

NATIVE MEADOWS

Designed by Stephanie Kopplin, City of Fort Collins



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1 **Aromatic Aster**
Symphyotrichum oblongifolium
Mature Height: 12-30"
Mature Spread: 15-18"

Hardy To: 8,500'

Water: Low

Exposure: Sun to Filtered Shade

Flower Color: Purple

Flower Season: Fall

Attracts: Butterflies, Bees

Resistant To: Deer, Rabbit

Description: This native aster grows from aromatic branching stems that give way to purple ray flowers with yellow disk centers. The flower heads transform into fluffy seed pods come late fall.

Care: Aromatic Aster is very adaptable as it grows in rocky and sandy soils such as those found in prairies and bluffs as well as in moist woodland habitats. This plant benefits from neutral to slightly acidic soil. This clump forming Aster may flop leaving a bare center if allowed to get too top heavy, without pruning.

Spring: In early spring, after first growing season, cut back mature plants to basal (non-flowering) foliage.

Summer: Once established (year 2+), cut back by one third to half in June to maintain a more compact effect.

Fall: None.

Winter: None. (*Remember winter watering for all plants*).

2 **Big Bluestem Grass**
Andropogon gerardii
Mature Height: 4-6'
Mature Spread: 2-3'

Hardy To: 9,500'

Water: Low

Exposure: Sun

Flower Color: Purple

Flower Season: Summer

Attracts: Butterflies

Resistant To: Deer

Description: In early spring the stems of this native grass are a beautiful blue-green, turning to coppery red tones in the summer. Finally, the grass turns bronze-red with hints of lavender during fall. In late summer, flowering seed heads rise above the stems forming a purple clusters.

Care: This highly adaptable warm season grass is easily grown in conditions that range from dry, well-drained soils to shady, fertile soils. However, if placed in highly fertilized, wet areas, the grass can become top heavy and fall over. Can be slow to establish.

Spring: In early spring, after first growing season, cut to ground to allow new growth.

Summer: None.

Fall: None.

Winter: None.

3

Dwarf Blue Rabbitbrush*Ericameria nauseosa ssp. nauseosa var. nauseosa***Mature Height:** 1-4'**Mature Spread:** 1-4'**Hardy To:** 8,500'**Water:** Very Low**Exposure:** Sun**Flower Color:** Golden Yellow**Flower Season:** Mid to Late Summer**Attracts:** Bees, Butterflies**Description:** A compact shrub with a rounded form consisting of gray to light green stems and linear, bluish-gray leaves. Tight clusters of small and fragrant golden yellow flowers make this native plant a staple in any xeric garden.**Care:** This indestructible native with multi-season interest has a very attractive winter form. Proper pruning will keep this plant's growth in check.**Spring:** In early spring, after first growing season, cut back mature plants by several inches to allow new growth.**Summer:** None.**Fall:** Leave the last blooms to self-seed and/or feed the birds in the winter.**Winter:** None.**Fun Fact:** Native Peoples used *Ericameria nauseosa* to make yellow dye, tea, and cough medicine. It was once considered a possible source of rubber.

4

Large Beardtongue*Penstemon grandiflorus***Mature Height:** 2-3'**Mature Spread:** 8-12"**Hardy To:** 8,000'**Water:** Low**Exposure:** Sun to Part Shade**Flower Color:** Purple**Flower Season:** Summer**Attracts:** Bees, Butterflies, Hummingbirds**Resistant To:** Deer, Rabbit**Description:** This showy Penstemon with giant flowers range in color from pure white to lavender and rose pink to a deep purple-violet. Waxy foliage rosettes are attractive all year long.**Care:** Penstemon are easy to grow. They prefer full sun, but will tolerate partial shade as well. Water plants during dry periods. Allow the soil to dry between watering. Keep the areas weeded when plants are young to reduce competition.**Spring:** In early spring, after first growing season, cut back mature plants to 6 inches to allow new growth.**Summer:** After first flowering, cut back to a couple inches to encourage another round of blooms.**Fall:** None.**Winter:** In colder zones, may benefit from loose winter mulching.**Fun Fact:** Native peoples used this plant to soothe toothaches.

5

Little Bluestem Grass*Schizachyrium scoparium***Mature Height:** 3-4'**Mature Spread:** 24-30"**Hardy To:** 8,000'**Water:** Low**Exposure:** Sun**Flower Color:** Purple-Bronze**Flower Season:** Fall**Attracts:** Birds**Resistant To:** Deer**Description:** Clumps of long, linear leaves culminate in purple flowers in late summer and early fall. This native grass' kaleidoscope of colors start as blue-gray pastels in the summer and become bronze tones in the fall with white fluffy seed heads.**Care:** This highly adaptable grass is tolerant of sunbaked locations and poor soil of all varieties, and is ill-suited for shady, wet soils, which will lead to poor structure and floppy growth.**Spring:** Early spring, after first growing season, cut back mature plants to 6 inches to allow new growth.**Summer:** None.**Fall:** Leave last blooms to self-seed and/or feed the birds come winter.**Winter:** None.**Fun Fact:** Little Bluestem can be found in every state except for Alaska, Nevada and Oregon.

6

Maximillion Sunflower*Helianthus maximiliani***Mature Height:** 5-10'**Mature Spread:** 18-24"**Hardy To:** 6,500'**Water:** Low**Exposure:** Sun**Flower Color:** Yellow**Flower Season:** Late Summer**Attracts:** Bees, Butterflies, Birds**Description:** The Maximilian Sunflower is as tough as it is beautiful. This warm season native has tall, leafy, and unbranched stems are adorned with charming and numerous 5 inch yellow flowers from late summer to first frost.**Care:** Its long growing period and vigorous nature make it an ideal plant for wildlife food and cover. It has adapted to many soil types, and tends to prefer moist, well-drained, clay-like soils. It performs best in sunny locations and will not tolerate shade. Be sure not to over water! Over-watering and over-fertilizing will produce excessive growth but weak stems. Stake plants if stems begin to arch before flowering to protect them from strong wind or rain. Plants will improve in appearance if watered during periods of drought.**Spring:** Early spring, after first growing season, cut back mature plants to ground to allow new growth.**Summer:** Pinch back tips by 1 inch to promote bushy appearance and more blooms.**Fall:** Leave last blooms to self-seed and/or feed the birds come winter.**Winter:** None.

7 Native Lavender Bee Balm

Monarda fistulosa menthifolia

Mature Height: 2-3'

Mature Spread: 18-24"

Hardy To: 9,000'

Water: Low

Exposure: Sun to Partial Shade

Flower Color: Lavender Pink

Flower Season: Mid- summer

Attracts: Bees, Hummingbirds

Description: A flowering member of the mint family, this native flower's signature fountain-shaped blooms and aromatic foliage is reminiscent of mint and orange making it hard to forget.

Care: In general, this hardy perennial thrives best in moist-slightly dry soils in sunny, dry locations. If you'd like a bushier plant then cut back stem tips early in the season.

Spring: Early spring, divide mature plants every 3 years to contain spreading and/or for propagation. Early spring, after first growing season, cut back mature plants to 6 inches to allow new growth.

Summer: Deadhead to encourage new blooms.

Fall: None.

Winter: None.

Fun Fact: Historically, Native Americans transformed this beauty into a tea and used it to cure colds. "Medicinal" tea recipe: To 1 tsp. of dried Bee Balm, add 1 cup boiling water, steep 10 minutes, sweeten to taste, enjoy at bedtime.

8 Pearly Everlasting

Anaphalis margaritacea

Mature Height: 1-2'

Mature Spread: 8-12"

Hardy To: 9,500'

Water: Low

Exposure: Sun

Flower Color: White

Flower Season: Summer

Attracts: Butterflies, Bees

Resistant To: Deer, Rabbits

Description: Coverings of white bracts unfurl to display small yellow disk flowers grouped in clusters atop woolly white stems with thin grey green leaves. This native plant can be found in the wild along trails.

Care: Benefits from dry, rocky soils and thrives in even very poor soil conditions. Harvest for dried arrangements (cut before fully open and hang upside down in a cool, airy place).

Spring: None.

Summer: Deadhead to prevent self-seeding and spreading.

Fall: Deadhead to prevent self-seeding and spreading.

Winter: None.

Fun Fact: In folk medicine, Pearly Everlasting is used in salves for burns.

9 Small-leaf Pussytoes

Antennaria parvifolia 'McClintock'

Mature Height: 1-2"

Mature Spread: 8-12"

Hardy To: 10,000'

Water: Very Low

Exposure: Sun

Flower Color: White

Flower Season: Early Summer

Attracts: Butterflies

Resistant To: Deer

Description: A slow to moderate spreading low growing native groundcover primarily grown for its small grey-green leaves with white flowers that, as its name suggests, look like cat paws.

Care: This plant may be subject to winter burn during very dry winters.

Spring: Early spring, divide mature plants every 3 years to contain spreading and/or for propagation.

Summer: Once established, deadhead to keep compact shape.

Fall: None.

Winter: None.

Fun Fact: This Colorado native is often found in the wild in over-grazed areas.

10 Stiff Goldenrod

Solidago rigida

Mature Height: 1-3'

Mature Spread: 18-24"

Hardy To: 7,500'

Water: Low

Exposure: Sun to Filtered Shade

Flower Color: Yellow

Flower Season: Late Summer

Attracts: Butterflies, Birds

Resistant To: Deer

Description: Stiff Goldenrod is a clump forming native perennial that bears high quantities of bright golden-yellow blooms clustered on the ends of its upright stem. It forms a bushy upright mound of deep green leaves that flowers from mid to late summer.

Care: This flower is very easy to care for. It is drought resistant, and does well in most soils, including clay and dry soils, and it prefers well-drained soil with full sunlight or filtered sunlight. This variety can get quite tall and flop over onto neighbors if not cut back to maintain compact growth.

Spring: None.

Summer: In June, cut back by half to encourage more compact growth, if desired. Deadhead to encourage new blooms.

Fall: None.

Winter: Leave last blooms to self-seed and/or feed the birds come winter.

Fun Fact: This perennial is often wrongly blamed for hay fever. But it's pollen is sticky and heavy, and therefore, does not become wind-borne like the real culprit Ragweed.

11

Swamp Rose Milkweed*Asclepias incarnata***Mature Height:** 4-5'**Mature Spread:** 18-24"**Hardy To:** 6,500'**Water:** Low to Medium**Exposure:** Sun to Partial Shade**Flower Color:** Pink**Flower Season:** Summer**Attracts:** Butterflies, Hummingbirds**Resistant To:** Deer**Description:** This butterfly favorite is

comprised of large clumps of tall, branching stems that culminate in long narrow leaves and umbels of cinnamon scented, pink flowers. This native Milkweed is a late bloomer and will develop attractive seed pods in the fall that burst open to self-seed.

Care: This milkweed is slow to establish; the first year they are establishing root system and crown and won't growth much above ground. Its deep tap root makes it a poor candidate for transplant.

Spring: After second growing season, in early spring, cut back mature plants to

the ground to allow new growth.

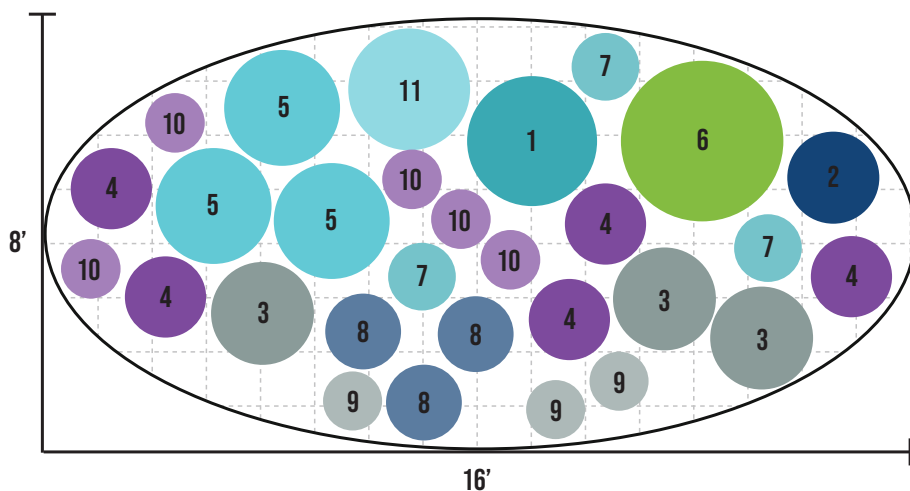
Summer: None.

Fall: Deadhead or leave last blooms to self-seed and/or provide winter interest.

Winter: None.

Fun Fact: Swamp Rose Milkweed is a favorite food source for the larvae of Monarch Butterflies.

3 PLANT BY NUMBER DESIGN OPTIONS:



1 box = 1 square foot

