



Garden Smart Colorado

A Guide to Non-Invasive Plants for your Garden



Colorado Weed Management Association

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A Guide to Non-Invasive Plants
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We Wish to Thank ...

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About This Book

We have arranged this book into sections divided by invasive ornamentals that are listed in Colorado as noxious weeds. Colorado's noxious weed list is divided into A, B and C categories which require specific levels of management. These plants are no longer allowed to be sold in our state and should not be planted. Specific information is available from the Colorado State Noxious Weed Program or from your local county weed manager.

Included for each invasive are alternatives that may be planted instead. We have divided the choices by native and cultivated options and regionally by mountain and lower elevations.

Icons are used to identify both invasive and native plants as well as the sun exposure and water needs for each suggested alternative.

Please refer to the guide below for descriptions of the icons.

Guide to Icons:

	Invasive - <i>Do Not Plant</i>		Colorado Native
	Full Sun		Moderate Water Needs
	Part Sun		Low Water Needs
	Full Shade		Very Low Water Needs

An Introduction to Invasive Ornamental Weeds

Invasive ornamental weeds continue to overtake vast areas of pristine land all across Colorado. While not all exotic plants are a problem, some are. People seeking something different for their gardens have unwittingly brought these aggressive non-native species into our environment. These plants have quickly escaped from gardens and begun the demise of our native plant communities.

A major hurdle in stopping the spread of these species is the misconception that something attractive can not be a weed. On the contrary, invasive ornamental weeds such as oxeye daisy, myrtle spurge, and Russian-olive have proven to be very ecologically damaging and difficult to control once unleashed on our native landscapes.

This brochure highlights fifteen invasive ornamentals that are problematic in Colorado. They are designated as noxious weeds by the State and are prohibited for sale. This brochure also suggests alternatives including native and cultivated plants for both lower and higher elevations. Native plants are well adapted for our climate, come in many variations, and most importantly, have evolved in our local ecology. We recommend the use of these whenever possible. Our goals in landscape planting should consider the long-term consequences to our surrounding environment. Please consult your local nursery, garden center, or Colorado State University Extension office for more information about native plants and non-invasive introduced species.

Garden Responsibly...*Please*

Reputable nurseries follow the guidelines of the Colorado Nursery Act (Title 35, Article 26, C.R.S. 1973). This act identifies plant materials that cannot be sold in Colorado. Unfortunately, some mail order nurseries in other states may not realize that a certain plant cannot be sold in Colorado. Please consult this brochure or the Colorado Department of Agriculture's website www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds before making an internet or mail order catalog purchase.

In these times of easy access to a virtually unlimited variety of species for ornamental planting, it is up to us, as consumers, to do what is right for the environment while still realizing our goals for our property. Please help protect Colorado's natural and agricultural resources ... garden responsibly.

INVASIVE - DO NOT PLANT

Absinth wormwood (*Artemisia absinthium*)

Absinth wormwood is a perennial weed that was deliberately introduced as a medicinal plant. It is 2-4 ft. tall with very divided leaves and a strong aromatic odor. It spreads aggressively by seed. CO List B



PLANT INSTEAD - NATIVE - MOUNTAINS

Fringed sage (*Artemisia frigida*)

Perennial aromatic shrub with bluish-green velvety foliage which provides a nice contrast for other plants. Trim hard every few years for best garden appearance. May be toxic to livestock. 4-16 in. tall.



NATIVE - LOWER ELEVATION

Pearly everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*)

A perennial with silvery foliage. White button-like clusters of flowers on top of upright stems dry beautifully. Most soils. 12-20 in. tall.
Full sun, low water



CULTIVATED - MOUNTAINS

Edelweiss (*Leontopodium alpinum*)

Edelweiss is a perennial with white woolly leaves. White star shaped flowers bloom from July-September. Requires well-drained soils. A great addition for alpine rock gardens. 6-12 in. tall.



CULTIVATED - LOWER ELEVATION

Artemisia 'Sea Foam' (*Artemisia versicolor*)

A vigorous perennial with lacy silver blue mounding foliage. Clump forming and non-invasive. Recommended by Plant Select 2004. 6-12 in. tall.



OTHER OPTIONS

Native Options

Big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*)

Horsebrush (*Tetradymia canescens*)

Sand sage (*Artemisia filifolia*)

White sage (*Artemisia ludoviciana*) *toxic to livestock*

Cultivated Options

Mojave sage (*Salvia pachyphylla*)

INVASIVE - DO NOT PLANT

Bouncingbet (*Saponaria officinalis*)

Bouncingbet is a member of the Pink family. A cottage garden escapee, it is found along rights-of-way, in meadows, and waste areas. Originally from Europe, it is now found throughout North America. Bouncingbet is a herbaceous perennial that grows 1-3 ft. tall with pink to white flowers. This plant spreads by rhizomes and is usually found in colonies. It is unpalatable to livestock and is poisonous. CO List B



PLANT INSTEAD - NATIVE - MOUNTAINS

Rocky Mountain bee plant (*Cleome serrulata*)

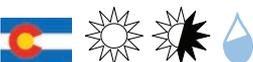
A fast-growing annual with attention getting spikes of bright pink-purple flowers that attract butterflies, hummingbirds, and night flying moths. Seeds provide food for songbirds. Prefers coarse soils. 2-5 ft. tall.



NATIVE - LOWER ELEVATION

Wild geranium (*Geranium viscosissimum* or *G. caespitosum*)

These long blooming perennials have pink flowers with reddish purple lines in the petals. The plant has lovely lobed leaves that turn red in fall. 10-18 in. tall.



CULTIVATED - MOUNTAINS

Purple coneflower (*Echinacea* spp.)

A perennial with large, daisy-like flowers from mid to late summer. Prefers fertile soils. Attracts butterflies. Great for cutting. At higher elevations, plant in a warm microclimate. 18-24 in. tall.



CULTIVATED - LOWER ELEVATION

Garden phlox (*Phlox paniculata*)

A perennial with dark green foliage and large clusters of flowers. Colors range from white to pink, red, purple, lavender and blue. Flowering occurs from spring to early fall. It prefers moist, fertile soil. 2-4 ft. tall.



OTHER OPTIONS

Native Options

Fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*) *May be aggressive*

Palmer penstemon (*Penstemon palmeri*)

Penstemon 'Prairie Jewel' (*P. grandiflorus* 'Prairie Jewel')

Cultivated Options

Pinks (*Dianthus* spp.)

INVASIVE - DO NOT PLANT

Chinese clematis (*Clematis orientalis*)

Chinese clematis is a perennial vine that spreads very aggressively along creeks, rights-of-way and on rocky cliffs. It will climb fences, trees or similar structures but will sprawl if it does not have something to climb. The distinctive single yellow flower has four petals and is 1-2 in. wide. Feathery seed heads are conspicuous in late summer. CO List B



PLANT INSTEAD - NATIVE - MOUNTAINS

Native clematis (*Clematis ligusticifolia*)

Native clematis is also known as Virgin's Bower or Western white clematis. It is a vigorous climbing vine that has numerous small white flowers in mid to late summer. Masses of whitish seed heads attract attention in the fall. May be aggressive, best in larger spaces. Can reach lengths of 20 ft.



NATIVE - LOWER ELEVATION

Native hops vine (*Humulus lupulus*)

Vining plant with large lobed leaves. Fast growing. Pale green papery flowers used in dried arrangements, beer making, and medicinally. Can be susceptible to aphids. 15-20 ft. tall.



CULTIVATED - MOUNTAINS

Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)

A climbing vine or ground cover. Leaves have 5 leaflets and turn deep red in fall. The fruits are purplish-black berries and a good food source for songbirds and wildlife. Can be somewhat toxic to humans and is toxic to livestock. May reach lengths of 50 ft.



CULTIVATED - LOWER ELEVATION

Honeysuckle 'Graham Thomas' (*Lonicera periclymenum* 'Graham Thomas')

An arching or climbing vine also known as European honeysuckle. It blooms from June-October with creamy white to yellowish fragrant trumpet-shaped flowers followed by bright red berries. Can reach lengths of 30 ft.



www.Plant-Pictures.net

OTHER OPTIONS

Cultivated Options

Garden clematis (*Clematis* spp.)

Scarlet clematis (*Clematis texensis*)

Sweet autumn clematis (*Clematis ternifolia/paniculata*)

INVASIVE - DO NOT PLANT

Common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)

Common tansy is a perennial weed with small button-shaped yellow flowers and strong smelling fern-like leaves. It spreads by both seeds and runners. It was originally introduced as an ornamental and as a medicinal plant. CO List B



PLANT INSTEAD - NATIVE - MOUNTAINS

Shrubby cinquefoil (*Potentilla fruticosa*/*Pentaphylloides floribunda*)

This rounded shrub is very adaptable. Flowers are 1 in. wide and are profuse, occurring over a long season. There are many different cultivars with different flower colors ranging from white to orange, yellow or pink. Attractive to butterflies. 1-4 ft. tall.



NATIVE - LOWER ELEVATION

Rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*)

Rabbitbrush is a perennial shrub that has a rounded shape. Yellow flowers are arranged in umbrella-shaped heads and occur from August-September. Attracts butterflies. Seedheads provide great winter interest. 1-4 ft. tall.



CULTIVATED - MOUNTAINS

Yarrow 'Moonshine' (*Achillea* 'Moonshine')

This non-spreading yarrow has flat-topped yellow flower heads. Does best in lean, well-drained soil. Attracts butterflies, deer resistant. 24 in. tall.



CULTIVATED - LOWER ELEVATION

Goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.)

Goldenrod is best known for its brilliant golden yellow flower heads seen in late summer into the fall. Often mistakenly blamed for allergies. Can be aggressive in moist, rich soils. Attracts butterflies. Height varies with species.



OTHER OPTIONS

Native Options

Blanket flower (*Gaillardia* spp.)

Prairie zinnia (*Zinnia grandiflora*)

Showy goldeneye (*Viguiera (Heliomeris) multiflora*)

Sticky flowered rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus*)

Sulphur flower (*Eriogonum umbellatum*)

Sundancer daisy (*Hymenoxys acaulis*)

Sundrops (*Calylophus lavandulifolius* and *C. serrulatus*)

INVASIVE - DO NOT PLANT

Cypress spurge (*Euphorbia cyparissias*)

Cypress spurge is a perennial that reproduces by seed and spreading roots. The plant contains a milky sap that is irritating and may cause dermatitis. Although sheep may eat it, other animals will not. CO List A



PLANT INSTEAD - NATIVE - MOUNTAINS

Sulphur flower (*Eriogonum umbellatum*)

Mat-forming wildflower with leathery leaves that are white underneath. Yellow clusters of flowers turn reddish with age. Attracts butterflies. 6-10 in. tall.



NATIVE - LOWER ELEVATION

Sundrops (*Calylophus serrulatus*)

A heavy bloomer from late spring through summer. Has lemon-yellow flowers with four petals. Prefers lean, well-drained soil. 15 in. tall.



CULTIVATED - MOUNTAINS

Basket of gold (*Alyssum montanum*)

Vigorous spreading plants with gray-green leaves. Produces dense clusters of yellow flowers in early spring. Stunning at the edge of beds or borders or trailing over rocks or walls. 6 in. tall.



CULTIVATED - LOWER ELEVATION

Pineleaf penstemon 'Mersea Yellow' (*Penstemon pinifolius* 'Mersea Yellow')

This unusually colored "sport" of pineleaf penstemon bears hundreds of small yellow flowers for a long period in mid-summer. Leaves are very narrow. Great in rock gardens. 12 in. tall.



OTHER OPTIONS

Cultivated Options

Argentinian blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium macrocarpum*)

Dwarf broom (*Genista lydia*)

Missouri evening primrose (*Oenothera macrocarpa*)

Santolina (*Santolina chamaecyparissus*)

INVASIVE - DO NOT PLANT

Dame's rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*)

Dame's rocket is a biennial or short-lived perennial forb, ranging from 1-3 ft. in height. The flowers may be white, pink, or purple and start blooming in May. Dame's rocket is aggressive in old and untended gardens, undisturbed riparian areas and on steep slopes. CO List B



PLANT INSTEAD - NATIVE - MOUNTAINS

Sidebells penstemon (*Penstemon secundiflorus*)

Spring blooming perennial with blue-green leaves and lovely orchid-like purple-pink flowers. 12-18 in. tall.



NATIVE - LOWER ELEVATION

Palmer penstemon (*Penstemon palmeri*)

A fragrant penstemon with large spikes of light pink flowers in early summer and distinctive gray foliage. Likes heat, and must be grown in well-drained soils. Do not over water. 4-5 ft. tall.



CULTIVATED - MOUNTAINS

First Love Dianthus® (*Dianthus 'First Love'*)

A perennial clump forming plant with flowers that change from white to pink to deep rose color. Blooms from spring to frost and is intensely fragrant. 15-20 in. tall. 2001 Plant Select recommendation.



CULTIVATED - LOWER ELEVATION

Meadow rue (*Thalictrum aquilegifolium*)

This perennial has clouds of pink blooms in June. Delicate small leaves resemble those of columbine. Prefers moisture retentive, fertile soils. 3-4 ft. tall.



OTHER OPTIONS

Native Options

Bee balm (*Monarda fistulosa*)

Columbine (*Aquilegia caerulea*)

Narrowleaf coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*)

Showy locoweed (*Oxytropis lambertii*) *Toxic to livestock*

Woods rose (*Rosa woodsii*) *May be aggressive*

Cultivated Options

Bloody cranesbill (*Geranium sanguineum*)

Coral bells (*Heuchera* spp.)

Garden phlox (*Phlox paniculata*)

Hollyhocks (*Alcea rosea*)

Stock (*Mathiola* spp.)

INVASIVE - DO NOT PLANT

Myrtle spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*)

A highly invasive ornamental originally promoted for xeriscapes and rock gardens. This plant is rapidly expanding into sensitive ecosystems displacing native vegetation and reducing forage for wildlife. A low-growing perennial with trailing stems of fleshy blue-green alternate leaves. It exudes a toxic, milky latex which can cause severe skin irritations. Wearing gloves, long sleeves, and shoes is highly recommended when in areas with myrtle spurge. CO List A



PLANT INSTEAD - NATIVE - MOUNTAINS

Kinnickinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)

A trailing shrub with dark green glossy evergreen leaves. Tiny pink flowers in the spring are followed by red berries. At lower elevations, plant in winter shade. Great under pine trees and in rock gardens, trailing over walls.



NATIVE - LOWER ELEVATION

Creeping mahonia (*Mahonia repens*)

A creeping evergreen shrub with holly-like leaves that turn bronze in winter. Yellow fragrant flowers in the spring are followed by edible blue berries. 4-8 in. tall.



CULTIVATED - MOUNTAINS

Creeping sedum (*Sedum* spp.)

Drought tolerant mat-forming plants are perfect for rock gardens. Many different species available with different colored flowers and succulent leaves. 1-2 in. tall.



CULTIVATED - LOWER ELEVATION

White horehound (*Marrubium rotundifolium*)

Mat-forming plants with rounded gray-green leaves that have lovely silver edges. Wonderful along path borders. Spreads to 12 in. wide. 3-10 in. tall



OTHER OPTIONS

Native Options

Pussytoes (*Antennaria* spp.)

Sulphur flower (*Eriogonum umbellatum*)

Yellow stoncrop (*Amerosedum lanceolatum*)

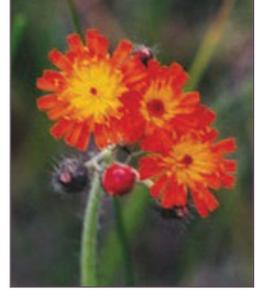
Cultivated Options

Hardy purple ice plant (*Delosperma cooperi*)

INVASIVE - DO NOT PLANT

Orange hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*)

Orange hawkweed is a perennial that likes moist grassy areas and can be found along creeks, in meadows, and along rights-of-way. It reproduces aggressively by runners and by seed, crowding out all other vegetation. CO List A



PLANT INSTEAD - NATIVE - MOUNTAINS

Wallflower (*Erysimum capitatum*)

Spring blooming biennial with fragrant orange to purple flowers. 12-18 in. tall.



NATIVE - LOWER ELEVATION

Globemallow (*Sphaeralcea munroana* or *S. coccinea*)

Orange flowers resemble miniature hollyhocks. Gray-green leaves. *S. coccinea* is 5-10 in. tall and blooms in spring. *S. munroana* is 36 in. tall and blooms midsummer.



CULTIVATED - MOUNTAINS

Poppies (*Papaver* spp.)

Poppies have lovely tissuepaper-like petals and tough constitutions. Many different species with different flower colors and bloom times.



CULTIVATED - LOWER ELEVATION

California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*)

Cheerful orange and yellow cup-shaped flowers bloom in the spring. Blue-green foliage. Reseeds readily. 12-18 in. tall.



OTHER OPTIONS

Native Options

Blanket flower (*Gaillardia* spp.)

Orange agoseris (*Agoseris aurantiaca*)

Scarlet gilia (*Ipomopsis aggregata*)

Cultivated Options

Marigolds (*Tagetes* spp.)

Shirley poppies (*Papaver rhoeas*)

Sunset hyssop (*Agastache rupestris*)

INVASIVE - DO NOT PLANT

Oxeye daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*)

Oxeye daisy is an erect perennial with white ray and yellow disk flowers that bloom from June-August in Colorado's higher elevations. A native of Eurasia, this aggressive species has escaped cultivation and become a troublesome weed in the Intermountain West. Oxeye daisy is still commonly sold in wildflower seed mixes or transplanted as an ornamental despite its tendency to crowd out more desirable vegetation. CO List B



PLANT INSTEAD - NATIVE - MOUNTAINS

Native yarrow (*Achillea lanulosa*)

Flat-topped white clusters of flowers bloom all summer. Leaves are fern-like, gray-green and aromatic. Makes a great dried flower. May be aggressive, best in larger spaces. Toxic to livestock. 12-18 in. tall.



NATIVE - LOWER ELEVATION

Showy daisy (*Erigeron speciosus*)

Showy daisy blooms in mid-summer with many narrow white to blue "petals" around a yellow center. Attracts butterflies. 12-24 in. tall.



CULTIVATED - MOUNTAINS

Marguerite daisy (*Anthemis tinctoria* 'Susanna Mitchell')

Daisy-like flowers bloom almost all summer over fern-like foliage. Vigorous and easy to grow. 18-24 in. tall.



CULTIVATED - LOWER ELEVATION

White coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea* 'White Swan')

Large fragrant white flowers with an orange center bloom from mid-summer to frost. Makes an excellent cut flower. Attracts butterflies. Likes fertile, well-drained soils. 3 ft. tall.



OTHER OPTIONS

Native Options

- Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
- Blanket flower (*Gaillardia aristata*)
- Pearly everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*)
- Richardson's geranium (*Geranium richardsonii*)
- White prairie clover (*Dalea candida*)
- White tufted evening primrose (*Oenothera caespitosa*)
- White winecups (*Callirhoe* Logan Calhoun')

Cultivated Options

- Sea Holly 'Miss Willmott's Ghost' (*Eryngium giganteum*)
- Serbian yarrow (*Achillea serbica*)

INVASIVE - DO NOT PLANT

Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)

Purple loosestrife has erect, multi-branched 1½-8 ft. tall square stems. The magenta flowers have five to seven petals and are arranged in long racemes. Can be found in wetlands throughout the state. A highly aggressive invader. If left unchecked, may form a monoculture. This plant poses a severe threat to waterfowl habitat and can impede water flow in irrigation ditches. Can produce 2-3 million seeds per plant every year. CO List A



PLANT INSTEAD - NATIVE - MOUNTAINS

Fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*)

Brilliant pink flowers bloom mid-summer to frost. Plants spread underground by rhizomes to form large clumps. Prefers moisture retentive fertile soils. May be aggressive, best in larger spaces. 2-5 ft. tall.



NATIVE - LOWER ELEVATION

Rocky Mountain penstemon (*Penstemon strictus*)

Very showy spires of deep blue-purple snapdragon like flowers. Spreads to form large clumps. Attracts hummingbirds. Prefers well-drained soils. 2 ft. tall.



CULTIVATED - MOUNTAINS

Himalayan Border Jewel Fleeceflower (*Persicaria affinis*)

A great ground cover with spikes of shell pink flowers. Leaves turn red in fall. Spreads rapidly when given good soil and full sun, may be too aggressive for small gardens. 12 in. tall.



CULTIVATED - LOWER ELEVATION

Garden phlox (*Phlox paniculata*)

A perennial with dark green foliage and large clusters of flowers. Colors range from white to pink, red, purple, lavender and blue. Flowering occurs from spring to early fall. It prefers moist, fertile soil. 2-4 ft. tall.



OTHER OPTIONS

Native Options

Bee balm (*Monarda fistulosa*)

Columbine (*Aquilegia caerulea*)

Lupine (*Lupinus argenteus*)

Narrowleaf coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*)

Showy locoweed (*Oxytropis lambertii*) *Toxic to livestock*

Woods rose (*Rosa woodsii*) *May be aggressive*

INVASIVE - DO NOT PLANT

Russian-olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*)

Russian-olive is a hardy, fast-growing tree introduced from Europe originally promoted for windbreak and ornamental plantings. It spreads rapidly along riparian areas, eliminating nesting sites for birds. Farms and ranches may be impacted by Russian olive as it invades pastures and blocks irrigation ditches. (Note: Russian-olive is not usually found at high elevations) CO List B



PLANT INSTEAD - NATIVE - MOUNTAINS

Greene's mountain-ash (*Sorbus scopulina*)

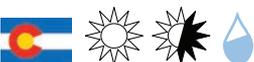
An erect, thicket-forming shrub with clusters of white flowers followed by orange berries. Pinnately compound leaves have lovely orange-red fall coloration. Prefers moisture-retentive fertile soils. 6-15 ft. tall.



NATIVE - LOWER ELEVATION

Silver buffaloberry (*Shepherdia argentea*)

A tough shrub or small tree with gray-green leaves. Female plants have bright red edible berries. 8-15 ft. tall. Can be limbed up as a small tree.



CULTIVATED - MOUNTAINS

Russian hawthorn (*Crataegus ambigua*)

This large shrub or small tree has white flowers in the spring followed by a profusion of bright red fruit. Tolerates compacted clay soil. 15-20 ft. tall.



CULTIVATED - LOWER ELEVATION

Japanese tree lilac (*Syringa reticulata*)

Large plumes of fragrant white flowers cover this small tree or large shrub in the beginning of summer. Attractive winter fruit display. 15-25 ft. tall.



OTHER OPTIONS

Native Options

- Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)
- Gambel oak (*Quercus gambelii*)
- Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)

Cultivated Options

- Crabapple (*Malus* spp.)
- Hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.)
- Lilac (*Syringa* spp.)

INVASIVE - DO NOT PLANT

Scentless chamomile (*Matricaria perforata*)

Scentless chamomile is an annual. One plant may release up to 960,000 seeds. The seeds germinate quickly, allowing a single plant to give rise to more than one generation within a growing season. A very similar plant, mayweed chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*), occupies similar habitat but is distinguished by its pungent smell. Flowers have 12 white ray petals surrounding a yellow-coned center. CO List B



PLANT INSTEAD - NATIVE - MOUNTAINS

Pearly everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*)

A perennial with clusters of small white flowers atop gray-green leaves in midsummer. Flowers dry beautifully. 1-3 ft. tall.



NATIVE - LOWER ELEVATION

White columbine (*Aquilegia* spp., white varieties)

A white-flowered form of the Colorado columbine. Prefers organic soils. 18-24 in. tall.



CULTIVATED - MOUNTAINS

White coral bells (*Heuchera* spp., white varieties)

Perennial with rosettes of basal leaves. Many varieties with colorful foliage. In early summer, small flowers arise on slender stalks. 12-18 in. tall.



CULTIVATED - LOWER ELEVATION

Feverfew (*Tanacetum parthenium*)

Feverfew produces aromatic, fern-like foliage. The flowers are small and white and can be used as a filler flower in arrangements. May be aggressive. 1-2 ft. tall.



OTHER OPTIONS

Native Options

Native chickweed (*Cerastium arvense*)

Northern bedstraw (*Galium septentrionale*)

Cultivated Options

Candytuft (*Iberis sempervirens*)

Gaura (*Gaura lindheimeri*)

Larkspur (*Delphinium ajacis*, white varieties)

Spider flower (*Cleome spinosa*)

INVASIVE - DO NOT PLANT

Sulphur cinquefoil (*Potentilla recta*)

Sulphur cinquefoil is a perennial weed. Its leaves are palmately compound with five to seven toothed leaflets, and somewhat resemble a marijuana leaf. The light-yellow flowers have five petals that are deeply notched, and the leaf stalks have perpendicular hairs longer than the width of the stalk. CO List B



PLANT INSTEAD - NATIVE - MOUNTAINS

Native cinquefoils (*Potentilla* spp., *Drymocallis fissa*)

Perennials with yellow flowers in summer. Different species have different leaf types. *Drymocallis fissa* has a rounded shape, soft yellow flowers and reddish leaves in the fall. 12-18 in. tall.



NATIVE - LOWER ELEVATION

Chocolate flower (*Berlandiera lyrata*)

Cheery daisy-like flowers bloom all summer with a chocolate scent. Prefers a warm microclimate. Reseeds readily. 18 in. tall.



CULTIVATED - MOUNTAINS

Lance-leaf Coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*)

Easy to grow perennial with long blooming cheerful yellow flowers. Birds are attracted to the seed heads. Good cut flower. 16-24 in. tall.



CULTIVATED - LOWER ELEVATION

Coreopsis (*Coreopsis* spp.)

Yellow flowers make great additions to the perennial border or wildflower meadow. Most species are easily grown from seed.



OTHER OPTIONS

Native Options

Blanket flower (*Gaillardia* spp.)

Prairie zinnia (*Zinnia grandiflora*)

Sulphur flower (*Eriogonum umbellatum*)

Sundancer daisy (*Hymenoxys acaulis*)

Sundrops (*Calylophus lavandulifolius* and *C. serrulatus*)

INVASIVE - DO NOT PLANT

Saltcedar/Tamarisk (*Tamarix* spp.)

A shrub or tree native to the Mediterranean, China and Central Asia. Infests waterways throughout the West. Accumulates salt that is deposited onto the soil when the leaves drop, other riparian species are unable to survive and saltcedar can then become the only plant growing in an area. Some reports show that one acre of saltcedar can use 2.8 million gallons of water a year. Has been sold as an ornamental in the past but is no longer allowed to be sold in Colorado. CO List B



PLANT INSTEAD - NATIVE - MOUNTAINS

Wax currant (*Ribes cereum*)

A tough shrub, with tubular white-pink flowers in the spring followed by reddish fruit. The fruit is edible, but not tasty, except to birds. 3-4 ft. tall.



NATIVE - LOWER ELEVATION

Apache plume (*Fallugia paradoxa*)

Apache plume has attractive white flowers from June-August, followed by feathery, pink-plumed seeds. Needs well-drained soils. 3-6 ft. tall.



CULTIVATED - MOUNTAINS

Peking cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster acutifolius*)

An erect shrub with small glossy leaves that turn bright red in fall. Round black fruit persist all winter. Great as a hedge or windbreak. 4-7 ft. tall.



CULTIVATED - LOWER ELEVATION

Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)

This small tree has a brilliant spring show of purplish-red flowers that bloom before the leaves emerge. Leaves are heart-shaped. 15-25 ft. tall.



OTHER OPTIONS

Native Options

American plum (*Prunus americana*) *Toxic to livestock*

Boulder raspberry (*Rubus deliciosus*)

Waxflower (*Jamesia americana*)

Cultivated Options

Crabapples (*Malus* spp.)

Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*)

Smokebush (*Cotinus coggygia* 'Purpureus')

INVASIVE - DO NOT PLANT

Dalmatian and Yellow toadflax (*Linaria genistifolia* and *L. vulgaris*)

Both species produce attractive yellow snapdragon-like flowers. Toadflaxes are very difficult to eradicate because they quickly escape from gardens to invade roadsides, native meadows, and pastures. They produce extensive root systems, which allow them to steal water and nutrients from native plants. Each plant produces thousands of seeds which are spread by the wind, birds, and other animals. CO List B



PLANT INSTEAD - NATIVE - MOUNTAINS

Golden banner (*Thermopsis rhombifolia* and *T. montana*)

Spikes of yellow lupine-like flowers bloom in the spring. Plants spread underground by rhizomes. Useful for erosion prevention. May be aggressive, best in larger spaces. May be toxic to livestock. 12-20 in. tall.



NATIVE - LOWER ELEVATION

Yellow columbine (*Aquilegia chrysantha*)

A particularly showy columbine with huge, yellow flowers. The plants often bloom from May to autumn frost and self sow generously. Perennial. Plant Select choice for 2001. 24-30 in. tall.



CULTIVATED - MOUNTAINS

Snapdragons (*Antirrhinum* spp.)

Tall spikes of flowers are favorites with children. An excellent cut flower. Prefers organic, moisture-rich soils. Heights vary with the cultivar.



CULTIVATED - LOWER ELEVATION

Hardy Jerusalem sage (*Phlomis russeliana*)

An easy-to-grow perennial with soft yellow flowers which are borne in tiers on tall, slender stems. Attracts bees and butterflies. The flowers develop into ornamental seed heads that persist into winter and provide food for birds. 3-4 ft. tall.



OTHER OPTIONS

Native Options

Black eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)

Common evening primrose (*Oenothera villosa*)

Prairie coneflower (*Ratibida columnifera*)

Prince's plume (*Stanleya pinnata*)

Showy goldeneye (*Viguiera (Heliomeris) multiflora*)

Wallflower (*Erysimum capitatum* and *E. asperum*)

Cultivated Options

Foxtail lily (*Eremeris* spp.)

Red hot poker (*Kniphofia* spp.)

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www.Plant-Pictures.net

Websites

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Eastern Colorado Wildflowers - www.easterncoloradowildflowers.com
SW Colorado Wildflowers - www.swcoloradowildflowers.com
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Colorado Plant Database - jeffco.us.coopext/intro.jsp
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Denver Botanic Gardens - www.botanicgardens.org
Colo. State University Cooperative Extension - www.ext.colostate.edu/
Ladybird Johnson Wildflowers Center - www.wildflowers.org
Plant-Pictures.net - www.plant-pictures.net/3303
Colorado Dept. of Agriculture - www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds



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