



# Low-Water Native Plants for Pollinators

## Gardeners Can Make a Difference - Help Protect Our Native Pollinators!

**Did you know....?** A pollinator-friendly yard not only provides nectar and pollen for the pollinators, but also nesting sites and/or host plants on which pollinators can lay their eggs. When the eggs hatch, the leaves of the host plant are instant food.

### Pollinator-Friendly Landscaping Tips:

- Plan for as long a season of bloom as possible (early spring to late fall) with at least three different species of plants blooming at the same time all season. A diversity of plants increases the pollinators and the predator-prey balance.
- Instead of just planting one of each species scattered throughout the garden, try planting clumps of at least 3 of the same species – helps the pollinator save energy.
- Most bees and butterflies prefer sunny, open areas. Pollinators attracted to open sunny areas will also have more choices to pollinate the flowers or lay eggs on the taller shrubs and trees along the borders or north end of your yard.
- Avoid using chemical pesticides; or if necessary, use at dawn or dusk when insect pollinators are less active.
- Try leaving areas of bare soil for ground nesting bees, which are the bulk of our native bee population.

(See CoNPS Gardening Guides for sample plans of native plant gardens – <http://www.conps.org/Committees/horticulture.shtml>)

Wildflowers listed are perennials unless otherwise noted. (\*) May be aggressive spreaders with good soil and moisture.



Early Season Wildflowers	Scientific Name	Notes
<b>Nodding Onion</b>	<i>Allium cernuum</i>	Nodding pale pink umbels; 6"-12" tall; open woodlands, sunny, dry locations, up to 11,000' late spring early summer
<b>Sulphur Flower</b>	<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i>	6"-12", sunny, dry, well-drained, up to 10,500' Flower heads and leaves turn reddish later in the season
<b>Wallflower</b>	<i>Erysimum spp.</i>	6"-24" tall flower heads; biennial or short-lived perennial. Sunny dry locations up to 8,000'
<b>Prairie Smoke</b>	<i>Geum triflorum</i> ( <i>Erythrocoma triflorum</i> )	Nodding rose-pink blossoms followed by long feathery seed pods, 6" – 12" tall; sun to part shade, moist to part-dry, up to 10,000'
<b>Firecracker Penstemon</b>	<i>Penstemon eatonii</i>	Bright red blossoms on spikes; 1-2.5' tall, sunny, dry, well-drained. Bees love this plant.
<b>Blue Mist Penstemon</b>	<i>Penstemon virens</i>	Small blue-violet spikes up to 1' tall in late spring. Dry, well-drained locations in sun to part-shade, up to 10,000'
<b>Pasque Flower</b>	<i>Pulsatilla patens</i> ( <i>P. ludoviciana</i> )	6"-12" tall, part sun, moist to dry locations up to 9,000' Cup-shaped lavender blossoms followed by feathery seed heads
<b>Golden Banner *</b>	<i>Thermopsis divaricarpa</i>	1-2' tall, part sun, moist to dry; up to 9,500'. Can be aggressive.

Photos by Linda Smith, Volunteer for the Colorado Native Plant Society ([www.conps.org](http://www.conps.org)) (Photos of *Penstemon eatonii*, *Penstemon virens* and *Rubus deliciosus* by Irene Shonle, Director, CSU Extension, Gilpin County)

References: *Attracting Native Pollinators*, Xerces Society; *Bringing Nature Home*, Doug Tallamy;

*Pollinator Biology and Habitat* - CO NRCS - <http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/CO/pollinators.pdf>;

*Suggested Native Plants for Gardening and Landscape Use on the Front Range of Colorado*, Colorado Native Plant Society, Rev. April 2008, [www.conps.org/Committees/horticulture.shtml](http://www.conps.org/Committees/horticulture.shtml);

Xerces Society [www.xerces.org](http://www.xerces.org)





Mid-Season Wildflowers	Scientific Name	Notes
<b>Pearly Everlasting</b>	<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	Silvery foliage, clusters of 'straw' white flowers, excellent dried flower; 1-2' tall, sunny, moist or dry sites; up to 10,000'
<b>Showy Milkweed *</b>	<i>Asclepias speciosa</i>	3-4' tall, back of border; sunny, moist to dry locations; up to 8,000'; will self-seed; great for the Monarchs!
<b>Harebells</b>	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Nodding bell-shaped flowers; 6-12" tall, moist to dry, sun to shade, up to 13,000'
<b>Aspen Daisy</b>	<i>Erigeron speciosus</i>	Daisy-type blossoms, lavender with yellow centers; 1-2' tall, sun to part shade, moist to dry; up to 9,500'
<b>Blanketflower</b>	<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>	1-2' tall, up to 9,000'; dry, well-drained, sunny locations. Most of the commercial varieties are non-native hybrids.
<b>Beebalm</b>	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	2-3' tall, sun to part-shade, moist or dry; up to 9,000'
<b>Rocky Mtn. Penstemon *</b>	<i>Penstemon strictus</i>	1-2' tall spikes; dry, well-drained, sun to part shade; up to 10,000'
<b>Black-eyed Susan</b>	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Golden yellow/brown centers; biennial or short-lived perennial, reseeds readily; dry mountain meadows up to 9,000'; moist to dry locations



Late-Season Wildflowers	Scientific Name	Notes
<b>Rocky Mtn. Bee Plant</b>	<i>Cleome serrulata</i>	1-3' tall annual; large pink to lavender flower heads; reseeds readily; sun to part shade, dry, well-drained; up to 7,500'; available by seed
<b>Common Sunflower *</b>	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	2-5' annuals; sunny, dry, well-drained; give these plants lots of room in an informal, meadow-type setting
<b>Prairie Sunflower *</b>	<i>Helianthus petiolaris</i>	
<b>Spotted Gayfeather</b>	<i>Liatris punctata</i>	Spikes of fringed rose-purple flowers attract butterflies. Rigid linear leaves. 6"-12" tall; dry, sunny, well-drained locations; up to 7,500'
<b>Tansy Aster</b>	<i>Machaeranthera canescens</i>	Erect stems of small lavender daisy-like flowers; short-lived, but readily reseeds; 6"-30" tall; sun, dry, well-drained locations; up to 8,000'
<b>Goldenrod *</b>	<i>Solidago spp.</i>	1-4' tall depending on species; spreads by rhizomes; tiny yellow flowers in heads bloom mid-late summer; sun/part shade; moist to dry; elev. range varies w/species



Shrubs	Scientific Name	Notes
<b>Rabbitbrush</b>	<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i>	Bright yellow flowers late summer; up to 6' tall which can be controlled by early spring-time pruning; dry, well-drained, sun; up to 8,000'
<b>Chokecherry *</b>	<i>Prunus virginiana</i> ( <i>Padus virginiana</i> ) ssp. <i>melanocarpa</i>	Racemes of white flowers in spring, followed by red/black fruit. Up to 6' high, wide-spreading, prefers dry, well drained location in sun or part-shade; up to 8,500'
<b>Golden Currant</b>	<i>Ribes aureum</i>	Yellow flowers in spring, black fruit for the birds; leaves red/orange in fall, 4-6' tall, arching branches; sun/part shade, well-drained; moist to dry, up to 10,000'
<b>Woods Rose *</b>	<i>Rosa woodsii</i>	Large pink flowers in summer; red/brown prickly stems; red-orange hips in fall; 2-6' tall, suckers from rhizomes; sun to part shade; moist to dry; to 10,500'
<b>Boulder Raspberry</b>	<i>Rubus deliciosus</i> ( <i>Oreobatus deliciosus</i> )	Large white flowers in summer; fruit great for wildlife; 5' tall; sun to part shade, dry, well-drained, up to 9,000'