



The Plants

The North Bed (Waenga Drive side)

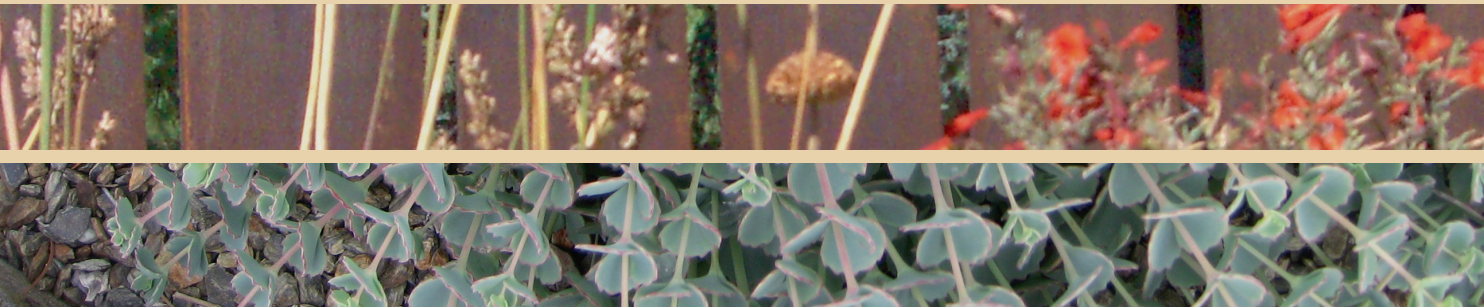
Allium 'Purple Sensation'
Allium 'Purple Haze'
Artemisia 'Powis Castle'
Ballota pseudodictamnus
Bergenia cordifolia
Centranthus ruber 'Snowcloud'
Cistus 'Sunset'
Colchicum 'The Giant'
Dianthus
Eryngium planum
Helianthemum 'Ben Leda'
Helianthemum 'Copper Pin'
Helictotrichon sempervirens
Hemerocallis
Iris 'Cherry Garden'
Kniphofia (large red)
Lavandula 'Hidcote'
Lavandula 'Mrs Thompson'
Marrubium incanum
Miscanthus 'Gracillimus'
Phormium 'Jester'
Rosmarinus 'Miss Jessop's Upright'
Salvia officinalis 'Purpurascens'
Salvia transylvannica
Sedum 'Autumn Joy'
Sedum 'Bertram Anderson'
Sedum 'Matrona'
Sedum 'Munstead Red'
Sedum 'Ruby Glow'

The South Bed (pool and rose bed side)

Agapanthus 'Blue Mountain'
Allium sphaerocephalon
Anthemis punctata var. *cupaniana*
Ballota pseudodictamnus
Centranthus ruber
Convolvulus cneorum
Crocus chrysanthus 'Blue Pearl'
Cupressus sempervirens 'Totem'
Eremurus Shelford hybrid
Euphorbia characias
Euphorbia myrsinites
Gaura lindheimeri
Helictotrichon sempervirens
Hemerocallis 'Stella de Oro'
Iris 'Indian Doll'
Kniphofia (fine orange)
Kniphofia (large orange yellow)
Lavandula 'Alba'
Lavandula 'Grey Hedge'
Lavandula 'Grey Lady'
Miscanthus 'Morning Light'
Narcissus 'Bambi'
Narcissus 'Tete a Tete'
Phlomis fruticosa
Phlomis russeliana
Salvia apiana
Salvia officinalis 'Icterina'
Sedum 'Pink Star'
Sedum 'Stardust'
Stachys byzantina 'Big Ears'
Zauschneria californica

CROMWELL

CENTRAL OTAGO › NEW ZEALAND





Allium 'Purple Haze'

This garden began from an initiative from Otago Polytechnic, supported by the Cromwell Community Board and the Central Otago District Council, to enhance sustainable use of water in local gardens.

The aim of this garden is to illustrate water sensitive design principles, and to present a diversity of plants in a dramatic and sculptural manner, with interest throughout the seasons. Selecting and using plants with low water demands and suited to the site conditions is an essential step towards achieving a waterwise garden, and one of the most important principles of xeriscaping (water conservation gardening or dry gardening). This is so much easier than trying to change the conditions to suit the plants.

Cromwell's climate is extreme. While the historical average annual rainfall is 406mm, there may be as little as 270mm of rain in a dry year.

Dry winds exacerbate this low rainfall and damage plants unsuited to wind. Summer temperatures soar to the mid thirties, and winter minimums can reach -15 degrees Celcius. In addition to a challenging growing climate, soils are light with low water holding capacity and extremely good drainage.

Clearly many native species from the local region are adapted to these conditions, but selecting plants from other parts of the world with similar climates and growing conditions to Central Otago can also enhance gardens and provide wonderful seasonal displays.

In the two beds with the sculptural metal panels, plants from other countries have been chosen to survive minimal watering and Cromwell's, hot dry summers and winter cold. The beds were irrigated for 2-3 months in the early summer of 2008 to aid establishment after planting. Spring and autumn flowering bulbs, sedums, salvias, cistus, irises, lavenders, rosemaries, euphorbias and grasses provide a blaze of colours from purples, cerise, pinks, reds through to orange and silvers.

The schist chip mulch is an important part of the garden, reducing the loss of moisture from the soil, suppressing weeds, and preventing formation of a dry crust on the soil which causes water to run off. The schist also offers warm tones and contrast.

Rich with texture, lively with colour, sturdy with structure this kind of dry garden is a natural for Central Otago.

Where can I get these plants from?

Many of the plants seen in the garden are available to purchase from:

Central Campus Student Plant Nursery
Otago Polytechnic,
cnr. Ray and Erris Sts, Cromwell
By appointment with Jo Wakelin (03) 445 9900



Sedum 'Matrona'

Acknowledgments:

These beds have been designed and established by a team consisting of Jo Wakelin, (Central Campus) Karen Rhind and Tony Bird.

Site preparation and planting was done by the Horticulture students. Stonemasonry students from the Central Campus assisted with the installation of the metal panels, which were designed by Karen Rhind and Tony Bird.

We are grateful for assistance from the Central Otago District Council, the Cromwell Community Board and Fulton Hogan. For further information on waterwise gardening in Central Otago, please contact Jo Wakelin, Central Campus, Otago Polytechnic on (03) 445 9900