

# PERENNIAL INFORMATION GUIDE



Converse County  
Conservation District



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# ASPEN FLEABANE

*Erigeron speciosus*

## DESCRIPTION

Cluster of leafy stems, rise from the woody rootstock of this perennial. Each stem bears several showy 2 inch wide flower heads. The ray flowers range in color from pink to lavender and the disk flowers are yellow. It is found predominately growing wild in the mountain ranges along the western part of the United States and Canada. If planting near trees, it is important to remove fallen leaves as they can smother the flower's rosettes and cause them to rot.

## GROWING INFORMATION

Zone: 2 to 9

Height: 1' to 3'

Spread: 1' to 2'

Bloom Time: June to August

Sun: Full sun

Water: All moisture levels. Can be drought tolerant once established

Uses: Attractive to a variety of bee species.



# BLACK-EYED SUSAN

*Rudbeckia hirta*

## DESCRIPTION

A biennial plant, with distinct yellow flowers with dark brown, globular centers. Often, they do not bloom until the second year of growth. Though not a true perennial, Black-Eyed Susan easily re-seeds, and a stand of flowers will likely regrow each year from the prior season's fallen seed. Thrives in partial shade to full sun, especially in sandy, well drained soils. Can tolerate heavier soils provided it is not too moist.

## GROWING INFORMATION

Zone: 3 to 7

Height: 2' to 3'

Spread: 1' to 2'

Bloom Time: June to September

Sun: Full sun

Water: Moderate

Uses: Offers protection and a source of food for many song and game birds. Attractive to pollinators such as bees and butterflies.



# BLANKET FLOWER

*Gallardia aristate*

## DESCRIPTION

A native perennial wildflower that produces 2-3 inch yellow flowers with bright red centers. It will thrive in sunny, well drained soils. Long life span and the ability to readily reseed can lead to aggressive spreading.

## GROWING INFORMATION

Zone: 3 to 8

Height: 1' to 3'

Spread: 1'

Bloom Time: May to September

Sun: Full sun

Water: Low to moderate

Uses: Useful as a ground cover. Can be a food source for wildlife, livestock and pollinators.



# COLORADO BLUE COLUMBINE

*Aquilegia coerulea*

## DESCRIPTION

Commonly known as Rocky Mountain Columbine. A short-lived plant, featuring large upright flowers. Will thrive in shade areas, moist soils, and rocky soils. This plant only lives 4 to 5 years but reseeds readily. Those planted at higher elevation may be more colorful. While those planted at lower elevations may produce flowers of pale blue or white colors.

## GROWING INFORMATION

Zone: 3 to 8

Height: 1 ½' to 3'

Spread: 1 ½' to 2'

Bloom Time: April to May

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Moderate

Uses: Attractive to pollinators such as bees and butterflies, but also a good food source for hummingbirds.





# EASTERN PURPLE CONEFLOWER

*Echinacea purpurea*

## DESCRIPTION

A popular perennial that produces blossoms with a distinct reddish central “cone”, and lavender colored petals. It prefers full sun and well drained soils. Low drought tolerance.

## GROWING INFORMATION

Zone: 3 to 8

Height: 2' to 5'

Spread: 1 ½' to 2'

Bloom Time: June to August

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Low to moderate

Uses: Attractive to several pollinators including bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies.



# FIRECRACKER PENSTEMON

*Penstemon eatonii*

## DESCRIPTION

Found primarily in the mountains of the desert Southwest. This perennial grows rapidly with vivid red flowers. It is found at elevations from 3,300 to about 8,000 feet. It is excellent for growing along gravel stream banks. It is tolerant of dryer soils that may be slightly alkaline. It is a great plant for an area with harsh growing conditions or xeriscape areas.

## GROWING INFORMATION

Zone: 4 to 8

Height: 3' to 4'

Spread: 2' to 3'

Bloom Time: May to August

Sun: Full sun

Water: Low

Uses: Attractive to pollinators, especially hummingbirds.



# LANCELEAF COREOPSIS

*Coreopsis lanceolata*

## DESCRIPTION

A clump forming perennial plant, with bright yellow flowers. Prefers full sun, but will tolerate light shade, though flower production tends to be less. Will grow in many soil types but thrives in a well-draining soil.

## GROWING INFORMATION

Zone: 4 to 9

Height: 1' to 2'

Spread: 1' to 1 ½"

Bloom Time: May to July

Sun: Full sun

Water: Low to moderate

Uses: Attracts native bees and butterflies.



# LEADPLANT

*Amorpha canescens*

## DESCRIPTION

A small, deciduous shrub that grows and produces purple flowers in bunches at the end of shoots. Dense hairs cover the leaves, giving the plants a silver-grey appearance, hence the name. Leadplant will thrive in well drained soils and in partial to full sun. Treat this plant as a woody perennial and cut it back to 4 inches in early spring.

## GROWING INFORMATION

Zone: 2 to 9

Height: 2' to 3'

Spread" 2' to 2 ½'

Bloom Time: July to September

Sun: Full

Water: Low to moderate

Uses: A deep, branching woody root system makes this an excellent choice for erosion control, while also providing a source of food both pollinating insects as well as browsing mammals.



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# NETTLE-LEAF HORSEMINT

*Agastache urticifolia*

## DESCRIPTION

This is an upright aromatic perennial with pink or purple flowers that form in a dense spike. It can grow rapidly to a mature height of 5 feet. It grows best in partial shade and soils of all textures that are slightly acidic to basic (pH 6 – 8). It can often be found on open slopes and woods. It is not drought tolerant and will thrive in areas that receive at least 18 inches of precipitation a year.

## GROWING INFORMATION

Zone: 3 to 8

Height: 3' to 6'

Spread: 1' to 2'

Bloom Time: June to August

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Moderate to high

Uses: Attracts to bee species and butterflies.



# PURPLE POPPY MALLOW

*Callirhoe involucrate*

## DESCRIPTION

A low growing, spreading perennial that forms a thick mat of foliage. 1 – 2 inch wide, chalice shaped purple and white flowers appear on stalks. Will thrive in partial to full sun, in many soil types if they drain well. High temperatures and extra moisture will give this plant denser habitat.

## GROWING INFORMATION

Zone: 4 to 8

Height: 1' to 2 ½'

Spread: ½' to 3'

Bloom Time: May to June

Sun: Full sun

Water: Low to moderate

Uses: Attractive to pollinators such as bees and butterflies.



# ROCKY MOUNTAIN PENSTEMON

*Penstemon strictus*

## DESCRIPTION

This tall evergreen perennial that will spread as ground cover, and produces tall spires containing blue or purple flowers. Prefers a drier, lightweight and well-draining soil, and will thrive in partial shade.

## GROWING INFORMATION

Zone: 4 to 9

Height: 2' to 2 ½'

Spread: 2' to 3'

Bloom Time: May to June

Sun: Full sun

Water: Low

Uses: Attractive to bees and other pollinators.  
often found in mixes intended for erosion control or reclamation uses.



Seed

# SHOWY MILKWEED

*Asclepias speciose*

## DESCRIPTION

A stout, sparingly branched perennial with large, oval, blue-green leaves and showy, spherical clusters of rose-colored flowers. Flowers occur at the top of the stem and on the stalks from leaf axils. A grayish, velvety plant with erect leaf stems and with umbrels of star-like pinkish flowers in upper axils and at top. This species is closely related to the Common Milkweed but can be distinguished by a layer of fine white hairs and the flowers look like small crowns. It will grow more vigorously in moist soils, yet it is drought tolerant. This plant is the most important to the Monarch Butterfly, as it uses the plant for its entire life cycle.

## GROWING INFORMATION

Zone: 3 to 9

Height: 1 ½' to 3' and capable of reaching 6' in the right growing conditions

Spread: 2' to 3'

Bloom Time: June to August

Sun: Full sun

Water: Moderate

Uses: Attractive to pollinators; butterflies, bee species, and hummingbirds.





# STIFF GOLDENROD

*Solidago rigida*

## DESCRIPTION

Stiff Goldenrod is widely adaptable and thrives in tough soils, from clay to dry sand. It prefers full sunlight and is drought tolerant. The stems serve as perches for songbirds, and the seeds are an important late season bird food. It can self-seed readily. Because of this removal of the seed heads may be needed in home and garden settings to control unwanted seedlings.

## GROWING INFORMATION

Zone: 2 to 9

Height: 3' to 5'

Spread: 1' to 2'

Bloom Time: July to October

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Low

Uses: Attractive to pollinators, including the Monarch Butterfly. Goldenrods are an important source of nectar in the fall. The seeds provide food for several bird species.



# SULPHUR-FLOWER BUCKWHEAT

*Erigeron umbrellatum*

## DESCRIPTION

This is very abundant and can be found in many different habitats. The leaves are woolly and low on the plant. The flowers come in many colors from white, bright yellow, to purple. In the fall, the flowers fade to red or orange. Plant Buckwheat in sandy soils with good drainage as it prefers gravel and sand, avoid clay soils.

## GROWING INFORMATION

Zone: 4 to 8

Height: ½' to 3'

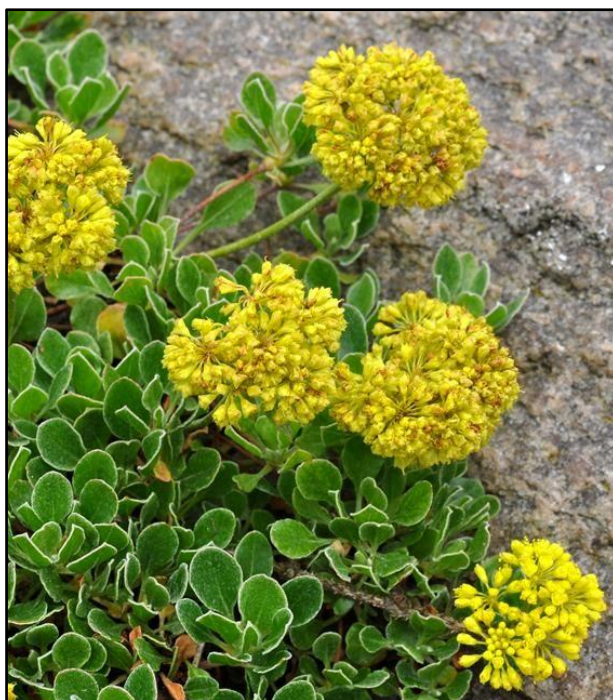
Spread: 1' to 1 ½'

Bloom Time: July to September

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Low

Uses: This is a good species to help aid in erosion control. Great for butterflies.



# WILD BERGAMOT

*Mondarda fistulosa*

## DESCRIPTION

Commonly known as Bee Balm, it is a showy and popular perennial. Clusters of lavender, pink, or white flowers look like ragged pompoms. This plant is very fragrant and can be used to make mint tea. It will thrive in a wide variety of soils.

## GROWING INFORMATION

Zone: 4 to 8

Height: 1' to 3'

Spread: ½' to 1'

Bloom Time: May to September

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Moderate

Uses: Highly attractant to pollinators. It is known to have a long history as a medicinal plant.



# YELLOW POTENTILLA

*Dasiphora fruticosa*

## DESCRIPTION

Otherwise called Shrubby Cinquefoil. A rounded shrub that produces small, grayish leaves and small showy yellow flowers. Leaves may be evergreen depending on the location of planting. Prefers sunny areas and is tolerant of many soil types. Uses very little water and is not susceptible to pests, making this a virtually maintenance free plant.

## GROWING INFORMATION

Zone: 3 to 7

Height: 2' to 4', capable of reaching 6' to 8' in good growing conditions

Spread: 3' to 5'

Bloom Time: June to September

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Moderate

Uses: Attractive to pollinators like bees and butterflies. Good for erosion control.



# YELLOW PRAIRIE CONEFLOWER

*Ratibida columnifera*

## DESCRIPTION

A native, late season perennial, that can bloom late into fall provided adequate moisture. The flowers are 2 – 4 inches in diameter, with a prominent central cone rising from the center. Will thrive in sunny locations and in a variety of soil types. Slightly pungent foliage is said to repel deer; however, deer will browse the flowers themselves. It is an aggressive grower that can push out weaker species.

## GROWING INFORMATION

Zone: 4 to 9

Height: 1' to 3'

Spread: 1' to 1 ½'

Bloom Time: June to September

Sun: Full sun

Water: Low to moderate

Uses: Palatable to all classes of domestic livestock when utilized during early stages of growth.

Seeds also useful for several species of bird and small mammals. Will attract pollinators such as bees and butterflies. Various parts of the plant are edible.

