

A photograph of purple flowers in the foreground, with a thatched roof in the background. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

CHOOSING THE
RIGHT
PERENNIAL FOR
YOUR YARD

SITE EVALUATION



How much sun
does your planting
area have?

You may have multiple
sun needs in one area.



What type of Soil
do you have?

Drainage rate
Soil nutrients (Soil
tests available through
USU)
Sand, Clay, Loam, etc.



How much water does the area
get?



What is your growing Zone?

DESIGN
CONSIDERATIONS



COLOR
SCHEME



FUNCTION



TEXTURES
AND SHAPES

COLOR SCHEME



MONOCHROMATIC



COMPLEMENTARY



ANALOGOUS



SPLIT COMPLEMENTARY



MONOCHROMATIC

- Same color but different shades
- Textures and shapes add interest
- Whites can add some pop





ANALOGOUS

- Colors right next to each other on the color wheel
- Harmonious Feel





COMPLIMENTARY

- Colors right across from each other on the color wheel
- Simple but effective





SPLIT COMPLIMENTARY

- Colors right across from each other on the color wheel with one side split
- A little more dynamic



FUNCTION





SCREEN

- Hide views
- Create Garden rooms
- Add Some intrigue

NORTHWIND SWITCH GRASS

Light Requirements: Full Sun – Part Shade

Water Requirements: Low (1/2 in / 10 days)

Zone:4

Soil Type: Any

Size: 4 - 6 feet tall, 2 - 3 feet wide

Bloom Time: Late September – Early November

Functions: Screen

Wait to cut back until spring. Ornamental grass adds winter interest

Spring



Summer



Fall



Winter



MAXIMILIAN SUNFLOWER

Light Requirements: Full Sun (6+ hours per day)

Water Requirements: Low (1/2 in / 2 weeks)

Zone: 3

Soil Type: Any. Prefers Clay

Size: 4-10 feet tall, 4 feet wide

Bloom Time: Mid September – Early November

Functions: Screen , Edible Tubers

You can cut down plant in Late Fall or Early Spring

Spring & Summer



Fall



Winter



HARDY HIBISCUS

Light Requirements: Full Sun (6+ hours per day)

Water Requirements: Moderate (1/2 in / week)

Zone: 4

Soil Type: Any. Well Draining

Size: 3-7 feet tall, 2-4 feet wide

Bloom Time: July – October

Functions: Screen , Edible flowers, leaves, and young shoots

Many Different Colors and Varieties

You can cut down plant in Late Fall or Early Spring

Spring



Summer



Fall



Winter



BURNING HEARTS FALSE SUNFLOWER

Light Requirements: Full Sun, Part Shade

Water Requirements: Moderate (1/2 in / week)

Zone: 4

Soil Type: Any. Well Draining

Size: 3-4 feet tall, 2-4 feet wide

Bloom Time: July – October

Functions: Screen, Cut Flowers, Mass Planting





EDIBLES

- Mix edible plants into your design
- Adds an extra element of enjoyment
- Make sure the water needs are met

LOVAGE

Light Requirements: Full Sun (6+ hours per day)

Water Requirements: Moderate (1/2 in / week)

Zone: 4

Soil Type: Prefers Sandy Loam, Drains Well

Size: 4-7 feet tall, 3 feet wide

Bloom Time: May – June

Functions: Screen , Entire Plant is edible,
back drop

You can cut down plant in Late Fall or Early Spring

Spring



Summer



ARP ROSEMARY

Light Requirements: Full Sun (6+ hours per day)

Water Requirements: Moderate (1/2 in / week)

Zone: 6

Soil Type: Any

Size: 3 - 4 feet tall, 3 feet wide

Bloom Time: May – June

Functions: Screen , Edible leaves,
back drop

Evergreen. Little to no maintenance. Shape if
desired



CHIVES

Light Requirements: Full Sun (6+ hours per day)

Water Requirements: Moderate (1/2 in / week)

Zone: 3

Soil Type: Well-draining, loamy soil

Size: 6-18 inches tall, 8 - 12 inches wide

Bloom Time: May – June

Functions: Edible leaves and flowers, repel insects

Grass like appearance when not flowering, cut
Down in late fall or early spring



GARDEN SAGE

Light Requirements: Full Sun (6+ hours per day)

Water Requirements: Moderate (1/2 in / week)

Zone: 4

Soil Type: Well-draining, sandy, loamy soil

Size: 1.5 - 2.5 feet tall, 2 – 3 feet wide

Bloom Time: June - July

Functions: Edible leaves

Evergreen





GROUND COVERS

- Protect soil
- Conserve water
- Reduce Weeds
- Reduce maintenance

CREeping THYME

Light Requirements: Full Sun (6+ hours per day)

Water Requirements: Low (1/2 in / every 2 weeks)

Zone: 4

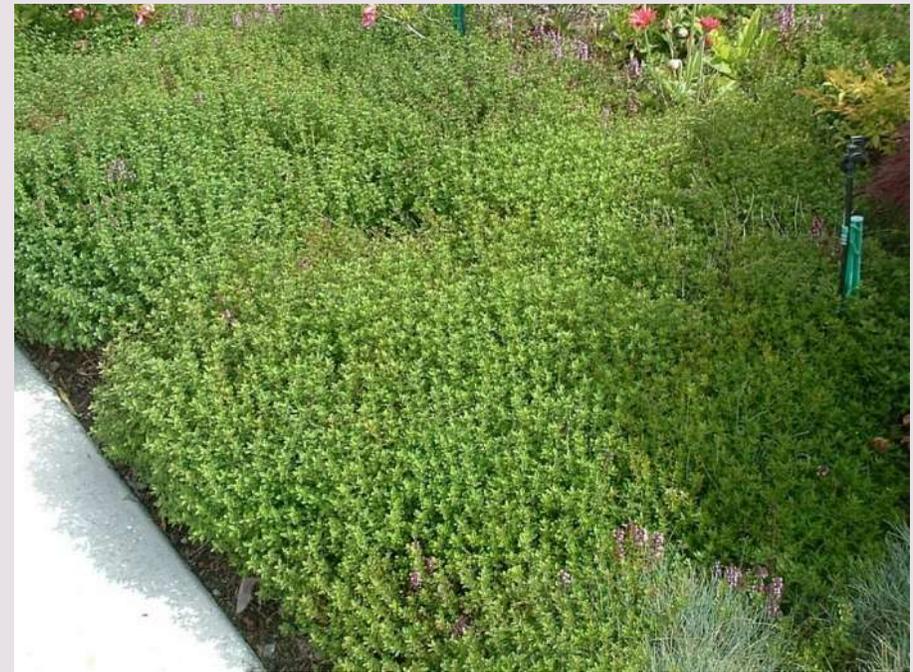
Soil Type: Well-draining, sandy, loamy soil

Size: 2 - 6 inches tall, spreads

Bloom Time: June - July

Functions: Edible leaves, Groundcover

Evergreen, many varieties



CREEPING SEDUM

Light Requirements: Full Sun (6+ hours per day)

Water Requirements: Low (1/2 in / every 2 weeks)

Zone: 4

Soil Type: Well-draining, sandy, loamy soil

Size: 2 - 6 inches tall, spreads

Bloom Time: June - July

Functions: Ground Cover

Semi Evergreen, Many different varieties



PARTRIDGE FEATHER

Light Requirements: Full Sun, part shade

Water Requirements: Low (1/2 in / every 2 weeks)

Zone: 4

Soil Type: Well-draining, sandy, loamy soil

Size: 4 - 6 inches tall, spreads

Bloom Time: May - June

Functions: Groundcover

Evergreen



GREEK YARROW

Light Requirements: Full Sun

Water Requirements: Low (1/2 in / every 2 weeks)

Zone: 4

Soil Type: Well-draining, sandy, loamy soil

Size: 4 - 10 inches tall, 8 -12 inches wide

Bloom Time: May - June

Functions: Groundcover

Evergreen



GOLD ON BLUE PRAIRIE ZINNIA

Light Requirements: Full Sun, Part Shade

Water Requirements: Low (1/2 in / every 2 weeks)

Zone: 4

Soil Type: Well-draining, sandy, loamy soil

Size: 3 - 4 inches tall, 14 -18 inches wide

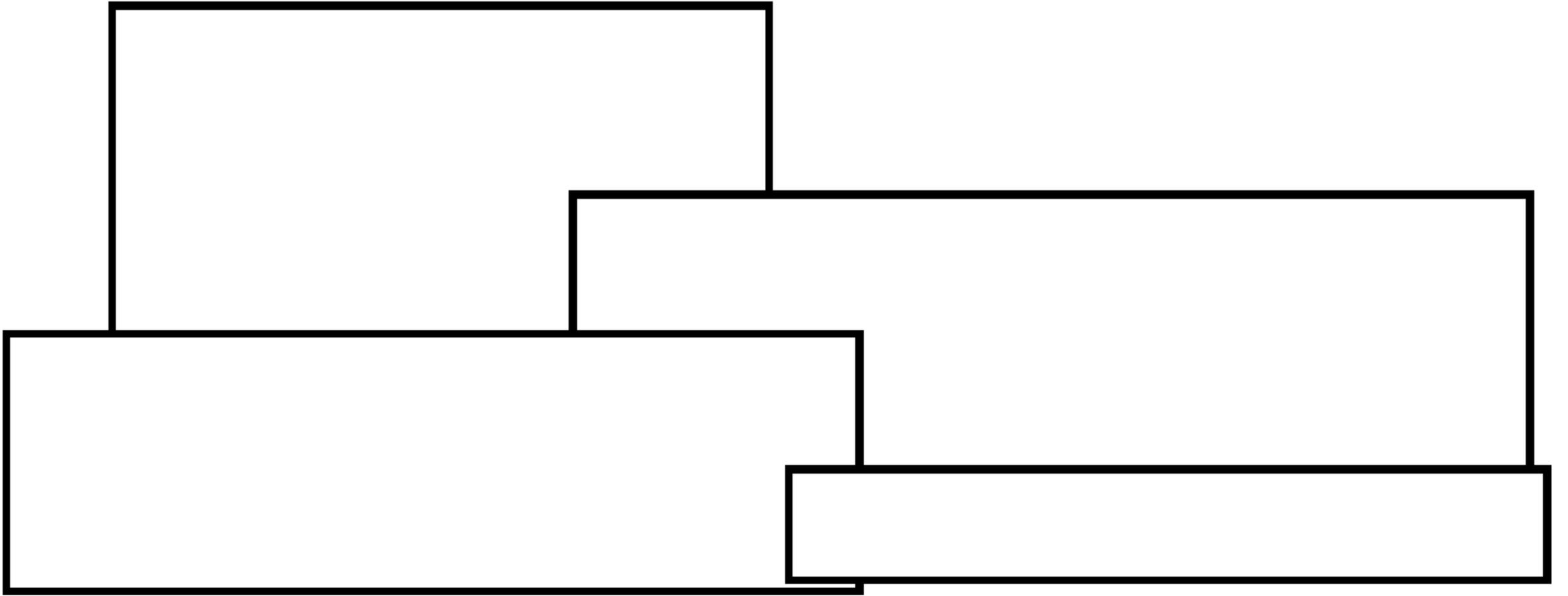
Bloom Time: June - September

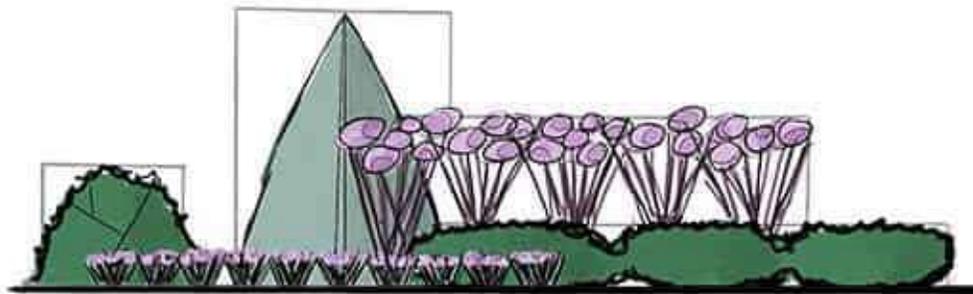
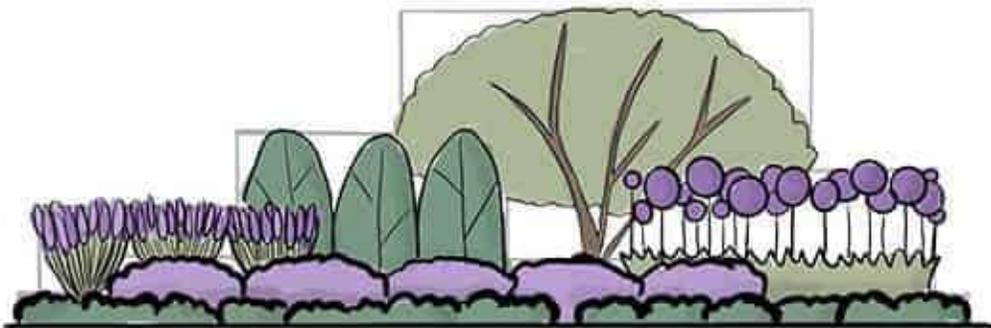
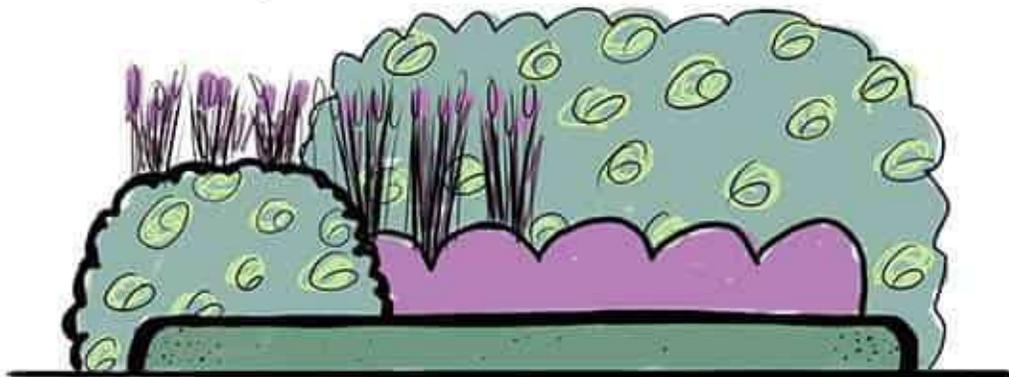
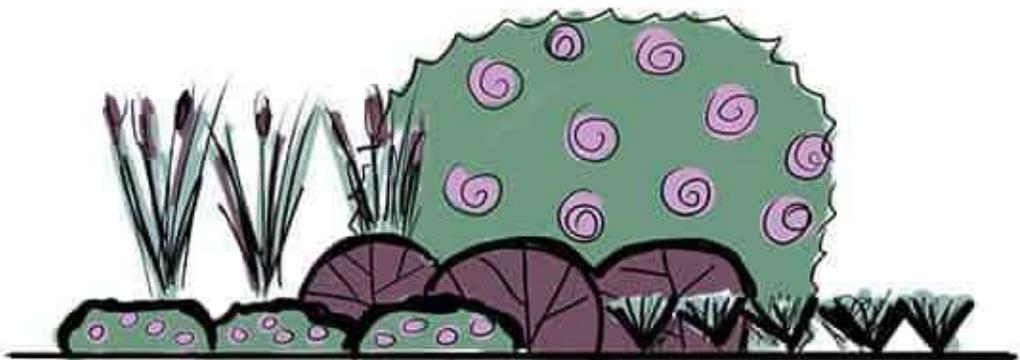
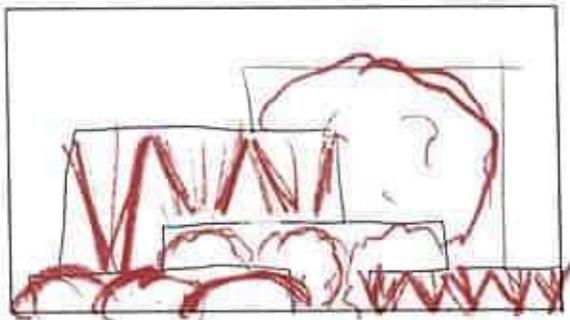
Functions: Groundcover



TEXTURES
AND SHAPES









ELEVATION VIEW







POWIS CASTLE WORMWOOD

Light Requirements: Full Sun

Water Requirements: Low (1/2 in / every 2 weeks)

Zone: 4

Soil Type: Well-draining, sandy, loamy soil

Size: 2 - 3 feet tall & wide

Bloom Time: Not noticeable

Functions: filler



MAGNUS CONEFLOWER

Light Requirements: Full Sun

Water Requirements: Moderate (1/2 in / every week)

Zone: 4

Soil Type: Well-draining, sandy, loamy soil

Size: 3 - 4 feet tall, 1-2 feet wide

Bloom Time: June – August

Functions: Edible flowers



YARROW

Light Requirements: Full Sun

Water Requirements: Low (1/2 in / every 2 weeks)

Zone: 3

Soil Type: Well-draining, sandy, loamy soil

Size: 1.5 - 3 feet tall, 1-1.5 feet wide

Bloom Time: June – August

Many colors and varieties



ZIG ZAG BLUE GRAMA

Light Requirements: Full Sun

Water Requirements: Low (1/2 in / every 2 weeks)

Zone: 4

Soil Type: Well-draining, sandy, loamy soil

Size: 1 – 1.5 feet tall, 1-1.5 feet wide

Bloom Time: June – August



RATTLESNAKE MASTER

Light Requirements: Full Sun, part shade

Water Requirements: Low (1/2 in / every 2 weeks)

Zone: 5

Soil Type: Well-draining, sandy, loamy soil

Size: 1.5 - 3 feet tall, 1-1.5 feet wide

Bloom Time: June – October



PRAIRIE DROPSEED

Light Requirements: Full Sun

Water Requirements: Low (1/2 in / every 2 weeks)

Zone: 3

Soil Type: Well-draining, sandy, loamy soil

Size: 2 – 3 feet tall, 2 - 3 feet wide

Bloom Time: August – September



BLUE GLOBE THISTLE

Light Requirements: Full Sun

Water Requirements: Low (1/2 in / every 2 weeks)

Zone: 3

Soil Type: Well-draining, sandy, loamy soil

Size: 3 – 4 feet tall, 1 - 2 feet wide

Bloom Time: June – August

Leave spent flowers on plant (adds winter interest)



YEAR-ROUND
INTEREST

LAVENDER

Light Requirements: Full Sun

Water Requirements: Low (1/2 in / every 2 weeks)

Zone: 5

Soil Type: sandy, well drained

Size: 1 - 3 feet tall, 1 - 3 feet wide

Bloom Time: June - August

Functions: Edible flowers, Evergreen



AUTUMN CHARM

Light Requirements: Full Sun

Water Requirements: Low (1/2 in / every 2 weeks)

Zone: 4

Soil Type: Any. Prefers Sandy

Size: 14 – 18 inches tall, 14 - 18 inches wide

Bloom Time: August - October



LITTLE NICKY SANTOLINA

Light Requirements: Full Sun

Water Requirements: Low (1/2 in / every 2 weeks)

Zone: 6

Soil Type: Any

Size: 1 foot tall, 1 foot wide

Bloom Time: June – July



CHAMELEON BLUE STEM

Light Requirements: Full Sun

Water Requirements: Low (1/2 in / every 2 weeks)

Zone: 3

Soil Type: Any

Size: 1.5 - 2 feet tall, 1.5 - 2 feet wide



LONG BLOOM
TIME

RUSSIAN SAGE

Light Requirements: Full Sun

Water Requirements: Low (1/2 in / every 2 weeks)

Zone: 4

Soil Type: Any

Size: 1.5 - 2 feet tall, 2 – 2.5 feet wide

Bloom Time: June - October



BLACK EYED SUSAN GOLDSTURM

Light Requirements: Full Sun, Part Shade

Water Requirements: Low (1/2 in / every 1 week)

Zone: 4

Soil Type: sandy, well drained

Size: 1.5 - 2.5feet tall, 1.5 - 2 feet wide

Bloom Time: June - October



WHIRLING BUTTERFLY

Light Requirements: Full Sun

Water Requirements: Low (1/2 in / every 2 weeks)

Zone: 5

Soil Type: Any

Size: 1 - 3 feet tall, 0.5 - 3 feet wide

Bloom Time: April – October

Many varieties. A lot of pinks available



UTAH SWEET VETCH

Light Requirements: Full Sun

Water Requirements: Moderate (1/2 in / every week)

Zone: 3

Soil Type: Any

Size: 1 – 2 feet tall, 2 – 3 feet wide

Bloom Time: April – August



SUNSTRUCK FALSE SUNFLOWER

Light Requirements: Full Sun

Water Requirements: Moderate (1/2 in / every week)

Zone: 3

Soil Type: Any

Size: 14 – 16 inches tall, 12 – 14 inches wide

Bloom Time: June – September



DREAM CLOUDS

DREAMERIA THRIFT

Light Requirements: Full Sun

Water Requirements: Moderate (1/2 in / every week)

Zone: 6

Soil Type: Any

Size: 10 – 12 inches tall, 10 – 12 inches wide

Bloom Time: April – September

Will continue to bloom if they are dead headed

There are other Dreameria varieties with different shades of pink



DOUBLE THE SUN TICKSEED

Light Requirements: Full Sun

Water Requirements: Low (1/2 in / every 2 weeks)

Zone: 4

Soil Type: Any

Size: 12 – 14 inches tall, 12 – 14 inches wide

Bloom Time: April – October

Readily self seeds, not invasive, but will pop up in other areas. Easy to remove



FIRE CHALICE HUMMINGBIRD TRUMPET

Light Requirements: Full Sun

Water Requirements: Low (1/2 in / every 2 weeks)

Zone: 5

Soil Type: Any

Size: 8 – 12 inches tall, 12 – 24 inches wide

Bloom Time: June – November



ENGELMANN'S DAISY

Light Requirements: Full Sun

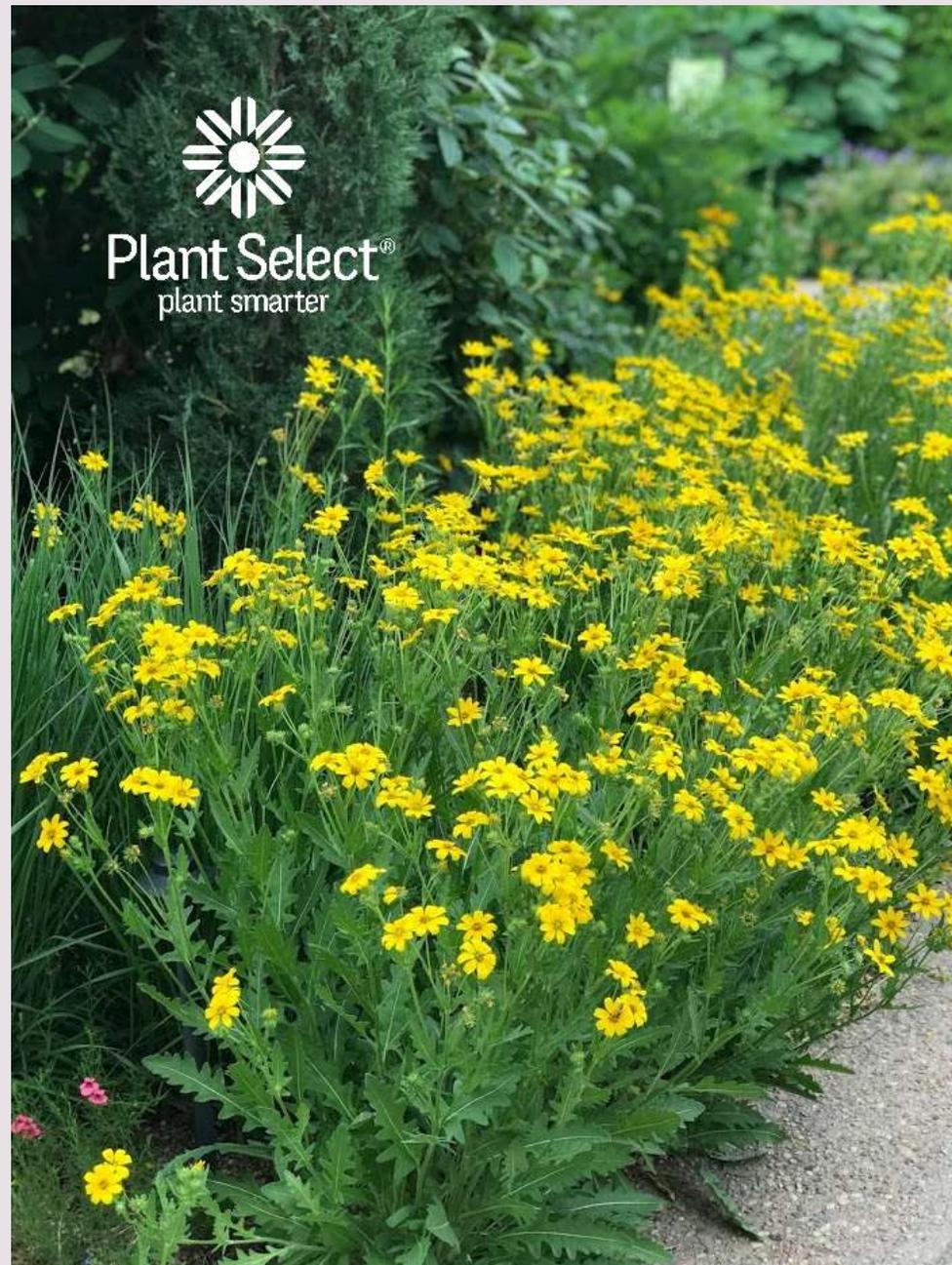
Water Requirements: Low (1/2 in / every 2 weeks)

Zone: 5

Soil Type: Any

Size: 1.5 – 2 feet tall, 1 – 1.5 feet wide

Bloom Time: April – October



DRY SHADE

H O S T A

Light Requirements: Full Shade

Water Requirement: Moderate (1/2 in/every week)

Zone: 3

Soil Type: Any

Size: 1 - 6 foot tall, 1 - 6 foot wide

Bloom Time: June – July

Sun Hosta is a variety that can handle full sun



KINNIKINNICK

Light Requirements: Full Shade, Part Shade

Water Requirement: Low (1/2 in / every 2 weeks)

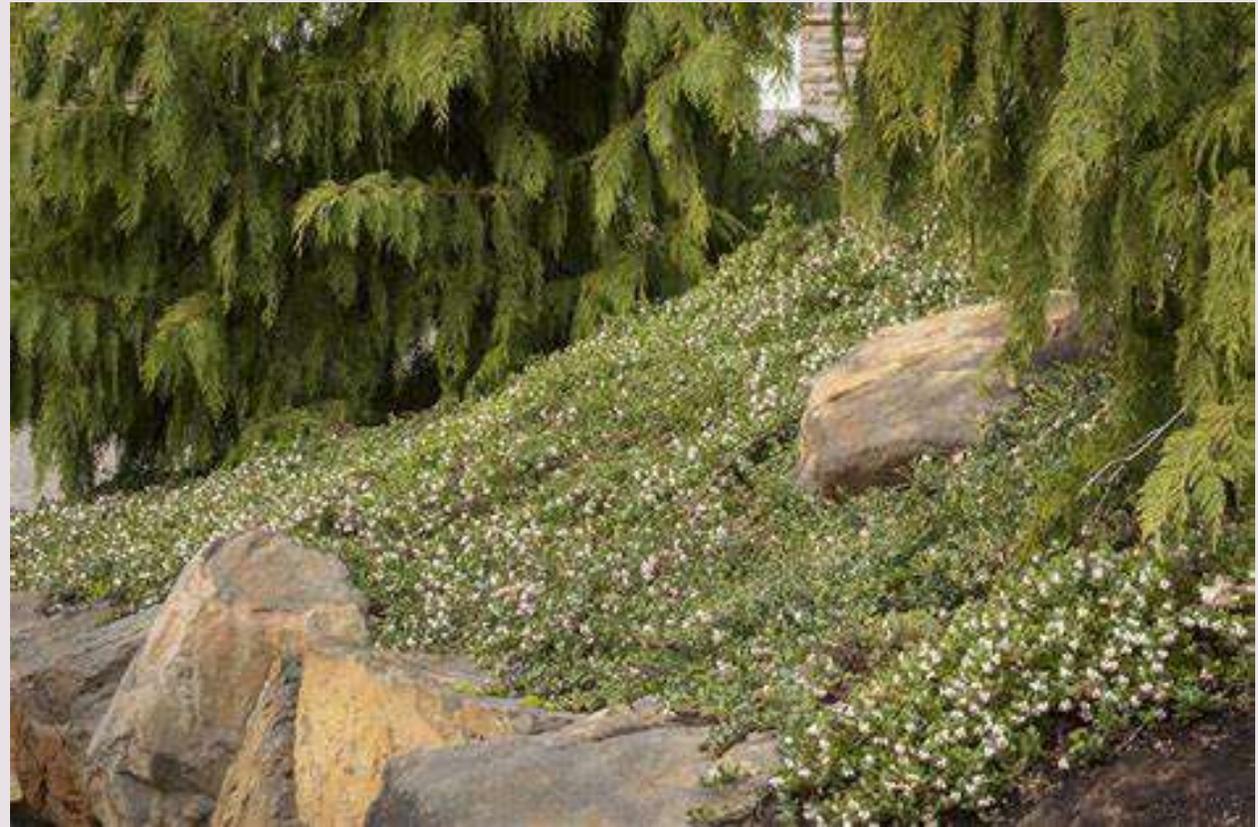
Zone: 3

Soil Type: Any

Size: 6 - 12 inches tall, 60 - 180 inches wide

Bloom Time: April – June

Spreading evergreen groundcover



PLUMBAGO

Light Requirements: Full Shade, Part Shade

Water Requirement: Moderate (1/2 in/every week)

Zone: 5

Soil Type: Any

Size: 8 - 12 inches tall, 14 - 18 inches wide

Bloom Time: August – October

Slow spreading ground cover with beautiful fall color



HARDY GLOXINIA

Light Requirements: Full Shade, Part Shade

Water Requirement: Moderate (1/2 in/every week)

Zone: 5

Soil Type: Any

Size: 1 - 2 feet tall, 12 - 18 inches wide

Bloom Time: June



EXTRA
FAVORITES

MOUNTAIN HOLLYHOCK

Light Requirements: Full Sun, part shade

Water Requirements: Low (1/2 in / every week)

Zone: 5

Soil Type: Any

Size: 3 - 6 feet tall, 2 - 3 feet wide

Bloom Time: May - June

Functions: Edible Roots, Back drop



APACHE SUNSET HYSSOP

Light Requirements: Full Sun

Water Requirements: Low (1/2 in / every 2 week)

Zone: 4

Soil Type: sandy, well drained

Size: 1 – 2 feet tall, 1 – 1.5 feet wide

Bloom Time: July – August



CARDINAL PENSTEMON

Light Requirements: Full Sun

Water Requirements: Low (1/2 in / every 2 weeks)

Zone: 4

Soil Type: sandy, well drained

Size: 1 - 3 feet tall, 1 - 3 feet wide

Bloom Time: July - September



BLACKFOOT DAISY

Light Requirements: Full Sun

Water Requirements: Low (1/2 in / every 2 weeks)

Zone: 5

Soil Type: Any

Size: 10 - 12 inches tall, 12 - 20 inches wide

Bloom Time: June – August

