

**CITY OF FORT COLLINS
NATURAL AREAS DEPARTMENT**

FORT COLLINS NATIVE PLANTS

*Your guide to selecting, purchasing,
and planting native plants in Fort
Collins urban landscapes.*

*Discover easy-care, cost-effective,
beautiful native plants available at
local and mail order outlets.*

*For more information about native
plants, call the Natural Areas
Department at 970-416-2815.*



Fort Collins Native Plants

Using native plants to restore natural areas makes economic and ecological sense. Homeowners can also benefit by using native plants to save money and to enhance their landscapes for butterflies, birds and other wildlife.



Availability of Native Plants

The Fort Collins area has about 550 native species of plants. About 90% of the 53 tree and shrub species are commercially available, while about 60% of the 111 grass or grasslike species and 30% of the 385 wildflowers, vines, and other herbaceous plants are commercially available. As demand for natives increases, more of them are likely to be commercially available.

Zones

Plants native to the Fort Collins area are associated with one or more of two broad geographical and three broad ecological zones, coded under "Habitat Zone" in the following tables as:

Geographic Zones

FH = Foothills Zone (west of Overland Trail; some species extend into higher elevations along Fossil Creek).

PL = Plains Zone (areas east of the Foothills Zone).

Ecological Zones

wet = Wetland (plants need wet conditions; in landscaped areas, usually used in ponds or low areas where water collects).

rip = Riparian (along streams, lakes, and other water areas; plants need more water than upland plants, but once established, most do well in landscaped areas with a little extra watering during dry periods and planting in more shaded areas).

upl = Upland (plants found on dry, sunny, upland sites; once established in landscaped areas, plants do not need extra watering).

Why Use Fort Collins Native Plants?

Plants native to the Fort Collins area are adapted to our rainfall, temperatures, and soil types. In landscaped areas, native plants generally use less water, are hardier, and are more disease resistant than species native to other regions of Colorado, the U.S., or other countries. Planting native species encourages the presence of native insects and microorganisms that benefit the plants and keep them healthy without the need for chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Re-establishing native species in the urban environment adds food, cover, and nesting sites for native wildlife. These urban plantings also offer refuges and seed banks for native plants, promoting the spread of these species to natural areas versus promoting the spread of introduced plants, some of which can seriously impact natural areas. A backyard composed primarily of native plants becomes an interacting changing landscape that offers a glimpse of the complexities of the natural world and a haven for native songbirds and other wildlife.

Getting Started

Assess your property's environmental conditions (e.g., shady or sunny, adequate or poor drainage) and use groupings of native plants appropriate for the conditions. Many people have fun imitating associations found in specific native plant communities--a prairie, wetland, or riparian woodland. Site assessment, planning, and design tips can be found in references at the end of this section.

If your yard is already landscaped, you can start out slowly and experiment with native landscaping by selecting a few native shrub species. Try complementing existing traditional flower beds with native species, or try creating a small native wildflower meadow garden with its colorful display, free-flowing look, and plant diversity.

A natural meadow is a mixture of grasses and flowers, growing in a sunny, open area or in a forest clearing. Natural meadows occur from the alpine zone to the plains, where environmental factors limit the growth of woody species. Native grasses should comprise 50%-80% of the wildflower meadow seed mix. Grasses are an essential component of the wildflower meadow, providing support and protection for tall flowers, filling in spaces around wildflowers to prevent weeds from establishing, adding color and texture, and providing wildlife food and cover. It is important to encourage desirable native grasses, and to discourage the growth of weedy, aggressive non-native grasses.

Watch Out!

Commercial "wildflower" seed mixes usually contain a high percentage of species outside their natural ranges and often include species not native to the U.S. Generally, it is much better to purchase individual native wildflower seed packets and make your own mix. The same is also true of "dryland" grass mixes. These mixes often contain introduced grasses that could eventually take over the meadow.

Be aware that in Fort Collins, the City Code contains a grass height restriction. Ornamental grasses taller than 6 inches must not constitute in square footage more than 20% of the property's overall landscaped area. All grasses taller than 6 inches that are included in this handout have been approved for use as ornamental grasses in the City of Fort Collins.

Growing Native Plants is Different

To grow Fort Collins native plants, you may need to change your thinking about watering, fertilizing, and other soil amendments. Many of our native species do best in "poorer" soils. Over watering can promote disease, insect pests, or a "leggy" appearance that does not support flowering parts very well. Most natives prefer infrequent, deep soakings. Short frequent watering, such as from a sprinkler system, may not be as effective, and uses more water than is needed to promote healthy growth.

You may need to add sand, gravel, or other material to loosen the soil and permit good drainage. Wildflowers requiring moist soil would benefit by adding large amounts of rotted leaves and peat moss, but many upland wildflowers planted in rich soil develop weak, spindly stems that cannot stay upright. They generally fare better in poor soil with a high mineral content. Most native plants do not need fertilizing. In fact, an application of fertilizer could chemically burn them or stimulate lush foliage growth with few flowers.

Buy plants and seeds only from reputable nurseries. Most of our local nurseries carry a variety of plants and seeds native to the Fort Collins area. Some species, however, are only available by mail order. When ordering through the mail, select nurseries within Colorado or neighboring states to obtain stock that are best adapted to our area. When purchasing native plants, use the scientific name (in *italics* in the following tables) to ensure you are getting the correct species. The same common name can be used for more than one species--and used for a species not native to Fort Collins. For some species, more than one scientific name may be listed due to recent changes in nomenclature, not yet reflected in plant catalogs.

For More Information

Local libraries have many good books on native landscaping and "how to" books to attract wildlife to your backyard. Also visit the xeriscape garden at Fort Collins City Hall (300 LaPorte Avenue), which contains many species native to Fort Collins.

Free Booklets

"Attracting Butterflies to the Eastern Colorado Yard and Garden." Paul A. Opler and Whitney S. Cranshaw. Colorado State University, Cooperative Extension Service, Fort Collins, Colorado. Service in Action Bulletin No. 5.504.

"Buffalo Grass Lawns." J.D. Butler and D.A. Falkenberg. Colorado State University, Cooperative Extension Service, Fort Collins, Colorado. Service in Action Bulletin No. 7.224.

"Welcome to the World of Backyard Wildlife Habitats." City of Fort Collins, Natural Areas Department, Fort Collins, Colorado.

Books

- Colorado Flora: Eastern Slope.* William A. Weber and Ronald C. Wittmann. 1996. University Press of Colorado, Niwot, Colorado.
- Guide to Colorado Wildflowers. Volume I: Plains and Foothills.* G. K. Guennel. 1995. Westcliffe Publishers, Inc., Englewood, Colorado.
- Meet the Natives: the Amateur's Field Guide to Rocky Mountain Wildflowers, Trees and Shrubs.* G. Walter Pesman. 1992. Denver Botanical Gardens, Roberts Rinehart Publishers, Denver, Colorado.
- Plants of the Rocky Mountains.* Linda K. Kershaw et al. 1998. Lone Pine Publishing, Renton, Washington.
- Prairie Wildflowers: Showy Wildflowers of the Plains, Valleys, and Foothills in the Northern Rocky Mountain States.* Dr. Dee Strickler. 1986. The Flower Press, Columbia Falls, Montana.
- Sagebrush Country: A Wildflower Sanctuary.* Ronald J. Taylor. 1992. Mountain Press Publishing Company, Missoula, Montana.
- Shrubs and Trees of the Southwest Upland.* Francis H. Elmore. 1976. Southwest Parks and Monuments Association, Globe, Arizona.
- Southern Rocky Mountain Wildflowers: a field guide to Wildflowers in the Southern Rocky Mountains, including Rocky Mountain National Park.* Leigh Robertson. 1999. Falcon Publishing, Inc., Helena, Montana.
- The Xeriscape Flower Gardener.* Jim Knopf. 1991. Johnson Publishing Company, Boulder, Colorado.
- Trees and Shrubs of Colorado.* Jack L. Carter. 1988. Johnson Books, Boulder, Colorado.
- Weeds of the West.* Tom D. Whitson et al. 2001. Western Society of Weed Science, Newark, California.
- Xeriscape Plant Guide: 100 Waterwise Plants for Gardeners and Landscapes.* 1999. Fulcrum Publishing, Golden, Colorado.

Organizations

- Colorado Natural Heritage Program*, Fort Collins, Colorado 970-491-1309 www.cnhp.colostate.edu Provides information on imperiled species and habitats and conservation of Colorado's biological resources.
- Colorado Native Plant Society*; www.carbon.cudenver.edu/~shill/conps.html Provides information on workshops and meetings; list of native plants of Colorado.
- Denver Botanical Gardens*, Denver, Colorado 720-865-3500 www.botanicgardens.org Annual plant sale in May includes native species from various nurseries; gardens include displays containing native plants.
- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center*, Austin, Texas 512-292-4627 www.wildflower.org Focuses on the conservation and restoration of native plant species; helpful brochures on landscaping and gardening with native wildflowers are available at minimal costs.
- Native Plants Network*; www.nativeplants.for.uidaho.edu Provides information on how to grow native plants.
- Natural Resources Conservation Service* www.plants.usda.gov Provides information on threatened and endangered species, wetland status, noxious weed status and individual plant profiles for specific species.

Mail Order Nurseries that Provide Free or Minimal Cost Catalogs Describing Native Plants

Applewood Seed Co., Arvada, Colorado 303-431-7333 www.applewoodseed.com

Aquatic and Wetlands Co., Fort Lupton, Colorado 303- 334-4766 www.aquaticandwetland.com

Beauty Beyond Belief, Fort Collins, Colorado 970-204-0596

Bitterroot Restoration Inc., Corvallis, Montana 406-961-4991 www.revegetation.com

Grassland West Co., Greeley, Colorado 1-800-782-5947 www.grasslandwest.com

Ion Exchange, Harpers Ferry, Iowa 1-800-291-2143 ionxchange.com

LaPorte Avenue Nursery, 1950 LaPorte Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80521 (Write to request a catalog).

Lawyer Nursery, Plains, Montana 406-826-3881 www.lawyernursery.com

Native American Seed, Junction, Texas 1-800-728-4043 www.seedsource.com

Plants of the Southwest, Santa Fe, New Mexico 505-471-2212 www.plantsofthesouthwest.com

Rocky Mountain Native Plants, Rifle, Colorado 970- 625-4769 www.rmnativeplants.com

Rocky Mountain Rare Plants, Franktown, Colorado fax 775-201-2911 www.rmrp.com

Sharp Bros. Seed Co., Greeley, Colorado 1-800-421-4234 www.sharpseed.com

Western Native Seed, Salida, Colorado 719-539-1071 www.westernnativeseed.com

If you have questions concerning the lists of Fort Collins Native Plants contact:

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This booklet is also available on the City of Fort Collins website: www.fcgov.com/naturalareas/



NATIVE TREES AND SHRUBS

COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE NATIVE TREES AND SHRUBS OF FORT COLLINS			
Plant Name	Habitat Zone	Plant Characteristics	Wildlife Value
Thinleaf Alder (<i>Alnus incana tenuifolia</i>)	FHrip PLrip	Large, tree-like shrub; up to 30 feet tall, 6-inch diameter trunk; small cone-like fruit.	Seeds eaten by a variety of birds; good cover and nest sites for birds; cover for small mammals; bark eaten by beavers, deer, and rabbits.
Saskatoon Serviceberry (<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>)	FHupl	Medium-tall hardy deciduous shrub; up to 10 feet tall, clusters of white flowers; deep purple fruit, new growth reddish bronze turning blue-green, drought tolerant once established.	Berries and leaves eaten by over 60 species of birds, small mammals, and deer; good cover for small birds and mammals; host for larval butterflies.
Indigobush Amorpha (<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i> var. <i>angustifolia</i>)	FHrip PLrip	Low to mid-size shrub; 4-10 feet tall; purple flowers and locust-like leaves.	Host for larval butterflies.
Fringed Sage (<i>Artemisia frigida</i>)	FHupl PLupl	Low shrub; 4-14 inches tall; delicate, silver-gray leaves.	Seeds eaten by birds; plants eaten by deer; host for larval butterflies.
Four-wing Saltbush (<i>Atriplex canescens</i>)	PLupl	Mid-size, broad shrub; 2-5 feet tall; evergreen, grey leaves.	Seeds eaten by birds and small mammals; plants eaten by deer; moderate cover for birds, deer, and small mammals; host for larval butterflies.
Water Birch (<i>Betula fontinalis</i> formerly <i>B. occidentalis</i>)	PLrip FHrip	Uncommon tall shrub; 8-25 feet, up to 10-in diameter trunk; reddish-brown bark, miniature pine-cone-like fruit; excellent winter form and color.	Seed, cover, nest sites for birds; browsed by deer and beaver; food and cover for small mammals; host for larval butterflies.
New Jersey Tea (<i>Ceanothus herbaceus</i>)	FHrip FHupl	Uncommon low to mid-size shrub; 1.5-9 feet tall; twigs olive green turning gray with age; dark green leaves; flowers white; grows on wet to dry hillsides; Midwest prairie relict.	Provides cover for birds and small mammals; seeds eaten by birds; only fair forage for wildlife; flowers nectar source for butterflies
Netleaf Hackberry (<i>Celtis reticulata</i>)	PLrip PLupl FHrip FHupl	Tree of canyons and dry slopes; up to 30 feet tall, often stunted; distinctive warty bark; orange-red berries persist through winter; uncommon in plains zone.	Fruit eaten by a variety of songbirds and small mammals, providing a particularly important food source in winter; twigs and leaves eaten by deer; cover and nest sites for songbirds; host for larval butterflies.
Sand Cherry (<i>Cerasus pumila besseyi</i> formerly <i>Prunus besseyi</i>)	PLupl	Uncommon, mid-sized shrub; up to 6 feet tall; white, showy, fragrant flowers; usually found on sandy soils of plains.	Provides cover for birds and mammals; seeds eaten by birds and rodents; deer forage on fruit, twigs, and leaves; supports high insect numbers and, thus, insect-eating birds; host for larval butterfly species; flowers favored by bees.

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Plant Name	Habitat Zone	Plant Characteristics	Wildlife Value
True Mountain Mahogany (<i>Cercocarpus montanus</i>)	FHupl	Mid-size shrub; usually 4-9 feet tall, sometimes up to 20 feet; ornamental fruit with 3-inch fuzzy, twisted tails; red color in fall.	Seeds eaten by birds and small mammals; good cover for small birds and mammals; twigs browsed by many animals, particularly deer.
Rubber Rabbitbrush (<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i> Ssp. <i>nauseosus</i> or <i>graveolens</i>)	FHupl PLupl	Common, low to mid-sized shrub; 2-7 feet tall; dense masses of golden flower clusters in fall; shear off in late fall for full bloom next year.	Seed and cover for birds, small mammals; leaves eaten by deer and rabbits; cover for small mammals and rabbits; flowers provide nectar source for adult butterflies.
Low Rabbitbrush (<i>Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus</i> ssp. <i>viscidiflorus</i> or <i>lanceolatus</i>)	FHupl PLupl	Low shrub; up to 3 feet tall; flowers similar to rubber rabbitbrush; propagates easily from seed; not as common as rubber rabbitbrush.	Small mammals eat flowers; birds eat seeds; food and shelter for rabbits; deer browse leaves and twigs; host for larval butterflies.
Western Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus macracantha</i> var. <i>occidentalis</i> formerly <i>C. succulenta</i>)	FHrip	Uncommon, mid-sized to tall shrub; 6-20 feet tall; smooth, shiny thorns more than 2.5 inches long; white, umbel flowers; fruit remains bright red through leaf-fall; usually grows close to stream.	Cover for birds and small mammals; nest sites for birds; fruit eaten by small birds and mammals; twigs browsed by deer and rodents.
Broom Snakeweed (<i>Gutierrezia sarothrae</i>)	PLupl	Low shrub; up to 2 feet tall; heavy odor; common on overgrazed range of plains and mesas; toxic to cattle and sheep--do not plant in areas adjacent to overgrazed pastures.	Seeds eaten by small rodents; leaves and twigs browsed by rabbits and deer.
Cliff Jamesia (<i>Jamesia americana</i>)	FHupl	Low to medium size shrub; 1.5 - 6 feet tall; sun to part shade; reddish bark; five-petal white flowers in clusters; common on rock outcrops.	Cover for birds and small mammals; nest sites for birds; fruit eaten by small birds and mammals; twigs browsed by deer and rodents.
Common Winterfat (<i>Krascheninnikovia lanata</i> formerly <i>Ceratoides lanata</i> or <i>Eurotia lanata</i>)	FHupl PLupl	Cottony-looking low shrub; 1-3 feet tall; profuse wispy white fruit and silvery leaves.	Excellent winter food plant for deer, small mammals, and birds.
Creeping Barberry (<i>Mahonia repens</i>)	FHupl	Creeping evergreen shrub; up to 3 feet tall; yellow flowers, blue berries, leaves are bronze-colored in winter; grows best on dry slopes.	Seed eaten by birds and deer.
Sand Sage (<i>Oligosporus filifolius</i> formerly <i>Artemisia filifolia</i>)	FHupl PLupl	Low shrub; up to 4 feet tall; feathery pale-green leaves.	Seeds eaten by birds and small mammals; host for larval butterflies.
Boulder Raspberry (<i>Oreobatus deliciosus</i> formerly <i>Rubus deliciosus</i>)	FHrip FHupl	Thornless shrub; up to 6 feet tall; white flowers; red, raspberry-like fruit; grows best in canyons.	Food for birds, small mammals, and deer.

COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE NATIVE TREES AND SHRUBS OF FORT COLLINS

Plant Name	Habitat Zone	Plant Characteristics	Wildlife Value
Black Common Chokecherry (<i>Padus virginiana melanocarpa</i> formerly <i>Prunus virginiana melanocarpa</i>)	FHrip FHupl PLrip PLupl	Multi-stemmed shrub; up to 30 feet tall, suckers easily and spreads quickly to form thickets; white, showy and fragrant flowers bloom after leaf-out; red-orange fall color; red-leaved variety ('Schubert', Canada red) is not native.	Forms thickets, providing valuable cover for birds and mammals; seeds eaten by birds and rodents; deer forage on fruit, twigs, and leaves; supports high insect numbers and, thus, insect-eating birds; host for larval butterfly species; flowers favored by bees.
Mountain Ninebark (<i>Physocarpus monogynus</i>)	FHupl	Low shrub; barely to 4 feet; white-rose-colored flowers; colorful fall leaves; gets name from papery bark, which continually sheds (as if has 9 lives).	Birds eat seeds; deer browse twigs.
Ponderosa Pine (<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>)	FHupl	Large tree; up to 150 feet tall, 3- to 4-foot diameter trunk.	Seeds eaten by small mammals and birds; bark eaten by small rodents; cover for birds, deer, and small mammals.
Narrowleaf Cottonwood (<i>Populus angustifolia</i>)	FHrip PLrip	Large tree; up to 60 feet tall, 2-foot diameter trunk; crown less spreading than other cottonwoods; willow-like leaves; bright yellow fall color; deep roots penetrate to high groundwater level; grows well in drier areas once established; roots can cause uplifting of sidewalks and other maintenance problems if tree receives excessive water; about 5% of the cottonwoods along the Poudre through Fort Collins are this species; for all three species of cottonwoods, only male (cottonless) cottonwoods can be planted within City limits.	Excellent wildlife tree; soft wood provides nest cavities for birds; buds and catkins are eaten by birds and mammals; decaying branches and bark support high numbers of insects; high use by insect-eating birds; valued perch trees for large birds of prey; provides cover for small birds and mammals; barks, twigs, and leaves are eaten by rabbit and deer; beaver eat wood and bark, clipping small trees and branches for food and lodge materials (small trees respond by sending out numerous branches following year--thus, beaver "harvest" small trees, but do not destroy them); host for at least 8 larval butterfly species.
Plains Cottonwood (<i>Populus deltoides</i> var. <i>monilifera</i>) formerly <i>P. sargentii</i>)	FHrip PLrip	Large tree; up to 90 feet tall, with up to 4-foot diameter trunk; trunk often arches; spreading canopy; wide leaves; bright yellow fall color; roots quickly reach high groundwater levels and tree grows well on dry plains areas; roots not as troublesome as narrowleaf; about 85% of cottonwoods along the Poudre through Fort Collins are this species.	Excellent wildlife value, similar to narrowleaf cottonwood.
Lanceleaf Cottonwood (<i>Populus x acuminata</i>)	FHrip PLrip	Large tree; up to 50 feet tall, 2-foot diameter trunk; more upright, spreading crown than narrowleaf; bright yellow fall color; roots penetrate to groundwater as other cottonwoods; root problems not as severe as other cottonwoods; about 10% of the cottonwoods along the Poudre through Fort Collins are this species, a natural cross between the other two cottonwood species.	Excellent wildlife value, similar to other two cottonwoods.

COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE NATIVE TREES AND SHRUBS OF FORT COLLINS

Plant Name	Habitat Zone	Plant Characteristics	Wildlife Value
American Plum (<i>Prunus americana</i>)	FHrip PLrip	Mid-size shrub; up to 10 feet tall; drought tolerant once established; white, showy and fragrant flowers bloom before leaf-out.	Forms thickets, providing valuable cover for birds and mammals; seeds eaten by birds and rodents; deer forage on fruit, twigs, and leaves; supports high insect numbers and, thus, insect-eating birds; host for at least 9 larval butterfly species; flowers favored by bees.
Antelope Bitterbrush (<i>Purshia tridentata</i>)	FHupl	Uncommon, low, silver-grey spreading shrub; 2-10 feet tall; leaves resemble stubby sagebrush leaves; pale yellow blossoms form April-August; grows best on steep slopes with poor soils; not well-adapted to soils of floodplains or urban areas; hard to establish in landscaped areas.	Favorite browse of deer, seed source for small birds and mammals; host for larval butterflies.
Three-leaf Sumac or Skunkbush (<i>Rhus aromatica trilobata</i> formerly <i>R. trilobata</i>)	FHupl FHrip PLrip PLupl	Low to mid-sized shrub; 2-6 feet tall; spectacular red color in fall; common on canyon sides, but uncommon in plains zone.	Birds and small mammals eat berries; rabbits eat bark; deer eat twigs and leaves; can flourish under severe deer grazing; good cover for ground birds and small mammals.
Smooth Sumac (<i>Rhus glabra</i>)	FHrip	Uncommon, small version of the ornamental, staghorn sumac; usually 3-7 feet tall, but can get as tall as 20 feet; bright red in fall; usually found at higher elevations in gulches.	Good cover for rabbits, small mammals; numerous bird species eat fruit; good winter food source for grouse.
Golden Currant (<i>Ribes aureum</i>)	FHrip PLrip	Spineless shrub; 2-6 feet tall; long, trumpet-shaped, fragrant, long-lasting, yellow flowers; large sweet fruits; red leaf color in fall.	Fruit eaten by birds; cover for birds and small mammals; flowers provide nectar source for hummingbirds.
Wax Currant (<i>Ribes cereum</i>)	FHupl	Low shrub; usually only 3-4 feet tall; small, fragrant, pale pink flowers; found in dry gulches and hillsides.	Fruit eaten by many birds and rodents; cover for birds and small mammals; host for larval butterflies; flowers provide nectar source for hummingbirds.
Whitestem Gooseberry (<i>Ribes inerme</i>)	FHupl	Low shrub with only a few spines; 2-3 feet tall; whitish stems turn reddish brown and flaky as they age; short, pale pink to white flowers not strongly fragrant and occur in small clusters; berries wine-colored to black.	Fruit eaten by birds and small mammals; cover for birds and small mammals.
Woods Rose (<i>Rosa woodsii</i>)	FHrip PLrip	Thorny shrub; up to 9 feet tall; pink flowers in spring; red seed hips from fall through winter; purplish-black stems do not die-back in winter; suckers and spreads readily if irrigated.	Year-round cover and food for songbirds and small mammals; bees use flowers as nectar source.
Rocky Mountain Juniper (<i>Sabina scopulorum</i> formerly <i>Juniperus scopulorum</i>)	FHupl FHrip	Silvery, large juniper; up to 40 feet tall and 2-foot diameter trunk; found in draws and moist canyons of foothills.	Seeds are eaten by birds; good cover for small birds, small mammals, and deer.

COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE NATIVE TREES AND SHRUBS OF FORT COLLINS

Plant Name	Habitat Zone	Plant Characteristics	Wildlife Value
Peachleaf Willow (<i>Salix amygdaloides</i>)	FHrip PLrip	Tall, tree-size shrub; up to 30 feet with a 1-foot diameter trunk, more often a shorter, spreading clump.	High wildlife value; soft wood for cavity-nesting birds; decaying wood supports high variety of insects, eaten by numerous insect-eating birds; deer eat twigs and leaves; beaver eat bark and twigs, and use branches for building lodges--like the cottonwood, young willows respond to beaver gnawing by sprouting new branches; host for at least 10 larval butterfly species; flowers provide good nectar source for bees.
Coyote Willow (<i>Salix exigua</i>)	FHrip PLrip	Most common, shorter shrub willow; up to 15 feet tall; attractive branch color in winter; needs wetter site conditions than cottonwood.	Dense cover for wildlife, deer browse leaves and twigs; beaver eat twigs and use them for lodges; high use by insect-eating birds; host for at least 10 larval butterfly species; flowers provide good nectar source for bees.
Bluestem Willow (<i>Salix irrorata</i>)	FHrip	Uncommon small shrub willow; needs wetter site conditions than cottonwoods; common in canyons.	Value similar to coyote willow.
Red Elderberry (<i>Sambucus microbotrys</i> var. <i>melanocarpa</i> formerly <i>S. racemosa</i>)	FHrip	Medium to tall shrub; up to 12 feet tall; older twigs brown to reddish brown; white to yellowish compound flowers; red berry-like fruit; along streams and moist slopes.	High wildlife value; seeds are eaten by birds; good cover for small birds, small mammals, and deer; deer browse leaves and twigs; flowers provide good nectar source for bees and butterflies.
Black Greasewood (<i>Sarcobatus vermiculatus</i>)	PLwet FHwet	White-barked shrub with spiny tips; 2-6 feet tall; leaves fleshy, salty, thick and narrow; abundant on alkaline flats.	Seeds eaten by quail; twigs eaten by rabbits;
Silver Sage (<i>Seriphidium canum</i> formerly <i>Artemisia cana</i>)	FHupl PLupl	Low, aromatic shrub; 1-6 feet tall; silver-white leaves.	Seeds eaten by birds; leaves browsed by deer; good cover for small birds and mammals; host for larval butterflies.
Silver Buffaloberry (<i>Shepherdia argentea</i>)	PLrip	Very uncommon bushy shrub; up to 15 feet tall; leaves silvery-resembling more xeriscape shrubs--but is a riparian plant and needs more water.	Fruit provides food for small mammals and several species of birds; good cover for birds and small mammals; flowers provide good nectar source for bees.
Prince's Plume (<i>Stanleya pinnata</i>)	PLupl	Small shrub; up to 5 feet tall; yellow flowers in elongate, showy spikes.	Cover for small birds and mammals; host for larval butterflies.
Red-osier Dogwood (<i>Swida sericea</i> formerly <i>Cornus stolonifera</i> or <i>C. sericea</i>)	FHrip PLrip	Mid-sized shrub; 3-12 feet tall; bright red bark; white clusters of spring flowers and fruit; branches touching ground take root and send up new clump; less common in plains zone.	Fruit eaten by birds; cover for small birds and mammals; deer browse twigs and leaves.
Common Snowberry (<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>)	FHrip	Showy shrub; up to 7 feet tall; forms dense thickets; white berries in fall; grows best in canyons.	Important shrub for food, nesting, and cover for birds and mammals; browse for deer; host for larval butterflies.

COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE NATIVE TREES AND SHRUBS OF FORT COLLINS

Plant Name	Habitat Zone	Plant Characteristics	Wildlife Value
Western Snowberry (<i>Symphoricarpos occidentalis</i>)	FHrip PLrip	Showy shrub; up to 7 feet tall; forms dense thickets; white berries in fall; adapts well to landscaped sites, spreads rapidly with a little extra water.	Wildlife value similar to common snowberry.
Mountain Snowberry (<i>Symphoricarpos rotundifolius</i> formerly <i>S. oreophilus</i>)	FHrip FHupl	Showy shrub; up to 7 feet tall; forms dense thickets; white berries in fall.	Wildlife value similar to other snowberries.
Great Plains Yucca or Small Soapweed (<i>Yucca glauca</i>)	FHupl PLupl	Attractive, unique low shrub; up to 3 feet tall with long, stiff and sharp-pointed grey-green leaves; single flower stalk up to 5 feet tall, bearing large greenish-white flowers.	Flowers provide an important nectar source for moths; cover and protection for small mammals and lizards; host for larval butterflies.

NATIVE GRASSES AND GRASSLIKE PLANTS



COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE NATIVE GRASSES AND GRASSLIKE PLANTS OF FORT COLLINS

Plant Name	Habitat Zone	Plant Characteristics	Wildlife Value
Indian Ricegrass (<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i> formerly <i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Cool season bunchgrass; 1-2.5 feet tall; slender, green stems, drying to straw-colored; airy, attractive seedheads; usually found on shale or clay soils.	Seeds eaten by mourning doves, green-tailed towhee, and small rodents; deer browse plants.
Sleepy Grass (<i>Achnatherum robustum</i> formerly <i>Stipa robusta</i>)	FHupl PLupl	Less common, coarse bunchgrass; up to 5 feet tall; broad leaves; seedheads covered with short, white hairs; airy accent plant for meadows; do not plant near horse pastures --can cause narcotic, sleepiness effect if grazed.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals.
Big Bluestem (<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Warm season bunchgrass; 3-6 feet tall; numerous, long, green-dark green leaves, often tinged with purple; attractive grass for contrast with flowers in landscaped areas.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; plants eaten by deer and small mammals; host for larval butterflies; moderate cover for waterfowl, songbirds, small mammals, and deer.
Purple Threeawn (<i>Aristida purpurea</i> now includes <i>A. longiseta</i> , <i>A. Fendleriana</i> , and <i>A. wrightii</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Bunchgrass up to 1 foot tall; seedheads form cloud of purple waves in wind; sharp awns on seeds can cause injury to eyes, nose, or throat of animals; do not plant near degraded pastures or areas traveled by pets.	Seeds eaten by only a few songbirds and small mammals; not a good forage plant for deer or rodents; prairie dogs avoid eating this grass.
American Sloughgrass (<i>Beckmannia syzigachne</i>)	PLwet FHwet	Annual or short-lived (4-5 years) perennial grass of ditches, streams, and pond margins; 2.5-3.5 feet tall.	Seeds eaten by some birds and small mammals; cover for birds and small mammals.
Alkali Bulrush (<i>Bolbochoenus maritimus paludosus</i> formerly <i>Scirpus maritimus</i> or <i>S. paludosus</i>)	PLwet	Wetland plant found on margins of temporary reservoirs and sloughs; 2-3 feet tall.	Seeds, new shoots, and tubers eaten by waterfowl and coots; seeds eaten by rails and shorebirds; plants eaten by rabbits and muskrats; good cover and nesting sites for waterbirds.
Sideoats Grama (<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Abundant warm season, bunchy sod-forming grass; 1-3 feet tall; bluish, light green leaves, rich light brown in late summer; seeds on one side of tall spikes; attractive grass for wildflower meadows; spreads easily by seeds.	Seeds eaten by songbirds; seeds and plants eaten by small mammals and prairie dogs; plants eaten by deer.

COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE NATIVE GRASSES AND GRASSLIKE PLANTS OF FORT COLLINS

Plant Name	Habitat Zone	Plant Characteristics	Wildlife Value
Buffalograss (<i>Buchloe dactyloides</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Common warm season, sod-forming grass producing runners and dense mats; 4 inches tall; grayish-green leaves, light straw color in winter; spreads rapidly; makes unique "ground-cover" for wildflower beds.	Seeds eaten by songbirds; plants and seeds eaten by small mammals; moderate cover for small mammals.
Prairie Sandreed (<i>Calamovilfa longifolia</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Warm season, coarse, stemmy, open sod-forming grass; 2-5 feet tall; prefers sandy areas, but will grow in landscaped areas.	Moderate cover for small mammals, songbirds, waterfowl, and deer.
Bebb's Sedge (<i>Carex bebbii</i>)	PLwet PLrip FHwet FHrip	Densely tufted wetland and riparian plant; white sheaths on leaves; seed heads in spikes; 1-2 feet tall; moist meadows and banks.	Seeds provide high food value for ducks, geese, shorebirds, rails, songbirds, pheasants, and grouse; seeds and plants eaten by jackrabbits, squirrels, and small mammals; plants eaten by deer; good cover for birds and mammals; host for larval butterflies.
Emory's Sedge (<i>Carex emoryi</i>)	PLwet PLrip FHwet FHrip	Tall, tufted wetland and riparian sedge; 1.5-3 feet tall; leaves red-tinged at the base; straw-colored flower spikes; wet meadows, along springs, wet banks, and ditches.	Same wildlife value as previous sedge.
Elk Sedge (<i>Carex geyeri</i>)	FHupl	Dryland sedge of open forested foothills habitat; 0.5-1.5 feet tall; leathery leaves with rough margins; flower is single, short tan to brown spike.	Seeds eaten by songbirds; plants and seeds eaten by small mammals; moderate cover for small mammals.
Bottlebrush Sedge (<i>Carex hystricina</i>)	PLwet PLrip FHwet FHrip	Wetland and riparian plant with inconspicuous flowers; 1-1.5 feet tall; found on streambanks and in sloughs.	Seeds provide high food value for ducks, geese, shorebirds, rails, songbirds, pheasants, and grouse; seeds and plants eaten by jackrabbits, squirrels, and small mammals; plants eaten by deer; good cover for birds and mammals; host for larval butterflies.
Woolly Sedge (<i>Carex lanuginosa</i>)	PLwet FHwet	Wetland plant with fine textured leaves; up to 1 foot tall.	Same wildlife value as previous sedge.
Nebraska Sedge (<i>Carex nebrascensis</i>)	PLwet FHwet	Common wetland plant with blue-green leafy stems and inconspicuous flowers; usually 1-3 feet tall; attractive addition to backyard ponds.	Same wildlife value as previous sedges.
Silver Sedge (<i>Carex praegracilis</i>)	PLrip PLwet FHwet FHrip	Wetland and riparian plant with inconspicuous flowers; 1-1.5 feet tall; wet meadows and roadside ditches.	Same wildlife value as previous sedges.
Blue Grama (<i>Chondrosium gracile</i> formerly <i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Abundant warm season, bunchy sod-forming grass; 0.5-2 feet tall; bluish-purple cast to young leaves; seed heads look like small flags; attractive, low grass for flower borders and meadows.	Seeds eaten by songbirds; seeds and plants eaten by small mammals and prairie dogs; plants eaten by deer; host for larval butterflies.
Hairy Grama (<i>Chondrosium hirsutum</i> formerly <i>Bouteloua hirsuta</i>)	PLupl	A small, delicate grass; up to 10 inches tall; leaves at base are covered with hairs; flowers are hairy, comb-like clusters on one side of the stem; prefers dry grasslands.	Seeds eaten by songbirds; seeds and plants eaten by small mammals and prairie dogs; plants eaten by deer; host for larval butterflies.

COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE NATIVE GRASSES AND GRASSLIKE PLANTS OF FORT COLLINS

Plant Name	Habitat Zone	Plant Characteristics	Wildlife Value
Foxtail Barley (<i>Critesion jubatum</i> formerly <i>Hordeum jubatum</i>)	PLwet FHwet	Cool season short to mid-size bunchgrass; 8-24 inches tall; flower heads are spikes of 2 to 4 inches long, nodding green, yellowish, or purple; found along wet ditches and meadows; do not plant near livestock pastures because awns cause injury to livestock.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; cover for small mammals.
Little Barley (<i>Critesion pusillum</i> formerly <i>Hordeum pusillum</i>)	PLupl	Annual grass; 6-20 inches tall; found in disturbed areas.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; cover for small mammals.
Inland Saltgrass (<i>Distichlis stricta</i>)	PLwet FHwet	Warm season, sod-forming grass; 4-16 inches tall; pale green leaves and seedheads; found on alkaline swales and margins of ponds and reservoirs.	Seed heads, young plants, and rootstocks eaten by ducks and geese; seeds eaten by rails, shorebirds, and ground squirrels; plants eaten by deer.
Needle Spikesedge (<i>Eleocharis acicularis</i>)	PLwet FHwet	Common wetland plant with turf-forming stems no more than 0.5 feet high; limp stems up to 1 foot tall.	High food value for ducks, geese, shorebirds, and rails; plants eaten by cottontail rabbits and muskrats.
Common Spikerush (<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>)	PLwet FHwet	Common wetland plant with leaf-less stems with terminal seedheads; can grow up to 3 feet tall; attractive addition to backyard ponds.	High food value for ducks, geese, shorebirds, and rails; plants eaten by cottontail rabbits and muskrats.
Canada Wild Rye (<i>Elymus canadensis</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Common cool season bunchgrass; 3-5 ft tall; attractive seedheads.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; plants eaten by rabbits, deer, and small mammals; good cover for birds, deer, and small mammals.
Bottlebrush Squirreltail (<i>Elymus elymoides</i> formerly <i>Sitanion hystrix</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Cool season, short to mid-size bunchgrass; 0.5-2 foot tall; found on dry hills, plains, open woods, meadows, and rocky slopes; showy, shiny purple "bottlebrush" seedheads; seeds stick tight to animal fur--avoid planting in areas frequently traveled by pets.	Limited food value for most songbirds and small mammals.
Slender Wheatgrass (<i>Elymus trachycaulus</i> formerly <i>Agropyron trachycaulus</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Warm season bunchgrass; 1-4 feet tall; 2- to 8-inch spiked, green to violet-purple seedheads on tall stems; plants remain green until late fall.	Seeds eaten by songbirds; seeds and plants eaten by jackrabbits and prairie dogs; plants eaten by deer; moderate cover for waterfowl, songbirds, small mammals, and deer.
Beardless Virginia Wild Rye (<i>Elymus virginicus</i>)	FHupl	Rare cool season foothills grass; up to 4 feet tall; flat leaf blades.	Seeds eaten by a few songbirds and small mammals.
Thickspike Wheatgrass (<i>Elytria dasystachyum</i> formerly <i>Agropyron dasystachya</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Common cool season, sod-forming grass; 1.5-3.5 feet tall; 2- to 6-inch spiked flowers on long stems; mostly on sandy soils of plains.	Seeds eaten by songbirds; seeds and plants eaten by jackrabbits and prairie dogs; plants eaten by deer; moderate cover for waterfowl, songbirds, small mammals, and deer.
American Mannagrass (<i>Glyceria grandis</i>)	PLrip	Tall wetland grass with leaves to 1.5 feet long and 0.5 inch wide; plant up to 6 feet tall; flower clusters to over 1 foot long, usually purplish; uncommon in marshes and along irrigation ditches.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; plants eaten by rabbits, deer, and small mammals; cover for birds and mammals.
Fowl Mannagrass (<i>Glyceria striata</i>)	FHrip	Streamside plant up to 3 feet tall; flower clusters shorter than above species; leave blades flat or folded.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; plants eaten by rabbits, deer, and small mammals; cover for birds and mammals.

COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE NATIVE GRASSES AND GRASSLIKE PLANTS OF FORT COLLINS

Plant Name	Habitat Zone	Plant Characteristics	Wildlife Value
Needle-and-thread (<i>Hesperostipa comata</i> formerly <i>Stipa comata</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Common cool season bunchgrass; 1-3 feet tall; long seeds look like a "needle and thread."	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; plants eaten by deer.
New Mexico Needlegrass (<i>Hesperostipa neomexicana</i> formerly <i>Stipa neomexicana</i>)	FHupl	Cool season bunchgrass common in rocky places of foothill mesas and hogbacks; 2-3 feet tall.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals.
Baltic Rush (<i>Juncus arcticus</i> formerly <i>J. balticus</i>)	PLrip FHrip	Common riparian plant; 0.5 to 2.5 feet tall; flower clusters green to dark brown; found along streams and wetlands.	Seeds eaten by songbirds, rails, waterfowl, and small mammals; plants eaten by small mammals.
Colorado Rush (<i>Juncus confusus</i>)	PLwet FHwet	Cool season plant; 0.5-2 feet tall; flower clusters a compact and straw-colored; moist meadows and along streambanks.	Seeds eaten by songbirds, rails, waterfowl, and small mammals; plants eaten by small mammals.
Longstyle Rush (<i>Juncus longistylus</i>)	PLwet; FHwet	Cool season plant; clustered, rounded stems; 0.5-2 feet tall; flowers purplish-brown in multiple spikes; moist meadows and along streams.	Seeds eaten by songbirds, rails, waterfowl, and small mammals; plants eaten by small mammals and deer.
Jointed Rush (<i>Juncus nodosus</i>)	PLwet	Common wetland plant; 0.5 to 1.5 feet tall; found in sloughs and ditches; enlarged floral parts are common (produced by insects).	Seeds eaten by songbirds, rails, waterfowl, and small mammals; plants eaten by small mammals.
Torrey Rush (<i>Juncus torreyi</i>)	PLwet FHwet	Common wetland plant of sloughs, wet meadows, and ditches; 1-3 feet tall; stout, rigid stems; dense seed heads.	Seeds eaten by songbirds, rails, waterfowl, and small mammals; plants eaten by small mammals.
Prairie Junegrass (<i>Koeleria macrantha</i> now includes <i>K. cristata</i> and <i>K. gracilis</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Cool season bunchgrass; 1-2.5 feet tall; pale green-purple spiked seedheads on long stems; found in prairies, open woods, or rocky hillsides, often on sandy soil.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; plants eaten by deer.
Great Basin Wild Rye (<i>Leymus cinereus</i> formerly <i>Elymus cinereus</i>)	PLrip FHrip	Uncommon cool season bunchgrass; robust, 3-6 feet tall; attractive, dense seedheads on spikes up to 8 inches long.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; plants eaten by rabbits, deer, and small mammals; good cover for birds, deer, and small mammals.
Alkali Muhly (<i>Muhlenbergia asperifolia</i>)	PLwet	Common alkaline plant; 0.5-1.5 feet tall; flowers on open fine panicles; wet meadows, along ponds and streams.	Seeds eaten by songbirds, rails, waterfowl, and small mammals; plants eaten by small mammals.
Mountain Muhly (<i>Muhlenbergia montana</i>)	FHupl	Warm season, dense bunchgrass; 1 to 2 feet tall; leaves narrow and inrolled; leaf sheath papery; flower is a narrow, loose panicle 2 to 6 inches long.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; plants eaten by rabbits, deer, and small mammals; good cover for birds, deer, and small mammals.
Spike Muhly (<i>Muhlenbergia wrightii</i>)	FHupl	Rocky slope grass; 1-2 feet tall; flat or folded leaf blades.	Seeds eaten by turkeys and songbirds.
Green Needlegrass (<i>Nassella viridula</i> formerly <i>Stipa viridula</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Common cool season, bunchgrass; 1.5-3.5 feet high; glossy, bright green leaves; seed has a long, bent lemma.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; plants eaten by deer.
Switchgrass (<i>Panicum virgatum</i>)	PLwet PLrip FHwet FHrip	Warm season, patchy sod-forming grass; 2-5 feet tall; delicate seedheads; the light blue-green leaf blades turn orange in fall; common on moist prairie soils of plains and mesas.	Seeds and young plants eaten by waterfowl; seeds eaten by rails, shorebirds, many songbirds; plants eaten by rabbits, muskrats, and deer; good cover for birds and mammals.

COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE NATIVE GRASSES AND GRASSLIKE PLANTS OF FORT COLLINS

Plant Name	Habitat Zone	Plant Characteristics	Wildlife Value
Western Wheatgrass (<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i> formerly <i>Agropyron smithii</i>)	PLupl PLrip FHupl FHrip	Common cool season, sod-forming grass; grows 1-3 feet tall; pale-blue spiked seedheads; bluish-green leaves.	Seeds eaten by songbirds; seeds and plants eaten by jackrabbits and prairie dogs; plants eaten by deer; moderate cover for waterfowl, songbirds, small mammals, and deer.
Common Red Reed (<i>Phragmites australis</i> formerly <i>P. communis</i>)	PLrip	Very tall (6-9 feet) grass found in wetlands along river; large, elegant flowerheads in July or August lasting into fall.	Seeds eaten by songbirds.
Muttongrass (<i>Poa fendleriana</i>)	FHupl	Common grass of open foothills forests; 1-2 feet tall; somewhat hairy seedheads.	Seeds eaten by songbirds, pheasants, and grouse; plants and seeds eaten by rabbits and small mammals; plants eaten by deer.
Big Bluegrass (<i>Poa juncifolia</i> formerly <i>P. ampla</i>)	PLrip FHrip	Cool season bunchgrass; up to 6 feet tall; occurs in forest openings, wet meadows, and gulches.	Seeds eaten by songbirds; plants and seeds eaten by muskrats, rabbits, small mammals, and prairie dogs; plants eaten by deer; moderate cover for songbirds, ducks, and small mammals.
Swamp Bluegrass (<i>Poa palustris</i>)	PLwet FWet	Bunchgrass; 1-3 feet tall; common in wet meadows and swampy woods.	Seeds eaten by songbirds, pheasants, and waterfowl; plants and seeds eaten by rabbits and small mammals; plants eaten by deer.
Canby or Sandberg Bluegrass (<i>Poa secunda</i> formerly <i>P. canbyi</i> or <i>P. sandbergii</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Common warm season bunchgrass; 0.5-2.5 feet tall; narrow purple seedheads on long stalks; leaves less than 5 inches long; prefers dry rocky or sandy soils.	Seeds eaten by songbirds, pheasants, and grouse; plants and seeds eaten by muskrat, cottontail rabbits, small mammals, and prairie dogs; plants eaten by deer.
Beardless Bluebunch Wheatgrass (<i>Pseudoroegneria spicata</i> formerly <i>Agropyron spicatum</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Mid size to tall bunchgrass; 1.5-3 feet tall; many bluish leafy stems; flower spikes 3-6 inches long; grasslands, dry slopes, canyons, rocky hills, and open woods.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; plants eaten by deer and rabbits; provides good cover for wildlife.
Nuttall Alkaligrass (<i>Puccinellia airoides</i>)	PLwet	Grass found on flats and shores of reservoirs and ponds; 1-2 feet tall.	Shoots eaten by geese.
Little Bluestem (<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Warm season bunchgrass; 1-4 feet tall; light blue-green leaves when young, reddish-brown when mature; attractive grass for contrast with flowers in landscaped areas.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; plants eaten by deer and small mammals; host for larval butterflies; moderate cover for waterfowl, songbirds, small mammals, and deer.
Hardstem Bulrush (<i>Schoenoplectus lacustris acutus</i> formerly <i>Scirpus acutus</i>)	PLwet	Wetland plant with stiff, round, dark green stems; 6 feet tall or more; clusters of seeds at tip of stems.	Seeds, new shoots, and tubers eaten by waterfowl and coots; seeds eaten by rails and shorebirds; plants eaten by rabbits and muskrats; good cover and nesting sites for waterbirds.
Softstem Bulrush (<i>Schoenoplectus lacustris creber</i> formerly <i>Scirpus validus</i>)	PLwet	Wetland plant with less rigid stems than hardstem bulrush; round, grayish-green stems; 6 feet tall or more; clusters of seeds at tip of stems.	Wildlife value similar to above bulrush.

COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE NATIVE GRASSES AND GRASSLIKE PLANTS OF FORT COLLINS

Plant Name	Habitat Zone	Plant Characteristics	Wildlife Value
American Bulrush (<i>Schoenoplectus pungens</i> formerly <i>Scirpus americanus</i>)	PLwet	Wetland plant with triangular stem; 1.5 to 6 feet high; larger seed heads than bulrushes; common in sloughs and streambeds of plains.	Wildlife value similar to other bulrushes.
Panicled Bulrush (<i>Scirpus microcarpus</i>)	PLwet FHwet	Wetland plant found along pondshores and ditches; 3-6 feet tall; slender, upright stems.	Wildlife value similar to other bulrushes.
Pale Bulrush (<i>Scirpus pallidus</i> formerly <i>S. atrovirens</i>)	PLwet	Common in ditches and sloughs of plains and lower valley; 2-3 feet tall.	Wildlife value similar to other bulrushes.
Yellow Indiangrass (<i>Sorghastrum avenaceum</i> formerly <i>S. nutans</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Warm season, bunching sod-forming grass; semi-dense, golden-colored, large seed heads; 3-5 ft high; relict mid-grass prairie.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; plants eaten by deer; cover for songbirds, small mammals, and deer.
Prairie Cordgrass (<i>Spartina pectinata</i>)	PLwet FHwet	Warm season, bunching sod-forming grass; 3.5-7 feet tall; rich green color; seeds on attractive, comb-like spikes; found along sloughs and irrigation ditches; will grow in shady landscaped areas with a little extra watering.	Rootstocks and seeds eaten by waterfowl; seeds eaten by rails and sparrows; rootstocks and plants eaten by muskrats; deer browse plants.
Alkali Sacaton (<i>Sporobolus airoides</i>)	PLwet FHwet	Warm season bunchgrass; 1-3 feet tall; bluish leaves; triangular-shaped, airy seedhead a foot long; prefers sandy or alkaline flats.	Seeds eaten by a wide variety of songbirds.
Tall Dropseed (<i>Sporobolus asper</i>)	PLupl	Uncommon warm season bunchgrass; 2-4 feet tall; attractive drooping seedheads.	Seeds eaten by a wide variety of songbirds.
Sand Dropseed (<i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Abundant warm season bunchgrass; 2-3 feet tall; leaves at right angle to stems; purplish, finely branched flowers; prefers sandy or clay soils; prolific seed producer, allow room to spread.	Seeds eaten by a wide variety of songbirds and small mammals; plants eaten by deer; moderate cover for songbirds and small mammals.
Prairie Dropseed (<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>)	PLupl	Uncommon warm season bunchgrass; 2-3 feet tall; airy, drooping seedheads.	Seeds eaten by a wide variety of songbirds.
Sixweeks fescue (<i>Vulpia octoflora</i> formerly <i>Festuca octoflora</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Abundant spring flowering annual; 0.5-1.5 feet tall; plants turn brown when they go to seed; dry areas.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals.

NATIVE WILDFLOWERS, VINES, AND OTHER HERBACEOUS PLANTS



COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE NATIVE WILDFLOWERS, VINES, AND OTHER HERBACEOUS PLANTS OF FORT COLLINS			
Plant Name	Habitat Zone	Plant Characteristics	Wildlife Value
Snowball Sandverbena (<i>Abronia fragrans</i>)	PLrip PLupl	Perennial wildflower; up to 2 feet tall; trailing stems; large, snowball-like clusters of white, fragrant flowers; blooms mid- to late summer; common on sandy soils.	Flowers are nectar source for butterflies and bees.
Drug Sweetflag (<i>Acorus calamus</i>).	PLwet	Very uncommon wetland plant; 4-5 feet tall; sword-shaped leaves, aromatic when crushed; white flowers; blooms May-June; red berry-like fruit.	Seeds eaten by waterfowl and shorebirds; plants eaten by waterfowl and muskrats; cover for waterfowl and muskrats.
Blue Flax (<i>Adenolinum lewisii</i> formerly <i>Linum lewisii</i> or <i>L. perenne lewisii</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Long blooming perennial wildflower; 1-3 feet tall; cup-shaped blue flowers that fall off late in day or in wind, with new blossoms appearing the next day; blooms May-July; prefers full sun in light soil, but does well under most conditions prolific seed producer.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; plants eaten by deer; flowers nectar source for butterflies and bees; host for larval butterflies; moderate cover for birds and small mammals.
American Waterplantain (<i>Alisma triviale</i> formerly <i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i>)	PLwet	Common aquatic plant in mud along ditches and pond shores; 1-3 feet tall; small, white flowers arranged in panicles; basal cluster of elliptical leaves.	Seeds eaten by waterfowl and shorebirds; plants eaten by waterfowl.
Nodding Onion (<i>Allium cernuum</i>)	FHupl	Perennial wildflower; up to 1 foot tall; delicate white-pink flowerheads; usually found on grassy slopes.	Flowers are nectar source for butterflies and bees.
Wormleaf Stonecrop (<i>Amerosedum lanceolatum</i> formerly <i>Sedum lanceolatum</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Low, succulent plant; less than 6 inches high; leaves are often tinged or completely rusty or red-purple; shiny yellow flowers; common on stony ground; good rock garden plant.	Very little wildlife value.
Meadow Anemone (<i>Anemonisium canadense</i> formerly <i>Anemone canadensis</i>)	FHrip PLrip	Perennial wildflower; 1-2 feet tall; delicate white cup-shaped flowers; deeply cut leaves; found on low ground meadows and streamsides.	Flowers are nectar source for butterflies and bees.
Rose Pussytoes (<i>Antennaria rosea</i>)	FHupl	Creeping, perennial groundcover; up to 3 inches tall; gray-green leaves; delicate, pink flowerheads resemble a cat's paw; blooms in spring.	Plants eaten by deer, small mammals, and rabbits; host for larval butterflies.

COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE NATIVE WILDFLOWERS, VINES, AND OTHER HERBACEOUS PLANTS OF FORT COLLINS			
Plant Name	Habitat Zone	Plant Characteristics	Wildlife Value
Many-flowered pricklepoppy (<i>Argemone polyanthemus</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Showy, 2.5 to 4-inch bright white "poppy" flowers; 1.5 to 3 foot tall; flowers April to August; plains and mesas; silvery blue-grey prickly leaves; unique "barrier" plant for garden!	Good nectar source for butterflies, moths, and bees.
Prairie Sage (<i>Artemisia ludoviciana</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Very common, spreading sagebrush, which dies back in winter; up to 2 feet tall; silver-green leaves and seedheads; spreads easily; attractive addition to wildflowers and shrubs in landscaped areas.	Good cover for small mammals and reptiles; plants and seeds eaten by rabbits, prairie dogs, small mammals, and deer; seeds eaten by songbirds.
Swamp Milkweed (<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>)	PLwet	Wildflower found in sloughs and wet ditches; 1.5-2 feet tall; showy pink to reddish-pink flowers in summer.	Flowers are source of nectar for butterflies, moths, and hummingbirds; larval host for butterflies.
Showy Milkweed (<i>Asclepias speciosa</i>)	PLrip PLupl	Abundant wildflower of fields and along ponds and drainageways; up to 5 feet tall; numerous clusters of showy pink flowers; "milky" juice released from stems or leaves when cut.	Flowers are excellent source of nectar for butterflies, moths, and hummingbirds; larval host for butterflies.
Groundplum Milkvetch (<i>Astragalus crassicaupus</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Common low-growing wildflower; 6 inches tall; white pea-like flowers with blue-purple keels; makes attractive rock garden plant; many species of <i>Astragalus</i> absorb large amounts of selenium, which is toxic to livestock--do not plant on areas adjacent to overgrazed pastures.	Seeds eaten by small mammals.
Narrowleaf Poisenvetch (<i>Astragalus pectinaatus</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Low-growing wildflower; 4 inches tall; cream color to white pea-like flowers; makes attractive rock garden plant; common on barren shale-clay areas of the plains; many species of <i>Astragalus</i> absorb large amounts of selenium, which is toxic to livestock--do not plant on areas adjacent to overgrazed pastures.	Seeds eaten by small mammals.
Shorts Milkvetch (<i>Astragalus shoranus</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Low-growing wildflower; 6 inches tall; pink to purple pea-like flowers; blooms April to June; grey leaves; makes attractive rock garden plant; many species of <i>Astragalus</i> absorb large amounts of selenium, which is toxic to livestock--do not plant on areas adjacent to overgrazed pastures.	Seeds eaten by small mammals.
Ragleaf Bahia (<i>Bahia dissecta</i>)	FHupl	Perennial; 10-30 inches tall; bright yellow daisy-like drooping flower heads on long stalks; gray-green leaves in a basal rosette; common in bare, gravelly soil, mostly along roadsides in the canyons.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; flowers nectar source for butterflies and bees.
Purple or Low Poppymallow (<i>Callirhoe involucrata</i>)	PLupl	Low, trailing perennial wildflower; 6 inches tall; round, dissected leaves; bright red-purple, 1.5-inch wide flowers; blooms mid-June to frost; spreads rapidly; common on sandy soil.	Flowers nectar source for butterflies and bees.
Serrulatus Evening Primrose (<i>Calylophis serrulatus</i> formerly <i>Oenothera serrulatus</i>)	PLupl	Bushy, shrublet wildflower; less than 1 foot tall; square, 1-inch wide, golden flowers; good xeric garden plant.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; deer eat plants; flowers nectar source for moths.
Harebell (<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>)	FHupl	Wiry-stemmed perennial wildflower; up to 2 feet tall; blue-purple, nodding, bell-shaped flowers cover plant from June-August; prefers dry slopes.	Flowers nectar source for bees.

COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE NATIVE WILDFLOWERS, VINES, AND OTHER HERBACEOUS PLANTS OF FORT COLLINS			
Plant Name	Habitat Zone	Plant Characteristics	Wildlife Value
Largeflowered Indian Paintbrush (<i>Castilleja sessiliflora</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Perennial wildflower; up to 2 feet tall; green, yellow, and pinkish spikes of flowers from spring-late summer; very hard to establish and must be planted with native grasses, such as blue grama; hard to find this species alone--usually sold only by genus (<i>Castilleja</i>).	Flowers nectar source for hummingbirds and butterflies; mule deer eat plants.
Hornwort or Coontail (<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>)	PLwet	Submerged, feathery-leaved aquatic plant of ponds, lakes, and ditches with low water flows; plants up to 4 feet long; masses of plants even longer and more than 4 feet deep in the water; inconspicuous flowers.	Valuable aquatic plant that supports high numbers of invertebrates, which provide food for waterfowl, shorebirds, other waterbirds, fish, and amphibians; seeds and plants eaten by waterfowl and waterbirds; good cover for fish.
Western Virginsbower (<i>Clematis ligusticifolia</i>)	PLrip	Climbing, woody vine; up to 20 ft or more; slightly fragrant white to pale yellow flowers in spring; attractive seedhead plumes through late fall; common along river bottoms, fencerows, and along ditches.	Good cover for songbirds; flowers nectar source for butterflies.
Rocky Mountain Beeplant (<i>Cleome serrulata</i>)	PLupl	Annual wildflower; 3 feet tall; pale pink-purple flower in whorls at top of stem; blooms all summer.	Seeds eaten by mourning doves, pheasants, and mice; flowers nectar source for butterflies and bees.
Plains Coreopsis (<i>Coreopsis tinctoria</i>)	PLwet	Perennial wildflower; 1.5-3 feet tall; delicate, showy yellow daisy-like flowers with maroon centers; blooms June-August; prefers full sun; found on mudflats on ponds.	Nectar source for butterflies.
Douglas Clematis (<i>Coriflora hirsutissima</i> formerly <i>Clematis hirsutissima</i>)	FHupl	Unusual perennial wildflower; up to 2 feet tall; glossy, dark-green leaves; nodding, waxy, deep purple flowers.	Flower nectar source for butterflies and bees.
Golden Corydalis (<i>Corydalis aurea</i>)	FHupl PLupl	Biennial; up to 16 inches tall; slender stems; yellow pea-like flowers in long clusters; flowers February to September; soft, bluish-green leaves in delicate lobes; found along roads and streams, on sandy slopes, and in open woods.	Plants and seeds eaten by small gamebirds, songbirds, and small mammals; flowers nectar source for butterflies and bees.
Slender White Prairie Clover (<i>Dalea candida</i> var. <i>oligophylla</i> formerly <i>Petalostemum candidum</i>)	PLupl	Airy, perennial wildflower; 1-3 feet tall; numerous white blossoms from May to July; common on plains, mesas, and open woodlands.	Plants and seeds eaten by small gamebirds and songbirds; flowers nectar source for butterflies, bees, and predatory wasps that help control garden pests.
Purple Prairie Clover (<i>Dalea purpurea</i> formerly <i>Petalostemum purpureum</i>)	PLupl	Airy, perennial wildflower; 2 feet tall; numerous bright purple clover flowers in summer; drought tolerant; wonderful dried flower.	Plants and seeds eaten by small gamebirds and songbirds; flowers nectar source for butterflies, bees, and predatory wasps that help control garden pests.
Plains Larkspur (<i>Delphinium carolinianum virescens</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Attractive perennial wildflower; 1-2 feet tall; fuzzy pink spiked flowers; blooms early summer; toxic to cattle--do not plant on areas adjacent to overgrazed pastures.	Flowers nectar source for butterflies and hummingbirds.

COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE NATIVE WILDFLOWERS, VINES, AND OTHER HERBACEOUS PLANTS OF FORT COLLINS			
Plant Name	Habitat Zone	Plant Characteristics	Wildlife Value
Geyer larkspur (<i>Delphinium geyeri</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Attractive perennial wildflower; up to 3 feet tall; blue to purplish flowers are in long, loose clusters; blooms May to July; found on hillsides and slopes; toxic to cattle--do not plant on areas adjacent to overgrazed pastures.	Flowers nectar source for butterflies and hummingbirds.
Nuttall Larkspur (<i>Delphinium nuttallianum</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Attractive perennial wildflower; 1-2 feet tall; deep blue-purple spiked flowers in spring; found in meadows, sagebrush, and open woods; toxic to cattle--do not plant on areas adjacent to overgrazed pastures.	Flowers nectar source for butterflies and hummingbirds.
Aspen Daisy or Oregon Fleabane (<i>Erigeron speciosus</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Perennial wildflower, 8-24 inches tall; violet daisy-like flowers; found in dry to moist areas, sun to partial shade.	Flowers nectar source for butterflies and bees.
James Eriogonum (<i>Eriogonum jamesii</i>)	FHupl	Perennial wildflower; 0.5-1.0 feet tall; pale green leaves and pale yellow flowers; blooms late spring; found in open woods.	Seeds eaten by songbirds; plants and seeds eaten by rabbits and small mammals; plants eaten by deer.
Sulphur Eriogonum (<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i>)	FHupl	Perennial wildflower; 0.5-1.0 feet tall; bright yellow rosette flowers with bright green leaves; blooms late spring; abundant in forest openings.	Seeds eaten by songbirds; plants and seeds eaten by rabbits and small mammals; plants eaten by deer.
Plains Wallflower (<i>Erysimum asperum</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Biennial wildflower; up to 2.5 feet high; orange-yellow showy flowers; blooms April-August; attractive addition to wildflower meadows.	Flowers nectar source for bees.
Spotted Joepyeweed (<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>)	PLrip FHrip	Perennial; 2 to 6 feet tall; large, purple, fluffy flowers; flowers July-September; frequent along streams and ditches.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; flowers nectar source for hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies.
Common Perennial Gaillardia (<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Perennial wildflower; up to 2 feet tall; daisy-like red flowers with yellow tips; blooms June until frost; drought tolerant; common in sagebrush areas.	Flowers nectar source for butterflies, bees, and moths.
Wild Geranium (<i>Geranium caespitosum</i>)	FHupl	Sprawling perennial wildflower; 1-2 feet tall; 5-petalled pink flowers; blooms late spring-early summer; leaves are red in fall.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small rodents; plants eaten by deer.
Showy Vervain (<i>Glandularia bipinnatifida</i> formerly <i>Verbena ambrosifolia</i>)	FHupl	Perennial, low, spreading wildflower; 1 foot tall; fern-like leaves; bright pink flowers; blooms May-August.	Seeds eaten by songbirds; nectar source for bees and butterflies.
American Licorice (<i>Glycyrrhiza lepidota</i>)	PLwet PLrip FHwet FHrip	Perennial; up to 4 feet tall; thick roots and leafy stems; dense, small greenish-white flowers on spikes; seed pods are 1/2-inch burrs; leaves locust-like; found in wet areas along roads, ditches, and streams.	Nectar source for bees, butterflies, and moths.
Drummond False Pennyroyal (<i>Hedeoma drummondii</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Fragrant, hairy perennial; extremely strong mint odor; up to 8 inches tall; narrow leaves; blue or rose-lavender flowers in groups of 2 to 6 along upper stem in June; prefers dry sites with rocky or gravelly soils.	Nectar source for bees and butterflies.

COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE NATIVE WILDFLOWERS, VINES, AND OTHER HERBACEOUS PLANTS OF FORT COLLINS			
Plant Name	Habitat Zone	Plant Characteristics	Wildlife Value
Northern Sweetvetch (<i>Hedysarum boreale</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Showy perennial bushy wildflower found on shale and soil embankments; up to 2 feet tall; pink-purplish red pea-like flowers; flattened seed pods; plant is not poisonous to livestock.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals.
Common Sunflower (<i>Helianthus annuus</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Robust annual wildflower; to 10 feet tall; large, heart-shaped leaves; yellow flowers with dark centers up to 4 inches wide; abundant native roadside plant; wild ancestor of cultivated varieties.	Large, nutritious seeds eaten by mourning doves, pheasants, prairie dogs, and a variety of songbirds and small mammals; plants eaten by deer and muskrat; host for larval butterflies.
Nuttall Sunflower (<i>Helianthus nuttallii</i>)	PLrip PLwet	Very tall, upright, leafy stemmed sunflower; up to 8 feet tall; many yellow flower heads with dark centers; blooms August-September; abundant in wet meadows, irrigation ditches and along ponds in lower valley.	Seeds eaten by mourning doves, pheasants, prairie dogs, and a variety of songbirds and small mammals; plants eaten by deer and muskrat; host for larval butterflies.
Prairie Sunflower (<i>Helianthus petiolaris</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Annual; up to 3 feet tall; erect, reddish, hairy to bristly stems; bright yellow ray flowers up to 3 inches across; blooms June to September; leaves alternate and rough with long stalks; common in fields, along roads, and on hillsides.	Seeds eaten by mourning doves, pheasants, prairie dogs, and a variety of songbirds and small mammals; host for larval butterflies.
Pumulis Sunflower (<i>Helianthus pumilus</i>)	FHupl	Rough-hairy, bushy sunflower; up to 6 feet tall; flowers bloom August-September; abundant in canyons of the foothills.	Seeds eaten by mourning doves, pheasants, prairie dogs, and a variety of songbirds and small mammals; plants eaten by deer and muskrat; host for larval butterflies.
Common Cowparsnip (<i>Heracleum sphondylium montanum</i>)	FHrip	Tall coarse plant; up to 8 feet tall; large flat umbels of small white flowers and large leaves; wide clasping leafstalks; found in swampy thickets and streamsides, mostly in foothills.	Nectar source for bees.
Hairy Goldaster (<i>Heterotheca villosa</i> formerly <i>Chrysopsis villosa</i>)	FHupl	Beautiful perennial wildflower; gold aster-like flowers bloom in July-August; prefers full sun and dry soil.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; flowers nectar source for butterflies and bees.
Littleleaf Alumroot (<i>Heuchera parvifolia</i>)	FHupl	Perennial; tiny greenish-yellow flower clusters terminal on stalks up to 2 feet tall; blooms June through August; numerous lobed, basal leaves on long stems; common on cliffs and rock outcrops; drought tolerant.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals.
New Mexican Hop (<i>Humulus lupulus americanus</i>)	FHupl	Trailing vine; leaves palmately lobed; leaves and stems harsh to the touch; climbs over shrubs and rocky slopes of canyons and foothills.	Cover for songbirds.
Fineleaf Hymenopappus (<i>Hymenopappus filifolius</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Perennial; up to 2 feet tall; several wiry, whitish stems; small yellow flower heads on long stalks; flowers May through September leaves bunched at base, finely branched; common on dry, exposed grassy slopes and hillsides.	Nectar source for bees and butterflies.
Spike Gilia (<i>Ipomopsis spicata</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Perennial; up to 1 foot tall; stout, brownish tap root; woolly, erect, or curved stem; creamy white flowers clustered on thick, woolly spike; flowers April and May; leaves slender, string-like; grows on dry sites on hillsides, slopes, and open woods.	Nectar source for bees and butterflies.

COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE NATIVE WILDFLOWERS, VINES, AND OTHER HERBACEOUS PLANTS OF FORT COLLINS			
Plant Name	Habitat Zone	Plant Characteristics	Wildlife Value
Blue Flag or Wild Iris (<i>Iris missouriensis</i>)	PLwet FHwet	Wild iris; to 2 feet tall; narrower and softer leaves than bearded garden iris; delicate, blue-purple flowers; blooms spring-early summer; occurs in wet meadows; needs extra watering until well-established.	Flowers nectar source for butterflies and bees.
Mountain Bladderpod (<i>Lesquerella montana</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Common low-growing perennial wildflower; up to 8 inches tall; basal leaves hairy and grey beneath; pale yellow flowers in May-June; fruit bladder-like; makes good rock garden plant.	Flowers nectar source for butterflies and bees.
Dotted Gayfeather (<i>Liatris punctata</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Hardy perennial wildflower; to 2 feet tall; long spiked pink-purple flowers; blooms mid-summer to frost; good flower for cuttings.	Flowers nectar source for butterflies and bees.
Narrowleaf Gromwell (<i>Lithospermum incisum</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Hairy plant with numerous stems; up to 1.5 feet tall; light yellow, long-tubed flowers; blooms April-July; commonly found with sagebrush.	Seeds eaten by songbirds.
Bigblue Lobelia (<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i> var. <i>ludoviciana</i>)	PLwet	Lovely wet meadow plant; up to 3 feet tall; large pale blue to blue flowers; blooms August-September.	Flowers nectar source for butterflies and bees.
Silvery Lupine (<i>Lupinus argenteus</i>)	FHupl	Perennial wildflower; 1 foot tall; silvery-green leaves; light-dark blue, pea-like flowers cover stalk; blooms spring-early summer; some species of lupines are toxic to sheep and cattle--do not plant in areas adjacent to overgrazed pastures.	Small mammals eat seeds; deer eat plants; flowers nectar source for butterflies; host for larval butterflies.
Rusty Lupine (<i>Lupinus caudatus</i>)	PLupl	Perennial wildflower; 1-2 feet tall; deep blue flowers bloom in late spring to summer; pinkish, disk-shaped seeds; prefers full sun; some species of lupines are toxic to sheep and cattle--do not plant in areas adjacent to overgrazed pastures.	Small mammals eat seeds; deer eat plants; cover for small birds and small mammals; flowers nectar source for butterflies; host for larval butterflies; ants cover their hills with the pinkish seeds.
Bigelow Aster (<i>Machaeranthera bigelovii</i> formerly <i>Aster biglovii</i>)	FHupl	Perennial wildflower; 1-3 feet tall; purple, daisy-like flowers in summer.	Seeds eaten by songbirds; flowers nectar source for bees and butterflies.
Tansyleaf Aster (<i>Machaeranthera tanacetifolia</i>)	PLupl	Perennial wildflower; 1-1.5 feet tall; violet, daisy-like flowers.	Seeds eaten by songbirds; flowers nectar source for bees and butterflies.
Mintleaf Beebalm (<i>Monarda fistulosa</i> var. <i>menthaefolia</i>)	PLrip FHrip	Perennial wildflower; 2 feet tall; mint-scented leaves; pale to dark purple flowers; blooms early to mid-summer; found along streams on canyon sides, and in meadows.	Flowers nectar source for hummingbirds, bees, butterflies, and moths.
Pony Beebalm (<i>Monarda pectinata</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Fragrant, annual wildflower; up to 2 feet tall; numerous light purple flowers up the stem.	Flowers nectar source for hummingbirds, bees, butterflies, and moths.
Blazing Star or Ten-petal Mentzelia (<i>Nuttallia decapetala</i> formerly <i>Mentzelia decapetala</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Biennial wildflower; 2 feet tall; many 3- to 4-inch golden yellow flowers shaped like sunbursts; blooms summer-frost; found on sandstone outcrops of plains and mesas.	Flowers nectar source for bees.

COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE NATIVE WILDFLOWERS, VINES, AND OTHER HERBACEOUS PLANTS OF FORT COLLINS			
Plant Name	Habitat Zone	Plant Characteristics	Wildlife Value
Tufted Evening Primrose (<i>Oenothera caespitosa</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Low, perennial wildflower; up to 8 inches tall; gray-green fuzzy leaves; large, fragrant white flowers that open in evening; blooms early summer; abundant on clay hills and sandy roadsides.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; deer eat plants; flowers nectar source for moths.
Tall Evening Primrose (<i>Oenothera elata hirsutissima</i> formerly <i>O. hookeri</i>)	PLrip	Biennial wildflower; 3-4 feet tall; bright yellow flowers bloom in summer; common in wet meadows and along roadsides and ditches.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; deer eat plants; flowers nectar source for moths.
Evening Primrose (<i>Oenothera howardii</i> formerly <i>O. brachycarpa</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Common perennial wildflower; 4-6 inches tall; large yellow to orange flowers in spring and summer; low water.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; deer eat plants; flowers nectar source for moths.
Yellow Evening Primrose (<i>Oenothera villosa</i> formerly <i>O. strigosa</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Tall perennial wildflower; 2-4 feet; yellow flowers bloom in late summer; common on sandy sites.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; deer eat plants; flowers nectar source for moths.
Stiff Goldenrod (<i>Oligoneuron rigidum</i> formerly <i>Solidago rigida humilis</i>)	FHupl PLupl	Common perennial wildflower; up to 6 feet tall; gold flowers; blooms July-August; prefers full sun; long-lasting cut flower.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; plants eaten by small mammals, rabbits, beaver, and deer; flowers nectar source for hummingbirds, bees, butterflies, and wasps.
Plains Pricklypear (<i>Opuntia polyacantha</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Abundant, spreading, spiny cactus of plains and foothill grasslands and forest openings; 0.5-1 feet tall; flowers pink, yellow, or copper-colored; blooms mid-May to early June.	Very important wildlife food plant; fruits, seeds, and stems are eaten by a variety of upland gamebirds, songbirds, small mammals, rabbits, fox, coyotes, prairie dogs, and deer; flowers provide nectar source for bees, butterflies, moths, and wasps; good cover for small reptiles and insects.
Lambert Crazyweed (<i>Oxytropis lambertii</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Low, colorful wildflower; 10 inches tall; bright red-purple, pea-like flowers; hairy leaves; many species of <i>Oxytropis</i> absorb large amounts of selenium, which is toxic to livestock--do not plant on areas adjacent to overgrazed pastures.	Seeds eaten by small mammals.
Silky Crazyweed (<i>Oxytropis sericea</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Low, common, wildflower; 8 inches tall; leaves silver and hairy; white pea-like flowers; many species of <i>Oxytropis</i> absorb large amounts of selenium, which is toxic to livestock--do not plant on areas adjacent to overgrazed pastures.	Seeds eaten by small mammals.
Snowball Cactus (<i>Pediocactus simpsonii</i> var. <i>minor</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Ball-shaped plant; up to 3 inches tall; nipplelike knobs that bear spines; stout, reddish central spines are 3/4 inches long; Flowers are bright magenta and up to 2 inches across with fringed petals; blooms May to July; sandy areas. This cactus is nearly threatened due to over collection in the wild; only purchase these plants from reputable nurseries.	Flowers provide nectar source for bees, butterflies, moths, and wasps.
Narrowleaf Penstemon (<i>Penstemon angustifolius</i>)	PLupl	Slender, perennial wildflower; to 1 foot high; blue-green leaves; sky-blue tubular flowers; blooms in summer.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; flowers nectar source for butterflies, hummingbirds, bees, and moths.

COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE NATIVE WILDFLOWERS, VINES, AND OTHER HERBACEOUS PLANTS OF FORT COLLINS			
Plant Name	Habitat Zone	Plant Characteristics	Wildlife Value
Sidebells Penstemon (<i>Penstemon secundiflorus</i>)	FHupl	Perennial wildflower; to 2 feet tall; pink-lavender tubular flowers on one side of stalk; blooms early spring.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; flowers nectar source for butterflies, hummingbirds, bees, and moths.
Green or Blue Mist Penstemon (<i>Penstemon virens</i>)	FHupl	Perennial wildflower; up to 1 foot tall; medium blue flowers; blooms early June; most abundant, small-flowered penstemon of foothills.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; flowers nectar source for butterflies, hummingbirds, bees, and moths.
Wandbloom Penstemon (<i>Penstemon virgatus asa-grayi</i>)	FHupl	Common, tall perennial wildflower of the foothills and mesas; 2-3 feet tall; numerous lavender-blue flowers on one-sided wand-like stalks in summer.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; flowers nectar source for butterflies, hummingbirds, bees, and moths.
Water Lady's Thumb (<i>Persicaria amphibium</i> formerly <i>Polygonum amphibium</i>)	PLwet FHwet	Aquatic plant; 6-12 inches tall; flowers bright red or pink in dense clusters on conical or cylindrical heads; floating on ponds or in mud on pond margins, sometimes in bush-covered streams or marshes.	Seeds eaten by ducks, rails, shorebirds, mourning doves, songbirds, small mammals. Plants eaten by deer.
Swamp Smartweed (<i>Persicaria coccinea</i> formerly <i>Polygonum coccineum</i>)	PLwet. FHwet	Floating, creeping, or erect wetland plant; up to 5 feet tall; lance-shaped leaves; small pink flowers and fruits; blooms June-September.	Seeds eaten by ducks, rails, shorebirds, mourning doves, songbirds, small mammals. Plants eaten by deer.
Pennsylvania Smartweed (<i>Persicaria pennsylvanica</i> formerly <i>Polygonum pennsylvanicum</i>)	PLwet	Annual wetland plant; up to 4 feet tall; small pinkish flowers and fruits; blooms June-September; prefers seasonally inundated muddy places.	Seeds eaten by ducks, rails, shorebirds, mourning doves, songbirds, small mammals. Plants eaten by deer.
Clammyweed (<i>Polanisia dodecandra</i>)	PLupl	Upright annual; up to 2 feet tall; white flowers in clusters at tips of stems; rank-smelling flowers; blooms August and September; dark pink to purple stamens longer than petals, giving a hairy or spidery appearance to the flower; 2 to 3-inch long fruit pods; stems leave sticky residue on hands; prefers open fields and roadsides.	Flowers provide nectar source for moths, butterflies, and bees.
Fennel Leaf Pondweed (<i>Potamogeton pectinatus</i>)	PLwet	Common underwater pond plant; threadlike leaves in bushy clusters; greenish-brown flowers above water.	Seeds eaten by ducks, rails, and shorebirds. Plants eaten by muskrats.
American Pasqueflower (<i>Pulsatilla patens multifida</i> formerly <i>Anemone patens multifida</i>)	FHupl	Uncommon early spring wildflower in foothills of Fort Collins; 12 to 15 inches tall; saucer-like purple to red flowers; silky, pale green leaves; feathery seedheads.	Flowers are nectar source for butterflies and bees.
Upright Prairie Coneflower (<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Common perennial wildflower; 2 feet tall; showy yellow flowers with "cone" center; blooms June-September; prolific seed producer, spreads easily; attractive plant with native grasses; prefers full sun, low water.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; moderate cover for small mammals.
Cutleaf Coneflower (<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i> var. <i>ampla</i>)	FHrip	Perennial wildflower; 1-2 feet tall; yellow daisy-like flowers with brown cone; blooms August-September; full sun-partial shade; needs moderate water, found along streambanks.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; moderate cover for small mammals.

COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE NATIVE WILDFLOWERS, VINES, AND OTHER HERBACEOUS PLANTS OF FORT COLLINS			
Plant Name	Habitat Zone	Plant Characteristics	Wildlife Value
Black-eyed Susan (<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>)	FHupl FHrip PLupl PLrip	Biennial-perennial wildflower; 1-3 feet tall; yellow-orange daisy-like flowers with black center; blooms in August-September; full sun-partial shade, low-moderate water.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; moderate cover for small mammals.
Common Arrowhead (<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i>)	PLwet	Wetland plant; 1-2 feet tall; large, arrow-shaped leaves; white flowers; grows in muddy ditches and creeks, and on pond shores; lovely plant for backyard ponds.	Seeds and tubers eaten by waterfowl; seeds eaten by rails; tubers and plants eaten by muskrats; nectar source for bees and moths.
Common Blue-eyed Grass (<i>Sisyrinchium montanum</i> formerly <i>S. angustifolium</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Perennial wildflower; up to 1 foot tall; leaves resemble clump of grass; small, delicate blue flowers near ends of stalks; found in meadows (not necessarily wet).	Plants eaten by small mammals.
Canada Goldenrod (<i>Solidago canadensis</i>)	PLrip FHrip	Perennial wildflower; 1-3 feet tall; hairy stems; large clusters of yellow flowers bloom in late summer; wet meadows, streamsides.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; plants eaten by small mammals, rabbits, beaver, and deer; flowers nectar source for hummingbirds, bees, butterflies, and wasps.
Missouri Goldenrod (<i>Solidago missourienses</i>)	FHupl PLupl	Common perennial wildflower; up to 2 feet tall; golden plumes of flowers rise above upright leaf clumps; blooms July-August; prefers full sun.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; plants eaten by small mammals, rabbits, beaver, and deer; flowers nectar source for hummingbirds, bees, butterflies, and wasps.
Goldenrod (<i>Solidago velutina</i> formerly <i>S. sparsiflora</i>)	FHupl PLupl	Perennial wildflower; 1-2 feet tall, yellow flowers in summer and early fall; prefers full sun, low water.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; plants eaten by small mammals, rabbits, beaver, and deer; flowers nectar source for hummingbirds, bees, butterflies, and wasps.
Burreed (<i>Sparganium eurycarpum</i>)	PLwet	Tall wetland plant; 6-8 feet tall; burry ball-like seed heads and spongy, cattail-like leaves.	Plants eaten by muskrats. Seeds eaten by rails, ducks, and shorebirds.
Scarlet Globemallow (<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Low perennial wildflower; 6 inches tall; pale green leaves; red-orange flowers; blooms in spring and summer; found on roadsides and disturbed sites; pretty rock garden plant.	Plants eaten by small mammals.
Stemless Hymenoxys (<i>Tetranneuris acaulis</i> formerly <i>Hymenoxys acualis</i>)	PLupl	Perennial wildflower; 1 foot high; yellow, sunflower-like flowers bloom in mid-summer; leaves are basal; common on plains and mesas.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; flowers nectar source for butterflies and bees.
American Germander (<i>Teucrium canadense occidentale</i>)	PLwet FHwet	Wetland plant; less than a foot tall; leaves and solitary stem hairy; flowers pink to lavender.	Provides support for aquatic invertebrates; flowers nectar source for bees.
Purple Meadowrue (<i>Thalictrum dasycarpum</i>)	PLrip	Tall, handsome plant, abundant along irrigation ditches; leaves resemble columbine; delicate tiny green flowers from loosely branched stalks.	Nectar source for butterflies and bees.
Spreading Thermopsis (<i>Thermopsis divaricarpa</i>)	PLrip FHrip	Perennial wildflower; up to 3 feet high; bright yellow, pea-like flowers; blooms April to July; pea-like seeds; found in meadows and low areas; prefers sandy and gravelly areas.	Nectar source for bees; seeds eaten by small mammals.

COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE NATIVE WILDFLOWERS, VINES, AND OTHER HERBACEOUS PLANTS OF FORT COLLINS			
Plant Name	Habitat Zone	Plant Characteristics	Wildlife Value
Prairie Golden Banner (<i>Thermopsis rhombifolia</i>)	PLupl	Showy wildflower; pea-type leaves; up to 1.5 feet tall; yellow pea-type flowers on stalk; blooms May-June; prefers full sun.	Nectar source for butterflies and bees.
Stemless Townsendia (<i>Townsendia exscapa</i>)	FHupl PLupl	Perennial wildflower, 1-6 inches high; white flowers in summer; strap-like silver-gray leaves; low water.	Flowers nectar source for butterflies and bees.
Easter Daisy (<i>Townsendia grandiflora</i>)	FHupl	Low, perennial wildflower; less than 6 inches tall; lavender, aster-like flowers in summer; common on dry slopes.	Flowers nectar source for butterflies and bees.
Hook's Townsendia (<i>Townsendia hookeri</i>)	FHupl PLupl	Low, perennial wildflower; less than 6 inches tall; narrow, powdery white clusters of leaves and glowing white stemless flowers in early spring; widespread on plains and outwash mesas, open rocky areas.	Flowers nectar source for butterflies and bees.
Grassy Deathcamas (<i>Toxicoscordian venenosum</i> formerly <i>Zygadenus venenosus</i>)	FHupl	Bulbous plant with grass-like leaves; tall stalk of cream-colored star-like flowers; toxic to sheep--do not plant near overgrazed sheep pastures.	Nectar source for bees.
Prairie Spiderwort (<i>Tradescantia occidentalis</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Perennial wildflower; up to 1.5 feet high; pale-medium blue flowers; grass-like leaves; beautiful plant amid native grasses.	Flowers nectar source for bees.
Seaside Arrowgrass (<i>Triglochin maritima</i>)	PLwet	Slender leaved wetland plant; usually up to 1 foot tall, but can get as tall as 5 feet; tiny green flowers.	Good cover for wetland birds and small mammals.
Narrowleaf Cattail (<i>Typha angustifolia</i>)	PLwet FHwet	Common wetland plant along ditches and ponds; usually less than 6 feet tall; narrow leaves on coarse, pithy stems; female flowers develop into thick, long-lasting spike of packed hairy seeds.	Good cover for wetland birds and mammals; rootstocks are eaten by ducks and geese; seeds are eaten by marshbirds and shorebirds; songbirds use downy seeds to line nests; muskrat eat rootstocks, culms, and leaves.
Common Cattail (<i>Typha latifolia</i>)	PLwet FHwet	Common wetland plant along ditches and ponds; can grow more than 6 feet tall; leaves up to 1-inch wide on coarse, pithy stems; female flowers develop into thick, long-lasting spike of packed hairy seeds.	Good cover for wetland birds and mammals; rootstocks are eaten by ducks and geese; seeds are eaten by marshbirds and shorebirds; songbirds use downy seeds to line nests; muskrat eat rootstocks, culms, and leaves.
Blue Vervain (<i>Verbena hastata</i>)	PLwet	Perennial wetland wildflower; 2-4 feet tall; purple terminal spiked flowers; needs extra watering in landscaped areas.	Seeds eaten by shorebirds and songbirds; plants eaten by rabbits; flowers nectar source for butterflies and bees.
Hoary Vervain (<i>Verbena stricta</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Perennial wetland wildflower; up to 3 feet tall; may small blue or flowers on spikes; blooms May to September; stems stout and hairy; leaves hairy; prefers dry soils of fields and hillsides; very drought tolerant.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; flowers nectar source for butterflies and bees.
American Speedwell (<i>Veronica americana</i>)	PLwet	Wetland plant; weak stems with opposite leaves; clusters of wheel-shaped small blue flowers; blooms May-August.	Nectar source for bees.

COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE NATIVE WILDFLOWERS, VINES, AND OTHER HERBACEOUS PLANTS OF FORT COLLINS			
Plant Name	Habitat Zone	Plant Characteristics	Wildlife Value
American Vetch (<i>Vicia americana</i>)	FHupl PLupl	Slender scrambling vine common in grasslands and meadows in springs; compound leaves with tendrils; purple pea-like flowers; blooms May-August.	Seeds eaten by mourning doves, pheasants, sparrows, and small rodents.
Nuttall or Yellow Prairie Violet (<i>Viola nuttallii</i>)	PLupl FHupl	Dark green leaves; flowers variable in color, but usually bright yellow petals with dark purple lines (nectar guides) leading to mouth of flower; blooms April-May; often found with sages, also in open forests and slopes.	Nectar source for bees; seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; plants eaten by deer and rabbits.
Many-flowered Aster (<i>Virgulus ericoides</i> formerly <i>Aster ericoides</i>)	FHupl PLupl	Perennial; up to 2 feet tall; erect, twisted, rough, shiny, and woody stems; white or pinkish daisy-like small flower heads in one-sided clusters; flowers July through October; found on dry ground along roads, on sandy hillsides, and openings in woods.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; flowers nectar source for butterflies and bees.
White Prairie Aster (<i>Virgulus falcatus</i> formerly <i>Aster falcatus</i>)	FHupl PLupl	Perennial; up to 4 feet tall; woody, wiry, hairy stems; numerous white daisy-like small flower heads; flowers July through October; abundant along roads and fences, also found in meadows and on slopes.	Seeds eaten by songbirds and small mammals; flowers nectar source for butterflies and bees.



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