

Tidbits about the Garden

Irrigated Trees and Shrubs: The garden is surrounded by trees and shrubs. All are irrigated (1 hour, twice a day) on a slow drip system. Almost all are fenced to protect them from deer. The fences will stay up until the plants are able to withstand browsing by the deer. The trees were provided by a grant from the Mt Dept of Natural Resources.

Irrigated beds 1 & 2: These beds do not have landscape fabric. They are irrigated by a soaker hose, 5 minutes once a day (much smaller area to irrigate so less time needed for these drought resistant plants). They are mulched with gravel. Weeding is still easy in these beds but the plants can spread throughout the beds as there is no fabric to limit them. If the desire is to have plants closely spaced and growing together, this is a benefit. If that is not the desire, plants that don't spread much should be used, or the bed will need maintenance to keep them where they are wanted.

Irrigated bed 3: This bed has 115 plants! (please refer to the Bed 3 handout that has a map of this bed) This bed has a soaker hose under landscape fabric and gravel mulch. Irrigation runs for 10 minutes once a day to this bed.. (It takes awhile to charge the hose). Benefits of fabric and gravel mulch are: ease of weeding; control of where plants can expand to; moisture retention.

Lawn: This grass is a short fescue grass called "Scottish Links". The lawn is irrigated for 15 minutes, once a day. The white clover has volunteered and is happily growing throughout the lawn. This is an unintended outcome here. The grass is naturally short, drought resistant and does not require much maintenance. It is mowed about every three weeks to create a manicured lawn look. The clover may be temporary...time will tell. Note: 2024 has been a terribly dry year and the sprinkler system hasn't been working adequately

Dry bed east and dry bed west: These beds have plants that require no irrigation, and survive only on natural moisture. The little rock mounds in the east bed have provided a feast for the deer, as they like to eat the sedum (stonecrop) plants and pull the hen and chicks out and leave them on the ground. But we are keeping up with them for the most part. The ice plants in these beds are an exception to the other plants in the garden as they are not hardy in our zone. But, they are so drought resistant and pretty that we decided to plant them annually.

Crevice garden: There are three rock "crevice" gardens that are constructed so that the roots of the plants have access to a growing medium that is deep between the rocks. The middle bed was planted in 2023. These are all native plants, collected locally. One thing about natives in our dry sites-they tend to be small, and their flowering season is short to conserve energy. There several half shrubs in this bed; they are quite happy and the sage plants (*Artemisia*) are very large. Native plants have their own beauty on a smaller scale (generally) than cultivated plants.

The beds on either end of this area were built and planted in 2024. These beds are a mix of some natives and some cultivated succulent plants. The jury is still out on these beds; they will likely take a year to mature and finalize the species that can live in this arid habitat.

