

Native Plant Gardening in Boulder, Colorado



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Challenge all your preconceptions about what “xeriscape” means!

On-line Resources on my Website

www.davesutherland.co/gardening-colorado-native-plants

Photo Gallery of my garden for ideas / inspiration

www.davesutherland.co/native-plants-daves-home-garden

Tips to grow Specific Species of Native Plant Tips

Here’s an illustrated list of over 100 flowers, shrubs, trees and grasses native to Boulder, with collected tips on how to grow them and where to get them.

www.bouldercolorado.gov/native-plants-growing-tips

Why Garden with Colorado's Native Plants?

- **Beauty** - Boulder's natives are gorgeous additions to any garden, providing a range of growth habits from ground covers to shrubs and trees, with lovely foliage plants and hardy bloomers included. A native garden will bloom from very early spring until well after the first snow flies.
- **Uniqueness** - Chances are, no one else on the block will have a garden like it. Many native wildflowers and grasses are more subtle than the run-of-the-mill hybridized petunias, marigolds and pansies that everyone else has.
- **Low Care and Low Water** - Since they have grown here for millennia, Boulder's natives have evolved to shrug off anything the local environment can throw at them. Hail? Drought? Heavy spring snow? Early frost? No problem. Once established, most may never need to be watered.



- **Wildlife** - Colorado's fauna and flora have developed countless symbiotic relationships. Native plants will attract a bevy of beasts, birds, bees and butterflies to your yard. Plus, you can feel good about providing animals with the habitat they need to survive.
- **Biodiversity** - Native plants have suffered under an onslaught of exotic species. Some introduced garden plants, like dame's rocket, perennial sweet pea, myrtle spurge and purple loosetrife have escaped cultivation to become noxious weeds. They threaten to destroy the natural lands that you have purchased through your open space programs. Give the natives a chance to reclaim the landscape by sowing them in your garden.
- **Our Heritage** - Native plant gardens celebrate our biological and cultural heritage, helping to maintain a local and regional identity we can be proud of. Learn about and pass on the lore and knowledge humans have gleaned from these plants over the centuries.
- **Success** - If you provide these plants with the same care they receive from nature (virtually none), they will succeed. That's less work for you!

Buyer Beware

- Many plant nurseries around Boulder, and some vendors at the Boulder Farmers' Market, stock Colorado natives but be careful! There are many non-native look-alikes for sale, often with similar names. To be certain you are really buying a native and not a potentially noxious masquerader, download and print out the Colorado Native Plant Society's List of Native Plants Recommended for Horticulture (see below) and become comfortable with the scientific names.
- Beware so-called "wildflower seed mixes," which often contain non-native pests.

What's in a Scientific Name?

You don't have to be a hard-core botanist to garden with natives, but it is useful to make a list of the scientific, or Latin, plant names of the plants you want to buy. The nursery trade uses the plant's full scientific name to be sure they are supplying you with the proper species.

Many non-native plants are available to gardeners. Scientific names are your key to getting just what you want, and "weeding out" the others!

Carry your list of recommended plants with you when you shop, and verify those Latin names before you buy.

And imagine your surprise when you find your self bragging in Latin to your gardening friends!

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