

The Water Thrifty Garden: Enjoying a Distinctive Group of Plants in Nebraska Landscapes

David Salman, President/Chief Horticulturist for High Country Gardens, Santa Fe, NM

Photo: Gardening in New Mexico. Santa Fe is at the southern end of the Rockies at 6,800 ft elevation. Confluence of Great Plains, the Rockies and very northern end of Chihuahuan desert. USDA zone 6, Annual precipitation is about 12"/yr.

The Keys to a Beautiful “Green” Landscape

High Country Gardens “Eight Principles of Xeriscaping” Having healthy, living soil

- 1. Planning and Design;** being mindful of habitat creation w/ the plants used to provide food and shelter for;
 1. Song birds
 2. Beneficial insects (to control injurious insects)
 3. Reptiles and amphibians (lizards and toads/frogs)
 4. Planting to support pollinators (honeybees, native bees, butterflies, moths, hummingbirds etc.)
- 2. Use Native Grasses (or slow, low growing grasses) for Turf Areas whenever possible.**
Growing lawns organically (without use of chemical fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides and fungicides.)
- 3. Use Plants Matched to Regional Conditions.**
Planting and experimenting with a diversity of plants
- 4. Create a Healthy, Living Soil.**
Use organic and natural composts, fertilizers and amendments to support microbial life in soil
- 5. Use Mulches.**
- 6. Irrigate Efficiently**
Water deeply and less frequently to encourage deep root growth. Shallow, frequent irrigation encourages shallow root growth and thirsty plants.
- 7. Harvest Rain and Snow Run Off**
Harvest water from roofs, sidewalk, driveways and other hard surfaces and direct it onto your landscape to be stored in the soil is a very practical way of supplementing irrigation from your well or faucet.
- 8. Maintain Your Landscape and Garden Properly.**
Use organic methods and materials

Photos

Denver planting along split rail with native and adapted xeric plants (designed by Tom Peace)

David Salman’s Santa Fe Xeriscape

(L) *Perovskia* (Russian Sage) with *Agastache* ‘Desert Sunrise’, *Zinnia grandiflora*
(R) Denver Xeriscape with numerous xeric native and adapted plants

Delosperma; Cold Hardy Iceplants, Superior groundcovers with evergreen foliage
(R) *Delosperma ashtonii* ‘Blut’, *Delosperma nubigenum*, *Delosperma dyeri* (Red Mountain)
(L) *Delosperma* ‘Blut’, *Delosperma nubigenum* (Lesotho collection)

Delosperma; One of the most cold hardy; *Delosperma* sp. ‘Lesotho Pink’. (L) tight mat of evergreen foliage

Delosperma dyeri ‘Psodold’ (Red Mountain Ice Plant)

Photos—Ornamental grasses

Cool season beauties. (L) *Helictotrichon sempervirens* in spring with *Nepeta Walker’s Low* (R) blue-gray summer color with *Salvia nemerosa*

Warm season beauties. *Penstemon cardinalis* (middle) with *Achnatherum calamagrostis* (front), *Santolina* ‘Morning Mist’ (upper L)

(L) *Panicum virgatum* 'Shenandoah' with *Chrysothamnus*, (R) *Panicum virgatum* 'Dallas Blues'

Companion Plants for the Ornamental Grasses: *Panicum* with *Salvia* 'Raspberry Delight'® and *Salvia reptans*

Ornamental grasses; warm season beauties: *Sporobolus wrightii* (Los Lunas form) (L) in late afternoon light, (R) with impending storm

Muhlenbergia reverchonii (Autumn Embers Muhly Grass); endemic species from N TX, SW OK

Calamagrostis brachytricha: a Korean species

A preview for 2011 *Bouteloua gracilis* Blonde Ambition. (L) in the landscape (Sept), (R top) with dusting of snow, (R bottom) close-up in January

Grass companions for summer color: (L) *Phlomis cashmeriana* w/ *Achillea Moonshine* (R) *Phlomis russeliana*

Other grass companions for summer color: (L) *Allium* 'Millennium', (R) *Gaura* 'Cloud of Butterflies' (a potentially cold hardier hybrid)

(L) *Diascia integerrima* 'Coral Canyon', (R) *Chrysanthemum* 'Mary Stoker' w/ *Agastache rupestris*

Agastache 'Blue Fortune', *Echinacea purpurea*, *Solidago* 'Fireworks', *Rudbeckia fulgida* 'Goldsturm', *Physostegia* 'Miss Manners'

Warm Season Ornamental Grasses with Santa Fe Rock Garden and *Agastache*

Photos—Prairie Gardens

Prairie Gardens and the plants to create them "The Cottonwood Garden at Denver Botanic Garden"

Native Perennials for Prairie Gardens: *Berlandiera*, *Scutellaria* 'Smoky Hills', *Liatris punctata*, *Melampodium*

Native Perennials for Prairie Gardens: *Zinnia grandiflora* 'Golden Eye' (L), *Phemeranthus calycinum*

(L) *Oenothera fremonti* 'Shimmer', (R) *Oenothera macrocarpa* 'Comanche Campfire'

Cold Hardy Succulents: (L) *Yucca rostrata* w/ *Lavandula* 'Gros Bleu', *Salvia pachyphylla* 'Blue Flame', (R) *Yucca rostrata* w/ *Eremurus stenophyllus* and *Allium* sp.

(L) *Yucca neomexicana* (panhandle of OK) w/ *Delosperma dyeri*,
(R) *Yucca bacata* (very cold hardy compact form, Mora Co., NM)

Growing cold hardy *Agave* as container plants: (L) *Agave neomexicana* 'Sunspot' w/ *Salvia* Raspberry Delight®, *Agastache rupestris*, (R) 'Sunspot' w/ *Oenothera* 'Shimmer', *Salvia*, *Agastache*

Gardeners always anticipate the next year with great optimism: A "snowbow" at dawn (Santa Fe, NM)

High Country Garden Website/David's Blog references for this presentation

HCG Principles of Xeriscaping <http://www.highcountrygardens.com/library/view/article/510/>

Native Ornamental Grasses and companions <http://blog.highcountrygardens.com/archives/449#more-449>

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