



Wild Ones[®]
NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES
WILD ONES FRONT RANGE CHAPTER



HARDIEST OF HARDY PLANTS FOR COLORADO'S FRONT RANGE

This list is Deb Lebow Aal's compilation, with assists from Kenton Seth and Bob Nold. It is for folks who don't want to water much and are gardening for wildlife value.

Biennials/Perennial Forbs

Amsonia jonesii (blue star flower)

Argemone polyanthemus (prickly poppy): reseeds like crazy. White flower – annual/biennial

Artemisia polyanthemus var. *ludoviciana* or *latiloba* (not others)

Asclepia tuberosa (butterfly weed): blooms and blooms orange, once it gets roots down. NOT BUTTERFLY BUSH –an invasive plant and not a true host plant for butterflies

Berlandia lyrata (chocolate flower): reseeds a lot

Callirhoe involuocrata (prairie wine cups): also reseeds like crazy. Gorgeous magenta flowers

Chrysothamnus nauseosus (Rabbit brush): reseeds like crazy

Eriogonum umbellatum (Sulphur buckwheat): Also reseeds

Glaucium acutidentatum or *flavum*: (Orange horned poppy): Not native, but an annual/biennial that readily reseeds with beautiful orange flowers and interesting seed pods. It's incredibly drought tolerant and the bluish foliage adds a lot to a landscape. It's a show stopper!

Hesperaloe parviflora (Texas red yucca): not quite native to Colorado, hummingbirds love

Krascheninnikovia lanata (Winterfat): nice silvery foliage all season; great fall/winter interest

Liatris ligustylus (Gayfeather): butterflies love!

Linum lewisii (Blue flax): Drop seeds where you want them and they come up! Beautiful blue flower in spring and early summer
Mahonia (or *Berberis*) *repens*: in shade or sun. In spring, yellow berries, in fall, turns red
Mirabilis multiflora (Desert four o'clock): blooms in late afternoon
Penstamen barbatus: red flowers – hummingbirds love. Penstemons are short lived but reseed.
Penstamen brandegei: blue flowers (NOT elfin pink, rondo, eatonii or clutei – need water!)
Penstamen centrathifolius (Scarlet bugler): red
Penstamen grinnellii: pink
Penstamen pseudospectabilis: pink
Penstamen virgatus: easily the most cold hardy and drought tolerant of penstemons– purple
Phacelia campanularia (Desertbells): annual, blue/purple
Pulsatilla patens (Pasque flower): early bloomer so can go under trees that leaf out late
Spharalcea coccinea (Scarlet globemallow): So drought tolerant! Orange flower
Yucca glauca (soapweed): White flower on tall stalk
Zinnia grandiflora (Prairie zinnia): Yellow flower. Small plant

Grasses [Note: native grasses do better when planted by seed in fall or winter]

Bouteloua curtipendula (Sideoats grama): does well in a dry garden; not spectacular to look at
Bouteloua dactyloides (Buffalo grass): the native alternative to Kentucky bluegrass. See below
Muhlenbergia porteri (muhly): *Porteri* is the most drought-tolerant muhly
Oryzopsis hymenoides (Indian Ricegrass): one of the best ornamental grasses for a dry garden
Schizachyrium scoparium (Little blue stem): turns a gorgeous burgundy in fall
Sporobolus airoides: Kenton's favorite grass. He uses it everywhere!
Sporobolus cryptandrus (Sand dropseed): most drought tolerant of the sporobolus

Shrubs/small trees

Amelanchier utahensis (Utah serviceberry)
Chamaebatiaria millefolium (Fernbush)
Forestera neomeciana (New Mexican privet)
Mahonia fremontii
Prunus americana (Wild plum)
Prunus besseyi (Sand cherry)
Ptelea trifolata (Wafer ash)
Quercus gambelii (Gambel oak): gets only 10 feet tall if unirrigated
Quercus turbinella: evergreen
Quercus macrocarpa (Bur oak)
Rhus typhina (Staghorn sumac): might need a bit of water
Ribes aureum (Golden currant): not very showy
Robinia (New Mexican Locust)
Rubus deliciosus (Boulder raspberry): can grow in light shade
Salvia dorii (Purple sage): our native salvia, kind of a sub-shrub

Trees

Juniperus scopulorum 'Woodward': upright, adds formality to a garden, spiders and birds love them. Don't plant near a house as it is quite fire prone
Pinus edulis (Pinyon pine): very slow growing

Sapindus drumondii (Western soapberry): a native that can grow unirrigated. Small but can get tall enough to shade a house

Plants for a Crevice Garden (e.g., small and very xeric)

Arenaria hookeri (Hooker's sandwort)

Echinocereus coccineus or *triglochidiatus* (Claret cup cactus): Our Colorado State cactus

Eriogynum ovalifolium (Ovalleaf buckwheat)

Escobaria sneedii (Dwarf snowball cacti)

Hymneoxys acaulis var. *caespitosa* (Sunshine daisy)

Oenothera caespitosa (Desert evening primrose)

Townsendia hookeri (Hooker's Townsend Daisy)

Seeds/Plants to plant in buffalo grass (*buffalo grass will do much better if interplanted*)

Artemisia frigida (Fringed sage)

Bouteloua gracilis (Blue grama)

Dalea purpurea (Purple prairie clover)

Koeleria macrantha (Prairie Junegrass)

Liatris punctata (Spotted gayfeather)

Sphaeralcea coccinea (Scarlet globemallow)

Zinnia grandiflora (Prairie zinnia)