

# NATIVE PLANTS FOR POLLINATORS & BENEFICIAL INSECTS: Rocky Mountains



LEFT—Digger bee collecting on *Peritoma serrulata*. RIGHT—Brown-belted bumble bee (*Bombus griseocollis*) collecting pollen from *Dalea purpurea*.

## Plant Selection

These plants are attractive to a diversity of pollinators, providing pollen and nectar to bees, butterflies, flies, beetles, wasps, and moths. Some plants provide additional resources as caterpillar host plants or nesting sites and nesting materials for above-ground nesting bees. Many support specialist bees that require pollen from specific plants to survive and supplement beneficial insects that can help control pests of ornamental and crop plants. These plants are native to this region—determine if a species is native in your area at [plants.usda.gov](http://plants.usda.gov)—and can be used to create or enhance pollinator habitat across rural and urban landscapes.

When purchasing plants, let your local garden center or nursery know you want plant material free of pesticides that may harm pollinators.

## Resources

- ⇒ Pollinator Conservation Resource Center: [xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center](http://xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center)
- ⇒ Bring Back The Pollinators: [BringBackthePollinators.org](http://BringBackthePollinators.org)
- ⇒ Reducing Pesticide Use & Impacts: [xerces.org/pesticides](http://xerces.org/pesticides)

| SCIENTIFIC NAME                                | COMMON NAME             | BLOOM   | LIFE  | FORM | SUN | SOIL | ADDITIONAL DETAILS ⓘ |
|--|-------------------------|---------|-------|------|-----|------|----------------------|
| <i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>                  | Indian ricegrass        | MAY–JUN | P     |      |     | D    |                      |
| <i>Agastache urticifolia</i>                   | Nettleleaf giant hyssop | JUN–AUG | P     |      |     | D–M  |                      |
| <i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>                   | Saskatoon serviceberry  | JUN–JUL | P     |      |     | D    |                      |
| <i>Aquilegia coerulea</i>                      | Colorado blue columbine | JUN–JUL | P     |      |     | M    |                      |
| <b><i>Asclepias speciosa</i>★</b>              | Showy milkweed          | MAY–SEP | P     |      |     | D–M  |                      |
| <i>Asclepias viridiflora</i>                   | Green comet milkweed    | JUN–SEP | P     |      |     | D    |                      |
| <i>Berberis repens</i>                         | Creeping barberry       | MAY–JUL | P     |      |     | D    |                      |
| <i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>                      | Blue grama              | MAY–JUL | P     |      |     | D    |                      |
| <i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>                  | Bluebell bellflower     | JUN–SEP | P     |      |     | D    |                      |
| <b><i>Chamerion a. ssp. angustifolium</i>★</b> | Fireweed                | JUL–SEP | P     |      |     | M    |                      |
| <i>Cirsium undulatum</i>                       | Wavyleaf thistle        | JUN–AUG | B / P |      |     | D–M  |                      |
| <i>Dalea candida</i>                           | White prairie clover    | MAY–SEP | P     |      |     | D    |                      |

  

|            |                     |                  |                         |                   |       |             |                             |   |                  |                |
|------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------|-------------|-----------------------------|---|------------------|----------------|
| <b>KEY</b> | <b>LIFE:</b> Annual | <b>SOIL:</b> Dry | ★ <b>Staff favorite</b> | <b>FORM:</b> Forb | Sedge | Vine        | <b>SUN:</b> Full sun        | <b>ADD'L:</b> Larval host (butterfly, moth) | Bumble bee plant | Nest materials |
|            | Biennial            | Moist            |                         | Cactus            | Shrub | Partial sun | Supports specialist bee     |   |                  |                |
|            | Perennial           | Wet              |                         | Grass             | Tree  | Full shade  | Attracts beneficial insects | Nest site                                   | Deer resistant   |                |

## Native Plants for Pollinators & Beneficial Insects: Rocky Mountains *continued*

| SCIENTIFIC NAME                              | COMMON NAME              | BLOOM   | LIFE  | FORM | SUN | SOIL | ADDITIONAL DETAILS ① |
|--|--------------------------|---------|-------|------|-----|------|----------------------|
| <i>Dalea purpurea</i>                        | Purple prairie clover    | JUL–AUG | P     |      |     | D    |                      |
| <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>                 | Tufted hairgrass         | JUN–AUG | P     |      |     | M–W  |                      |
| <b><i>Ericameria nauseosa</i></b> ★          | Rubber rabbitbrush       | AUG–OCT | P     |      |     | D    |                      |
| <i>Erigeron speciosus</i>                    | Aspen fleabane           | JUL–SEP | P     |      |     | M    |                      |
| <i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i>                  | Sulphur-flower buckwheat | JUN–JUL | P     |      |     | D    |                      |
| <i>Gaillardia aristata</i>                   | Blanketflower            | APR–MAY | P     |      |     | M    |                      |
| <i>Geranium viscosissimum</i>                | Sticky purple geranium   | MAY–SEP | A / P |      |     | D    |                      |
| <b><i>Grindelia squarrosa</i></b> ★          | Curlycup gumweed         | JUL–SEP | A / P |      |     | D    |                      |
| <i>Gutierrezia sarothrae</i>                 | Broom snakeweed          | JUN–JUL | P     |      |     | D    |                      |
| <i>Helianthus petiolaris</i>                 | Prairie sunflower        | JUL–SEP | A     |      |     | D    |                      |
| <b><i>Heterotheca villosa</i></b> ★          | Hairy false goldenaster  | JUN–AUG | P     |      |     | M    |                      |
| <i>Ipomopsis aggregata</i>                   | Scarlet gilia            | JUN–SEP | B/P   |      |     | D    |                      |
| <i>Liatriis punctata</i>                     | Dotted blazing star      | JUL–SEP | P     |      |     | D    |                      |
| <i>Linum lewisii</i>                         | Lewis flax               | MAY–SEP | P     |      |     | D    |                      |
| <i>Lupinus argenteus</i>                     | Silvery lupine           | JUL–SEP | P     |      |     | D    |                      |
| <b><i>Machaeranthera tanacetifolia</i></b> ★ | Tanseyleaf tansyaster    | AUG–OCT | A     |      |     | D–M  |                      |
| <b><i>Mentzelia decapetala</i></b> ★         | Tenpetal blazingstar     | JUN–AUG | B / P |      |     | D    |                      |
| <i>Monarda fistulosa</i>                     | Wild bergamot            | MAY–SEP | P     |      |     | D–M  |                      |
| <i>Nassella viridula</i>                     | Green needlegrass        | MAY–JUN | P     |      |     | D    |                      |
| <b><i>Oenothera cespitosa</i></b> ★          | Tufted evening primrose  | MAY–JUN | P     |      |     | D    |                      |
| <i>Penstemon angustifolius</i>               | Broadbeard beardtongue   | APR–MAY | P     |      |     | D    |                      |
| <i>Peritoma serrulata</i>                    | Rocky Mountain beeplant  | JUL–SEP | A     |      |     | D    |                      |
| <b><i>Phacelia hastata</i></b> ★             | Silverleaf phacelia      | APR–MAY | P     |      |     | D    |                      |
| <i>Prunus virginiana</i>                     | Chokecherry              | APR–MAY | P     |      |     | D–M  |                      |
| <i>Purshia tridentata</i>                    | Antelope bitterbrush     | MAR–APR | P     |      |     | D    |                      |
| <i>Ratibida columnifera</i>                  | Prairie coneflower       | MAY–OCT | P     |      |     | D    |                      |
| <i>Ribes cereum</i>                          | Wax currant              | APR–JUN | P     |      |     | D–M  |                      |
| <b><i>Rosa woodsii</i></b> ★                 | Woods' rose              | MAY–JUL | P     |      |     | M    |                      |
| <i>Rubus parviflorus</i>                     | Thimbleberry             | MAY–AUG | P     |      |     | D–M  |                      |
| <i>Salix bebbiana</i>                        | Bebb willow              | APR–MAY | P     |      |     | M–W  |                      |
| <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>               | Little bluestem          | AUG–SEP | P     |      |     | D–M  |                      |
| <i>Solidago missouriensis</i>                | Missouri goldenrod       | JUL–SEP | P     |      |     | D    |                      |
| <i>Solidago rigida</i>                       | Stiff goldenrod          | AUG–SEP | P     |      |     | D    |                      |
| <i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>                  | Scarlet globemallow      | APR–SEP | P     |      |     | D–M  |                      |
| <i>Symphoricarpos occidentalis</i>           | Western snowberry        | JUN–AUG | P     |      |     | M    |                      |
| <i>Symphotrichum laeve</i>                   | Smooth blue aster        | AUG–SEP | P     |      |     | D    |                      |
| <i>Thermopsis montana</i>                    | Mountain goldenbanner    | MAY–JUL | P     |      |     | D–W  |                      |
| <i>Vaccinium scoparium</i>                   | Grouse whortleberry      | JUN–JUL | P     |      |     | D–M  |                      |

|            |                     |                  |                         |                   |       |             |                             |   |                 |                |
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|            | Biennial            | Moist            |                         | Cactus            | Shrub | Partial sun | Supports specialist bee     |   | Nest thatch     |                |
|            | Perennial           | Wet              |                         | Grass             | Tree  | Full shade  | Attracts beneficial insects |   | Nest site       | Deer resistant |

### Acknowledgments

This list was developed with funding from the Church and Dwight Philanthropic Foundation, CS Fund, Disney Conservation Fund, General Mills, Karyn & David Ries Charitable Fund, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. **PHOTOS:** Tom Koerner / USFWS ([flickr.com/usfwsmtnp/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwsmtnp/10000000000/)). For more information on installing pollinator habitat, see the list of Resources on front page.

We make the commitment to you that we will work every day to protect pollinators and their habitat. Will you support our work?

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