



Low-Water Native Plants for 7,500' and Above

Adapted from Colorado Native Plant Society

Common Name	Scientific Name	Mature Size	Water	Exposure	Flower Color	Bloom Time	Wildlife Value
GROUNDCOVERS							
Pussytoes	<i>Antennaria spp.</i>	6" x 18"	Low	Sun/part sun	Cream/pink	SP-S	Np/bee, btf, o
Kinnikinnick	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	12" x 24"	Low	Sun/part sun	Pink	SP-S	Np/bee, btf; frt/birds, wl
Sulfur Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i>	10" x 12"	Low	Sun/part sun	Yellow	S	Np/bee, btf

PERENNIALS	Scientific Name	Size	Water	Exposure	Flower Color	Bloom	Wildlife Value
Common Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	18" x 18"	Low	Sun	White	S	Np/bee, btf, o
Pearly Everlasting	<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	18" x 18"	Low	Sun	White	S	Np/bee, btf, o
Rocky Mtn Columbine	<i>Aquilegia caerulea</i>	24" x 12"	Med	Sun/part sun	Blue	S	Np/bee, btf; n/hummb
Harebell	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	8" x 15"	Low	Sun/part sun	Purple	S	Np/bee
Scott's Sugarbowls	<i>Clematis scottii</i>	12" x 18"	Low	Sun/part sun	Purple	SP-S	Np/bee, btf
Rocky Mtn Bee Plant	<i>Cleome serrulate</i>	3-6' x 3-6'	Low	Sun	Pale purple	S	Np/bee, btf; n/hummb
Showy Fleabane	<i>Erigeron speciosus</i>	18" x 12"	Low	Sun/part sun	Lavender	S	Np/bee, btf, o
Wallflower	<i>Erysimum capitatum</i>	18" x 18"	Low	Sun/part sun	Yellow/orange	S	Np/bee, btf
Blanketflower	<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>	12" x 12"	Med	Sun	Yellow/red	S-F	Np/bee, btf
Richardson's Geranium	<i>Geranium richardsonii</i>	12" x 12"	Med	Sun/part sun	White	S	
Sticky Geranium	<i>Geranium viscosissimum</i>	12" x 18"	Med	Sun/part sun	Pink	S-F	Np/bee, btf, o
Prairie Smoke	<i>Geum triflorum</i>	6" x 12"	Med	Sun/part sun	Cream/pink	S	Np/bee, btf, o
Sneezeweed	<i>Helenium (Hymonoxys) h.</i>	24" x 18"	Med	Sun/part sun	Yellow/orange	S	Np/bee, btf
Showy Goldeneye	<i>Heliomeris multiflora</i>	48" x 48"	Low	Sun	Yellow	S	Np/bee, btf
Scarlet Gilia	<i>Ipomopsis aggregata</i>	12" x 12"	Low	Sun/part sun	Red/pink	S-F	n/hummb
Silvery Lupine	<i>Lupinus argenteus</i>	24" x 12"	Low	Sun	Purple/white	S	Np/bee, btf, o
Bee Balm	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	24" x 24"	Med	Sun/part sun	Pink/lavender	S	Np/bee, btf; n/hummb
Rocky Mtn Penstemon	<i>Penstemon strictus</i>	30" x 24"	Low	Sun/part sun	Blue/purple	S	Np/bee, btf; n/hummb
Blue Mist Penstemon	<i>Penstemon virens</i>	12" x 12"	Low	Sun/part sun	Blue/purple	SP-S	Np/bee, btf; n/hummb



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Whipple's Penstemon	<i>Penstemon whippleanus</i>	24" x 12"	Med	Sun/part sun	Wine purple	S	Np/bee, btf; n/hummr
Silky Phacelia	<i>Phacelia sericea</i>	16" x 12"	Low	Sun	Purple	S	Np/bee, btf; n/hummr
Jacob's Ladder	<i>Polemonium viscosissimum</i>	18" x 12"	Med	Sun/part sun	Blue	S	Np/bee, btf
Pasque Flower	<i>Pulsatilla patens</i>	6" x 6"	Low	Sun & Sun	Lavender	SP-S	Np/bee
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	24" x 12"	Low	Sun/part sun	Yellow	S	Np/bee, btf; s/birds
Golden Banner	<i>Thermopsis divaricarpa</i>	18" x 24"	Low	Sun/part sun	Yellow	S	Np/bee, btf

GRASSES	Scientific Name	Size	Water	Exposure	Flower Color	Bloom	Wildlife Value
Indian Ricegrass	<i>Achnatherum humenoides</i>	24" x 12"	Low	Sun		S	s/birds
Junegrass	<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	18" x 18"	Low	Sun		SP	s/birds

SHRUBS	Scientific Name	Size	Water	Exposure	Flower Color	Bloom	Wildlife Value
Western Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	12' x 6'	Low	Sun/part sun	White	SP	Frt/birds
Redtwig Dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	5' x 5'	High	Sun/part sun	White	S	Np/bee, btf, o
Mountain Spray	<i>Holodiscus dumosus</i>	7' x 3'	Low	Part shade	Pink/white	S	Np/bee, btf
Shrubby Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla fruticose</i>	3' x 3'	Low	Sun	Yellow	S-F	Np/bee, btf, o
Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	15' x 8'	Low	Sun/part sun	White	SP	Np/bee, btf; frt/birds, wl
Golden Currant	<i>Ribes aureum</i>	5' x 4'	Low	Sun/part sun	Yellow	SP	Np/bee, btf; frt/birds
Wax Currant	<i>Ribes cereum</i>	4' x 3'	Low	Sun/part sun	Pink/white	SP	Np/bee, btf; frt/birds
Western Wild Rose	<i>Rosa woodsia</i>	3' x 4'	Low	Sun/part sun	Pink	SP-S	Np/bees; frt/birds
Boulder Raspberry	<i>Rubus deliciosus</i>	4' x 4'	Low	Sun/part sun	White	S	Np/bee, btf; frt/birds

TREES	Scientific Name	Size	Water	Exposure	Flower Color	Bloom	Wildlife Value
Colorado Blue Spruce	<i>Picea pungens</i>	45' x 15'	Med	Sun/part sun			Seeds/birds, wl
Quaking Aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	60' x 25'	Med	Sun			Shelter/birds

Frt/birds, wl = fruit for birds and wildlife

Np/bee, btf, o = nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies and other pollinators

N/hummr = nectar for hummingbirds



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Design for Low Maintenance

“Native plants can be used to accomplish just about any design style you’re looking for using the elements and principles of good design: color, texture, balance, unity, variety, rhythm, line, form, scale. They can be used for anything from formal designs to the more informal naturalistic plantings that most people think of when they think native.

Choose species based on the soil, light, and water conditions of our site and for the size, shape, texture, and color desired. For a more natural, successful and easily maintained landscape, group species that grow together naturally and have the same cultural requirements. This will improve plant health and appearance and will minimize maintenance.

South-facing areas with reflected heat will do best with dryland or desert plants. North-facing areas are cooler, moister and shadier, and will do better with forest-edge type plants.

West-facing areas are more similar to south-facing, even if they only get a half day of sun, so this is a good spot for dryland, prairie or chaparral plants. The east-facing side is usually the most benign and can grow a wide variety of plants.”

Colorado Native Plant Society

Suggested Reading and Further Resources

Gardening Guides from CoNPS

Plains/Prairie

Front Range/Foothills

Southeastern Colorado

Mountains above 7,500 feet

Lower Elevation Western Slope

“Native Plants for High Elevation Western Gardens”
by Janice Busco and Nancy Morin

“Growing Native Plants of the Rocky Mountain Area”
by Robert and Jane Dorn

“Gardening with Native Plants”
Colorado Native Plant Society 2016

“Plant Materials for Pollinators and Other Beneficial Insects in Eastern Utah and Western Colorado” NRCS Publication

Visit CoNPS at <http://www.conps.org> for design ideas, planting information and to see the full guide.