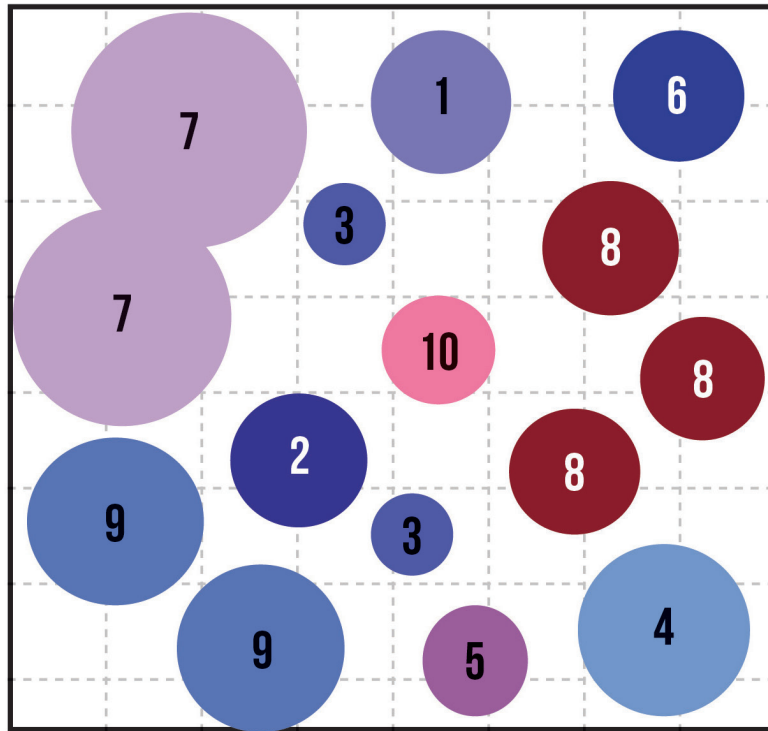
Benefits from loose winter mulching.

Foliage is nearly evergreen, so don’t cut back for winter.

Alpine Columbine, Palace Purple Coral Bells

Maiden Pinks

# Plant-by-Number Design Suggestions

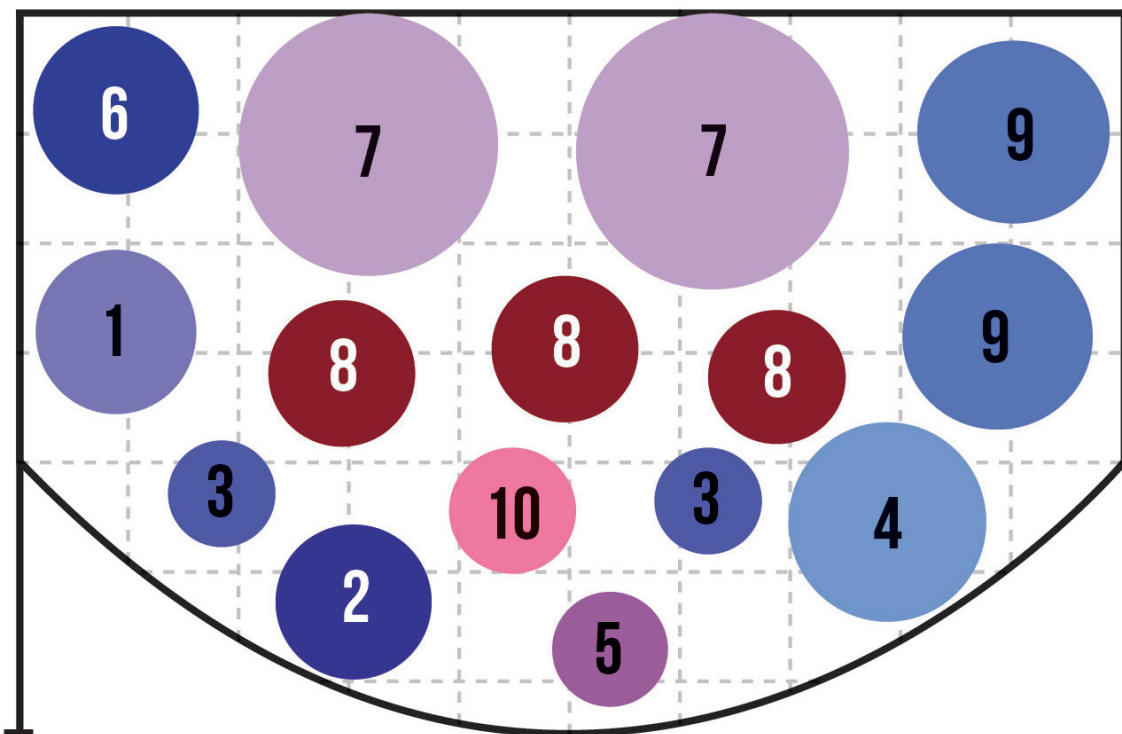


7.5' x 8' rectangle  
SUGGESTED FRONT SIDE OF GARDEN

## Key

1. Alpine Columbine (Qty. 1)
2. Blue Native Harebell (Qty. 1)
3. Corsican Violet (Qty. 2)
4. Crystal River Speedwell (Qty. 1)
5. European Pasque Flower (Qty. 1)
6. Jacob's Ladder (Qty. 1)
7. Miniature Hollyhock (Qty. 2)
8. Palace Purple Coral Bells (Qty. 3)
9. Plumbago (Qty. 2)
10. Maiden Pinks (Qty. 1)

*1 box = 1 square foot  
Maps reflect bloom or showy  
foliage color.*



6.5' x 10' rounded rectangle  
SUGGESTED FRONT SIDE OF GARDEN