

Splendid Seasons

Designed by Annie Barrow of Denver Botanic Gardens in collaboration with Northern Water



Created in collaboration with Denver Botanic Gardens and Northern Water, we're excited to introduce our new Splendid Seasons garden! Splendid Seasons brings color, interest, and pollinators to your yard all year long. The garden is designed with plants that are high color and low water. When planted with small rock mulch, known as squeegee, these plants will be show-stoppers and save you water. This garden is also our first 200 sq. ft. garden, perfect for larger areas of your yard.

- Full sun exposure (minimum of 6 hrs of direct sun per day)
- Planting maps cover 200 sq. ft.
- Blooms spring to fall
- Low water needs
- Hardiness maximum of 5,500 ft.

Individual Plant Information

AUTUMN SAPPHIRE SAGE - *Salvia reptans* 'Autumn Sapphire'

QTY. 5



Glossy green, willow leaves all season long are topped with clouds of small, sapphire-blue flowers through autumn.

Mature height 2-3'
Mature spread 1-2'

Full sun

Very low (xeric) to low (dry) water needs

Blooms late summer to early fall

Attracts bees, birds, butterflies

Resists deer, rabbits

CARE: Very low maintenance. Plant will stay most compact with little water in well-draining soils. Adaptable to clay, loam, or sandy soils.

BLONDE AMBITION BLUE GRAMA GRASS - *Bouteloua gracilis* 'Blonde Ambition'

QTY. 6



Displays elegant blue-green foliage with many chartreuse flowers that turn blonde as the season progresses.

Mature height 2-3'
Mature spread 1-2'

Full sun

Very low (xeric) water needs

Blooms summer to fall

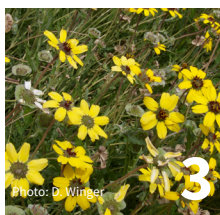
Attracts birds

Resists deer

CARE: This adaptable grass thrives in most soils except very heavy and very wet clay. Be sure to not let this grass sit in wet soils for long.

CHOCOLATE FLOWER - *Berlandiera lyrata*

QTY. 3



Native to the southwestern US, this bright yellow, daisy-like flower blooms at night and emits a distinct milk chocolate fragrance in the early morning hours.

Mature height 1-2'
Mature spread 12-18"

Full sun

Very low (xeric) water needs

Blooms summer to fall

Attracts bees, birds, butterflies

Resists deer

CARE: This hardy and easy-to-care-for perennial is adaptable to a wide spectrum of conditions. However, it tends to prefer soil that is not amended and thrives best in full sun locations but will tolerate light shade. Once established, it requires very little water. If overwatered, it will become extra leggy. This plant can sprawl a bit.

DEEP BLUE LAVENDER - *Lavandula angustifolia* 'Hidcote'

QTY. 3



Scented, lavender-blue flowers on tight spikes thrust above aromatic gray foliage, creating an attractive, compact clump that stays green all year round.



Mature height 15-20"
Mature spread 15-20"



Full sun



Low (dry) water needs



Blooms spring to fall



Attracts bees



Resists deer, rabbits



CARE: Low-maintenance plant needing little care. Once established, it only needs occasional watering. For dried flowers, cut flowers when first hint of color shows at the base of the spike, leaving about an inch of the green growth above the woody stem.

FALSE INDIGO - *Baptisia australis*

QTY. 3



Purple lupine-like flowers on long flower clusters stand atop the shrub-sized clump of clover-like blue-green foliage. A member of the legume family, the flowers are followed by attractive seed pods.



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



Sun to filtered shade



Low (dry) water needs



Blooms spring



Attracts butterflies



Resist rabbits



CARE: While it thrives best in full sun, it will tolerate part shade with poor or average well-draining soils. May take several years to fully establish its deep, extensive root system, therefore, once it's established, it's best not to transplant or move. This plant has a shrub-like look and habit.

FRINGED SAGE - *Artemisia frigida*

QTY. 3



This strongly aromatic plant is covered in miniscule hairs giving it a soft, grey-green appearance. It will grow into a shiny pillow that remains all winter long.



Mature height 6-8"
Mature spread 12-18"



Full sun



Very low (xeric) water needs



Resists deer, rabbits



CARE: This plant grows prolifically in the arid mountains and prairies of the western US in poor quality soils and tolerates drought very well.

GIANT SACATON GRASS - *Sporobolus wrightii*

QTY. 1



A large, bunch-forming grass native to the southwestern US with stems up to 6 feet tall and beautiful seedheads that can be 1-2 feet long. It turns golden in the fall and winter months for beautiful late-season interest.



Mature height 3-6'
Mature spread 2-3'



Full sun



Very low (xeric) to medium water needs



Blooms summer



Attracts birds



Resists deer



CARE: A very drought-tolerant plant that, once established, does best with little to no supplemental watering.

MAXIMILIAN SUNFLOWER - *Helianthus maximiliani*

QTY. 7



This warm season native has tall, leafy, and unbranched stems which are adorned with charming and numerous 5-inch yellow flowers from late summer to first frost.



Mature height 6-10'
Mature spread 18-24"



Full sun



Very low (xeric) water needs



Blooms late summer



Attracts bees, birds, butterflies



Resists deer



CARE: It performs best in sunny locations and will not tolerate shade. Be sure not to overwater as this plant can become aggressive! To control the height and spread, keep watering to a minimum once established.

PINELEAF PENSTEMON - *Penstemon pinifolius*

QTY. 5



This low, creeping penstemon features tubular, scarlet-orange flowers with yellow throats. The prolific blooms rest atop soft, green needle-like foliage, covering the plant throughout the midsummer months.



Mature height 6-8"
Mature spread 12-15"



Full sun



Very low (xeric) to medium water needs



Blooms midsummer



Attracts butterflies, hummingbirds



Resists deer, rabbits



CARE: Penstemon varieties prefer not to be overcrowded and prefer maximum heat and sun exposure. Avoid enriching the soil around these finicky plants — it will shorten their life span. This semi-evergreen can be slow to establish, so be sure to weed around it regularly to improve establishment.

PRAIRIE RED CONEFLOWER - *Ratibida columnifera pulcherrima*

QTY. 2



Its linear, bright green leaves create an airy clump with several slender stalks capped by brick-red flowers with drooping rays surrounding a tall, brown center.



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



Full sun



Very low water needs



Blooms early to late summer



Attracts birds, bees, butterflies



Resists deer



CARE: Prairie Coneflower is very drought tolerant and undiscerning about soil types. It thrives in full, hot sun.

SILVER SALVIA - *Salvia argentea*

QTY. 2



Large, bold, fuzzy, intensely silver foliage in a low rosette is topped by spikes of small, interesting, white-lobed flowers.



Mature height 24-30"
Mature spread 24-30"



Full sun



Very low (xeric) to low (dry) water needs



Blooms summer



Attracts bees



Resists deer, rabbits



CARE: This plant grows prolifically in the arid mountains and prairies of the western US in poor quality soils and tolerates drought very well.

SUNSET HYSSOP - *Agastache rupestris*

QTY. 5



Bold spikes of sunset-orange flowers, which have a wonderful root beer aroma, are borne from August to frost. Native to the American Southwest, it will thrive in our hot, dry climate in sun or partial shade.



Mature height 2-3'
Mature spread 2-3'



Sun to filtered shade



Low (dry) water needs



Blooms summer to fall



Attracts hummingbirds



Resists deer, rabbits



CARE: Water regularly for the first season to establish the root system. Make sure the soil is well drained; hyssops do not tolerate soil that is constantly wet. After it is established, it is very drought tolerant. Rock mulch (squeegee) is recommended instead of wood mulch. Avoid too much compost.

SWITCHGRASS - *Panicum virgatum*

QTY. 3



Switchgrass forms elegantly tall, dense stands of green changing to deep red throughout the summer and ending the season as a burgundy wine color in the fall.



Mature height 3-5'
Mature spread 18-24"



Full sun



Very low (xeric) to medium water needs



Blooms late summer



Attracts birds, butterflies



CARE: Extremely drought tolerant and grows well in any type of soil.

Plant Maintenance by Season

MAINTENANCE TASKS

PLANT

SPRING (AFTER FIRST GROWING SEASON)

Cut back old growth or winter damage before new growth begins to show.

Autumn Sapphire Sage, Blonde Ambition Blue Grama Grass, Chocolate Flower, Deep Blue Lavender, False Indigo, Giant Sacaton Grass, Maximilian Sunflower, Pineleaf Penstemon, Prairie Red Coneflower, Silver Salvia, Sunset Hyssop, Switchgrass

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

Pineleaf Penstemon, Fringed Sage

SUMMER

Deadhead spent flowers to encourage new blooms and/or minimize self-seeding.

Chocolate Flower

Pinch back tips by 1 inch to promote bushy appearance and new blooms.

Maximilian Sunflower

Once established, deadhead before blooming to encourage compact growth.

Fringed Sage

Water sparingly once established.

Giant Sacaton Grass, Maximilian Sunflower, Sunset Hyssop

FALL

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

Chocolate Flower, False Indigo, Maximilian Sunflower

Do not prune or cut back! Plant susceptible to winter damage if pruned.

Deep Blue Lavender, Fringed Sage, Sunset Hyssop

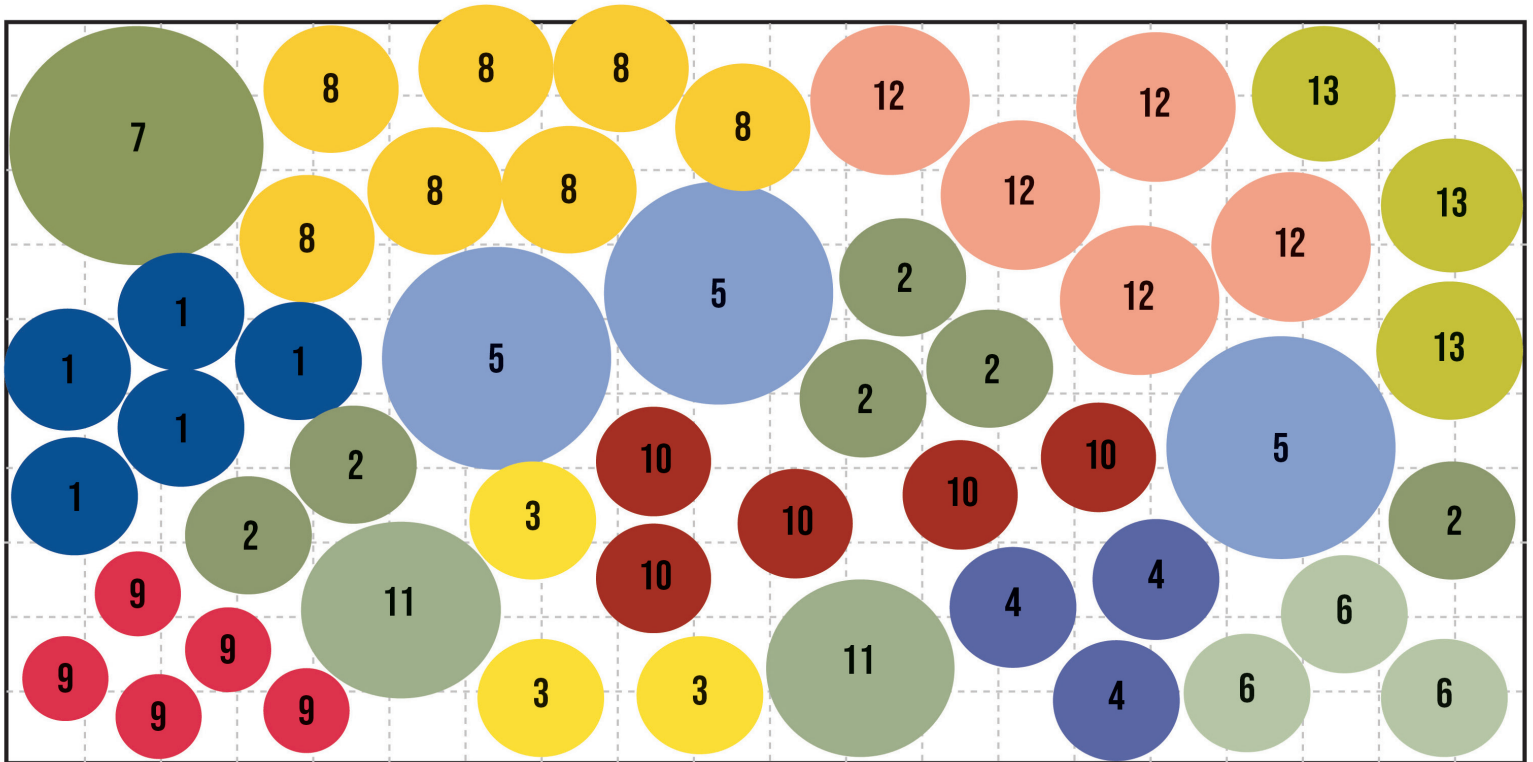
It's best to wait until spring.

Plant-by-Number Design Suggestions

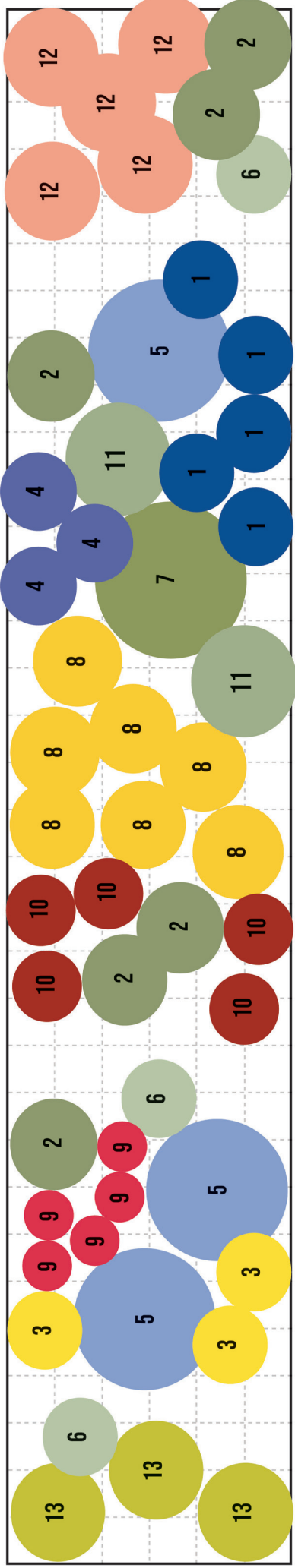
Key

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|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Autumn Sapphire Sage (Qty. 5) | 8. Maximilian Sunflower (Qty. 7) |
| 2. Blonde Ambition Blue Grama Grass (Qty. 6) | 9. Pineleaf Penstemon (Qty. 5) |
| 3. Chocolate Flower (Qty. 3) | 10. Prairie Red Coneflower (Qty. 5) |
| 4. Deep Blue Lavender (Qty. 3) | 11. Silver Salvia (Qty. 2) |
| 5. False Indigo (Qty. 3) | 12. Sunset Hyssop (Qty. 5) |
| 6. Fringed Sage (Qty. 3) | 13. Switchgrass (Qty. 3) |
| 7. Giant Sacaton Grass (Qty. 1) | |

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



10' x 20' rectangle
SUGGESTED FRONT SIDE OF GARDEN



6' x 33' rectangle
SUGGESTED FRONT SIDE OF GARDEN



11' x 30' rectangle with organic edge, path & optional tree