Whether you are looking to replace a lawn or you have a space in your yard that needs something more than just mulch, groundcovers are a versatile group of low-growing plants that generally don’t require a lot of maintenance and can add to the beauty of your landscape. Here are five of the many options available:
BURGUNDY GLOW BUGLEWEED (Ajuga reptans)
Variegated burgundy leaves with blue flowers throughout the growing season. Blooms are most prolific in the spring, and new leaves are pink in color. Purportedly resistant to deer. Grows in sun and shade, and is tolerant of drought, heat, and poor soil conditions.

KENT BEAUTY OREGANO (Origanum 'Kent Beauty')
A fragrant ornamental oregano with drooping flowers that resemble tiny paper lanterns. Prefers full sun and dry conditions. Can be grown as a groundcover, but also works well in rock gardens or potted plant arrangements. Makes a great dried flower.

**DRAGON'S BLOOD SEDUM (Sedum spurium 'Dragon's Blood')**
Five Great Groundcovers

GREEN AND RED FLESHY FOLIAGE WITH PINK STAR-SHAPED BLOOMS IN THE SUMMER. GROWS BEST IN FULL SUN AND IS TOLERANT OF SALTY SOIL CONDITIONS, BUT NEEDS GOOD DRAINAGE. CAN OCCASIONALLY BE LIGHTLY WALKED ON. LEAVES ARE EDIBLE BUT BITTER. CAN ALSO WORK WELL IN ROCK GARDENS. SOMewhat evergreen.

RED COMPACT MOTHER OF THYME (Thymus serph. 'Coccineum')

A nice compact thyme that creates a thick mat of green. Makes a great lawn substitute and uses less water. Beautiful reddish-pink blooms in late spring. Can be lightly walked on, but careful not to step on bees while flowers are blooming! Prefers full sun.

ROCK SOAPWORT (Saponaria ocymoides)
Covered in pink flowers in late spring/early summer, this fantastic plant brightens up any planting bed or rock garden! Prefers full sun, but can tolerate a little shade. Attracts pollinators and is resistant to deer. Grows in most soil types, but prefers good drainage. Drought tolerant.

Parking Lot Island Conversion

The parking lot at Central Utah Water Conservancy District's headquarter office in Orem has multiple raised islands containing trees that provide much-needed shade to parked vehicles. These islands were planted years before the District moved to this location, and most of them are covered in lawn and watered with overhead sprinklers.

This year, the District began removing the island lawns and replacing them with water-efficient plantings. The sprinklers are being converted to drip irrigation so water goes straight to the plants, and over-spray is avoided.
The simple design along the narrow portion shown in the photo below includes **Overdam Feather Reed Grass** through the center, with **Turkish Veronica** and **Plumbago** on the outer edges.

This conversion project is about half-way done and is scheduled to be completed next year. If you are ever visiting our office, be sure to check out the parking lot islands!
Landscape classes are done for the year, but they will start up again in February and will be posted on our website sometime in January. In the meantime, feel free to review slideshows and handouts from past classes:

[cuwcd.com/classes.html](https://cuwcd.com/classes.html)
Amur Maple
Acer ginnala 'Flame'

If you've been looking for a small tree with vibrant fall color, then this may be the tree for you! Tends to have an irregular, multi-stemmed form that only gets 15-20' tall and wide. Green leaves throughout the summer that turn an astounding fiery red color in the fall! Like many maples, it often has trouble taking up iron from our Utah soils, so be prepared to occasionally add iron chelate to the root zone.

Plant Type: Tree
Mature Size: 15-20' T & W
Sprinkler Shut-Down
Now is the time:

Downloadable Grid Paper
To help you with your project:

Winterizing Instructions

Free Download

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