

XERISCAPE PLANT LIST

The following information is included for each plant listed:

Botanical Name:
Common Name(s):
Size:
Flower: Color and Time
Availability:

Comments:

Trees and Shrubs

Acer grandidentatum

Big tooth Maple or Wasatch Maple
HT 20-30'
Flowers unimportant
Available

One of the few maples that is tolerant of drought and alkaline soils.

Amelanchier alnifolia

Serviceberry, Saskatoon Service berry, Shadbush, Juneberry, Western Serviceberry

HT 6-12' (possibly to 18')
Clusters of white flowers in spring.

Edible bluish purple fruits. Yellow to Orange fall color.

Amorpha canescens

Leadplant
HT 1-3'
Spikes of purple flowers in late summer
Available

Amorpha fruticosa

Indigobush or Bastard Indigo
HT to 15' (great variation in size from place to place)
Purplish blue flowers in June
Rare

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi

Kinnikinnick, Bearberry
HT vpto 6-8" but can spread 10' or more
Pink flowers followed by red fruit
Common

Used for ground cover

Artemesia abrotanum

Southernwood Sage
HT 2-3'
Flowers not important

Available

Treat as a perennial and cut to ground level each spring.

Artemesia Cana

Silver Sagebrush
HT 1-6'
Flowers not important
Available

Native to Colorado

Artemesia filifolia

Sand Sagebrush
HT 3-5'
Flowers Not Important
Available

Artemesia tridentata

Tall western sage, Big Sagebrush
HT 5-10'
Flowers not important
Available

This is the most common of the native sages found in Colorado.

Atriplex canescens

Four-wing Saltbrush
HT 3-6'
Flowers unimportant
Available

A Common desert shrub suitable for very dry areas.

Berberis koreana

Korean Barberry
HT 4-6'
Clusters of small yellow flowers in spring.
Common to Available

Nice orange to red fall color.
Has thorns, Nice hedge plant.

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Berberis mentorensis

Mentor Barberry

HT 4-6'

Small yellow flowers in spring

Common

May not be considered a true xeriscape plant but it is tolerant of heat and drought.

Berberis thunbergii

HT 4-6'

Japanese barberry

Yellow flowers in spring

Very common

Most people prefer the red leaved forms. Tolerant of some shade but the red varieties will revert to green. May not be a tree xeriscape plant but is tolerant of drought.

Caragana arborescens

Siberian Peashrub

HT 8-12'

Yellow flowers in May and June

Common

Caragana frutex

Russian Peashrub

HT 6-8'

Yellow flowers in May and June

Available

Caragana pygmaea

Pygmy Peashrub

HT 3-4'

Yellow flowers in May and June

Available

Caryopteris incana or Cox clandonensis

Blue Mist Spirea, Blue Spirea, Blue

Beard,

HT 2'

Flowers are blue and born on spikes from mid to late summer.

Common to Available

Commonly treated as a perennial and cut to ground level each year.

Catalpa Speciosa

Western Catalpa, Northern Catalpa

HT 40-50'

Large Clusters of showy white flowers in early summer. Fruit is a long cigar-like pod.

Common

Catalpa withstand extremely hot dry conditions but thrives in moist fertile soil.

Celtis occidentalis

Western Hackberry

HT 50-60'

Common

Very tolerant of adverse conditions. One of the most insect and disease-free trees available.

Cercocarpus intricatus

Mountain Mahogany

HT up to 10'

Flowers unimportant

Rare

Cercocarpus ledifolius

Curlleaf Mountain Mahogany

HT 12-20' (Possibly to 30')

Flowers unimportant

Available

Large open shrub or small tree with small evergreen or semi evergreen leaves.

Cercocarpus montanus

Mountain Mahogany

HT 5-10'

Flowers unimportant

Available

Chryso Thamnus SP

Rabbit brush

HT 1-6'

Yellow flowers

Available

Several species available. May have blue or green leaves.

Clematis ligusticifolia

Western virginia Bower
HT 10-20' (Vine)
White flowers
Avilable

Clematis orientalis

Yellow Clematis
HT 10' or more (Vine)
Yellow flowers
Available

Cotinus Cogyqria

Smoke tree, Smokebush
HT 6-10'
Flowers are not important
Available to common

While I know of some nice specimens of this plant in Rapid City, it may not be reliably hardy in all locations. Some varieties of this plant are available with red or purple leaves. The name smoketree refers to the open, airy, almost smoke-like clusters of seed heads on this plant.

Cotoneaster acutifolia

Peking Cotoneaster
HT 6-8'
White flowers in spring
Common

Cowania neo-mexicana or C. mexicana

New Mexico Cliffrose
HT up to 12'
1/2" to 3/4" white or sulphur yellow flowers from mid May to June
Available

Nice dark glossy green leaves. Nice orange to red fall color. Makes a very good hedge.

Crataegus ambigua

Russian Hawthorn
HT 15-25'
White flowers followed by red berries
Available

Crataegus crus-galli

Cockspur Hawthorn
HT 20-30'
White flowers followed by deep red fruit
Common

This plant is armed with 3 inch thorns, but a thornless variety is available.

Elaeagnus angustifolia

Russian Olive
HT 20-25'
Small yellow flowers which are very fragrant
Very Common

Elaeagnus Commutata

Silverberry
HT 6-12'
The flowers are small and inconspicuous but very fragrant.
Available

This is a close relative of the Russian Olive. Silverberry suckers freely and this should make it a good candidate for hedges.

Fallugia paradoxa

Apache Plume
HT 4-6'
White rose like flowers in Spring
Available to Rare

Seed Clusters form a plume throughout the summer.

Foresteria neo-mexicana

New Mexico Privet, Desert Olive
HT 10-12'
Yellow flowers in spring
Available

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Fraxinus pennsylvanica lanceolata

Green Ash
HT 40-60
Very Common

Native to moist bottom lands but tolerant of dry conditions. Borers have become a serious problem on ash so be ready to learn to spot signs of infestation.

Genista tinctoria

Dyers Greenwood, Woodwaxen
HT3'
Yellow flowers through most of the summer

Available

Gleditsia triacanthos var inermis

Thornless Honeylocust
HT30-60'
Very Common

Tolerant of dry soils but may not be considered a true xeriscape plant.

Gymnocladus dioicus

Kentucky Coffee Tree
HT 50-60'
Common

There is a Kentucky coffee tree in the West Boulevard area of Rapid City that is considered to be one of the most beautiful trees in Rapid City.

Hippophae rhamnoides

Sea buckthorn
HT 10-15' but can get bigger
Yellow flowers in spring
Available

Holodiscus dumosus

Rock Spirea
HT 3-4'
Pinkish white flowers in mid summer
Available

Juniperus sp.

Junipers
HT 6" to 6 on shrub types
HT 6' to 40' on upright tree types
Very Common

While not all junipers are classed as xeriscape plants most junipers do have some degree of tolerance for dry growing conditions.

Lonicera tatarica (Zabeli)

Zabel Honeysuckle
HT 8-12'
Red flowers in Spring
Common

Aphids are a common problem on honeysuckle. Aphids cause distortions on the new growth and can make a shrub very unsightly.

Mahonia repens

Creeping Oregon Grape Holly
HT 12-18"
Yellow flowers followed by blue berries.

Used as a ground cover

Myrica pennsylvanica

Northern Bayberry
HT 6-10'
Flowers not important
Available

Phellodendron amurense

Amur Corktree
HT 30-45'
Available

Theoretically this tree should grow here but I am not aware of any growing in Rapid City.

Philadelphus lewisii

Mock Orange
HT 6-9'
Very fragrant white flowers in early summer
Available

Philadelphus microphyllus

Little leaf Mock orange
HT 3-5'
Cream colored flowers
Available

One reference work claims that it is not hardy this far north, but it is native throughout Colorado so it should be hardy here in the Rapid City area.

Physocarpus monogynus

Mountain Nine bark
HT 2-4'
Pale pink flowers late spring-early summer
Available

Physocarpus opulifolius

Common or Eastern Ninebark.
HT 5-10'
Clusters of small white to pinkish flowers in May and June.
Very Common

Pinus cembroides edulis

Pinon Pine
HT 20-30'
Available

This plant will become leggy and stretched-out of it is over watered.

Pinus contorta

Lodgepole Pine
HT 50-70'
Available

Pinus flexilis

Limber Pine
HT 30-50'
Available

Pinus mugo or Pinus mugo

Mugho Pine, Swiss Mountain Pine
HT 3'-30'
Very Common

There are a wide number of varieties of mugho pine and they vary greatly in size.

Pinus ponderosa var scopulorum

Rocky Mt Ponderosa Pine, Western Yellow Pine
HT 60-80' (can get much bigger)
Common

Potentilla fruticosa

Native Potentilla, shrubby cinquefoil
HT 2-4' Depending on variety
Flowers early summer to fall
Very common

This shrub is available with white or yellow flowers. There are varieties available with orange, pink and red flowers, but these colors fade out in hot sunny locations.

Prunus americana

American Plum
HT 15-20'
White flowers in spring
Available

Prunus besseyi

Western Sand Cherry
HT 5-6'
White flowers in spring
Available

Prunus virginiana

Choke cherry
HT 12-18'
White flowers in spring
Available to Very Common

The subspecies *Prunus virginiana melanocarpa* is a slightly smaller plant that is native to the Rocky Mt. region. *Prunus virginiana 'Shubert'* is a red leaved variety commonly sold under the name Canada Red Cherry. These plants produce suckers to varying degrees and can sometimes form thickets.

Quercus gambeli

Gambel Oak
HT 8-20'
Flowers unimportant
Available

Commonly grows as a multi trunked small tree or large shrub.

Quercus macrocarpa

Bur Oak, Mossycup Oak
HT 50-60'
common

This is the oak that is commonly found in the Black Hills.

Rhamnus cathartica

Common Buckthorn
HT 10-25'
Flowers are unimportant
Available

Rhamnus frangula

Glossy Buckthorn
HT 8-12'
Flowers are unimportant
Available

Seeds germinate readily, can become a weed.

Rhus aromatica

Fragrant Sumac
HT 2-6'
Small greenish yellow flowers-not real showy
Common to available

The variety "Grolow" gets only about 2' high and can spread up to 8' wide. This variety has been sold locally off and on for several years. Nice red fall color.

Rhus glabra

Smooth sumac
HT 8-10'
Flowers unimportant
Common

This species suckers freely and forms thickets. There is a cut leaf variety

available which has a more delicate and fern like appearance. The cut leaf sumac also does not normally sucker as heavily as the species. Rhus glabra cis-montana is a native sub species which only grows 3-5' tall.

Rhus trilobata

Threeleaf Sumac, Skunkbush, Lemonade Sumac.
HT 3-6'
Flowers not important
Available

Closely related to Rhus aromatica but has a stronger unpleasant odor. Good orange red fall color.

Rhus typhina

Staghorn Sumac
HT to 15-' (could get larger)
Flowers not important
Common

Very similar to smooth sumac but the stems are very fuzzy and make one think of a buck deer's antlers when they are still covered with velvet, hence the name Stag Horn. Cut leaf variety is also available.

Ribes aureum

Yellow flowering currant
HT 6-8'
Yellow flowers in spring
Common

Drought tolerant once established.

Ribes cereum

Squaw currant, wax currant
HT 3-4'
Pinkish colored flowers in Spring
Available

Robinia hispida

Rose Acacia, Pink Locust
HT 6-10'
Pink to purple flowers in late Spring
Available to rare

Suckers freely and forms thickets.

Robinia neomexicana

New Mexico Locust
HT 10-25'
Rose pink flowers in summer
Available to rare

Robinia pseudoacacia

Black Locust, Yellow Locust, False
Acacia
HT to 75'
Clusters of white flowers in early
summer.
Available

Susceptible to borer damage. An
extremely tough tree for poor growing
conditions. Considered a trash tree by
some people.

Rosa sp.

Rose
HT 2-6' (or more)
Flowers of white, yellow, orange, pink
and red
Very common

There are several species and many
varieties which are suitable for
xeriscapes but time and space does not
permit a full listing here.

Rubus deliciosus

Thimbleberry
HT 4-6'
White flowers up to 2" wide
Available

Related to raspberries. The fruit is
edible but not very good.

Sheperdia argentea

Buffaloberry, Silver Buffaloberry
HT 8-12'
Flowers not important
Common

Sheperdia canadensis

Russet Buffaloberry
HT 6-8'
Flowers not important
Available to rare

Sorbaria Sorbifolia

Ural False Spirea
Ht to 10' (tends to be dwarfed by dry
soils)
Large showy white flower clusters in
summer.
Available to common.

Spirea x vanhoutte

Vanhoutte Spirea, Bridalwreath Spirea
HT 4-6'
White flowers in Spring
Very common

Symphocarpus albus

Common Snowberry, White Snowberry
HT 3-4'
Pink flowers followed by white berries
Common to available.

SymphorCarpus orbiculatus

Red Snowberry, Coralberry, Indian
Currant, Buckbrush.
HT 3'4'
Flowers not important
Common to Available

The fruit is held close to the long
slender stems and makes the plant look
like it is covered with strings of small
beads. This and other snowberry's are
tolerant of shade and are good for bank
stabilization

Symphocarpos oreophilus

Mountain Snowberry
HT 3-4'
Pink flowers followed by white fruit
Available

Syringa Spp.

Lilac
HT 3'-15' (depending on species and
variety)
Flowers in spring in shades of white,
pink, blue and lavender.
Very common

There is a wide variety of lilacs
available and most are drought tolerant.

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Tamarix pentandra 'summer glow'

Five Stamen Tamarix or Tamarist, Salt Cedar, Summer Glow
Normally 10-12'tall but can get bigger.
Small rosy pink to lavender flowers which are borne in large open airy clusters.

A very delicate looking plant. Winter die back is common on twigs and branches so be prepared to prune out the dead wood and reshape the plant each spring. The botanical name of this plant has been changed to Tamarix ramosissima

Viburnum lantana

Wayfaring tree
HT to 15'
Creamy white clusters of flowers.
Common

Yucca Baccata

Banana Yucca
HT 2-3'
White flowers in early summer
Available

Yucca filamentosa

Adams Needle, Spanish Bayonet
HT 2-3'
Creamy white flowers in early summer
Common

Yucca glauca

Soapweed
HT 2-4'
Common

This is the native yucca commonly seen in our area.

Flowers

Achillea filipendulina

Fernleaf yarrow
HT up to 4'depending on variety.
yellow flowers
perennial

Achillea millefolium

Common Yarrow, Milfoil
HT 2-2 1/2 ft.
Pink to Red flowers and possibly white
perennial

Achillea tomentosa

Woolly Yarrow
HT 2-6"
Yellow flowers July to September
Perennial

Use as a ground cover.

Aegopodium podagraria

Goutweed, Bishopsweed, Snow on the mountain
HT 6-12"
Perennial

Anemone pulsatilla or Pulsatilla patens

Pasque flower
HT 6-12"
Blue or reddish-purple flowers in early spring
Perennial

SD native. State flower.

Antennaria dioica var. rosea

Pussy toes
HT 2-4"
White or Pink flowers in summer
Perennial

Use for a ground cover. SD native

Anthemis tinctoria

Golden Marguerite, Yellow Chamomile
HT 2-3'
2" yellow flowers in summer and fall

Arrhenatherum elatius bulbosum

Bulbous Oat Grass
HT to 3 1/2'
Perennial

Ornamental grass. A variegated variety is available.

Artemesia absinthium

Common Wormwood

HT 2 1/2'-4'

Flowers not important

Available to common

Perennial

There is one named variety called 'Lambrook silver' and there may be others.

Artemesia ludoviciana

Western Sage Prairie Sagewort

HT 2-3'

Small grayish-white flowers

Available

Perennial

'Silver King' and 'Silver Queen' are the two commonly available varieties.

Artemesia schmidtian 'Silver mound'

Silver Mound Artemesia

HT to 12 inches

Very small white or yellow flowers

Very Common

Perennial

Prune off the flower stalks before the flowers open to prevent the plants from flopping over and becoming open in the center.

Artemesia stellerana

Beach Wormwood

HT 2 1/2'

Small yellow flowers

Available

This is a woody perennial or sub-shrub

Asclepias tuberosa

Butterfly Weed

HT 1-3'

Orange flowers in mid summer.

Perennial

Baptisia australis

Blue False Indigo

HT 3-5'

Blue flowers in late spring and early summer

Perennial

Boutelova gracilis

Blue Grama, Mosquito Grass

HT to 2'

Perennial - Ornamental Grass

Catananche caerulea

Cupid's Dart, Blue Succory

HT 2'

Lavender Blue Flowers in Summer

Perennial

Centaurea cyanus

Bachelor's Button, Cornflower

HT 1-2'

White pink blue or purple flowers in summer.

Annual

Cerastium tomentos

HT 6"

White flowers in summer

Perennial

Cleome hasslerana or C. spinosa

Spider flower

HT 3-5'

White, pink or purple flowers all summer

Annual

Coreopsis tinctoria,

Golden Coreopsis, Calliopsis, Tickseed

HT 1 1/2-3'

Yellow, orange, brown or red flowers all summer.

Annual

Coreopsis verticillata

Thread leaf Coreopsis

HT 1-3'

Yellow flowers all summer

Perennial

Cosmos bipinnatos

Cosmos

HT 3-4'

White, pink, red or lavender flowers summer until frost

Annual

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Delosperma sp

Ice plant

HT 2-6"

Yellow or lavender flowers

Annual and perennial species

Dianthus plumarius

Grass Pink, Border Pink, Cottage Pink

HT 9-18"

White pink or lavender flowers in late spring and early summer,

Perennial

Duchesnea indica

Mock Strawberry, Aztec Indian berry

HT 2-3"

Summer flowers followed by red fruit

Perennial

Echinacea purpurea

Purple Coneflower

HT 2-3'

White, pink, red or lavender flowers from mid to late summer.

Perennial

Eragrostis trichodes

Sand Love Grass

HT 2-4'

Perennial-Ornamental Grass

Festuca sp

Fescue

HT 6"to 5'

Perennial

A group of related ornamental grasses with blue or green foliage. Many different varieties from which to choose.

Gaillardia aristata

Blanket Flower

HT 8"to2'

Yellow, Bronze or red flowers throughout much of the summer

Perennial

Gazania longiscapa or G. rigens

Gazania or Treasure Flower

HT 6-12"

Flowers most of the summer in shades of yellow, orange, pink and red

Annual

Geranium sanguineum

Blood red Cranesbill

HT 12-15'

Light pink to reddish purple flowers in late spring and early summer

Perennial

Geum reptans

Avens

HT 4-6"

Yellow or orange flowers in late spring

Perennial

Gomphrena globosa

Globe Amaranth

HT 10-20"

White pink red orange or purple flowers all summer

Annual

Gypsophila elegans

Annual Baby's Breath

HT 12-18"

White or pink flowers all summer.

Gypsophila repens

Creeping Baby's Breath

HT 6-8"

White or pink flowers in summer

Helichrysum bracteatum

Straw flower

HT 1-3'

Flowers all summer. Available in many colors

Annual

Helianthus annuus

Common Sunflower

HT 1-12'

White, yellow or orange flowers in summer,

Annual

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Hemerocallis sp

Daylily

HT 1'-3'

Yellow, red, orange, pink, and maroon flowers in summer.

Perennial

Ipomoea tricolor

Morning glory

HT to 10'

White, red, blue, or purple flowers all summer.

Annual vine

Kochia scoparia var. tricophylla

Summer Cypress, Burning Bush

HT 2-3'

Flowers not important, grow for its foliage.

Annual

Lavandula angustifolia

English Lavender

HT 1-3'

Lavender flowers in summer

Perennial

May not be fully hardy in this area.

Limonium latifolium

Statice, Sea Lavender

HT to 2 1/2'

White, pink, blue, or lavender flowers in summer.

Perennial

Linum perenne

Perennial Flax

HT 1-2'

Blue flowers in early summer.

Perennial

Mesembryanthemum crystallinum

Ice Plant

HT 8"

White or pink flowers in spring

Annual

Oenothera missouriensis Missouri Evening

Primrose

HT 1'

Yellow flowers in summer

Perennial

Oenothera tetragona

Common Sundrop

HT 1 1/2"

Yellow flowers in early summer

Perennial

Papaver nudicaule

Iceland Poppy

HT 1'

White, yellow, orange, pink or red flowers in spring and summer.

Tender perennial grows as an annual

Penstemon sp.

Penstemon

HT 6" to 2'

Pink, red, blue or purple flowers in summer

Perennial

There are at least 6 species of penstemon suitable for xeriscapes.

Petunia x hybrida

Petunia

HT 12-18"

Flowers all summer, Available in almost all colors.

Annual

Polygonum affine

Himalayan Fleece Flower

HT 18"

Pink flowers summer and fall

Perennial

Polygonum aubertii

Silver Lace Vine

HT to 25'

White flowers in late summer

Perennial vine

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Portulaca grandiflora

Moss Rose

HT 6"

White, yellow, orange, pink or red
flowers all summer.

Annual

Potenilla tabernae montani

Spring Cinquefoil

HT 6'

Yellow flowers all summer

Perennial

Ratibida colmifera

Prairie Cone Flower

HT 1-3'

Yellow or red flowers all summer

Perennial

Rudbeckia hirta var. gloriosa

Black Eyed Susan Gloriosa Daisy

HT 1-3'

Yellow, bronze or red flowers most of
the summer.

Perennial

Saponaria ocymoides

Soapwort

HT 8"

White or pink flowers in spring and
early summer.

Perennial

Sedum sp.

Sedum or Stanecrop

HT 3"-2'

Yellow orange or pink flowers

Perennial

Several species and varieties to choose
from.

Senecio cineraria

Dusty Miller

HT to 2'

Flowers unimportant

Annual

Grown for its silver foliage.

Stachys byzantina

Lambs Ears

HT 8"

Purple or pink flowers in summer

Perennial

Teucrium chamaedrys

Germander

HT 1-2'

Pink or reddish flowers in summer.

Tender Perennial

Thymus pseudolanuginosus

Wooly Thyme

HT 1"

Pink flowers in spring and summer.

Perennial

Thymus serpyllum

Mother of Thyme

HT 4"

White, pink or purple flowers in spring
and summer

Perennial