

Golden Hour

Designed by Annie Barrow of Denver Botanic Gardens in collaboration with Northern Water



Bring the warmth of “golden hour” to your yard. This magical time, just before sunrise or sunset, basks our Colorado foothills and mountains in golden, glowing light. Mimic this warmth all season long with the Golden Hour garden, perfect for planting along the Front Range and at higher elevations.



Full sun exposure
(minimum of 6 hrs of direct sun per day)



Planting maps cover 100 sq. ft.



Blooms early summer to fall



Low to medium water needs



Hardiness maximum of 7,500 ft.

Individual Plant Information

N indicates a regionally native plant

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

QTY. 5



The native Blanket Flower boasts large daisies with reddish-brown/orange centers circled by ray flowers of yellow/bronze.



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



Full sun



Low water needs



Blooms midsummer



Attracts bees, birds, butterflies



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.

COLORADO YARROW - *Achillea millefolium* ‘Colorado’ **N**

QTY. 6



A spreading clump of finely cut grayish-green, very fragrant foliage. Yarrow produces erect leafy stalks topped by multi-colored tight clusters of flowers ranging from pink to coral to yellow.



Mature height 18-24"
Mature spread 2-3'



Full sun



Low water needs



Blooms summer



Attracts bees, birds



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.

FALSE INDIGO - *Baptisia australis*

QTY. 2



Purple, lupine-like flowers on long flower clusters stand atop the shrub-sized clump of clover-like blue-green foliage. A member of the legume family, the flowers are followed by attractive seed pods.



Mature height 3-4'
Mature spread 2-3'



Adaptable



Low water needs



Blooms early summer



Attracts butterflies



Resists rabbits



CARE: While it thrives best in full sun, it will tolerate part shade with average, well-draining soils. May take several years to fully establish its deep, extensive root system, therefore, once it's established, it's best not to transplant or move. This plant has a shrub-like look and habit.

‘GOLDEN BABY’ GOLDENROD - *Solidago* ‘Golden Baby’ N

QTY. 6



Compact clumps of upright stems with dark green, lance-shaped leaves display branched panicles of golden yellow flowers.



Mature height 1-3'
Mature spread 18-24"



Adaptable



Low water needs



Blooms summer



Attracts bees,
butterflies



Resists deer



CARE: This easy to care for perennial is drought resistant, and does well in most soils. Cutting back to maintain compact growth is recommended.

‘MERESA YELLOW’ PINELEAF PENSTEMON - *Penstemon pinifolius* ‘Mersea Yellow’ N

QTY. 6



This low, creeping penstemon features tubular, soft-yellow flowers. The prolific blooms rest atop soft, green, needle-like foliage, covering the plant throughout the midsummer months.



Mature height 6-8"
Mature spread 12-15"



Full sun



Low water needs



Blooms early to
mid-summer



Attracts bees,
hummingbirds



Resists deer,
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 life span. This semi-evergreen can be slow to establish, so be sure to weed around it regularly to improve establishment.

NATIVE LAVENDER BEE BALM - *Monarda fistulosa menthifolia* N

QTY. 5



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



Mature height 2-3'
Mature spread 18-24"



Full sun



Low water needs



Blooms mid-
summer



Attracts bees,
butterflies,
hummingbirds



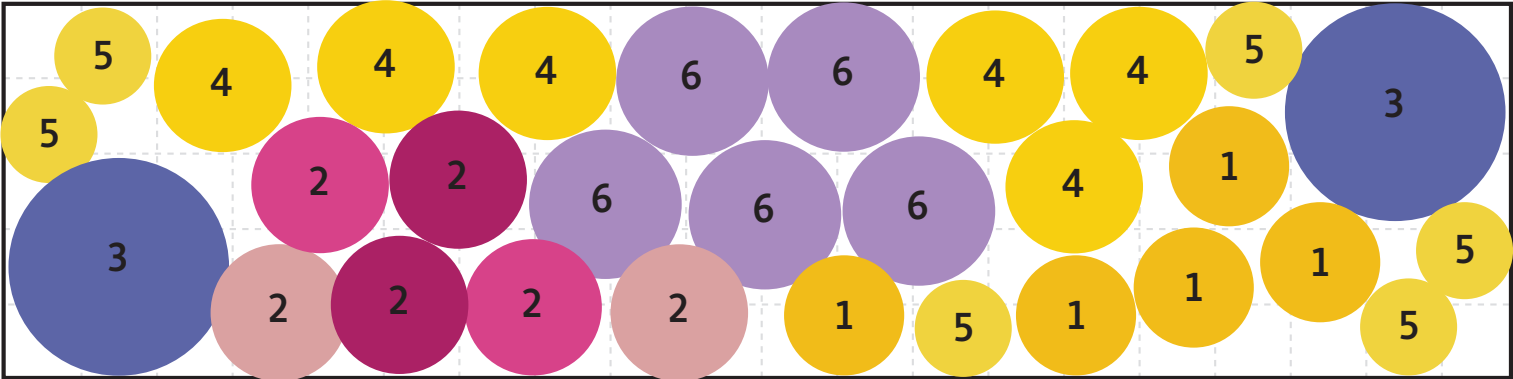
Resists deer,
rabbits



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 then cut back stem tips early in the season.

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.	Colorado Yarrow, False Indigo, 'Golden Baby' Goldenrod, 'Meres Yellow', Pineleaf Penstemon
Divide mature plants in early spring every 3 years, as needed.	Blanket Flower, 'Golden Baby' Goldenrod, 'Meres Yellow' Pineleaf Penstemon
SUMMER	
Deadhead spent flowers to encourage new blooms and/or minimize self-seeding.	Blanket Flower, Colorado Yarrow, 'Golden Baby' Goldenrod, Native Lavender Bee Balm
FALL	
Leave last round of blooms to self-seed and/or to provide food for birds.	Colorado Yarrow, False Indigo, 'Golden Baby' Goldenrod
Deadhead spent flowers to prevent self-seeding if this is undesired. Otherwise, leave last blooms to feed birds come winter.	Blanket Flower, Native Lavender Bee Balm



5' x 20' rectangle
SUGGESTED FRONT SIDE OF GARDEN

Plant-by-Number Design Suggestions

Key

1. Blanket Flower (Qty. 5)

2. Colorado Yarrow (Qty. 6)

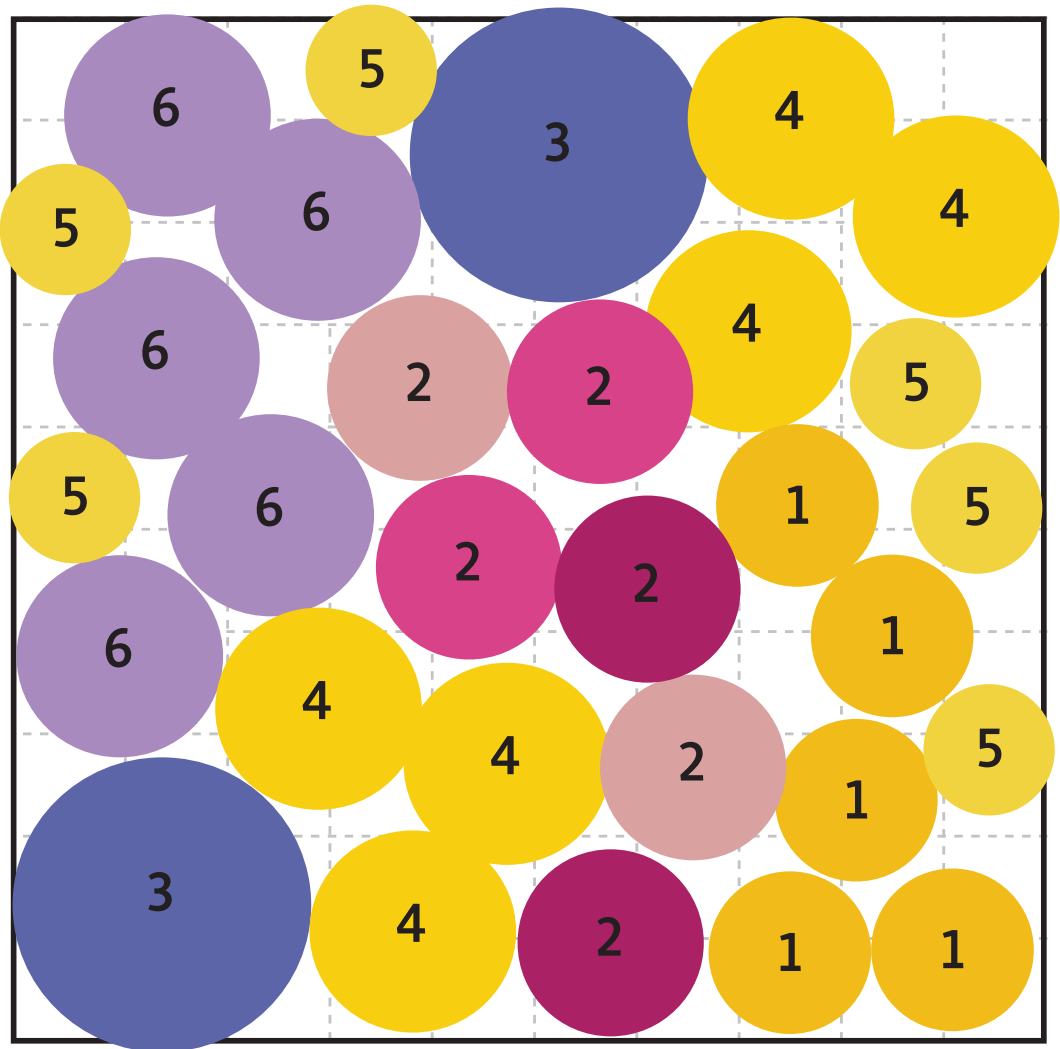
3. False Indigo (Qty. 2)

4. 'Golden Baby' Goldenrod (Qty. 6)

5. 'Meresa Yellow' Pineleaf Penstemon (Qty. 6)

6. Native Lavender Bee Balm (Qty. 5)

1 box = 1 square foot Maps reflect showy bloom or foliage color.



10' x 10' square
SUGGESTED FRONT SIDE OF GARDEN