



Upright blue Penstemon
Penstemon virgatus



Rocky Mountain Blue Penstemon
Penstemon strictus



Blanket Flower
Gaillardia aristata



GOLDEN PLAINS AREA

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

High and Dry Garden



High and Dry Garden

A garden that survives on rainwater and snow cover



Wild Four O'Clock

The High and Dry Garden is a demonstration garden.

The plants in this garden typically do well in periods of drought. Plants selected are able to survive on nature's precipitation during the year.

The garden was started in July 2005. It has recently been renovated with funding from Colorado Garden Show in 2019.

Some of the species trialed in this garden that were unsuccessful were replaced with more native drought tolerant varieties and cultivars of those plants.

Research by the University of Arizona discovered that no matter how well plants manage to absorb and conserve water, prolonged drought will damage cells.

Wraith Blake and Blake researchers from Montana State University, learned once plants are in a drought for 10-14 days, it takes 2-3 subsequent rewetting periods for the plants to uptake any water.

This garden stands as an on-going study of plants that do survive on only annual precipitation and extreme weather conditions in our area.



Initial Garden Implementation

The initial preparation of the garden was to measure a 400 foot square area and design the layout. Other than gravel around the roots, there were no other amendments added to the soil. The garden soil is a sandy loam. This sandy loam soil structure is important when considering these plants for your garden. If you have a different soil structure, research to see these varieties will do well in your soil.

This garden is laid out as a slight curve following the walking path through the garden.

New Cultivated Varieties in the Garden

Caryopteris cv. 'First Choice'

Amorpha nan Dwarf Lead plant

Agastache 'Sinning' Sonoran Sunset.



Plant List for the Garden

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|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Apache Plume | Fallugia paradoxa | Fernbush | Chamaebatiaria millifolium |
| Slender Wheatgrass | Elymus trachycaulus | Russian Sage | Perovskia atriplicifolia |
| Buffalograss | Buchloe dactyloides | Utah Service Berry | Amelanchier utahensis |
| Common Gaillardia | Gaillardia aristata | Bearded Iris | Iris germanica |
| Wild Four O'clock..... | Mirabilis multiflora | Silver Edged | |
| Oregon-grape..... | Mahonia repens | Horehound | Marrubium rotundifolium |
| Squaw apple..... | Peraphyllum ramosissimum | Sonoran Sunset | |
| Curl-leaf Mountain Mahogany .. | Cercocarpus ledifolius | Hyssop | Agastache cana 'Sinning' |
| Nodding Onion | Allium cernuum | Rocky Mountain Blue | |
| Golden columbine..... | Aquilegia chrysantha | Penstemon..... | Penstemon strictus |
| Nettleleaf Giant Horsemint..... | Agastache urticifolia | Upright blue | |
| Chocolate flower..... | Berlandiera lyrata | Penstemon..... | Penstemon virgatus |
| Provence Broom | Cytisus purgans | Dark Knight Blue | |
| Snow Mesa Buckwheat..... | Eriogonum wrightii var. | Mist Spirea | Caryopteris clandonensis |
| | wrightii | | |