

Easy Care Gems for the Rock Garden or Xeriscape

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1. *Acantholimon* (Prickly Thrift)

Natives of Central Asia

Need good drainage and full sun

Very Xeric once established and will rot if kept too wet.

Grows 6 inches high and up to 36 inches across.

Pink or white flowers in spring/early summer. (June/Early July)

Attractive seed heads in summer/fall.

Acantholimon hohenackeri and *Acantholimon glumaceum* are two of the longest-lived and best for beginners.

2. *Aethionema schistosum* (Persian stonecress)

Native of the Mediterranean region into central Asia.

Love full sun and good drainage

6 inches tall by 12-15 inches wide

Pink fragrant flowers in spring (May/June)

Attractive evergreen foliage through most winters.

Look for the cultivar 'Warley Rose'

3. *Agave parryi* (Parry agave)

Agave neomexicana

Natives of the American Southwest into Mexico.

Love hot dry spots

Grows up to 24 inches tall by 48 inches across.

Forms colonies over time

Will survive on natural precipitation once established

Best planted before late summer to give time to establish before winter.

Need good drainage especially in winter.

Give plenty of room to grow, and keep away from paths.

Around 6- 10 species of Agaves that are hardy in Denver.

4. *Achillea serbica* (Serbian yarrow)

Native of the Balkans

Grows 6- 8 inches tall by 18 inches wide.

White Flowers cover mats in late spring/early summer (May/June)

Xeric once established, prefers full sun.

*5. *Allium cyaneum* (not xeric)

Native of China

Grows 6-8 inches tall by 6 inches wide.

Blooms in mid-summer (July-August)

Does best in a cool spot with afternoon shade and regular water.

Water twice a week during hottest weather.

Will appreciate some compost worked into the soil at planting time.

Well behaved unlike many Alliums.

6. *Anthemis biebersteiniana* (Dwarf Silver-leaf Marguerite Daisy)

Native of the Caucasus Mountains in western Asia.

Grows 10 inches tall by 15 inches wide.

Golden yellow daisy like flowers in late spring.

Silver foliage attractive for most of the growing season.

Needs well drained soil.

Loves full sun but will tolerate some shade for part of the day.

Long-lived.

8. *Cyclamen hederifolium* (ivy leaved cyclamen)

Native of the Mediterranean region.

4 inches tall by up to a foot across with age.

Pink or white flowers in late summer- mid-autumn (August-October)

Leaves appear in autumn and disappear in May (Summer dormant)

Most likely the best Cyclamen for Colorado Gardens

Likes part shade- full shade.

Tolerates dry shade under evergreens as long as it gets some supplemental water.

Needs good drainage.

Will need a sheltered spot to do well above 6,000 feet

Cyclamen purpurascens

Native of Central Europe in the Alps.

Needs more moisture than *hederifolium* and a cooler location.

Blooms in August.

Grows fine in Steamboat Springs CO

9. *Eriogonum subalpinum

Eriogonum umbellatum

6 inches tall by 30 wide when happy.

Cream/yellow flowers in June.

Native of Western North America, from plains to high elevations.

Will take full sun or light shade.

Needs little supplemental water once established

Will be longest lived under conditions with good drainage.

Look for the cultivars 'Shasta Sulfur' and 'Alturas Red'

Over 200 species of *Eriogonum* in the Western US.

10. *Eryngium amethystinum* (amethyst sea holly)

**Eryngium phaneum* (good for high elevations)

Natives of Europe.

Both can be from 15- 30 inches tall depending on water.

Both flower in mid summer (July-August)

E. amethystinum is by far the more xeric of the two.

Need at least half a day of sun to perform
E. amethystinum can be left for winter interest until spring.

11. *Echinocereus fendleri* (Fendler hedgehog cactus)

Native of New Mexico/ Arizona/Colorado
6- 8 inches tall and forms a small colony with time
Needs good drainage year around.
Very xeric, too much water will cause it to rot.
Interesting in winter with a purple tint.

Pediocactus simpsonii is native to the Evergreen Area

***12. *Jovibarba heuffelii* ‘Hot Lips’**

Native of Europe
3 inches tall by about 8 inches across
Flowers are of no importance
Related to popular Hen and Chicks
Best in full sun to part shade.
Best color in cool weather of spring.
No winter interest.

***13. *Helleborus x hybridus* (Hellebore)**

Great early color one of the earliest showy flowers
Critter proof, Elk, deer and voles seem to leave them alone.
Likes partial shade and some organic mater worked into the soil

***14. *Kitagawia terebinthacea* (Not fully xeric)**

Native of Siberia
Grows around 8 inches tall.
White flowers in mid to late summer (July-August)
Needs a good watering at least once a week.
To make more xeric give afternoon shade.
Biannual to short lived perennial, will self-sow when happy.

15. *Origanum ‘Barbara Tingey’* (Barbara Tingey ornamental oregano)

Garden hybrid
Related to culinary oregano
Grows 6 inches tall by 12 inches wide.
Reaches its peak in July/August. Still looks good into September
Needs full sun and good drainage. Seems to love heat.
Probably a zone 6 plant and best in a less exposed site.

16. *Pulsatilla vulgaris* (Common Pasque Flower)

Easier to grow than the native pasque flower (*Pulsatilla patens*)
Does well in Both Sun and Part Shade

Comes in many colors: pinks, purple, whites, lavenders, and reds
Great seed heads give summer interest

17. *Scutellaria resinosa* (Prairie skullcap)

Native of the Western Great Plains.

Lavender-blue flowers in late spring and blooming off and on until fall.

Very xeric once established

Can get by with half a day of sun but happier with full sun.

Grows from 6-9 inches tall and about as wide with time.

Well-behaved forming a long-lived clump.

18. *Teucrium orientale*

Native of Turkey

Loves sun and good drainage.

One of the few blue-flowered Teucrium.

Main flush of flowers in June with a second flush in autumn.

Grows up to 12 inches tall by as wide.

Some people seem to be allergic to the oils present in the plant.

***19. *Yucca baileyi* (*Yucca harrimaniae*)**

Native of Utah/Arizona/New Mexico

A smaller version of the native Yucca.

Growing 18 inches tall by 24 inches wide.

White flowers in late spring.

Very xeric once established.

Best form in full sun,

20. *Zauschneria (Epilobum) septinorale* (Northern California Fuchsia)

Native of Northern California

Grows 6 inches tall by 36 to 48 inches wide)

Reddish-orange flowers in September and October.

Best on a slope to show off the cascading form.

Needs good drainage and sun.

Not as Xeric as some other California fuchsias, needs water at least once a week.

Hummingbirds love it's late season flowers.

Try *Zauschneria garetii* "Orange Carpet" at higher elevations

* Good at elevations up to 8,000 feet