



U.S. Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

# Native Garden Guide for Homeowners Southwestern Idaho







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Note: the diagram on page 16 was recreated from *Nesting & Overwintering Habitat for Pollinators & Other Beneficial Insects*, Xerces Society, 2020. The original graphic is by Colleen Satyshur, Elaine Evans, Heather Holm and Sara Foltz Jordan.

## AUGUST 2024

Homeowners Edition

IDAHO STATE OFFICE  
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Boise, ID 83709







*Monarch on showy milkweed*

# Native Garden Guide

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# Introduction

Welcome to the Native Garden Guide for Homeowners. This guide was created to help homeowners create waterwise, wildlife-friendly gardens using plants suitable for southwestern Idaho. The information in this guide will assist homeowners and urban planners transform their landscapes into native gardens. All plants listed in this guide are native to Idaho or to adjacent states with the same growing conditions. The purpose of this guide is to:

- provide steps for developing and maintaining native gardens
- provide lists of locally adapted native plants
- aid in conserving water and attracting birds and pollinators



## Why Native Plants?

Native plant gardens can provide important habitat for animals such as birds and native pollinators (bees, butterflies, moths, humming-birds). Gardens can be used for nesting, foraging, shelter, and as stopovers during spring and fall migration. Native plants are adapted to the growing conditions in our area, thus requiring less water than introduced plants. They also support more insects, including native pollinators, than nonnative plants. This means more habitat for native bees and more food for insect-eating birds!

As our wildlife face declines from loss of habitat, it is particularly important that we be thoughtful in our choices in landscaping. Efforts to restore habitats for our wild birds and insects are taking place at the grassroots level by homeowners, community gardeners and through small-scale restoration efforts. Native plantings have the potential to cumulatively create habitat that sustains our local wildlife and creates corridors for regional expansion. To see how your efforts contribute to habitat connectivity, visit the Home Grown National Park website and register your native garden.

Wildlife aren't the only ones who benefit from native gardens. The connection to nature that results from time spent outside, whether remote wilderness or your native garden, have substantial benefits to your personal wellbeing. We are hardwired, as humans, to feel our best in nature. Even looking out the window to our gardens can have positive impacts on our mental health.

Start Your Garden

In this section we will provide you with some garden planning tools and inspiration to help you envision your new space. Below are the basic steps for creating your native garden. The following sections have more in-depth planning and design tips to guide you in plant selection and garden layout.

Basic Steps for a Home Garden

- 1. Decide what your garden priorities are (water savings, pollinators, monarch butterflies, birds etc.).
- 2. Decide how much time you have to spend on a garden.
- 3. Create a design from garden theme plant lists in this guide and adapt it to your space.
- 4. Figure out the cost of the garden. If you lack the funds, look for fall sales, grow plants from seed, or look for plant donations from fellow gardeners.
- 5. Clear the area to be planted.
- 6. Install hardscaping such as boulders, patios, and paths.
- 7. Install irrigation, if needed.
- 8. Plant.
- 9. Keep a planting plan. It helps with maintenance.
- 10. Mark your plants so you can tell the difference between what you planted and what is a weed.
- 11. Maintain your garden.

Personal Questionnaire

Before you jump into your project with a shovel or fill your car with plants, ask yourself some questions to gauge how you want to interact with your garden.



- 1. What are some essential components that you want in your backyard? Outdoor dining? Raised beds? Clothesline? Hammock or swings?
- 2. Do you have a vision for how your garden will look? Wild and meadow-like, tidy and formal, woody or desert look?
- 3. Do you plan to plant and care for the garden yourself? If so, how much time do you have to do this?
- 4. What are your priorities or motives for creating a native garden? Number these with 1 being the most important and 6 being the lowest.
  - \_\_\_\_\_create habitat for insects and birds
  - \_\_\_\_\_reduce water use
  - \_\_\_\_\_appreciate the beauty of native plants
  - \_\_\_\_\_provide a natural looking landscape
  - \_\_\_\_\_create a serene relaxing space
  - \_\_\_\_\_reduce maintenance

Garden Design

Gardens of any size or shape create habitat for wildlife and beautiful spaces for people to enjoy. They don’t have to be complicated or expensive. In this section, we present examples of small gardens to help you create a garden of your own, plus tips on design elements for a more polished effect.



Pineleaf Penstemon in red and yellow

- Invite children into the garden:
- hang a swing from a tree
  - create teepees made of sticks
  - provide natural, free-play materials such as rocks, pine cones, branches, shells, and stumps
  - create gnome and fairy gardens from natural materials

Design Tips

CUES TO CARE—ways to show that your garden is intentional.

- Clearly delineate your garden with a border or maintained edge to demonstrate that it is a purposeful space.
- Add seating such as boulders and benches.
- Add garden art, bird feeders and baths, and seating to show structure and purpose.
- Install a sign to let others know the intention and purpose of your planting. Golden Eagle Audubon Society has Habitat Patch signs for gardens that qualify or order a pollinator garden sign from the Xerces Society. <https://gifts.xerces.org/>, or [pollinator.org](https://pollinator.org).
- Use plants that are short and compact along sidewalks, driveways, and paths.





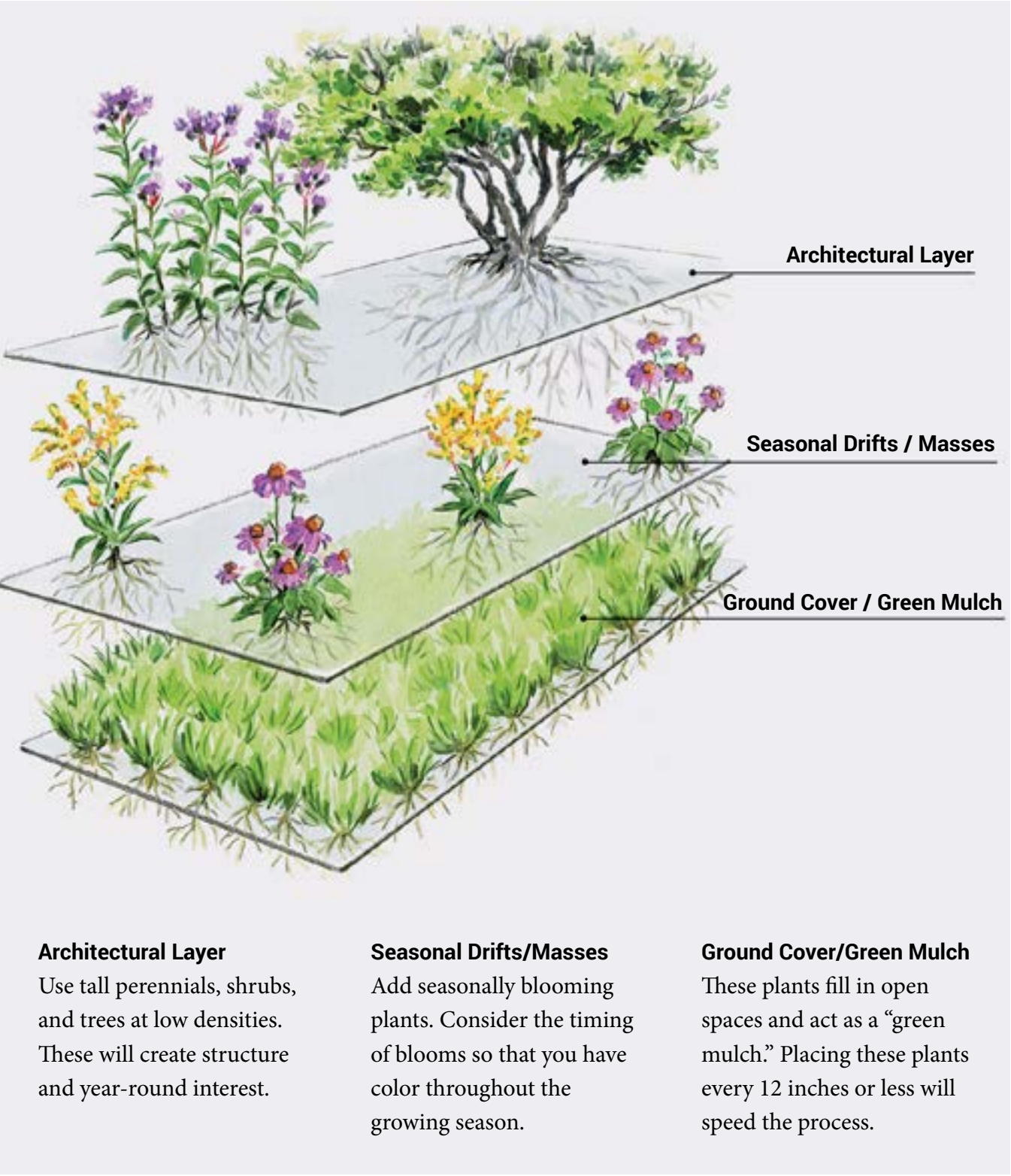
Plant Arrangement

- Start small! When learning how to garden, start with a small space. You can always add to your garden later.
- High density plantings = fewer weeds = less maintenance. Nature abhors a vacuum and something will grow in any open space. You can decide if that will be a weed or a plant of your choosing.



Example of high-density planting

- Place tall plants in the back of the garden if your space backs up to a building
- If your space is visible from both sides, place your tallest plants in the middle of the garden





- Create depth by contouring the ground with berms and planting taller plants on mounds.
- Use multiples of plants in groups of 3s or 5s.
- Anticipate areas of high traffic where garden trampling could occur. Place paths or stepping stones in these areas or plant masses of rugged plants such as bunchgrasses that can withstand foot traffic or line with shrubs that will prevent entrance to the area.
- Knowing the sociability of different plants can help you determine if you want to take a particular plant home from the nursery with you. Plants can generally be categorized in one of the following ways in terms of how they behave in the garden:
  1. Behaved Clumper - Keeps its shape and grows to mature size without spreading into adjacent areas.
  2. Slow - Light Spreader - Will expand to form a larger colony or will fill in with seedlings immediately adjacent to the parent plant.
  3. Moderate Spreader - Will form manageable colonies either through vegetative growth or through seedlings in open spaces beyond its immediate vicinity.
  4. Aggressive Spreader - Will occupy all available space as long as there are resources to be had. Can be difficult to maintain over time.

A Behaved Clumper would be perfect for the front of your bed or as an Architectural Layer but wouldn't work well if you are looking for a spreading ground cover. An Aggressive Spreader would be difficult to manage in a small garden but great for filling large spaces.

Here are examples of plants commonly used in native gardens and their behavior types:

**BEHAVED CLUMPER**  
Coyote mint  
Fernbush  
Globemallow  
Indian ricegrass  
Littleflower penstemon  
Sundancer daisy

**MODERATE SPREADER**  
Blanketflower  
Bluebunch wheatgrass  
Hummingbird trumpet  
Littleleaf pussytoes  
Snowberry  
White alumroot

**SLOW-LIGHT SPREADER**  
Basin wildrye  
Mock Orange  
Sulfur buckwheat  
Tufted evening primrose  
White Doll's daisy/Boltonia  
Wooly sunflower

**AGGRESSIVE SPREADER**  
Canada goldenrod  
Fireweed  
Idaho fescue  
Showy goldeneye  
Showy milkweed

Native Gardens in Southwestern Idaho

Below is a list of native garden locations if you want to see different types of gardens to help you as you plan and design your own garden.

1. Boise Fire Station 12  
3240 State Highway 21, Boise 83716
2. City of Boise Pollinator Gardens at  
Ann Morrison Park, 1000 S. Americana Boulevard  
Bernadine Quinn Riverside Park, 3150 W. Pleasanton Avenue  
Boise Urban Garden School at Comba Park, 2995 N. Five Mile Road  
Dick Early Senior Center, 690 Robbins Road  
Foothills Learning Center, 3188 Sunset Peak Road  
Terry Day Park, 1225 S. Federal Way and  
Warm Springs Park. 250 S. Marden Lane  
Visit [www.cityofboise.org/departments/parks-and-recreation/parks/](http://www.cityofboise.org/departments/parks-and-recreation/parks/)
3. Chinden Garden Club Garden (Library)  
6015 N. Glenwood St., Garden City 83714
4. First Presbyterian Church  
950 W State St, Boise ID 83702
5. Hawthorne Elementary Outdoor Classroom  
2401 W. Targhee Street, Boise 83705
6. Idaho Botanical Garden: Idaho Native Plant Garden, Lewis and Clark Native Plant Garden, Western Waterwise Garden, Firewise Garden and Water Conservation Landscape  
2355 N. Old Penitentiary Rd, Boise, ID 83712
7. Lake Hazel Library  
10489 W. Lake Hazel Road Road, Boise 83709
8. Lewis and Clark Garden, and Firewise Garden at the Idaho Botanical Garden  
2355 Old Penitentiary Road, Boise 83712
9. Lowell Elementary School  
1507 N 28th St, Boise 83703
10. MK Nature Center  
600 S Walnut St, Boise 83712
11. Roosevelt Elementary Outdoor Classroom  
908 E. Jefferson St., Boise 83712





*Plant low-growing plants in front and tall plants in back.*

## Bird Habitat Garden

Planting a garden that provides food and shelter will attract birds which, with their bright colors and beautiful songs, will enhance your enjoyment of the garden. Birds prefer dense shrubs as hiding places from which they venture out to find food. Most birds eat some combination of seeds, fruits and insects so a garden that provides a little of each is more likely to attract a variety of birds. Larger gardens with trees and shrubs can also provide habitat for nesting and cover. Features of a bird habitat garden include:

- plantings rich in berry producing shrubs
- high diversity of seasonal plants with a focus on Aster and Buckwheat families for seed eaters
- plants such as hackberry and chokecherry that support strong insect communities for insect eaters
- range of heights of shrubs for nesting/roosting habitat

The plant list on page 10 can help you design a bird-friendly garden. You can choose as many plants as desired from each layer and build the structure to match your space. Select a variety of plants with different bloom times so that food will be available to birds from spring through fall.

Most of the birds who visit your garden rely on insects, especially caterpillars, to feed their nestlings. And insects rely on native plants. Gardening for an abundance of insects is essentially gardening for birds.



Chipping Sparrow



BIRD HABITAT GARDEN				
SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	BLOOM TIME	FLOWER/FOLIAGE COLOR	PLANT HEIGHT
GROUND COVER/GREEN MULCH LAYER				
<i>Acrtostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Kinnikinnick	Spring	Pink	6”
<i>Festuca idahoensis</i>	Idaho Fescue	Early Summer	Green, Blue-green grass	18”
<i>Heuchera cylindrica</i>	Roundleaf Alumroot	Early Summer	White	12”
SEASONAL DRIFTS/MASSES LAYER				
<i>Asclepias speciosa</i>	Showy Milkweed	Mid-Summer	Pale pink, white	48”
<i>Eriogonum compositum</i>	Arrowleaf Buckwheat	Early Summer	White-cream	12”
<i>Eriogonum strictum</i>	Strict Buckwheat	Fall	White flowers, silver foliage	12”
<i>Erigeron speciosus</i>	Aspen Fleabane	Summer-Fall	Purple	24”+
<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i>	Sulfur Buckwheat	Spring	Yellow	12”
<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>	Blanket Flower	Mid-Summer	Red-yellow	24”
<i>Hymenoxys hoopesii</i>	Owl’s Claws	Spring	Yellow-orange	30”
<i>Tetraneuris acaulis</i>	Sundancer Daisy	Mid-Summer	Yellow	12”
ARCHITECTURAL LAYER				
<i>Amalanchier alnifolia</i>	Western Serviceberry	Spring	White	60”+
<i>Celtis reticulata</i>	Netleaf Hackberry	Spring	White	13’
<i>Cercocarpus ledifolius</i>	Curl-Leaf Mountain Mahogany	Spring	Cream	96”+
<i>Juniperus sp.</i>	Juniper (Tree)	Spring	NA	20’+
<i>Krascheninnikovia lanata</i>	Winterfat	Early Summer	White, silver	30”
<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Quaking Aspen	Spring	Green	40-50’
<i>Prunus virginiana*</i>	Chokecherry	Spring	White	10’+
<i>Ribes aureum</i>	Golden Currant	Spring	Yellow	36”+
<i>Sambucus nigra cerulea*</i>	Blue Elderberry	Early Summer	White flowers, purple/black fruits	10’
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Snowberry	Spring	Pink	48”
* Very good for birds but requires annual pruning and shaping or will occupy a wide space.				

All bird photos on pages 9-11 are courtesy of Ceredig Roberts



Cedar Waxwing



Bewick's Wren

### Invite Birds Into Your Garden



American Goldfinch



American Robin



Black-capped Chickadee



Dark-eyed Junco



Song Sparrow



White-crowned Sparrow

Install owl boxes and kestrel boxes  
 Provide clean water sources  
 Include berry-producing shrubs and trees  
 Plant a high diversity of plants to support the insects for birds to eat





*Native garden with a rock border to define edges.*



*Example of a native garden in Boise with a shade shelter.*

## Pollinator Habitat Garden

The whir of hummingbird wings and buzzing from bees is the sound of a vibrant pollinator garden. Gardening for pollinators brings beauty to the landscape and provides habitat for pollinators such as hummingbirds, bees, butterflies, moths, and beetles. A garden that includes a mix of colors, bloom times, and flower shapes will host a large diversity of pollinators that often have unique flower preferences. Often unnoticed, insects are our most important pollinators. Bees pollinate approximately 75 percent of the fruits, nuts, and vegetables in the United States and over 80 percent of flowering plants. Planting a garden for these small creatures can make a big difference to our environment. Features of a pollinator garden include:

- plants with staggered blooming times to provide nectar and pollen from spring to fall
- a diversity of flower types/shapes for different pollinators
- day and evening flowering plants
- plants that support both larval and adult phases of pollinating insects
- nesting habitat such as bare soil areas and hollow plant stems

The plant list on page 15 can help you design a pollinator-friendly garden. Pay close attention to the flowering periods for each plant you select so that you can support the food needs of the pollinators throughout the entire season.

Honeybees are a common sight in gardens but are European and not native to the United States. They are considered a managed livestock animal such as chickens or goats. Idaho has a diverse native bee community of mostly solitary (not hive forming) bees and therefore, are not protecting food stores as European honeybees do. This means they are

not likely to sting you unless you accidentally step or sit on them. Approximately 70% of our native bees nest in tunnels underground and around 30% nest in stems of plants or in cavities of woody material. Bumblebees also nest underground, often in an abandoned rodent hole. Keeping some bare areas in your garden and limiting soil disturbance is a great way to encourage native bees to raise their young in your garden.



*Bronze copper butterfly on buckwheat*



*Globemallow bee in globemallow flower*



Garden Maintenance for Pollinators

- Use a fine gravel mulch such as decomposed granite or leave some bare areas for ground-nesting bees.
- Include logs and hollow stems for cavity nesting bees.
- Piles of rocks, leaf litter or logs will provide overwintering habitat or make a bee house for a cleaner look.
- Water in early morning when mother bees are home in the nest. Daytime watering can flood or obscure nest sites for bees who are out foraging, making it hard to locate their nests when they return.
- Do not use landscape fabric/barrier in the garden. It is impermeable to ground nesting insects.
- Go chemical free
- Many pollinators such as moths are attracted to lights and will exhaust themselves and dive at lights. Keep outdoor lighting off at night during the growing season or use motion detector lights. Another option is using a yellow bulb that does not attract insects. Pointing your lights downward is beneficial for insects and reducing light pollution.
- Keep flower and grass stems up through the winter and into late spring - insects often lay their eggs on or inside plant stems and emerge the following year.
- When cutting back flower stems in the spring, cut stem heights between 8-24 inches to provide open/hollow stem nesting sites for bees. Keep your eye out for bees shopping around your stems for a good nest site. Keep the cut stems in place through the following spring season.
- Leave a light layer of leaves in the garden as a winter blanket to protect overwintering insects and their larvae.



Evidence of stem-nesting bees in a Rocky Mountain penstemon.

- Wait until late spring to work in the garden. The insect larvae under leaves or in stems will need a chance to emerge.
- Following spring pruning of plants, leave cuttings of hollow-stemmed plants bundled on site.

Flower Shape Preferences

Long, tubular flowers—hummingbirds, moths, butterflies, long-tongued bees

Disk or daisy-shaped flowers—bumblebees and butterflies

Bell-shaped flowers—long-tongued bees and bumblebees


Bowl or buttercup-shaped flowers—flies, beetles, honey bees and solitary bees

Pea-shaped flowers—honey bees and solitary bees


POLLINATOR HABITAT GARDEN				
SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	BLOOM TIME	FLOWER/FOLIAGE COLOR	PLANT HEIGHT
GROUND COVER/GREEN MULCH				
<i>Antennaria microphylla</i>	Dwarf Pussytoes	Early Summer	Pink	5"
<i>Actrostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Kinickinick	Spring	Pink	6"
<i>Epilobium canum</i>	Hummingbird Trumpet	Late Summer/Fall		
<i>Festuca idahoensis</i>	Idaho Fescue (Grass)	Early Summer	Green, Blue-green	18"
<i>Oenothera caespitosa</i>	Tufted Evening Primrose	Summer	White	6"
<i>Penstemon davidsonii</i>	Davidson's Penstemon	Spring	Purple	6"
SEASONAL DRIFTS/MASSES LAYER				
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp Milkweed	Mid-Summer	Pale to dark pink	48"
<i>Asclepias speciosus</i>	Showy Milkweed (can spread extensively in the garden).	Mid-Summer	Pale pink, white	48"
<i>Cleome serrulata</i> *	Rocky Mountain Bee Plant	Summer	Yellow	60"
<i>Eriogonum heracleoides</i>	Wyeth Buckwheat	Summer	Cream	12"
<i>Eriophyllum lanatum</i>	Wooly Sunflower	Summer	Yellow	8"
<i>Eriogonum strictum</i>	Strict Buckwheat	Fall	White flowers, silver foliage	12"
<i>Heliomeris multiflora</i>	Showy Goldeneye	Summer	Yellow	12"
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Wild Bergamot	Summer	Purple	24"+
<i>Penstemon procerus</i>	Little Flower Penstemon	Spring	Purple	12"
<i>Pseudoroegneria spicata</i>	Bluebunch Wheatgrass	Early Summer	Yellow	24"
<i>Sphaeralcea munroana</i>	Munro's Globemallow	Summer	Orange	24"
ARCHITECTURAL LAYER				
<i>Chamaebatiaria millefolium</i>	Fernbush	Summer	White	72"
<i>Ericameria nauseosus</i>	Rubber Rabbitbrush	Fall	Yellow	24"+
<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	Annual Sunflower	Summer-Fall	Yellow	60"
<i>Leymus cinereus</i>	Basin Wildrye	Summer	Blue-Green Leaves	36" to 72"
<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	Mock Orange	Early Summer	White	10-15'
<i>Salvia dorrii</i>	Purple Sage	Summer	Purple	36"
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Snowberry	Spring	Pink	up to 48"
*Annual that may be an initial and temporary plant in the garden. Can scatter seed during the first year to provide quick impact. Sow seeds in early winter for spring germination.				

Flower Color Preferences


Bees—  
blue, purple, white  
and yellow




Butterflies—  
red, orange, yellow,  
pink and purple



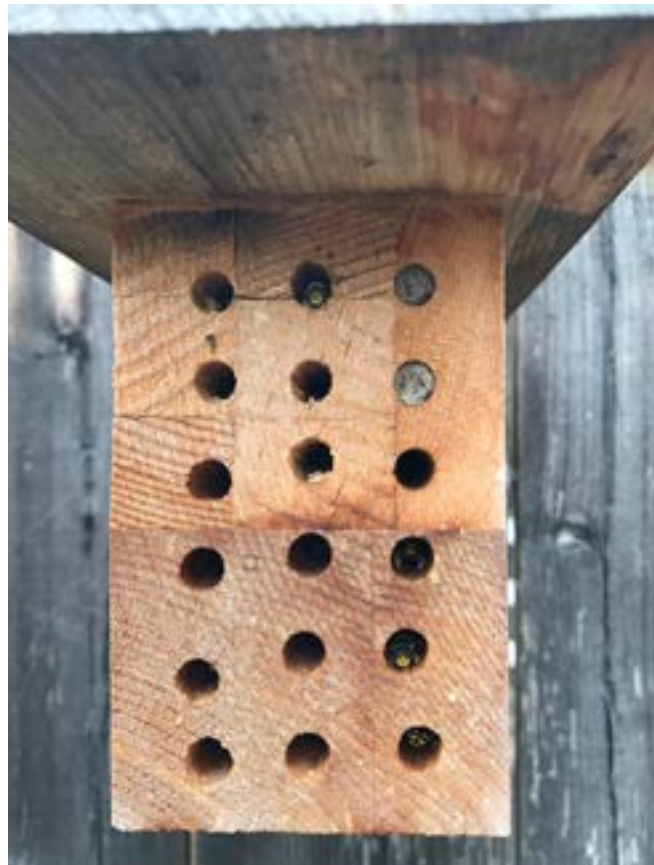
Moths—  
white, pale pinks  
and yellows



Hummingbirds—  
red and orange







Do-It-Yourself bee box

## Creating Habitat for Stem-nesting Bees

### WINTER

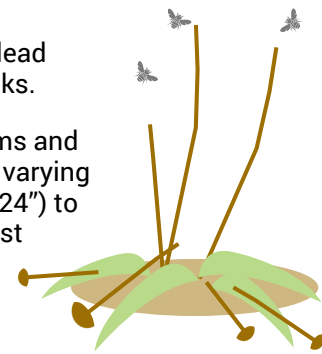
Leave dead flower stalks intact over the winter.



### SPRING

Cut back dead flower stalks.

Leave stems and stubble of varying height (8"-24") to provide nest cavities.



Female bees find an open stem, make a nest, and lay an egg on pollen balls. Bee larvae will later eat the pollen.



### SUMMER

New growth of the perennial hides the stem stubble

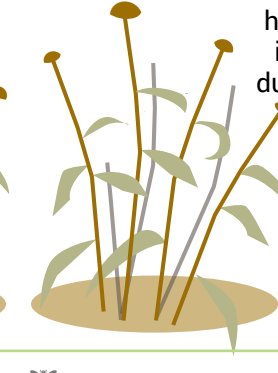


Bee larvae develop in the open dead stems during the plant's growing season.



### FALL

### WINTER



Bees hibernate in stems during the winter.



### SPRING

Cut back dead flower stalks.



Adults bees emerge and start nests in newly-cut stems.



## Creating Habitat for Leaf Cutter Bees or Mason Bees

Drill holes in a log or non-treated piece of wood that is at least 6 inches deep. Drill holes can vary between 5/16 and 3/8 inch in diameter. Drill 3-5 inches deep for small diameter holes and 5+ inches deep for larger diameter holes. Do not drill all the way through the wood. Hang in sunny spot at eye level so you can watch the activity!



Mason Bee

## Monarch Butterfly Garden

The monarch butterfly is a beautiful orange and black butterfly that is found throughout the contiguous United States. They are known best for their long-distance migrations to either Mexico or California to overwinter. The western population of monarchs (those west of the Rocky Mountains) overwinter in California and breed in the western states. The Snake River Plain of Idaho is one of the best breeding areas for monarch butterflies in the West. The western population of monarchs has declined dramatically in the past couple of decades likely due to loss of habitat and pesticides. You can help monarchs by planting a garden with specific features:

- Milkweed for caterpillars—the only plant adults will lay their eggs on and the only plant the caterpillars will eat.
- Nectar plants for adults with overlapping bloom times from late May to mid October.

- Flower colors that attract butterflies—red, orange, yellow, pink, purple.
- Plantings grouped by color to create a large visual target that can be easily spotted by high-flying monarchs
- Puddling habitat (water and minerals) in the form of damp areas of soil or a shallow dish filled with water and pebbles.
- No pesticides—herbicides, insecticides or fungicides.

Once milkweed is established, check the underside of leaves for eggs or for caterpillars. The eggs and first phase of the caterpillar are tiny, so look carefully! Once the caterpillar reaches full size, it will form a chrysalis and emerge as a butterfly approximately 10 days later. Milkweed takes two years to bloom if it is grown from seed.



Monarch butterfly in chrysalis stage (top left), caterpillar stage (lower left) and adult stage on Showy Milkweed (right).



Invite Pollinators Into Your Garden



*Blister Beetle on Rabbitbrush*



*Brown-belted Bumblebee*



*Common Checkered Skipper*



*Hunt's Bumblebee on Wild Bergamot*



*Golden Northern Bumblebee*



*Leafcutter Bee*

Leave patches of bare ground to encourage ground nesting pollinators such as mining bees and bumblebees

Invite Pollinators Into Your Garden



*Morrison's Bumblebee*



*Striped Sweatbee*



*Bee Fly (left) and Chimney Bee (right)*



*Wool carder bee on Penstemon*



*Drone Fly on Aster*



*Monarch Butterfly*





Invite Pollinators Into Your Garden



Painted Lady Butterfly



Plume Moth



Orange Blister Beetle



Western Tiger Swallowtail



White-lined Sphinx Moth (caterpillar stage)



White-lined Sphinx Moth

Invite Pollinators Into Your Garden



Mariposa Park Pollinator Garden



Lake Hazel Library Pollinator Garden (above).



Narrow or small spaces are beautified when planted with pollinator plants.



Invite Pollinators Into Your Garden



Terry Day Park Pollinator Garden



Bernadine Quinn Pollinator Garden

Warm Springs Park Pollinator Garden



Sensory Garden

Awaken your senses with the tart taste of golden currants and the sweet smell of bitterbrush in a sensory garden full of native plants. Gardens can promote learning and memory through sensory stimulation, especially through scented plants such as coyote mint and sagebrush. Creating a physical connection with a garden engages us and draws our attention more fully to the present. When all of our senses are activated, our brain function increases dramatically.

- Features of a sensory garden:
- Scented plants that are hardy to withstand regular handling
  - A range of contrasting textures and shapes for visual interest
  - Low-growing plants that are in reach of young explorers
  - Features such as natural-material wind chimes, art, and rocks with interesting surfaces

You can select from the plant lists below and page 24 to create your sensory garden. Pay attention to the flowering periods for each plant you select so you can have blooms through the entire season.



- SIGHT**
- Prairie smoke (seed heads with feathery plumes)
  - Needle & thread grass (shiny seeds with long tails that blow in wind)
  - Smoothstem blazingstar (large yellow star-shaped flowers)
  - Sticky geranium (bright pink flowers with nectary guides on petals)



- SOUND**
- Birds chirping, bees buzzing and wind rustling quaking aspen leaves
  - Rattling seed pods of wild iris and sego lily seed heads



- SMELL**
- Coyote mint (leaves)
  - Sagebrush (leaves)
  - Bitterbrush (flowers and leaves)
  - Evening primrose (flowers)
  - Purple sage (leaves)
  - Golden currant (flowers)



- TASTE**
- Golden currant (berries)
  - Elderberries
  - Serviceberries
  - Wild onion (bulbs)



- TOUCH**
- Smoothstem blazingstar (velcro-like leaves)
  - Sticky geranium (sticky leaves that trap and partially digest insects)
  - Needle & thread grass (sharp tipped seed head with long tail that curls when moist)
  - Curl-leaf mountain mahogany (feathery seed plumes and thick leathery leaves)



SENSORY GARDEN

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	BLOOM TIME	FLOWER/FOLIAGE COLOR	PLANT HEIGHT
GROUND COVER/GREEN MULCH				
<i>Geum triflorum</i>	Prairie Smoke	Summer	Rose-red	1 ft
<i>Monardella odoratis-sima</i>	Coyote Mint	Spring - Summer	Purple	1 ft.
SEASONAL DRIFTS/MASSES LAYER				
<i>Achnatherum hymen-oides</i>	Indian Ricegrass	Spring	Green	1-2 ft.
<i>Hesperostipa comata</i>	Needle and Thread Grass	Spring	Green	2 ft
<i>Salvia dorrii</i>	Purple Sage	Spring - Summer	Blue - Purple	2 -3 ft
<i>Geranium viscosissimum</i>	Sticky Geranium	Spring - Summer	Pink	2 ft
<i>Mentzelia laevicaulis</i>	Smoothstem Blazing-star	Summer	Yellow	1 – 3 ft
<i>Asclepias fascicularis</i>	Narrow-leafed Milk-weed	Summer	Pink, White, Purple	2 – 3 ft
<i>Oenothera caespitosa</i>	Tufted Evening Prim-rose	Spring - Summer	White	6 in
ARCHITECTURAL LAYER				
<i>Cercocarpus ledifolius</i>	Curl-leaf Mountain Mahogany	Spring	Yellow	10 – 15 ft
<i>Artemisia tridentata</i> ssp. <i>vaseyana</i>	Mountain Big Sage-brush	Fall	Yellow	6 ft
<i>Purshia tridentata</i>	Bitterbrush	Spring	Yellow	4-6 ft
<i>Ribes aureum</i>	Golden Currant	Spring	Yellow	5 ft



Coyote Mint

Art in the Garden

Art in the garden adds personality to your garden and can be used to highlight your garden theme.



Bee sculpture



MK Nature Center



Rattlesnake silhouette garden art



Hummingbird garden sign



# Dig Deeper



- Visit the MK Nature Center in Boise
- Visit the Birds of Prey Visitor Center in Boise
- Join/Follow the Golden Eagle Audubon Society for Bird Walks and Educational Talks
- Certify your garden as a Habitat Patch with the Golden Eagle Audubon Society and receive a yard sign: [www.goldeneagleaudubon.org/habitat-patch-program](http://www.goldeneagleaudubon.org/habitat-patch-program)
- Travel the Idaho Birding Trail (<https://idfg.idaho.gov/ibt>)
- Download the Field Guide to Boise's Birds: <https://www.cityofboise.org/media/1550/field-guide-to-boises-birds-101415.pdf>
- Join the Idaho Native Plant Society
- Take part in Citizen Science with eBird, iNaturalist, and Bumble Bee Watch apps.
- Volunteer with the City of Boise Caring for Parks Program which includes City Nature Challenge, Community Science Programs, Pollinator Posse, Adopt-a-habitat and more nature-based volunteer groups. Check out <https://app.betterimpact.com/PublicEnterprise/EnterpriseSearch?EnterpriseGuid=2a2fdaa1-32e5-4ef4-8eef-3cae02a41ce7&SearchType=Organization&SearchId=1025>

## Read

- *Nature's Best Hope* by Douglas W. Tallamy
- *Gardening for the Birds. How to Create a Bird-Friendly Backyard* by George Adams
- *Attracting Native Pollinators. Protecting North America's Bees and Butterflies* by The Xerces Society Guide
- *Planting in a Post-Wild World. Designing Plant Communities for Resilient Landscapes* by Thomas Rainer and Claudia West
- *Bumble Bees of North America* by Paul Williams, Robbin Thorp, Leif Richardson, and Sheila Colla
- *Tiny + Wild. Build a Small-Scale Meadow Anywhere* by Graham Laird Gardner
- *Sagebrush Country* by Ron Taylor
- *The Well-Gardened Mind: The Restorative Power of Nature* by Sue Stuart-Smith



Globemallow (*Sphaeralcea* spp.)

# Implementation

It is important to know the sequence of events, what help you will need, and the tools you will need before you start your garden project. Always know what is underground before you start digging. Utilities can sometimes be located at a surprisingly shallow depth.

Just like math problems, there is an order of operations to converting your lawn or weedy space to a native garden. Details are described in the following sections.

1. Have your design mapped out, a plant list ready, and sources for materials identified
2. Kill or remove your lawn or weeds
3. Install hardscaping such as paths
4. Set up your irrigation for a drip system
5. Purchase and lay out your plants
6. Plant
7. Lay out drip lines to plants and test the irrigation system
8. Apply mulch



Box of plants ready to go!



Native plant garden with rock landscaping



### Site Preparation

Turf grass is extremely competitive with native plants and will need to be killed or removed in order to have a more compatible ground cover and mulch. Once your sod is killed or removed you can install your plants and surround them with a thick layer of fine gravel or decomposed granite mulch or a bark mulch. These types of mulches will allow water to soak into the soil and your plants’ roots.

### Killing Sod

You can kill your sod by placing cardboard or brown craft paper over grass that has been cut very short, making sure to overlap by 3 inches. Wet the cardboard or paper down and apply a 2-3 inch mulch on top. Cardboard will decompose over 3-4 months if watered periodically. Thinner craft paper will decompose quicker. Once the sod has decomposed, you are ready to plant or seed your bed.

Use only plain brown cardboard with no inks or slick surfaces to reduce the risk of PFAs.

A second way to eliminate sod is to solarize the grass. This process takes about six weeks and should occur during hot summer months. First cut the grass very short then water it until the soil is saturated about 1-foot deep. Cover the sod with 3-4 mil clear plastic, extending the plastic 6-8 inches over the edge of the grass. Anchor the plastic with rocks, bricks, or wood. Remove the plastic and plant into the dead sod or add another layer of topsoil. Do not till the soil because it could expose buried weed seeds and stimulate their growth.

A third way to kill your grass is to apply a thick 6-inch layer of bark mulch and wait for the grass to die underneath. Excess bark can be raked away when planting.

### Removing Sod

There are several ways to eliminate turf before you plant. The quickest way is to hire someone to cut the sod out with a sod cutter machine or rent one yourself. If the soil is compacted or grass has been on the site for a long time, consider hiring professionals to bring in quality machines to cut the sod, rather than renting and performing this yourself. Once the sod is cut, it can be rolled and stacked to form berms or create elevation change throughout your garden. Be aware that the sod will decompose and settle over time. Stack your sod at least a third higher than you want the final height of the berm.

### Planting

Once your bed is ready, its time to lay out all those plants! Its best to lay out all of your ground cover layer plants first, with the goal of 12-inch spacing. Next place your seasonal drifts or masses of mid-height perennials. Lastly place your taller architectural plants. Don’t worry if your actual layout differs a bit from your paper design.

Make sure your plants are well watered before planting. When planting, be sure to loosen roots on the outer edges giving the plant encouragement to grow into its new soil.

Water well after planting. Water daily and deeply for the first week or two to encourage roots to engage with your soil.

### Irrigation

Native gardens require only 10% of the water used to maintain a grass lawn, but they still need supplemental water while they are getting established and during the long, hot summer months. In-line emitter tube drip systems are best for gardens that are densely planted with little space between plants.

If you have in-ground sprinklers, the simplest and most water efficient way to water your native garden is by converting the existing sprinkler heads to drip watering using a “retrofit kit”. You can connect half inch emitter tubing (drip emitters built into the tubing at every 12 inches) and lay the tubing along your plants.

Plant in damp soil, group plants by their water requirements and water deeply immediately after planting.

### How Often to Water?

NEW PLANTING (up to 6 months)  
Newly planted plant roots only have access to the moisture in the root ball/container shape. You will need to water new plantings daily for the first week or two. From week 3 until the plants are established, water 2-3 times a week. Fall plantings don’t need to be watered in the winter. Make sure the water percolates deeply into the soil, training the roots to grow deeply.

ESTABLISHED PLANTINGS (6 months onward)  
Water deeply once a week. Water more frequently during prolonged hot spells.



A dripline with embedded emitters

### Weed Barrier

Weed barrier is not recommended for the following reasons:

- holes in the fabric meant to let water through can become clogged with dust and irrigation water minerals creating dead zones in the soil below;
- ground-nesting pollinators attracted to your garden cannot penetrate the fabric to create nests;
- exposed weed barrier can be unsightly; and
- weeds can grow in the mulch layer above the barrier.



Mulch

There are a variety of mulch options to suit your preferences. Things to consider when selecting a mulch material are the size and the weight. Small diameter mulches such as “chat” (similar to decomposed granite) are preferred because they allow plants to spread and reseed naturally and have good infiltration and drainage. Larger rock, especially if it’s dark colored can be a harsh, hot environment for a plant to grow in.

If you are moving the mulch yourself and have a large garden to cover, a lightweight mulch such as bark mulch may be desirable.

More details on the advantages and disadvantages of rock and bark mulch are listed below.

Advantages of a Larger Rock Mulch

- fewer fines for weed germination
- rarely needs to be added to over the years

Disadvantages of a Larger Rock Mulch

- difficult to walk on
- natural germination and recruitment of desired garden plants is less likely

Advantages of Bark Mulch

- easily available
- small bark pieces eventually decompose to build soil

Disadvantages of Bark Mulch

- needs to be replenished more frequently
- does not mimic natural growing conditions for xeric plants
- expensive
- can scatter during windstorms
- may be used by outdoor cats as cat litter

Mulch Calculations

A good mulch for native plants is crushed rock that drains water well and mimics natural seed beds for many plants. This type of mulch is often called decomposed granite, chat, or manufactured sand and is inexpensive and easily available. Pea gravel is also a good choice for native gardens. When ordering, err on the side of excess so that you will have an adequate depth to deter weeds. For large gardens, using a conveyored material truck to distribute the mulch is advised.

Calculate depth in feet, then calculate quantities of mulch or soil. (planting area in ft2 x depth of mulch in feet\*) ÷ 27 ft3 /yd3 = yd3

A layer of mulch 3 inches deep over a project area of 1,000 ft2 would require 250 ft3 or 9.25 yd3 of mulch.

The online calculator is helpful at [www.globalrph.com/start/landscape.htm](http://www.globalrph.com/start/landscape.htm)



Material

NATIVE PLANTS

College of Western Idaho Plant Sale  
<http://cwidaho.cc/program/horticulture-technology>  
College of Western Idaho, Nampa

Draggin’ Wing Nursery, 208-345-4199  
<http://waterthriftyplants.com>  
5300 Stinger Dr., Boise

FarWest Nursery, 208-853-4000  
<http://farwestgardencenter.net/>  
5728 W. State St., Boise

Idaho Native Plant Society Native Plant Sale in April  
<https://idahonativeplants.org/pahove/>  
MK Nature Center, Boise

North End Organic Nursery  
<https://www.northendnursery.com>  
3777 W. Chinden Blvd., Garden City

Plants of the Wild, 509-284-2848  
<http://www.plantsofthewild.com>  
Tekoa, WA

Sego Lily Native Gardens, 208-602-5592  
[segolilynativegardens@gmail.com](mailto:segolilynativegardens@gmail.com)

Twin Peaks Nursery, 208-634-3062  
51 East Lake Fork Road, McCall  
[twinpeaksnursery@twinpeaksnursery.com](mailto:twinpeaksnursery@twinpeaksnursery.com)

Xeric Gardening, Boise, 208-850-9981  
[xericgardening.com](http://xericgardening.com)  
[xericgardening@hotmail.com](mailto:xericgardening@hotmail.com)

LANDSCAPE DESIGN IN BOISE

Bee Wise Gardens  
[beewisegardens.com](http://beewisegardens.com)

Sego Lily Native Gardens, 208-602-5592  
[segolilynativegardens@gmail.com](mailto:segolilynativegardens@gmail.com)

Xeric Gardening, Boise, 208-850-9981  
[xericgardening.com](http://xericgardening.com)  
[xericgardening@hotmail.com](mailto:xericgardening@hotmail.com)

SOIL

Cloverdale Nursery  
208-375-5262  
<http://www.cloverdalenursery.com/>  
2528 N. Cloverdale Rd., Boise

Edwards Greenhouse, 208-342-7548  
<http://www.edwardsgreenhouse.com/>  
4106 Sand Creek St., Boise

North End Nursery, 208-389-4769  
<http://www.northendnursery.com/>  
3777 W. Chinden Blvd., Garden City

ROCK (Boulders)

Rock Placing Company, 208-855-2277  
<http://www.rockplacingco.com>  
513 West Franklin Rd., Meridian

GRAVEL (and Chat)

Ada Sand and Gravel, 208-368-0100  
<http://adasandandgravel.com>  
9501 S. Pleasant Valley Rd., Boise

Ruschman’s Sand and Gravel, 208-331-9222  
<http://ruschmansandandgravel.net>  
9400 Pleasant Valley Rd., Boise

Victory Greens, 208-888-5551  
<http://www.victorygreens.com>  
100 E. Victory Rd., Meridian







## Maintenance

Although your garden will require less weekly labor and water than a lawn, it still will need tending on a regular basis to keep it tidy. One big difference in maintaining a native garden is that you will be letting your garden sleep in later in the spring so that you do not disturb overwintering insects or crush larvae of pollinators. Wait until the apple trees are flowering or as late as you can tolerate.

To make maintenance easier, make a map of your garden and plant markers to help you identify what you planted and what is a weed.

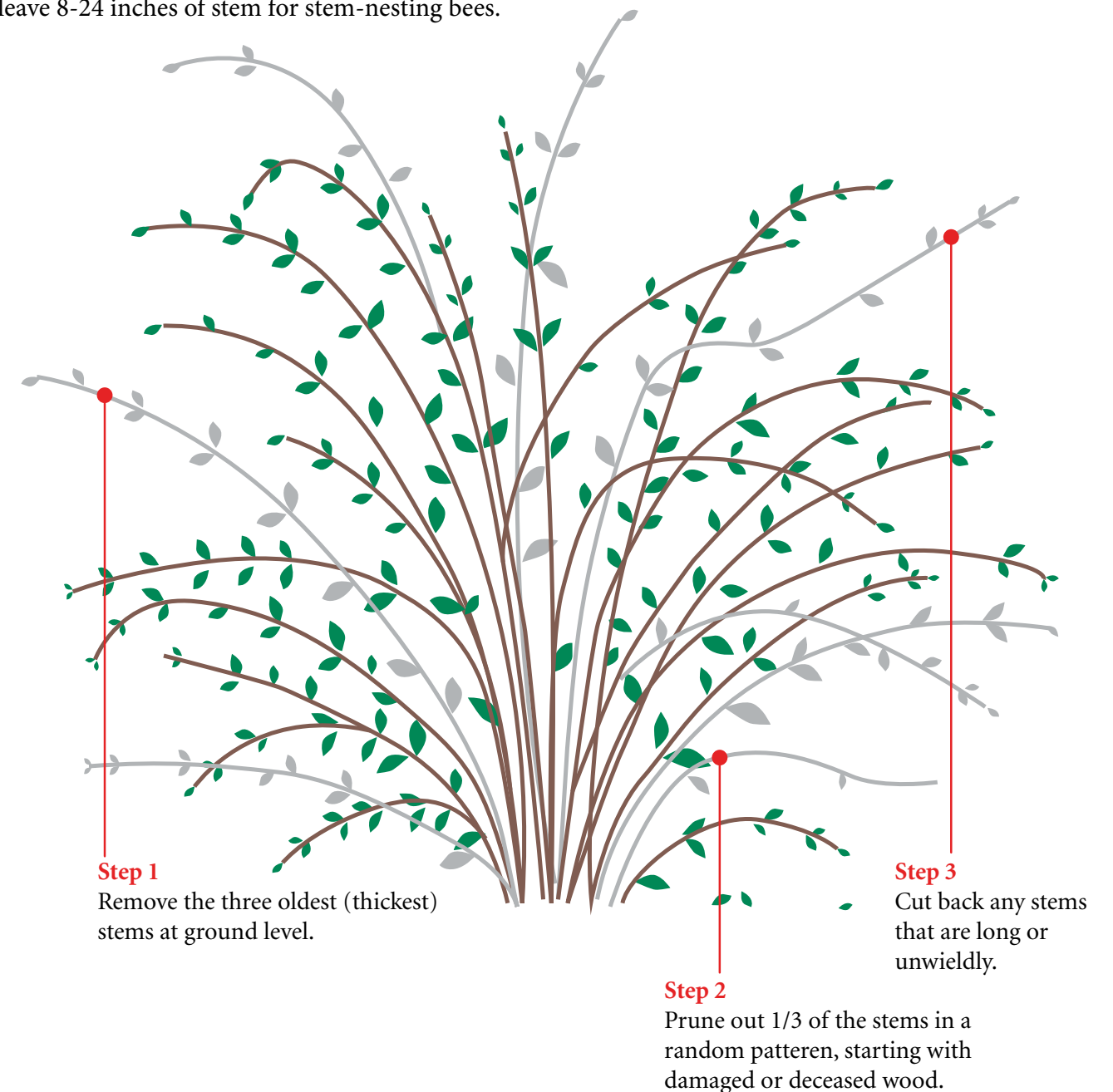
*Maintenance tips for specific plants are included in the master plant list on page 46.*

## Weeding

If you have applied a thick (2-4 inch) layer of gravel mulch you likely won't have many weeds to worry about the first growing season. Weeds often increase the second and third year. Diligence in these first couple of years will help control weed occurrence in later years. A likely weeding schedule would be two weeding sessions in the early summer and two in the fall.

## Pruning and Thinning

Fall is a good time to assess the structure of the garden when plants are at their mature height. If large shrubs are present, look for crowding of plants and prune as needed. Look for new starts and seedlings that may need to be moved to different parts of the garden to fill in holes. Asters are especially prolific and may need to be thinned to maintain overall diversity. In general, leave flowering stalks and stems until spring. Wildlife such as birds will eat the seeds and many insects will use them as habitat. This will also help retain visual interest for your garden in the winter. When cutting back flower stalks in the spring, leave 8-24 inches of stem for stem-nesting bees.





Garden Maintenance Schedule

SPRING

- Prune woody shrubs and cut back perennials
- Plant new plants
- Transplant out of overgrown areas to bare areas
- Hand weed
- Clean up general area

SUMMER

- Program irrigation system
- Adjust irrigation running time to suit weather
- Hand weed
- Dead head flowers that will rebloom (e.g., blanketflowers and sundancer daisies)

FALL

Grasses and shrubs, left untrimmed in the fall, can provide winter interest for humans plus food and shelter for birds and insects. Grasses and other perennials can be trimmed back in the spring.

- Transplant from overgrown areas into bare areas
- Prune and shape shrubs and trees
- Hand weed



*Rabbitbrush should be pruned back by 2/3 in early spring. If you have a dwarf variety of rabbitbrush you will not need to prune it back.*

Remove These Weeds



*Bindweed*



*Bulbous bluegrass*



*Cheatgrass*



*Cheeseweed*



*Dandelion*



*Kochia*





*Orchard grass*



*Prickly lettuce*



*Puncture vine*



*Purslane*



*Russian thistle*



*Siberian elm*



*Spotted spurge*



*Storksbill*

# Native Plant Photos

## Flowers



*Annual Sunflower*



*Arrowleaf Balsamroot*



*Arrowleaf Buckwheat*



*Aspen Fleabane*



*Blanket Flower*



*Blazing Star*



Flowers



*Davidson's Penstemon*



*Fireweed*



*Globemallow*



*Hummingbird Trumpet*



*Kinnikinnick*



*Littleflower Penstemon*

Flowers



*Narrow-leaf Milkweed*



*Owl's Claws*



*Prairie Smoke*



*Rocky Mountain Bee Plant*



*Dwarf Pussytoes*



*Roundleaf Alumroot*



Flowers



*Showy Goldeneye*



*Showy Milkweed*



*Sticky Geranium*



*Strict Buckwheat*



*Sulfur Buckwheat*



*Sundancer Daisy*

Flowers



*Swamp Milkweed*



*Tufted Evening Primrose*



*Wild Bergamot*



*Wyeth Buckwheat*



*Woolly Sunflower*



Grasses



*Basin Wildrye*



*Bluebunch Wheatgrass*



*Idaho Fescue*



*Needle and Thread Grass*



*Indian Ricegrass*

Shrubs



*Bitterbrush*



*Blue Elderberry*



*Creeping Oregon Grape*



*Fernbush*



*Golden Currant*



*Mock Orange*



Shrubs



*Mountain Big Sage*



*Purple Sage*



*Red Osier Dogwood*



*Rubber Rabbitbrush*



*Skunkbrush Sumac*



*Snowberry*

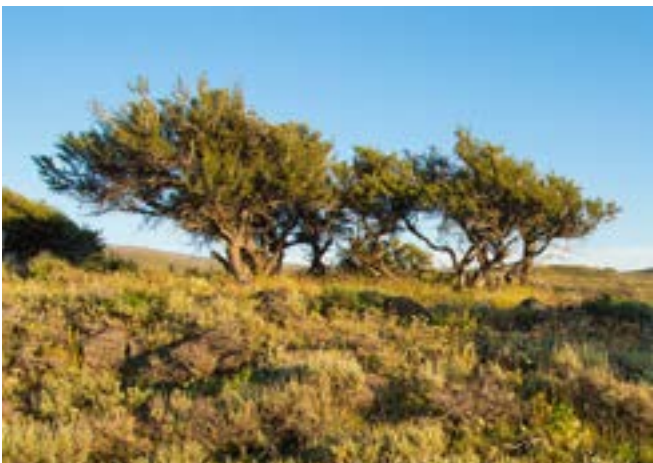


*Winterfat*

Trees



*Chokecherry*



*Curl-leaf Mountain Mahogany*



*Netleaf Hackberry*



*Quaking Aspen*



*Rocky Mountain Maple*



*Western Serviceberry*



*Western Juniper*



# Master Native Plant List

Scientific Name	Common Name	Height	Flower Color	Flowering Period	Light Requiremen	Moisture Requirement	Special Considerations	Maintenance
FLOWERS								
<i>Agastache urticifolia</i>	Nettleleaf giant hyssop	5 ft	White-purple	Summer	Sun Part Shade	Medium	Aromatic foliage.	Trim back old flower stems in spring.
<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	Pearly everlasting	1-3 ft	White	Summer - Fall	Sun Part Shade	Low-medium	Numerous fluffy seed heads that are good for winter interest; rhizomatous; ground cover	Trim back old flower stems in spring.
<i>Antennaria microphylla</i>	Littleleaf pussytoes	1 ft	White	Spring - Summer	Sun Part Shade	Low	Ground cover	Trim back old flower stems in spring.
<i>Antennaria rosea</i>	Rosy pussytoes	8 in	Pink - white	Summer	Sun Part Shade	Low	Ground cover	Trim back old flower stems in spring.
<i>Aquilegia caerulea</i>	Colorado blue columbine	12- 30 in	Blue White	Summer	Part Shade	Medium-high		Trim back old flower stems in spring.
<i>Aquilegia formosa</i>	Western columbine	2-3 ft	Red Yellow	Summer	Part Shade	Medium-high		
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Kinnikinnick Bearberry	< 6 in	White - pink	Spring - Summer	Sun Part Shade Shade	Low-medium	Evergreen. Ground cover.	
<i>Arnica mollis</i>	Hairy arnica	2 ft	Yellow	Summer	Sun Part Shade	Medium		Trim back old flower stems in spring.
<i>Artemisia frigida</i>	Fringed sage	4-16 in	Yellow	Summer	Sun	Low	Readily spreads when overwatered.	Trim back current year flower stems in the fall. May use string trimmer.
<i>Asclepias fascicularis</i>	Narrow-leaved milkweed	2-3 ft	White,Pink, Purple	Summer	Sun	Low	Will spread through garden.	
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp milkweed	4-6 ft	White,Pink, Purple	Summer	Sun Part Shade	Medium		Trim back old flower stems in late fall or spring.

<i>Asclepias speciosa</i>	Showy milkweed	3-5 ft	Light pink	Spring - Fall	Sun Part Shade	Low-medium	Will spread through garden.	
<i>Balsamorhiza sagittata</i>	Arrowleaf balsamroot	2 ft	Yellow	Spring	Sun	Low	4 yrs to flower. Dormant in summer.	
<i>Chaenactis douglasii</i>	Douglas' dustymaiden	1 ft	White	Spring - Summer	Sun	Low		Trim back old flower stems in spring.
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i> ssp. <i>circumvagum</i>	Fireweed	3 - 6 ft	Pink	Summer - Fall	Sun - Shade	Medium	Fluffy seed heads in Fall. Place in back of garden. Can spread.	Trim back old flower stems in spring. If plant spreads into unwanted areas, thin growth throughout the season.
<i>Clematis ligusticifolia</i>	Wild clematis	6+ ft	White	Summer	Full	Medium	Grows quickly and can cover a fence or arbor	Will sprout in other areas of your garden and may need to be monitored/controlled in its' spread
<i>Cleome lutea</i>	Yellow bee plant	2-3 ft	Yellow	Spring - Summer	Sun	Low	Annual that will reseed itself the following year.	Trim off seed pods in late fall and scatter in garden if more plants are wanted. Remove stalks if unsightly.
<i>Cleome serrulata</i>	Rocky Mountain beeplant	3 ft	Purple	Summer - Fall	Sun	Low	Annual that will reseed itself the following year.	
<i>Dalea ornata</i>	Blue Mountain prairie clover	1.5 ft	Purple	Spring - Summer	Sun	Low		
<i>Penstemon davidsonii</i>	Davidson's penstemon	6 in	Purple	Spring	Sun Part Shade	Low-medium	Evergreen foliage	
<i>Epilobium canum</i> spp. <i>garrettii</i> ( <i>Zauschneria</i> )	Hummingbird trumpet/Garrett's firechalice	1-2 ft	Red-orange	Summer - Fall	Sun	Low		
<i>Erigeron compositus</i>	Cutleaf daisy	6 in	White	Spring and Fall	Sun	Low		
<i>Erigeron linearis</i>	Desert yellow fleabane	6 in	Yellow	Summer	Sun	Very low		Trim back old flower stems in spring.
<i>Erigeron pumilus</i>	Shaggy fleabane	8 in	White-pink	Summer	Sun	Very low		
<i>Erigeron speciosus</i>	Showy fleabane	2 ft	Purple	Early Summer	Sun	Low		



Scientific Name	Common Name	Height	Flower Color	Flowering Period	Light Requirement	Moisture Requirement	Special Considerations	Maintenance
FLOWERS								
<i>Erigeron subtrarinervis</i>	Threenerve fleabane	2 ft	Purple	Early Summer	Sun	Low		Trim back old flower stems in spring.
<i>Eriogonum compositum</i>	Arrowleaf buckwheat	1-1.5 ft	Yellow	Spring	Sun	Very low		
<i>Eriogonum heracleoides</i>	Parsnip-flower buckwheat	1-1.5 ft	White-cream	Spring-Summer	Sun	Low		
<i>Eriogonum strictum</i>	Blue Mountain buckwheat	1.5 ft	White	Fall	Sun	Very low		
<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i>	Sulphur-flower buckwheat	1 ft	Yellow	Summer	Sun	Very low		Deadheading spent flowers during the season will extend flowering period.
<i>Eriophyllum lanatum</i>	Woolly sunflower	3-6 in	Yellow	Spring - Summer	Sun	Very low		
<i>Erysimum capitatum</i>	Sanddune wallflower	1 ft	Orange Yellow	Spring - Summer	Sun	Low-medium		Trim back old flower stems in spring.
<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>	Blanketflower	2 ft	Red Orange Yellow	Summer	Sun	Low		
<i>Geranium viscosissimum</i>	Sticky geranium	2 ft	Pink	Spring - Summer	Sun Part Shade	Low	Foliage turns red in fall	
<i>Geum triflorum</i>	Prairie smoke	1 ft	Rose-red	Summer	Sun	Low-medium		
<i>Hedysarum boreale</i>	Utah sweetvetch	2 ft	Bright pink	Spring - Summer	Sun	Medium	Nitrogen fixing plant	Trim off seedhead in late fall and scatter in garden if more plants are wanted. Or, leave seedheads for birds. Remove stalks if unsightly.
<i>Helianthella uniflora</i>	Oneflower helianthella	3-4 ft	Yellow	Summer	Sun	Low	Great replacement for the larger sunflowers for small	
<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	Annual sunflower	5-6 ft	Yellow	Summer - Fall	Sun	Low-medium	Annual that will reseed itself the following year.	
<i>Helianthus nuttallii</i>	Nuttall's sunflower	4-6 ft	Yellow	Summer - Fall	Sun	Low-medium		

<i>Helioomeris multiflora</i> var. <i>multiflora</i>	Showy goldeneye	1 ft	Yellow	Summer	Sun	Low	Can spread	Trim back old flower stems in spring.
<i>Heterotheca villosa</i>	Hairy false goldenaster	1.5 ft	Yellow	Spring - Summer	Sun	Low		
<i>Heuchera cylindrica</i>	Roundleaf alumroot	1 ft	White	Summer	Sun Part Shade	Low	Evergreen	
<i>Hymenoxys hoopesii</i>	Owl's-claws	1 ft	Yellow/orange	Summer	Sun	Low		
<i>Ipomopsis aggregata</i>	Scarlet gilia	1 ft	Red	Spring - Summer	Sun	Low-medium	Biennial to short-lived perennial. Will stay in rosette of leaves then die after flowering. Reseeds.	In spring, trim plant to base or remove after flowering.
<i>Linum lewisii</i>	Blue flax	1-2 ft	Blue	Spring-Summer	Sun	Low	If cut back after flowering will flower again in fall.	
<i>Machaeranthera canescens</i>	Hoary tansyaster	1-2 ft	Purple	Summer - Fall	Sun	Very low	Can be annual, biennial, or short lived perennial. Will reseed heavily if well watered.	Trim back entire plant in early winter or spring.
<i>Mentzelia laevicaulis</i>	Smoothstem blazingstar	1 -3 ft	Yellow	Summer	Sun	Very low	Direct seed into the garden in winter.	
<i>Monarda fistula</i>	Wild bergamot	2-3 ft	Purple	Summer	Sun Part Shade	Medium		
<i>Monardella odoratissima</i>	Coyote mint	1 ft	White Blue Purple	Spring - Summer	Sun	Low-medium	Aromatic foliage.	
<i>Oenothera caespitosa</i>	Tufted evening primrose	6 in	White	Spring - Summer	Sun	Very low	Aromatic flowers open in early evening.	
<i>Oenothera pallida</i>	Pale evening primrose	1 ft	White	Summer	Sun	Very low	Aromatic flowers open in early evening.	
<i>Penstemon acuminatus</i>	Sharpleaf penstemon	1.5 ft	Blue Purple	Spring - Summer	Sun	Low-medium		



Scientific Name	Common Name	Height	Flower Color	Flowering Period	Light Requirement	Moisture Requirement	Special Considerations	Maintenance
FLOWERS								
<i>Penstemon cyananthus</i>	Wasatch penstemon	1 ft	Blue Purple	Spring - Summer	Sun	Low-medium		Trim back old flower stems in late fall or spring. If stems trimmed in fall can scatter seed capsules to generate more plants.
<i>Penstemon deustus</i>	Hot rock penstemon	1 ft	White	Summer	Sun	Low		
<i>Penstemon fruticosus</i>	Shrubby penstemon	12-16 in	Pink	Spring - Summer	Sun	Low		
<i>Penstemon procerus</i>	Little flower penstemon	1 ft	Purple	Spring	Sun	Low		
<i>Penstemon rydbergii</i>	Rydberg's penstemon	1-2 ft	Blue - Purple	Summer	Sun Part Shade	Medium		
<i>Penstemon speciosus</i>	Royal penstemon	2 ft	Blue	Spring - Summer	Sun	Low-medium		
<i>Penstemon venustus</i>	Lovely penstemen	3 ft	Purple	Summer	Sun	Low	Evergreen foliage	
<i>Penstemon whippleanus</i>	Whipple's penstemon	2 ft	Dark Purple Black	Summer - Fall	Part Sun	Medium		
<i>Rudbeckia occidentalis</i>	Western coneflower	3 ft	No petals	Summer	Sun Part Shade	Medium	Striking seedheads	
<i>Solidago canadensis</i>	Canada goldenrod	3-6 ft	Yellow	Fall	Sun Part Shade	Low-medium	Spreads readily when overwatered	Trim back old flower stems in spring.
<i>Solidago spectabilis</i>	Nevada goldenrod	3-6 ft	Yellow	Summer - Fall	Sun Part Shade	Low-medium		Trimming back spent flowers in summer can extend the flowering period.
<i>Sphaeralcea spp.</i>	Globemallow	20-40 in	Orange	Spring - Fall	Sun	Low		
<i>Symphiotrichum ericoides</i> ( <i>Aster ericoides</i> )	White heath aster/snowflurry	6 in	White	Fall	Sun	Low	Spreads	Trim back old flower stems in spring.
<i>Symphiotrichum spathulatum</i> ( <i>Aster occidentalis</i> )	Western mountain aster	1.5 ft	Yellow Violet	Summer	Sun	Low-medium		
<i>Tetranneuris acaulis</i>	Sundancer daisy	1 ft	Yellow	Summer	Sun Part shade	Low	Will bloom all season if spent flowers are trimmed away.	

GRASSES								
Scientific Name	Common Name	Height	Flower Color	Flowering Period	Light Requirement	Moisture Requirement	Special Considerations	Maintenance
<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>	Indian ricegrass	1-2 ft	Green	Spring	Sun	Very low		
<i>Leymus cinereus</i>	Basin wildrye	3 - 6 ft	Green	Spring	Sun	Low	Up to 3 ft wide. Does best in full sun.	Trim back old flower stems in spring.
<i>Festuca idahoensis</i>	Idaho fescue	1 ft	Green	Summer	Sun	Low		
<i>Hesperostipa comata</i>	Needle and thread grass	2 ft	Green	Spring	Sun	Low	Can be direct seeded in late fall.	If excessive dead material accumulates, trim plant back by 2/3 in spring.
<i>Pseudoroegneria spicata</i>	Bluebunch wheatgrass	2 ft	Green	Summer	Sun	Low		
SHRUBS								
Scientific Name	Common Name	Height	Flower Color	Flowering Period	Light Requirement	Moisture Requirement	Special Considerations	Maintenance
<i>Artemisia tridentata</i> ssp. <i>vaseyana</i>	Mountain big sage	6 ft	Yellow	Fall	Sun	Very low	Be cautious of overwatering	
<i>Chamaebatia millefolium</i>	Fernbush	5 ft	White	Summer	Sun	Very low	Aromatic foliage.	Trim edges to maintain shape and thin interior branches when shrub becomes dense.
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Red osier dogwood	7-10 ft	White	Spring	Sun Part Shade	Low-medium	Red stems for winter interest	Trim edges to maintain shape and thin interior branches when shrub becomes dense.
<i>Ericameria nauseosa</i>	Rubber rabbitbrush	2-3 ft	Yellow	Summer - Fall	Sun	Low	*Use a dwarf variety	In the Spring trim plant back by 2/3
<i>Krascheninnikovia lanata</i>	Winterfat	2-3 feet	White Silver	Spring - Summer	Sun	Very low	Wooly white foliage with fluffy white seed heads in fall	In early Spring trim back plant by at least 1/2.
<i>Mahonia repens</i>	Creeping Oregon grape	2 ft	Yellow	Spring	Sun Shade	Low-medium		
<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	Mock orange	4-10 ft	White	Spring	Sun Part Shade	Low-medium		Thin interior stems in spring when the shrub becomes dense.



Scientific Name	Common Name	Height	Flower Color	Flowering Period	Light Requirement	Moisture Requirement	Special Considerations	Maintenance
FLOWERS								
<i>Purshia tridentata</i>	Bitterbrush	4-6 ft	Yellow	Spring	Sun	Very low	Be cautious of overwatering	
<i>Rhus trilobata</i>	Skunkbush sumac	5-6 ft	Yellow	Spring	Sun	Low		Trim edges to maintain shape and thin interior branches when shrub becomes dense.
<i>Ribes aureum</i>	Golden currant	5 ft	Yellow	Spring	Sun Part Shade	Low-medium	Edible fruits.	Thin interior stems in spring when the shrub becomes dense.
<i>Salvia dorrii</i>	Purple sage	2-3 ft	Blue Purple	Spring - Summer	Sun	Low	Evergreen and aromatic silver foliage.	Lightly shape at end of season.
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i> and <i>S. oreophilus</i>	Snowberry	4 ft	White Pink	Summer	Sun Part Shade Shade	Medium		Thin interior stems in spring when the shrub becomes dense.
TREES								
Scientific Name	Common Name	Height	Flower Color	Flowering Period	Light Requirement	Moisture Requirement	Special Considerations	Maintenance
<i>Acer glabrum</i>	Rocky Mountain maple	6-20 ft	Green	Spring	Sun Part Shade	Low-medium		Trim edges to maintain shape and thin interior branches when shrub becomes dense.
<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	Saskatoon Serviceberry	6-12 ft	White	Summer	Sun Part Shade	Medium		
<i>Celtis reticulata</i>	Netleaf hackberry	30 ft	Orange-red fruit	Spring	Sun Part Shade	Low	Slow growing	
<i>Cercocarpus ledifolius</i>	Curl-leaf mountain mahogany	10-15 ft	Yellow	Spring	Sun	Very low	Slow-growing shrubby tree	Can be pruned to tree shape by removing lower branches or kept as multi-stemmed shrub.
<i>Juniperus occidentalis</i>	Western juniper	33 feet	NA	Spring	Sun	Low	Evergreen	
<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Quaking Aspen	40-50 ft	Green	Spring	Sun	Medium High	Fast growing	Susceptible to insect damage from poplar borers.
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Black chokecherry	10-15 ft	White	Spring	Sun Part Shade	Low-medium	Vigorous stem and branch developer	Remove low spreading branches. Can be pruned in late winter to tree shape or kept as multi-stemmed shrub.



