

# Gardening with Natives

There are many reasons to garden with native plants. Living in the Tri Lakes area, we can all appreciate the natural beauty of the Colorado landscape. Gardening with natives embraces Colorado's natural beauty and supports our environment and the many creatures that call it home.

## Why Garden with Natives?

- **Native plants attract wildlife.** By adding natives, your garden will also be attracting native birds, butterflies, bees and more.
- **Our native wildlife depends on native plants.** Native plants support native animals, insects, and fungi. Animals such as birds, fish, mammals, and pollinators all have specific needs our native plants provide. They depend on the bloom time, fruiting time, when the plant goes to seed, and the nutritional content that only natives have.
  - One example of this is that Colorado's many native bees require a particular native plant or native plant family to make their only food source.
  - Another example is that the larvae of many Colorado butterflies need particular native plants to eat in order to survive.
  - Many small and large mammals depend on the timing of certain native fruit to supply food.
  - In addition, native plants help manage rainwater runoff, and maintain healthy soil. Which in turn, helps protect habitats for people and animals alike.
- **Native plants create a low-maintenance garden.** Colorado natives have thrived here for thousands of years and have become perfectly adapted to Colorado's climate, soil, pests, and water. Because of this they require less watering, fertilizing, pruning, and general care.
- **Native plants can be good for the environment.** Less need for fertilizing and spraying for pests means less chemicals going into the environment. And since natives are adapted to Colorado's water, or lack thereof, they save water too!
- **Native plants have evolved to work together.** Over the course of many years native plants have learned to send signals to each other to warn and defend against potential harm. What's even more amazing is that research has shown that only native plants have this ability. Native plants are amazing!
- **Native plants are beautiful.** Another great reason to plant natives is that they are truly beautiful and a great representation of the natural beauty that is Colorado.

By using native plants in our gardens, we are helping our local wildlife while creating beautiful, sustainable, and low-maintenance gardens. For more information go to [Native Plants - Colorado Master Gardener \(colostate.edu\)](http://colostate.edu)

## List of Native Plants commonly found at McCord's Garden Center:

<i>Scientific Name</i>	Common Name	Exposure	Elevation
<i>GROUND COVER</i>			
<i>Antennaria parvifolia</i>	Pussytoes	Sun to part shade	To 11,000'
<i>Arctostaphylos Uva-ursi</i>	Kinnikinnick	Part shade to shade	To 10,000'
<i>Berberis repens (Mahonia repens)</i>	Creeping Mahonia (shrub)	Sun to part shade	To 9,500'
<i>Callirhoe involucrate</i>	Wine Cups	Sun	To 7,500'
<i>Rhus trilobata 'Gro-Low'</i>	Gro-Low Fragrant Sumac (shrub)	Sun	To 9,000'
<i>PERENNIALS:</i>			
<i>Aquilegia caerulea</i>	Rocky Mountain Columbine	Part Shade	To 11,000'
<i>Aquilegia chrysantha</i>	Denver Gold Columbine	Sun to part shade	To 11,000'
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly Weed	Sun	To 7,500'
<i>Berlandiera lyrata</i>	Chocolate Flower	Sun	To 8,000'

<i>Gaillardia aristate</i>	Blanketflower	Sun	To 9000'
<i>Geum triflorum</i>	Prairie Smoke	Sun to part shade	To 10,000'
<i>Linum lewisii</i>	Blue Flax	Sun to part shade	To 9,500'
<i>Penstemon barbatus</i>	Scarlet Buglar Penstemon	Sun	To 9,000'
<i>Penstemon caespitosus</i>	Mat Penstemon	Sun	To 9,000'
<i>Penstemon strictus</i>	Rocky Mountain Penstemon	Sun to part shade	To 10,000'
<i>Polemonium caeruleum</i>	Jacob's Ladder	Part Shade	To 9,000'
<i>Pulsatilla patens</i>	Pasque Flower	Sun	To 9,000'
<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>	Prairie Coneflower, Mexican Hat	Sun	To 7,500'
<i>Tradescantia occidentalis</i>	Spiderwort	Sun to part shade	To 8,000'
<b>GRASSES:</b>			
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	Blue Grama	Sun	To 9,500'
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Switchgrass	Sun	To 7,500'
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little Bluestem	Sun	To 8,000'
<b>SHRUBS</b>			
<i>Acer glabrum</i>	Rocky Mountain maple	Sun	To 10,500'
<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	Serviceberry	Sun to part shade	To 10,000'
<i>Amorpha canescens</i>	Leadplant	Sun	To 8,000'
<i>Arctostaphylos patula</i>	Manzanita, bearberry	Sun to part shade	To 9,000'
<i>Cercocarpus ledifolius</i>	Curl-Leaf Mountain Mahogany	Sun	To 9,000'
<i>Cercocarpus montanus</i>	Mountain Mahogany	Sun	To 8,500'
<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i>	Rabbitbrush	Sun	To 10,000'
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Red Twig Dogwood	Sun to part shade	To 10,000'
<i>Fallugia paradoxa</i>	Apache Plume	Sun	To 8,500'
<i>Forestiera neomexicana</i>	New Mexico privet	Sun	To 7,500'
<i>Philadelphus microphyllus</i>	Littleleaf Mock-Orange	Sun	To 8,000'
<i>Physocarpus monogynus</i>	Mountain Ninebark	Sun	To 10,000'
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	Shrubby Cinquefoil	Sun	To 11,000'
<i>Prunus besseyi</i>	Western Sand Cherry	Sun	To 9,000'
<i>Prunus virginiana melanocarpa</i>	Western Chokecherry	Sun to part shade	To 8,500'
<i>Rhus glabra</i>	Smooth Sumac	Sun	To 8,500'
<i>Rhus trilobata</i>	Three-Leaf Sumac	Sun	To 9,000'
<i>Ribes aureum</i>	Golden Currant	Sun to part shade	To 10,000'
<i>Ribes odoratum</i>	Crandall's Clove Current	Sun to part shade	To 10,000'
<i>Rosa Woodsii</i>	Western Wild Rose (Woods Rose)	Sun to part shade	To 10,000'
<i>Rubus deliciosus</i>	Boulder Raspberry	Sun to part shade	To 9,000'
<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	Red-Berried Elderberry	Sun to part shade	To 10,000'
<i>Shepherdia argentea</i>	Silver Buffaloberry	Sun	To 8,500'
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	White Snowberry	Sun to part shade	To 8,500'
<i>Symphoricarpos occidentalis</i>	Western Snowberry	Sun to part shade	To 8,500'
<b>TREES:</b>			
<i>Picea pungens</i>	Colorado Blue Spruce	Sun to Filtered Shade	To 10,000'
<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Quaking Aspen	Sun	To 10,000'
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Douglas-fir	Sun to Filtered Shade	To 11,000'
<i>Quercus gambelii</i>	Gambel's Oak	Sun to Filtered Shade	To 9,000'



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