

Alpine Glow

Designed by Deryn Davidson, CSU Extension



Designed with our mountain residents in mind, this garden is hardy to at least 7,000', with most plants hardy to 8,500' or more, but it will grow just as beautifully for our lower elevation, front-range folks, as well! With shades of yellows, pinks, purples, and whites, this cheerful garden will coax the butterflies and birds out to dance among the blossoms.

- Full sun exposure (minimum of 6 hrs of direct sun per day)
- Planting maps cover 72 sq. ft.
- Blooms late spring to fall
- Low water needs
- Hardiness maximum of 7,000 ft.

Individual Plant Information

N indicates a native plant

BLANKET FLOWER - *Gaillardia aristata* **N**

QTY. 2



The Native Blanket Flower boasts large daisies with reddish/orange centers circled by ray flowers of yellow.

- Mature height 18-24"
Mature spread 18-24"
- Full sun
- Low water needs
- Blooms mid summer
- Attracts bees, birds, butterflies
- Resists deer, rabbits

CARE: Blanket Flowers appreciate a bit of pampering the first season, and then take off on their own. Avoid planting in rich, moist soils, which can make the plants floppy and shorten their life-span. Once established it is very low maintenance, adaptable, and easy to grow.

NATIVE BLUE HAREBELL - *Campanula rotundifolia* **N**

QTY. 3



Coming from the Latin word campana meaning "bell," this perennial features loose rosettes of foliage with blue, bell-shaped flowers on wiry stems.

- Mature height 6-18"
Mature spread 12-18"
- Adaptable
- Low water needs
- Blooms late spring to summer
- Attracts bees, butterflies
- Resists deer

CARE: This adaptable plant performs well on rocky mountain slopes, dry meadows and prairies, and open woods with moist soils.

CHOCOLATE FLOWER - *Berlandiera lyrata* **N**

QTY. 3



Native to the southwestern US, this bright yellow, daisy-like flower blooms at night and emits a distinct milk chocolate fragrance in the early morning hours.

- Mature height 1-2'
Mature spread 12-18"
- Full sun
- Low water needs
- Blooms summer to fall
- Attracts bees, birds, butterflies
- Resists deer

CARE: This hardy and easy-to-care-for perennial is adaptable to a wide spectrum of conditions. However, it tends to prefer soil that is not amended and thrives best in full sun locations but will tolerate light shade. Once established, it requires very little water. If overwatered, it will become extra leggy. This plant can sprawl a bit.

FALL ASTER - *Aster novi-beelgii* 'Professor Kippenburg' **N**

QTY. 3



This aster forms a bushy, multi-branched clump with fine, daisy-like flowers that are violet/purple during early summer to fall.



Mature height 12-15"
Mature spread 12-18"



Full sun



Low water needs



Blooms late-summer to fall



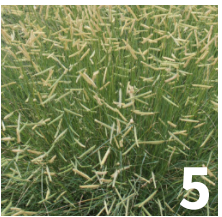
Attracts bees, butterflies



CARE: An extremely low-maintenance plant, as a prolific native plant to our region it will do poorly in over-fertilized, rich soils.

BLUE GRAMA GRASS - *Bouteloua gracilis* **N**

QTY. 1



This Rocky Mountain native grass has eyelash-like spikelets that grow horizontally on its stems. Blue Grama stays colorful through the fall season.



Mature height 1-2'
Mature spread 1-2'



Full sun



Very low water needs



Blooms summer to fall



Attracts birds



CARE: : This adaptable grass thrives in most soils except very heavy and very wet clay. Be sure to not let this grass sit in wet soils for long.

INDIAN RICE GRASS - *Achnatherum hymenoides* **N**

QTY. 1



This cool season bunch grass produces graceful arching leaves up to three feet tall. In mid-summer, open flower panicles form creating an airy texture above the foliage.



Mature height 15-18"
Mature spread 12-18"



Full sun



Low water needs



Blooms midsummer



Attracts bees, butterflies



CARE: While this plant is widely adaptable, it requires well drained soils and will suffer with flooding. It propagates by seed only.

RED BEE BALM - *Monarda* 'Cambridge Scarlet' **N**

QTY. 1



A flowering member of the mint family, its signature fountain-shaped blooms and aromatic foliage is reminiscent of mint and orange making it hard to forget.



Mature height 2-3'
Mature spread 12-18"



Adaptable



Low water needs



Blooms midsummer



Attracts birds, butterflies, hummingbirds



Resists deer, rabbits



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

PEARLY EVERLASTING - *Anaphalis margaritacea* **N**

QTY. 2



Coverings of white bracts unfurl to display small bronze disk flowers grouped in clusters at the top of woolly white stems with thin grey-green leaves.



Mature height 1-2'
Mature spread 8-12"



Full sun



Low water needs



Blooms summer



Attracts butterflies



Resists deer



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

PRAIRIE JUNEGRASS - *Koeleria macrantha* **N**

QTY. 1



This cool season clump forming grass has stiff upright stems and come mid-summer develops tan feathery plumes of seeds.



Mature height 1-2'
Mature spread 9-15"



Full sun



Low water needs



Blooms summer



Attracts bees



Resists deer



CARE: Thrives in rocky well drained soils and full sun.

PRAIRIE YELLOW CONEFLOWER - *Ratibida columnifera* N

QTY. 2



Its linear, bright green leaves create an airy clump with several slender stalks capped by yellow flowers with drooping rays surrounding a tall, brown center.



Mature height 18-24"
Mature spread 18-24"



Full sun



Very low water needs



Blooms summer



Attracts bees, birds, butterflies



Resists deer



CARE: Prairie Coneflower is very drought tolerant and undiscerning about soil types. It thrives in full, hot sun.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLUMBINE - *Aquilegia coerulea* N

QTY. 1



The Colorado state flower! It is noted for its large, rich violet flowers with white centers and long spurs mounted on arching stems over blue-green foliage.



Mature height 18-24"
Mature spread 12-18"



Adaptable



Low water needs



Blooms late spring to summer



Attracts butterflies, hummingbirds



Resists deer, rabbits



CARE: Avoid heavy, soggy soil. Division is not recommended; mature plants do not like to be disturbed. If foliage becomes ragged during high heat, cut foliage back to 3 inches above ground and new leaves will grow in.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN PENSTEMON - *Penstemon strictus* N

QTY. 2



The brilliant, midnight blue flowers form on stout stalks arising from narrow, glossy green leaves. This semi-evergreen variety is native to the Rockies.



Mature height 18-24"
Mature spread 12-18"



Adaptable



Low water needs



Blooms early to midsummer



Attracts bees, hummingbirds



Resists rabbits



CARE: Penstemon varieties prefer not to be overcrowded and prefer maximum heat and sun exposure. Avoid enriching the soil around these finicky plants - it will shorten their lifespan. This semi-evergreen can be slow to establish, so be sure to weed around it regularly to improve establishment.

WHITE YARROW - *Achillea millefolium* N

QTY. 1



A spreading clump of finely cut grayish-green, very fragrant foliage produces erect leafy stalks topped by tight clusters of white flowers.



Mature height 1-2'
Mature spread 2-3'



Full sun



Low water needs



Blooms early to midsummer



Attracts birds, butterflies



Resists deer, rabbits



CARE: Best in hot, dry, sunny locations, these flowers thrive on neglect and do not need pampering. Basal foliage will remain attractive throughout the winter.

Plant Maintenance by Season

MAINTENANCE TASKS

PLANT

SPRING (AFTER FIRST GROWING SEASON)

Cut back old growth or winter damage before new growth begins to show.

Divide mature plants in early spring every 3 years, as needed.

Blanket Flower, Chocolate Flower, Fall Aster, Blue Grama Grass, Indian Rice Grass, Prairie Junegass, Prairie Yellow Coneflower, Rocky Mountain Columbine, Rocky Mountain Penstemon, White Yarrow

Blanket Flower, Fall Aster, Red Bee Balm, Priarie Yellow Coneflower, White Yarrow

SUMMER

Deadhead spent flowers to encourage new blooms and/or minimize self-seeding.

Water sparingly once established.

Blue Native Harebell, Chocolate Flower, Red Bee Balm, Pearly Everlasting, Rocky Mountain Columbine, White Yarrow

Chocolate Flower

FALL

Leave last round of blooms to self-seed and/or to provide food for birds.

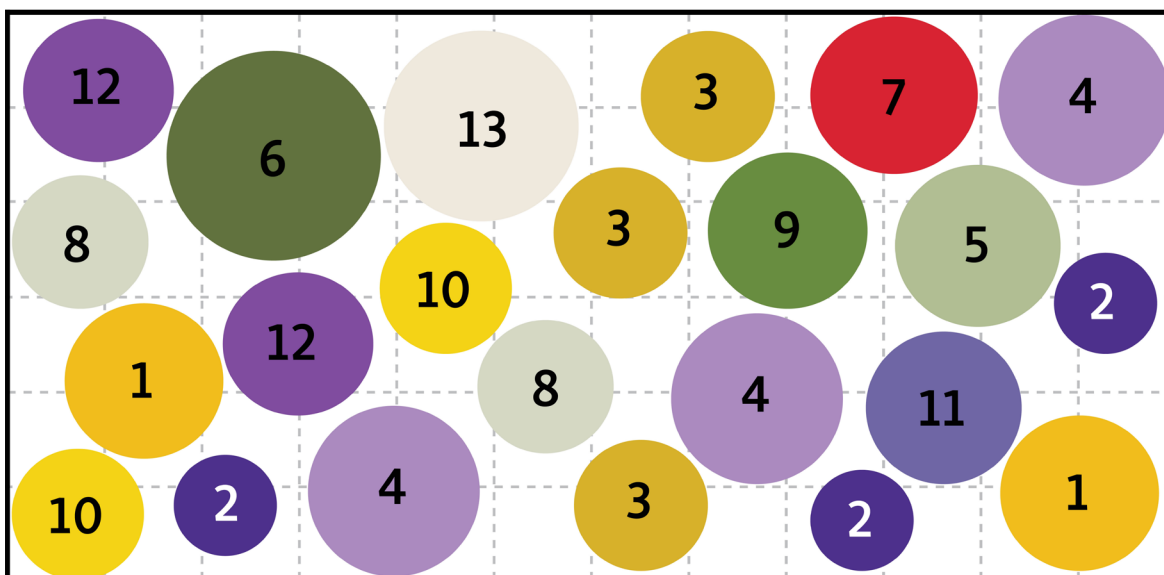
Do not prune or cut back! Plant susceptible to winter damage if pruned. It's best to wait until spring.

Deadhead spent flowers to prevent self-seeding/spreading if this is undesired.

Chocolate Flower, Blue Grama Grass, Rocky Mountain Columbine, Rocky Mountain Penstemon

Fall Aster

Red Bee Balm, White Yarrow



6' x 12' rectangle

SUGGESTED FRONT SIDE OF GARDEN

Plant-by-Number Design Suggestions

Key	
1. Blanket Flower (Qty. 2)	8. Pearly Everlasting (Qty. 2)
2. Blue Native Harebell (Qty. 3)	9. Prairie Junegrass (Qty. 1)
3. Chocolate Flower (Qty. 3)	10. Prairie Yellow Coneflower (Qty. 2)
4. Fall Aster (Qty. 3)	11. Rocky Mountain Columbine (Qty. 1)
5. Blue Grama Grass (Qty. 2)	12. Rocky Mountain Penstemon (Qty. 2)
6. Indian Rice Grass (Qty. 1)	13. White Yarrow (Qty. 1)
7. Red Bee Balm (Qty. 1)	

1 box = 1 square foot

Maps reflect showy bloom or foliage color.

