



City of Moab Approved Plant List

Intent

The City of Moab Approved Landscape Plant List is intended for use by landscaping projects that must comply with [Moab Municipal Code 17.10 Landscaping Standards](#). The code intends to preserve the community's quality of life and property values by enriching the visual environment, supporting public safety, and contributing to a resilient and sustainable environment.

Purpose

The Approved Plant List serves as a tool for selecting plants suitable for the Moab climate while promoting sustainability and water conservation goals.

- **Moab Climate and Microclimates**

A microclimate refers to a smaller area that differs from the surrounding macroclimate. Local factors, such as slope or proximity to buildings, affect soil moisture, ambient temperature, and prevailing winds. Thus, although the plant list is suitable for the Moab climate in general, review your landscape for soil type, moisture, sun exposure, and maintenance requirements to select the plants that will be most successful.

- **Sustainability and Water Conservation**

The landscape code promotes healthy landscapes that use much less water. The City's landscape ordinance intends to enhance our outdoor spaces by supporting water-wise landscaping practices. Furthermore, it encourages stormwater management, fire protection, erosion prevention, urban heat island mitigation, and native plant habitat. The code supports the City's Sustainability Action Plan and Water Conservation Plan.

Approved Plant List ([17.10.040](#))

The Plant List categorizes native and non-native plants according to their water needs, ranging from non-irrigated, low-water to high-water. High-water plants are not recommended, unless they are in an area with natural access to water, such as a riparian zone.

- The plant list consists of four lists: a comprehensive list of all the approved plants (PDF and sortable spreadsheet), a plant-only list (PDF), and a tree-only list (PDF). The various mediums were designed to meet the needs of different preferences.
- The plant-only list includes cacti, forbs (herbaceous flowering plants), grasses, and shrubs.
- The tree-only list contains trees and identifies trees suitable for the tree park strip. Street-appropriate trees are identified by general or low clearance.
- Information regarding blooming, annuals, and perennials can be accessed from the [City of Moab Approved Plant List \(Spreadsheet\)](#).

Non-Listed Plants and Approved Plant List Criteria ([Appendix C](#))

Installation of plants that are not on the approved plant list must be preapproved by the City and are up to the discretion of the Zoning Administrator. To obtain approval, the applicant must demonstrate that the plant meets these requirements:

- The plant cannot exist on the Grand County Noxious Weeds List: <https://www.grandcountyutah.net/168/Noxious-Weeds>.
- The plant must be appropriately adapted to Moab's Plant Hardiness Zone 7 (0° -10°): <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov>.
- The applicant must provide a source or sources to confirm the plant is appropriately adapted to the environmental conditions, i.e., soil type, rainfall, temperature, pest conditions, and elevation. See the resource list of water-wise plants for Utah landscapes for examples: <https://extension.usu.edu/cwel/water-wise-plants>. (Ord. 23-08 § 3, 2023)

Noxious Weeds (17.10.040)

Under Section 7 of the Utah Noxious Weed Act, it is prohibited to plant any plants from the Grand County Noxious Weeds List (available here: <https://www.grandcountyutah.net/168/Noxious-Weeds>).

Definitions

Ssp refers to subspecies

“**Landscaped area**” refers to the area within the parcel with landscaping.

"Non-irrigated" in reference to plant water requirements, means that the species can grow within the Moab climate without the need for any artificial irrigation. However, the plant may need some additional water supply during the initial stages of growth until it is fully established. In such cases, hand watering can be used as a means of supplementing the water needs of the plant.

Sources

<https://revegmoab.com/234850-2/>

<https://conservationgardenpark.org/plants/>

<https://www.wildflower.org/plants/>

https://www.gjcity.org/DocumentCenter/View/2946/Grand-Junction-Street-Treet-List_030921

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/zoysiagrass/>

<https://extension.usu.edu/yardandgarden/research/turfgrass-cultivars-for-utah>

https://www.tgwca.org/qualified_materials.html

NATIVE PLANTS

Native Cacti: Non-Irrigated/Very Low Water

Plant Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Banana Yucca	<i>Yucca baccata</i>	yuccas have very special pollinators
Beavertail Cactus	<i>Opuntia basilaris</i>	
Claret Cup (Hedgehog) Cactus	<i>Echinomastus triglochidiatus</i>	
Fish Hook Cactus	<i>Sclerocactus whipplei</i>	
Grizzlybear Pricklypear	<i>Opuntia polyacantha</i> var. <i>erinacea</i>	
Harriman Yucca	<i>Yucca harrimaniae</i>	
Navajo Yucca	<i>Yucca baileyi</i>	
Plains Pricklypear	<i>Opuntia polyacantha</i>	
Prickly Pear Cactus	<i>Opuntia</i> ssp	There are many local varieties
Soaptree Yucca	<i>Yucca elata</i>	tree forming yucca
Tulip Pricklypear	<i>Opuntia phaeacantha</i>	
Utah Agave	<i>Agave utahensis</i>	hard to find, very slow grower

Native Forbs: Non-Irrigated/Very Low Water

Plant Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Arizona Bluestar / Amsonia	<i>Amsonia tomentosa</i>	
Blanket Flower	<i>Gaillardia artistita</i>	firewise, drought, heat tolerant;
Bridges' Penstemon	<i>Penstemon rostriflorus</i>	
Daisy, Sundancer	<i>Hymenoxys acaulis</i>	
Desert 4 O'Clock	<i>Mirabilis multiflora</i>	
Desert Marigold	<i>Baileya multiradiata</i>	
Fendler's Sundrops	<i>Calylophus hartwegii</i> ssp. <i>Fendleri</i>	
California Fuchsia	<i>Zauschneria (Epilobium) californica</i>	
Globemallow	<i>Sphaeralcea</i> ssp	There are many local varieties
Golden Catpaw	<i>Cryptantha flava</i>	
Gooseberry-Leaf Globemallow	<i>Sphaeralcea grossulariifolia</i>	
Greenstem Paperflower	<i>Psilostrophe sparsiflora</i>	
James Buchwheat	<i>Eriogonum jamesii</i>	
Littlecup Penstemon	<i>Penstemon sepalulus</i>	
Littleleaf Pussytoes	<i>Antennaria parvifolia</i>	
Mexican Hat	<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>	
Moonflower	<i>Datura wrightii</i>	

Munroe Globemallow	Sphaeralcea munroana	
Navajo Tea	Thelesperma ambiguum	
Paperflower	Psilostrophe tagetina	
Prickly Poppy	Argemone polyanthemus	
Primrose, Longstem Evening	Oenothera longissima	
Prince's Plume	Stanleya pinnata	
Rimrock Buckwheat	Eriogonum corymbosum	also called crispleaf buckwheat
Rocky Mountain Beeplant	Cleome serrulata / lutea	purple or yellow
Rough Mules Ears	Wyethia scabra	
San Verbena	Abronia fragrans	
Showy Milkweed	Asclepias speciosa Torr.	
Sol Dancer Daisy	Tetraneris acaulis var. arizonica 'Sol Dancer'	
Sulfur Flowered Buckwheat	Eriogonum umbellatum	
Utah Daisy	Erigeron utahensis var. utahensis	
Venus Penstemon	Penstemon venustus	
Western Sundancer Daisy	Tetraneris (Hymenoxys) acaulis v. ivensiana	
Green Santolina	Artemisia versicolor 'Seafoam'	

Native Grasses: Non-Irrigated/Very Low Water

Plant Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Blue Grama	Bouteloua gracilis	
Bottlebrush Squirreltail	Elymus elymoides	
Galleta	Pleuraphis jamesii	
Indian Ricegrass	Achnatherum hymenoides	
Needle and Thread	Hesperostipa comata	
Purple 3-Awn	Artistida purpurea	
Sand Dropseed	Sporobolus cryptandrus	
Giant Dropseed	Sporobolus giganteus	

Native Shrubs: Non-Irrigated/Very Low Water

Plant Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Big Sagebrush	Artemisia tridentata	
Black Sagebrush	Artemisia nova	
Cliffrose	Purshia mexicana	
Desert Holly	Berberis (Mahonia) fremontii	
Dwarf Blue Rabbitbrush	Ericameria nauseosa var. nauseosa	

Fernbush	Chamaebatiaria millefolium	
Four-Wing Saltbrush	Atriplex canescens	
Gardner Saltbrush	Atriplex gardneri	blooms are very small
Littleleaf Mountain Mahogany	Cercocarpus intricatus	
Mat Saltbrush	Atriplex corrugata	blooms are very small
Mormon Tea	Ephedra viridis	
Rabbitbrush, Chamisa, Rubber Rabbitbrush	Ericameria nauseosa	aka Chrysothamnus nasueosus
Redberry Mahonia	Berberis (Mahonia) haematocarpa	
Shadscale	Atriplex confertifolia	
Singleleaf Ash	Fraxinus anomala	
Snakeweed	Gutierrezia sarothrae	
Spiny Hop-sage	Grayia spinosa	
Threadleaf Rubber Rabbitbrush	Ericameria nauseosa subsp. Consimilis	
Threadleaf sagebrush	Artemisia filifolia	
White-Stem Rubber Rabbitbrush	Ericameria nauseosa var. hololeuca	
Winter Fat	Krascheninnikovia lonata	

Native Forbs: Low Water

Plant Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Arizona Columbine	Aquilegia desertorum	
Bloody Cranesbill	Geranium sanguineum	firewise
Blue Sage	Salvia azurea	
Cicada Milkvetch	Astragalus chamaeleuce	
Desert Onion Lily	Allium macropetalum	
Desert San Verbana	Abronia villosa	
Firecracker Penstemon	Penstemon eatonii	
Gaura spp	Gaura lindheimeri	
Indian Milkvetch	Astragalus australis	
Intermountain White Wand Flower	Gaura (Oenothera) lindheimeri 'Intermountain Beauty'	
Longleaf Phlox	Phlox longifolia	
Mohave Lotus	Lotus rigidus	
Orange Butterflyweed	Ascepias tuberosa	
Palmer's Penstemon	Penstemon palmerii	will turn annual with too much water

Pink Funnel Lily	Androstephium breviflorum	
Prairie Smoke Avens	Geum triflorum	
Purple Locoweed	Oxytropis lambertii	very hard to find, and fussy to grow
Rocky Mountain Penstemon	Penstemon strictus	
Scarlet Gillia	Ipomopsis aggregata	
Snowy Goldeneye	Viguiera multiflora	
Sunflower	Helianthus ssp	there are many different sunflowers
Textile Onion	Allium textile	
Tower Rockcress	Arabis glabra	
Twinpod	Menodora longiflora	
Scarlet Penstemon	Penstemon barbatus subsp. Coccineus 'Scarlet'	

Native Grasses: Low Water

Plant Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Alkali Sacaton	Sporobolus airoides	
Big Bluestem	Andropogon gerardii	
BioNative Wheatgrass Mix	Agropyron spp.	
Buffalo Grass	Buchloe dactyloides	firewise
Cody Buffalo Grass	Buchloe dactyloides 'Cody'	
Common Yarrow	Achillea millefolium	firewise

Native Shrubs: Low Water

Plant Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Antelope Bitterbrush	Purshia tridentata	firewise; low maintenance; good for tough, dry sites
Apache Plume	Fallugia paradoxa	
Beargrass	Nolina microcarpa	
Cliff Fendlerbush	Fendlera rupicola	
Creeping Oregon Grape	Berberis (Mahonia) repens	firewise
Curl-leaf Mnt Mahogany	Cercocarpus ledifolius	
Kinnikinnick	Arctostaphylos uva-ursi	
Littleleaf Mock Orange	Philadelphus microphyllus	grows naturally in rocky dry soils
Mallow Ninebark	Physocarpus malvaceous	
Mountain Mahogany	Cercocarpus montanus	
Mountain Mahogany, Hairy leaf	Cercocarpus breviflorus	
Oceanspray	Holodiscus discolor	
Silverberry	Elaeagnus commutata	

Snowberry	Symphoricarpos albus	
Twinberry Honeysuckle	Lonicera involucrata	
Utah Serviceberry	Amelanchier utahensis	

Native Vines: Low Water

Plant Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Western White Clematis (Vine)	Clematis ligusticifolia	

Native Forbs: Medium Water

Plant Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Aster	Machaeranthera bigelovii	
Black Eyed Susan	Rudbeckia hirta - pulcherrima	
Butterfly Weed	Asclepias tuberosa	
Canadian Milkvetch	Astragalus canadensis	
Coralberry	Symphoricarpos arbutifolius	
Monkey Flower	Mimulus ssp	can be hard to grow here
Pincushion Flower	Chaenactis fremontii	
Purple coneflower	Echinacea purpurea	Shade
Rockcress	Arabis drummondii	
Showy Goldeneye	Heliomeris multiflora	
Tansyleaf Aster	Machaeranthera tanacetifolia	
Wild Hollyhock	Iliamna rivularis	
Windflower	Anemone multifida	

Native Grasses: Medium Water

Plant Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Indian Grass	Sorghastrum nutans	
Little Bluestem	Schizachyrium scoparium	
Salt Grass	Distichlis spicata	
Sandberg Bluegrass	Poa secunda	firewise
Sideoats Grama	Bouteloua curtipendula	
Slender Wheatgrass	Elymus trachycaulus	
Western Wheatgrass	Pascopyrum smithii	firewise
Witchgrass	Panicum capillare	

Native Shrubs: Medium Water

Plant Name	Scientific Name	Notes
American Wild Plum	Prunus americana	

Emory's Baccharis	Baccharis salicina	
Garden Sage	Salvia officinalis	
Saskatoon Serviceberry	Amelanchier ainifolia	found at higher elevations
Silver Buffaloberry	Shepherdia argentea	can become quite aggressive
Smooth Sumac	Rhus glabra	native at higher elevations
Three-Leaf Sumac	Medium to low water; firewise	Medium to low water

Native Forbs and Shrubs: Medium/High Water

Plant Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Dogbane	Apocynum cannabinum	
Milkweed/Butterfly weed	Asclepias spp.	There are many local varieties
Western yarrow	Achillea millefolium v occidentalis	Survives with less water, thrives with more, firewise
Chokeberry	Prunus virginiana	prefers riparian areas when at lower elevations
Golden Currant	Ribes aureum	
New Mexican Privet	Forestiera neomexicana	highly variable water needs
Woods' Rose	Rosa woodsil	

Native Forbs: High Water

Plant Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Beebalm	Monarda fistulosa	
Columbine	Aquilegia ssp	
Goldenrod	Solidago spp.	

Native Grasses: High Water

Plant Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Great Basin Wildrye	Leymus cinereus	
Prairie Junegrass	Koeleria macrantha	

Native Shrubs/Tree-Like Shrubs: Very High Water

Plant Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Willow Shrubs	Salix spp.	Suitable for screening – not street tree Not a canopy tree
Coyote Willow	Salix exigua	Suitable for screening – not street tree Not a canopy tree
Yellow Willow	Salix lutea	Suitable for screening – not street tree Not a canopy tree

NON-NATIVE PLANTS

Non-native Forbs: Non-irrigated/Very Low Water

Plant Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Primrose, Fragrant Evening	Oenothera caespitosa	
Spider Wort	Tradescantia occidentalis	generally needs some water

Non-native Grasses: Non-irrigated/Very Low Water

Plant Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Crested wheatgrass	Agropyron cristatum	Wheatgrasses are most appropriate in areas where you cannot or do not plan to irrigate. They green up early in the spring but survive dry summers by going dormant; firewise. Look for varieties: RoadCrest, Fairway, Ephraim

Non-native Cacti/Succulent: Low Water

Plant Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Red Yucca	Hesperaloe parviflora	

Non-native Forbs: Low Water

Plant Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Blackfoot Daisy	Melampodium leucanthum	
Blue Flax	Linum perenne	Linum lewisii is native, firewise
Blue Hills, May Night Salvia	Salvia x sylvestris	lots of new varieties
Catmint	Nepeta faassenii	
Chocolate Flower	Berlandiera lyrata	
Gayfeather, Blazing star	Liatrus punctata	
Hooker's Balsamroot	Balsamorhiza hookeri	
Oriental Poppy	Papaver orientale	
Phlox	Phlox diffusa	there is a native desert phlox as well
Prairie Zinnia	Zinnia grandiflora	
Purple Prairie Clover	Dalea purpurea	there is a local native dalea
Rock Sandwort	Arenaria alfacarensis	
Sedums	Sedum ssp	MANY ground cover and low shrub forms, firewise
Western Pearly Everlasting	Anaphalis margaritacea	
Curlicue Sage	Artemisia versicolor 'Seafoam'	
Woolly Thyme	Thymus pseudolanuginosus	A low-growing, creeping, perennial. Excellent as a ground cover and between paving stones. The hairy, grey-green leaves form a soft and inviting ground cover, with pink flowers in summer. Tolerant of

infertile soils and drought and prefers sunny locations.

Non-native Grasses: Low Water

Plant Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Zoysia grass	Zoysia japonica	Zoysiagrass (Zoysia species) warm season grass, grows best and vigorously at 80 to 95 °F. Produce a dense, attractive lawn. Will turn brown with the first fall frost and remain dormant in winter

Non-native Shrubs: Low Water

Plant Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Blue Mist Spirea	Caryopteris x clandonesis	low to medium water
Cherry Sagebrush	Salvia greggii	
Dorrs Sage	Salvia dorii	regionally native
Rose	Rosa spp.	Blaze, don juan, knockout, specialty
Russian Sage	Perovskia atriplicifolia	
Sand Cherry	Prunus pumila	
Ultraviolet Sage	Salvia greggii x lyciodes	ZONE 6; only plant in warm spots
Green Santolina	Santolina rosmarinifolia	

Non-native Forbs: Medium Water

Plant Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Ajuga (bugleweed)	Lycopus asper	SHADE
Basket-of-Gold	Alyssum saxatile	
Chrysanthemum	Chrysanthemum spp.	
Coreopsis	Coreopsis auriculata	firewise; drought tolerant
Cranesbill	Geranium maculatum	
Daylily	Hemerocallis varieties	
Hyssop	Agastache spp	there are many varieties that do well here
Iceplant	Verbesina virginica	firewise
Maximilliam Sunflower	Helianthus maximilliana	
Missouri Evening Primrose	Oenothera macrocarpa	
Partridge Feather	Tanacetum densum	
Peony	Paeonia brownii	Shade
Periwinkle/Vinca	Vinca major	
Prairie Winecups/Poppy Mall	Callirhoe involucrata	
Shasta Daisy	Chrysanthemum maximum	firewise
Sneezeweed	Helenium autumnale	prefers higher elevations

Sun Rose	Helianthemum rosmarinifolium	firewise
Utah Sweetvetch	Hedysarum boreale	
Valerian	Centranthus ruber	
White Prairie Clover	Dalea candida	

Non-native Shrubs: Medium Water

Plant Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Cotoneaster	Cotoneaster spp.	there are some cold hardy enough, firewise
Forsythia	Forsythia suspensa	
Grow Low Sumac	Rhus aromatica v. gro low	Medium to low water; culticar of local species
Leadplant	Amorpha canescens	
Manzanita	Arctostaphylos ssp	various species, some are cold hardy, firewise
Mock Orange	Philadelphus virginialis	there is also a local native variety
Mojave Sage	Salvia pachyphylla	similar to S. dorri, needs a bit more water
Pawnee Buttes San Cherry	Prunus besseyi	a lower growing variety of Sand Cherry
Potentilla, Shrubby Cinquefoil	Dasiphora fruticosa	native in northern climates
Purple-leaf Sand Cherry	Prunus x cistena	
Rockspirea	Holodiscus dumosus	
Sage - Himalayan	Salvia nubicola	
Smokebush	Cotinus coggygia	
Staghorn Sumac	Rhus typhina	

Non-native Grasses: Medium Water

Plant Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Fine fescue	Festuca spp.	Cool season turf ideal for shady areas and has slower growth and low fertilizer needs. Most are drought tolerant. When maintained for drought, Fine Fescues do best in lower maintenance scenarios with longer cut heights and less traffic.
Tall fescue	Festuca arundinacea	Tall Fescue is a good cool season turfgrass for Utah with greater heat and shade tolerance than Kentucky bluegrass. It may survive on less water due to its deep roots. Some newer varieties resemble Kentucky bluegrass. Look for: Coronado Gold, Blade Runner, Inferno, Matador GT, Cayenne, Silverstar

Non-native Forbs: Medium/ High Water

Plant Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Asiatic lily	lilium asiatica	
Calla lily	Zantedeschia aethiopica	

Clematis/Virgin's Bower	Clematis virginiana	local varieties grow in riparian areas
Fox glove	Digitalis ssp	shade
Plumbago	Plumbago scandens	
Snow In Summer	Cerastium tomentosum	firewise

Non-native Shrubs: Medium/ High Water

Plant Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Austrian Copper Rose	Rosa foetida	
Boxwood	Buxus ssp.	several varieties; water in winter drought
Butterfly Bush	Buddleja marrubiifolia	
Euonymus	Euonymus spp.	many varieties survive in our area
False Indigo	Baptisia australis	
Flowering Quince	Chaenomeles japonica	
Goji Berry	Lycium barbarum	
Nanking Cherry	Prunus tomentosa	
New Mexico Locust	Robinia neomexicana	
Rose of Sharon	Hibiscus syriacus	
Vitex	Vitex agnus-castus	zone 6, plant in warm winter locations
Western Snowberry	Symphoricarpos orbiculatus	Shade

Non-native Forbs: High Water

Plant Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Bleeding Heart	Malvastrum arboreus	
Coral Bells	Heuchera sanguinea	
Germander	Teucrium canadense	
Hosta	Hosta spp.	Shade

Non-native Grasses: High Water

Plant Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Perennial ryegrass	Lolium perenne	Perennial Ryegrass is a relatively high maintenance cool season grass. It is often mixed with Kentucky bluegrass for quick establishment, diversity, and color.
Kentucky bluegrass	Poa pratensis	Kentucky Bluegrass is best suited to lawns that will have a lot of traffic and full sun to partial shade. Look for low input cultivars: Award, Baron, Bedazzled, EverGlade, Full Moon, Moonlight, Moonlight II, Prosperity, Total Eclipse

Non-native Shrubs: High Water

Plant Name	Scientific Name	Notes
Burning Brush	<i>Euonymus atropurpureus</i>	
Lilac	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	firewise
Mugo Pine (dwarf)	<i>Pinus mugo</i>	
Viburnum ssp	<i>Viburnum ellipticum</i>	
Hawthorn (black)	<i>Crataegus douglasii</i>	
Arborvitea	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	