LaBonte Park’s Outdoor Learning Center
Water-Wise and Native Plant Demonstration Garden

This collaborative effort was undertaken in fall 2007 to showcase the wide variety of water-wise plants that can be grown in Laramie. Most are also well-adapted to other locations in the state. These drought-tolerant species can be used in naturalistic settings or in more formal gardens. Either way, you'll end up with a landscape that uses less water, takes up less of your time, and looks great!

Updated 8/2012
The south side contains water-wise plants from the Rocky Mountain region and beyond.

The north side of this garden is dedicated to plants that are native to our area including the Rocky Mountains and Great Plains regions.

Note: This map will be revised every 2-3 years. It may not be totally accurate when you visit but it will be close.
**PERENNIALS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Plant Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Wild four o'clock</td>
<td><em>Mirabilis multiflora</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sunset penstemon</td>
<td><em>Penstemon clutei</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Basket of Gold</td>
<td><em>Aurinia saxatilis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Lambs ear ('Silver Carpet')</td>
<td><em>Stachys byzantina</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Dianthus ('Firewitch')</td>
<td><em>Dianthus gratianopolitanus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Rocky Mountain penstemon</td>
<td><em>Penstemon strictus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Small-leaf pussytoes ('McClintock')</td>
<td><em>Antennaria parvifolia</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Artemisia ('Silver Brocade')</td>
<td><em>Artemisia stelleriana</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Poppy mallow</td>
<td><em>Callirhoe involucrata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Upright prairie coneflower (yellow form)</td>
<td><em>Ratibida columnifera</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Blanket flower ('Goblin')</td>
<td><em>Gaillardia sp.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Missouri evening primrose</td>
<td><em>Oenothera macrocarpa</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Pineleaf penstemon</td>
<td><em>Penstemon pinifolius</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Dotted blazing star</td>
<td><em>Liatris punctata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Sulfur buckwheat ('Kannah Creek')</td>
<td><em>Eriogonum umbellatum</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Upright prairie coneflower (red-brown form)</td>
<td><em>Ratibida columnifera</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Sugarbowl clematis</td>
<td><em>Clematis scottii</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Iris (intermediate size)</td>
<td><em>Iris spp.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Firecracker penstemon</td>
<td><em>Penstemon eatonii</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Partridge feather</td>
<td><em>Tanacetum densum sspp. amani</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Sedum ('Angelina')</td>
<td><em>Sedum rupestre</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Yarrow ('Moonshine')</td>
<td><em>Achillea hybrid</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Sand phlox</td>
<td><em>Phlox bifida</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Blue spruce sedum</td>
<td><em>Sedum reflexum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Short penstemon</td>
<td><em>Penstemon sp.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Rosy pussytoes</td>
<td><em>Antennaria sp.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Penstemon ('Elf Pink')</td>
<td><em>Penstemon barbatus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Black-eyed Susan</td>
<td><em>Rudbeckia hirta</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Jones’ bluestar</td>
<td><em>Amsonia jonesii</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Blue mist penstemon</td>
<td><em>Penstemon virens</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Kelsey’s phlox ('Lemhi Purple')</td>
<td><em>Phlox kelseyi</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SHRUBS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Plant Name</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Creeping sand cherry ('Pawnee Buttes')</td>
<td><em>Prunus besseyi</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Sand cherry</td>
<td><em>Prunus besseyi</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Golden currant</td>
<td><em>Ribes aureum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Woods’ rose</td>
<td><em>Achillea hybrid</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Russian sage</td>
<td><em>Sedum reflexum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Apache plume</td>
<td><em>Fallugia paradoxa</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Mountain mahogany</td>
<td><em>Cercocarpus montanus</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GRASSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Plant Name</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Creeping phlox ('Emerald Cushion Blue')</td>
<td><em>Phlox subulata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Variegated iris ('Variegata')</td>
<td><em>Iris pallida</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Snow daisy</td>
<td><em>Tanacetum nivrum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>Rose campion ('Atrosanguinea')</td>
<td><em>Lychnis coronaria</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Salvia ('May Night')</td>
<td><em>Salvia nemerosa</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>Blue sage</td>
<td><em>Salvia azurea</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>Purple coneflower</td>
<td><em>Echinacea purpurea</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>Sedum ('Autumn Joy')</td>
<td><em>Sedum spectabile</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>Serbian yarrow</td>
<td><em>Achillea serbica</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Catmint ('Walker's Low')</td>
<td><em>Nepeta sp.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>Hens and chicks (purple)</td>
<td><em>Sempervivum spp.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>Penstemon, miscellaneous species</td>
<td><em>Penstemon sp.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>Perennial sunflower</td>
<td><em>Helianthus maximiliani</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>Desert prince's plume</td>
<td><em>Stanleya pinnata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>Bladderpod</td>
<td><em>Alyssoides utriculata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>White evening primrose</td>
<td><em>Oenothera caespitosa</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57</td>
<td>Scarlet gilia</td>
<td><em>Ipomopsis aggregata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>Hummingbird trumpet ('Orange Carpet')</td>
<td><em>Zauschneria garrettii</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td>Bitterroot ('Edithae')</td>
<td><em>Lewisia hybrid</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>Native penstemon</td>
<td><em>Penstemon sp.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>Butterfly milkweed</td>
<td><em>Asclepias tuberosa</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>Pasqueflower</td>
<td><em>Pulsatilla patens</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Reported to be deer resistant*  
*Reported to be rabbit resistant*  
*Nothing is a sure bet when it comes to wildlife eating your plants, except perhaps proper fencing.*
# Water-Wise Demo Bed List of Plants
(by genus; map number is shown in parentheses)

## PERENNIALS

**Achillea**
- *A. serbica*, Serbian yarrow (50)
- *A. hybrid* (‘Moonshine’), Yarrow (98)

**Alyssoides utriculata**, Bladderpod (69)

**Amsonia jonesii**, Jones’ bluestar (106)

**Antennaria**
- *A. parvifolia* (‘McClintock’), Small-leaf pussytoes (9)
- *A. rosea*, Rosy pussytoes (102)

**Aquilegia coerulea**, Colorado blue columbine (29)

**Artemisia stelleriana** (‘Silver Brocade’), Artemisia (10)

**Asclepias tuberosa**, Butterfly milkweed (79)

**Aster novi-angliae** (‘Purple Dome’), Aster (25)

**Baptisia australis**, False indigo (92)

**Callirhoe involucrata**, Poppy mallow (11)

**Clematis scottii**, Sugarbowl clematis (90)

**Delosperma nubigenum**, Yellow iceplant (26)

**Dianthus gratianopolitanus** (‘Firewitch’), Dianthus (7)

**Echinacea**
- *E. angustifolia*, Narrow-leaf coneflower (34)
- *E. purpurea*, Purple coneflower (47)

**Eriogonum umbellatum** (‘Kannah Creek’), Sulfur buckwheat (22)

**Gaillardia sp.** (‘Goblin’), Blanket flower (13)

**Helianthus maximiliani**, Perennial sunflower (58)

**Ipomopsis aggregata**, Scarlet gilia (72)

**Iris**
- *I. germanica* (‘Mr. Roberts’), Dwarf bearded iris (30)
- *I. pallida* (‘Variegata’), Variegated iris (42)
- *Iris* spp. (intermediate size), Iris (93)
- *Iris* spp., Iris (94)

**Lewisia hybrid** (‘Edithae’), Bitterroot (74)

**Liatris scottii**, Dotted blazing star (18)

**Lychnis coronaria** (‘Atrosanguinea’), Rose campion (44)

**Mirabilis multiflora**, Wild four o’clock (3)

**Nepeta sp.** (‘Walker’s Low’), Catmint (52)

**Oenothera**
- *O. caespitosa*, White evening primrose (70)
- *O. macrocarpa*, Missouri evening primrose (14)

**Penstemon**
- *P. barbatus* ‘Elfin Pink’, Elfin pink penstemon (104)
- *P. clutei*, Sunset penstemon (4)
- *P. cyananthus*, Wasatch beardtongue (51)
- *P. eatonii*, Firecracker penstemon (95)
- *P. grandiflorus*, Large beardtongue (23)
- *P. palmeri*, Pink wild snapdragon (32)
- *P. pinnifolius*, Pineleaf penstemon (15)
- *P. strictus*, Rocky Mountain penstemon (8)
- *P. virens*, Blue mist penstemon (107)

**Phlox**
- *P. bifida*, Sand phlox (99)
- *P. subulata* (‘Emerald Cushion Blue’), Creeping phlox (41)
- *P. kelseyi* (‘Lemhi Purple’), Kelsey’s phlox (108)

**Pulsatilla patens**, Pasqueflower (83)

**Ratibida columnifera**, Upright prairie coneflower
  - Yellow form (12)
  - Red-brown form (84)

**Rudbeckia hirta**, Black-eyed Susan (105)

**Salvia**
- *S. juisici*, European cutleaf sage (35)
- *S. nemerossa* (‘May Night’), Salvia (45)
- *S. azurea* (46)

**Sedum**
- *S. spectabile* (‘Autumn Joy’), Sedum (48)
- *S. reflexum*, Blue spruce sedum (100)
- *S. rupestre* (‘Angelina’), Sedum (97)

**Sempervivum spp.**
- Green hens and chicks (27)
- Purple hens and chicks (54)

**Stachys byzantina** (‘Silver Carpet’), Lambs ear (6)

**Stanleya pinnata**, Desert prince’s plume (66)

**Tanacetum**
- *T. densum* spp. amani, Partridge feather (96)
- *T. niveum*, Snow daisy (43)

**Veronica pectinata**, Blue wooly veronica (28)

**Zauschneria garrettii** (‘Orange Carpet’), Hummingbird trumpet (73)

## SHRUBS

**Amorpha canescens**, Leadplant (20)

**Cercocarpus montanus**, Mountain mahogany (103)

**Chamaebatiaria millefolium**, Fembush (71)

**Fallugia paradoxa**, Apache plume (81)

**Prunus besseyi**
- ‘Pawnee Buttes’ creeping sand cherry (31)
- Sand cherry (60)

**Ribes aureum**, Golden currant (61)

**Rosa woodsii**, Woods’ rose (63)

## GRASSES

**Andropogon gerardii**, Big bluestem (21)

**Elytrigia elongata** (‘Jose Select’), Tall wheatgrass (1)

**Helictotrichon sempervirens**, Blue avena grass (2)

**Panicum virgatum** (‘Heavy Metal’), Switchgrass (57)

**Schizachyrium scoparium** (‘Blaze’), Little bluestem (64)
Notes & observations:

About the site

The Demonstration Garden soil is a gravel loam topped by about 6 inches of red clay soil. It gets full sun and plenty of wind (and cold) for a site in town, because of open exposure on the western side. Most of the plants at this site require plentiful sunlight. This garden is where we trial plants that show potential for Laramie gardens. As some should be considered experimental for our area, we recommend that you research these plants thoroughly before introducing them into your garden.

Warm-season grasses

Many of the ornamental grasses in the horticultural trade that are native to Wyoming are “warm-season grasses”. In our area (elevation) “cool-season grasses” grow best. Therefore, some of these warm-season grasses may struggle or die unless they are planted in a warm microclimate.

Reseeding

“Reseeds” generally means that the plants produce seed, some of which germinates the next year, creating new plants. Some plants don’t reseed (they are sterile or reproduce by other means). Others reseed a little and some reseed a lot. Reseeding can be beneficial if you are trying to fill in an area with that same plant type. It can be a problem if a plant reseeds a lot and you either have other types of plants near it or you otherwise want to keep it only in one location. The seedlings can either out-compete other kinds of plants or spread across your garden. Also, a plant that reseeds a lot in one location may not do so in another. Some seedlings are easier to pull out than others. Deadheading (cutting off flower stalks after flowering is over but before seed is released) can control reseeding somewhat. If you ever see a plant that is reseeding and spreading a lot into a wild/natural area, consider killing the seedlings and the parent plants immediately—a few plants have been known to escape cultivation and become weeds (non-native plants are of particular concern).

Native Plants

Not all native plants are “nice” in a domesticated setting such as a residential garden. When released from the pressures keeping them in check in their native environment (poor soils, lack of water, competition from other plants, herbivory, etc.) they can spread prolifically in your garden either by abundant seed production or by spreading vegetatively underground. These traits may or may not be desirable in your setting. Get to know what you can about them before you plant, then observe them for several years in your garden.
Wild Four O’ Clock

*Mirabilis multiflora*

Height: 1-3’
Width: 2-4’
Very long lived;
Resents transplanting.
Reseeds.

Sunset Penstemon

*Penstemon clutei*

Height: 40”
Width: 12-18”
Reseeds moderately.
Basket-of-Gold  
*Aurinia saxatilis, Alyssum saxatile*

*Height: 6-15”  
Width: 12-18” (or wider)*

Bright spring color. Grey-green inconspicuous foliage. Older plants can get ratty looking. Trim back to renew after bloom.

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‘Silver Carpet’ Lambs Ear  
*Stachys byzantina*

*Height: 8-10”  
Width: 12-24” (or much wider)*

Foliage looks good all summer; groundcover. Planted 2007.
‘Firewitch’ Dianthus
_Dianthus gratianopolitanus_

Height: 6-8”
Width: 8-12”

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Rocky Mountain Penstemon
_Penstemon strictus_

Height: 18-24”
Width: 12-18”
Native
Easy to grow; can get powdery mildew. Can reseed a lot! Deadhead to avoid reseeding. Planted 2007.
Small-Leaf Pussytoes ‘McClintock’  

*Antennaria parvifolia*

Height: 1-2”  
Width: 8-12”  
Native plant common in our region; spreading groundcover; about 6” tall in flower. In dry years can winter burn a bit. Planted 2007.

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‘Silver Brocade’ Artemisia  

*Artemisia stelleriana*

Height: 8-12”  
Width: 1-2’ (or wider)  
Can cut back after flowering to enjoy the foliage.  
Planted 2007.
**Prairie Coneflower**  
*Ratibida columnifera*

Height: 18-24”  
Width: 18-24”  
Native  
Long bloom period; short lived but re-seeds moderately. Flowers can be yellow or burnt orange. Planted 2007.

**Poppy Mallow**  
*Callirhoe involucrata*

Height: 6-12”  
Width: 2-3’  
Native  
Blanket Flower
Gaillardia

Height: 12-18”
Width: 12-18”

Missouri Evening Primrose
Oenothera macrocarpa

Height: 12-18”
Width: 18-24”
Low-growing, sprawling plant; grows quickly from seed and often blooms its first year. Seems long-lived. Planted 2007.
Pineleaf Penstemon

*Penstemon pinifolius*

Height: 6-8”
Width: 12-15”
Long-blooming penstemon for the front of the border; reseeds a bit. Planted 2007.

Gayfeather

*Liatris punctata*

Height: 12-18”
Width: 6-12”
Native
Drought tolerant.
Takes a few years to bulk up. Planted 2007.
‘Kannah Creek’ Sulfur Buckwheat

*Eriogonum umbellatum*

Design Hint:
Plan for color throughout the growing season by choosing plants with different flowering times.

Height: 6-12”
Width: 8-12”
Native; long season of interest. Flowers turn rusty orange color. Nice!

Planted 2007.

Large Beardtongue

*Penstemon grandiflorus*

Height: 2-3’
Width: 8-12”
Native; large showy blooms; reseeds moderately. Short bloom period (~2 weeks). Often quite short-lived (1-2 years).
Purple Prairie Clover
*Petalostemon purpureus* (also *Dalea purpurea*)

Height: 2-3’
Width: 1-2’
Native; nitrogen-fixing plant. Takes a couple years to bulk up.
Planted 2007.

‘Purple Dome’ Aster
*Aster novi-angliae*

Height: 18-24”
Width: 18-24”
Late summer bloom time.
Hasn’t been vigorous in this bed. One plant still alive, barely.
Planted 2007.
Yellow Iceplant

*Delosperma nubigenum*

Height: 1-2”
Width: 18-24” (or wider)
Long bloom period; spreading groundcover. On edge of hardiness here. Will often live for several years then die.

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Hens and Chicks

*Sempervivum spp.*

Height: 2-4”
Width: 12-18” (or wider)

Spreading groundcover. Foliage and color variants look good all summer.
Blue Wooly Veronica

*Veronica pectinata*

**Height:** 1-2”
**Width:** 12-18” (or wider)
Early summer blooms; good groundcover. Can experience “winter burn” in dry winters or very exposed locations. Planted 2007.

Colorado Blue Columbine

*Aguilegia coerulea*

**Height:** 18-24”
**Width:** 12-18”
Native; reseeds a lot! Likes a bit more water than some. Can take some shade. Planted 2007.
Dwarf Bearded Iris
*Iris pumila* ‘Mr. Roberts’

Height: 8-12”
Width: 8-12”
Early bloomer, but foliage adds interest all summer. Planted 2007.

Pink Wild Snapdragon
*Penstemon palmeri*

Height: 2-4’
Width: 18-24”
Large, showy fragrant blooms. Short-lived but reseeds when happy.
Narrow-Leaf Coneflower
_Echinacea angustifolia_

Height: 18-24”
Width: 12-18”
Native; more drought tolerant then _E. purpurea_, but not as large and showy; reseeds. Takes a few years to bulk up. Shortish bloom period.

European Cutleaf Sage
_Salvia jurisicii_

Height: 12”
Width: 12-15”
Cut back after flowering for fresh growth; reseeds moderately. Planted 2011.
Russian Sage
Perovskia atriplicifolia

Height: 3-4’
Width: 3-4’
Long, late-season bloom-time; watch for reseeding.
Wouldn’t plant outside of town due to reseeding.
Planted 2007.

Creeping Phlox
Phlox subulata

Height: 4-6”
Width: 12-18”
Late-spring bloom
Can suffer severe winterburn, esp in dry winters. Moisture-retaining clay soil may have helped creeping phlox plants in this bed.
Planted 2007.
**Variegated Iris**

*Iris pallida ‘Variegata’*

- Height: 2-3’
- Width: 12-18”
- Variegated foliage provides long season of interest.
- Flowers are fragrant.
- Planted 2007.

**Snow Daisy**

*Tanacetum niveum*

- Height: 18-24”
- Width: 18-24”
- Reseeds moderately. Short lived.
**Rose Campion**

*Lychnis coronaria*

Height: 2-3’
Width: 18-24”
Doesn’t seem to be particularly vigorous here but reseeds.
Planted 2007.

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**‘May Night’ Salvia**

*Salvia nemorosa*

Height: 18-24”
Width: 12-18”
Longish bloom period; reseeds; cut back after blooming for fresh growth and to control reseeding.
Planted 2007.
Blue sage (Prairie sage)
*Salvia azurea*

Height: 40”
Width: 20”
Native. Very late bloomer so may not have time to bloom in more exposed areas. Tall and can flop a bit. Planted

Purple Coneflower
*Echinacea purpurea*

Height: 2-3’
Width: 18-24”
Late-summer blooms; not a xeric plant in our area—performs better with plenty of supplemental water. Planted 2007.
‘Autumn Joy’ Sedum

*Sedum*

Height: 18-24”
Width: 12-18”

Serbian Yarrow

*Achillea serbica*

Height: 4-8”
Width: 12-15”
Cut back after flowering to enjoy foliage; ground-cover. Planted 2007.
Wasatch Beardtongue
*Penstemon cyananthus*

Height: 2-3’
Width: 1-2’
Native. Gorgeous blue/purple flowers.
Planted 2012.

Deadheading some plants (removing spent flowers) often leads to fresh foliage growth and/or more flowers.

‘Walker’s Low’ Catmint
*Nepeta*

Height: 15-18”
Width: 2-3’
**Penstemon Species (mixed)**

55

Height: varies
Width: varies
Generally will reseed if happy.
Some varieties short-lived.

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**Perennial Sunflower**

*Helianthus maximiliani*

58

Height: 6-10’
Width: 18-24”
Native
Late-season color
for the back of the border. Reseeds.
Desert Prince’s Plume
*Stanleya pinnata*

Height: 3’
Width: 18-24”
Native; concentrates selenium, can be toxic to livestock; some re-seeding.

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Bladderpod
*Alyssoides utriculata*

Height: 12”
Width: 12”
Bladder-like seed-pods lengthen season of interest; re-seeds; cut back dried pods for fresh growth. Planted 2007.
White Tufted Evening Primrose
*Oenothera caespitosa*

- Height: ~12”
- Width: 12-24”
- Native; Super plant! Short lived (couple of years).
- Reseeds (can re-seed a lot depending on location).
- Fragrant flowered tap rooted plant so don’t move it. Rabbits can chew on it.
- Planted 2011.

Scarlet Gilia
*Ipomopsis aggregata*

- Height: up to 3’+
- Width: 24”
- Native; Biennial or short-lived perennial. Favorite of hummingbirds.
- Takes up little room in garden until bursts into bloom in late summer. Reseeds a little.
- Planted 2011.
Hummingbird Trumpet
Zauschneria garrettii

Height: 18”
Width: 18-24”
Native; Nice late summer color, visited by hummingbirds. Spreads underground and can cover large area. Planted 2011.

Bitterroot
Lewisia x ‘Edithae’

Height: 4”
Width: 5”
Native. Looks a bit grumpy at moment, may not get enough water at this site. Planted 2011.
Native Penstemon

*Penstemon* sp.

Height: 18-24”
Width: 12-18”
Native; looks a bit like *P. strictus* but floppier, more floriferous, and a bit lighter colored. Will get around to identifying some day. Reseeds. Planted 2007.

Elfin Pink Penstemon

*Penstemon barbatus* ‘Elfin Pink’

Height: 24”
Width: 15”
Butterfly Milkweed
*Asclepias tuberosa*

Height: 12-24”
Width: 12”
Native; likes well-drained soil. Takes a little while to bulk up. Food source for butterflies. Planted 2012.

Pasque flower
*Pulsatilla patens*

Height: 6”
Width: 6”
Native; blooms very early, followed by feathery seed heads. Goes dormant later in the year. Planted 2011.
Prairie Coneflower
*Ratibida columnifera*

Height: 18-24”
Width: 18-24”
Native
Long bloom period; short lived but re-seeds moderately. Flowers can be yellow or burnt orange.

Sugarbowl Clematis
*Clematis scottii*

Height: 12”
Width: 18”
Native; bush clematis. bit floppy. Takes a little while to bulk up. Amusing seed heads. Planted 2011.
**Iris spp.**  
**Regular bearded & Intermediate sizes**

Height: 8-36”  
Width: 8-12”  
Very water thrifty.  
Need to be divided every 3 years or so to bloom well.

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**Firecracker Penstemon**  
*Penstemon eatonii*

Height: up to 3’
Width: 12-18”
Patridge Feather
*Tanacetum densum ssp. amani*

Height: 6”
Width: 24”+

Sedum ‘Angelina’
*Sedum rupestre*

Height: 6”
Width: 16”+
Yarrow ‘Moonshine’  
*Achillea* hybrid

Height: 24”
Width: 24”

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Sand Phlox
*Phlox bifida*

Height: 8-12”
Width: 8-12”
Native. Delightful flowers in spring. Plants are brittle; place in areas where won’t get squashed. Bit hard to transplant; may need more water as it settles in. Planted 2011.
Blue Spruce Sedum
*Sedum reflexum*

Height: 3-5”
Width: 18”+
Spreading groundcover;
curious yellow flowers.
Planted 2011.

Short Penstemon
*Penstemon sp.*

Height: 7”
Width: 11”
Native. Presently not identified.
**Rosey Pusseytoes**

*Antennaria sp.*

- Height: 3” (leaves)
- Width: 12”+
- Rosy-colored flowers. Bit more vigorous than McClintock’s due to bit larger leaves (helpful in areas where soil blows away). May reseed under the right conditions. Planted 2012.

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**Black-eyed Susan**

*Rudbeckia hirta*

- Height: ~24”
- Width: ~24”
- Native; various varieties in cultivation.
- Short-lived perennial; great late-summer color.
- Crazed re-seeder.
- Planted 2012.
Jones’ Bluestar

Amsonia jonesii

Height: 12”
Width: 12”

Bluemist Penstemon

Penstemon virens

Height: 8”
Width: 10”
Native. One of only a few penstemons that can take a little shade. Takes a couple years to bulk up. Nice plant. Planted 2007.
Kelsey’s Phlox ‘Lemhi Purple’

*Phlox kelseyi*

Height: 1”
Width: 6”
Native. So far, so good at 2 years in the garden. A spring-time stunner. Long bloom period. Didn’t get winter-burned in recent severely dry, windy winter, perhaps due to being so short. (out of wind). Planted 2011 and 2012.
‘Jose Select’ Tall Wheatgrass
*Elytrigia elongata*

Height: 3’
Width: 3’
Long season of interest; nice shape, good performer. Planted 2007.

Blue Avena Grass
*Helictotrichon sempervirens*

Height: 4-5’
Width: 18”
Native; can reseed heavily. Planted 2007.
Big Bluestem

*Andropogon gerardii*

Height: 4-6’
Width: 2-3’
Native; warm-season grass.
Planted 2007.

‘Heavy Metal’ Switchgrass

*Panicum virgatum*

Height: 3-4’
Width: 12-18”
Native; warm-season grass.
Planted 2007.
‘Blaze’ Little Bluestem
_Schizachyrium scoparium_

Height: 3-4’
Width: 18-24”
Native; warm-season grass. Planted 2007.

‘Pawnee Buttes’ Sand Cherry
_Prunus besseyi_

Height: 15-18”
Width: 4-6’
Native; good fall color. Planted 2007.
Fernbush
*Chamaebatiaria millefolium*

Height: 4-6’
Width: 4-6’

Sand Cherry
*Prunus besseyi*

Height: up to 6’
Width: 6’
Golden Currant

Ribes aureum

Height: 4-6’
Width: 4-6’
Native. Spreads by suckers or reseeding.
Planted 2007.

Wood’s Rose

Rosa woodsii

Height: 3-6’
Width: 3-6’
Native; fragrant flowers, can spread to form thickets. Planted 2007.
Apache Plume
*Fallugia paradoxa*

Height: 4-5’
Width: 4’
Native. White flowers followed by fluffy seed heads. Planted 2011.

Mountain Mahogany
*Cerocarpus montanus*

Height: 4-5’
Width: 4’
Native; slow grower. Seedlings planted 2011.
**Water-Wise Demo Bed**

**Plants with Wandering Ways**

The following is a list of plants that reseed and thus may move around the demo bed. Cutting back the dead flowers (deadheading) before the plants can set seed is an easy way to control unwanted reseeding.

*Alyssoides utriculata*, Bladderpod (69)

*Aquilegia coerulea*, Colorado blue columbine (29)

*Echinacea angustifolia*, Narrow-leaf coneflower (34)

*Gaillardia* sp. (‘Goblin’), Blanket flower (13)

*Helianthus maximiliani*, Perennial sunflower (58)

*Ipomopsis aggregata*, Scarlet gilia (72)

*Lychnis coronaria* (‘Atrosanguinea’), Rose campion (44)

*Oenothera caespitosa*, White evening primrose (70)

*Penstemon* spp. (especially *P. strictus*, Rocky Mountain penstemon)

*Ratibida columnifera*, Upright prairie coneflower

*Salvia jurisicii*, European cutleaf sage (35)

*Salvia nemerosa* (‘May Night’), Salvia (45)

*Stanleya pinnata*, Desert prince’s plume (66)

*Tanacetum niveum*, Snow daisy (43)

**SHRUBS**

*Ribes aureum*, Golden currant (61)

*Rosa woodsii*, Woods' rose (63)

**GRASSES**

*Elytrigia elongata* (‘Jose Select’), Tall wheatgrass (1)
Plants that were formerly in the garden:

Saskatoon Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)  Both plants died over the second winter. Perhaps the clay soil was a factor?

Poppy Mallow (*Callirhoe involucrate*)  Many of the original plants died, but they reseeded and seedlings are doing well. Clay soil may have led to some winter rotting. Often plants from self-sown seed are more hardy than transplants.

‘Shenandoah’ Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)  All 3 plants died over the second winter

Mountain Basket-of-Gold (*Alyssum montanum*)  Heavily reseeding non-native. Beautiful plant but due to its spreading nature not recommended, especially for outside of town.

Leadplant (*Amorpha canescens*)  Bit of a mystery why it died. Needs good drainage so it may not have liked the clay layer that tops the garden. Grows well in other parts of town.

Blue Fescue ‘Boulder Blue’ (*Festuca glauca*)  Fescues tend to become scruffy as they age unless they are divided. They also tend to reseed. We took it out of the garden for these reasons.

‘Indian Steel’ Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)  Warm season grass. Didn’t like the conditions in the garden so it died.
Resources

Websites

http://barnyardsandbackyards.com—Select ‘Resources’
http://plantselect.org

Books (All available at the Albany County Public Library)

The Undaunted Garden: Planting for Weather-Resilient Beauty by Lauren Springer - Great book for ideas and inspiration. Note that she doesn’t mind plants that spread.

Growing Native Plants of the Rocky Mountain Area by Robert & Jane Dorn - Good reference book for those who want to start and grow native plants.

High and Dry by Robert Nold - Good book for those who want to grow plants needing no supplemental irrigation after establishment. Book has few pictures, so knowledge of plants helpful. Many can not be found at nurseries, etc. Also author is in Denver area, so keep in mind in relation to winter hardiness.

Other Demonstration Gardens

Cheyenne Botanic Garden
Denver Botanic Garden
Natrona County Cooperative Extension Demo Garden
Albany County Public Library
Brochure by Amy Fluet (Laramie Garden Club) and Jennifer Thompson (University of Wyoming Extension). This brochure was initially compiled by Natalie Macsalka, Summer 2008 Small Acreage Outreach Project Intern (via UW Cooperative Extension Service Internship program). Brochure has been extensively revised since.

This document can be found at:
barnyardsandbackyards.com
www.lrcd.net
laramiegardenclub.org

Thanks to all the various organizations and individuals who have made this community-based educational resource possible!

Happy gardening!

August 2012