**Scientific Name:** *Andropogon gerardii*

**Common Name:** Big Bluestem

**Family:** Grass – Poaceae

**Species Characteristics:** Slightly fuzzy flower branches (three-parted) radiating from the top of the stem

**Height:** 2 ½ to 5 feet

**Season of Bloom:** Summer to Fall (June-October)

**Landscaping Use:** Attractive bronze fall foliage, warm season grass, high deer resistance

**Moisture Requirement:** Low but can withstand periodic high water tables

**Light Requirement:** Sun to partial shade

**Soil Requirement:** Moderately acid and saline tolerant

**Eco-Relationships:** One of the dominant species in the heavy clay soils of the tall-grass prairie ecosystem; provides cover for at least 24 species of songbirds and nesting site or seeds for Grasshopper Henslow’s and other sparrows as well as nesting sites for Sedge Wren and Western Meadowlark; also attracts butterflies.

**Use Ornamental:** An essential grass for grassland restoration and prairie gardens in the central plains. Large stature, blue-green foliage, and interesting flowering heads.

**Conspicuous Flowers:** yes

**Interesting Foliage:** yes

**Attracts:** Birds, Butterflies

**Larval Host:** Delaware Skipper, Dusted Skipper

**Deer Resistant:** High

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**Scientific Name:** *Bouteloua curtipendula*

**Common Name:** Sideoats Grama; Tall grama grass

**Family:** Grass – Poaceae

**Species Characteristics:** Spikelets form on one side of the stem

**Mature Height:** 1 to 2 feet

**Mature Spread:** To 12 inches

**Season of Bloom:** Mid-summer (July)

**Habitat:** Plains and outwash mesas of the Front Range, rocky hills, slopes at 3,200 to 7,400 feet elevation

**Landscaping Use:** Meadows, reclamation, accent, tall ground cover

**Moisture Requirement:** Drought tolerant

**Light Requirement:** Full sun

**Soil Requirement:** Sand to clay; least tolerant of loose sand

**Eco-Relationships:** Wind pollinated; grasses are host plants for many satyr and skipper butterflies; good summer and fall forage; moderate in winter; seeds utilized by birds and small mammals.
**Scientific Name:** *Buchloe dactyloides*

**Common Name:** Buffalo Grass

**Family:** Grass – Poaceae

**Species Characteristics:** Seed heads borne on short stalks over short, narrow, curly grass blades

**Mature Height:** 4 to 8 inches

**Mature Spread:** 12 inches per year

**Season of Bloom:** Summer (June-August)

**Habitat:** A dominant plant of short-grass prairie

**Landscaping Use:** Low water, low maintenance turf of ground cover

**Moisture Requirement:** Moderate

**Light Requirement:** Full sun

**Soil Requirement:** Silt, clay, sandy; tolerates alkanility

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

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**Scientific Name:** *Deschampsia cespitosa*

**Common Name:** Tufted Hairgrass

**Family:** Grass – Poaceae

**Species Characteristics:** culms (grass stem) leafy, leaves 2-ranked, stiffly ascending (curved upward during growth), long-tapering; spikelets (in grasses, the smallest unbranched flower cluster) strongly laterally compressed (flattened)

**Height:** Grows 20 to 60 in. tall

**Season of Bloom:** Spring to Summer (March-August)

**Habitat:** alkaline swales, borrow pits, seeps, springs, and playas at 2,800 to 7,500 feet elevation

**Landscaping Use:** Useful for restoring moist to seasonally wet prairies and stabilizing disturbed sites, streambanks, canals, shorelines, and upper tidal marshes.

**Moisture Requirement:** Moderate

**Light Requirement:** Open to light shade

**Soil Requirement:** Fine to medium-textured

**Eco-Relationships:** Grazed in winter, bird forage and cover; this plant colonizes salty, heavy soils where little else will grow; important restoration species as its rhizomatous (a lateral underground stem) character helps it form a sod that keeps soils from eroding. One of the most widely distributed of all the western range grasses.
**Scientific Name:** *Distichlis stricta*  
**Common Name:** Indian Saltgrass  
**Family:** Grass - Poaceae  
**Species Characteristics:** Culms (grass stem) leafy, leaves 2-ranked, stiffly ascending (curved upward during growth), long-tapering; spikelets (in grasses, the smallest unbranched flower cluster) strongly laterally compressed (flattened)  
**Mature Height:** To 1 foot  
**Season of Bloom:** Spring to summer (March – August)  
**Habitat:** Alkaline swales, borrow pits, seeps, springs, and playas at 2,800 to 7,500 feet elevation  
**Landscaping Use:** Erosion control  
**Moisture Requirement:** Moderate  
**Light Requirement:** Open to light shade  
**Soil Requirement:** Fine to medium-textured  
**Eco-Relationships:** Grazed in winter, bird forage and cover; this plant colonizes salty, heavy soils where little else will grow; important restoration species as its rhizomatous (a lateral underground stem) character helps it form a sod that keeps soils from eroding.  

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**Scientific Name:** *Panicum virgatum*  
**Common Name:** Switchgrass  
**Family:** Grass - Poaceae  
**Species Characteristics:** plants form tall dense stands  
The stem (culm) is round and can have a red to straw colored tint. The seed head is an open, spreading panicle.  
**Mature Height:** to 5 feet  
**Mature Spread:** to 2 feet  
**Season of Bloom:** Mid Summer  
**Habitat:** Moist prairie soils, shores, riverbanks, and marshes. Occupies where moisture accumulates.  
**Landscaping Use:** Accent plant, wildflower meadow or tallgrass prairie, mass planting, erosion control, wildlife habitat, container plant  
**Moisture Requirement:** Drought tolerant  
**Light Requirement:** Full sun  
**Soil Requirement:** Somewhat dry to poorly drained, sandy to clay loam soils are best; does poor in heavy soil  
**Eco-Relationships:** One of dominant grasses of the now rare tall-grass prairie ecosystem; wind pollinated; grasses are host plants for many satyr and skipper butterflies. Provides excellent nesting and cover for pheasants, quail, and rabbits. The seed provide food for pheasants, quail, turkeys, doves, and songbirds.
**Scientific Name:** *Schizachyrium scoparium*

**Common Name:** Little Bluestem

**Family:** Grass - Poaceae

**Species Characteristics:** Feathery seedheads; reddish fall color

**Mature Height:** 1 to 4 feet.

**Mature Spread:** 12 to 18 inches

**Season of Bloom:** Mid-summer (July).

**Landscaping Use:** Some varieties with ornamental qualities, sandy soil stabilization, specimen or mass planting, perennial border, rockery, prairie or wildflower meadow

**Moisture Requirement:** Drought tolerant

**Soil Requirement:** Various, fine to coarse texture; prefers well-drained, sandy and medium texture

**Eco-Relationships:** High forage value; wind pollinated; grasses are host plants for many satyr and skipper butterflies.

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**Scientific Name:** *Sorghastrum nutans*

**Common Name:** Indian Grass

**Family:** Grass - Poaceae

**Species Characteristics:** Broad blue-green blades and a large, plume-like, soft, golden-brown seed head.

**Mature Height:** Grows 3 to 7 feet tall

**Habitat:** Deep, well-drained floodplain soils and in well-drained upland sandy loam soils

**Eco-Relationships:** Used for erosion control. White-tailed deer browse Indiangrass foliage. A mix of Indiangrass and other native warm-season grasses and forbs provide nest, brood and escape cover for bobwhite quail. Indiangrass seed is consumed by birds and small mammals.
**Scientific Name:** *Spartina pectinata*

**Common Name:** Prairie Cordgrass

**Family:** Grass - Poaceae

**Species Characteristics:** Blades usually more than 5 mm wide, flat at the base, involute (rolled inward) at the tip; plants robust, more than 1 m tall with long curved leaves and brushlike spikes

**Mature Height:** 6-8 feet

**Habitat:** Irrigation ditches, moist areas

**Eco-Relationships:** Useful in preventing erosion on earthfill dams, spillways and drainage channels; provides good cover for game birds, song birds and small mammals.

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**Scientific Name:** *Asclepias incarnata*

**Common Name:** Swamp Milkweed

**Family:** Milkweed - Asclepiadaceae

**Flowers:** Fragrant, showy clusters of pink and light purple flowers

**Mature Height:** 3-6 feet

**Season of Bloom:** Summer (June - August)

**Habitat:** Moist habitats such as wet meadows, floodplains, riverbanks, pond shores, stream banks, wet woods, swamps, and marshes

**Landscaping Use:** useful for wetland rehabilitation

**Light Requirement:** sun

**Eco-Relationships:** Favored food of monarch butterfly larva; various other butterflies and hummingbirds consume nectar from the flowers.
**Scientific Name:** Helianthus nuttallii  
**Common Name:** Nuttall’s Sunflower  
**Family:** Asteraceae—Aster family  
**Species Characteristics:** middle leaves flat; leaves glabrous (smooth) to pubescent (hairy) above but not harshly scabrous (rough to the touch); tiny spines present on leaf margins; inflorescence paniculate  
**Flower:** Bright yellow flower heads, both ray and disk flowers yellow  
**Mature Height:** up to 10 feet  
**Season of Bloom:** summer to early fall (June - September)  
**Habitat:** Found along ditch banks, sloughs, and marshy places in plains and foothills  
**Light Requirement:** Sun

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**Scientific Name:** Liatris punctata  
**Common Name:** Dotted Blazing Star; Gayfeather  
**Family:** Sunflower - Asteraceae  
**Species Characteristics:** Pappus (hair- or scale-like extension of the ovary) plumose (having feathery side branches) to the naked eye; flowers 3 - 8 per head; plant with several stems  
**Flower:** Bright rose-purple flower heads in a crowded spike  
**Mature Height:** to 32 inches  
**Mature Spread:** 6 to 12 inches  
**Season of Bloom:** Early summer to fall (June – October)  
**Habitat:** Dry, open slopes and roadsides from 5,000 to 8,000 feet elevation  
**Landscaping Use:** Border, wildflower and rock garden, cut and dried flower  
**Moisture Requirement:** Moderate  
**Light Requirement:** Full sun  
**Soil Requirement:** Well-drained  
**Eco-Relationships:** Pollinated by butterflies and bees; not usually browsed by deer
Scientific Name: *Penstemon secundiflorus*

Common Name: One-sided Penstemon; Beard Tongue

Family: Figwort - Scrophulariaceae

Species Characteristics: Leaves glaucous (contains white waxy covering)

Flower: Flowers orchid to bluish lavender, tubular and 2 lipped, clustered loosely along one side of the stem

Mature Height: To 20 inches

Season of Bloom: Spring (March-May)

Habitat: Sandy slopes, roadsides

Landscaping Use: Beds, mixed borders, rock gardens, specimen plants, wall/fence borders.

Moisture Requirement: Moist to begin, then dry

Light Requirement: Full sun

Soil Requirement: Sandy to gravelly soil

Eco-Relationships: Pollinated by bees or hummingbirds; important bird and insect forage; one of the groups of host plants for the Anicia Checkerspot butterfly.

Scientific Name: *Ratibida columnifera*

Common Name: Mexican Hat; Prairie Coneflower

Family: Sunflower - Asteraceae

Species Characteristics: Grows upright, freely branching in an open clump; leaves strigose (covered with sharp-pointed straight hairs which lay flat); leaves with narrow divisions

Mature Height: 18 to 24 inches

Mature Spread: 12 to 18 inches

Flower color: Yellow

Season of Bloom: Early summer to early fall (June - September)

Habitat: Outwash mesas and plains

Landscaping Use: Meadows, cutting gardens, herbaceous flower beds, perennial garden, butterfly garden, disturbed areas

Moisture Requirement: Low but will tolerate moist soil

Light Requirement: Sun

Soil Requirement: Well drained, clay to sandy

Eco-Relationships: The heads attract and provide a landing platform for pollinators; most flowers in this family produce both nectar and pollen as rewards for pollinators; sunflowers attract a wide range of pollinators including true bugs, thrips, beetles, butterflies, moths, bees and flies.
**Scientific Name:** *Sphaeralcea coccinea*

**Common Name:** Scarlet Globemallow; Cowboy’s Delight  
**Family:** Mallow - Malvaceae  
**Species Characteristics:** Lower leaves very deeply palmately (like a hand) divided, silvery from dense, stellate (star-shaped) hairs  
**Mature Height:** To 16 inches  
**Flower Color:** Orange-red, 5-petaled  
**Season of Bloom:** Early summer to early fall (June - September)  
**Habitat:** Roadsides, disturbed areas at 4,500 to 8,500 feet elevation  
**Landscaping Use:** Rock gardens, dryland gardens, rocky slopes, perennial border gardens  
**Moisture Requirement:** Drought tolerant  
**Light Requirement:** Open  
**Soil Requirement:** Medium to coarse  
**Eco-Relationships:** one of the host plants for the Small Checkered Skipper; excellent forage for deer but poor for livestock. The fruits of all species in this genus are edible and were widely used by prehistoric southwestern Native Americans.

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**Scientific Name:** *Stanleya pinnata*

**Common Name:** Prince’s Plume  
**Family:** Mustard - Brassicaceae  
**Species Characteristics:** Tall flower stalks grow from woody base with cluster of coarse leaves; silique (elongated fruit of the mustard family) with a long stalk between the petals and the ovary  
**Mature Height:** 4 to 5 feet  
**Mature Spread:** 2 to 5 feet  
**Flower Color:** Yellow  
**Season of Bloom:** Summer (June - August)  
**Habitat:** Adobe hills where soil contains selenium at 3,000 to 9,000 feet elevation  
**Landscaping Use:** Perennial bed background, foundation or fence planting  
**Moisture Requirement:** Drought tolerant  
**Light Requirement:** Full sun  
**Soil Requirement:** Tolerates poor, dry soils  
**Eco-Relationships:** Pollinated by bees, wasps, flies, and butterflies; indicator of selenium which it absorbs, making it poisonous to livestock.
**Scientific Name:** *Viola nuttallii*

**Common Name:** Nuttall’s Violet

**Family:** Violet - Violaceae

**Species Characteristics:** Leaves narrowly lanceolate (lance-shaped) or lance-elliptic (oval), at least 3 times long as wide

**Height:** 4-8 inches

**Flower Color:** Yellow

**Season of Bloom:** Spring to mid-summer (March – July)

**Habitat:** Meadows, open slopes, often blooming in the protection of rocks at 5,000 to 11,500 feet elevation

**Landscaping Use:** Ground cover, rocky gardens, shade gardens

**Moisture Requirement:** Moderate

**Light Requirement:** Open to shaded

**Soil Requirement:** Various, dry to moist

**Eco-Relationships:** pollinated by bumblebees, seeds utilized by birds and small mammals, foliage grazed; host plant for Edwards' Fritillary butterfly and the Aphrodite butterfly.

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**Scientific Name:** *Helianthus maximiliani*

**Common Name:** Maximilian Sunflower

**Family:** Asteraceae – Aster family

**Species Characteristics:** Leaves are long and narrow, up to 10 inches near the bottom and as short as 2 inches near the top. They are alternate, coarse and hairy, slightly wavy on the edges, often folded lengthwise, slightly toothed and very pointed. Numerous yellow flower heads grow on their own stalks terminally and from leaf axils.

**Height:** 3-10 feet

**Season of Bloom:** August-November

**Habitat:** Rich prairies and ditches

**Landscaping Use:** Wildflower meadow, pocket prairie

**Moisture Requirement:** Low

**Light Requirement:** Sun

**Soil Requirement:** Prefers moist clay-like soil, but tolerant of most soils

**Eco-Relationships:** Produces a heavy crop of seeds, which deer and numerous species of birds eat. Attracts a large number of native bees. Useful wildlife cover plant.
**Scientific Name:** *Gaillardia aristata*

**Common Name:** Blanket flower  
**Family:** Sunflower—Asteracea  
**Species Characteristics:** Grows in clumps with erect or spreading stems; pappus (extension of the ovary) twice as long as the basal scale; leaves stiff-hairy  
**Height:** 2-3 feet  
**Flower Color:** Yellow/red  
**Season of Bloom:** Summer (June-August)  
**Habitat:** Meadows, hillsides, open areas at 7,000 to 9,500 feet elevation  
**Landscaping Use:** Dry meadows, perennial beds and borders, group plantings  
**Moisture Requirement:** Low, especially in winter  
**Light Requirement:** Full sun  
**Soil Requirement:** Light open soil of poor to average fertility  
**Eco-Relationships:** The heads attract and provide a landing platform for pollinators, attracting true bugs, thrips, beetles, butterflies, moths, bees, and flies.

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**Scientific Name:** *Coreopsis tinctoria*

**Common Name:** Plains coreopsis; Golden tickseed  
**Family:** Sunflower—Asteracea  
**Species Characteristics:** Smooth, stiff, branching stems. One-two pinnate finely cut green leaves with linear-lanceolate leaflets (to 3” long) appear mostly on the lower half of the plant. Solitary, daisy-like flowers (to 1-2” diameter) feature yellow rays (7-9 per head) with reddish brown center disks. Each ray is toothed at the tip and spotted reddish-brown at the base  
**Height:** Up to 2 feet  
**Season of Bloom:** June to September  
**Habitat:** Meadows, prairies, along roads  
**Landscaping Use:** Excellent as a border, native wildflower gardens  
**Moisture Requirement:** Average to dry  
**Light Requirement:** Full sun to partial shade  
**Soil Requirement:** Does well in poor, dry soil  
**Eco-Relationships:** Spreads by reseeding itself
Scientific Name: *Penstemon strictus*

**Common Name:** Rocky Mountain Penstemon

**Family:** Figwort—Scrophulariaceae

**Species Characteristics:** Anther pubescence sparsely long-villous to lanate, the hairs usually longer than the anther sacs; basal leaves usually broadly lanceolate

**Flower Color:** Some shade of blue, pink, or purple

**Height:** 12-30 inches

**Mature Spread:** To 30 inches

**Season of Bloom:** June-August

**Habitat:** Tall plants or sagebrush, pinon juniper, mountain mahogany, and relatively mesic mountain meadows at 6,500 to 10,500 feet elevation

**Landscaping Use:** Mixed borders, accent, rock gardens, reclamation, container plant, dry garden, disturbed sites, wildflower meadow

**Moisture Requirement:** Drought tolerant

**Light Requirement:** Open sites, sun

**Soil Requirement:** Coarse, moderate fertility

**Eco-Relationships:** Colored veins guide pollinators to nectar sac at the base of the flower; pollinate by bees or hummingbirds; important bird and insect forage.

Scientific Name: *Dalea purpurea*

**Common Name:** Purple Prairie Clover

**Family:** Pea—Fabaceae

**Species Characteristics:** Lower parts of stems glaborous; spikes dense and cone-like, concealing the axis; calyx covered with dense, short, white, appressed hairs; stems erect

**Flower Color:** Purple

**Height:** To 18 inches

**Mature Spread:** 2-3 feet

**Season of Bloom:** June-August

**Habitat:** Grassland slopes, shrubby hillsides

**Landscaping Use:** Wildflower meadow, perennial garden, butterfly garden, flowers for cutting and drying

**Moisture Requirement:** Drought tolerant

**Light Requirement:** Full sun

**Soil Requirement:** Any; will grow in poor, heavy soils and sterile soils

**Eco-Relationships:** Bee pollinated; this plant fixes atmospheric nitrogen and can provide nitrogen to improve soil fertility; wind tolerant and deer resistant.
Scientific Name: *Erigeron speciosus*

Common Name: Showy Daisy

Family: Sunflower—Asteraceae

**Species Characteristics:** Upper and middle stem leaves glabrous except for ciliate margins (edged with hairs); plants uniformly leafy with middle leaves as large as lower leaves

**Flower Color:** Lavender to pinkish

**Height:** To 3 feet

**Season of Bloom:** June-August

**Habitat:** Aspen groves, forest margins and openings at 6,000 to 11,000 feet

**Landscaping Use:** Borders, rock gardens, ground cover, container plant, butterfly garden, perennial garden

**Moisture Requirement:** Drought tolerant

**Light Requirement:** Full sun to shade

**Soil Requirement:** Any

**Eco-Relationships:** Flower heads attract and provide a landing platform for pollinators; attract a wide range of pollinators including true bugs, thrips, beetles, butterflies, moths, bees, and flies

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Scientific Name: *Asclepias tuberosa*

Common Name: Butterfly Milkweed

**Species Characteristics:** This bushy, 1 1/2-2 ft. perennial is prized for its large, flat-topped clusters of bright-orange flowers. The leaves are mostly alternate, 1 1/2–2 1/4 inches long, pointed, and smooth on the edge. The yellow-orange to bright orange flower clusters, 2–5 inches across, are at the top of the flowering stem. The abundance of stiff, lance-shaped foliage provides a dark-green backdrop for the showyflower heads.

**Eco-Relationships:** Pollinated by bumblebees, honeybees, native bees, wasps, and butterflies; flowers temporarily trap insects for pollination; very important for monarch butterfly caterpillars. Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds. Larval Host for Gray Hairstreak, Monarch, and Queens. Source of nectar.

**Deer Resistant:** High

**Landscaping Use:** Border, naturalized garden, rock or meadow garden, summer accent, butterfly garden

**Use Ornamental:** Butterfly weed makes a delightful cut flower. Strong color, blooms ornamental, showy, long-living, perennial garden.

**Conspicuous Flowers:** Yes
**Scientific Name:** *Mirabilis multiflora*

**Common Name:** Desert 4 o’clock, Colorado four o’clock

**Species Characteristics:** Vibrant deep pink, broadly tubular flowers bloom in 5-lobed cups growing in leaf axils of this bushy plant. The repeatedly forked stems of this perennial, forming stout, leafy clumps 18 in. high and up to 3 ft. wide. Flower stems are solitary in leaf axils and in clusters at the ends of branches. Large, showy, five-lobed, magenta-purple flowers, open in late afternoon and closing in the morning. The foliage is dark green.

**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts birds, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Visited by many nocturnal insects, including the hawksmoths, Sphinx chersis, and Eumorpha achemon, as well as pollen-collecting bees visiting at dusk and dawn.

**Use Ornamental:** Well-suited to both sun and partial shade, and are perfect for livening any bed or border with a blast of color

**Conspicuous Flowers:** Yes

**Fragrant Flowers:** Yes

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**Scientific Name:** *Artemisia frigid*

**Common Name:** Fringed sage

**Species Characteristics:** This is a low-spreading, semi-evergreen shrub, with numerous stems arising from a woody base to 18 in. The deeply-divided, soft, woolly, gray-green leaves are fine-textured (almost hair-like) and aromatic. The pale yellow flowers and the fruit are rather inconspicuous.

**Use Ornamental:** Drought tolerant. A good soil stabilizer and ground cover

**Eco-Relationships:** Important winter feed for Elk, Pronghorn, and deer. Attracts a large number of native bees. Provides nesting material/structure for native bees.

**Conspicuous Flowers:** Yes

**Fragrant Flowers:** Yes

**Interesting Foliage:** Yes

**Fragrant Foliage:** Yes
Scientific Name: *Oenothera missouriensis*

**Common Name:** Evening primrose

**Species Characteristics:** Canary yellow, mildly fragrant, 3 inch wide flowers are produced in great numbers over dark green, lanceolate leaves from early thru midssummer. Following the substantial blooms, 2 to 3 inch long, 4-winged seed pods are produced which are beautiful in dried floral arrangements. The trailing habit and drought tolerance of this perennial makes it ideal for softening the edges of pathways or planting in rock gardens.

**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts hummingbirds and a large number of native bees; source of nectar.

**Deer Resistant:** Moderate

**Use Ornamental:** Color, blooms ornamental, showy, attractive, rock gardens

**Conspicuous Flowers:** Yes

**Interesting Foliage:** Yes

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Scientific Name: *Echinacea angustifolia*

**Common Name:** Narrow-leaf Coneflower

**Species Characteristics:** The many stout stems of this perennial are 18-24 in. tall and rarely branched. Oblong leaves are covered with stiff hairs. The flower heads, borne singly atop the stems, have pinkish-lavender rays drooping from a dark, spiny, cone-shaped center.

**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts butterflies and large numbers of native bees; nectar source

**Conspicuous Flowers:** Yes

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Scientific Name: *Symphoricarpos albus*

**Common Name:** Snowberry

**Species Characteristics:** A sparsely branched shrub 2-5 ft. tall, gradually forming a thicket 4-6 ft. wide. The slender, wiry twigs bear small, opposite leaves and inconspicuous flowerclusters followed by large, snow white berries which eventually turn brown. This hollow-stemmed shrub has tiny, pinkish-white, bell-shaped flowers in small terminal or axillary clusters.

**Eco-Relationships:** Songbirds, gamebirds, small mammals, and browsers use this plant for food, cover, and nesting sites. Attracts birds. Is a larval host and/or nectar source for *Sphinx vashti*.

**Conspicuous Flowers:** Yes

**Poisonous Parts:** Berries; low toxicity if eaten. Symptoms include vomiting and diarrhea
**Scientific Name:** *Schizachyrium scoparium*

**Common Name:** Little bluestem

**Species Characteristics:** Feathery seedheads; reddish fall color growing 1 to 4 feet and spreading 12 to 18 inches.

**Landscaping Use:** Some varieties with ornamental qualities, sandy soil stabilization, specimen or mass planting, perennial border, rockery, prairie or wildflower meadow

**Eco-Relationships:** High forage value; wind pollinated. Larval host for Ottoe Skipper, Indian Skipper, Crossline Skipper, Dusted Skipper, Cobweb butterfly, and Dixie skipper. Also attracts birds; graze, cover, nesting material, seeds for small mammals and granivorous birds.

**Deer Resistant:** High

**Conspicuous Flowers:** Yes

**Interesting Foliage:** Yes

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**Scientific Name:** *Atriplex canescens*

**Common Name:** Four-winged Saltbush

**Species Characteristics:** Four-wing saltbush is a 3 ft., semi-evergreen shrub which can reach 8 ft. Summer flowers are insignificant, but the clusters of gold-tan, four-winged fruits, which occur on female plants only, are showy. The branches and small, narrow leaves of this mound-shaped shrub are covered with a dense, silvery pubescence. Extremely variable shrub: compact and rounded; sprawling and low; to open-branched and treelike.

**Use Ornamental:** Showy, fall conspicuous, fruits ornamental, erosion control

**Eco-Relationships:** Important as wildlife cover and food plants. Fruit for mammals and birds. Nectar for bees and insects. Larval and/or nectar source for San Emigdio Blue, Mohave Sootywing, and Saltbrush Sootywing

**Conspicuous Flowers:** Yes
**Scientific Name:** Rhus aromatica ssp. Trilobata

**Common Name:** Three-leaved Sumac

**Species Characteristics:** Arching branches form dense, rounded shrub. Mature height of 3 to 6 feet and mature spread of 3 to 6 feet. Red, hairy fruits; 3-parted leaves resemble poison ivy.

**Flower Color:** Pale yellow

**Eco-Relationships:** Cover and food for resident and migrant birds; secondary deer browse.

**Edibility:** Fruit can be eaten raw or used to make "lemonade" with sugar and boiling water; Native Americans ground fruits to make puddings or cakes which were dried for later use; they also used leaves for stomachache, deodorant and skin problems.

**Landscaping Use:** Shrub border, barrier, wildlife planting, erosion control on steep slopes; reddish-yellow fall color.

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**Scientific Name:** Arnica cordifolia

**Common Name:** Heart-leaved Arnica

**Species Characteristics:** This pubescent perennial with long-petioled, heart-shaped basal leaves bears a single, yellow, radiate flower atop a solitary, 8-20 in. stem. Plants are rhizomatous and form clumps to several feet across. The plant makes a tight-binding carpet of green leaves at ground level. Stems with 2-4 pairs of heart-shaped leaves are topped by 1-3 broad yellow heads.

**Eco-Relationships:** Pollinated by flies, butterflies, native bees and bumblebees; spreads abundantly in burned areas; other species in this genus often hybridize; this plant is completely apomictic (producing seeds from unfertilized ovules) which results in genetically identical progeny.

**Conspicuous Flowers:** Yes
Scientific Name: *Aquilegia caerulea*

**Common Name:** Colorado Blue Columbine

**Species Characteristics:** The large, upright, blue and white flowers of this popular wildflower are long-spurred and rise above deeply cut, light-green foliage. This short-lived perennial grows 1-2 ft. tall. The genus name Aquilegia comes from the Latin aquila which means eagle and refers to the spurred petals that many believe resemble an eagle’s talons.

**Eco-Relationships:** Provides nectar for long-tongued insects and hummingbirds

**Conspicuous Flowers:** Yes

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Scientific Name: *Amelanchier alnifolia 'Regent'*

**Common Name:** Regent Serviceberry

**Species Characteristics:** This serviceberry is a compact, deciduous, stoloniferous, early-flowering shrub which typically grows only 4-6’ tall. Features small, 5-petaled, showy, slightly fragrant, white flowers (3/4” diameter) in clusters (racemes) which appear before the leaves emerge in early spring. Flowers give way to abundant, small, roundish, green berries which mature to a dark purple in early summer (typically July). Edible berries resemble blueberries in size and color and are often used in jams, jellies and pies. Finely toothed, rounded, dark green leaves change to variable shades of yellow and red in autumn. The species is commonly called Saskatoon serviceberry. It typically grows 10-18’ tall and is sometimes grown commercially for fruit production.

**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts birds

**Landscape Uses:** Best in shrub borders, woodland gardens or naturalized areas, especially with dark or shaded backdrops which tend to highlight the form, flowers and fall color of the plant. Also effective along stream banks and ponds.
**Scientific Name:** *Acer negundo 'Sensation'*

**Common Name:** Sensation Boxelder

**Species Characteristics:** Young emerging leaves have a reddish-orange color to them giving the tree a multicolored appearance in the spring and early summer. In the summer leaves are a light green color. Fall foliage color is orange to red and very showy. Uniform growth habit, a much improved symmetrical branch structure. An excellent small to medium sized tree quite tolerant of harsh conditions.

**Maximum Height:** 9m

**Maximum Canopy:** 6m

**Landscape Uses:** Suitable for large gardens, street tree plantings, parks and gardens.

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**Scientific Name:** *Crataegus erythropoda*

**Common Name:** Hawthorn

**Species Characteristics:** Shrub or small tree with short trunk and widely spreading branches; marginal teeth with black glandular tips; leaves and petioles glabrous (hairless) at maturity. Mature height to 15 feet. White flowers.

**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts a large number of native bees

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**Scientific Name:** *Shepherdia argentea*

**Common Name:** Silver Buffaloberry

**Species Characteristics:** Silver buffalo-berry is a mound-shaped shrub, 6-20 ft. tall, which sometimes becomes nearly tree-like. The deciduous plant may be single-trunked or have a few short-trunked stems. Twigs are spiny and silvery gray. Foliage is also silvery-gray. Inconspicuous flowers precede a football-shaped berry that is red, orange or yellow. Shrub or small tree with silvery, scaly leaves, young twigs, berries; branches opposite; twigs often spine-tipped.

**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts large numbers of native bees. The berries are edible, but sour, best after frost in November.

**Conspicuous Flowers:** Yes
Scientific Name: *Amorpha canescens*

Common Name: Leadplant

Species Characteristics: Leadplant is a small, deciduous shrub, 1-3 ft. tall, with tiny, purple flowers grouped together in colorful, terminal spikes. Pinnately compound leaves are covered with short, dense hairs, giving the plant a grayish appearance. This is one of the most conspicuous and characteristic shrubs of the upland prairies. The alternate common name Prairie Shoestring probably refers to the laced-shoestring look of the leaves and roots. It has very deep roots, 4 feet (1.2 m) or deeper.

Use Ornamental: Showy, blooms ornamental, ground cover, attractive, fruits ornamental

Eco-Relationships: Attracts large numbers of native bees. Mammals and deer attracted to fruit. Insects attracted to nectar.

Conspicuous Flowers: Yes

Interesting Foliage: Yes

Scientific Name: *Ceanothus fendleri*

Common Name: Buckbrush

Species Characteristics: Stamens opposite (attached in front of) the petals. White flowers.

Eco-Relationships: Wildlife browse plant; butterflies and bees drink nectar, birds and small mammals eat seed.

Landscaping Use: Ornamental small shrub, butterfly plant, dry garden under pines or oak, foundation planting, low hedge or garden border, wildlife habitat, honey plant.
**Golden Currant - Ribes aureum**

Height 4’ – 6’ Width 4’-6’. Deciduous shrub with light-green, three-lobed leaves and spicy-scented racemes of yellow flowers, turning orange with age, on long, wand-like stems. Berries are either yellow, red or black when ripe.

**Wildlife use:** Flowers provide nectar to hummingbirds, butterflies and bees. Birds,

Host plant for the caterpillar of the Zephyr Anglewing butterfly.

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**Wood Rose - Rosa woodsii**

Wood rose is a much-branched, deciduous shrub, up to 5 ft. tall, often growing in dense thickets. Stems are red and prickled on their lower portions, though not as well-armed as other wild roses. Leaves are pinnately-compound with five to nine leaflets. Pink, five-petaled flowers, 2 in. across, are followed by many orange-red hips. Wood’s Rose. - *Rosa woodsii* - The hips form an important food source for birds in the winter.

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**Soapwood – Yucca glauca**

This plant has a symbiotic association with the Yucca moth, the adult female moth pollinates the flowers and the seeds provide food for the moth’s larvae. Height 1’ – 2’ Width 1’-2’

**Use Wildlife:** Plums are not a choice food for wildlife, but the plants provide valuable nesting cover and are a host to many butterflies. **Use Food:** The fruits have tough, sour outer skins, but their sweet, juicy flesh is delicious, making excellent jams, jellies, preserves and pies. The plums can also be halved, then pitted and dried like prunes, spread in a thin sheet and dried as fruit leather.
Western Native plants on the PLANT SELECT List

**Scientific Name:** *Sporobolus heterolepis*

**Common Name:** Prairie Dropseed

**Species Characteristics:** Prairie dropseed is a fine-textured, distinctive bunchgrass with leaves that curve gracefully outward forming large, round tufts. Delicate seedheads appear above the tuft in midsummer, rising 2 ft. high. Fall color is tan-bronze. Snow does not flatten the plant, so it is visible even in winter.

**Eco-Relationships:** Provides nesting materials/structure for native bees

**Conspicuous Flowers:** Yes

**Fragrant Flowers:** Yes

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**Scientific Name:** *Arctostaphylos x coloradoensis ‘Panchito’*

**Common Name:** Panchito Manzanita

**Species Characteristics:** Panchito Manzanita is a versatile low-growing, evergreen shrub that may be grown as a specimen feature or planted in groupings as a ground cover. This plant will grow to 10”-15” in height and 36”-60” in width in 3 to 7 years time. The flowers although relatively inconspicuous are white to pale pink and bloom in late winter to early spring. The foliage can have a rich reddish purple fall color. For the first couple of years it will need supplemental water. Once established it will require very little moisture.

**Flower Color:** Orange

**Height:** 10-15”

**Width:** 24-36”

**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees

**Deer Resistant, Xeric, Winter interest**
Scientific Name: *Fallugia paradoxa*

**Common Name:** Apache Plume

**Species Characteristics:** Apache-plume is a slender, upright, deciduous to semi-evergreen, multi-branched shrub, 2-6 ft. tall, with grayish-white, pubescent branches. A shrub with white flowers and silvery puffs of fruit heads borne at the tips of very dense, intertwined, twiggy, slender branches. Dark green leaves (silver beneath) contrast well with the loose clusters of fragile, white, apple blossom-like flowers. Distinctive, pink, feathery plumes characterize the persistent fruit. These rather thick shrubs appear unkempt, but in full flower their white petals are attractive against the dark foliage. Fruit clusters with feathery, purplish tails said to resemble Apache headdress.

**Use Ornamental:** Grows in clumps, blooms ornamental, color, winter-hardy, erosion control, rocky hillside

**Eco-Relationships:** An important forage plant for wild animals. Provides nectar, cover, nesting site, and nesting material

**Conspicuous Flowers:** Yes

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Scientific Name: *Rhus trilobata 'Autumn Amber'*

**Common Name:** Autumn Amber sumac

**Species Characteristics:** 18” x 6-8’ wide, (cutting propagated). 'Autumn Amber' is a superb prostrate growing form of Three Leaf Sumac originally discovered years ago in Texas. Blooming in mid-spring with an amazing abundance of chartreuse colored flowers, the plants have attractive glossy green foliage that turns an amber-yellow in the fall. 'Autumn Amber' is a welcome groundcover alternative to the creeping juniper.

**Landscape Use:** Ideal groundcover shrub for terraced walls, large open areas and dry shrub areas.
Scientific Name: *Chrysothamnus (Ericameria) nauseosus var. nauseosus*

Common Name: Baby blue rabbitbrush

Species Characteristics: Dwarf forms of rabbitbrush occur everywhere in the West, but this compact, dome-like strain found along the Front Range is especially dense and silvery-blue with bright golden flowers in late summer and fall. An indispensible and indestructible native with multi-season interest. Also known as “dwarf blue rabbitbrush.”

Height: 16-28”

Width: 20-30”

Eco-Relationships: Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees

Deer Resistant, Fragrant, Winter Interest, Xeric

Scientific Name: *Bouteloua gracilis ‘Blonde Ambition’PP 22,048*

Common Name: Blonde Ambition blue grama grass

Species Characteristics: An impressive, highly ornamental form of Western native grass with tall, upright stems. Showy chartreuse, aging-to-blonde seed heads hold their straight shape and are displayed high above the foliage through winter, providing many months of color and texture.

Height: 30-36 inches

Width: 30-36 inches

Flower Color: Cream

Scientific Name: *Ephedra equisetina*

Common Name: Bluestem Joint Fir

Species Characteristics: Finely textured blue-green stems with a conspicuous froth of yellow blooms often followed by red berries. Related to conifers. Bluestem joint fir is extremely heat and drought tolerant. Dense branching provides excellent winter interest. Shrub.

Height: 4-6’

Width: 3-8’

Deer Resistant, Winter Interest, Xeric
**Scientific Name:** *Penstemon rostriflorus*

**Common Name:** Bridges' Penstemon

**Species Characteristics:** The low, much-branched, sub-woody base of beaked beartongue or Bridge’s penstemon sends up 2-3 ft. stems which bear narrowly spoon-shaped, yellow-green leaves and large, conspicuously two-lipped, scarlet-red flowers.

Dark evergreen foliage covered with a constant succession of scarlet trumpet flowers through the hot summer months. Long lived and durable under a wide range of climatic conditions.

**Flower Color:** Red

**Height:** 24-36”

**Width:** 24-36”

**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees (large numbers of native bees)

**Deer Resistant**

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**Scientific Name:** *Penstemon x mexicali ‘Carolyn’s Hope’ PPAF*

**Common Name:** Carolyn’s Hope pink penstemon

**Species Characteristics:** Cheerful pink, white-throated tubular flowers and dark pink buds above narrow, glossy green are attractive nearly all summer long. This hybrid between Mexican and American wild penstemons was developed in Colorado to raise funds to support breast cancer research at University of Colorado Cancer Center.

**Flower Color:** Pink

**Height:** 15”

**Width:** 12-15”

**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees (large numbers of native bees)

**Deer Resistant**

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**Scientific Name:** *Scutellaria suffrutescens*

**Common Name:** Cherry Skullcap

**Species Characteristics:** Low mounding subshrub with continuous display of hot, cherry-red flowers. Grows best in sunny, well-drained sites. Good in raised beds, rock gardens or in front of the border. Tender perennial.

**Flower Color:** Red

**Height:** 3-8”

**Width:** 10-15”

**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees

**Xeric**
**Scientific Name:** *Philadelphus lewisii*  
**Common Name:** CHEYENNE® Mock Orange  
**Species Characteristics:** This North American native forms an attractive shape in a variety of sites and soils. A selection at the USDA Field Station at Cheyenne, Wyoming, where the parent plant has formed a spectacular and carefree specimen. It has thrived over many decades there with no care. Intensely fragrant, nearly two-inch, white blooms. Shrub.  
**Flower Color:** White  
**Height:** 7’  
**Width:** 6’  
**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees  
**Xeric**

**Scientific Name:** *Arctostaphylos x coloradensis ‘Chieftain’*  
**Common Name:** Chieftain manzanita  
**Species Characteristics:** An Uncompaghre Plateau selection that is a much more vigorous manzanita than other Plant Select® introductions. Oval leaves emerge with a reddish tint changing to bold dark green, persisting through the winter making this an outstanding evergreen groundcover. White flowers tinged with pink appear in late spring followed by red berries in early fall. Striking, smooth cinnamon-red to purplish exfoliating bark appears as the plant matures. Will struggle in clay soils and wet conditions.  
**Flower Color:** White tinged with pink  
**Height:** 18-36”  
**Width:** 5-8’  
**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees  
**Deer Resistant, Winter interest, Xeric**

**Scientific Name:** *Berlandiera lyrata*  
**Common Name:** Chocolate Flower  
**Species Characteristics:** Ever blooming native wildflower from the Southwest that produces a continuous succession of dark-eyed, yellow daisies over a compact rosette of foliage. The flowers exude a rich chocolate aroma in the morning hours. Best with minimal water once established. Can reseed. Perennial.  
**Flower Color:** Yellow  
**Height:** 10-20”  
**Width:** 10-20”  
**Use Ornamental:** Wildflower meadow, accent shrub, perennial garden, shortgrass meadow, can be mowed  
**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees  
**Deer Resistant, Fragrant, Xeric**
**Scientific Name:** *Amsonia jonesii*

**Common Name:** Colorado Desert Blue Star

**Species Characteristics:** This widely adaptable western native thrives in ordinary gardens or unwatered xeriscape. Sapphire blue stars from April to early summer. Autumn foliage is a beautiful, clear yellow.

**Flower Color:** Blue

**Height:** 10-14”

**Width:** 12-15”

**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees

**Deer Resistant, Xeric**

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**Scientific Name:** *Ribes uva-crispa 'Red Jacket'*

**Common Name:** Comanche Gooseberry

**Species Characteristics:** Bright green leaves set off many clusters of sweet, huge, red berries in midsummer. Mounding plant with long thorns; good as a hedge. This is the original selection from England, not the selection from Canada. Powdery mildew resistant. Very hardy. Shrub.

**Height:** 2.5’

**Width:** 5’

**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees

**Deer Resistant**

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**Scientific Name:** *Agastache aurantiaca*

**Common Name:** CORONADO® Hyssop

**Species Characteristics:** Yellow, stained with orange, helmets of fiery color from midsummer to autumn frost. This silvery-leaved southwestern wildflower is intensely aromatic. Sunny, well drained sites. Perennial.

**Flower Color:** Orange

**Height:** 15”

**Width:** 12”

**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees

**Deer Resistant, Edible, Fragrant**
**Scientific Name:** *Agastache 'Pstessene'*

**Common Name:** CORONADO® Red Hyssop

**Species Characteristics:** Brilliant crimson and maroon spires are produced over a long summer season. This distinct selection from Welby Gardens brings an exciting new color shade to an outstanding group of aromatic native mints. Perennial.

**Flower Color:** Red

**Height:** 15-18”

**Width:** 12-15”

**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees

**Deer Resistant, Edible, Fragrant**

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**Scientific Name:** *Rudbeckia*

**Common Name:** Denver Daisy

**Species Characteristics:** Striking dark eyed, long-rayed daisy, hybridized by Benary from the Colorado native Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*). This showy plant commemorates the 150th anniversary of the founding of Denver. Tender Perennial.

**Flower Color:** Yellow

**Height:** 18-28”

**Width:** 10-25”

**Deer resistant**

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**Scientific Name:** *Aquilegia chrysantha*

**Common Name:** DENVER GOLD® Columbine

**Species Characteristics:** A particularly showy race of the golden columbine of the southern Rockies. The huge, yellow flowers can be over three inches across and the spurs are even longer. The plants often bloom from May to autumn frost and self sow generously. Perennial.

**Flower Color:** Yellow

**Height:** 30”

**Width:** 15”

**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees
**Scientific Name:** *Pinus edulis*
**Common Name:** Dwarf Piñon Pine

**Species Characteristics:** Slow growing selection of native piñon pine forming tight mounds over time. Extremely drought-tolerant adapting well to harsh conditions. Excellent evergreen choice for rock gardens and permanent containers.

**Height:** 20-30” in 10 years

**Width:** 20-30” in 10 years

**Deer resistant, Xeric**

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**Scientific Name:** *Chamaebatiaria millefolium*
**Common Name:** Fernbush

**Species Characteristics:** Fernbush is a leafy, aromatic shrub producing a profuse amount of small, showy, white, five-petaled flowers. The feathery leaves and fragrant flowers are clustered at the ends of the branches. Aromatic shrub; glandular, hairy. Leaves: 3, finely twice pinnately compound, fern-like. Leaves are downy, fern-like and gray-green. Most of the older leaves drop during winter to reveal smooth, russet bark.

**Flower Color:** White

**Height:** 3-5’

**Width:** 3-5’

**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees

**Deer resistant, Xeric, Winter interest**

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**Scientific Name:** *Salvia greggii* ‘Furman's Red’
**Common Name:** Furman's Red Sage

**Species Characteristics:** Hardy selection of a southwestern ever-blooming sage. Crimson to scarlet flowers are produced in repeated flushes through the summer and autumn. Best cut back in spring. Woody perennial.

**Flower Color:** Red

**Height:** 18-24”

**Width:** 12-24”

**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees

**Deer resistant, Xeric, Winter interest**
Scientific Name: *Zinnia grandiflora* ‘Gold on Blue’

Common Name: Golden flowered prairie zinnia

**Species Characteristics:** Outstanding selection of native prairie zinnia chosen for its vigor, foliage color and large flowers. Excellent for hot, dry sites; thrives in all soil types, even dry clay. Recommended for slopes, along driveways and other places where it can spread as a large scale groundcover.

**Flower Color:** Yellow

**Height:** 8-10”

**Width:** 18”+

**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees

Deer resistant, Xeric

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Scientific Name: *Penstemon mensarum*

Common Name: Grand Mesa Beardtongue

**Species Characteristics:** Stunning cobalt blue spikes in early spring last for nearly two months. Dense mat of evergreen rosettes turns a lovely orange-red in winter. This close cousin to ‘Bandera’ blooms almost a month earlier, extending the season. Restricted to Western Colorado in the wild.

**Flower Color:** Blue

**Height:** 24-30”

**Width:** 10-15”

**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees. Important bird and insect forage

Deer resistant, Winter interest

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Scientific Name: *Acer tataricum* ‘GarAnn’ PP 15,023

Common Name: HOT WINGS® Tatarian Maple

**Species Characteristics:** Brilliant red samaras look like flaming flowers all summer long. Attractive sturdy tree with showy fall color. Ideal for home landscapes. Tree.

**Flower Color:** Green

**Height:** 15-18”

**Width:** 15-18”

Edible
Scientific Name: *Monardella macrantha 'Marian Sampson'*

Common Name: Hummingbird trumpet mint

Species Characteristics: Intensely aromatic herb from the mountains of California forming low mounds of semi-evergreen leaves virtually hidden beneath exotic-looking clusters of brilliant, scarlet-orange trumpets late spring through summer. A focal point of color on a wall, rock garden or container. Provide protection from heat of summer sun for best performance; may need winter protection in some areas.

Flower Color: Red

Height: 3-6”

Width: 8-12”

Eco-Relationships: Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees

Deer resistant

Scientific Name: *Eriogonum umbellatum var. aureum 'Psdowns'*

Common Name: KANNAH CREEK® Buckwheat

Species Characteristics: Masses of yellow flowers turn orange as they age. Spreading green foliage changes to a vivid purple-red in winter. Vigorous and adaptable western native. Perennial.

Flower Color: Yellow

Height: 12-15”

Width: 12-24”

Eco-Relationships: Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees

Rock garden, Deer Resistant

Scientific Name: *Cercocarpus intricatus*

Common Name: Littleleaf Mountain Mahogany

Species Characteristics: This dense, twiggy evergreen shrub is from the Southwestern desert areas. A fine, small-scale hedge plant for a sunny, dry spot or as a specimen in the Xeriscape. Small flowers transform into attractive, feathery seedpods. Responds to light pruning. Small to medium-sized shrub.

Height: 30-60” Width: 2-3’

Eco-Relationships: Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees

Deer Resistant, Winter interest, Xeric
Scientific Name: *Arctostaphylos x coloradensis*

Common Name: Mock Bearberry Manzanita

Species Characteristics: Outstanding selection of a native broadleaf evergreen shrub from the Uncompaghre Plateau. Waxy, urn-shaped, white flowers produce small red berries on established plants. First selected by Betsy Baldwin of Golden, Colorado. Shrub.

Flower Color: Pink

Height: 10-15”

Width: 36-60”

Eco-Relationships: Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees

Deer Resistant, Winter interest, Xeric

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Scientific Name: *Salvia pachyphylla*

Common Name: Mojave Sage

Species Characteristics: The intensely aromatic, evergreen foliage has great substance. Silver-green leaves set off persistent mauve bracts that surround the flowers. Shrubby perennial.

Flower Color: Blue

Height: 18-36”

Width: 24-36”

Eco-Relationships: Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees (large numbers of native bees)

Deer Resistant, Winter interest, Xeric, Fragrant

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Scientific Name: *Zauschneria garrettii*

Common Name: ORANGE CARPET® Hummingbird Trumpet

Species Characteristics: Rapidly spreading groundcover with masses of orange-scarlet flowers summer to fall. A selection made from seed collected in Idaho, this is the best form of California fuchsia for high altitude or cool climate gardens. Perennial.

Flower Color: Orange

Height: 3-4”

Width: 15-20”

Eco-Relationships: Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees

Deer Resistant, Xeric
**Scientific Name:** *Prunus besseyi*

**Common Name:** PAWNEE BUTTES® Sand Cherry

**Species Characteristics:** A graceful, ground covering form of our native sand cherry. Lustrous, green leaves turn bright red and purple in fall. Fragrant, white flowers in April produce heavy crops of black cherries in summer that are attractive to wildlife. Shrub.

**Flower Color:** White

**Height:** 15-18”

**Width:** 4-6’

**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees

Xeric, Edible

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**Scientific Name:** *Salvia daghestanica*

**Common Name:** PLATINUM® Sage

**Species Characteristics:** Silvery-white mats of beautiful foliage are studded with spires of dark blue flowers. Very hardy perennial for edging, rock gardens or as a slow spreading groundcover. Perennial.

**Flower Color:** Blue

**Height:** 8-10”

**Width:** 12-18”

**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees

Rock garden, Winter interest, Xeric, Deer resistant

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**Scientific Name:** *Penstemon grandiflorus*

**Common Name:** PRAIRIE JEWEL® Penstemon

**Species Characteristics:** This select strain of the showiest of the northern Great Plains’ penstemons was developed from the Seeba hybrids by Mary Ann Heacock of Denver. It has giant flowers that range from pure white, through lavender and rose-pink to a deep purple-violet. The silvery rosettes are attractive all year. Short-lived on wet soils, it will persist in buffalo grass or the xeriscape. Perennial.

**Flower Color:** Pink, white

**Height:** 20-36”

**Width:** 8”

**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees

Xeric, Deer resistant
**Scientific Name:** *Calylophus serrulatus* ‘Prairie Lode’

**Common Name:** Prairie Lode Sundrops

**Species Characteristics:** This vigorous native prairie species is spangled for months on end with four-petaled, bright and cheerful yellow blossoms which emerge from large, orange buds. Tolerates a wide range of situations and thrives in hot, dry conditions. 'Prairie Lode' was selected by Bluebird Nursery in Clarkson, Nebraska for its compact habit. Cut back to ground each spring for best performance.

**Flower Color:** Yellow

**Height:** 6-8”

**Width:** 12-15”

**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees

Xeric, Rock garden

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**Scientific Name:** *Satureja montana var. illyrica*

**Common Name:** Purple Winter Savory

**Species Characteristics:** Purple-blue flowered, prostrate form of the popular garden herb. Trim evergreen mounds covered with showy flowers late in the season. Perennial.

**Height:** 4-6”

**Width:** 12-15”

**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees

Xeric, Rock garden

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**Scientific Name:** *Scrophularia macrantha*

**Common Name:** Red Birds in a Tree

**Species Characteristics:** Introduced in 1996 by High Country Gardens, this rare penstemon cousin has showy crimson tubular flowers which are produced in generous sprays above rich green serrated foliage. This southwestern uplands wildflower has shown great adaptability in gardens. Perennial.

**Flower Color:** Red

**Height:** 36”

**Width:** 18”

**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees

Xeric
Scientific Name: *Penstemon x mexicali*

Common Name: RED ROCKS® Penstemon & PIKES PEAK PURPLE® Penstemon

Species Characteristics: Durable hybrid penstemons selected from crosses made by Bruce Meyers between Mexican and American wild penstemons. Narrow, dark green leaves form an attractive mound. RED ROCKS® sports a constant succession of bright rose flowers all summer, while PIKES PEAK PURPLE® chimes in with violet-purple. Both thrive in a range of sites and soils. Perennial. Xeriscape.

Scientific Name: *Hesperaloe parviflora*

Common Name: Red yucca

Species Characteristics: This graceful native of Texas and Mexico has arching, evergreen grass-like leaves with captivating curly white filaments. Tall spikes of brilliant rose-pink, yellow-throated tubular blossoms curve skyward with elegance and are an instant magnet for hummingbirds from early summer to autumn. Red yucca is virtually maintenance-free and perfectly xeric once established.

Flower Color: Red

Height: 3-4’

Width: 3-4’

Eco-Relationships: Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees; deer browse the foliage, while the flowers attract hummingbirds

Deer Resistant, Xeric

Scientific Name: *Aquilegia 'Swan Violet & White'*

Common Name: REMEMBRANCE® Columbine

Species Characteristics: A hybrid derived from the Colorado state flower, the petals and spurs are an incredibly rich, shining violet-blue. The name honors the memory of the students and teacher of Columbine High School who shall never be forgotten. Proceeds will benefit organizations that promote diversity and tolerance in schools. Perennial.

Flower Color: Purple

Height: 14-24”

Width: 15-18”

Eco-Relationships: Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees
**Scientific Name:** *Clematis scottii*

**Common Name:** Scott’s sugarbowls

**Species Characteristics:** Long-blooming Scott’s sugarbowls make a mound of blue-green, lacy foliage, topped in late spring and early summer by large, nodding blue flowers. Bees and bumblebees frequent the bell-shaped blossoms. Shimmering golden seed heads follow suit.

**Flower Color:** Blue

**Height:** 8-15”

**Width:** 12-18”

**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees

**Rock garden, Deer resistant**

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**Scientific Name:** *Penstemon x mexicali 'Psmyers'*

**Common Name:** SHADOW MOUNTAIN® Penstemon

**Species Characteristics:** Lavender-blue cousin to RED ROCKS® Penstemon blooms from late spring through the summer. Very adaptable. Perennial.

**Flower Color:** Purple

**Height:** 18-24”

**Width:** 15-18”

**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees

**Deer resistant**

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**Scientific Name:** *Oenothera macrocarpa subsp. incana*

**Common Name:** SILVER BLADE® Evening Primrose

**Species Characteristics:** A southern Great Plains endemic introduced by James Locklear, further promoted by Bluebird Nursery, Clarkson, Nebraska. Silver leaves compliment the clear yellow flowers. Best on well drained sites. Blooms May to frost. Drought tolerant. Perennial. Xeriscape.

**Flower Color:** Yellow

**Height:** 4”

**Width:** 14”

**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees

**Deer resistant**
**Scientific Name:** *Penstemon linarioides var. coloradoensis*  
**Common Name:** SILVERTON® Bluemat Penstemon  
**Species Characteristics:** Spreading mounds of silvery, evergreen leaves provide attractive presence year round. Lavender-blue flowers are an added attraction. Perennial. Xeriscape.  
**Flower Color:** Blue  
**Height:** 8-12”  
**Width:** 12-15”  
**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees  
Deer resistant, Evergreen, Rock garden, Winter interest, Xeric

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**Scientific Name:** *Scutellaria resinosa ‘Smoky Hills’*  
**Common Name:** Smoky Hills skullcap  
**Species Characteristics:** Tidy mounds of greenish-grey leaves covered with bright purple-blue flowers tipped with white in early summer. Thrives in hot, sunny locations with well-drained soil, this shortgrass prairie native was named for the Smoky Hills of Kansas where it was first collected. Introduced by Great Plants for the Great Plains™.  
**Flower Color:** Blue  
**Height:** 8-10”  
**Width:** 10-14”  
**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees  
Deer resistant, Rock garden, Xeric

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**Scientific Name:** *Eriogonum wrightii var. wrightii*  
**Common Name:** Snow Mesa buckwheat  
**Species Characteristics:** Billowy domes of glistening white flowers gradually turn a ruddy fawn color over a period of months in late summer and fall. This long-lived gorgeous wildflower from the Chihuahuan grasslands of the Southwest will light up your xeriscape. A perfect complement for rabbitbrush, Russian sage and Sunset hyssop.  
**Flower Color:** White  
**Height:** 18-20”  
**Width:** 18-24”  
Deer resistant, Evergreen, Xeric
**Scientific Name:** *Agastache cana 'Sinning' PP 13,673*  
**Common Name:** SONORAN SUNSET® Hyssop  
**Species Characteristics:** A compact, large-flowered selection, that has proven to be a superior clone, blooming earlier and longer, with much showier lavender-rose flowers than the species. Perennial. Xeriscape.

**Flower Color:** Pink  
**Height:** 15”  
**Width:** 12-15”  
**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees  
**Deer resistant, Fragrant**

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**Scientific Name:** *Agastache rupestris*  
**Common Name:** Sunset Hyssop  
**Species Characteristics:** Bold brushes of sunset-orange flowers from August to frost. Native to high mountains of the Southwest, the whole plant exudes a rich, root beer aroma. An exotic contribution to water-smart gardens or perennial borders. Perennial. Xeriscape.

**Flower Color:** Orange  
**Height:** 20-24”  
**Width:** 8-15”  
**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees  
**Deer resistant, Fragrant**

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**Scientific Name:** *Muhlenbergia reverchonii*  
**Common Name:** UNDAUNTED® ruby muhly  
**Species Characteristics:** Selection of long-lived grass brought from the southern Great Plains by Lauren & Scott Ogden. Graceful fine-textured gray-green mounds topped by clouds of tiny ruby flowers that glow brilliantly when backlit in autumn. Persistent winter beauty, superb in mass plantings; also for accents and erosion control.

**Flower Color:** Purple-pink  
**Height:** 15-18” to 30” in flower  
**Width:** 18-24”  
**Deer resistant, Winter interest, Fall color**
Scientific Name: *Verbena bipinnatifida*

Common Name: VALLEY LAVENDER® Plains Verbena

Species Characteristics: Vibrant lavender flower clusters are held erect above spreading stems with deeply cut leaves. This beautiful groundcover blooms from late spring through frost. A durable Great Plains perennial that is attractive to butterflies.

Flower Color: Purple

Height: 3-6”

Width: 12-18”

Eco-Relationships: Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees

Xeric

Scientific Name: *Salvia darcyi 'Pscarl'*

Common Name: VERMILION BLUFFS® Mexican Sage

Species Characteristics: Brilliant cardinal-red spires in late summer and fall attract hummingbirds. It has proven hardy under protected conditions in Denver over the last 5 years. Perennial.

Flower Color: Red

Height: 35-40”

Width: 20-30”

Eco-Relationships: Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees

Deer resistant, rock garden

Scientific Name: *Jamesia americana*

Common Name: Waxflower

Species Characteristics: Intensely fragrant and showy clusters of waxy, white flowers appear in late spring on this shrub, with the added interest of flaking, reddish-brown bark. Heavy-textured, green foliage transforms to brilliant orange and pink tones in the autumn. This western native adds winter interest with its silvery silhouette. An excellent choice for dry conditions. Shrub. Xeriscape.

Flower Color: White

Height: 3-6’

Width: 4-6’

Eco-Relationships: Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees

Deer resistant, Fragrant
**Scientific Name:** *Picea glauca 'Pendula'*

**Common Name:** Weeping white spruce

**Species Characteristics:** This first Plant Select® conifer recommendation is a living sculpture for the landscape. Very hardy form of the boreal spruce that also thrives in summer heat. The graceful foliage shimmers, and the weeping form adds drama and texture to any setting. With its compact footprint, this distinctive specimen enhances tight landscape and garden settings. A must-have for winter interest!

**Flower Color:** White

**Height:** 20-30’

**Width:** 4-6’

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**Scientific Name:** *Salvia greggii*

**Common Name:** Wild Thing Sage

**Species Characteristics:** Aromatic mounds of dark, semi-evergreen foliage are covered with flushes of hot pink flowers much of the growing season. Brought to Plant Select® by Tom Peace. Best cut back in spring. Woody perennial. Xeriscape.

**Flower Color:** Red

**Height:** 16-20”

**Width:** 12-14”

**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees

Deer resistant

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**Scientific Name:** *Penstemon x mexicali*

**Common Name:** WINDWALKER® garnet penstemon

**Species Characteristics:** Unique ruby-red or garnet-colored tubular flowers with striped throats bloom nearly all summer long above narrow, glossy green leaves, forming attractive mounds. This selection is a hybrid between Mexican and American wild penstemons developed by Kelly Grummons in Colorado.

**Flower Color:** Garnet (shades)

**Height:** 15”

**Width:** 12-15”

**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees

Deer resistant
**Scientific Name:** *Callirhoe involucrata*  
**Common Name:** Winecups  
**Species Characteristics:** This native thrives at the front of the border, in the wild garden and Xeriscape where it enjoys the full sun, blooming with wine-red flowers from April to hard frost. Perennial. Xeriscape.  
**Flower Color:** Purple  
**Height:** 5-8”  
**Width:** 20-30”  
**Eco-Relationships:** Attracts birds, butterflies and/or bees  
**Groundcover**
Sources

- University of Austin, TX  www.wildflower.org/expert/

- Sarada Krishnan, Denver Botanic Garden – www.botanicgardens.org

- CSU Extension: Colorado Plant Database  http://jeffco.us/coopext/intro.jsp

- Plant Select – www.PlantSelect.org

- High Plains Environmental Center- Field Observation-  www.suburbitat.org