

Ten Unique Plants from the SHYC Seaside Garden



Tamarisk (Salt Cedar)– Native to Asia. Deciduous Shrub with fine-textured, juniper-like foliage, but is neither evergreen nor coniferous, producing reddish, slender, arching branchlets and plumes of pink flowers. Prefers sandy salty soil.



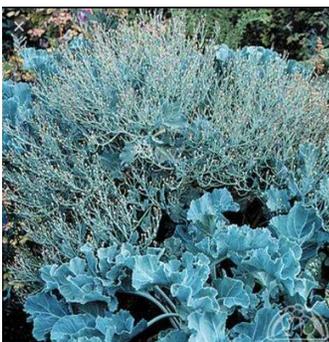
Rosa Rugosa (Beach Rose) - Native to Asia. Deciduous Shrub with, prickly stems that spreads via suckers. Grows to 4-6'. Flowers late May to July followed by fleshy, edible (with some bitterness), tomato-shaped hips that ripen to bright red by late summer. Hips are used to make jams and jellies (rose hip jam). Grows exceedingly well in sand to protect against erosion.



Bayberry. Native to the east coast. Dense-branching deciduous shrub that spreads via suckers with a rounded habit which typically grows 6-10' tall. Needs at least one male plant to facilitate pollination for fruit. The fruits are covered with an aromatic, waxy substance used to make bayberry candles, soaps and sealing wax



Santolina (Lavender Cotton)– Native to Mediterranean. Used as a perfume and an insect repellent or as a tobacco substitute. Spring and Summer bloomer, we deadhead this as the yellow browns out. Full sun. Soil – sandy, chalky, well drained, slightly acid. Do not over water. Propagate by sowing or cutting.



Crambe maritima (Sea Kale) - Native to England, Herbaceous perennial with wavy waxy leaves and white fragrant flowers that attract butterflies. Plant in dry (likes sand and chalky soil) sunny beds or into gravel. Harvest the young shoots in spring to eat raw or steamed – they taste like asparagus and cut down to ground level in autumn. Flowers are followed by pea-like seed pods to 1/4" wide. Each pod has one seed.



Vitex (Chaste Tree) - Native to Mediterranean. Deciduous Shrub grows 8-10', but in our climate it is a 5' Herbaceous Perennial. Features aromatic, grayish-green leaves with leaflets and tiny, fragrant, lavender flowers in mid to late summer. Flowers are quite attractive to butterflies.



Baptisia (False Indigo) Native plant. Perennial. Grow in full sun to part shade. Tolerant of hot and humid summers, poor soils and drought. Spring Lupine like Purple flowers give way to blackish, showy seed pods. Flowers, Pods and leaves are all great for flower arrangements through out the season.



Eryngium planum (Sea Holly) – Native to Mediterranean. Perennial. Grow in full sun. A coarse, clump-forming perennial that features a summer bloom of steel-blue, thistle-like flower heads. This is a taprooted plant that transplants poorly and is best left undisturbed once established. Plants will slowly spread in the garden over time. Excellent for cut or dried flower arrangements.

- Amsonia 'Blue Star' – bright blue flowers in nearly spring, yellow feathery show in the fall.
- Betony – Stachys monieri 'Hummelo' – tall pink drum sticks.
- Russian Sage - Perovskia atriplicifolia - 'Denim 'n Lace' or 'Blue Jean Baby'
- Salvia 'May Night' perennial, Salvia 'Black and Blue' annual
- Knock Out Roses - Coral

Resources:

Picture This App. – take a photo of the plant on phone to ID and learn

MissouriBotanicalGarden.org – database of plants

U Mass Agriculture Extension Ag.mass.edu - soil test, info on plants

Tips for Gardeners

- Dig hole twice the size of the pot, fill in bottom with compost, surround crown with compost then top with mulch
- Fertilizer or Plant Food
 - 10-10-10 granular
 - 20-20-20 Jacks All purpose for potted plants
 - 5-3-4 or Bone Meal to flowers
 - Pelletized Lime- Lavender likes sweet soil; add Lime and surround the base with rocks to keep it warm

Fertilizer - What to feed your plants?

10-10-10? 12-55-6?

What exactly do those nutrient ratios mean? The numbers represent the percentage, by weight, of Nitrogen (N^1 – always the first number), Phosphorus (P^2O_5 – always the second number) and Potassium (K^2O – always the third number).

A common way of describing the purpose behind each chemical is to think “up, down, and all around.”

Applying this simple phrase will help you remember that **Nitrogen helps with plant growth above ground**. Nitrogen does a great job of promoting the green, leafy growth of foliage; and it provides the necessary ingredients to produce lush green lawns.

- *Milorganite is a high nitrogen based organic product for lawns*

Phosphorus is very effective at establishing growth below ground, in the form of healthy root systems. It is also the component most responsible for flower blooms and fruit production.

- *To amp up bloom power of your shrubs and perennials, a fertilizer with a higher phosphorus ratio is most appropriate. This is the main reason you often see fertilizer with high phosphorus labeled as a “bloom” fertilizer.*
- *To increase production of your favorite tomatoes, a fertilizer with higher phosphorus and potassium ratios (low on nitrogen) is your best option.*

Potassium is considered important for overall plant health. This is primarily due to its ability to help build strong cells within the plant tissue. Winterizer fertilizers will have a high third number – high component of potassium to help build strength in extreme conditions.

Nitrogen providers:

Organic: Milorganite, Compost, Dried blood, blood meal, cottonseed meal, fish emulsion, and seaweed extract. Products: Milorganite, Garden Tone, Holly Tone.

Phosphorus providers: Bone meal (3-15-0) - Before adding bone meal for plants to your garden, have your soil tested. The effectiveness of bone meal phosphorus drops significantly if the pH of the soil is above 7. If you find that your soil has a pH higher than 7, correct your soil's pH first before adding bone meal,

Products:

- Tomato Tone (3-4-6)
- Compost – Black Gold – organic

General Fertilizers

- Jack's Classic All purpose 20-20-20 - Synthetic - Liquid
Neptunes Harvest. (2-4-1) – organic Liquid - promises to produce blooms that are more fragrant, plentiful, and longer lasting.
- Osmocote (5-4-3)– This is a product with the best formula which is fortified with 11 nutrients.