Native flowers and bushes for Colorado landscapes

Name

Nodding onion

Bloom time: June-August **Exposure:** Sun/part shade **Moisture needs:** Low/medium

Color (appearance)

Pink



Photo from: https://www.netpsplantfinder.com//

Blue star

Bloom time: April to June

Exposure: Sun

Moisture needs: Low

Blue



Photo courtesy of: https://plantselect.org/plant/amsonia-jonesii/

Pearly everlasting

Notes: Excellent plant for pollinator and

adapts well in dry, poor soils.

Bloom time: Late summer to early fall

Exposure: Sun

Moisture needs: Low to medium

White



Photo courtesy of: highcountrygardens.com



Wildflower

Bloom time: Late spring to summer **Exposure:** Sun to partial shade **Moisture needs:** Low to medium

Appearance and Color

White to bright pink



Photo courtesy of: gardenia.net

Pussytoes

Good in rock gardens, needs well-drained soils.

Bloom time: April to June **Exposure:** Sun to partial shade **Moisture needs:** Low to medium

Cream to pink



Photo courtesy of Janet Fryer
Blue, purple and white

Blue columbine or Colorado Columbine

Colorado state flower attracts hummingbirds.

Bloom time: Spring to Summer

Exposure: Part shade **Moisture needs:** Medium



Photo courtesy of: National Park Service



Golden Columbine

Attracts hummingbirds. Good in clayish or organic soils. Pro tip: plant in masses since they can smother other smaller plants.

Bloom time: Spring to summer **Exposure:** Sun to part shade **Moisture needs:** Low to medium

Butterfly weed/ Butterfly milkweed

Grows on sandy or rocky soils, often planted next to purple gayfeather, which blooms at the same time.

Bloom time: Late summer to fall.

Exposure: Sun

Moisture needs: Low

Appearance and color

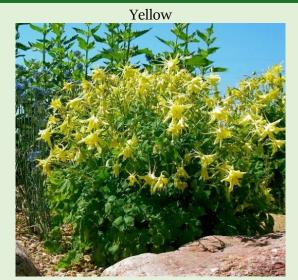


Photo courtesy of: plantselect.org

Orange



Photo courtesy of: waterwiseplants.org

Chocolate flower/ Greeneyes

Grows best in hot, dry conditions. Flowers do not last very long but seedlings germinate and replace them.

Bloom time: All summer

Exposure: Sun

Moisture needs: Low to medium

Yellow with green center



Photo courtesy of: waterwiseplants.org



Purple poppy mallow, wine cups

Very drought tolerant, easy to establish, rabbit resistant, grows in well-drained soils.

Bloom time: Late spring and summer

Exposure: Sun

Moisture needs: Low to medium

Appearance and color

Magenta with White centers



Photo courtesy of: gardenia.net

Sundrops

Good in hot dry environments. **Bloom time:** May to September

Exposure: Sun

Moisture needs: Low

Lemon yellow



Photo courtesy of plantselect.org

Aspen Daisy/ Showy daisy

Bloom time: Mid July to August **Exposure:** Sun to part shade **Moisture needs:** Low to medium

Lavender with yellow center



Photo courtesy of National Park Service



Blanket flower

Short lived flowers, best suited for naturalistic gardens or prairies since the flowers don't last very long. (Plant instead of Zinnias)

Bloom time: July

Exposure: Sun to part shade **Moisture needs:** Low to medium

Appearance and color

Yellow to yellow/red with red/brown centers



Photo courtesy of: waterwiseplants.org

Prairie smoke

Has long pink feathery seed heads, prefers moist clay soils. Recommended for mass planting, rock gardens.

Bloom time: Spring and early summer

Exposure: Sun to part shade **Moisture needs:** Low/medium

Cream to deep pink



Prairie smoke in bloom. Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Maximilian Sunflower

Tolerates hot dry conditions. **Bloom time:** September

Exposure: Sun

Moisture needs: Low

Yellow



Photo courtesy of: waterwiseplants.org



Bush morning glory

Bloom time: Summer to fall.

Exposure: Sun

Moisture needs: Low

Appearance and color

Lavender purple



Photo courtesy of: westernnativeseed.com

Gayfeather/ Blazing star

Attracts butterflies, needs well-drained soils.

Bloom time: Late summer to fall

Exposure: Sun

Moisture needs: Low

Rose purple



Photo courtesy of: findingnectar.com

Blue flax

Reseeds readily, needs well-drained

sandy to loam soils.

Bloom time: May to July **Exposure:** Sun part shade

Moisture needs: Low to medium

Blue



Photo courtesy of: plantselect.org



Pasque flower

Great for rock gardens, needs well drained soils.

(plant instead of Crocus) **Bloom time:** Early spring

Exposure: Sun

Moisture needs: Low to moderate

Appearance and color

Lavender



Photo courtesy of: gardenia.net

Rocky mountain penstemon/ Front Range Beardtongue

One of the easiest penstemons to establish but can develop powdery mildew if too crowded. (Plant instead of Delphinium).

Bloom time: Mid to late spring

Exposure: Sun

Moisture needs: Low

Blue/blue-purple



Photo courtesy of: Durango nursery and supply

Black eyed Susan/ Denver Daisy

Best if treated like an annual **Bloom time:** Summer to fall.

Exposure: Sun

Moisture needs: Low to moderate

Yellow



Photo courtesy of Plant Select

Article by: Karla Melgar Velis, Small Management Specialist, CSU Extension.

Adapted from: CSU Extension. (2014) *Native and Herbaceous Perennials for Colorado Landscapes* [Fact sheet No. 7.242]

