Landscaping on the New Frontier

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Resources for Further Information

Native Landscapes of the Intermountain West

State Native Plant Societies

A good way to learn more about the native plants and plant communities in your area is to contact the local native plant society. These folks sponsor interesting and informative field trips to wild places, plant identification workshops, and other great activities. Often just a trip to a native plant society web site can be very educational, and a chance to go plant watching with someone who already knows the plants can be invaluable.

Arizona Native Plant Society (5 chapters)
520–882–7663; anps@aznps.org
www.aznps.org/

California Native Plant Society
(34 chapters)
916–447–2677; cnps@cnps.org
www.cnps.org/

Southern California Botanists
714–448–7034;
aromspert@fullerton.edu
www.socalbot.org/

Colorado Native Plant Society
(6 chapters)
303–556–8309;
kimberly.regier@cudenver.edu
www.conps.org/

Idaho Native Plant Society (7 chapters)
208–342–2631; idahoplants@arzip.com
www.IdahoNativePlants.org/

Montana Native Plant Society (7 chapters)
406–542–0202; susan213@msn.com
www.umt.edu/mnps/
Botanical Gardens and Arboreta
Several botanical gardens and arboreta in our region feature sections, displays, and information on native plant horticulture.

ARIZONA
The Arboretum at Flagstaff
4001 Woody Mountain Road
Flagstaff, AZ 86001–8775
928–774–1442; www.thearb.org/

Arizona–Sonora Desert Museum
2021 N. Kinney Road
Tucson, AZ 85743–8918
520–883–1380; www.desertmuseum.org/

Desert Botanical Garden
1201 North Galvin Pkwy.
Phoenix, AZ 85008
480–941–1225; www.dbg.org/

CALIFORNIA
Davis Arboretum
University of California
One Shields Avenue
Davis, CA 95616–8526
530–752–4880; arboretum.ucdavis.edu/

Quail Botanical Gardens
230 Quail Gardens Drive
Encinitas CA 92024
760–436–3036; www.qbgardens.com/

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden
1500 North College Ave.
Claremont, CA 91711–3157
909–625–8767; www.rsabg.org/

Santa Barbara Botanic Garden
1212 Mission Canyon Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
805–682–4726; www.sbbg.org/

Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens
9th Avenue & Lincoln Way
San Francisco, CA 94122
415–661–1316; www.strybing.org/

Washington Native Plant Society
(11 chapters)
206–527–3210; wnps@wnps.org
www.wnps.org/

Wyoming Native Plant Society
(2 chapters)
605–673–3159
uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/WYNDD/wnps/
wnps_home.htm

North American Native Plant Society
www.nanps.org/
University of California Botanical Garden  
200 Centennial Dr. #5045  
Berkeley, CA 94720–5045  
510–642–0849; botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu/

COLORADO  
Denver Botanic Gardens  
909 York St.  
Denver, CO 80206  
720–865–3500; www.botanicgardens.org/  
Western Colorado Botanical Gardens and  
Butterfly House  
641 Struthers Avenue  
Grand Junction, CO 81501  
970–245–3288; www.wcbotanic.org/

IDAHO  
Idaho Botanical Garden  
2355 N. Penitentiary Road  
Boise, ID 84712  
208–343–8649; 877–527–8233;  
www.idahobotanicalgarden.org  
Sawtooth Botanical Garden  
P.O. Box 928, Sun Valley, ID, 83353  
208–726–9358; www.sbgarden.org/

NEVADA  
Wilbur D. May Arboretum and  
Botanical Garden  
1595 N. Sierra St.  
Reno, NV 89503  
775–785–4153; maycenter.com/

NEW MEXICO  
Rio Grand Botanic Garden  
903 10th St. SW  
Albuquerque, NM 87102  
505–764–6200;  
www.cabq.gov/biopark/garden/index.html

OREGON  
Berry Botanic Garden  
11505 SW Summerville Ave.  
Portland, OR 97219–8309  
503–636–4112; www.berrybot.org/

UTAH  
Red Butte Garden and Arboretum  
300 Wakara Way  
Salt Lake City, UT 84108  
801–581–4747; www.redbuttegarden.org/

Utah State University  
Utah Botanical Center Home  
725 Sego Lily Drive  
Kaysville, UT 84037  
801–593–8969  
http://utahbotanicalcenter.org/

WASHINGTON  
Bellevue Botanical Garden  
12001 Main Street  
Bellevue, WA 98005  
425–452–2750;  
www.bellevuebotanical.org/

Plant Ecology and Identification Books

There are many good popular field guides to the plants of different parts of our region. Some of these books are recent, some old, but even the older ones are often available from online booksellers. All those listed feature plant pictures for help with identification. We also list a few books that discuss the plants in the larger context of the natural history of the region.
Great Basin

Colorado Plateau

Columbia Plateau
How to Design Native Landscapes

Mapping and Aerial Photo Web Sites

The standard hardcopy maps to use for locating your site in the context of topography and elevation are US Geological Survey topographic maps. These are available locally in many areas. They can also be found in the map rooms of most university and some public libraries, and they can also be ordered directly from USGS: topomaps.usgs.gov/.

There are also many online sites that sell maps or charge a subscription for access to topographic and other types of maps online. These are just a few examples:

- www.topozone.com
- www.mapcard.com/
- www.trails.com/

To put your site in geographical and topographical perspective, as well as pin-pointing its location and elevation, there is no other Internet tool as good as Google Earth, which is the next best thing to a helicopter ride: earth.google.com/

Weather and Climate Web Sites

Western Regional Climate Center: www.wrcc.dri.edu/

This is the repository for all the historical weather data from NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) weather reporting stations throughout the western United States. It also has lots of other interesting features, as well as links to many other climate and weather sites. You just find your site on a state map or location list and click on it—you will be taken to a summary of historical weather for that site.

Prism Group: www.prism.oregonstate.edu/

This is cool geospatial software that has the ability to estimate climate for any location in the country. This is very handy if you are a long way from a NOAA weather reporting station or way uphill or downhill from the nearest one.

Snotel: www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/snotel/

To find out how the snow pack in the mountains of your area is doing for the current water year, visit this National Resources Conservation Service site. These people monitor snow in the mountains all across the West for the purpose of predicting water supply.
Plant Cold Hardiness Zones: www.usna.usda.gov/Hardzone/ushzmap.html
Extension.usu.edu/forestry/HomeTown/Select_HardinessZoneTable.htm

Plant cold hardiness is an important attribute determining whether a plant is likely to survive in your location. Cold hardiness is defined in terms of the coldest temperature that a plant can survive. Cold hardiness zones are based on average minimum winter temperature.

State University Extension Web Sites
State university extension offices located in different counties throughout each state are an excellent resource for finding environmental and horticultural information specific to your area. This federal web site enables you to find the county extension office nearest you with just a couple of clicks: www.csrees.usda.gov/Extension/.

We also include web sites for university extension programs for each state in the region:

- Arizona: ag.arizona.edu/extension
- Colorado: www.ext.colostate.edu/
- Idaho: www.extension.uidaho.edu/
- Montana: extn.msu.montana.edu/
- Nevada: www.unce.unr.edu/
- New Mexico: extension.nmsu.edu/
- Oregon: extension.oregonstate.edu/
- Utah: extension.usu.edu/
- Washington: ext.wsu.edu/
- Wyoming: ces.uwyo.edu/

Phone numbers for local county extension offices are usually found under county government listings in local phone books.

Resources on Soil

State Soil Testing Labs
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO 80523–1120
Phone: 970–491–5061; Fax: 970–491–2930
Email: meschumm@lamar.colostate.edu
jimself@lamar.colostate.edu
www.colostate.edu/Depts/SoilCrop/soillab.html
New Mexico State University
Las Cruces, NM 88003
Phone: 505–646–4422; Fax: 505–646–5185
Email: wboyle@taipan.nmsu.edu
swatlab.nmsu.edu/

Oregon State University
Phone: 541–737–2187; Fax: 541–737–5725
Email: Central.Analytical.Lab@orst.edu
cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu/Services/Plntanal/CAL/

Utah State University
Phone: 435–797–2217; Fax: 435–797–2117
Email: Jkotuby@mendel.usu.edu
usual@usu.edu
www.usual.usu.edu/

University of Wyoming
Phone: 307–766–2135 (2397); Fax: 307–766–6403
Email: soiltest@uwyo.edu

Web Resources
Soil Texture Triangle.
soils.usda.gov/technical/manual/images/fig3–16_large.jpg

The soil texture triangle is used to determine soil texture from proportions of sand, silt, and clay. This particular graphic is part of a lengthy and rather technical online chapter on soil physical properties that is a useful resource for those who want really detailed information. The texture triangle itself is available on many different web sites.

Jar Soil Determination Method.
weather.nmsu.edu/teaching_Material/soil456/soiltexture/soiltext.htm

This site gives a more detailed description of the jar method for determining sand, silt, and clay; it also includes the texture triangle.

Garden Design and Plant Selection

There are many perspectives on garden design for dry places—ours is only one. And there are many more native plants to choose from than the plants featured in this book. The books below, some old and some hot off the press, provide a gateway into the wider world of native plant gardening and plant selection in the American West.
Books


Online Publications

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

**Web Sites**

Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center: www.wildflower.org/
Native Gardening and Invasive Plants Guide: enature.com/native_invasive/
Plant Native: www.plantnative.org/index.htm

**How to Water Native Landscapes**

**Books and Other References**


**Web Sites**

Drip Irrigation: www.irrigationtutorials.com/
Graywater: www.graywater.net/
Roots: www.soilandhealth.org/01aglibrary/010137veg.roots/010137toc.html
Water Harvesting: www.ci.tucson.az.us/water/harvesting.htm
www.harvesth2o.com/
How to Install and Maintain Native Landscapes

Hardscape Construction
Resin surfaces for paths: www.americantrails.org/resources/accessible/stabilizerstudy.html

Weed Control Resources
Corn gluten meal: www.hort.iastate.edu/gluten/ (This university web page gives excellent information on the use of corn gluten meal as a pre-emergent herbicide and provides a list of suppliers.)
Soil solarization: These web sites give more details on soil solarization for weed and pest control:
solar.uekac.edu/new_page1.htm
vric.ucdavis.edu/veginfo/topics/soils/soilsolarization.pdf
Whitson, Thomas, ed. Weeds of the West. 9th ed. Laramie, WY: Western Society of Weed Science, 2006. (The best weed identification resource for our region. Many natives meet the definition of “weed” in this book, so be sure to read the fine print.)

Native Plant Suppliers—Internet Directories
In the quest for plant suppliers, be sure to check out the native plant society web sites listed earlier, as they often include local and state directories of native plant suppliers.
Intermountain Native Plant Growers Association: www.utahschoice.org/
Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center: www.wildflower.org/suppliers/
Plant Native: www.plantnative.org/national_nursery_dir_main.htm

Another good source of information on plant suppliers can be found on some water conservancy district websites, which may also contain a lot of other useful information on water-wise gardening and landscaping. They may also have demonstration gardens. The water conservancy sites listed below are just some of the better examples:

Central Utah Water Conservancy District: www.centralutahgardens.org/
Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District: www.slowtheflow.org/

Maintenance