

WILDFLOWERS

Masses of color are achieved throughout the year with plantings of wildflowers. They also bring interesting foliage and pleasing fragrance into the garden. Spreading, vertical or rounded plant shapes add abundant variety. During the day, red flowers attract hummingbirds, and at night, fragrant white flowers on your patio attract hummingbird moths. Use wildflowers with native grasses for a flowery meadow. Although not as permanent as shrubs, wildflowers provide beauty and interest while shrubs mature. In winter, some die back, while others leave low tufts of green leaves.



Purple Hyssop

Mint family

Agastache pallidaflora

Pollinator	Diverse species of bees, butterflies, occasional hummingbirds
Size	2' High x 2' Wide
Blooms	Pink-purple spikes of flowers in summer
Water	Medium
Exposure	Part shade
Areas	East Mountain, Heights, Valley

In summer bloom, Purple Hyssop accents the garden with slender raspberry spikes, which also make attractive cut or dried flower arrangements. Remove old flower stalks to encourage longer bloom. The whole plant gives off an intense fragrance when it is touched. In our lower elevations, Purple Hyssop requires extra water and shade. Perennial.



Yerba Mansa

Lizardtail family

Anemopsis californica

Pollinator	
Size	18" High x 2' Wide
Blooms	White floral heads in summer
Water	Medium
Exposure	Full sun to deep shade
Areas	Heights, Valley

Yerba Mansa is an attractive summer-blooming plant as well as a dense ground cover. Its charm comes from the conical floral head of small flowers with an apron of large white bracts at the base. The flower stalks rise from clumps of large leathery oval leaves, which turn a rich red-brown in fall. Preferring heavy soils, Yerba Mansa naturally grows in marshy places, but can withstand drought once it is established. Perennial.



Desert Marigold

Aster family

Baileya multiradiata

Size	18" High x 12" Wide
Blooms	Yellow flowers spring to fall
Water	Very low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	Heights, Valley, West Mesa

The large flower heads of Desert Marigold arise from bunches of lacy white woolly leaves. *Multiradiata*, meaning "many rays," describes the dozens of bright yellow ray petals crowded around the golden center. After seed set, the persistent rays become bleached and papery. Desert Marigold reseeds readily and, with supplemental water, will bloom in summer as well as spring and fall. Biennial.



Chocolate Flower

Aster family

Berlandiera lyrata

Size	18" High x 2' Wide
Blooms	Yellow flowers in spring and summer
Water	Very low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	All

A strong aroma of chocolate surrounds these leafy clumps of lemon-yellow flowers with brown centers. After blooming, green shallow bowls remain on each floral head, and at this stage the plant is called "Green-Eyes." *Lyrata* refers to the shape of the leaf, which is like that of the ancient lyre. Chocolate Flower is a long-lived plant. Perennial.



Hartweg's Sundrops

Evening Primrose family

Oenothera hartwegii var. *fendleri*

Size	12" High x 18" Wide
Blooms	Yellow flowers in spring and fall
Water	Low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	All

The bushy mounds of Sundrops are covered with large crinkly flowers. The pointed tips of the four petals form a square flower. Like most flowers in the Evening Primrose family, Sundrops fade after one day and are continually replaced. Newly opened flowers are yellow, while old flowers are orange, creating an interesting color effect. Sundrops grow best in well-drained soil. With intermittent watering, they will produce new blooms all summer. Perennial.



Bee Plant

Caper family

Celome serrulata

Pollinator	Bees
Host Plant	For checkered white and western white butterflies
Size	3' High x 2' Wide
Blooms	Pink-purple flowers in summer
Water	Low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	All

Bee Plant has large round clusters of flowers at the end of each branch. Long stamens make the flowers look fluffy. Slender seedpods dangle below the colorful balls of flowers. *Serrulata* indicates the clover-like leaves have small saw-teeth. Bee Plant readily reseeds in a garden. Butterflies as well as bees love the showy flowers. Annual.



Purple Prairie Clover

Pea family

Dalea purpurea

Pollinator	Native bees, bumblebees, honey bees, and polyester bees/plasterer bees (<i>Colletes albescens</i> , <i>Colletes sussane</i> , <i>Colletes wilmattae</i> , <i>Colletes robertsenii</i>)
Size	2' High x 2' Wide
Blooms	Purple flowers in June and July
Water	Low
Exposure	Sun to light shade
Areas	All

A cluster of leafy stems arises from the crown of Purple Prairie Clover. The stems are covered by dark green, finely textured leaves and terminate in compact cylinders of small flowers. The versatile Purple Prairie Clover blends well in prairies, makes a statement in mass plantings, and shows off its fan shape when planted with shrubs in large open spaces. It reseeds prolifically providing birds with a treat. Perennial.

White Prairie Clover

Pea family

Dalea candida



Datura

Potato family

Datura wrightii

- Size 3-4' High x 3-4' Wide
- Blooms White flowers in summer and fall
- Water Low
- Exposure Sun
- Areas Heights, Valley, West Mesa

Glowing in moonlight, the sweet fragrance of night-blooming Datura, or Moonflower, attracts hummingbird moths. Large white trumpet-shaped flowers grace the bushy dark green plant. The fruit is a two-inch spiny seedpod, or "thorn-apple." The large malodorous leaves die in winter, leaving brittle bone-white twigs. All parts of Datura, also known as Jimsonweed, are poisonous if eaten. Perennial.



Wright's Buckwheat

Buckwheat family

Eriogonum wrightii

- Pollinator Reakirt's Blue butterfly, bees and wasps
- Host Plant For various Blues, Hairstreaks and Metalmark butterfly caterpillars
- Size 18" High x 2' Wide
- Blooms Pink-white flowers in summer and fall
- Water Low
- Exposure Sun
- Areas Heights

This attractive semi-evergreen small shrub is perfect for tight spaces and can be used to extend the blooming season in the garden. Native of foothill areas from Albuquerque southward, Wright's Buckwheat is abundant in granite outcrops. A related species that tolerates the colder East Mountains is James' Buckwheat (*Eriogonum jamesii*). In summer, James' Buckwheat has small pink to white pompom flower clusters floating in the air above a low mound of gray basal leaves. The tiny flowers dry and turn orange in late August. Both species require well-drained soil and are perennial.

Buckwheat Brush

Buckwheat family

Eriogonum corymbosum



Western Wallflower

Mustard family

Erysimum capitatum

Pollinator Painted Lady butterfly

Size 2' High x 2' Wide

Blooms Yellow flowers April to September

Water Medium

Exposure Full sun to part shade

Areas East Mountain, Heights

Bright color is added to the garden with these large round balls of yellow flowers. Western Wallflowers are typical mustard family flowers with four petals arranged in a Maltese cross. Long narrow seedpods extend outward from the stem, below the flower clusters. Linear toothed leaves form a basal rosette and extend up along the erect stems. The fragrant flowers attract butterflies. At high altitudes, Western Wallflowers can be copper-colored rather than yellow. Biennial.



Purple Geranium

Geranium family

Geranium caespitosum

Pollinator Bees, bumblebees

Size 2' High x 2' Wide

Blooms Purple flowers in summer

Water Medium

Exposure Shade

Areas East Mountain

Half-inch-wide saucer-like flowers are scattered around on these sprawling geraniums. The five petals are streaked with dark purple lines. Purple Geraniums are also called "Cranesbill," referring to the long narrow seed capsules with pointed tips. The maple-like leaves turn red in the fall. Plant Purple Geranium in moist but well-drained soil. Perennial.



Fernleaf Verbena

Verbena family

Glandularia bipinnatifida

- Pollinator Reakirt's Blue butterfly, bees and wasps
- Size 1' High x 2' Wide
- Blooms Purple flowers throughout the growing season
- Water Very low
- Exposure Full sun
- Areas All

Profuse clusters of verbena flowers make a brilliant display. *Bipinnatifida*, meaning "with feathery leaves," describes this low fern-like plant. Flowers appear in April and periodically during summer in response to rain or twice-monthly watering. The short-lived Fernleaf Verbena reseeds well. The Spanish name for this plant, *Moradilla*, means "little purple plant." Plant in well-drained soil. Perennial.



Bush Morning Glory

Morning Glory family

Ipomoea leptophylla

- Size 3' High x 4' Wide
- Blooms Magenta flowers in May through August
- Water Low
- Exposure Sun
- Areas Heights, Valley, West Mesa

Bush Morning Glory flowers are redder than the cultured variety and have dark centers. These flowers open in the morning and close by noon. *Leptophylla*, meaning "with narrow leaves," describes the erect leaves. Bush Morning Glory dies back in winter and emerges late in spring. While flowering, the plant needs deep monthly watering. Perennial.



Scarlet Gilia

Phlox family

Ipomopsis aggregata

- Pollinator Hummingbirds
- Size 2' High x 1' Wide
- Blooms Red flowers in summer
- Water Medium
- Exposure Full sun
- Areas All

Bright red trumpet-shaped flowers dangle along the length of the tall stems of Scarlet Gilia. The pointed petals of the star-like flowers are spotted with yellow. A rosette of grayish fern-like leaves develops in the first year and the flower stalk rises the second year. This stunning plant attracts hummingbirds. Scarlet Gilia reseeds readily. Biennial.



Rocky Mountain Iris

Iris family

Iris missouriensis

- Pollinator Bumblebees follow dark blue guide lines to nectar
- Size 2' High x 18" Wide
- Blooms Blue flowers in spring
- Water Medium
- Exposure Part shade
- Areas East Mountain

Like the cultivated varieties, this light-blue to purple iris has three erect standard petals and three spreading yellow-striped sepals. Dense clumps of sword-shaped leaves spread in a fan-like arrangement similar to those of garden irises. The Rocky Mountain Iris, however, is smaller and more delicate. Perennial.



Gayfeather

Aster family

Liatris punctata

- Pollinator Short-tongued bees
- Size 18" High x 18" Wide
- Blooms Purple flowers in September
- Water Low
- Exposure Sun
- Areas All

Gayfeather's flowering season is brief but glorious. From a mound of grassy leaves, spikes of purple flowers burst into bloom. After growing a few years, Gayfeather will give a truly impressive flower display. Birds flock to the fluffy seeds after flowering. Plant in well-drained soil. The huge taproot is difficult to transplant once established. Monthly deep watering encourages more flowers. Gayfeather is a long-lasting cut flower and, when dried, stays purple for several months. Perennial.



Blackfoot Daisy

Aster family

Melampodium leucanthum

- Pollinator Reakirt's Blue butterfly
- Size 12" High x 15" Wide
- Blooms White flowers throughout the season
- Water Very low
- Exposure Full sun
- Areas All

The low mounds of Blackfoot Daisy are abundantly covered with daisy-like flowers of broad white rays surrounding a yellow center. Flowering begins in April and will continue until October if the plant is watered deeply once or twice a month. Maintain the neat appearance by cutting Blackfoot Daisy back nearly to the crown in winter. This short-lived plant reseeds readily in well-drained soil. Perennial.



Desert Four O'clock

Four O'clock family

Mirabilis multiflora

Pollinator	Nocturnal moths
Size	1' High x 6' Wide
Blooms	Magenta flowers from May to September
Water	Very low
Exposure	Full sun to part shade
Areas	East Mountain, Heights, West Mesa

An abundance of large, magenta, trumpet-shaped flowers adorn Desert Four O'clocks in early morning and late afternoon. During the middle of the day, the flowers are closed. The dark-green leathery leaves and stems die back each fall and re-emerge late the next spring. Desert Four O'clock makes an excellent ground cover in well-drained soil and is visited by hummingbird moths and hummingbirds. Perennial.



Beebalm

Mint family

Monarda fistulosa

Pollinator	Painted Lady and Black Swallowtail butterflies; numerous bees; pollinators with long mouth parts such as some bees, moths, butterflies, hummingbirds, bumblebees and small black sweat bees.
Size	2' High x 1' Wide
Blooms	Rose-lavender clusters in summer
Water	Medium
Exposure	Part shade to sun
Areas	East Mountain

Large floral balls top the leafy clumps of Beebalm. The long tubular flowers are highly attractive to butterflies and humming birds. The finely toothed oval leaves are velvety to the touch. As an added benefit, Beebalm has oregano-scented leaves that can be used for flavoring in the kitchen. The scent attracts pollinators but also repels mosquitoes. Our Beebalm is sometimes sold as *Monarda menthaefolia*. Perennial.



White Tufted Evening Primrose

Evening Primrose

Oenothera caespitosa

Pollinator	Humming bird moths
Size	8" High x 12" Wide
Blooms	White flowers in May
Water	Very low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	All

Large showy fragrant flowers on White Tufted Evening Primrose open at dusk and close shortly after sunup the next morning. The stemless flowers nestle in a rosette of hairy gray-green leaves. This tough desert native lives only a few years, but self-sows readily. Place White Tufted Evening Primroses where you will see them and their hummingbird moth pollinators in the evening and night. This evergreen plant requires well-drained soils and occasional watering unless it rains. Perennial.



Pale Evening Primrose

Evening Primrose

Oenothera pallida

Size	12" High x 18" Wide
Blooms	White flowers in spring and summer
Water	Very low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	All

A multitude of fragrant flowers covers this bushy plant. In contrast to White Tufted Evening Primrose, Pale Evening Primrose is even more arid-adapted and has smaller, more numerous flowers which stay open all day. The leaf shapes of different subspecies may vary from strap-like to lobed. Pale Evening Primrose grows in sandy soil. A European cousin of our native evening primroses was thought to induce a taste for wine, hence the name *Oenothera*: wine imbibing. Perennial.



Bush Penstemon

Snapdragon family

Penstemon ambiguous

Pollinator	Humming bird moths
Size	2' High x 2' Wide
Blooms	Pink flowers in May through June
Water	Very low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	Heights, West Mesa

In full bloom, Bush Penstemon is a stunning spherical mound covered with flowers. These uncharacteristic penstemon flowers are shaped in a curved tube that opens out with flat lobes, white above and pink below. Hummingbird moths frequent these plants in early evening. Mid-summer rains may bring out a second blooming season. These long-lived plants require well-drained soil. Perennial.



Scarlet Bugler Penstemon

Snapdragon family

Penstemon barbatus

Pollinator	Hummingbirds
Size	2' High x 2' Wide
Blooms	Scarlet flowers in June
Water	Medium
Exposure	Sun to part shade
Areas	All

Scarlet Bugler Penstemon displays a profusion of inch-long flowers hanging loosely from one side of the two-foot tall stalks. The flowering stems rise from a mat of narrow leaves in early summer. Hummingbirds love the tubular red flowers. Scarlet Bugler may re-bloom in summer if deadheaded after the first bloom. At lower elevations, it needs afternoon shade. Scarlet Bugler will grow in heavy soil if on a slope. Perennial.



Palmer Penstemon

Snapdragon family

Penstemon palmeri

- Pollinator Bumblebees; carpenter and Osmia bees
- Size 4' High x 2' Wide
- Blooms Pink flowers in spring
- Water Very low
- Exposure Full sun
- Areas Heights, West Mesa

Palmer Penstemon's showy display of large plump flowers on tall stems is spectacular in a native garden. Pale pink flowers streaked with red lines emit a sweet fragrance. The toothed prickly leaves forming the bushy basal rosette tend to deter rabbits. Pairs of leaves are joined together and encircle the stem. Plant in well-drained soil. Palmer Penstemon, native to Arizona but naturalized in New Mexico, reseeds readily. Perennial.

Sand Penstemon

Snapdragon family

Penstemon ambiguus

Rocky Mountain Penstemon

Snapdragon family

Penstemon strictus

Sidebells Penstemon

Snapdragon family

Penstemon secundiflorus

Wandbloom Penstemon

Snapdragon family

Penstemon virgatus



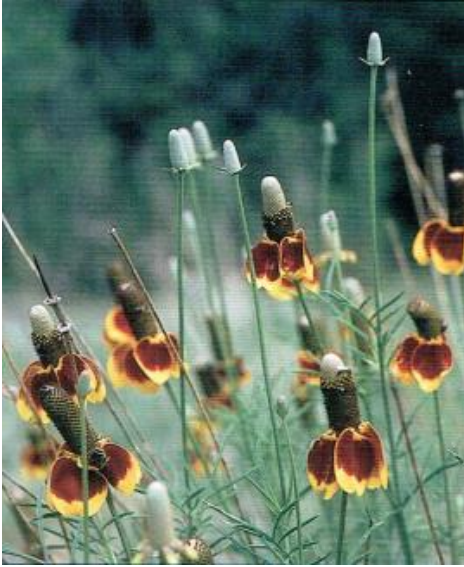
Paperflower

Aster family

Psilostrophe tagetina

- Pollinator Bees and wasps
- Size 12" High x 2' Wide
- Blooms Yellow flowers from spring through late fall
- Water Very low
- Exposure Full sun
- Areas All

Paperflower forms a neat mound of woolly leaves covered by flowers hovering above the leaves. The flowers consist of three broad yellow rays that become papery when dry and persist on the plant well into winter. Paperflower provides color over a long season. It makes a bright border or it can accent a meadow. Although short-lived, it reseeds well. Paperflower requires well-drained soil. Perennial.



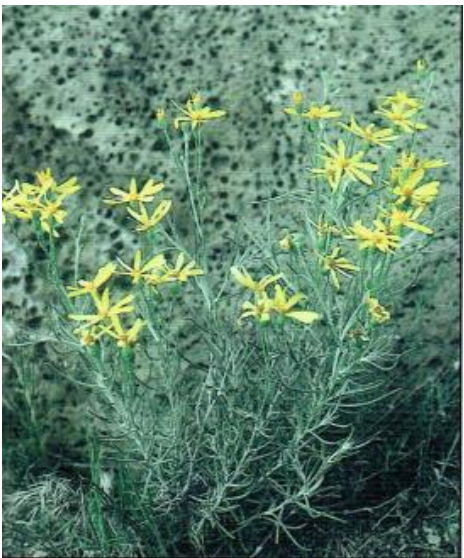
Mexican Hat

Aster family

Ratibida columnifera

- Pollinator Nectar bees, butterflies and insects
- Size 18" High x 18" Wide
- Blooms Yellow and maroon flowers May through September
- Water Low
- Exposure Full sun
- Areas All

A tall, wide-brimmed Mexican charro hat is exactly what these two-inch-long flowers resemble as they wave in the breeze on long, slender stems. The "hat" is like a sunflower, but with an elongated conical disk and a few broad colorful, drooping ray petals. Scattered in a meadow, Mexican Hat can be mowed with the grass and birds will eat the seeds. Although short-lived, it reseeds freely. Perennial.



Threadleaf Groundsel

Aster family

Senecio flaccidus

- Pollinator Insects with short tongues (flies, beetles); Insects with long tongues (butterflies and moths)
- Size 2' High x 18" Wide
- Blooms Yellow flowers midsummer through fall
- Water Very low
- Exposure Full sun
- Areas East Mountain, Heights, West Mesa

Threadleaf Groundsel is covered with branched clusters of lemon yellow daisies that brighten the late summer garden. The sparse long narrow leaves contrast with the wider foliage of other garden plants. Flowers are followed by fluffy white seed heads. In time, the gray stems become woody. A native of dry rocky plains, Threadleaf Groundsel grows in well-drained soil, including sloping clay soil. Perennial.

Many Headed Groundsel

Aster family

Senecio spartioides



Scarlet Globemallow

Mallow family

Sphaeralcea coccinea

- Host plant For checkered and other skipper butterflies and calligraphic beetles
- Size 10" High x 24" Wide
- Blooms Salmon flowers May through September
- Water Very low
- Exposure Sun
- Areas All

Scarlet Globemallow has lacy, silver-green leaves and spikes of hollyhock-like flowers. With its long bloom period, it makes an effective ground cover or dry border, or it can be naturalized in a meadow. It spreads from rhizomes and is invasive in well-watered areas. Gooseberry Globemallow (*Sphaeralcea grossularifolia*) is a lower ground cover with orange flowers and gray-green incised leaves. Perennials.



Prince's Plume

Mustard family

Stanleya pinnata

- Host plant For Becker's white butterfly
- Size 4' High x 3' Wide
- Blooms Yellow plumes in spring
- Water Low
- Exposure Sun
- Areas Heights, Valley, West Mesa

Prince's Plume displays foot-long feathery plumes of yellow flowers on tall stalks. As flowers fade, they are replaced by long narrow drooping seedpods. The basal leaves are grayish. The delicate airy presence of these plants contrasts beautifully with more solid plants. Plant Prince's Plume in dry sandy soils, which is its native habitat. Perennial.



Perky Sue

Aster family

Tetranneuris argentea

- Size 7" High x 4" Wide
- Blooms Yellow flowers spring and summer
- Water Very low
- Exposure Full sun
- Areas All

Our earliest blooming daisy, Perky Sue, has bright flowers contrasting with long silvery silky leaves. One plant will sprout new plants close by, forming a clump. Perky Sue needs well-drained soil and prefers gravel mulch to bark mulch. Bitterweed (*Tetranneuris scaposa*) blooms about the same time, and is suitable for hotter, drier locations. Papery flowers float six to twelve inches above a dark basal rosette of fragrant grass-like leaves. Both daisies show well in dry borders, between rocks, and along dry streambeds. Perennials.



Desert Mule's Ear

Aster family

Wyethia scabra

- Size 12" High x 30" Wide
- Blooms Yellow flowers in mid-summer
- Water Very low
- Exposure Full sun
- Areas Heights, West Mesa

The wiry white stems of Desert Mule's Ear sprawl on the ground, carrying large daisies that smell like vanilla. *Scabra*, meaning "rough," describes the long coarse sandpapery leaves. Plant Desert Mule's Ear in a dry flowerbed or as a ground cover among sand-loving shrubs. This long-lived plant looks best when trimmed back to the crown in late winter. Desert Mule's Ear is adapted to sand. Perennial.



Prairie Zinnia

Aster family

Zinnia grandiflora

- Size 4" High x 6" Wide
- Blooms Yellow flowers summer and fall
- Water Low
- Exposure Full sun to light shade
- Areas All

Low compact Prairie Zinnias are covered entirely with yellow daisy-like flowers during blooming season. The flower heads consist of a few rotund rays surrounding an orange disk. When dried and faded, the papery flowers remain on the plant. Though slow to spread at first, this ground cover can creep over an extensive area after a few years. Prairie Zinnia is a natural in rock gardens. Perennial.

White Yarrow

[Enter family](#)

Achillea millefolium

Common Sunflower

Aster family

Helianthus annuus

Fleabane

Aster family

Erigeron formosissimus or Erigeron divergens

Whiplash Daisy

Aster family

Erigeron flagellaris

Golden columbine

Enter family

Aquilegia chrysantha

Red Columbine

Enter family

Aquilegia desertorum

Plains Coreopsis

Enter family

Coreopsis tinctoria

Goldenrod

Enter family

Solidago canadensis

Buffaloberry

Enter family

Shepherdia argentea

Sandia Mountain Coral Bells

Enter family

Heuchera puchella

False Indigo <i>Amorpha fruitocosa</i>	Enter family
Showy Milkweed <i>Asclepias speciosa</i>	Enter family
Whorled Milkweed <i>Asclepias subverticillata</i> Also known as Horsetail Milkweed	Enter family
Butterfly Milkweed <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Enter family
Prickly Poppy <i>Argemone pleiacanthum</i>	Enter family
Blue Flax <i>Linum lewisii</i>	Enter family
Purple Aster <i>Deiteria canescens</i>	Enter family
Black-eyed Susan <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Aster family
Cutleaf Coneflower <i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	Enter family
Germander <i>Teucrium laciniatum</i>	Enter family
Heartless Goldeneye <i>Viguera cordifolia</i>	Enter family