

Zone 5

A Style Guide to
Hardiness Gardens

By Kristi Bryden
Principles of Web Design
December, 2016

Purpose/Audience

The purpose of this site is to provide a useful yet stylish gardening guide for people who are living in zone 5a-5b. The internet has many resources for this already but not so many that are specific to this zone and none that are really geared towards looking nice. My goal is to provide a site that has useful information for zone 5 gardeners who care about aesthetics and who also care about hardiness gardening. Hardiness gardening is the most earth friendly way to grow plants. This doesn't mean that your garden can't also look amazing.

As a new gardener myself, I am determined to find the perfect balance in my own little ecosystem. Colorado soil is filled with clay and can be very difficult to work with. I would like to share some of my experiences in digging 8 holes that took an entire day with 20 blisters later. I've made a lot of mistakes and feel like I'm still making them. There needs to be a better resource out there that can help zone 5 growers have an easier time making their gardens shine.

This website will appeal to new gardeners, old gardeners, people dealing with Japanese Beetles, and others who struggle in the earth's soil and enjoy it. There are always better ways to grow things. There are even better ways to kill Japanese Beetles that won't kill the bees. Anyone interested in learning these things will find the site interesting.

Sources

This information is only found with precise searches on the web. Now it will be gathered in one place. Layed out in an aethetically pleasing way so that information can be easily digested and used.

The website will expand to include other things like garden structures, lighting, and ueful tool guides. It could also include ways to eat your garden. Many Denver natives grow hops in their backyards and brew their own beer from them. This is a completely natural way to make greatbeer great beer and have a good conversation about it while sitting around the fire in your garden. The site will be sure to cover all the gardening basis and touchpoints.

The site will use the following sites to gather useful information from:

www.gardenista.com
www.coloradogardening.com
www.plantsomethingco.org

If other sites are needed to provide additional research they will be added to the list above.

Strategy

The strategy for effectively communicating all of this information will be a well laid out and thoughtfully put together webpage. Each page will have a specific focus that can be built upon over time.

The pages will include the following:

- Home Page/Landing Page
- Outdoor Plants
- Indoor Plants
- Invaders
- Friendlies
- Tools
- Structures
- Lighting
- Recipes

Subsections will be under those pages. Pages will each have their own custom templates that can be repeated for new articles, pictures, and charts/graphs. Lots of images will be used to communicate clear instructions and to help identify plant and bug species. Links and style guides to outside sources will be provided when needed especially in the tools and furniture guides.

Site Diagram

Zone 5

Site Diagram



HOME
PAGE

This is an extensive example of what a full site would look like.

For the class, I will be choosing one sub-category for each section.

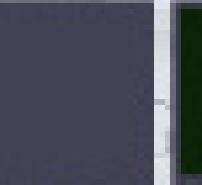
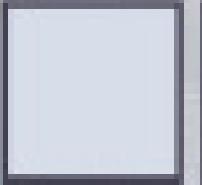
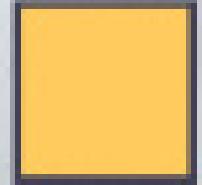
The other categories within each section would ideally follow the same template.

CLOUTDOOR PLANTS	INDOOR PLANTS	INVADERS	FRIENDLIES	TOOLS	STRUCTURES	LIGHTING	RECIPES
-flowers -grasses -veggies -climbers -bushes -trees	-succulents -pots -ferns -flowers -trees	-spraying -weeding -Japanese Beetles	-bees -butterflies -etc.	-shovels -handhelds	-pergolas -garden boxes -compost -patios -furniture -pots -hardscaping	-lights -candles -firepits	-cocktails -meals -freezing -desserts -brewing



Zone 5

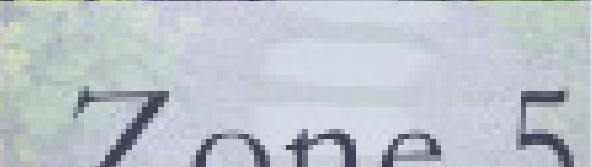
A style guide to
hardiness gardens.



Water
Saving Tips
You Should
Know

Plants that Gr
**Without
Water**
(almost)

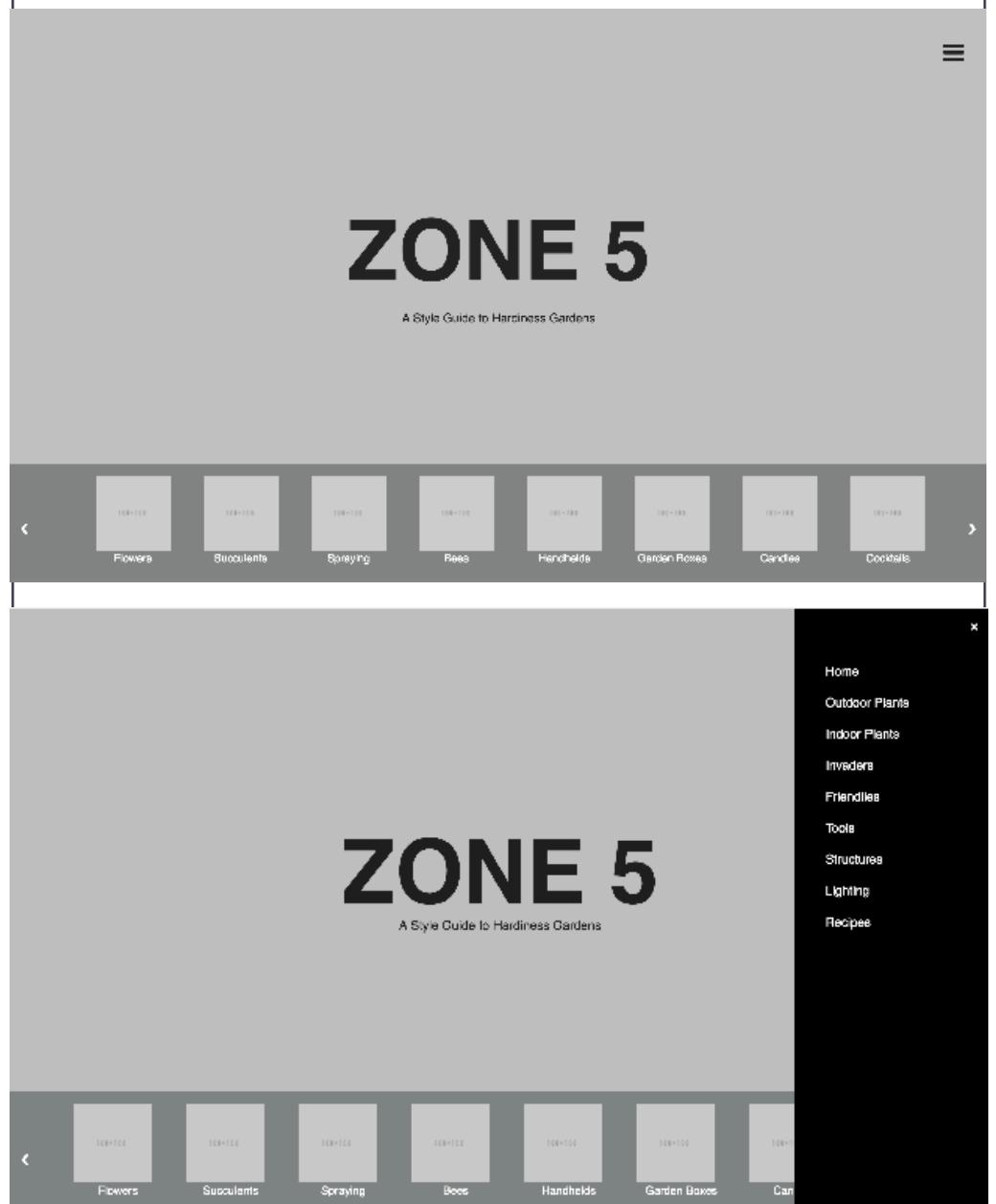
Best Drought Tolerant Pl



Wireframes

The Homepage will have a slideshow of ALL the articles on the site at the bottom that will popup when hovered over.

You will also be able to navigate to the main pages by the icon on the right that pops out into a menu.



Outdoor Plants

A spider sewed at night
Without a light
Sewn an egg of white,
If cut it was of stone.
Or showed of grome,
Himself, himself inform,
Or immortality
His strategy
Was physiognomy.

Russian Sage

With its sprays of small, purple-blue flowers and finely-cut, gray-green foliage on upright, grayish-white stems, Russian sage (*Pereovia atriplicoides*) adds a haze of color to the garden from midsummer into fall, blending well with just about any other flower color. With semi-woody stems, this member of the mint family is drought tolerant and trouble-free.

About This Plant

The leaves of this Central Asian native are aromatic when crushed. Most plants reach between 3 and 6 feet tall. While considered hardy in zones 8-10, it struggles where the summers are hot and humid. While most plants sold are listed as *P. atriplicoides*, many are hybrids that are more properly named *P. x hybrida*. Regardless of their botanical name, they are a great choice for a water-wise garden.

Special Features

Several cultivars are available. 'Blue Mist' has paler blue flowers than the species. 'Loringi' has a more upright, narrow growth habit. 'Little Spike' gets only about 2 feet tall, with an upright habit. The leaves of 'Filigree' are more finely dissected than the species, giving it an airy appearance.

Site Selection

Full sun and well-drained, even dry soil of average fertility are required for Russian sage to thrive.

Planting Instructions

Container-grown plants can be set out throughout the growing season. Space plants 2-3 feet apart. Prepare the garden bed by using a garden fork or tiller to loosen the soil to a depth of 12 to 15 inches, then mix in a 2- to 4-inch layer of compost. Dig a hole twice the diameter of the pot the plant is in. Carefully remove the plant from its container and place it in the hole so the top of the root ball is level with the soil surface. Carefully fill in around the root ball and firm the soil gently. Water thoroughly.

Care

If plants are too floppy, try pinching them back by half in early summer when they are about a foot tall. Cut back plants to about a foot in the fall or leave standing for winter interest. Then cut back to about 6 inches in the spring. Plants at the northern end of their range may be killed back to the ground; in milder areas more of the top growth will survive. Wait to see how much wood had made it through the winter before cutting them back hard in the spring. In long-season areas, if flowering stops after the first flush of blooms, cut back plants by half to encourage a second flush of flowers. Water newly set-out plants if the weather is dry; established plants are quite drought tolerant.

Indoor Plants

A spider sewed at night
Without a light
Sewn an egg of white,
If cut it was of stone.
Or showed of grome,
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His strategy
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Another Post

With its sprays of small, purple-blue flowers and finely-cut, gray-green foliage on upright, grayish-white stems, Russian sage (*Pereovia atriplicoides*) adds a haze of color to the garden from midsummer into fall, blending well with just about any other flower color. With semi-woody stems, this member of the mint family is drought tolerant and trouble-free.

About This Plant

The leaves of this Central Asian native are aromatic when crushed. Most plants reach between 3 and 6 feet tall. While considered hardy in zones 8-10, it struggles where the summers are hot and humid. While most plants sold are listed as *P. atriplicoides*, many are hybrids that are more properly named *P. x hybrida*. Regardless of their botanical name, they are a great choice for a water-wise garden.

Special Features

Several cultivars are available. 'Blue Mist' has paler blue flowers than the species. 'Loringi' has a more upright, narrow growth habit. 'Little Spike' gets only about 2 feet tall, with an upright habit. The leaves of 'Filigree' are more finely dissected than the species, giving it an airy appearance.

Site Selection

Full sun and well-drained, even dry soil of average fertility are required for Russian sage to thrive.

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Container-grown plants can be set out throughout the growing season. Space plants 2-3 feet apart. Prepare the garden bed by using a garden fork or tiller to loosen the soil to a depth of 12 to 15 inches, then mix in a 2- to 4-inch layer of compost. Dig a hole twice the diameter of the pot the plant is in. Carefully remove the plant from its container and place it in the hole so the top of the root ball is level with the soil surface. Carefully fill in around the root ball and firm the soil gently. Water thoroughly.

Care

If plants are too floppy, try pinching them back by half in early summer when they are about a foot tall. Cut back plants to about a foot in the fall or leave standing for winter interest. Then cut back to about 6 inches in the spring. Plants at the northern end of their range may be killed back to the ground; in milder areas more of the top growth will survive. Wait to see how much wood had made it through the winter before cutting them back hard in the spring. In long-season areas, if flowering stops after the first flush of blooms, cut back plants by half to encourage a second flush of flowers. Water newly set-out plants if the weather is dry; established plants are quite drought tolerant.

Wireframes



Friendlies

A spider sewed at night
near a light.
Upon an eve of white,
It ruff it was of dame
Or shroud of gloomie,
Herself, hence it informs,
Of immortality
His imagery
Was physiognomy.



Spiders

900x500

Reason One

The leaves of this Central Asian native are aromatic when crushed. Most plants reach between 3 and 5 feet tall. While considered hardy in zones 5-9, it struggles where the summers are hot and humid. While most plants sold are listed as *P. striatula*, many are hybrids that are more properly named *P. x. hybrida*. Regardless of their botanical name, they are a great choice for a water-wise garden.

Reason Two

Container grown plants can be set out throughout the growing season. Space plants 2-3 feet apart. Prepare the garden bed by using a garden fork or tiller to loosen the soil to a depth of 12 to 18 inches, then mix in a 2- to 4-inch layer of compost. Dig a hole twice the diameter of the pot the plant is in. Carefully remove the plant from its container and place it in the hole so the top of the root ball is level with the soil surface. Gently fill in around the root ball and firm the soil gently. Water thoroughly.

Reason Three

If plants are too floppy, by pinching them back by half in early summer when they are about a foot tall. Cut back plants to about a foot. In the fall or leave standing for winter interest. Then cut back to about 6 inches in the spring. Plants of the northern end of their range may be killed back to the ground; in milder areas, most of the top growth will survive. Wait to see how much wood had made it through the winter before cutting them back hard in the spring.

Mockup - 1

The image shows a desktop computer monitor, a smartphone, and a tablet displaying a website for "Indoor Plants".

Desktop Monitor View:

- Title:** Zone 5
- Subtitle:** A style guide to hardiness gardens.
- Image:** A blurred background image of a garden with various flowers and plants.
- Thumbnail Grid:** A row of eight small images representing different plant types: Rose, Peacock, Sunflower, Purple Hyacinth, Tulip, Cactus, and Tomato.

Smartphone View:

Tablet View:

- Title:** Indoor Plants
- Section:** Graptopteridaceae
- Text:** Graptopteridaceae is a small family of flowering plants that are often found in tropical forests. They are known for their unique, fan-shaped leaves and vibrant colors.
- Image:** A photograph of a purple-flowered Graptopteridaceae plant in a blue pot.
- Section:** Admire This Plant
- Text:** They are a relatively small family, so it's not surprising that there are more than 100 species of Graptopteridaceae. However, they are not known for their striking foliage.
- Text:** The flowers of this plant are very fragrant, making it a popular choice for indoor gardens.
- Image:** A close-up photograph of a purple Graptopteridaceae flower.

Mockup - 2

The image shows a desktop computer monitor, a smartphone, and a tablet all displaying the same website for "Indoor Plants".

Desktop Monitor View:

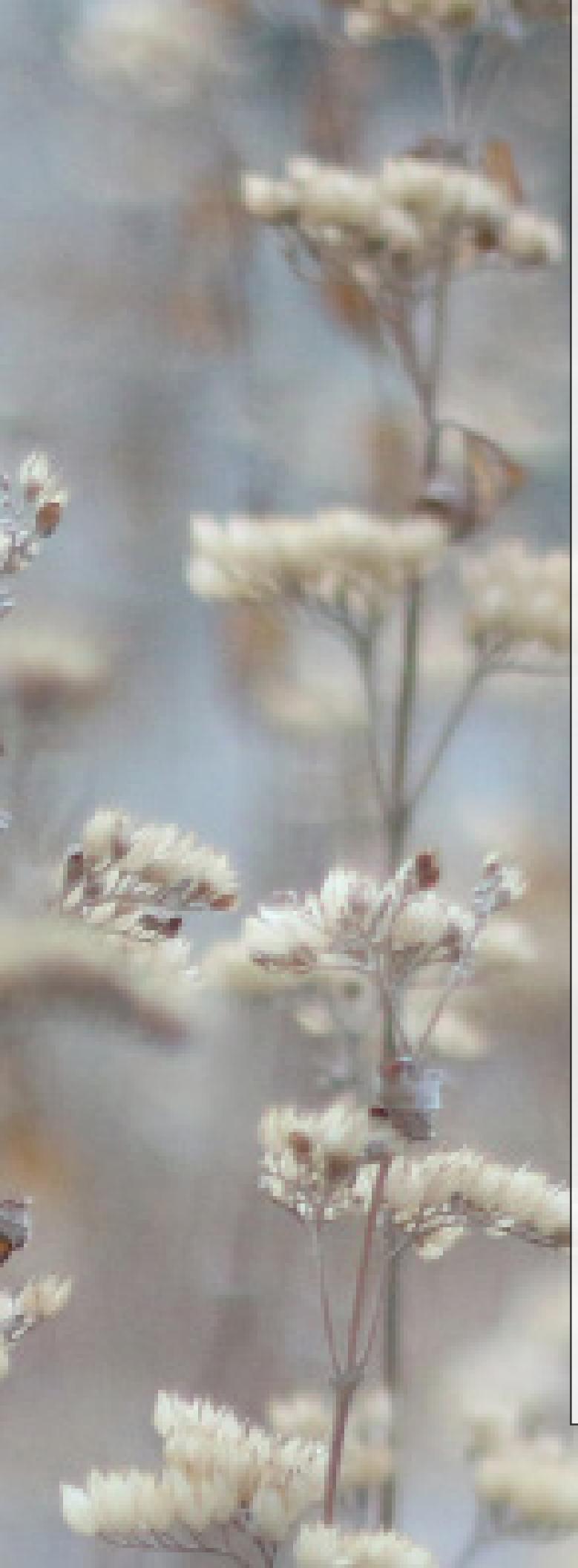
- Header:** "Zone 5" and "A style guide to hardiness gardens."
- Image:** A large, detailed illustration of a bee flying over flowers.
- Navigation Bar:** A yellow bar with icons for various plants: Rose, Begonia, Gerbera, Graptopetalum, Peacock Plant, and more.
- Content Area:** A card for "Graptopetalum".
 - Title:** Graptopetalum
 - Description:** "Graptopetalum are annual members of the Crassulacean family - the same group that includes Sedum, Graptopetalum, Echeveria and many other common names.
 - Section:** About This Plant
 - Text:** "Graptopetalum are easily confused with Sedum, so here is how they can help tell apart the two genera."
 - Image:** A close-up photograph of a Graptopetalum plant with purple flowers.

Smartphone View:

- Header:** "Indoor Plants"
- Image:** A small version of the bee and flower illustration from the desktop view.
- Navigation Bar:** A yellow bar with icons for various plants: Rose, Begonia, Gerbera, Graptopetalum, Peacock Plant, and more.
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Tablet View:

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Final Web Site

ZONE 5

A Style Guide to
Hardiness Gardens

Pause

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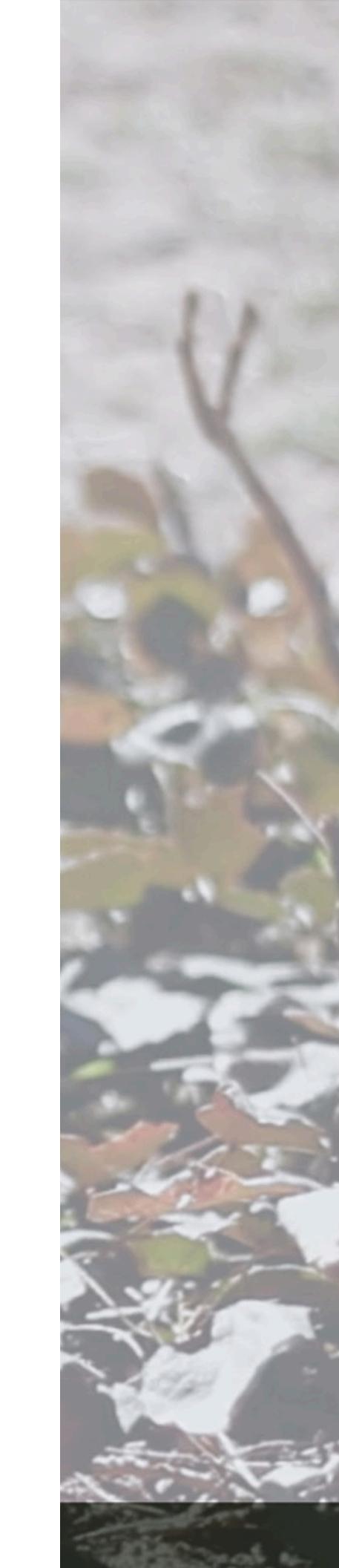
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Navigation - Open



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- Indoor Plants
- Invaders
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- Tools
- Structures
- Lighting
- Recipes

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Pause

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Flowers



Succulents



Spraying



Spiders



Handhelds



Garden Boxes



Candles



Cocktails

Outdoor Plant Guide

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Outdoor Plant Guide

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Roses

With its airy spires of small, purple-blue flowers and finely-cut, gray-green foliage on upright, grayish-white stems, Russian sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*) adds a haze of color to the garden from midsummer into fall, blending well with just about any other flower color. With semi-woody stems, this member of the mint family is drought tolerant and trouble-free.

About This Plant

The leaves of this Central Asian native are aromatic when crushed. Most plants reach between 3 and 5 feet tall. While most plants sold are listed as *P. atriplicifolia*, many are hybrids that are more properly named *P. x hybrida*. Regardless of their botanical name, they are a great choice for a water-wise garden.

Special Features

Several cultivars are available. 'Blue Mist' has paler blue flowers than the species. 'Longin' has a more upright, narrow growth habit. 'Little Spire' gets only about 2 feet tall, with an upright habit. The leaves of 'Filigran' are more finely dissected than the species, giving it an airier appearance.

Site Selection

Full sun and well-drained, even dry soil of average fertility are required for Russian sage to thrive.

Planting Instructions

Container-grown plants can be set out throughout the growing season. Space plants 2-3 feet apart. Prepare the garden bed by using a garden fork or tiller to loosen the soil to a depth of 12 to 15 inches, then mix in a 2- to 4-inch layer of compost. Dig a hole twice the diameter of the pot the plant is in. Carefully remove the plant from its container and place it in the hole so the top of the root ball is level with the soil surface. Carefully fill in around the root ball and firm the soil gently. Water thoroughly.

Care

If plants are too floppy, try pinching them back by half in early summer when they are about a foot tall. Cut back plants to about a foot in the fall or leave standing for winter interest. Then cut back to about 6 inches in the spring. Plants at the northern end of their range may be killed back to the ground; in milder areas, more of the top growth will



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Indoor Plant Guide

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ZONE 5

Indoor Plant Guide

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Graptopetalum

Graptopetalum are another member of the Crassulaceae family – the same group that includes Sedum, Sempervivum, Echeveria and (of course) Crassula among others.

About This Plant

They are very closely related to Echeveria, so close in fact that they can cross breed and form x Graptoveria varieties.

The 'x' in the name denotes an inter-generic cross, a hybrid of two genera, not two species of the same genus as most hybrids.

Care

With the genetic collaboration of these two genera, there are many new forms that combine with all the other Crassulacean members in container collections, crafts and succulent gardens.

For care, they require well drained soil, and most thrive in full sun in cooler areas, and a bit of shade in the afternoon in really hot summers. They are frost tender and grown as a house plant for the winter if the

Planting Instructions

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Invaders

ZONE 5

Invaders How to Properly Remove Them

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Japanese Beetles

The Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*) is a common species of beetle. It is about 15 millimetres (0.6 in) long and 10 millimetres (0.4 in) wide, with iridescent copper-colored elytra and green thorax and head. It is not very destructive in Japan, where it is controlled by natural predators, but in North America it is a serious pest of about 200 species of plants, including rose bushes, grapes, hops, canna, crape myrtles, birch trees, linden trees and others.

It is a clumsy flier, dropping several centimeters when it hits a wall. Japanese beetle traps therefore consist of a pair of crossed walls with a bag or plastic container underneath, and are baited with floral scent, pheromone, or both. However, studies conducted at the University of Kentucky and Eastern Illinois University suggest beetles attracted to traps frequently do not end up in the traps, but alight on plants in the vicinity, thus causing more damage along the flight path of the beetles and near the trap than may have occurred if the trap were not present.

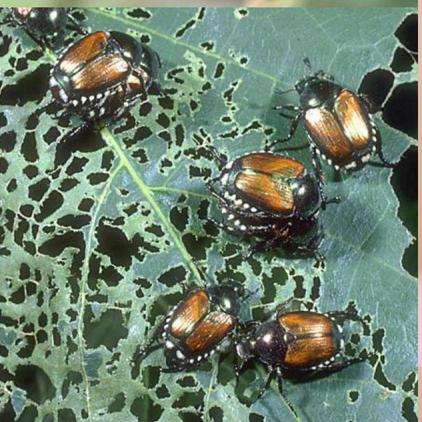
These insects damage plants by skeletonizing the foliage, that is, consuming only the leaf material between the veins, and may also feed on fruit on the plants if present.

Pest Control

The best way to deal with Japanese Beetles is to use milky spore. It is a safe effective killer of these pests. It will only kill the beetles in your yard. It's safe for bees and other valuable insects that seek the beauty in your garden.

Why are they pests?

Once you've discovered one of these beetles, you'll soon realize why no one wants them in their yard. The beetle kills everything starting with your grass. Beetles lay larvae that eat the grass roots. These hatch to small pretty green beetles. These creatures will destroy a rose bush in one day. They also love outdoor candles like citronella that would normally deter pests. Have fun digging them out of your wax. Milky spore survives in your yard and penetrates the larvae as they hatch. Destroying the colony where they rest. It's the perfect solution.



ZONE 5

Friendlies
A Good Garden Welcomes Tenants

Friendlies

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Spiders

Spiders are really great for your garden and your home. If you are thinking about reducing these creatures, you should think again. Here are three reasons to keep them around.

Reason One

The leaves of this Central Asian native are aromatic when crushed. Most plants reach between 3 and 5 feet tall. While considered hardy in zones 5-9, it struggles where the summers are hot and humid. While most plants sold are listed as *P. atriplicifolia*, many are hybrids that are more properly named *P. x hybrida*. Regardless of their botanical name, they are a great choice for a water-wise garden.



Reason Two

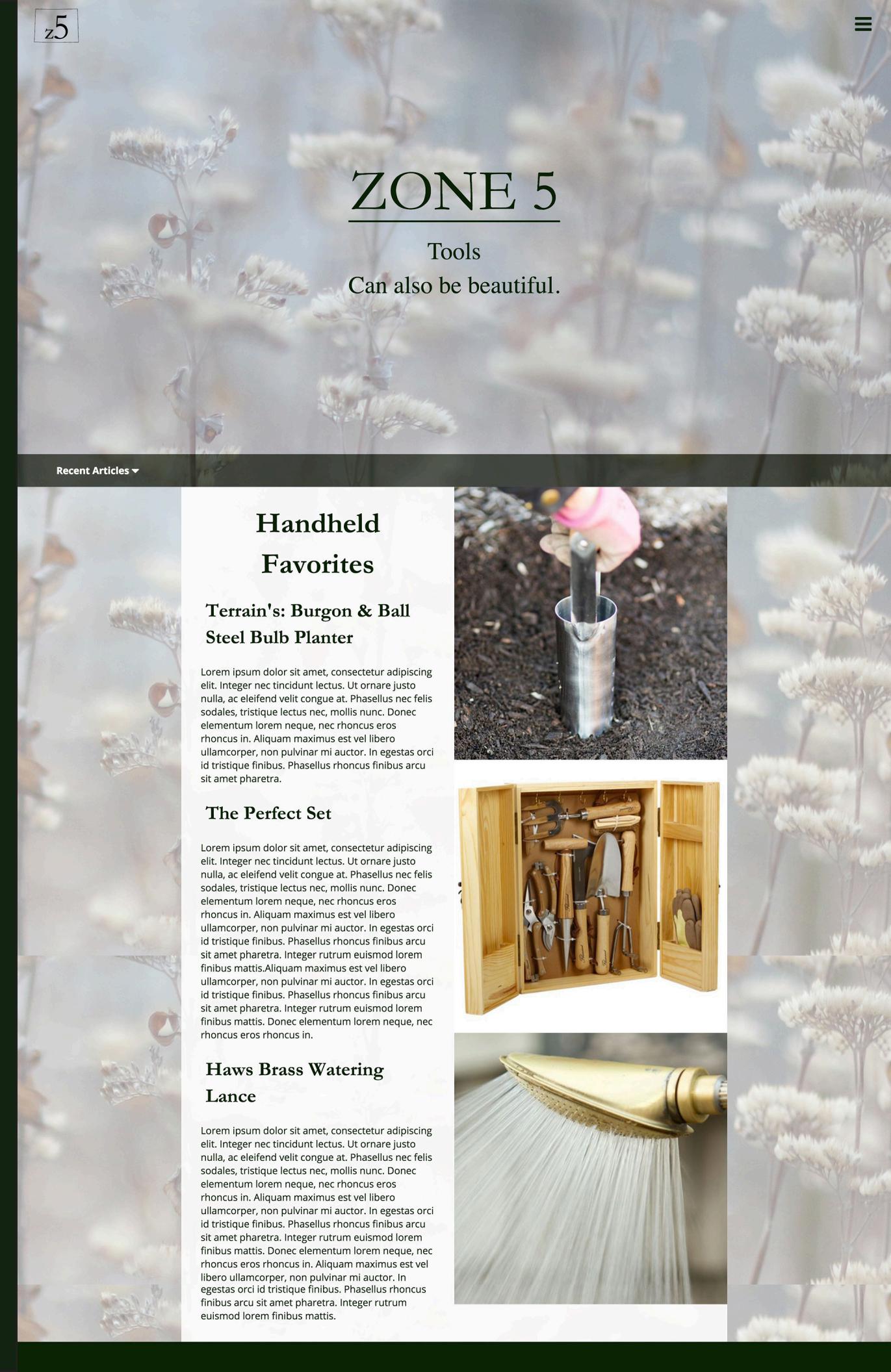
Container grown plants can be set out throughout the growing season. Space plants 2-3 feet apart. Prepare the garden bed by using a garden fork or tiller to loosen the soil to a depth of 12 to 15 inches, then mix in a 2- to 4-inch layer of compost. Dig a hole twice the diameter of the pot the plant is in. Carefully remove the plant from its container and place it in the hole so the top of the root ball is level with the soil surface. Carefully fill in around the root ball and firm the soil gently. Water thoroughly.



Reason Three



Tools



ZONE 5

Tools

Can also be beautiful.

Recent Articles ▾

Handheld Favorites

Terrain's: Burgon & Ball Steel Bulb Planter

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The Perfect Set

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Haws Brass Watering Lance

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Structures

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ZONE 5

Structures

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Garden Boxes

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The Simple Box

Step One

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Step Two



Lighting

ZONE 5

Lighting
The Perfect Touch

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Perfect Candles

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Citronella and Brass

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Another Candle

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Apple-Cider Spritzer

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Serves 1

- 1 ounce whiskey or bourbon
- 2 ounces cider-honey syrup (recipe follows)
- champagne, to top glass
- sprig of rosemary, to garnish

In a shaker filled with ice, combine the honey syrup and whiskey. Shake vigorously and strain into a serving glass. Top with champagne and garnish with a rosemary sprig.

Cider-Honey Syrup:

- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup honey
- 1 inch piece of ginger, peeled and sliced
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 1 teaspoon whole cloves
- 1 cup apple cider
- 4 sprigs rosemary

In a small saucepan over medium heat, whisk the honey, ginger, cinnamon, cloves, and apple cider together until the mixture starts to bubble, about 3-4 minutes. Remove from heat, add rosemary and let cool for 25 minutes. Strain through a sieve and transfer to a container until ready to use. Can be made ahead and stored covered in the refrigerator for up to one week.

