

RECOMMENDED PLANTS FOR SUMMER HILL SUBDIVISION updated 5/28/21

SUMMER HILL GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

Summer Hill covenants state that the HOA maintains the ponds, irrigation systems, turf, plants, and native grasses in all HOA Common Areas and the 1st 20 feet in front of Patio Homes (Filings 1, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8). In the case of homes located on a corner lot, this also includes the 1st 20 feet along the side of the house. The HOA provides irrigation water to the lot line for all Large Lot Homes (Filings 2 and 3). HOA volunteer committees manage the various areas of HOA responsibility. The committees are:

Landscape Committee – HOA irrigation systems, turf and native grasses

Pond Committee – 6 irrigation ponds

Softscape Committee – shrubs and flowers

Tree Care Committee – trees

A group of Eyes & Ears volunteers represent the different areas of Summer Hill. Homeowners who detect an issue/problem are asked to report it to an Eyes & Ears volunteer who will route the information to be addressed.

Please remember, Architecture Control Committee (ACC) guidelines apply to all landscaping and planting.

DISCUSSION

The Softscape Committee does an annual audit in the spring to determine the health of the plants in the HOA. If plants need to be replaced, the HOA may replace them at no cost to the homeowner. There can be circumstances in which replacement is not indicated and the Softscape committee will make that determination with input from the homeowner. In new construction homes, the plants remain the responsibility of the contractor for the first year; thereafter, the HOA will manage them. Since it is prudent to spend the HOA's money wisely, the more we can prevent unnecessary die-off, the better! In order to help homeowners and contractors make good decisions about landscaping choices, we have compiled the following list of recommended plants and shrubs.

Overall recommendations for plants with guidelines from the CSU Extension include:

- Select plants for xeric landscapes based on both adaptation to Colorado's climate and the ability to prosper in reduced water situation.
- Evaluate site soil, drainage and exposure before selecting plants.
- Water well during the first years of plant establishment, then gradually reduce irrigation. At times the homeowner is encouraged to supplement with domestic water with new plantings.
- Don't plant shrubs in the grass to avoid overwatering due to overspray.
- Use caution to avoid overwatering of established plants.

Specific recommendations relative to Summer Hill's high desert environment and a combination of other factors:

- Intense sun, high temperatures, harsh winters
- Watering issues: too much or too little due to the nature of the irrigation system.

- An emphasis on xeric principles and water conservation.
- Using plants with similar water requirements in specific zone areas.
- Avoid planting plants in grassy areas due to overspray from the grass and resultant overwatering.
- Considering the type of soil we have (very dense, clay-like with poor drainage and high alkalinity) which demands significant amendment with organic material. Some plants (such as some evergreens) do poorly in this type of clay soil.
- Planting at a proper depth is essential for plant health, typically setting the root ball 1-2 inches above grade level. See planting guide on page 5.

The volunteers who have taken care of the HOA Softscape have many years of experience as to what plants work and which ones don't.

Consequently, we have identified these plants as "*Do Not Plant*".

- Russian Sage, Blue Knight spirea, Scotch Broom, Rabbit Brush shrubs
- Pampas Grass, purple pampas, fescue, Ravinia grasses
- Blue Knight Spirea, **Rabbit Brush (OK for native areas)**
- Some flowers such as those on noxious weed lists, i.e., Ox-eye daisy, Yellow flag iris

Roses

Roses deserve a special comment here. You will see a lot of roses in Summer Hill. However, as they are expensive and very difficult to care for, if the homeowner wishes to plant them, they do so at their own risk in that the HOA will not maintain roses or replace a dead rose plant with another rose. Pruning and other rose maintenance is at the expense of the homeowner.

RECOMMENDED PLANTS

Plants marked with a * require very low water - Once established (approx. 3 yrs) little irrigation

Shrubs	Hgt/Spread	Estimated Flower color/month	Comments
Apache plume*	5'x5'	White/May-Aug	Feathery, spreads easily, suckers - Very drought tolerant -
Arctic Willow	5x5	None	Good in wet areas
Barberry	3x5	Yellow/Apr-May	Dwarf & purple leaf available, good in alkaline soil
Buckthorn	18x12	Yellow/Mar-Apr	Orange fruit stays thru winter
Buffalo Berry*			Good in shade
Butterfly bush*	10x8	Blue/White/pink	Extremely hardy
Cliff Rose*	10-20	Small white flowers	Can grow very large, has sticky stems
Coralberry, red	4-6'x6'	Berries persist into Jan-Feb.	Good for erosion control or ground cover
Cotoneaster, Early	2x2	Red fall berries	Dark green foliage red in fall, pink blooms in spring
Cotoneaster Cranberry	3x6	Large red berries	Dark glossy green foliage, bronzy red in fall, pink flowers in June
Cotoneaster - Spreading	8x10	Bright red fruit	Dark glossy green foliage, red/orange in fall
Cotoneaster - Rock	2x15	Red berries	Dark glossy foliage, red in fall, white flower
Cystina, Prunis	8x10	Small, White, fragrant	Upright, bushy, medium-sized deciduous shrub
Ephedra (Mormon Tea)	2x4	Yellow (female)	Foliage blue-green year-round

Eunonymus alatus - Winged burning bush	10x12	Green foliage, red in fall
Eunonymus compacta - Dwarf burning bush	5x8	Green foliage, red in fall
Eunonymus fortunei "Emerald Gaiety"	5x5	Evergreen, deep green leaves with creamy margins
Eunonymus - 'Emerald and gold'	2'x4'	Green leaves with golden yellow margins - <i>likes filtered shade to full shade</i>
Fendlerbush	5x5	Fragrant flowers, glossy foliage
Fernbush	5-8x5-8	Aromatic, rounded shape
Forsythia	Variety	Gold Tide, Lynwood Gold, "Meadowlark" 2x4, 7x7, 8x10
Four-wing saltbush*	5x4	Spreads, tolerates alkaline soil
Honeysuckle	Various	Twinberry Colorado native; Arnold Red-upright hedge, good in xeric garden, Honey rose
Leadplant	3x4 ft	Silver-gray fine texture foliage,
Lilac, common	5-15'x8-12'	Fragrant flower, needs sun for spring bloom, blooms on last year's growth
Mahonia (Oregon Grape)	3-5x3-5	Good in shade
Manzinita (Panchito)		
Mtn Mahagony Curleaf*	10x8	Evergreen, shrub, pygmy version available
Mountain mahagony*		
Mock orange	6-8'x5-8'	Varieties include Blizzard, Lewis, Little Leaf
Mugo pine	Many sizes	Most grow into a dense plant with width exceeding height. Hard to establish in severe, direct sun
Nanny berry (Viburnum)	Many sizes	Several varieties, good substitute for cystina
Ninebark	3-4x3-4	Blooms June to frost, compact, variety of bloom colors
Potentilla	4x4	Prefers full sun, well-drained soil
Rose of Sharon*(Hibiscus syriacus)	10x4-6'	Spreads, upright rounded form, red in fall, Western var. needs a lot of room
Sand cherry (prunus besseyi)	6x6	Native Colorado plant
Sage (Silver artemesia)*	5x3	Aromatic, native
Sage, Big*	10x6	Pea-like pods, tolerant poor soils, wind; pygmy version
Siberian Pea	12x10	available
Silver Buffaloberry*		<i>Subject to aphids. Check variety for invasive seeding</i>
Spirea - Wide variety	4x4 - 10x10	Spreads, red fall color
Sumac, low spreading*	12" x 20 '	Native shrub of Rocky Mountains, xeriscape plant
Sumac, Three-leaf or skunk bush*	3-6x4-5	
Viburnum (Nanny berry)*	Many sizes	Foliage deep purple, attracts hummingbirds
Weigela	3-4x4-5	

Other Flowers/Perennials/Xerics

Agastache - (Hyssop) - Multiple varieties, hummingbirds love this plant.

Bulbs (iris, tulips, jonquils, etc.)

Cornflower (Purple)

Daisies (Shasta, Blackeyed—no ox-eye)

Desert Four'O Clock

Echinacea

Gaura - "Whirling butterflies) - 30"x30" -

Jupiter's beard - 30"x30" - easily propagated by root separation

Lavenders

Missouri Evening Primrose

Penstemon (multiple varieties)

Sedums –

Winecup

Yarrow - Many varieties, size ranges from 15-24 inches x 12-18 inches. Tolerates poor soil.

Zinnia

ORNAMENTAL GRASSES - Many varieties available. **No pampas, purple pampas or ravina grass is permitted.**

Karl Foerster's Feather Reed Grass 4-5' high x 24" wide; other grasses suitable for Colorado climate are Indian Grass, Buffalo grass, Prairie Dropseed, Little blue stem, Blue Gama (Colorado state grass) and others, **Prairie Switchgrass**.

EVERGREENS

Junipers are classified as spreading or upright. Wide variety available for accent plants or ground cover. *J. horizontalis plumosa compacta* (Youngstown Juniper) thrives in dry climate, drought tolerate. Columnar forms typically keep their cone shapes without shearing but can get very large. Narrow and full varieties available.

This listing is by no means comprehensive. Homeowners are free to get advice from their local garden center, extension office or other reliable source.

References: Colorado State Extension, "Hardy Colorado Grown Plants", Valley Grown Nursery, Grand Junction, CO., Bookcliff Gardens, Gardening Guide

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Flowering Shrubs

Location and selection

Be sure to choose the right-sized shrub for the area you have in mind. Many people are disappointed when their small, pretty bush quickly outgrows the area they planned for it. Some plants thrive in full, hot sun while others require shade. Match the plant with the area you have for it. A selection of different types of shrubs planted in the yard provides a variety of flower colors, blooming periods, sizes and textures, and lends interest to the garden.

Planting

Dig a hole twice as wide and only as deep as the rootball of the shrub. Be sure to adjust the hole so that the top of the rootball is 1" to 2" above ground level. Next, remove the container. Plastic pots can be removed by turning the shrub upside down or laying it on its side and gently tapping at the pot until the shrub slides out. Refill the hole with a blended mixture of 1/3 Soil Pep or Sunshine Peat Moss and 2/3 of your garden soil. Firm the backfill by tamping it gently. Build a watering basin around the shrub high enough to hold 3" to 4" of water. Make the basin at least as wide as the hole that was dug. Immediately water the shrub deeply by filling the basin with water once, letting it soak in, and filling it up a second time. If the shrub is in a lawn, remove the basin after this initial watering. The use of **Fertilome Root Stimulator** at planting time will greatly reduce transplant shock and encourage your shrubs to resume their normal growing habits more quickly.

Feeding

No additional fertilizer is usually needed the first year the shrub is planted. Once the shrub has established itself, it can be fertilized with **Bookcliff Gardens Choice Professional Turf Food**. Apply it in late April after irrigation water is available and again in mid June. Be sure to water it in well after applying. Iron supplements may be needed for certain shrubs. Use **Fertilome Liquid Iron** two to four times in the spring and early summer. The iron will do the most good if it's applied at the same time as the Professional Turf Food.

Pests

Most disease and insect problems should be dealt with as they appear. Because of the variety of possible problems, proper diagnosis is very important. Bring in an affected plant sample to Bookcliff Gardens where we can diagnose the problem and prescribe proper treatment. An application of **Fertilome Dormant Oil Spray** in early March can help prevent lots of problems in the coming season as well.

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