

HPEC NATIVE PLANT NURSERY

2025 CATALOG



Place orders online at Suburbitat.org

Online ordering opens April 1st & first pick up day will be April 12th

All plants come in 2 3/8" x 5" pots unless otherwise noted



Special releases, new stock, restocks, and pop-up sales will be announced throughout the year!

Below are the species anticipated for availability in the 2025 season!

Western Yarrow

Achillea millefolium

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 18 in Width: 18 in

Bloom Color: white

Bloom Time: June-August

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low to moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 4,800-13,000 ft

Native Range: prevalent throughout much of the northern hemisphere and introduced many places in the southern hemisphere, including Australia and New Zealand

Habitat: Gravelly soil on slopes, meadows, and roadsides

Ethnobotany: medicinal and ceremonial use

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: attracts beneficial insects such as parasitic wasps; provides nectar and pollen for butterflies, wasps, flies, bees

Grower's Notes: Has a pleasant fragrance. Plants spread by rhizomes.

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Bob Miller

Sand Ricegrass

Achnatherum hymenoides

Synonyms: *Eriocoma hymenoides*, *Eriocoma cuspidata*, *Oryzopsis hymenoides*, *Stipa hymenoides*

Initial Note:

Height: 2 ft Width: 1 ft

Bloom Color: pale yellow, pale green

Bloom Time: May-July

Growth Form: cool season bunchgrass

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance:

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 3,400-10,000 ft

Native Range: prevalent throughout western North America

Habitat: Sandy grasslands to pinyon-juniper woodlands

Ethnobotany: Ground for flour by Montana Indians, Navajo, Hopi, Apache, Paiute, and others; used to make early Navajo clothing and bedding

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: seeds consumed by birds and small mammals; host for skipper butterflies

Grower's Notes: self seeds, especially in sandy locations

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo by Leah Gardner

Anise Hyssop

Agastache foeniculum

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 4 ft Width: 3 ft

Bloom Color: lavender, purple

Bloom Time: July - September

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low to moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 6,500-8,000 ft

Native Range: north-central and northern North American Great Plains and prairies.

Habitat: open grasslands

Ethnobotany: medicinal use

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S2 (imperiled) in Colorado and Wyoming, S2 (critically imperiled) in Nebraska and Iowa

Ecological Value: high nectar source for bumblebees, butterflies, and hummingbirds

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Logan J.L. Bradley

Sunset Hyssop

Agastache rupestris

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 24 in Width: 20 in

Bloom Color: orange

Bloom Time: mid-summer to fall

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low, xeric

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: native to the mountains of Arizona, New Mexico, and Chihuahua, Mexico

Habitat: dry nutrient poor soil

Ethnobotany: medicinal use

Conservation Status: G2 (globally imperiled); S2 (Imperiled) in AZ, S3 (Vulnerable) in NM

Ecological Value: beneficial to hummingbirds

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo credit to Western New Mexico University

Nodding Onion

Allium cernuum

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 1 ft Width: 6 in

Bloom Color: white, pink

Bloom Time: May - August

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial from bulbs

Water Requirements: low to moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: Medium

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 5,500 - 11,000 ft

Native Range: intermittently distributed across most of North America

Habitat: dry forests and meadows

Ethnobotany: Bulbs eaten

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally secure)

Ecological Value: nectar source to many native bees: bumble bees, anthophoridae (digger) bees, and halictid bees. Butterflies will also nectar on *Allium*

Grower's Notes: Great emergent option for a matrix planting. Pair with grasses.

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY John Haskins

Jones' Blue Star

Amsonia jonesii

Synonyms: Colorado Desert Blue Star

Initial Note:

Height: up to 3 ft, often shorter Width:

Bloom Color: Blue

Bloom Time: April to May

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah

Habitat: Sandy sagebrush deserts and pinyon-juniper woodlands

Ethnobotany: medicinal use

Conservation Status: G3 (Globally Vulnerable); S2 (Imperiled) in Colorado and Arizona, S3 (Vulnerable) in Utah

Ecological Value: Beneficial to native bees

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Shalana Gray

Pearly Everlasting

Anaphalis margaritacea

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 2 ft Width: 1 ft

Bloom Color: white

Bloom Time: July - September

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low to moderate - xeric

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 7,800 - 11,500 ft

Native Range: Native to North America and Asia

Habitat: mountain meadows and forest openings, montane to subalpine

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: host to the caterpillars of the American painted lady butterfly (*Vanessa virginiensis*) and the painted lady butterfly (*Vanessa cardui*)

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts: Male and female flowers are separate, often on separate plants, and have slightly different shades of yellow!

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Anders Hastings

Big Bluestem

Andropogon gerardi

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: up to 7 ft Width:

Bloom Color: green, yellow

Bloom Time: July - September

Growth Form: warm season grass

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low to moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part sun

Drought Tolerance: High once established

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 3400 - 6800 ft

Native Range: central to eastern North America

Habitat: grassland

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: host to species of butterflies including the Arogos skipper, Byssus skipper, Cobweb skipper, Common wood nymph, Delaware skipper, and Dusted skipper / provides habitat for insects, small mammals, and birds

Grower's Notes: autumn/winter interest with golden to wine color foliage late in the year

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo by Stephen Hornbeck

Sand Bluestem

Andropogon hallii

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: up to 7 ft Width:

Bloom Color: green, yellow

Bloom Time: July - September

Growth Form: warm season grass

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Short grass prairie belt of North America. Manitoba south to Mexico. can be found as far east as the Mississippi River.

Habitat: sand prairie, grasslands, dunes

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: host to species of butterflies including the skippers / provides habitat for insects, small mammals, and birds

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photos by Stephen Hornbeck

Meadow Windflower

Anemone canadensis

Synonyms: Anemonastrum canadense, Canadian Anemone, Round-leaf Thimbleweed, Canada Anemone, Windflower, Meadow Anemone

Initial Note:

Height: up to 12 in Width: spreading

Bloom Color: White

Bloom Time: May - June

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: moderate

Exposure Requirements: part shade

Drought Tolerance: Medium

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 5,000 - 9,600 ft

Native Range: Primarily in the US Northeast and northern Midwest with a disjunct population along the Front Range in Colorado and south into New Mexico

Habitat: river margins, flood plains, mesic meadows

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure) S2 (Critically Imperiled in Wyoming)

Ecological Value: Early nectar forage, beneficial to a variety of pollinators, particularly bees

Grower's Notes: Can form a groundcover. Plants spread rhizomatously and roots can be divided in the fall

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY My-Lan Le

Cut-leaf Windflower

Anemone multifida

Synonyms: Pacific Anemone, Red Windflower, Early Thimbleweed, Cut-leaf

Anemone

Initial Note:

Height: up to 2 ft Width: spreading

Bloom Color: white

Bloom Time: June - August

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low to moderate, well draining

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part sun

Drought Tolerance: Medium

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 6,500 - 14,000 ft

Native Range: cool, mountainous to boreal regions of western to central North America

Habitat: Alpine calcareous ledges, rocky or gravelly soils around water ways, aspen/coniferous forest openings

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Flowers visited by bees

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Cheryl McCleary-Catalano

Field Pussytoes

Antennaria neglecta

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: ground cover, blooms to 6 in Width:

Bloom Color: white, pink

Bloom Time: May - July

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low to moderate, well draining

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part sun

Drought Tolerance:

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Western and central North America to Canada

Habitat: Open meadows and rocky slopes

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S1 (Critically Imperiled) in Wyoming, no status rank in neighboring states

Ecological Value: host for the American Painted Lady (*Vanessa virginensis*)

Grower's Notes: Parts of the plant are unpalatable, so deer and rabbits avoid them.

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Raesha Svatora

Small-leaf Pussytoes

Antennaria parvifolia

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: ground cover, blooms to 6 in Width:

Bloom Color: white, pink

Bloom Time: May - July

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low to moderate, well draining

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Western and central North America to Canada

Habitat: Open meadows and rocky slopes

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: host for the American Painted Lady (*Vanessa virginensis*)

Grower's Notes: Great in edge planting or creeping in rock gardens

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Rebecca Gimenez Husted

Yellow Columbine

Aquilegia chrysantha

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 30 in Width: 18 in

Bloom Color: yellow

Bloom Time: June - July

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low - moderate

Exposure Requirements: part shade

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 5,400 - 7,000 ft

Native Range: US Southwest and northern Mexico. In Colorado, only found in El Paso and Fremont County

Habitat: moist gulches and ravines, often near waterfalls

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: S1 (Critically Imperiled in CO and UT) S3 (Vulnerable in AZ and NM)

Ecological Value: nectar and pollen for bees and butterflies

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Sue Carnahan

Rocky Mtn Columbine

Aquilegia coerulea

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 20 in Width: 18 in

Bloom Color: blue, white center

Bloom Time: June - August

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: moderate well draining

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 5,500 - 13,500 ft

Native Range: Colorado, south eastern Idaho, southern Montana, Wyoming, northern New Mexico, and Utah

Habitat: moist woods and open mountain meadows

Ethnobotany: seeds crushed for perfume

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure) S4 (Apparently Secure) in Colorado

Ecological Value: beneficial to hummingbirds and pollen gathering bees

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Mason Holum

Western Red Columbine

Aquilegia elegantula

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: up to 2 ft Width: up to ~1.5 ft

Bloom Color: pink, red, yellow

Bloom Time: April to July

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: moderate to high

Exposure Requirements: part shade

Drought Tolerance: Low

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 4,900- 11,500 ft

Native Range: Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, and Arizona

Habitat: open coniferous woodland, gritty but rich soil

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Red-flowering columbines are an early spring nectar source for hummingbirds. Pollinated by the broad-tailed hummingbird, (*Selasphorus platycircus*)

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY iNaturalist user threeagoutdoors

Utah Columbine

Aquilegia scopulorum

Synonyms: Rock Columbine

Initial Note:

Height: .8 in Width: 12 in

Bloom Color: blue, white center

Bloom Time: Spring to summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low to moderate-low in well draining soil

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: Moderate

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 6,500 - 11,500 ft

Native Range: Utah and Nevada

Habitat: Limestone scree on subalpine slopes

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: Nevada: S2 (Imperiled), Utah: S3 (vulnerable)

Ecological Value: beneficial to hummingbirds and pollen gathering bees

Grower's Notes: Give ample drainage to these, but water intermittently to establish. They do well in gravelly soils or crevice garden settings. Being so low in habit, make sure they are not going to be overcrowded by larger plants!

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo by Leo Harden

Crested Pricklypoppy

Argemone polyanthemus

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 1-3 ft Width:

Bloom Color: White, Yellow Center

Bloom Time: Sporadic - April to October

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: annual/biennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: Prairie to Foothills

Native Range: Northern Texas and new Mexico north to South Dakota

Habitat: Prairie, plains, meadows, pastures, savannahs

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G4 (Apparently Secure)

Ecological Value: Nectar-Bees, Nectar-Butterflies, Nectar-beetles

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Ashwin Srinivasan

Sandhill Sagebrush

Artemisia filifolia

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 3 - 6 ft Width: 3 - 6 ft

Bloom Color: Yellow; flowers inconspicuous

Bloom Time: Summer to fall

Growth Form: Shrub

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: Xeric, grows in dry, sandy soil

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 2,000 to 6,000 ft

Native Range: South Dakota south to Texas and into Mexico, west to Nevada

Habitat: Deep sandy hills in grasslands; dominant plant of sand hills and sagebrush communities in eastern Colorado. The Colorado Native Plant Society describes the eastern Colorado habitat and associated species: <http://conps.org/project/great-plains-sandhill-gra>

Ethnobotany: Artemisia species have been used medicinally all over the world.

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S1 (Critically Imperiled) in Nevada, S3 (Vulnerable) in Wyoming, S5 (Secure) in Kansas, no status rank in other states

Ecological Value: Provides nesting material/structure for native bees; seeds provide food for birds

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo by Stephen Hornbeck

Fringed Sage

Artemisia frigida

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 0.5-3 ft Width: 2 ft

Bloom Color: Yellow

Bloom Time: June-Aug

Growth Form: subshrub

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 4,000-10,000

Native Range: Rocky Mountains, Great Plains, eastern Europe, Asian plains and mountain ranges

Habitat: Prairies/high plains, high elevation forests

Ethnobotany: Artemisia species have been used medicinally all over the world.

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Winter elk, deer forage

Grower's Notes: Beautiful, "soft" color and texture. Great option for contrasting with brighter "sharper" species in the dry garden.

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Ashwin Srinivasan

Prarie Sage

Artemisia ludoviciana

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 18 in Width: 18 in

Bloom Color: green, yellow

Bloom Time: Late summer to early fall

Growth Form: Herbaceous, suckers

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part sun

Drought Tolerance:

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Lower 48, Mexico, and Southern Canada

Habitat: Grasslands, foothills, montane forests

Ethnobotany: Artemisia species have been used medicinally all over the world.

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: provides nesting materials, structure for native bees, seeds for birds

Grower's Notes: Suitable for container garden

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo by Stephen Hornbeck

Big Mountain Sagebrush

Artemisia tridentata

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: Variable! Can grow as large as 10ft tall, to a dwarfed 1 ft specimen in xeric or grazed Width:

Bloom Color: discreet yellow flowers

Bloom Time: June-Aug

Growth Form: shrub

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Western North America

Habitat: Prairies/high plains, open forests

Ethnobotany: It is said by Navajo that a combination of sagebrush scents cures headaches. This plant is also used in dyes.

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Winter forage

Grower's Notes: Can be pruned to maintain a dense and/or low bush. Can live to 100+ years. Sweet sage odor, especially when wet or early in the morning due to terpenoids

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo by Stephen Hornbeck

Rose / Swamp Milkweed

Asclepias incarnata

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note: Plant after risk of frost. Milkweed sap contains cardenolides, which act to stop the heart, making the plant poisonous; the Monarch consumes the plant and uses the toxin to avoid predation. Some birds have adapted to be resistant to cardenolides as a result

Height: 1.5-5 ft Width: 2.5 ft

Bloom Color: Pink, purple

Bloom Time: July-Sept

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low to high

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: Moderate

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 3,400-5,500 ft

Native Range: Eastern US and Midwest, limited presence from Front Range through Northwest

Habitat: Ditches, streams, marshes; early successional, growing on margins

Ethnobotany: Fibers used to make fishnets

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Monarch caterpillar host, nectar forage, toxic

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Jim Hudgins/USFWS

Showy Milkweed

Asclepias speciosa

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note: Plant after risk of frost. Milkweed sap contains cardenolides, which act to stop the heart, making the plant poisonous; the Monarch consumes the plant and uses the toxin to avoid predation. Some birds have adapted to be resistant to cardenolides as a result

Height: 1.5-4 ft Width: 2.5 ft

Bloom Color: Pink, purple, green

Bloom Time: June-Aug

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: Low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 3,400-8,600 ft

Native Range: Western US, Great Plains to West Coast

Habitat: Roadsides, ditches, fields, streams

Ethnobotany: The Zuni people spin seed fibers into yarn

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Nectar forage, Host plant for the Monarch butterfly

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Anders Hastings

Horsetail Milkweed

Asclepias subverticillata

Synonyms: Whorled Milkweed (also refers to *A. verticillata*)

Initial Note: Plant after risk of frost. Milkweed sap contains cardenolides, which act to stop the heart, making the plant poisonous; the Monarch consumes the plant and uses the toxin to avoid predation. Some birds have adapted to be resistant to cardenolides as a result.

Height: 1-2.5 ft Width: 2 ft (colony forming)

Bloom Color: White

Bloom Time: June-Aug

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: Low - Xeric

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 3,400-8,600 ft

Native Range: Southwest US/North Mexico

Habitat: Ditches, streams, open sagebrush communities

Ethnobotany: Milkweed fibers traditionally used for yarn

Conservation Status: G4 (Apparently secure)

Ecological Value: Nectar forage for many invertebrates, beneficial to native parasitoid wasps (which host on aphids), host plant for Monarch Butterfly larva.

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Dominic Gentilcore

Butterfly Milkweed

Asclepias tuberosa

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note: Plant after risk of frost. Milkweed sap contains cardenolides, which act to stop the heart, making the plant poisonous; the Monarch consumes the plant and uses the toxin to avoid predation. Some birds have adapted to be resistant to cardenolides as a result.

Height: 0.5-1.5 ft Width:

Bloom Color: Orange, yellow

Bloom Time: June-Aug

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: Medium

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 5,000-7,000 ft

Native Range: Eastern US, limited presence in Front Range and southeast US

Habitat: Plains and open woodlands

Ethnobotany: Milkweed fibers traditionally used for yarn

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Nectar forage for butterflies and bees, Monarch caterpillar host

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo by Aaron Gunnar

Foothill Milkvetch

Astragalus tridactylus

Synonyms: *Astragalus sericoleucus* var. *tridactylus*, *Orophaca tridactylus*

Initial Note:

Height: up to 4 in Width: mat forming

Bloom Color: Lavender, pink

Bloom Time: Apr - May

Growth Form: woody, mat former

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low to moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 4900 - 3700 ft

Native Range: Northern front range of Colorado into Wyoming

Habitat: Rocky outcroppings, bluffs, open hillsides

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G4 (Apparently Secure); G2 (Imperiled) in Wyoming, G3 (Vulnerable) in Colorado

Ecological Value: Native pollinators, especially moths

Grower's Notes: Great for the xeriscape or rockgarden

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo by Stephen Hornbeck

Fourwing Saltbush

Atriplex canescens

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: to 4 ft Width:

Bloom Color: discreet spring flowers give way to distinct winged seeds

Bloom Time: spring

Growth Form: Shrub

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: xeric

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Mexico to the American West

Habitat: Sagebrush, talus slopes, sand dunes

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Cover/shelter for small animals, forage

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photos CC BY Steve Matson

Blue False Indigo

Baptisia australis

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 3.5 ft Width: 3.5 ft

Bloom Color: indigo blue, purple

Bloom Time: Spring to summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: Perennial

Water Requirements: low to moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: Medium

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Eastern US to Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota

Habitat: Open prairie to woodland edge

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G3 (Globally Vulnerable); S2 (Imperiled) in Texas, S1 (Critically Imperiled) in multiple other states in the eastern half of the country

Ecological Value: Very attractive to Bumblebees

Grower's Notes: Resistant to Rabbits; tolerates dry, rocky, clay soils. A great alternative option if you find that Lupine do not thrive in your plantings due to moisture or shade.

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Aaron Gunnar

Chocolate Flower

Berlandiera lyrata

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 20 in Width: 20 in

Bloom Color: Yellow

Bloom Time: Summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low to moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: Yes

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Arkansas and Mexico

Habitat: Grasslands and rocky soils Notes- Very fragrant

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S1 (Critically Imperiled) in Kansas, S2 (Imperiled) in Colorado

Ecological Value: Rich nectar producer

Grower's Notes: Very fragrant

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Liz Makings

Side Oats Grama

Bouteloua curtipendula

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 24 in Width: 12 in

Bloom Color: bluish-green foliage

Bloom Time: Summer

Growth Form: Bunchgrass

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: From most of Mexico north through the plains of central US and into Canada, scattered presence in much of eastern US and west to Montana and southwestern US

Habitat: Grasslands and foothills

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Seeds for birds; host for skipper larvae, host for Satyr and Skipper butterflies

Grower's Notes: Tolerant of drought, heat, and salts. Great near streets and sidewalks

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photos CC BY Stephen Hornbeck (landscape), Alaina Krakowiak (closeup)

Blue Grama Grass (come in 5-inch deep pots or 50 count plugs)

Bouteloua gracilis

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 2 ft Width: 1.5 ft

Bloom Color: Blue-green grass. Seed heads begin a dark purple and then fade to blonde and curl with maturity

Bloom Time: Summer

Growth Form: bunchgrass

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low, very drought tolerant

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Grasslands from Alberta to Mexico and most of the Central US. The most widely distributed Grama grass.

Habitat: Grasslands and foothills

Ethnobotany: medicinal use

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Blue Grama accounts for the most of the Net Primary Productivity in the Shortgrass Prairie. Seeds are eaten by birds and small mammals; host plant for many satyr and skipper butterflies.

Grower's Notes: Great for fall and winter interest.

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Patrick Alexander

Buffalograss (50 count plugs)

Buchloe dactyloides

Synonyms: Now *Bouteloua dactyloides*

Initial Note:

Height: 4-8 in Width: 12 in/year

Bloom Color:

Bloom Time:

Growth Form: turf- or sod-forming grass

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance:

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 3400-5200 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: From Nevada to Illinois, south to Texas, north into Canada

Habitat: shortgrass prairie and foothills (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S1 (Critically Imperiled) in Utah, Arizona, S4 (Apparently Secure) in Wyoming and Montana, no status rank in Colorado and other neighboring states

Ecological Value: good grazing forage; cures well, very palatable, both seeds and foliage utilized; wind pollinated; grasses are host plants for many satyr and skipper butterflies.

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photos by Stephen Hornbeck

Poppy Mallow

Callirhoe involucrata

Synonyms: Winecup Mallow, Purple Poppy-Mallow

Initial Note:

Height: 6-12 in Width: 3 ft, spreading

Bloom Color: Pink, magenta

Bloom Time: Summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: high

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Primarily in a wide band from Texas to Nebraska; west to New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming; east to Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa; considered an introduced species farther east

Habitat: open woods, rocky hills in shrublands

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: nectar for bees and other pollinators, larval host for Grey Hairstreak butterfly

Grower's Notes: Suitable for container gardens

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Stan Shebs

Harebell

Campanula rotundifolia

Synonyms: Now *Campanula petiolata*

Initial Note:

Height: 18 in Width: 12 in

Bloom Color: blue

Bloom Time: June to September

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: medium-high

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Mountain ranges from central Mexico north to Canada, west to Arizona and east to Colorado, Nebraska, Dakotas

Habitat: Meadows and rocky outcroppings

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Visited by small pollen collecting bees

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Abra Zobel

Wholeleaf Paintbrush

Castilleja integra

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 6-18 in tall Width:

Bloom Color: Red-yellow calyx surrounds light green floral tube

Bloom Time: Spring to early summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Colorado, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, West Texas

Habitat: Arid plains and canyonlands

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G4 (Apparently Secure)

Ecological Value: *Castilleja* species have been correlated with sites of higher biodiversity in plant communities, likely by "dampening" the vigor of dominant species

Grower's Notes: Paintbrushes are considered "hemiparasites" and utilize other plants as hosts. Each of our plants will be co-planted with a required host plant.

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo licensed to public domain (CC0)

Narrow Leaved Paintbrush

Castilleja linariifolia

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: up to 2 ft Width: up to 2 ft

Bloom Color: Red-yellow calyx surrounds light green floral tube

Bloom Time: Summer to fall

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: high

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: California west to New Mexico, north into Montana, Idaho, Oregon

Habitat: Rocky slopes and plains. Associated with sagebrush scrub and pinyon juniper woodland

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S3 (Vulnerable) in Montana due to edge of range

Ecological Value: Castilleja species have been correlated with sites of higher biodiversity in plant communities, likely by "dampening" the vigor of dominant species

Grower's Notes: Paintbrushes are considered "hemiparasites" and utilize other plants as hosts. Each of our plants will be co-planted with a required host plant.

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



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Prairie Redroot

Ceanothus herbaceus

Synonyms: Narrow-leaved New Jersey Tea, Prairie Redroot, Ceanothus ovatus, Inland Ceanothus, Smaller Redroot, Small Redroot, Fuzzy Ceanothus, Jersey Tea, Redroot

Initial Note:

Height: 2-3 ft Width:

Bloom Color: White

Bloom Time: March - July

Growth Form: deciduous shrub

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Front range of Colorado and eastward

Habitat: Rocky, open woods, prairies, limestone

Ethnobotany: Medicinal use by Ojibwe and Brule Lakota; flowers can also be used to produce soap

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S1 (Critically Imperiled) in Wyoming, S3 (Vulnerable) in Colorado, S4 (Apparently Secure) in Kansas, SH (Possibly Extirpated) in Montana, no status rank in other western states (also critically imperiled in several more eastern ones)

Ecological Value: Nectar source for native pollinators; host plant for the Mottled Duskywing *Erynnis martialis*

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photos CC BY Jared Shorma

Alderleaf Mountain Mahogany

Cercocarpus montanus

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: Typically remains under 3 ft, but can slowly grow large if untrimmed over a very long period Width:

Bloom Color: Discreet blooms followed by silver, feather-like seedset

Bloom Time: July - August

Growth Form: shrub

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: xeric once established

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance:

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Rocky Mountain West, south to the Sonoran desert

Habitat: shrubland, foothills

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S1 (Critically Imperiled) in Oklahoma, S3 (Vulnerable) in Montana, Idaho, Nevada, no status rank in Colorado

Ecological Value:

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Stephen Hornbeck

Fern Bush

Chamaebatiaria millefolium

Synonyms: Desert Sweet

Initial Note:

Height: up to 5 ft Width: up to 5 ft

Bloom Color: white

Bloom Time: July - August

Growth Form: shrub

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: xeric to moderate once established

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance:

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Intermountain West

Habitat: scrub, woodland, and forests

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status:

Ecological Value: Nectar forage for many bees, butterflies and beneficial predatory insects

Grower's Notes: Foliage is aromatic

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Robert Guralnick

Fireweed

Chamaenerion angustifolium

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 3.5-6.5 ft Width:

Bloom Color: Pink

Bloom Time: July-Sept

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: Low

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 5,300-12,500 ft

Native Range: Western and northern North America, western Europe to south Russia/Mongolia

Habitat: Forests, meadows, riparian, disturbed areas

Ethnobotany: Medicinal use by First Nations in Canada

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S3 (Vulnerable) in Nebraska

Ecological Value: Nectar forage

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY John Rosford

Sugarbowl Clematis

Clematis hirsutissima

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note: This plant grows slowly. All stock is 2nd season. More plants may be added as they rise from winter dormancy

Height: 2ft Width: 2 ft

Bloom Color: Dark Blue Purple

Bloom Time: Spring to summer

Growth Form: Herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: part sun

Drought Tolerance: Medium

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Intermountain US. From Washington/Montana South to Arizona/New Mexico

Habitat: Grasslands, Sagebrush, Open ponderosa forest

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G4 (Apparently Secure)

Ecological Value:

Grower's Notes: These plants were collected from seed across a range of 6,200 - 8,000ft growing in edge habitat; occurring in grassland edges sheltered slightly by Mountain Mahogany and Ponderosa. I have found they respond well to planting in a well draining soil amended

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photos by Stephen Hornbeck

Lanceleaved Coreopsis

Coreopsis lanceolata

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 2 ft Width: 1.5 ft

Bloom Color: Yellow

Bloom Time: Late spring to early summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: No

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Texas, Kansas, Nebraska, Dakotas and eastward

Habitat: Grasslands, sagebrush/mahogany scrub

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S1 (Critically Imperiled) in Wyoming and S2 (Imperiled) in Kansas, but NatureServe marks as exotic (introduced) in Colorado

Ecological Value: nectar and pollen for insects

Grower's Notes: Very friendly plant to new gardeners or hands off plantings. Very tough once established in the dry planting, but just as content in a rain garden. Adaptable!

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Stephen Hornbeck

Plains Coreopsis

Coreopsis tinctoria

Synonyms: Plains Coreopsis, Golden Tickseed, Goldenwave, Calliopsis

Initial Note:

Height: 2-4 ft Width: 1.5 ft

Bloom Color: Yellow, Red Center

Bloom Time: Mostly June to August; can flower year-round as conditions suitable

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: annual to short-lived perennial

Water Requirements: low to moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: Medium

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Great Plains to Montana and Pacific Northwest

Habitat: Wildflower meadows in moist years

Ethnobotany: Medicinal use, source of yellow and red dyes

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S2 (Imperiled) in Wyoming, no status rank in Colorado and other nearby states

Ecological Value: Native Pollinators, especially Butterflies

Grower's Notes: Deer Resistant; Tolerates Dry, Rocky, & Clay Soils

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Melissa McMasters

White Prairie Clover

Dalea candida

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 2 ft Width: 1.5 ft

Bloom Color: White

Bloom Time: Spring to summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Central North America, from Utah in the west to Kentucky and Tennessee in the east

Habitat: Dry prairies and rocky upland woods, often in clumps

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Larval host for clouded sulphur, marine blue, Reakirt's blue, and southern dogface; one of the most important nitrogen fixers in upland grasslands; valuable as forage for grazing animals

Grower's Notes: Drought Tolerant

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo courtesy of USDA NRCS

Sandsage Prairie Clover

Dalea cylindriceps

Synonyms: Andean Prairie Clover, Largespike Prairie Clover, Rabbit-foot Dalea

Initial Note:

Height: 2 ft Width: 1.5 ft

Bloom Color: long silvery spikes produce tiny pale flowers

Bloom Time: Spring to summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: short-lived perennial in the wild; may live longer in a stable habitat

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: South Dakota to Texas, wide ranged but uncommon

Habitat: High prairie, sand sage communities, dunes

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G3 (Globally Vulnerable); S1 (Critically Imperiled) in Oklahoma, S2 (Imperiled) in Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas, Texas, SH (Possibly Extirpated) in South Dakota

Ecological Value: Likely nectar and pollen for pollinators; other Dalea species are larval hosts for small butterflies, but less is known about this species.

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org; for this species, also <https://www.lauritzengardens.org/wfData/files/SandsageBUL2017Report.pdf>



Photo by Marion McGlohon

Purple Prairie Clover

Dalea purpurea

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 24 in Width: 18 in

Bloom Color: Purple

Bloom Time: summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: high

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: From Michigan south to Alabama, west to New Mexico, north to Montana and into Canada

Habitat: Occurs in most Prairie ecosystems as well as open pinon-juniper forests, oak scrub, and shrubland/steppe

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Late season nectar and pollen for bees and butterflies.

Fixes nitrogen into the soil, improves soil fertility

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo by Mitch Van Dyke

Narrowleaf Coneflower

Echinacea angustifolia

Synonyms: Narrowleaf Purple Coneflower

Initial Note:

Height: 2 ft Width: 1 ft

Bloom Color: Pink, purple

Bloom Time: Summer (Usu. June - July in Colorado)

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low, drought tolerant

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Shortgrass prairie region, central Texas north to Montana, Dakotas, Minnesota, and into Canada

Habitat: Woodland openings and grasslands

Ethnobotany: Medicinal use

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S2 (Imperiled) in Colorado, S3 (Vulnerable) in Wyoming

Ecological Value: Special value to native bees, beneficial to butterflies

Grower's Notes: This Coneflower is far better suited to the arid shortgrass prairie than its more Easterly sister *Echinacea purpurea*. *E. angustifolia* also lives far longer under much harsher conditions and maintains a much more dense, tight form.

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



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Purple Coneflower

Echinacea purpurea

Synonyms: Eastern Purple Coneflower

Initial Note:

Height: 48 in Width: 24 in

Bloom Color: purple, pink

Bloom Time:

Growth Form:

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low to moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: From central Texas north to North Dakota, and eastward; considered to be introduced in western US and the northeast starting from the Virginias and Pennsylvania.

Habitat: Prairies and open woodlands

Ethnobotany: Medicinal use

Conservation Status: G4 (Apparently Secure); S1 (Critically Imperiled) in Kansas, but considered exotic in Colorado

Ecological Value: beneficial to birds, butterflies

Grower's Notes: Tolerant of deer, drought, clay soil, dry soil, shallow-rocky soil

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Evan Grimes

Bottlebrush Squirreltail

Elymus elymoides

Synonyms: Squirreltail, Bottlebrush

Initial Note:

Height: 1.5 ft erect bunch Width:

Bloom Color: Early season inflorescence is reddish in color, which opens and changes to a tan bottlebrush later in the season

Bloom Time: Summer

Growth Form: cool-season bunch grass

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low, very drought tolerant

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 4,000 to 10,500 ft

Native Range: Grasslands from Alberta to Mexico and most of the Western US.

Habitat: dry prairies and meadows

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Great forage for prairie species, occupies disturbed sites

Grower's Notes: An ideal option for large, dryland restoration projects and plantings, this grass is known to compete with the invasive Cheatgrass. It is also fire resistant, burning briefly and at low intensity if the area burns. Because the awns can be sharp, give this

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo by Michael Warner

Sand Lovegrass

Eragrostis trichodes

Synonyms: *Eragrostis pilifera*, *Eragrostis trichodes* var. *pilifera*, *Poa trichodes*

Initial Note:

Height: 2.5 ft Width: 2.5 ft Bunching habit

Bloom Color: haze of red, purple

Bloom Time: Late summer to early fall

Growth Form: bunchgrass

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance:

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 3,400-7,000 ft

Native Range: Primarily shortgrass prairie region. Southern Rocky Mountains to Texas/New Mexico and East to Ohio

Habitat: Sand prairie, dry slopes, grasslands

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Forage for grazing mammals. Seed forage for granivorous birds. Nesting material and cover.

Grower's Notes: Useful for revegetation and erosion control in disturbed habitat as well as a showy autumn grass in xeric plantings

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo by Austin Saunders

Ballhead Sandwort

Eremogone congesta

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 1 ft Width: 1 ft tuft of grasslike stems

Bloom Color: Dense white clusters

Bloom Time: Spring to summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Primarily from Front Range of Colorado west to California and north into Canada

Habitat: Foothill to subalpine openings

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Native Pollinators

Grower's Notes: Plant is considered polymorphic, varying in appearance.

Some suspect that there are up to 9 subspecies.

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY SA Stan Shebs

Dwarf Rabbitbrush

Ericameria nauseosa var. *nauseosa*

Synonyms: *Chrysothamnus nauseosus*

Initial Note:

Height: to 2 ft Width:

Bloom Color: yellow

Bloom Time: Summer

Growth Form: Sub-shrub

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: North American West

Habitat: Dry sandy to rocky open spaces

Ethnobotany: Medicinal and ceremonial use by Navajo

Conservation Status: Species ranked G5 (Globally Secure); variety unranked

Ecological Value: Important late season nectar source. Visited by a very diverse suite of insects

Grower's Notes: This is a great option for plantings without the space for the full sized rabbitbrush. The foliage is dense and blue-green

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo from High Plains Environmental Center gardens

Fernleaf Fleabane

Erigeron compositus

Synonyms: Dwarf Mountain Fleabane

Initial Note:

Height: 6 in Width: 4 inches, very small mound former

Bloom Color: White, Yellow Center

Bloom Time: Early Spring to Summer

Growth Form: evergreen

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part sun

Drought Tolerance:

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Western North America, primarily north of about the southern edge of Utah and Colorado

Habitat: Foothills and montane rocky outcrops in grassland and open woodlands

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Early nectar forage, beneficial to a variety of pollinators

Grower's Notes: Supports Biological Control (beneficial to beneficial parasitic insects that prey upon insect pests). A great addition to a xeric garden or crevice garden. Self seeds around openings, but is too small to become aggressive. A great plant for getting more e

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo by Stephen Hornbeck

Vernal Daisy / Low Fleabane

Erigeron pumilus

Synonyms: Shaggy Fleabane

Initial Note:

Height: 12 in Width: 8 in

Bloom Color: White daisy head

Bloom Time: Spring to summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: Med-high

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: In the west primarily north and west of western Kansas, into Canada

Habitat: dry prairies to sagebrush communities

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Nectar and pollen for small generalist pollinators

Grower's Notes: Great for the rock garden

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo by Matt Lavin

Showy Fleabane

Erigeron speciosus

Synonyms: Aspen Fleabane

Initial Note:

Height: 18 in Width: 12 in

Bloom Color: Blue daisy, yellow center

Bloom Time: Early to Mid-Summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance:

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Mexico, Arizona and New Mexico north to South Dakota, Montana, Washington, into Canada

Habitat: open woods

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: No status rank globally; S4 (Apparently Secure) in Wyoming, no status rank in Colorado

Ecological Value: Nectar and pollen for small generalist pollinators

Grower's Notes: Suitable for container gardens, or part sun "woodland edge" plantings

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo by Stephen Hornbeck

Early Bluetop Fleabane

Erigeron vetensis

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 10 in Width: 5 in

Bloom Color: Blue daisy, yellow center

Bloom Time: Spring to Mid-Summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: Medium

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, eastern Nebraska

Habitat: dry, rocky slopes and open woods

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G4 (Apparently Secure); S1 (Critically Imperiled) in Nebraska, S2 (Imperiled) in Wyoming, no status rank in Colorado, New Mexico

Ecological Value: Nectar and pollen for small generalist pollinators

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



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James' Buckwheat

Eriogonum jamesii ssp *jamesii*

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 6 in Width:

Bloom Color: white, yellow

Bloom Time: Summer-late summer

Growth Form: subshrub

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: Low Sagebrush, Steppe, and Alpine (limited by drainage more than altitude!)

Native Range: Arizona to Texas, Colorado, rare in Oklahoma and Kansas

Habitat: Dryland openings, open coniferous forest, talus slopes

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: T4 (Apparently Secure Variety); S1 (Critically Imperiled) in Oklahoma, no status rank in other states

Ecological Value: beneficial to bees and butterflies, a later blooming buckwheat than many others in the genus

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Thomas Koffel

Curved Buckwheat

Eriogonum arcuatum

Synonyms: *Eriogonum jamesii* var. *flavescens*. Also referred to as "James' Buckwheat". Some taxonomic schemes do not distinguish *E. arcuatum* and *E. Jamesii*, although the species still stand as distinct in most literature.

Initial Note:

Height: 6 in Width:

Bloom Color: Yellow

Bloom Time: Late Spring to Summer

Growth Form: subshrub

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: Low

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming

Habitat: Dryland openings, open coniferous forest, talus slopes

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G4 (Apparently Secure); S3 (Vulnerable) in Wyoming, no status rank in other states

Ecological Value: beneficial to bees and butterflies

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Jared Shorma

Alpine Golden Buckwheat

Eriogonum flavum

Synonyms: Yellow Buckwheat

Initial Note:

Height: 10 in when flowering Width: 24 in

Bloom Color: Cream, yellow

Bloom Time: June-July in Colorado

Growth Form: subshrub

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: high

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: From Colorado northwest to eastern Oregon, north well into Canada, east to Dakotas and very western edge of Nebraska

Habitat: Rocky, open areas, ridges

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: beneficial to bees and butterflies; deep roots and mat-forming habitat help stabilize dry slopes

Grower's Notes: Showy, fragrant ground cover

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo by Matt Berger

Cushion Buckwheat

Eriogonum ovalifolium

Synonyms: Oval-leaf Buckwheat

Initial Note:

Height: 1.5 ft Width: 2 ft

Bloom Color: Pink, white, to yellow

Bloom Time: May - July

Growth Form: subshrub

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: New Mexico, Arizona, California, north to Montana, Canada

Habitat: Well draining sand, gravel, or talus

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: specialist relationship with Blues (butterflies) and nectar/
pollen forage for bees

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo by Stephen Hornbeck

Few-flower Buckwheat

Eriogonum pauciflorum

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: about 8 in Width:

Bloom Color: white, pink, brown

Bloom Time: June - Sep

Growth Form: subshrub

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Colorado and Nebraska north into Canada

Habitat: Exposed areas, steep slopes, ridges

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S2 (Imperiled) in Colorado, S4 (Apparently Secure) in Montana and Wyoming, no status rank in other states
Ecological Value: Beneficial to bees and butterflies. Obligate host plant for a population of the Mormon Metalmark (*Apodemia mormo*). This species also requires rocky areas or dirt crevices near the plant for the butterfly to lay eggs.

Source: Species at Risk Public Registr

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org. Additional sources for this species: <https://species-registry.az.ec.gc.ca/index-en.html#/species/752-294>, fieldguide.mt.gov



Photo by Stephen Hornbeck

Subalpine Buckwheat

Eriogonum subalpinum

Synonyms: *Eriogonum umbellatum* var. *majus*

Initial Note:

Height: 6 in Width:

Bloom Color: pale yellow, white

Bloom Time: June - July (Aug) in Colorado

Growth Form: subshrub

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Follows the Rocky Mountains from Calgary to Colorado

Habitat: Open granite slopes and exposures

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: T5 (Secure Variety); S1 (Critically Imperiled) in Nevada, S5 (Secure) in Wyoming, no status rank in Colorado or Utah

Ecological Value: Beneficial to and pollinated by small native bees and butterflies; other closely-related buckwheats are documented larval hosts for small butterflies, and this one likely is as well

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org; for this species, also

www.globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo by Alison Northup

Sulphur Flower

Eriogonum umbellatum

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 10 in Width: 24 in

Bloom Color: Cream, yellow

Bloom Time: May - Sep (Oct) in Colorado

Growth Form: subshrub

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: **Yes**

Elevation Range:

Native Range: New Mexico, Arizona, California, north to Montana, Canada

Habitat: Dry mountain slopes and ridges

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: beneficial to bees and butterflies; host plant for Lupine

Blue butterfly (*Plebejus lupini*)

Grower's Notes: Showy, fragrant ground cover

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Jared Shorma

Western Wallflower

Erysimum capitatum

Synonyms: Sand-dune Wallflower, Prairie Rocket

Initial Note:

Height: 12 in Width: 10 in

Bloom Color: Yellow, orange

Bloom Time: Spring to early summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: biennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: yes

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Western US, north into Canada and south into Mexico; introduced in eastern US

Habitat: Plains, foothills, high elevation coniferous forests

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Early nectar forage, beneficial to a variety of pollinators

Grower's Notes: This biennial will lightly reseed around the planting if you allow the seedheads to remain. A great early bloomer. Look for low rosettes the first season, and flowering stalks the second!

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



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Spinystar

Escobaria vivipara

Synonyms: Common Beehive Cactus, Pincushion Cactus, Coryphantha vivipara, Pelecyphora vivipara

Initial Note:

Height: up to 8 in Width: Usu. < 2 in

Bloom Color: Pink

Bloom Time: Spring to summer

Growth Form: cactus

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: high

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Desert southwest up to Nevada and Utah and shortgrass prairie region as far north as Alberta and Saskatchewan

Habitat: Dry and rocky or sandy areas

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S3 (Vulnerable) in Wyoming, not ranked in many states

Ecological Value: Flowers support a variety of small native bees

Grower's Notes: Plant in a bright sunny location without crowding by taller plants. SOIL: If going directly into clay soils in the ground, amend with small gravel and sand to get an equal ratio of soil:gravel:sand. I have found it even better, especially in regards to win

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Stephen Hornbeck

Joe Pye Weed

Eutrochium maculatum

Synonyms: Spotted Joe-Pyeweed, Spotted Trumpetweed, Eupatoriadelphus maculatus, Eupatorium maculatum, Eupatorium purpureum var. maculatum

Initial Note: Plant after risk of frost

Height: 6 ft Width: 4 ft

Bloom Color: Pink

Bloom Time: Summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: moderate to high

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance:

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: From the northeastern US and into Canada, as far south as Tennessee and occasionally Georgia, west to Montana and in the west as far south as Arizona and New Mexico. Much less common in the west than northeast.

Habitat: Damp meadows and thickets (www.missouribotanicalgarden.org)

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S1 (Critically Imperiled) in Idaho and Montana, S2 (Imperiled) in Arizona, S3 (Vulnerable) in Wyoming, no status rank in Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, Nebraska, South Dakota, Kansas

Ecological Value: Native Pollinators, especially Butterflies

Grower's Notes: Deer Resistant; Does well in Wet Soils

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo by Courtney Celley/USFWS

Apache Plume

Fallugia paradoxa

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: to 6 ft Width:

Bloom Color: Pale pink to white, seed head develops tufts of wispy, pink-burgundy achenes

Bloom Time: May - September

Growth Form: shrub

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low to moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: Yes

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Northern Mexico north to Nevada, Utah, Colorado; few records farther north

Habitat: Sagebrush, canyon bottoms, and alluvial banks

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); SH (Possibly Extirpated) in Oklahoma, S4 (Apparently Secure) in Nevada, no status rank in other states

Ecological Value: Valuable to generalist pollinators for long blooming duration

Grower's Notes: This shrub puts on a spectacular display, blooming a considerably long time while forming colorful seed heads. Seed head develops tufts of wispy, pink-burgundy achenes throughout the growing season. This plant grows its own color contrast! For pollinators

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



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Idaho Fescue

Festuca idahoensis

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 2 ft Width: 1.5 ft

Bloom Color: Blue-green

Bloom Time: spring to summer

Growth Form: bunchgrass

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: medium-low

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: From New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, California north into Canada

Habitat: A very adaptive plant, growing in ponderosa woodland to open grassland

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Host plant to 5+ Skipper butterfly species as well as Paintbrush

Grower's Notes: This dense, but fine leaved cool-season bunch grass is popular plant for gardens, borders,, restoration plantings, or grazing pastures. It is very long lived, and quite flexible to variable site conditions.

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo by Andy Kleinhesselink

Meriwether Blanket Flower

Gaillardia aristata "Meriwether"

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 12 in Width: 12 in

Bloom Color: Orange

Bloom Time: Summer to fall

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: A selection of *Gaillardia aristata* from Montana- and Wyoming-based collections; may be best adapted to Montana and much of Wyoming but not as well suited to Colorado as locally collected seed.

Habitat: Plains, prairies, meadows

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure) at species level; this is a cultivated variety

Ecological Value: Nectar and pollen for bees and butterflies

Grower's Notes: Resistant to deer and rabbits, thrives in well-drained soils; suitable for container gardens. This plant was selected by the Wyoming and Montana Agricultural Experiment Stations for uniform and prolific blooms and vigorous seed set. The parentage is of 15

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Shalana Gray

Blanket Flower

Gaillardia aristata

Synonyms: Great Blanket-flower

Initial Note:

Height: 12 in Width: 12 in

Bloom Color: Orange

Bloom Time: Summer to fall

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Much of the western US and Canada

Habitat: Plains, prairies, meadows

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Nectar and pollen for bees and butterflies

Grower's Notes: Thrives in well-drained soils; suitable for container gardens

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Bob Walker

Red Dome Blanket Flower

Gaillardia pinnatifida

Synonyms: Yellow Gaillardia, Blanket Flower, Tansy Blanket-flower

Initial Note:

Height: to 2 ft Width:

Bloom Color: yellow

Bloom Time: April - June

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Desert southwest

Habitat: Mesas, plains, open forests

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); no rankings at state level

Ecological Value: Valuable to native bees

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Anthony Sabella

Meadow Gentian

Gentiana affinis

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note: Plant comes in 2.5" pot

Height: to 16 in Width:

Bloom Color: White, Indigo, Purple

Bloom Time: Late Summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: moderate to high

Exposure Requirements: part sun

Drought Tolerance:

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: American West and Canadian shortgrass prairie

Habitat: Mesic to moist prairie, slopes and crevices in rocky steppe

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Native Pollinators, especially Bumblebees

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo by Matt Berger

Parry's Gentian

Gentiana parryi

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: to 16 in Width:

Bloom Color: blue, violet

Bloom Time: summer to fall

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: high

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance:

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 6,000 - 13,000 ft

Native Range: Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming

Habitat: Alpine to subalpine meadows

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S3 (Vulnerable) in Wyoming, no status rank in other states

Ecological Value: Native Pollinators, especially Bumblebees

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Laura Gaudette

Sticky Geranium

Geranium viscosissimum

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 1-2 ft Width: 3 ft

Bloom Color: Purple

Bloom Time: June - August

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: Yes

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 6500 - 10,000ft

Native Range: From New Mexico north into Canada and westward to the coastal states

Habitat: Meadows, Aspen Forests, Dry Slopes

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Nectar and pollen forage for butterflies

Grower's Notes: Does well in dappled sunlight. A great option for a dry shade planting

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



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Large-leaf Avens

Geum macrophyllum

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 2-4 ft Width: 2 ft

Bloom Color: yellow (very distinct red styles on seed head)

Bloom Time: April-July

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: moderate to high

Exposure Requirements: part sun to shade

Drought Tolerance: Low

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Widespread, Northern US and Western US and Canada

Habitat: Moist woods and meadows

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Beneficial to small pollinating flies

Grower's Notes: Would do well in a shady rain garden

Fun Facts: Large-leaf Avens is one of many species of yellow flower with nectar guides, markings that are visible to pollinators but not to the human eye! To pollinators which can see in ultraviolet light, this species has flowers with a dark spot at the base (which

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo by Alison Northup

Prairie Smoke

Geum triflorum

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 1 ft Width: 1 ft

Bloom Color: Red nodding rose flower, lifts upward after pollination and generates a silky tuft of seed. This creates a "hazy" look in groupings, lending to the common name Prairie Smoke"

Bloom Time: Late spring to early summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: Medium

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Widespread, Northern US and Western US and Canada

Habitat: Meadow and grassland

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Important early pollen source for Bumblebees

Grower's Notes: Slowly spreads by rhizome. Looks great in groupings/masses or as a specimen. Watch for Spring Bumblebees using their wings to vibrate pollen out of the small floral opening!

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo by Alan Covington

Prairie Verbena

Glandularia bipinnatifida

Synonyms: Dakota Mock Vervain, Verbena bipinnatifida

Initial Note:

Height: Up to 2 ft Width: 3 ft

Bloom Color: Pink, purple

Bloom Time: May-Sept

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 3,800-7,300 ft

Native Range: Southcentral North America, most common in Texas and Mexico; as far north as South Dakota, slightly west into Colorado, Wyoming, and east to Mississippi

Habitat: Grasslands, pastures, sandy soil

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Nectar forage for Bumblebees and long tongued moths such as the Sphinx Moth

Grower's Notes: Impressive, dry planting ground cover with surprising adaptability. It may remain evergreen in especially sunny spaces, but will come back readily in the spring and flower profusely even in shadier sites.

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Jared Shorma

Curlycup Gumweed

Grindelia squarrosa

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: Up to 3 ft, often shorter Width:

Bloom Color: yellow

Bloom Time: Jul-Oct

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: biennial to short-lived perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: yes

Elevation Range: 0-9,500 ft

Native Range: Started from Great Plains or Rocky Mountains and has spread. Primarily in the Western US, Canada, MX; Introduced species in Europe.

Habitat: Disturbed sites, roadsides, along streams, sandy soil, clay soil

Ethnobotany: Medicinal use

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); considered exotic in some mid-western and northeastern states

Ecological Value: Nectar for native bees

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo by Stephen Hornbeck

Broom Snakeweed

Gutierrezia sarothrae

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: to 2 ft Width:

Bloom Color: yellow

Bloom Time: Summer to fall

Growth Form: subshrub

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: North American West

Habitat: Dry sandy to rocky open spaces

Ethnobotany: Ceremonial and medicinal use by Navajo

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Provides nectar to at least 50 specialist bee species in the Great Plains region and is host to 6 caterpillar species

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



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Maximilian's Sunflower

Helianthus maximiliani

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note: Plant after risk of frost

Height: 60 in Width: 30 in

Bloom Color: Yellow

Bloom Time: Summer to Fall

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance:

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 3300-6000 ft (Flora of Colorado)

Native Range: Primarily short-grass prairie region, from Texas north to Minnesota, Montana to Colorado, east into Missouri

Habitat: native to open, moist prairie but has spread to other areas via plantings (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S3 (Vulnerable) in Wyoming, S4 (Apparently Secure) in Montana, S5 (Secure) in Kansas, no status rank in neighboring states

Ecological Value: Nectar and pollen for bees and butterflies, seeds for birds

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Eric Watts

Little Sunflower

Helianthus pumilus

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note: Plant after risk of frost

Height: 30 in Width:

Bloom Color: Yellow

Bloom Time: Summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low to moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance:

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 3900-8800 ft

Native Range: A small range for a sunflower, common in areas from the front range of Colorado north into Wisconsin, rare in Montana, Idaho, possibly spreading into Utah

Habitat: Dry, rocky, open areas

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G4 (Apparently Secure); S1 (Critically Imperiled) in Montana, S4 (Apparently Secure) in Wyoming, no status rank in Colorado

Ecological Value: Special value to the Gorgone Crescentspot butterfly

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Bob Walker

Jones' False Goldenaster

Heterotheca jonesii

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 3 in Width:

Bloom Color: yellow

Bloom Time: June to September

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: yes

Elevation Range: 4,000-9,000 ft

Native Range: Endemic to Garfield, Kane, and Washington counties in

southcentral Utah - NatureServe.org

Habitat: "Bare sandy or gravelly soils, sand pockets in rock crevices of cliffs, exposed Navajo and Kaiparowits sandstone formations, pine-juniper scrub and ponderosa pine woods" - FNA Vol. 20 Page 231,232, 248

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G2 (Globally Imperiled); S2 (Imperiled) in Utah

Ecological Value: Nectar and pollen for small generalist pollinators

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Matt Berger

False Hairy Goldenaster

Heterotheca villosa

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 12 in Width: 18 in

Bloom Color: Yellow

Bloom Time: Summer to fall

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: From Arizona and New Mexico, north into British Columbia along Rocky Mountains, and east to Minnesota

Habitat: Open grassy or rocky habitats; can be found along roadsides

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Nectar and pollen for small generalist pollinators

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Bob Walker

Rocky Mountain Alumroot

Heuchera bracteata

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 15 in Width: 18 in

Bloom Color: white, yellow, green

Bloom Time: May to July

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: variable so long as soil is well draining

Exposure Requirements: mostly sun to full shade

Drought Tolerance:

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 5,600-11,500 ft

Native Range: Along the Colorado Front Range, slightly into Wyoming

Habitat: Shaded rocky ledges or outcrops

Ethnobotany: Medicinal use (at least some *Heuchera* species)

Conservation Status: G3 (Globally Vulnerable); S2 (Imperiled) in Wyoming,

S3 (Vulnerable) in Colorado

Ecological Value: Nectar source for bees

Grower's Notes: Suitable for rock gardens

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Jared Lincenberg

Littleleaf Alumroot

Heuchera parvifolia

Synonyms: Saxifrage

Initial Note:

Height: low-growing with 10-28 in flowering stalks Width:

Bloom Color: white, yellow, green

Bloom Time: May to Sept

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: variable so long as soil is well draining

Exposure Requirements: Part shade

Drought Tolerance:

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Front range of Colorado, New Mexico, west to California and north into Canada along Rocky Mountains

Habitat: Brushy or wooded mountain sites on granite or limestone cliffs or gravelly slopes

Ethnobotany: Medicinal use (at least some *Heuchera* species)

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Nectar source for bees

Grower's Notes: Suitable for rock gardens

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Stephen Hornbeck

Sandia Mountain Alumroot

Heuchera pulchella

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 6 in Width: 4-8 in

Bloom Color: red, pink

Bloom Time: Aug to Sep

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: variable so long as soil is well draining

Exposure Requirements: part shade to full shade

Drought Tolerance: high

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 8,800-10,500 ft

Native Range: New Mexico

Habitat: Canyons and mountain slopes

Ethnobotany: Medicinal use (at least some *Heuchera* species)

Conservation Status: G2 (Globally Imperiled); S2 (Imperiled) in New Mexico, range does not extend beyond New Mexico

Ecological Value: Nectar source for bees

Grower's Notes: Suitable for rock gardens

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Anthony Sabella

Prairie Alumroot

Heuchera richardsonii

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 2 ft (flower spike may be 3 ft) Width:

Bloom Color: Tiny green flowers on a long stalk rising from the rosette

Bloom Time: June-July

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: variable so long as soil is well draining

Exposure Requirements: part shade in Colorado

Drought Tolerance:

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Central North America, preferring the cooler subarctic regions and Great Lakes area. Its (rare) presence in Colorado is likely indicative of a population left behind, protected by the Rocky Mountains, as the species' range shifted North after the last gl

Habitat: Rocky crevices, seeps, or sandy/gravelly soils

Ethnobotany: Medicinal use (at least some *Heuchera* species)

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S2 (Imperiled) in Colorado, S3 (Vulnerable) in Wyoming, Kansas, SH (Possibly Extirpated) in Oklahoma, S4 (Apparently Secure) in Montana, no status rank in neighboring states

Ecological Value: Nectar source for bees

Grower's Notes: When planting, bare the roots of soil and then flare out the roots in sandy/gravelly soil. Make sure to choose a place with partial shade. Water well during initial establishment. Will be quite hardy once established. A flexible plant with very rewarding fo

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



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Owl's Claws

Hymenoxys hoopesii

Synonyms: Orange-sneezeweed

Initial Note:

Height: 36 in Width: 24 in

Bloom Color: yellow

Bloom Time: June to August

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance:

Deer Resistant: **Yes**

Elevation Range: 7000-11,500 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: California to New Mexico, north to Wyoming, Oregon

Habitat: moist places along streams, in meadows, open slopes (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S3 (Vulnerable) in Nevada, S4 (Apparently Secure) in Wyoming, no status rank in other neighboring states

Ecological Value: beneficial to butterflies & bees

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org



Photo CC BY Sue Carnahan

Scarlet Gilia

Ipomopsis aggregata

Synonyms: Scarlet Skyrocket

Initial Note:

Height: 3-6ft Width:

Bloom Color: Red

Bloom Time: Late Summer to fall

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: biennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: part sun

Drought Tolerance: high

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Highlands from Mexico north to Canada, in US no farther east than west Texas, front range of Colorado

Habitat: Hillsides, slopes

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Native Pollinators, especially Hummingbirds

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photos by Stephen Hornbeck

Slender Path Rush

Juncus tenuis

Synonyms: Path Rush, Field Rush, Poverty Rush, Wire Grass

Initial Note:

Height: up to 20 in Width:

Bloom Color: green

Bloom Time: spring to early summer

Growth Form: grass-like

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: moderate

Exposure Requirements: part sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: Medium

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Throughout North America; within US, particularly abundant in Northeast and coastal West with scattered presence across the West

Habitat: often disturbed, sandy to clay,

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S2 (Imperiled) in Nevada, S4 (Apparently Secure) in Montana, no status rank in other neighboring states

Ecological Value:

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY Matt Lavin

Prairie Junegrass

Koeleria macrantha

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 2 ft Width: 2.5 ft

Bloom Color: Blue-green foliage, golden seed heads.

Bloom Time: Spring

Growth Form: bunchgrass

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low, drought tolerant

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Western US to midwestern states

Habitat: Open forests, grasslands

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S3 (Vulnerable) in Nevada, S4 (Apparently Secure) in Kansas, S5 (Secure) in Montana and Wyoming, no status rank in other surrounding states

Ecological Value: Important early season forage plant for many types of wildlife

Grower's Notes: ecologically important niche holder and marvelously showy grass. good for restoration and garden alike. Interest: This is a cool season grass, starting before the warm season species such as *Bouteloua*. It has rich golden seed heads and adds a structural in

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo by iNaturalist user Runcator

Winterfat

Krascheninnikovia lanata

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 24 in Width: 24 in

Bloom Color: White

Bloom Time: Spring to early summer

Growth Form: shrub

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Western US, Mexico, Canada

Habitat: Plains, rocky mesas, scrubby flats

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S1 (Critically Imperiled) in Oklahoma, S2 (Imperiled) in Kansas, S5 (Secure) in Wyoming, Nevada, no status rank in other surrounding states

Ecological Value:

Grower's Notes: Drought tolerant, erosion control

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY Jes Gray

Rocky Mtn Blazing Star

Liatris ligulistylis

Synonyms: Strap-style Gayfeather

Initial Note:

Height: 3 ft Width: 1.5 ft

Bloom Color: Pink, purple

Bloom Time: Summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low to moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: Medium

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Two ranges, first from New Mexico north to Wyoming and South Dakota, second from Illinois northwest to North Dakota and continuing on that trajectory into Alberta

Habitat: Prairies, woodland clearings, depressions, rocky slopes

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S1 (Critically Imperiled) in Nebraska, S2 (Imperiled) in Colorado, Wyoming, no status rank in other neighboring states

Ecological Value: Native Wildlife, especially Hummingbirds, Bees, & Butterflies

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org

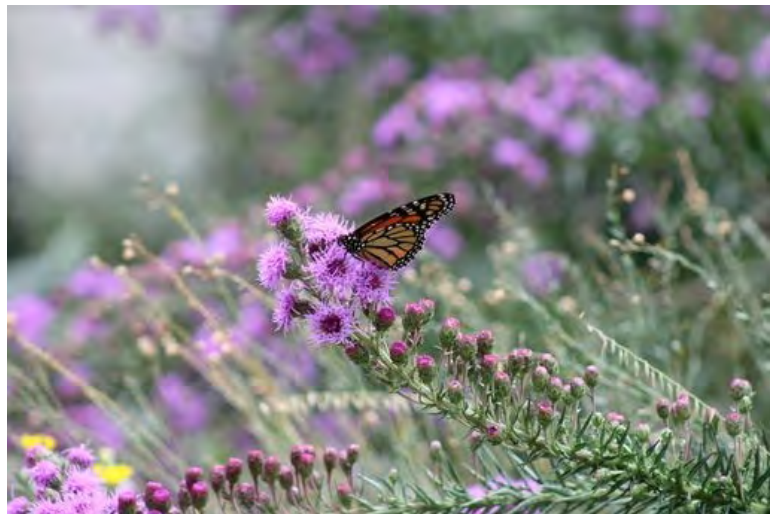


Photo by Stephen Hornbeck

Dotted Blazing Star / Gayfeather

Liatris punctata

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 24 in Width: 12 in

Bloom Color: Pink, purple

Bloom Time: Summer to fall

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: high

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 3500-8000 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: Mexico, Texas, north to Montana, Alberta, east to Minnesota, Missouri

Habitat: open grasslands and meadows (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Nectar and pollen for bees and butterflies

Grower's Notes: This plant is small compared to others in the same genus, especially first year plants. Blooming may take up to two or three seasons depending on site conditions. It is the most common *Liatris* on the Front Range and is a specimen well worth the wait.

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo by Stephen Hornbeck

Granite Prickly Phlox

Linanthus pungens

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: low Width: mat-forming

Bloom Color: white

Bloom Time: Spring to early summer

Growth Form: subshrub

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part sun

Drought Tolerance: high

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Western US, east to Colorado, western South Dakota

Habitat: Alpine scree, sagebrush steppe, and dry prairie in gravelly or sandy soils. Colonizes volcanic soils in some areas.

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Flowers beneficial for small pollinating bees and butterflies

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo by Stephen Hornbeck

Blue Flax

Linum lewisii

Synonyms: Prairie Flax

Initial Note:

Height: 20 in Width: 18 in

Bloom Color: Blue

Bloom Time: Late Spring

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low to moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 3900-11400 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: Western US to Minnesota and Texas, scattered populations farther east

Habitat: Open meadows and along roadsides (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Special value to native bees in early spring

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photos by Stephen Hornbeck

Manyflowered Stoneseed

Lithospermum multiflorum

Synonyms: Manyflowered Gromwell, Southwestern Stoneseed, Pretty Stoneseed

Initial Note:

Height: 9-18 in Width:

Bloom Color: yellow

Bloom Time: May - July in Colorado

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low, well-draining soil

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance:

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 5500-11000 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: Arizona to west Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah

Habitat: hills, canyons, mountain slopes

Ethnobotany: Native Americans have used the roots to make a purple dye for clothing and feathers.

Conservation Status: G4 (Apparently Secure); SH (Possibly Extirpated) in Wyoming, no status rank in other states

Ecological Value: *Lithospermum* sp. are pollinated by native bees and butterflies

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org, <https://www.nps.gov/brca/learn/nature/swstoneseed.htm>



Photo CC BY Wendy McCrady

Great Blue Lobelia

Lobelia siphilitica

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 36 in Width: 18 in

Bloom Color: Blue, purple

Bloom Time: Aug-Sept

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: moderate to high

Exposure Requirements: part shade

Drought Tolerance: Low

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: From Maine and Ontario south to Georgia and Texas, as far west as Colorado and Wyoming

Habitat: Mesic prairie, flood plains, riparian areas.

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S1 (Critically Imperiled) in Wyoming, S4 (Apparently Secure) in Kansas, no status rank in other surrounding states including Colorado

Ecological Value: Bumblebee forage

Grower's Notes: This mesic species has lost much of its habitat due to alterations of riparian areas. It is wide ranging, but threatened in many parts of its range. This is an excellent option for rain gardens or streambank restoration.

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY Jared Shorma

Bee Balm

Monarda fistulosa

Synonyms: Wild Bergamot

Initial Note:

Height: 24 in Width: 24 in

Bloom Color: Pink, lavender

Bloom Time: Summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: Medium

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 5400-8800 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: Across much of continental US, north into Canada, south into Mexico

Habitat: In meadows, along roadsides, often moist areas (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S1 (Critically Imperiled) in Utah, S4 (Apparently Secure) in Montana, Wyoming, Oklahoma, no status rank in surrounding states

Ecological Value: Nectar and pollen for bumblebees, butterflies and hummingbirds

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo by Stephen Hornbeck

Plains Beebalm

Monarda pectinata

Synonyms: Plains Lemon Beebalm

Initial Note:

Height: 1 ft Width: 1 ft

Bloom Color: White

Bloom Time: Summer to fall

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: annual - reseeds

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Arizona to Texas, north to Nebraska

Habitat: Shortgrass prairie, sunny slopes and exposures

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); SH (Possibly Extirpated) in California, South Dakota, S1 (Critically Imperiled) in Wyoming, S2 (Imperiled) in Utah, Kansas, S3 (Vulnerable) in Oklahoma, no status rank in other states

Ecological Value: Nectar and pollen for bumblebees, butterflies and hummingbirds

Grower's Notes: I've found this plant to be especially valuable to bumblebees late in the season. I've seen *Bombus huntii* foraging as late as November at 5,000 feet. They also leave lovely seed heads behind typical to monarda.

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo by Stephen Hornbeck

Mountain Muhly

Muhlenbergia montana

Synonyms: Muhlenbergia trifida

Initial Note:

Height: 8-32 in Width:

Bloom Color: Yellow

Bloom Time: June to July

Growth Form: tufted grass

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: moderate

Exposure Requirements: Possibly as low as part shade (wildflower.org)

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Northern California and southern Wyoming, south into Mexico

Habitat: Rocky soils on mountain slopes, canyons, mesas, forest openings

Ethnobotany: Navajo fiber, used in making brushes and brooms

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S1 (Critically Imperiled) in Wyoming, no status rank in other states

Ecological Value: Forage for grazing animals

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org; additional source for this species: http://aihec.navajotech.edu/images/competitions/docs/AIHEC_



Photo by Stephen Hornbeck

Tufted Evening Primrose

Oenothera cespitosa

Synonyms: *Oenothera caespitosa* (common misspelling); Fragrant Evening Primrose

Initial Note:

Height: 1 ft Width: 3 ft

Bloom Color: White

Bloom Time: Spring to summer in evening

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 4,600-10,000 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: Most of western US, into Mexico and Canada

Habitat: Dry slopes, forests

Ethnobotany: Roots and leaves of some *Oenothera* sp. eaten; medicinal use

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Host plant to White-lined Sphinx moth

Grower's Notes: *Oenothera* species bloom in early evening and wilt the following morning.

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY Sue Carnahan

Howard's Evening-Primrose

Oenothera howardii

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 6in. Width: 1 ft

Bloom Color: Yellow

Bloom Time: May-July

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Primarily recorded in Utah and Colorado, native from Nevada to Kansas, Wyoming south into Mexico

Habitat: Sunny well draining sites. Shale and talus slopes

Ethnobotany: Roots and leaves of some *Oenothera* sp. eaten; medicinal use

Conservation Status: G3 (Globally Vulnerable); S1 (Critically Imperiled) in Wyoming, Kansas, S3 (Vulnerable) in Nevada, Utah, Colorado

Ecological Value: nocturnal pollinator nectar source. Host plant for moths

Grower's Notes: *Oenothera* species bloom in early evening and wilt the following morning.

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY Stephen Hornbeck

Missouri Evening Primrose

Oenothera macrocarpa

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 12 in Width:

Bloom Color: Yellow

Bloom Time: Summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance:

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Texas to Nebraska, east to Illinois, Tennessee, rare in Wyoming

Habitat: Limestone glades, bluffs, roadsides, rocky prairies and hillsides (wildflower.org)

Ethnobotany: Roots and leaves of some *Oenothera* sp. eaten; medicinal use

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: special value to native bees, beneficial to butterflies and hummingbirds

Grower's Notes: *Oenothera* species bloom in early evening and wilt the following morning.

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY Stephen Hornbeck

Pale Evening Primrose

Oenothera pallida

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 6 in Width: 2 ft

Bloom Color: White

Bloom Time: Spring to summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: American West

Habitat: Sunny well draining sites. Canyonlands and arid plains

Ethnobotany: Roots and leaves of some *Oenothera* sp. eaten; medicinal use

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S1 (Critically imperiled) in Montana, no status rank in other states

Ecological Value: nocturnal pollinator nectar source. Host plant for sphinx moths

Grower's Notes: *Oenothera* species bloom in early evening and wilt the following morning.

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Cheryl McCleary-Catalano

Yellow Sundrops

Oenothera serrulata

Synonyms: *Calylophus serrulatus*

Initial Note:

Height: 6 - 18 in Width: 6 - 18 in

Bloom Color: Yellow

Bloom Time: May - September

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 3500-7500 ft (Flora of Colorado)

Native Range: Primarily shortgrass prairie region; Arizona to Texas, Mexico, north to Montana to Wisconsin, into Canada

Habitat: shortgrass prairie, grasslands, sandy soil, outcrops (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany: Roots and leaves of some *Oenothera* sp. eaten; medicinal use

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S3 (Vulnerable) in Alberta

(Canada), Montana, Texas, S4 (Apparently Secure) in Wyoming, S5

(Secure) in Kansas, no status rank in other western states

Ecological Value:

Grower's Notes: Can be used as ground cover or "green mulch". An exception to other *Oenothera* species, this species will bloom throughout the day.

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY Sam Kieschnick

Miner's Candle

Oreocarya virgata

Synonyms: Wand Cat's-eye

Initial Note:

Height: 6 in Width: 2 ft

Bloom Color: White

Bloom Time: Summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: typically behaves as a biennial. Sending a flowering stalk up in the second season.

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: **Yes**

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Colorado, Wyoming. Primarily along the Front Range

Habitat: Rocky slopes. Loose gravel based soils

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G4 (Apparently Secure); S3 (Vulnerable) in Wyoming, no status rank in Colorado

Ecological Value: suspected visitation by nighttime pollinators

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo by Stephen Hornbeck

White Point-Vetch

Oxytropis sericea

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note: Toxic to livestock

Height: 1 ft Width: 1 ft

Bloom Color: White

Bloom Time: Spring

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low to moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: New Mexico to Texas, Oklahoma north to Oregon, Montana, North Dakota, Canada

Habitat: Ranges from disturbed low-rangeland to Alpine Habitats. Highest recorded at 12,000 ft in CO.

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S1 (Critically Imperiled) in Nevada, North Dakota, S4 (Apparently Secure) in Montana, S5 (Secure) in Wyoming, no status rank in other states

Ecological Value: Pea family species host nitrogen fixing bacteria in the soil as well as offer abundant nectar and pollen for native bee species

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY My-Lan Le

Switchgrass

Panicum virgatum

Synonyms: Old Switch Panicgrass

Initial Note:

Height: 48 in Width: 24 in

Bloom Color: Green in summer turning to gold interesting seed heads persist in winter

Bloom Time: Summer

Growth Form: clump-forming grass

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: **Yes**

Elevation Range: 3400-8000 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: Across much of continental US excepting west coastal states, slightly into Canada, Mexico. Much more common from the front range of Colorado eastward than in the western US.

Habitat: In Colorado, this species is "common on the eastern plains, in sandy soil, and ponderosa pine forests" (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S2 (Imperiled) in Nevada, S3 (Vulnerable) in Montana, Wyoming, S5 (Secure) in Kansas, no status rank in other western states

Ecological Value: Seeds for birds; host for butterfly larvae

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts: According to the Virginia Native Plant Society, the genus name comes from the Latin word panus, meaning a swelling or the grain millet (not "panic" in the sense of a panic attack)! <https://vnps.org/potowmack/botanic-names-panic/>

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY iNaturalist user Northcut

Phlox Flowered Beardtongue

Penstemon ambiguus

Synonyms: Gilia Beardtongue, Plains Penstemon, Bush Penstemon, Pink Plains Beadtongue

Initial Note: this collection is of the subspecies *Penstemon ambiguus* ssp. *ambiguus* found in Nebraska, Eastern Colorado, West Kansas, and Oklahoma.

Height: 2 ft tall and bushy at maturity

Width:

Bloom Color: White with purple throats

Bloom Time: summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: The species is scattered across the Southern Shortgrass Prairie to the deep Southwest. While this specific subspecies' range is strictly the Southern Shortgrass Prairie.

Habitat: Sandy to gravelly soils, well draining

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G4 (Globally Secure); S1 (Critically imperiled) in Nebraska, S3 (Vulnerable) in Nevada, no status rank in Colorado or other states

Ecological Value: this oddity of a species appears to be pollinated by pollen collecting bees. The long floral tube but low nectar production may suggest a species transitioning between pollinators.

Grower's Notes: This species roots vigorously when happy, and excellent option for a xeriscape. The dense, bushy form can stand alone or in masses. If planting in clay, amend the planting area by working in small gravel and coarse sand when planting.

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



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Narrow-leaf Beardtongue

Penstemon angustifolius

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 2 ft Width: 1 ft

Bloom Color: blue, indigo

Bloom Time: May - June

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 3500-7000 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: West/Central US. Dakotas to Arizona

Habitat: Grasslands and sandy locations such as dunes.

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S2 (Imperiled) in Montana, no status rank in remaining range

Ecological Value: Native Pollinators, especially Bumble Bees & Hummingbirds

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo by Stephen Hornbeck

Scarlet Bugler

Penstemon barbatus

Synonyms: Beard-lip Beardtongue

Initial Note:

Height: 3 ft Width: 1 ft

Bloom Color: Red

Bloom Time: Spring to Summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: short-lived perennial

Water Requirements: low to moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 5200-10,000 ft

Native Range: Much of Mexico north to Colorado and southern Utah

Habitat: rocky slopes, meadows, pinyon-juniper woodlands (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Native Pollinators, especially Bumble Bees & Hummingbirds

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY Wendy McCrady

Mat Penstemon

Penstemon caespitosus

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: to 2 in tall Width: Spreading, up to 6 ft wide

Bloom Color: Blue, purplish lavender, reddish violet nectar guides

Bloom Time: Spring to summer

Growth Form: ground hugging

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: Low

Exposure Requirements: Full sun - part shade

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 5,000 to 11,500 ft

Native Range: Arizona, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming

Habitat: Timberline to foothills

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S4 (Apparently Secure) in Colorado, S3 (Vulnerable) in Wyoming, no status rank in Utah, Arizona

Ecological Value: Visited by small bees

Grower's Notes: Great for xeriscape and rock gardening

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo by Betsy Brown, used with permission

Sunset Crater Penstemon

Penstemon clutei

Synonyms: Sunset Crater Beardtongue

Initial Note:

Height: 36 in Width: 24 in

Bloom Color: Pink

Bloom Time: Summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low to moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Native only to the Sunset Crater area in Arizona

Habitat: Volcanic cinder fields and pine forests (wildflower.org)

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G2 (Globally Imperiled); S2 (Imperiled) in Arizona

Ecological Value: beneficial to bees, butterflies, hummingbirds

Grower's Notes: This plant grows only on volcanic fields around Sunset Crater in one Arizona county

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY SA Judy Springer

Crandall's Beardtongue

Penstemon crandallii

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 6 in (Very low/ mat forming) Width: 2 ft

Bloom Color: Blue, purple

Bloom Time: Summer

Growth Form: subshrub

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 6000-12000 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming

Habitat: Rocky slopes, and open, dry places (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G4 (Apparently Secure)

Ecological Value: Beneficial to pollinating mason bees

Grower's Notes: Amend clay with gravel or squeegee

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo licensed to public domain (CC0) by Cecelia AI-

Crested Beardtongue

Penstemon eriantherus

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: up to 1 ft, often smaller Width: up to 1 ft, often smaller

Bloom Color: pale red, pale purple

Bloom Time: May to July

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: regional endemic to Southern Alberta to Northern Colorado, Oregon to the Dakotas

Habitat: Dry clay based sites

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G4 (Apparently Secure); S1 (Critically Imperiled) in Colorado, S2 (Imperiled) in Alberta, S4 (Apparently Secure) in British Columbia, Montana, no status rank in Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, Nebraska, each Dakota

Ecological Value: Native pollinator forage, especially Bumblebees

Grower's Notes: this dwarf Penstemon is a great option for open xeriscapes, crevice gardens, or planters with appropriate drainage

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo by Stephen Hornbeck

Alpine Sawsepal Penstemon

Penstemon glaber var alpinus

Synonyms: Smooth Beardtongue (species, not including variety)

Initial Note:

Height: up to 30 in Width:

Bloom Color: Blue

Bloom Time: Jun, Jul, Aug, Sept

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial with seed distribution

Water Requirements: moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance:

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 4,900ft. - 9,500ft.

Native Range: Eastern slope from southeastern Wyoming to northern New Mexico

Habitat: Sandy, or gravelly slopes and banks in short grass prairies, foothills, or mountains

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: T4 (Apparently Secure Variety); S4 (Apparently Secure) in Wyoming, no status rank in Colorado

Ecological Value: Nectar forage for native bees

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY Jared Shorma

Slender Beardtongue

Penstemon gracilis

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 1 ft Width: 2 ft

Bloom Color: white, pink

Bloom Time: Spring to Summer

Growth Form:

Life Cycle:

Water Requirements: low to moderate with well-draining soil

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance:

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: From Alberta South to New Mexico. Front range in Colorado

Habitat: Open woodlands, and prairie. Sandy gravelly soils

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S3 (Vulnerable) in Wyoming, S4

(Apparently Secure) in New Mexico, no status rank in other western states

Ecological Value: Nectar forage for native bees and hummingbirds and host plant for Checkerspot. Growers note - Especially beneficial both ecologically and aesthetically in masses or groupings

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY Chris Friesen

Large-Flowered Beardtongue

Penstemon grandiflorus

Synonyms: Large-Flowered Penstemon, Large Penstemon

Initial Note:

Height: 38 in Width: 24 in

Bloom Color: White, Purple

Bloom Time: Summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 3500-4200 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: New Mexico, Texas north to Montana, east to Michigan

Habitat: Plains

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S1 (Critically Imperiled) in Mon-

tana, Colorado, Oklahoma, S2 (Imperiled) in Wyoming, S3 (Vulnerable) in

Kansas, no status rank in Nebraska, Dakotas

Ecological Value: Nectar and pollen for bumblebees, butterflies and hummingbirds

Grower's Notes: Suitable for container gardens

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo by Aaron Gunnar

Low Beardtongue

Penstemon humilis

Synonyms: Lowly Beardtongue

Initial Note:

Height: 12 in Width: 12 in

Bloom Color: Blue, purple

Bloom Time: June - July

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 5800-9000 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: Colorado Northwest to Washington state

Habitat: Sagebrush steppe, pinyon-juniper forest, and tundra

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S2 (Imperiled) in Montana, S3 (Vulnerable) in Colorado, S4 (Apparently Secure) in Wyoming, S5 (Secure) in Nevada, Utah, no status rank in other western states

Ecological Value: Native pollinator forage, especially Bumblebees

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



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Palmer's Penstemon

Penstemon palmeri

Synonyms: Scented Penstemon

Initial Note:

Height: 3-6 ft Width:

Bloom Color: very showy white/pink/purple

Bloom Time: spring to summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Found from the Mojave Desert east to Colorado and Idaho south to New Mexico

Habitat: Dry washes and bajadas, canyon floors, shrub scrub, and open juniper woodland

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G4 (Apparently Secure); S4 (Apparently Secure) in Nevada, no status rank in Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, may be considered exotic in Idaho, Wyoming

Ecological Value: Native bumblebee forage

Grower's Notes: One of the few scented Penstemon species.

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY Joseph Rojas

Sidebells Penstemon

Penstemon secundiflorus

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 2 ft Width: 1 ft

Bloom Color: Pink, purple

Bloom Time: Summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: yes

Elevation Range: 4800-10,500 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: Narrow range from northern New Mexico to southeastern Wyoming

Habitat: grasslands and meadows, rocky hillsides (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: No status rank globally; S3 (Vulnerable) in Wyoming, no status rank in Colorado, New Mexico

Ecological Value: Native Pollinators, especially Hummingbirds & Bumblebees

Grower's Notes: In garden settings, these seem to perform best in higher exposure, lower competition plantings. Mine seem to thrive alongside *Antennaria parvifolia*, *Eriogonum compositus*, & *Linanthus pungens*

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo by Stephen Hornbeck

Rocky Mountain Penstemon

Penstemon strictus

Synonyms: Rocky Mountain Beardtongue

Initial Note:

Height: 30 in Width: 24 in

Bloom Color: Dark Blue, Purple

Bloom Time: summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 5500-11,000 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: Western US

Habitat: dry slopes and meadows (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S3 (Vulnerable) in Arizona, S4 (Apparently Secure) in Wyoming, Colorado, no status rank in Utah, New Mexico

Ecological Value: Excellent nectar and pollen forage for bumblebees, butterflies and hummingbirds

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org; for this species, also reviewed <https://www.gardenia.net/guide/thriving-in-thirst-penstemons-wa>



Photo CC BY Todd Boland

White Wand Beardtongue

Penstemon tubaefflorus

Synonyms: *Penstemon tubiflorus*

Initial Note:

Height: 3 ft Width: 1 ft

Bloom Color: white

Bloom Time: Spring to Summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low to moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: Medium

Deer Resistant: yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: From Ontario and Maine, Southwest to Texas

Habitat: Found in Oak savannas, limestone glades, dry, open woodlands, and prairie

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Native pollinators, especially bumblebees

Grower's Notes: This species may be much more flexible in site preferences than many other *Penstemon*. Forms a lovely clump. We have been trialing it in some part shade plantings at the Chapungu Sculpture Park

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY David Matthew

Blue Mist Penstemon

Penstemon virens

Synonyms: Green Beardtongue

Initial Note:

Height: 1 ft Width: 2 ft

Bloom Color: Blue, purple

Bloom Time: May - July

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full - part sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 5200-11,000 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: Front Range Endemic (Colorado, Wyoming)

Habitat: Foothills and open woodland

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G3 (Globally Vulnerable); S4 (Apparently Secure) in Colorado and Wyoming

Ecological Value: beneficial to large numbers of native bees

Grower's Notes: An excellent and long lived species native only to the Front Range. Handles slight afternoon shade in lowland but tolerates exposure well.

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo by Stephen Hornbeck

Upright Blue Beardtongue

Penstemon virgatus

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 36 in Width: 12 in

Bloom Color: Blue

Bloom Time: June to August

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low to moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 4400-10,000 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado

Habitat: meadows and grasslands, rocky hillsides, pinyon-juniper forests (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G4 (Apparently Secure); S3 (Vulnerable) in Arizona, Wyoming, no status rank in Colorado, New Mexico

Ecological Value: beneficial to bees & butterflies

Grower's Notes: This species seems to enjoy grassy meadows and forest edges. Often flowering well above other vegetation

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photos by Stephen Hornbeck

Whipple's Penstemon

Penstemon whippleanus

Synonyms: Whipple's Beardtongue

Initial Note:

Height: 24 in Width: 18 in

Bloom Color: Purple

Bloom Time: Late summer to early fall

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: moderate

Exposure Requirements: part shade at lower altitudes

Drought Tolerance: Medium

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 8000-13,500 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: Arizona, New Mexico, north to Montana

Habitat: Mountain forests and meadows (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S2 (Imperiled), S4 (Apparently Secure), no status rank in Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico

Ecological Value: special value to native bees; beneficial to hummingbirds and various insects

Grower's Notes: This is one of those few plants that works in DRY SHADE on the Front Range! Consider co-planting with Geranium, Campanula rotundifolia, Jamesia americana. At ~5,000 feet, this species can flower with a few hours of light in well draining soil. Amend clay

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



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Silver Scorpionweed

Phacelia hastata

Synonyms: Silverleaf Scorpionweed

Initial Note:

Height: 2 ft Width: 1 ft

Bloom Color: White, Indigo, Purple

Bloom Time: May to July

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: part shade

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: Widely ranged from foothills to 13,000 feet in elevation

Native Range: American West and Canada

Habitat: Scrubland, open woodland, to alpine exposures

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Nectar for bumblebees, honeybees, mason bees

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY SA Matt Lavin

Littleleaf Mockorange

Philadelphus microphyllus

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note: Possibly toxic

Height: up to 6 ft Width:

Bloom Color: white

Bloom Time: May to August

Growth Form: shrub

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 5000-9500 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: California east to Colorado and Texas

Habitat: rocky cliffs, slopes, usu. with oak, juniper, pinyon pine (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S1 (Critically Imperiled) in Texas, Wyoming, S3 (Vulnerable) in Nevada, no status rank in rest of southwest

Ecological Value: Valuable to native bees

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo by Stephen Hornbeck

Towering Jacob's Ladder

Polemonium foliosissimum

Synonyms: Leafy Jacob's-ladder

Initial Note:

Height: 36 in Width:

Bloom Color: Blue, purple

Bloom Time: Summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: Medium Low

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 6500-13,000 ft (Ackerfield)

Native Range: Arizona and New Mexico, north to Idaho, Wyoming

Habitat: Along streams, meadows, open forests (Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S1 (Critically Imperiled) in

Wyoming, S2 (Imperiled) in Nevada, no status rank in other states

Ecological Value: Beneficial to a wide variety of bumblebees and small native bees

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY Anders Hastings

Branched Cinquefoil

Potentilla effusa

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 1 ft Width: 1.5 ft

Bloom Color: Yellow flowers and silvery-haired foliage

Bloom Time: Summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun - part shade

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Colorado north to Montana, Minnesota and into Canada

Habitat: Open woodland and grassland, gravelly soils. Plains, foothills, montane

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Larval host & forage for native butterflies

Grower's Notes: Great foliage plant

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY NC Andy Fyon, used with permission

Slender Cinquefoil

Potentilla gracilis

Synonyms: Formerly *Potentilla brunnescens*; Graceful Cinquefoil

Initial Note:

Height: 1 ft Width: 2 ft

Bloom Color: Yellow flowers, silvery haired foliage

Bloom Time: Summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low to moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance:

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: North and western North America, north to Alaska

Habitat: Open woodland and grassland, gravelly soils. Plains, foothills, montane

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Larval host & forage for native butterflies

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY Ken-ichi Ueda

Douglas Fir

Pseudotsuga menziesii

Synonyms: Blue Douglas Fir

Initial Note:

Height: 15-300 ft Width:

Bloom Color:

Bloom Time:

Growth Form: tree

Life Cycle: evergreen perennial

Water Requirements: May require

Exposure Requirements:

Drought Tolerance:

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 5500-10,500 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: Western US, Mexico, Canada

Habitat: Across mountainous regions of its range

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S3 (Vulnerable) in Nevada, S5 (Secure) in Montana and Wyoming, no status rank in other western states

Ecological Value: The seeds are an important food source for seed-eating birds and mammals. Needles are an important food source for grouse and may also be eaten by browsing animals. (plants.usda.gov)

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts: Douglas Fir is not a fir in the sense that it is not in the genus *Abies*, though it is in the same family. The Douglas Fir genus name, *Pseudotsuga*, refers to the fact that it is also not a hemlock tree (*Pseudo* "false" + genus *Tsuga*, hemlock tree), which in

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photos by Stephen Hornbeck

North American Pasqueflower

Pulsatilla nuttalliana

Synonyms: Formerly *Pulsatilla patens*. *Pulsatilla nuttalliana* denotes to new genetic findings that distinguished the North American Pasqueflower from her Eurasian sister species.

Initial Note:

Height: 8 in Width: 5 in
Bloom Color: Pale pink to purple
Bloom Time: Early spring
Growth Form: herbaceous
Life Cycle: perennial
Water Requirements: low
Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance:

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Alaska south to New Mexico, east to MN.

Habitat: Gravelly mountain slopes to open grasslands

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S2 (Imperiled) in Utah, S4 (Apparently Secure) in Wyoming, no status rank in other surrounding states

Ecological Value: Very early forage for pollinator species. The corolla reflects light to the center of the flower, keeping pollen viable and even raising the temperature by 15 degrees above ambient temps

Grower's Notes: Can be found from alpine tundra to low foothills and prairie. Interplant throughout the garden for one of the earliest of spring ephemerals. Let go to seed for some gradual recruitment.

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



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Yellow Coneflower

Ratibida columnifera

Synonyms: Upright Prairie Coneflower

Initial Note:

Height: 24 in Width: 18 in
Bloom Color: Yellow
Bloom Time: summer to fall
Growth Form: herbaceous
Life Cycle: perennial
Water Requirements: low
Exposure Requirements: full sun
Drought Tolerance: High
Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 3500-9000 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: Entire continental US, into Canada, Mexico

Habitat: Plains, fields, roadsides, open places in the foothills (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Nectar and pollen for small generalist pollinators; ranchers are concerned about decline in recruitment (new plants) because of the value as forage

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

<https://plants.usda.gov/plant-profile/COLA5/characteristics>



Photo CC BY Jennie Lawrence

Redspike Coneflower

Ratibida columnifera ssp. *pulcherrima*

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 24 in Width: 18 in

Bloom Color: Yellow, orange, red

Bloom Time: summer to fall

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: At species level, native to the entire continental US, into Canada, Mexico. Data for the subspecies' range was not found.

Habitat: Plains, fields, roadsides, open places in the foothills (Referring to species level, not subspecies; Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: At species level, G5 (Globally Secure). Subspecies has no separate status

Ecological Value: Nectar and pollen for small generalist pollinators

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY SA Max Licher

Queen's Crown

Rhodiola rhodantha

Synonyms: Red-pod Stonecrop

Initial Note:

Height: 1 ft Width: 3 ft

Bloom Color: Pink, red

Bloom Time: Summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: Medium

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 8500-13,500 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: Montana south to Arizona and New Mexico

Habitat: Along streams, wet meadows (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S2 (Imperiled) in Utah, S4 (Apparently Secure) in Wyoming, no status rank in Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Montana

Ecological Value: Native Insect Pollinators

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY John Powers

Wax currant

Ribes Cereum

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 2-5 ft shrub (conditions permitting) Width:

Bloom Color: white, pink

Bloom Time: April-June

Growth Form: deciduous shrub

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low, with well-draining soil

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Most of western US where terrain is present (not plains)

Habitat: open mountain forests and foothill shrubland

Ethnobotany: Fruit was eaten in various forms by Navajo

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: blooms attract hummingbirds, bumblebees, butterflies which give way to berries as an additional food source

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Main and flower photos CC BY Stephen Hornbeck,
berries CC BY Gail A Baker

Fringe-leaf Wild Petunia

Ruellia humilis

Synonyms: Fringe-leaf Ruellia, Wild Petunia, Hairy Wild Petunia

Initial Note:

Height: 1.5-2 ft Width: 1.5-2 ft

Bloom Color: Lavender

Bloom Time: May - Oct

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low to moderate; well-drained soil

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: In mixed to tallgrass prairie region (Texas to Kansas to Minnesota) and eastward

Habitat: open woods, glades, prairies, and fields

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S5 (Secure) in Kansas, S1

(Critically Imperiled) in several eastern states

Ecological Value: beneficial to butterflies

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY Chet Burrier

Azure Sage

Salvia azurea

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 5 ft Width: 4 ft

Bloom Color: Blue

Bloom Time: July to October

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low to moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 4000 - 5200 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: most abundant in the Eastern Great Plains, with disjunct populations in Colorado and Utah

Habitat: Grasslands such as glades and savanna. Tolerant of a variety of soils such as clay, gravel, and loam.

Ethnobotany: Medicinal use, seasoning and tea

Conservation Status: G4 (Apparently Secure); S2 (Imperiled) in Colorado, no status rank in other states

Ecological Value: important late forage for bumblebees

Grower's Notes: Great emergent from grasses in plantings.

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo by Terry Woodward

Rocky Mountain Sage

Salvia reflexa

Synonyms: Lanceleaf Sage

Initial Note:

Height: 1.5 ft Width: 2 ft

Bloom Color: Blue

Bloom Time: Summer to fall

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: annual - reseeds

Water Requirements: low to moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 3500-8000 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: Much of western US, excluding coastal states and extending east into Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri

Habitat: open, rocky areas (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany: Medicinal use, seasoning and tea

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S1 (Critically Imperiled) in Nevada, S2 (Imperiled) in Utah, S3 (Vulnerable) in Wyoming, S5 (Secure) in Kansas, no status rank in other surrounding states

Ecological Value: forage value to small solitary bee species

Grower's Notes: This compact annual would make an excellent "fill" or matrix plant to occupy space between perennials, while competing with weeds and adding late season forage for pollinators. Reseeds.

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY Eric Watts

Yellow Spot Saxifrage

Saxifraga bronchialis ssp. *austromontana*

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note: Comes in a 2" container.

Height: 0.5 ft Width: mat forming

Bloom Color: white with red and yellow spots

Bloom Time: Summer

Growth Form: evergreen mat former

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: part shade

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Rocky Mountains and North Cascades; New Mexico, Colorado, and northwest

Habitat: Mountain crevices and rocky exposures.

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: T5 (Secure Subspecies); S2 (Imperiled) in Utah, S3 (Vulnerable) in

Wyoming, no status rank in Colorado, New Mexico, Montana

Ecological Value: Larval host to Astarte Fritillary butterfly (*Boloria astarte*)

Grower's Notes: an excellent addition to a rock or crevice garden. Plant bare root, and tease into cracks or crevices between stone in a sandy media. To bare root plant for succulent/rock garden species, gently roll the soil off of the root ball. I used a loose potting m

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photos by Matt Berger

Little Bluestem

Schizachyrium scoparium

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 24 in Width: 18 in

Bloom Color: Bluish foliage in spring/summer, reddish in winter

Bloom Time: Summer

Growth Form: bunchgrass

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: **Yes**

Elevation Range: 3400-9500 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: Eastern US extending into Canada and Mexico and as far west as Washington, Idaho, Utah, Arizona

Habitat: Grasslands, prairie, mesas, dry slopes, pinyon-juniper communities, canyons (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S2 (Imperiled) in Utah, S4

(Apparently Secure) in Montana, no status rank in other western states

Ecological Value: Seeds for birds; host for skipper larvae

Grower's Notes: Suitable for container gardens

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



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Spearleaf Stonecrop

Sedum lanceolatum

Synonyms: Lanceleaf Stonecrop

Initial Note: These plants come in 2.5" pots

Height: 0.5 ft Width: Spreads

Bloom Color: Yellow

Bloom Time: Summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: Lowlands to 13,000 ft

Native Range: Found in most of the continental west. From New Mexico north to Yukon

Habitat: Rocky outcrops and gravelly soils

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Larval host & forage for native butterflies

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



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Broom Groundsel

Senecio spartioides

Synonyms: Narrow-leaved Butterweed

Initial Note:

Height: 2 ft Width: 2 ft

Bloom Color: Yellow

Bloom Time: Summer to fall

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 4000-9500 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: Southwestern US from southern California to Texas, north to South Dakota

Habitat: dry, open places (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S1 (Critically Imperiled) in Nebraska, S2 (Imperiled) in South Dakota, S3 (Vulnerable) in Nevada and Wyoming, no status rank in other southwestern states

Ecological Value: beneficial to a variety of pollinators

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



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White Checkermallow

Sidalcea candida

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 2 ft Width:

Bloom Color: White

Bloom Time: Summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: Medium

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 6500-11,000 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico

Habitat: Along streams, in meadows, moist places (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G4 (Apparently Secure); S1 (Critically Imperiled) in Nevada, S2 (Imperiled) in Wyoming, S4 (Apparently Secure) in Utah and New Mexico, no status rank in Colorado

Ecological Value: Special value to native bees

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY Weston Phillips

Pink Checkermallow

Sidalcea neomexicana

Synonyms: Rocky Mountain Checker-mallow; Salt Spring Checkerbloom

Initial Note:

Height: 3 ft Width: 15 in

Bloom Color: Pink

Bloom Time: Spring to early summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance:

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 5500-9600 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: Western United States as far north as Oregon to Nebraska, and Northern Mexico

Habitat: Diverse range, chaparral, sage scrub, riparian areas, salt flats

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G4 (Apparently Secure); S2 (Imperiled) in California, S3 (Vulnerable) in Nevada and Wyoming, no status rank in other southwestern states

Ecological Value: Beneficial for native bees and other pollinators

Grower's Notes: Salt tolerant

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org; for this species, also <https://www.swcoloradowildflowers.com/White%20Enlarged%20Photo%20Pages/b>



Photo CC BY Laura Gaudette

Drummond's Catchfly

Silene drummondii

Synonyms: *Gastrolychnis drummondii*, *Lychnis drummondii*

Initial Note:

Height: 1.5 ft Width: 6 in

Bloom Color: White, pink with enlarged, colorful bracts

Bloom Time: Spring to summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low to moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 6500-13,000 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: Arizona and New Mexico north to Washington to Minnesota, and Canada

Habitat: Variable, from open woodlands to dunes. Often found in Dry sandy or gravelly soils in sagebrush systems to alpine meadows

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S2 (Imperiled) in Nevada, S4

(Apparently Secure) in Wyoming, no status rank in other western states

Ecological Value: Reported to be visited by bumblebees; other species of *Silene* documented to be pollinated by various bees, flies, and moths

Grower's Notes: A very adaptable plant. Has thrived for me in dry part shade at 5,000ft

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org; for pollinators of *Silene drummondii*, Colla, S.R. and S. Dumesht. 2010. "The bumble bees of south".



Photo CC BY Matt Lavin, flower closeup by NPS / Jacob W Frank

Compass Plant

Silphium laciniatum

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 5 ft Width: 3 ft

Bloom Color: Yellow

Bloom Time: June to September

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance:

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 7000-7500 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: Central North America; few records in Colorado, Wyoming

Habitat: open meadows, along roadsides, usu. disturbed areas (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); SH (Possibly Extirpated) in Colorado, S3 (Vulnerable) in South Dakota, S5 (Secure) in Kansas

Ecological Value: beneficial to butterflies

Grower's Notes: Tolerates poor soils

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY Amanda Fisher

Cup Plant

Silphium perfoliatum

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 4-8 ft Width: 1-3 ft

Bloom Color: Yellow

Bloom Time: July-Sept

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance:

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: Up to 1,500 ft

Native Range: Central and eastern North America

Habitat: Moist woods, prairies, floodplains, stream beds

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Nectar forage for butterflies and bees, seed forage for granivorous birds (goldfinch)

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo by John Hilty swbiodiversity.org

Missouri Goldenrod

Solidago missouriensis

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 1.5 ft Width: Spreads

Bloom Color: Yellow

Bloom Time: Summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 3700-10,000 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: Across much of the US from the Pacific Northwest, to southwest, east to tallgrass prairie region; also into Canada and Mexico

Habitat: open meadows and forests, plains (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S2 (Imperiled) in Nevada, S5 (Secure) in Montana, Wyoming, and Kansas, no status rank in other western states

Ecological Value: Native Pollinators, especially Butterflies

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY SA Max Licher

Soft Goldenrod

Solidago mollis

Synonyms: Velvety Goldenrod (this common name shared with *Solidago velutina*), Ground Goldenrod, Soft Goldenrod, Ashly Goldenrod

Initial Note:

Height: to 2 ft tall Width:

Bloom Color: Yellow

Bloom Time: Aug - Sept

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low to moderate

Exposure Requirements: Full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 3400-7000 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: Texas and New Mexico north to Montana, North Dakota, Minnesota, and into Canada

Habitat: Low prairies and open woods in sandy soils

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: nectar rich food source for pollinator insects

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY Jared Shorma

Field Goldenrod

Solidago nemoralis

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: upright habit to about 36 in Width:

Bloom Color: Yellow

Bloom Time: Late summer to fall

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Found across Central and Eastern North America

Habitat: Woodland to prairie

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S3 (Vulnerable) in Wyoming, no status rank in other western states

Ecological Value: incredibly nectar rich food source for pollinator insects

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY iNaturalist user geosesarma

Stiff-leaved Goldenrod

Solidago rigida

Synonyms: Rigid Goldenrod

Initial Note:

Height: tight upright habit to about 36 in Width:

Bloom Color: Yellow

Bloom Time: Late summer to fall

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Found across Central and Eastern North America

Habitat: Dry open areas, with sandy to gravelly soils

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: incredibly nectar rich food source for pollinator insects

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY Aaron Gunnar

Yellow Indian Grass

Sorghastrum nutans

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 48 in Width: 24 in

Bloom Color: Golden fall color

Bloom Time: Summer

Growth Form: bunchgrass

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance:

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 3500-6800 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: Eastern US west to Arizona, Utah

Habitat: grasslands, prairie, canyons, open pine woodlands (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S1 (Critically Imperiled) in Utah, S2 (Imperiled) in Wyoming, S5 (Secure) in Kansas, no status rank in other surrounding states

Ecological Value: Seeds for birds; host for butterfly larvae

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo by Bonnie Semmling

Scarlet Globemallow

Sphaeralcea coccinea

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: to 15 in Width:

Bloom Color: Orange

Bloom Time: Spring to early summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 3500-9000 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: Mexico, Canada, US through Arizona, New Mexico, Texas to Oregon to Minnesota

Habitat: Grassland and shrubland

Ethnobotany: Ceremonial and medicinal use by Navajo

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S2 (Imperiled) in Nevada, S4 (Apparently Secure) in Montana, S5 (Secure) in Wyoming, no status rank in other surrounding states

Ecological Value: Nectar and pollen forage for native bees

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY Stephen Hornbeck

Gooseberry Globemallow

Sphaeralcea grossulariifolia

Synonyms: Currant-leaf Globemallow, Gooseberryleaf Globemallow

Initial Note:

Height: up to 40 in Width:

Bloom Color: red, orange

Bloom Time: Mar - Aug

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low, xeric

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Moderate; can handle some grazing when mature.

Elevation Range: 330-6,600 ft

Native Range: Range bounded by the Rocky Mountains in the east and the Sierra Nevadas in the west; from Washington state down to Arizona and New Mexico

Habitat: Dry, open or brushy, alkaline valleys & foothills; disturbed areas

Ethnobotany: Medicinal use by Hopi; also mixed into clay pottery

Conservation Status: No status rank globally; S1 (Critically Imperiled) in Colorado, S2 (Imperiled) in California, no status rank in other states

Ecological Value: Leaves, fruits, seeds provide forage for ungulates, rodents, rabbits, birds; forage for bees including *Diadasia*, *Agapostemon*, *Halictus*, *Melissodes* and *Calliopsis* species. The globemallow bee (*Diadasia diminuta*) only feeds on *Sphaeralcea* species and is an

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY Matt Berger

Munro's Globemallow

Sphaeralcea munroana

Synonyms: White-stem Globemallow

Initial Note:

Height: 2 ft Width: 3 ft

Bloom Color: Orange

Bloom Time: May - July

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 4,000-8,000 ft

Native Range: Northern California east to Colorado, north to Washington state

Habitat: Prairies, mountain slopes, dry rocky/sandy soils

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G4 (Apparently Secure); S1 (Critically Imperiled) in California and Colorado, S3 (Vulnerable) in Nevada, Montana, Wyoming, no status rank in Utah, Idaho, Oregon, Washington

Ecological Value: Late season nectar and pollen forage for native bees

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY Matt Berger

Alkali Sacaton

Sporobolus airoides

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: to 4 ft tall bunches Width:

Bloom Color: diffuse heads

Bloom Time: summer to late summer

Growth Form: bunchgrass

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: moderate but tolerates extreme drought once established

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 3400-8000 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: Western US and Mexico

Habitat: grasslands, shortgrass prairie, shrublands, alkaline flats (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S3 (Vulnerable) in Kansas, S4 (Apparently Secure) in Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, no status rank in other western states

Ecological Value: Provides nesting materials and food for birds, cover for insects

Grower's Notes: This grass is a lovely bunch forming species with the added benefit of being both salt and drought tolerant. Often used both in landscaping and wildland restoration from deserts to stream banks.

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo by Jim Morefield

Prairie Dropseed

Sporobolus heterolepis

Synonyms: Northern Dropseed

Initial Note:

Height: 2.5 ft Width: 2.5 ft clumping

Bloom Color: Diffuse heads for mid to late summer

Bloom Time: July - September

Growth Form: bunchgrass

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 5000-7500 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: Northern Great Plains region; rare and scattered in eastern US, isolated presence along front range of Colorado

Habitat: mesas, grasslands, open ponderosa pine forests along northern Front Range (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S1 (Critically Imperiled) in Wyoming, S2 (Imperiled) in Oklahoma, S3 (Vulnerable) in Colorado, Kansas

Ecological Value: Provides nesting materials and food for birds

Grower's Notes: This grass is a lovely bunch forming species with the added benefit of being both salt and drought tolerant.

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo by Aaron Gunnar

Prince's Plume

Stanleya pinnata

Synonyms: Desert Prince's-plume

Initial Note:

Height: 4-5 ft Width: 2-5 ft

Bloom Color: Yellow

Bloom Time: Summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance:

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 4000-8300 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: Western US

Habitat: dry hillsides, barren slopes, pinyon-juniper or sagebrush in selenium-rich soil (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany: Medicinal use and possible food source

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Pollinated by bees and butterflies; larval host for Becker's white and checkered white butterflies

Grower's Notes: Thrives in soil containing selenium

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org. Additional sources for this species: Xerces Society for larval host information.



Photo by Max Licher

White Heath Aster

Symphyotrichum ericoides

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 2 ft Width: 3 ft

Bloom Color: White

Bloom Time: Late summer to fall

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance:

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 3500-8000 ft (Flora of Colorado)

Native Range: Range centers on the Great Plains region and extends north into Canada, west to Washington, east to Maine, south to Texas

Habitat: Open sandy, gravelly, or disturbed sites

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Late season pollinator forage

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photos CC BY Sam Kieschnick

Smooth Blue Aster

Symphyotrichum laeve

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 4ft Width: 2 ft

Bloom Color: Violet, Purple, Yellow Center

Bloom Time: Summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low to moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 5000-10,500 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: Native across much of US, especially northern, and into Canada; sticks to highland areas in the western US

Habitat: open meadows, along streams, forest openings (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S1 (Critically Imperiled) in Nevada, Utah, S3 (Vulnerable) in Wyoming, S5 (Secure) in Montana, New Mexico, SH (Possibly Extirpated) in Oklahoma, no status rank in other western states

Ecological Value: Native Pollinators, especially Butterflies

Grower's Notes: Tolerates Drought & Erosion

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY Eric Lamb

Aromatic Aster

Symphyotrichum oblongifolium

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 2 ft Width: 3 ft

Bloom Color: blue, purple

Bloom Time: August to October

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low to moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range: 5800-7800 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: Primarily eastern Great plains and into Appalachia, with isolated presence in southern CO/northern NM

Habitat: dry, rocky open sites and mesas (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S1 (Critically Imperiled) in Colorado, S2 (Imperiled) in Wyoming, S4 (Apparently Secure) in Montana, S5 (Secure) in Kansas, no status rank in surrounding states

Ecological Value: Late pollinator forage

Grower's Notes: Salt and drought tolerant

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



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Western Spiderwort

Tradescantia occidentalis

Synonyms: Prairie Spiderwort

Initial Note:

Height: 24 in Width: 24 in

Bloom Color: Purple

Bloom Time: May - August

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 3500 - 7800 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: From Louisiana, Wisconsin, west to Arizona, south into Mexico, north into Canada

Habitat: sandy soil in plains and foothills (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Special value to bees, deer resistant

Grower's Notes: Grow in moist, well-drained soil, in sun or light shade. A long-flowering plant for an herbaceous border. Protect young growth from slugs.

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org

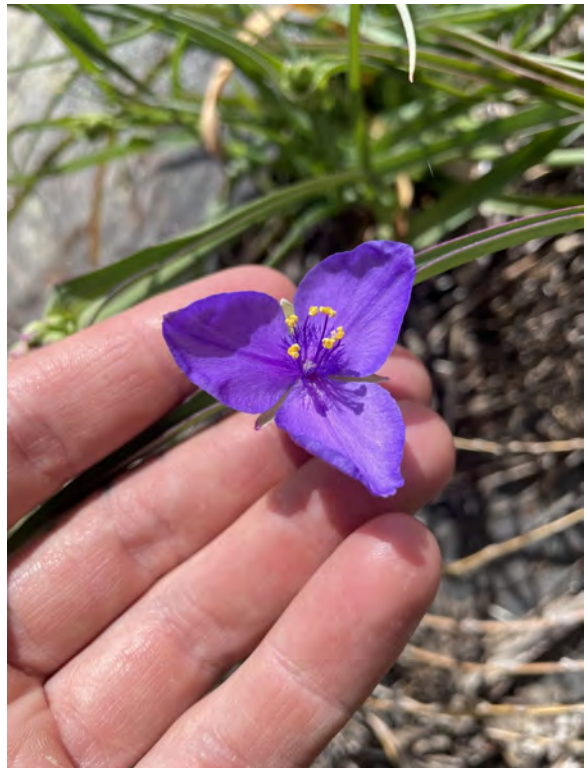


Photo by Stephen Hornbeck

Clasping Bellflower

Triodanis perfoliata

Synonyms: Clasping Venus's Looking-glass; *Specularia perfoliata*

Initial Note:

Height: 2 ft Width:

Bloom Color: Blue, purple, violet

Bloom Time: Apr - July

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: annual; reseeds

Water Requirements: low

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part sun

Drought Tolerance: Medium

Deer Resistant:

Elevation Range:

Native Range: Eastern US and MX with scattered populations across western US excluding Nevada. The state of Utah considers it nonnative.

Habitat: poor, dry, sandy or gravelly soil with low competition

Ethnobotany: Medicinal use by Cherokee

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure): S3 (Vulnerable) in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, S5 (Secure) in Nebraska, Kansas, no status rank in other states; possibly exotic in Utah

Ecological Value: Nectar forage for small bees, bumblebees, flies, small butterflies and skippers; the Short-horned Cellophane Bee (*Colletes brevicornis*) may specialize on this species.

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY Skylar Principe

Blue Vervain

Verbena hastata

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note:

Height: 4 ft Width: 2.5 ft

Bloom Color: Blue, purple

Bloom Time: Summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance: Medium

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 3400-5500 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: Across most of US, most common north of ~37th parallel (northern edge of New Mexico) and more common in the eastern part of the country

Habitat: moist places such as edges of ponds, lakes, streams, ditches (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S3 (Vulnerable) in Montana, Wyoming, S5 (Secure) in Kansas, no status rank in other southwestern states

Ecological Value: beneficial to bees and other pollinators

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY Jared Shorma

Hoary Vervain

Verbena stricta

Synonyms: None noted

Initial Note: Protect from hard freezes!

Height: 3 ft Width: 1.5 ft

Bloom Color: indigo, purple

Bloom Time: Summer

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: low to moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 3400-5700 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: From Texas northwest to Montana and northeast to Ohio

Habitat: open prairie, along roadsides (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); S1 (Critically Imperiled) in Nevada, S3 (Vulnerable) in Wyoming, S5 (Secure) in Kansas, no status rank in other western states

Ecological Value: Native Pollinators, especially Butterflies & Bees

Grower's Notes: Tolerates Drought, Erosion, Rocky soils

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY Archer Silverman

Common Ironweed

Vernonia fasciculata

Synonyms: Fascicled Ironweed

Initial Note: Plant after risk of frost

Height: 1-5 ft Width: 2-3 ft

Bloom Color: Purple

Bloom Time: July-Sept

Growth Form: herbaceous

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: moderate

Exposure Requirements: full sun to part shade

Drought Tolerance:

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 3,500-5,000 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: Midwestern US, from Ohio west to occasional presence in Montana, Colorado

Habitat: open prairies

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure); SH (Possibly Extirpated) in Colorado, no status rank for neighboring shortgrass prairie states (Oklahoma to North Dakota)

Ecological Value: Pollen and nectar forage for bumblebees (genus *Bombus*), miner bees (genus *Andrena*), and leafcutter bees (genus *Megachile*). Caterpillar host for Ironweed Borer Moth and Eupatorium Borer Moth.

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY Mathew Zappa

Soapweed Yucca

Yucca glauca

Synonyms: Small Soapweed Yucca

Initial Note:

Height: to 5 ft Width: to 2-4 ft

Bloom Color: White

Bloom Time: Early Summer

Growth Form: evergreen

Life Cycle: perennial

Water Requirements: Xeric

Exposure Requirements: full sun

Drought Tolerance: High

Deer Resistant: Yes

Elevation Range: 3800 - 9000 ft (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Native Range: From New Mexico north to Montana, Canada, and east to Missouri

Habitat: Sandy places and dry slopes on plains and foothills (Flora of Colorado, Ackerfield)

Ethnobotany:

Conservation Status: G5 (Globally Secure)

Ecological Value: Symbiotic association with the Yucca moth, the adult female moth pollinates the flowers and the seeds provide food for the moth's larvae.

Grower's Notes:

Fun Facts:

Sources consulted for most plant profiles: wildflower.org, bonap.org, explorer.natureserve.org, USDA plant profiles, efloras.org, globalbioticinteractions.org



Photo CC BY Curtis Drake

MORE INFORMATION

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