

# Staff Plant Picks

Localscapes: Central Open Shape

The following plant picks are good options for the Central Open Shape of a Localscaped landscape. A Central Open Shape is a design element that visually unifies a landscape. It can be lawn, but we welcome you to consider some of these other groundcover options to be even more water thrifty.

## Alexandria Alpine Strawberry

*Fragaria vesca* 'Alexandria'



**Bloom Period:** Apr - Jun

**Water:** 

**Light:** 

**Height x Width:** 6" x 10"

**Hardiness Zone:** 5-8

**Maintenance:** Low

**Other Localscape Uses:** Infill, Park Strip

**Why we love it:** This plant is everbearing, it will produce its small flavorful fruit throughout the growing season.

## Blue Fescue

*Festuca glauca*



**Bloom Period:** Jun - Jul

**Water:** 

**Light:** 

**Height x Width:** 10" x 10"

**Hardiness Zone:** 4-8

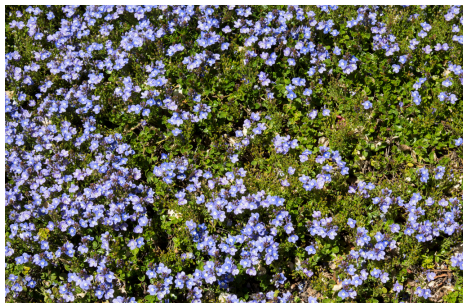
**Maintenance:** Low

**Other Localscape Uses:** Infill, Park Strip

**Why we love it:** In addition to having a lovely bluish-green foliage, this plant is extremely drought and heat tolerant.

## Creeping Speedwell

*Veronica repens*



**Bloom Period:** May

**Water:** 

**Light:** 

**Height x Width:** 1-3" x 12-24"

**Hardiness Zone:** 4-9

**Maintenance:** Low

**Other Localscape Uses:** Infill, Park Strip

**Why we love it:** This spreading perennial groundcover is tolerant to many soil types, drought and shade.

## Pink Pussytoes

*Antennaria dioica* 'Rosea'



**Bloom Period:** May - Jun

**Water:** 

**Light:** 

**Height x Width:** 2-6" x 18"

**Hardiness Zone:** 5-9

**Maintenance:** Low

**Other Localscape Uses:** Infill

**Why we love it:** This plant's small rose-pink blooms appearing in late spring resemble the toes of a kitten!

 To Establish  Low  Moderate  High  
 Full Sun  Afternoon Sun  Morning Sun  Shade



# Staff Plant Picks

Localscapes: Central Open Shape

## Ralph Shugert Periwinkle

*Vinca minor* 'Ralph Shugert'



**Bloom Period:** Apr - Jun

**Water:**

**Light:**

**Height x Width:** 4-6" x 12-24"

**Hardiness Zone:** 4-9

**Maintenance:** Low

**Other Localscape Uses:** Infill, Park Strip

**Why we love it:** This plant provides year-round interest with its bright violet-blue flowers and variegated foliage.

## Silver Cotula

*Cotula hispida*



**Bloom Period:** Jun - Jul

**Water:**

**Light:**

**Height x Width:** 2-4" x 12"

**Hardiness Zone:** 5-10

**Maintenance:** Low

**Other Localscape Uses:** Infill, Park Strip

**Why we love it:** This plant is a soft groundcover that produces whimsical button-like flowers!

## Tricolor stonecrop

*Sedum spurium* 'Tricolor'



**Bloom Period:** Jun - Aug

**Water:**

**Light:**

**Height x Width:** 4" x 24"

**Hardiness Zone:** 4-9

**Maintenance:** Low

**Other Localscape Uses:** Infill, Park Strip

**Why we love it:** This plant is a fast grower and can tolerate neglect and extreme drought.

## Woolly Thyme

*Thymus pseudolanuginosus*



**Bloom Period:** Jun - Jul

**Water:**

**Light:**

**Height x Width:** 2-4" x 12"

**Hardiness Zone:** 5-8

**Maintenance:** Low

**Other Localscape Uses:** Infill, Park Strip

**Why we love it:** This plant is a soft and inviting groundcover with aromatic leaves!

Want more? Click here to check out our plant database!



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# Staff Plant Picks

Localscapes: Foundation/Perimeter

The following plant picks are good options for the Foundation or Perimeter of a Localscaped landscape. Foundations plants are within 6' of the foundation of the house and help to frame and tie in house elements. Perimeter plants are around the edge of the property and provide definition and security. Together, these elements form the backbone of planting design.

## Color Guard Yucca



*Yucca filamentosa* 'Color Guard'

**Bloom Period:** Jun - Jul

**Water:** 

**Light:** 

**Other Localscape Uses:** Infill

**Why we love it:** This plant can thrive in areas with lots of sunlight, little water, and difficult soil.

**Height x Width:** 3-6' x 2-3'

**Hardiness Zone:** 4-10

**Maintenance:** Low

## False Indigo



*Baptisia* spp.

**Bloom Period:** May - Jun

**Water:** 

**Light:** 

**Other Localscape Uses:** N/A

**Why we love it:** During the bloom period this plant can have a flower spike up to 18"!

**Height x Width:** 4' x 1'

**Hardiness Zone:** 4-8

**Maintenance:** Low

## Goatsbeard



*Aruncus dioicus*

**Bloom Period:** Jun - Aug

**Water:** 

**Light:** 

**Other Localscape Uses:** Infill

**Why we love it:** With feathery white plumes and dark green vegetation, this plant is sure to be a visual standout!

**Height x Width:** 4' x 3'

**Hardiness Zone:** 3-8

**Maintenance:** Low

## Korean Feather Reed Grass *Calamagrostis brachytricha*



**Bloom Period:** Aug - Sep

**Water:** 

**Light:** 









**Other Localscape Uses:** N/A

**Why we love it:** This grass is adaptable to a variety of soil types if sufficient water is available.

**Height x Width:** 3-4' x 2-3'

**Hardiness Zone:** 4-9

**Maintenance:** Low

 To Establish  Low  Moderate  High  
 Full Sun  Afternoon Sun  Morning Sun  Shade



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# Staff Plant Picks


Localscapes: Foundation/Perimeter

## Lemony Lace Elderberry

*Sambucus racemosa* 'SMNSRD4'



**Bloom Period:** Jun - Jul

**Water:** 

**Light:**   

**Other Localscape Uses:** N/A

**Why we love it:** This plant has white star-shaped flowers that give way to red berries in the fall.

**Height x Width:** 3-5' x 3-5'

**Hardiness Zone:** 3-7


**Maintenance:** Low

## Mint Julep Juniper

*Juniperus chinensis* 'Monlep'



**Bloom Period:** N/A

**Water:** 

**Light:** 

**Other Localscape Uses:** N/A

**Why we love it:** This drought-tolerant evergreen plant has vibrant light green foliage with arching branches.

**Height x Width:** 5'x7'

**Hardiness Zone:** 4-9

**Maintenance:** Low

## Pocahontas Penstemon

*Penstemon digitalis* 'Pocahontas'



**Bloom Period:** Apr - Jun

**Water:** 

**Light:**  

**Other Localscape Uses:** N/A

**Why we love it:** With pink flowers and burgundy red stems and foliage, this plant has year-round interest.

**Height x Width:** 3-4' x 2-3'

**Hardiness Zone:** 3-8

**Maintenance:** Low

## Sand Sagebrush

*Artemisia filifolia*



**Bloom Period:** Aug - Sep

**Water:** 

**Light:** 

**Other Localscape Uses:** N/A

**Why we love it:** This plant is drought-tolerant, making it an excellent choice for sunny, dry areas.

**Height x Width:** 3-4' x 4-5'

**Hardiness Zone:** 4-8

**Maintenance:** Low

Want more? Click here to check out our plant database!



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# Staff Plant Picks

Localscapes: Infill

The following plant picks are good options for the infill of a Localscaped landscape. Infill plants bridge gaps between foundation and perimeter plants and provide visual variety. These plants should be less than 3' tall and can include short shrubs, grasses, and groundcovers.

## Amethyst in Snow Mountain Cornflower *Centaurea montana* 'Amethyst in Snow'



**Bloom Period:** May

**Water:**

**Light:**

**Other Localscape Uses:** N/A

**Why we love it:** This plant's multicolored firework flowers add a pop in spring.

**Height x Width:** 12-24" x 8-18"

**Hardiness Zone:** 3-7

**Maintenance:** Low

## Blue Jean Baby Russian Sage *Perovskia atriplicifolia* 'Blue Jean Baby'



**Bloom Period:** Jun - Sep

**Water:**

**Light:**

**Other Localscape Uses:** N/A

**Why we love it:** This plant stays upright and compact at maturity, making it a great option in limited space.

**Height x Width:** 2-3' x 3'

**Hardiness Zone:** 4-9

**Maintenance:** Low

## Coral Canyon Twinspur *Diascia integerrima* 'Coral Canyon'



**Bloom Period:** Jun - Oct

**Water:**

**Light:**

**Other Localscape Uses:** Park Strip

**Why we love it:** This plant is cold, heat, and drought tolerant!

**Height x Width:** 15" x 18"

**Hardiness Zone:** 4-8

**Maintenance:** Low

## Cotton Candy Hummingbird Mint *Agastache* 'Cotton Candy'



**Bloom Period:** Jun - Sep

**Water:**

**Light:**

**Other Localscape Uses:** N/A

**Why we love it:** As the name implies, this long-blooming plant is a favorite of hummingbirds.

**Height x Width:** 25" x 18"

**Hardiness Zone:** 6-10

**Maintenance:** Low

To Establish Low Moderate High  
 Full Sun Afternoon Sun Morning Sun Shade



# Staff Plant Picks

Localscapes: Infill

## Kismet Raspberry Coneflower

*Echinacea 'TNECHKR'*



**Bloom Period:** June - Oct

**Water:** 

**Light:** 

**Height x Width:** 18" x 24"

**Hardiness Zone:** 4-9

**Maintenance:** Low

**Other Localscape Uses:** Park Strip

**Why we love it:** This hardy, drought-tolerant plant will put out bright raspberry-pink flowers all summer.

## Northern Lights Tufted Hairgrass

*Deschampsia cespitosa 'Northern Lights'*



**Bloom Period:** Jul-Sep

**Water:** 

**Light:** 

**Height x Width:** 12-18" x 12-18"

**Hardiness Zone:** 4-9

**Maintenance:** Low

**Other Localscape Uses:** Park Strip

**Why we love it:** As this plant matures, the blades become streaked with gold and pink!

## Platinum Blonde Lavender

*Lavandula angustifolia 'Platinum Blonde'*



**Bloom Period:** Jun - Aug

**Water:** 

**Light:** 

**Height x Width:** 16-24" x 18"

**Hardiness Zone:** 5-9

**Maintenance:** Low

**Other Localscape Uses:** Park Strip

**Why we love it:** This plant's flowers have the classic beauty and scent of lavender, while the foliage fades to bombshell blonde.

## Queen of Hearts Siberian Bugloss

*Brunnera macrophylla 'Queen of Hearts'*



**Bloom Period:** Apr - Jun

**Water:** 

**Light:** 

**Height x Width:** 16-18" x 28-36"

**Hardiness Zone:** 3-8

**Maintenance:** Low

**Other Localscape Uses:** N/A

**Why we love it:** With heart-shaped foliage and forget-me-not type flowers, this plant adds year-round beauty.

Want more? Click here to check out our plant database!



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# Staff Plant Picks

Localscapes: Park Strip

The following plant picks are good options for park strips. Lawn-heavy park strips are difficult to water efficiently and have little purpose, making them a perfect first project for homeowners who wish to make their landscapes more waterwise. Park strip plants should be less than two feet tall and be able to withstand salt and extreme heat.

## Blaze Little Bluestem



*Schizachyrium scoparium* 'Blaze'

**Bloom Period:** Aug - Sep

**Water:** 

**Light:** 

**Height x Width:** 2' x 18"

**Hardiness Zone:** 4-9

**Maintenance:** Low

**Other Localscape Uses:** Infill

**Why we love it:** This ornamental grass changes from blue to green to red to pink, providing year-round interest!

## Chocolate Chip Ajuga



*Ajuga reptans* 'Valfredda'

**Bloom Period:** May-Jun

**Water:** 

**Light:**    

**Height x Width:** 3-6" x 6-9"

**Hardiness Zone:** 4-9

**Maintenance:** Low

**Other Localscape Uses:** Central Open Shape, Infill

**Why we love it:** This charming groundcover is evergreen with chocolatey leaves and bright purple flowers.

## Double the Sun Coreopsis



*Coreopsis grandiflora* 'Double the Sun'

**Bloom Period:** Jun - Sep

**Water:** 

**Light:** 

**Height x Width:** 12-14" x 12-14"

**Hardiness Zone:** 4-9

**Maintenance:** Low

**Other Localscape Uses:** Infill

**Why we love it:** This cheerful, long-blooming coreopsis flowers earlier than most with a gorgeous display of petals!

## Little Bunny Dwarf Fountain Grass



*Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Little Bunny'

**Bloom Period:** Jun - Aug

**Water:** 

**Light:**   

**Height x Width:** 12-18" x 18-24"

**Hardiness Zone:** 6-9

**Maintenance:** Low

**Other Localscape Uses:** Infill

**Why we love it:** All the charm of a fountain grass in a small package! Attractive seedheads sit atop narrow leaves.

 To Establish  Low  Moderate  High  
 Full Sun  Afternoon Sun  Morning Sun  Shade



# Staff Plant Picks

Localscapes: Park Strip

## Silver Swirl Knapweed



*Centaurea ragusina* 'Balcentsirl'

**Bloom Period:** Jun - Aug

**Water:** 💧💧💧

**Light:** ☀️

**Height x Width:** 2-9" x 12-15"

**Hardiness Zone:** 6-9

**Maintenance:** Low

**Other Localscape Uses:** Infill

**Why we love it:** This knapweed has a gorgeous silvery color, and its cold tolerance allows it to be perennial in our climate.

## Spring King Salvia



*Salvia nemorosa* 'Spring King

**Bloom Period:** May-Sep

**Water:** 💧💧💧

**Light:** ☀️

**Height x Width:** 12-16" x 12-16"

**Hardiness Zone:** 4-8

**Maintenance:** Low

**Other Localscape Uses:** Infill

**Why we love it:** One of the earliest blooming salvias, Spring King's vibrant purple flower spikes are beloved by pollinators.

## Table Mountain Ice Plant



*Delosperma* 'John Proffitt'

**Bloom Period:** Jun - Aug

**Water:** 💧💧💧

**Light:** ☀️

**Height x Width:** 2" x 18"

**Hardiness Zone:** 5-8

**Maintenance:** Low

**Other Localscape Uses:** Central Open Shape, Infill

**Why we love it:** This excellent groundcover flowers prolifically through the summer and thrives in extreme heat and drought.

## Thriller Lady's Mantle



*Alchemilla mollis* 'Thriller'

**Bloom Period:** May - Jun

**Water:** 💧💧💧

**Light:** ☀️☀️☀️

**Height x Width:** 12-24" x 12-24"

**Hardiness Zone:** 3-7

**Maintenance:** Low

**Other Localscape Uses:** Infill

**Why we love it:** Rain collects like drops of mercury on this perennial's soft, scalloped leaves.

Want more? Click here to check out our plant database!



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# Staff Plant Picks

Localscapes: Trees

The following plant picks are waterwise trees that could be used in a Localscape as perimeter plants. They can define the side and back boundaries, provide privacy screening, and add height to the landscape. They form the backbone of the planting design and provide multi-season interest.

## Bristlecone Pine



*Pinus aristata*

**Bloom Period:** N/A

**Water:** ☹️☹️☹️

**Light:** ☀️

**Height x Width:** 20-40' x 20-40'

**Hardiness Zone:** 4-8

**Maintenance:** Low

**Why we love it:** This extra hardy and drought tolerant pine grows very slowly and can live for several hundred years!

## Candied Apple Crabapple

*Malus 'Weepcanzam'*



**Bloom Period:** Apr - May

**Water:** ☹️☹️☹️

**Light:** ☀️

**Height x Width:** 10-15' x 15'

**Hardiness Zone:** 4-8

**Maintenance:** Low

**Why we love it:** This dwarf tree has a whimsical weeping shape and profuse bright pink flowers.

## Forest Pansy Redbud



*Cercis canadensis 'Forest Pansy'*

**Bloom Period:** Apr - May

**Water:** ☹️☹️☹️

**Light:** ☀️☀️☀️

**Height x Width:** 20-30' x 25-35'

**Hardiness Zone:** 5-9

**Maintenance:** Low

**Why we love it:** This tree has early blooming dark pink flowers followed by reddish heart-shaped leaves that turn more green throughout the year.

## Golden Spirit Smoketree

*Cotinus coggygria 'Ancot'*

**Bloom Period:** Jun - Jul

**Water:** ☹️☹️☹️

**Light:** ☀️☀️☀️

**Height x Width:** 8' x 6'

**Hardiness Zone:** 5-8

**Maintenance:** Low

**Why we love it:** This tree blooms in early summer with interesting smoke-like plumes.

☹️☹️☹️ To Establish   ☹️☹️☹️ Low   ☹️☹️☹️ Moderate   ☹️☹️☹️ High  
☀️ Full Sun   ☀️ Afternoon Sun   ☀️ Morning Sun   ☀️ Shade



# Staff Plant Picks

Localscapes: Trees

## Shademaster Honeylocust *Gleditsia triacanthos f. inermis* 'Shademaster'



**Bloom Period:** May - Jun

**Water:** 

**Light:** 

**Height x Width:** 50-70' x 30-50'

**Hardiness Zone:** 5-8

**Maintenance:** Low

**Why we love it:** This tree's fern-like leaves create a nice shaded area just dappled with light.

## Montgomery Blue Spruce *Picea pungens* 'Montgomery'



**Bloom Period:** N/A

**Water:** 

**Light:** 

**Height x Width:** 6-8' x 3-6'

**Hardiness Zone:** 3-7


**Maintenance:** Low

**Why we love it:** This tree is a great choice for accent planting with winter interest in mind.

## Singleleaf Ash *Fraxinus anomala*



**Bloom Period:** Apr - May

**Water:** 

**Light:** 

**Height x Width:** 8-12' x 8-12'

**Hardiness Zone:** 5-9

**Maintenance:** Low

**Why we love it:** This native tree is the only one in its genus that does not have compound leaves.

## Skyrocket Juniper *Juniperus scopulorum* 'Skyrocket'



**Bloom Period:** N/A

**Water:** 

**Light:** 

**Height x Width:** 15' x 3-5'

**Hardiness Zone:** 3-8

**Maintenance:** Low

**Why we love it:** This upward-growing evergreen makes for a great wind or privacy screen and works well in formal landscapes.

Want more? Click here to check out our plant database!



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