

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

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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	<i>Callirhoe involucrata</i>	36" x 12"	Low	Full sun	https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/205
Sulfur flower	<i>Eriogonum unbellatum</i>	6-12" x 12-24"	Low	Full sun to light shade	https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/432
Cowboy's delight or Scarlet Globemallow	<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>	10" x 10"	Low	Full sun	https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/932
Pussytoes	<i>Antennaria spp.</i>	2-6" X 12"	Low to Medium	Full sun to part shade	https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/74

HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS					
Fringed sage	<i>Artemisia frigida</i>	4-18" x 24"	Low	Full sun	https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/129
Hyssops/Agastache (regional natives & hybrids)	<i>Agastache rupestris</i> and hybrids	2-4' x 1'	Low	Full sun	https://plants.usda.gov/le?symbol=AGRU
Prickly poppy	<i>Argemone polyanthemus</i>	2-4' x 1-2'	Low	Full sun	https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/118
Chocolate flower	<i>Berlandiera lyrata</i>	18" x 18"	Low	Full sun	https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/1061
Blanketflower	<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>	12" x 12"	Low	Full sun	https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/453
Scarlet gilia/ Fairy Trumpet	<i>Ipomopsis aggregata</i>	12-30" x 12"	Low	Full sun	https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/519
Dotted blazing star	<i>Liatris punctata</i>	24" x 12"	Low to Medium	Full sun to Part shade	https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/543
White tufted evening primrose	<i>Oenothera caespitosa</i>	6" x 12"	Low	Full sun	https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/634
Bluemist penstemon	<i>Penstemon virens</i>	8" x 8-10"	Low	Full sun	https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/722
One-sided penstemon	<i>Penstemon secundiflorus</i>	20" x 12"	Low to Medium	Full sun to Part shade	https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/720

Rocky Mountain penstemon	<i>Penstemon strictus</i>	30" x 24"	Low	Full sun to Part shade	https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/721
Prairie coneflower	<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>	18" x 12"	Low	Full sun to Part shade	https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/827
Mojave sage (regional native)	<i>Salvia pachyphylla</i>	18-24" x 24-30"	Low	Full sun	https://planttalk.colostate.edu/topics/annuals-perennials/1058-salvia/
Prince's Plume	<i>Stanleya pinnata</i>	24-48" x 12-18"	Low	Full sun	https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/937

LOW SHRUBS					
Creeping Mahonia	<i>Mahonia repens</i> (formerly <i>Berberis repens</i>)	1' X 4'	Low	Full sun to shade	https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/584
Kinnikinnick	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	0.5-1' x 3-6'	Low to Medium	Full sun to Part shade	https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/116

SHRUBS & SMALL TREES					
Manzanitas	<i>Arctostaphylos x coloradensis</i>	1' x 2-3'	Low	Full sun to Part shade	https://adams.extension.colostate.edu/horticulture/manzanita/
Western sage	<i>Artemisia tridentata</i>	4-6' x 3-6'	Low	Full sun	https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/899
Curl-leaf mountain mahogany	<i>Cercocarpus ledifolius</i>	15' x 15'	Low	Full sun	https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/1063
Fernbush	<i>Chamaebatiaria millefolium</i>	6' x 6'	Low	Full sun	https://douglas.extension.colostate.edu/horticulture/educational-demonstration-gardens/csu-extension-in-douglas-county-gardens/
Rabbitbrush	<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i>	2-6' x 3-4'	Low	Full sun	https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/104
Apache plume	<i>Fallugia paradoxa</i>	6' x 6'	Low	Full sun	https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/444
Common juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	3' x 8-10'	Low	Full sun to part shade	https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/356
Winter fat	<i>Krascheninnikovia lanata</i>	3' x 2'	Low	Full sun	https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/358
Fremont mahonia	<i>Mahonia fremontii</i>	6-10' x 6-10'	Low	Full sun	https://plants.usda.gov/home/plantProfile?symbol=MAFR3

Shrubby cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	4' x 4'	Low to medium	Full sun	https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/725
Sandcherry	<i>Prunus pumila</i> var. <i>besseyi</i>	6' x 5'	Low to medium	Full sun	https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/249
Wafer-ash/Hop Tree	<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>	10-15' x 5'	Low to medium	Full sun to Part shade	https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/1065
Boulder raspberry	<i>Rubus/Oreobatus deliciosus</i>	8' x 6'	Low to medium	Full sun to Part shade	https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/653

ORNAMENTAL GRASSES

Blue grama	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	12-14" x 12-18"	Low to medium	Full sun to Part shade	https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/99
Little bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	24-48" x 18-24"	Low	Full sun	https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/880
Indian rice grass	<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i> (<i>Achnatherum hmenoides?</i>)	12-24" x 8-12"	Low	Full sun	https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/9

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Prickly Pear	<i>Opuntia phaeacantha</i>	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)	<i>Agave parryi</i>	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	<i>Echinocereus triglochidiatus</i>	15-24" x 15-24"	Low	Full sun	https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/383
Yuccas (not really a cactus) Banana Yucca	<i>Yucca baccata</i>	1-2' x 4-6'	Low	Full sun	https://coloradoplants.jeffco.us/plant/details/1039
Soapweed	<i>Yucca glauca</i>	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