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**Native plant LIST**

A Companion to “How to Remove Your Lawn” Fact Sheet

**Why Plant Natives?**

Because native plants are naturally adapted to our lean soils and dry climate, they require fewer soil amendments, less fertilizer, and less water than non-native plants. Once they are established, native plants require little supplemental irrigation. They can also be more pest and disease-resistant when planted in a landscape that replicates their native environment. By planting native trees, shrubs, and perennials, you will be helping to restore habitat, providing food, shelter and other important resources for insects, birds, and mammals.

**How to Plant a Native Garden**

*Soil Preparation –* Native plants do not necessarily require amended soils. In our urban landscape, soils can become extremely compacted or have been scraped off for construction. In that case, using a garden fork to loosen the soil 1-2 feet deep may be necessary to create the drainage and water/oxygen-holding capacity. Adding organic matter can also improve tilth, or nutrient-holding capability. Doing a soil test is the best way to determine what your soil needs to support natives.

If you have clay soil, choose natives that tolerate clay or build berms 8-24” high to create the well-drained soil above the undesirable clay. Kelly Grummons, horticulture consultant and nursery owner, provides a recipe for amending clay soils: To 70% clay soil, add 10% wood-based compost and 20% small aggregate or crusher fines. Incorporate well.

*Water –* Even drought-resistant plants need additional water to establish a deep root system in their first year, especially the first few weeks. Small roots are susceptible to drying out. Then water when the soil is dry to a depth of 2-3” and water deeply. Wean your native plants gradually to the level of irrigation that they will receive in the future. Some plants can even be taken off irrigation completely, so plant the natives with the lowest water needs together.

*Fertilizer –* Because native plants are adapted to our lean soils, fertilizing is often unnecessary. Overfertilizing can lead to weeds and overgrown plants with weak root systems. However, if the soil is extremely poor (as determined by a soil test), a small amount of fertilizer can be helpful. Use a slow-release fertilizer with higher phosphorous and lower nitrogen, or at least a fully balanced on

**Native plant LIST**

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| **GROUNDCOVERS** (Photos by Irene Shonle, unless otherwise noted) | | | | | | |
| **Common Name** | **Scientific Name** | | **Mature size (HxW)** | **Water needs** | **Sun needs** | **Links to more information** |
| Prairie Winecups | *Callirhoe involucrata* | | 36" x 12" | Low | Full sun | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/205> |
| Sulfur flower | *Eriogonum unbellatum* | | 6-12” x 12-24” | Low | Full sun to light shade | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/432> |
| Cowboy's delight or Scarlet Globemallow | *Sphaeralcea coccinea* | | 10” x 10” | Low | Full sun | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/932> |
| Pussytoes | *Antennaria spp.* | | 2-6” X 12” | Low to Medium | Full sun to part shade | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/74> |
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| **HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS** | | | | | | |
| Fringed sage | *Artemisia frigida* | | 4-18” x 24” | Low | Full sun | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/129> |
| Hyssops/Agastache (regional natives & hybrids) | *Agastache rupestris* and hybrids | | 2-4’ x 1’ | Low | Full sun | <https://plants.usda.gov/le?symbol=AGRU> |
| Prickly poppy | *Argemone polyanthemos* | | 2-4’ x 1-2’ | Low | Full sun | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/118> |
| Chocolate flower | *Berlandiera lyrata* | | 18” x 18” | Low | Full sun | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/1061> |
| Blanketflower | *Gaillardia aristata* | | 12” x 12” | Low | Full sun | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/453> |
| Scarlet gilia/ Fairy Trumpet | *Ipomopsis aggregata* | | 12-30" x 12" | Low | Full sun | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/519> |
| Dotted blazing star | *Liatris punctata* | | 24" x 12" | Low to Medium | Full sun to Part shade | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/543> |
| White tufted evening primrose | *Oenothera caespitosa* | | 6” x 12” | Low | Full sun | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/634> |
| Bluemist penstemon | *Penstemon virens* | | 8” x 8-10” | Low | Full sun | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/722> |
| One-sided penstemon | *Penstemon secundiflorus* | | 20” x 12” | Low to Medium | Full sun to Part shade | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/720> |
| Rocky Mountain penstemon | *Penstemon strictus* | | 30” x 24” | Low | Full sun to Part shade | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/721> |
| Prairie coneflower | *Ratibida columnifera* | | 18” x 12” | Low | Full sun to Part shade | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/827> |
| Mojave sage (regional native) | *Salvia pachyphylla* | | 18-24” x 24-30” | Low | Full sun | <https://planttalk.colostate.edu/topics/annuals-perennials/1058-salvia/> |
| Prince’s Plume | *Stanleya pinnata* | | 24-48” x 12-18” | Low | Full sun | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/937> |
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| **LOW SHRUBS** | | | | | | |
| Creeping Mahonia | *Mahonia repens*  (formerly *Berberis repens*) | | 1’ X 4’ | Low | Full sun to shade | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/584> |
| Kinnikinnick | *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* | | 0.5-1' x  3-6' | Low to Medium | Full sun to Part shade | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/116> |
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| **SHRUBS & SMALL TREES** | | | | | | |
| Manzanitas | *Arctostaphylos x coloradensis* | | 1' x 2-3' | Low | Full sun to Part shade | <https://adams.extension.colostate.edu/horticulture/manzanita/> |
| Western sage | | *Artemisia tridentata* | 4-6' x 3-6' | Low | Full sun | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/899> |
| Curl-leaf mountain mahogany | | *Cercocarpus ledifolius* | 15’ x 15’ | Low | Full sun | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/1063> |
| Fernbush | | *Chamaebatiaria millefolium* | 6’ x 6’ | Low | Full sun | <https://douglas.extension.colostate.edu/horticulture/educational-demonstration-gardens/csu-extension-in-douglas-county-gardens/> |
| Rabbitbrush | | *Chrysothamnus nauseosus* | 2-6' x 3-4' | Low | Full sun | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/104> |
| Apache plume | | *Fallugia paradoxa* | 6’ x 6’ | Low | Full sun | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/444> |
| Common juniper | | *Juniperus communis* | 3’ x 8-10’ | Low | Full sun to part shade | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/356> |
| Winter fat | | *Krascheninnikovia lanata* | 3’ x 2’ | Low | Full sun | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/358> |
| Fremont mahonia | | *Mahonia fremontii* | 6-10' x 6-10' | Low | Full sun | <https://plants.usda.gov/home/plantProfile?symbol=MAFR3> |
| Shrubby cinquefoil | | *Potentilla fruticosa* | 4’ x 4’ | Low to medium | Full sun | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/725> |
| Sandcherry | | *Prunus pumila* var. *besseyi* | 6’ x 5’ | Low to medium | Full sun | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/249> |
| Wafer-ash/Hop Tree | | *Ptelea trifoliata* | 10-15’ x 5’ | Low to medium | Full sun to Part shade | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/1065> |
| Boulder raspberry | | *Rubus/Oreobatus deliciosus* | 8’ x 6’ | Low to medium | Full sun to Part shade | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/653> |
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| **ORNAMENTAL GRASSES** | | | | | | |
| Blue grama | | *Bouteloua gracilis* | 12-14" x  12-18" | Low to medium | Full sun to Part shade | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/99> |
| Little bluestem | | *Schizachyrium scoparium* | 24-48" x  18-24" | Low | Full sun | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/880> |
| Indian rice grass | | *Oryzopsis hymenoides*  *(Achnatherum hmenoides?)* | 12-24" x  8-12" | Low | Full sun | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/9> |
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| **CACTI** | | | | | | |
| Prickly Pear | | *Opuntia phaeacantha* | 1.5-2' x 3-6' | Low | Full sun | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/651> |
| Agaves  (details and picture for Parry’s Agave – regional native) | | *Agave parryi* | 12-36” x 12-36”  (flower stalk 10-20’) | Low | Full sun to Part shade | <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/agave-parryi/> |
| Claret cup cactus | | *Echinocereus triglochidiatus* | 15-24" x  15-24" | Low | Full sun | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/383> |
| Yuccas (not really a cactus)  Banana Yucca | | *Yucca baccata* | 1-2' x 4-6' | Low | Full sun | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/1039> |
| Soapweed | | *Yucca glauca* | 16-20" x  24-36" | Low | Full sun | <https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/1040> |

*Native & Xeric Gardening Resources*

* Native Grasses: ​​<https://cmg.extension.colostate.edu/Gardennotes/581.pdf>
* Native Herbaceous Perennials: <https://extension.colostate.edu/docs/pubs/garden/07242.pdf>
* Native Trees: <https://extension.colostate.edu/docs/pubs/garden/07421.pdf>
* Native Shrubs: <https://extension.colostate.edu/docs/pubs/garden/07422.pdf>
* Low Water Native Plants for Colorado Gardens:
  + Prairie and Plains: <https://extension.colostate.edu/docs/pubs/native/Prairie.pdf>
  + Front Range and Foothills: <https://extension.colostate.edu/docs/pubs/native/FrontRange.pdf>
  + Prairie: <https://extension.colostate.edu/docs/pubs/native/PrairieSm.pdf>

*Demonstration Gardens that have Native Plants:*

* CS Utilities Demonstration Gardens:

2855 Mesa Road, Colorado Springs or 3920 Dublin Blvd., Colorado Springs

* Horticultural Arts Society Gardens: 222 Mesa Rd and Glen Ave, Colorado Springs, CO
* Wild Ones: Front Range - listing of native gardens in Denver and surrounding areas: <https://frontrange.wildones.org/resources/demonstration-gardens-with-native-plants/>
* Nix Native Plant Garden: 1745 Homan Mill Road, Fort Collins, CO
* High Plains Environmental Center Native Plant Demonstration Garden: 2698 Bluestem Willow Dr, Loveland