

Municipalities: Cortez, CO
Water-wise Landscape Horticulture for
Western Landscapes

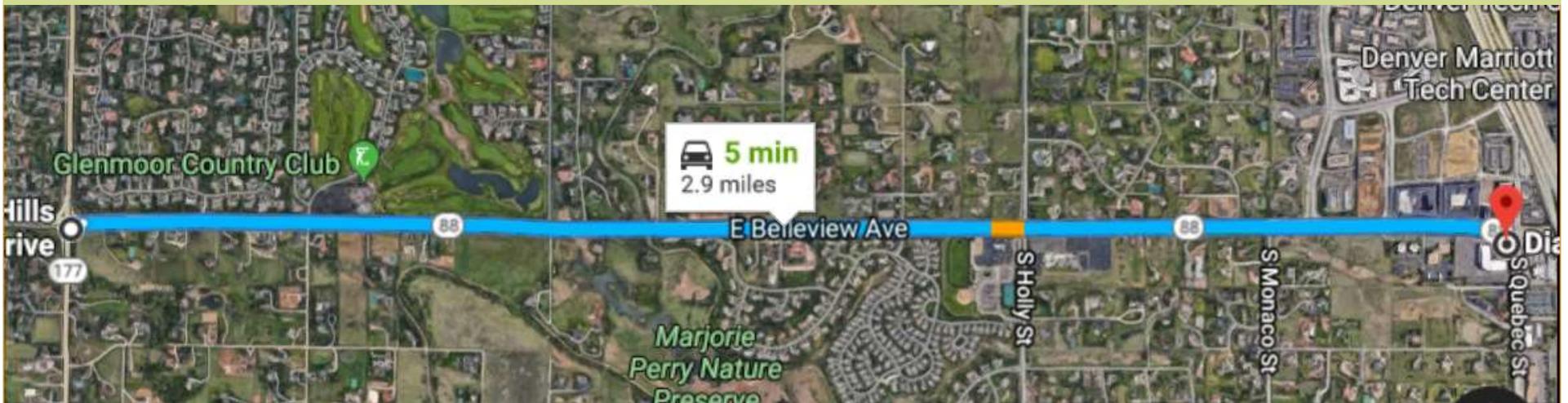
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Lakewood, CO 1 mile median along Colfax from Kipling to Simms



Greenwood Village, CO 3 mile median along Belleview from University to I-25

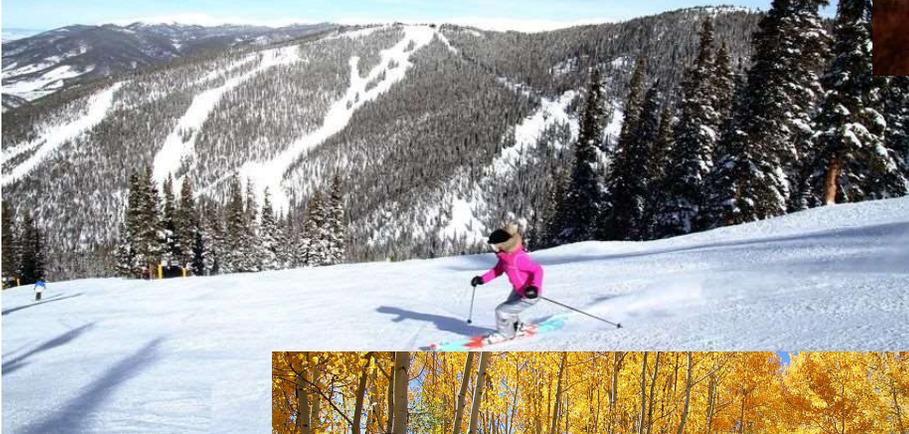


Xeriscape = Rocks



Xeriscape = Dull









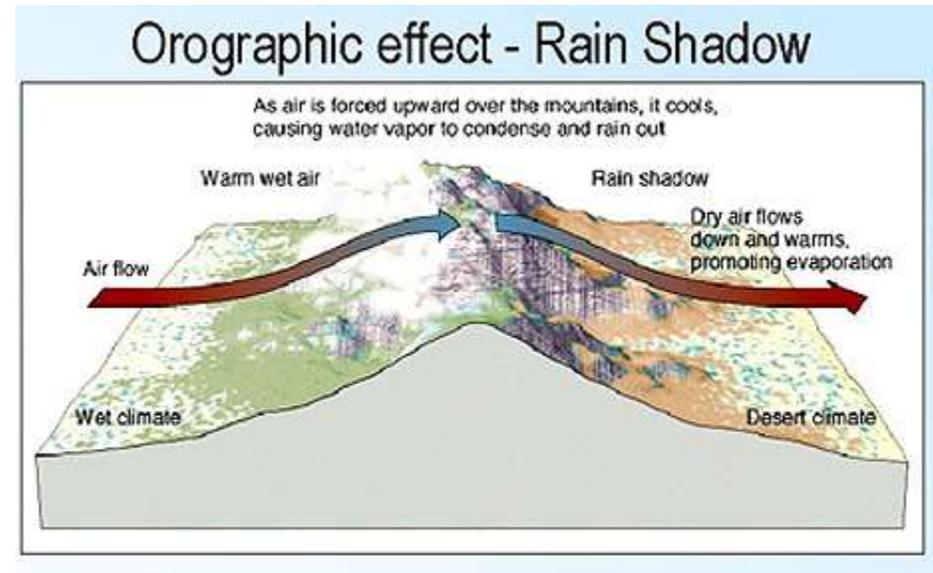


West of Rockies: Pinyon Juniper



Characteristics

- **Semi-Arid** = low humidity, little precipitation (10-20 inches/year)
- Wide **temperature** swings
- **Drought** years
- Hail
- Frequent high, **drying winds**
- **High Elevation** 1500 – 7800’ allows for warm winter temps and freezing spring temps



West of the Cascade and Sierra Mountains – **the mountains essentially stop much of the rain** from reaching east of the range (illustration)

Dominated by low humidity & low precipitation

Barriers

- Unaware of regional climate
- Lack knowledge of western plants
- No plant palette developed for western region
- Lack sources (wholesalers) for western plants
- Perceptions of “zeroscape” or desert landscape



Provide resources for contractors and residents



- ✓ Easy way to select tough plants for our region
- ✓ Tested for several years to thrive in broad range of conditions
- ✓ Criteria for testing includes attractiveness as well as toughness
- ✓ Available at many local retailers & wholesalers in WY, TX, CO, ID, MT, NE, SD
- ✓ Over 130 plants including annuals, perennials, groundcovers, vines, trees and shrubs (evergreen and deciduous)

Reduce costs

- Minimize soil amendments
- Reduce water consumption
- Lower maintenance requirements

Environmental Responsibility

- Once established, drought resistant
- Increase native bees & pollinator populations



Natives are best suited for our soils & naturally thrive in our climate



Native: *Chrysothamnus* vs. cultivar



Native: *Gaillardia* vs. cultivar



Echinacea purpurea



Liatris spicata



Echinacea angustifolia



Liatris punctata



Pinus edulis



Arctostaphylos x coloradensis



Amelanchier utahensis



Acer tartaricum 'Hot Wings'



Bouteloua 'Blonde
Ambition'



Schizachyrium



Sporobolus heterolepsis



Baptisia australis



Limonium latifolium



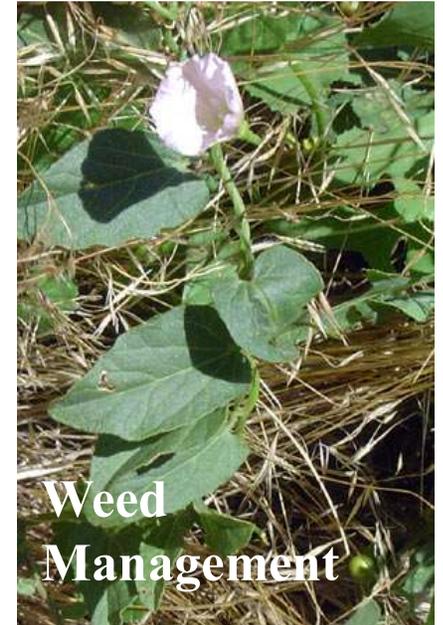
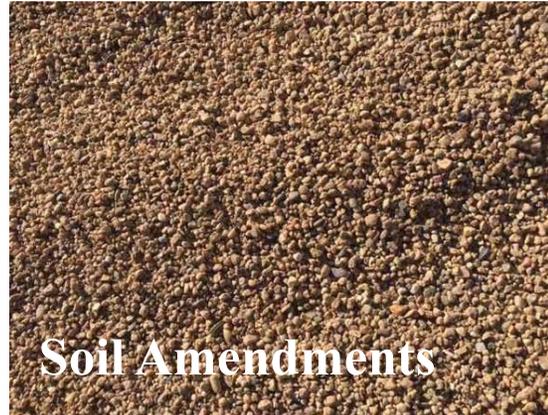


Kniphofia



Diascia 'Coral Canyon'

- ✓ **Soil amendments and mulch:** most xeric plants do NOT require much if any organic material
- ✓ **Weed management:** take a preventative approach
- ✓ **Wrap young trees:** intense UV due to elevation



Protect and enjoy your investment

Planting Groups/Irrigation Zones



Moderate:
Twice a week



Dry/Low Water:
Once a week



Xeric:
once every 2 weeks

Supplemental watering is required during drought and high heat

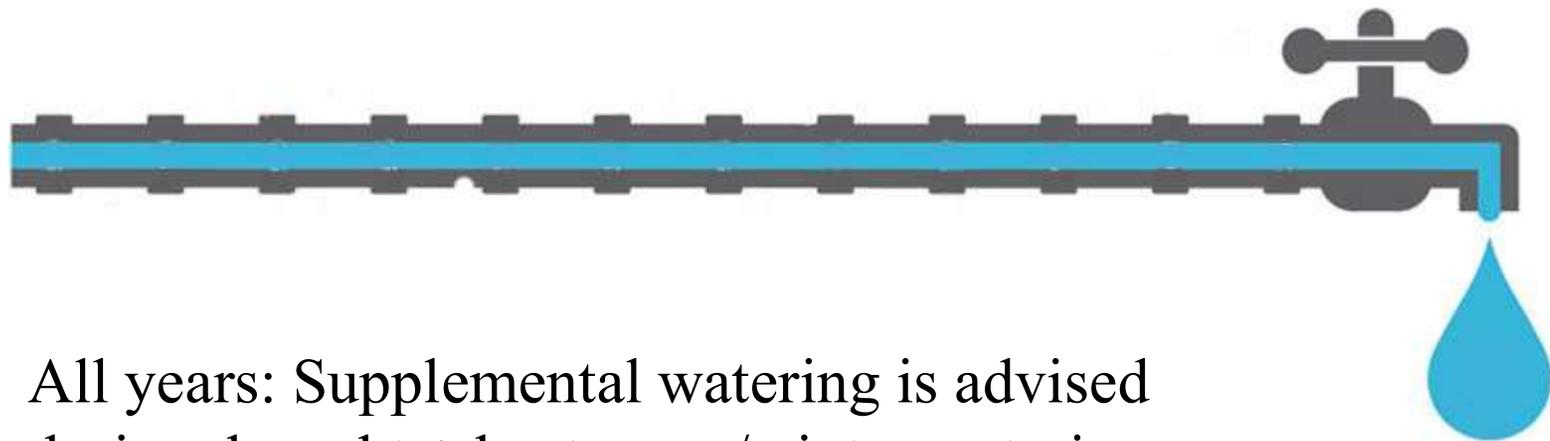
Irrigation Timeline

Year 1: watering schedule for establishment

Year 2: reduce watering

Year 3: same as year 2

Year 4: Goal to turn off (regular) irrigation for Xeric Plants



All years: Supplemental watering is advised during drought + heat wave/winter watering

Water Trees and Shrubs regularly for 3-5 years to establish

**Plants:
Embrace Western Aesthetic:**







Kendrick Lake, Lakewood, CO: supplemental watering only



Denver Botanic Gardens Prairie Garden: NOT watered in 20 years

Questions?