**El Paso County Native Plant List to Attract Birds**

**Why Native Plants?**

* They are adapted to our soils and climates
* Easier to maintain and require little or no soil amendments, fertilizer, or pesticides
* Require little or no supplemental irrigation – once established
* Support our native birds, bees, butterflies, and insects

| *Scientific Name* | Common Name | Food | Host Plant | Mature Plant Size | Sun or Shade | Preferred Soil |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| GRASSES |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Aristida purpurea* | Purple three awn | S |  | 12-20” X 24” | FS | Adaptable |
| *Bouteloua curtipendula* | Side-oats grama | S |  | 18-30” X 18-24” | FS - PS | Well-drained |
| *Bouteloua gracilis* | Blue grama | S |  | 12-14” X 12-18” | FS - PS | Well-drained |
| *Deschampsia cespitosa* | Tufted hair grass | S | Y | 24” X 18-24” | FS | Adaptable |
| *Festuca idahoensis* | Bluebunch fescue | S |  | 15-16” X 15” | FS - PS | Well-drained |
| *Koeleria macrantha* | Prairie junegrass | S |  | 12-24” X 9-18” | FS | Well-drained, rocky |
| *Muhlenbergia montana* | Mountain muhly | S | Y | 2.5’ X 2’ | FS – PS | Well-drained |
| *Oryzopsis hymenoides* | Indian rice grass | S |  | 12-24” X 8-12” | FS | Adaptable |
| *Panicum virgatum* | Switchgrass | S |  | 36-60” X 18-24” | FS | Well-drained, rocky |
| *Schizachyrium scoparium* | Little bluestem | S | Y | 24-48” X 18-24” | FS | Well-drained, adaptable |
| *Sorghastrum nutans* | Indian grass | S |  | 36-60“X 36” | FS | Well-drained, silty-loam |
| *Sporobolus airoides* | Alkali-sacaton | S |  | 36-60” X 24” | FS | Adaptable |
| *Sporobolus heterolepis* | Prairie switchgrass | S |  | 24-36” X 24-26” | FS-PS | Well-drained, rocky |
| PERENNIALS |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Achillea lanulosa* | Native yarrow | S |  | 12” X 36” | FS | Well-drained |
| *Achillea millefolium* | Common yarrow | S |  | 12” X 36” | FS | Adaptable |
| *Aquilegia chrysantha* | Golden columbines | Nectar |  | 30” X 18” | FS – PS | Well-drained |
| *Artemisia ludoviciana* | Prairie sage | S | Y | 18 “X 18” | FS | Well-drained |
| *Asclepias speciosa* | Showy milkweed | S, Nectar | Y | 24-36” X 48” | FS | Adaptable |
| *Asclepias tuberosa* | Butterfly milkweed | S, Nectar | Y | 18” X 18” | FS | Well-drained |
| *Campanula rotundifolia* | Harebells | Nectar |  | 12” X 6” | FS – PS | Well-drained |
| *Dalea purpurea* | Prairie-clover | S | Y | 18” X 18” | FS | Well-drained |
| *Erigeron speciosus* | Showy daisies | S |  | 12-18” X 12-18” | FS – PS | Adaptable |
| *Gaillardia aristata* | Blanket flower | S |  | 12” X 12” | FS | Well-drained |
| *Geranium viscosissimum* | Sticky geraniums | Nectar |  | 12-24” X 12-24” | FS – PS | Well-drained |
| *Grindelia squarrosa* | Gumweed | S |  | 6 – 36” H | FS – PS | Well-drained |
| *Heuchera spp* | Coral bells | Nectar |  | 16-18” X 12-15” | PS – FS | Well-drained |
| *Helianthus annuus* | Common sunflower | S | Y | 5-10’ X 2’ | FS | Adaptable |
| *Heliomeris multiflora* | Showy golden eye | S |  | 18-30” X 18-30” | FS | Well-drained |
| *Ipomopsis aggregata* | Scarlet gilia | Nectar |  | 12-30” X 12” | FS | Well-drained |
| *Liatris punctata* | Dotted gayfeather | Nectar,  S |  | 24” X 12” | FS – PS | Well-drained, sandy |
| *Linum lewisii* | Wild blue flax | S |  | 18” X 12” | FS | Well-drained |
| *Lupinus argenteus* | Silver lupine | S | Y | 12-36” x 12- 24” | FS | Well-drained |
| *Monarda fistulosa* | Bee balm | Nectar | Y | 24” X 24” | FS | Well-drained, fertile |
| *Penstemon barbatus* | Scarlet bugler penstemon | Nectar |  | 24-36” X 12-24” | FS | Well-drained |
| *Penstemon strictus* | Rocky Mountain penstemon | Nectar |  | 30” X 24” | FS – PS | Well-drained |
| *Ratibida columnifera* | Prairie coneflower – Mexican hat | S |  | 18” X 12” | FS – PS | Well-drained |
| *Rudbeckia hirta* | Black-eyed Susan | S | Y | 24” X 7-12” | FS – PS | Well-drained |
| *Symphyotrichum laeve* | Smooth aster | S | Y | 36” X 12-24” | FS – PS | Well-drained |
| SHRUBS |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Amelanchier alnifolia* | Serviceberry | F | Y | 15’ X 15’ | FS – PS | Well-drained |
| *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* | Bearberry/Kinnickinnick | F | Y | 0.5-1’ X 3-6’ | FS – PS | Well-drained |
| *Cercocarpus montanus* | Mountain mahogany | S |  | 15’ X 15’ | FS | Adaptable |
| *Chrysothamnus nauseosus* | Rabbitbrush | S |  | 2-6’ X 3-4’ | FS | Adaptable |
| *Cornus sericea* | Red twig dogwood | F | Y | 6’ X 8’ | FS – PS | Adaptable |
| *Mahonia repens* | Creeping mahonia | F |  | 1’ X 4’ | FS – PS – S | Adaptable |
| *Prunus americana* | American plum | F | Y | 12’ X 10’ | FS – PS | Adaptable |
| *Prunus besseyi* | Western sand cherry | F | Y | 6’ X 5’ | FS | Well-drained |
| *Rhus glabra* | Rocky Mountain sumac | F |  | 5’ X 6-20’ | FS – PS | Adaptable |
| *Ribes aureum* | Golden currant | F | Y | 6’ X 5’ | FS – PS | Adaptable |
| *Ribes cereum* | Wax Current | F |  | 4’ X 3’ | FS | Adaptable |
| *Rosa woodsii* | Woods rose | F | Y | 3-5’ X 4-5’ | FS – PS | Loam |
| *Rubus deliciosus* | Boulder raspberry | F | Y | 8’ X 6’ | FS – PS | Adaptable |
| *Prunus virginiana* | Chokecherry | F | Y | 10-20’ X 10-20’ | PS – FS | Adaptable |
| *Symphoricarpos albus* | Snowberry | F | Y | 4’ X 6’ | FS – PS – S | Adaptable |
| TREES |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Acer glabrum* | Rocky Mountain maple | N | Y | 10-25’ X 15-20’ | FS – PS | Sandy-loam |
| *Acer negundo* | Box elder | N | Y | 30-45’ x 30-40’ | FS | Adaptable |
| *Celtis reticulata* | Common hackberry | Insects | Y | 25-45’ X 30-40’ | FS | Well-drained |
| *Juniperus scopulorum* | Rocky Mountain juniper | F | Y | 15-25’ X 5-15’ | FS | Well-drained |
| *Quercus gambelii* | Gambel oak | N | Y | 5-15’ X 10-15’ | FS | Well-drained |
| *Picea pungens* | Blue spruce | N |  | 15-80’ X 8-35’ | FS | Well-drained |
| *Pinus ponderosa* | Ponderosa pine | N | Y | 45-50’ X 25-30’ | FS | Adaptable |
| *Pseudotsuga menziesii* | Douglas-fir | N | Y | 40-60’ X 20-30’ | FS | Well-drained |
| CACTUS |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Echinocereus coccineus* | Claret cup cactus | Nectar |  | 15-24” X 15-24” | FS | Well-drained |

**Keys:**

Food: F = Fruit, N = Nuts, S = Seeds

Sun Requirements: FS = Full Sun, PS = Partial Shade, S = Shade

*\*Drawing of Lark bunting by Philip Martin*