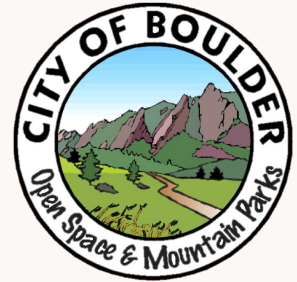


# Jay Road Apple Orchard Plant Guide

Compiled by: Emma Groenevelt, Andrea Gaccetta, Mia Williams, Maya Alves, and Katie Mikell



# *Bromus inermis* (Smooth Brome)

## Plant information:

- **Family:** Poaceae (Grass)
- **Life cycle:** Perennial
- **Origin:** Europe
- **Weed status:** Invasive
- **Habitat:** shade/sun, disturbed soil, roadsides, woodlands, fields
- **Seasonality:** July-September
- national distribution: West, Midwest, Northeast



Photo: Chris Evans, Bugwood  
<https://invasive.org/projects/smooth-brome-bromus-inermis/>

## Plant description at maturity:

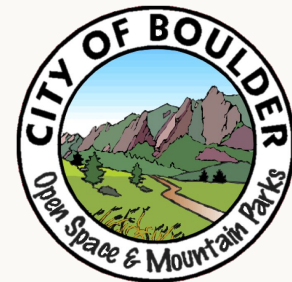
- **Flower:** Open panicle 4-8 inches, 2+ spikelets/flower clusters per branch
- **Leaves:** Alternate, 0.25-0.75 inches wide, long and flat, 4-14 inches long
- **Stem:** Ascending, hairless or slightly hairy at nodes



Photo: Dave Powell, Bugwood  
<https://invasive.org/projects/smooth-brome-bromus-inermis/>



Photo: Ohio State Weed Lab, Bugwood  
<https://invasive.org/projects/smooth-brome-bromus-inermis/>



# *Convolvulus arvensis* (Field bindweed)

## Plant information:

- **Family:** Convolvulaceae
- **Life Cycle:** Perennial
- **Origin:** Europe/Asia
- **Weed status:** Invasive
- **Habitat:** roadsides, fields
- **National distribution:** West, Midwest, Northeast



<https://www.infoflora.ch/en/flora/convolvulus-arvensis.html>

## Plant description at maturity:

- **Flower:** White -pink, trumpet-shaped, 1-2 inches, 5 fused petals
- **Leaves:** Alternate, arrow-shaped and rounded at the apex. Flat leaf base and point away from stem, 1-1.25 inches in length



[https://www.missouriplants.com/Convolvulus-arvensis\\_page.html](https://www.missouriplants.com/Convolvulus-arvensis_page.html)



<https://climbers.lsa.umich.edu/convolvulus-arvensis/>



# *Onopordum acanthium* (Scotch Thistle)



## Plant information:

- **Family:** Asteraceae
- **Life Cycle:** biennial
- **Origin:** Eurasia
- **Habitat:** disturbed soils, fields, roadsides, waste areas
- **Bloom season:** June-September
- **National distribution:** West, midwest, northeast, plus Alabama and Florida
- **Uses of plant parts:** sometimes used for anti-inflammatory, cancer treatment, and nerve-calming purposes



<https://www.nwcb.wa.gov/weeds/scotch-thistle>

## Plant description at maturity:

- **Flower:** reddish-purple to pink, flower receptacle covered with thick spiny bracts, 1.5-2 inch flower heads, solitary or clustered up to 5
- **Leaves:** basal, alternate, coarsely lobed and mildly wavy edges, spiny
- **Stem:** branches and covered in spiny extensions from leaf base to next leaf node below

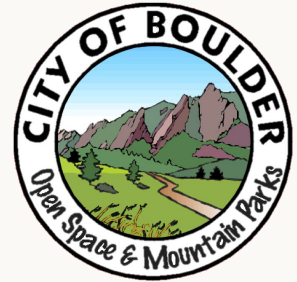


<https://gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org/species/onopordum/acanthium/>

Citations for all information included: <https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/scotch-thistle>  
<https://gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org/species/onopordum/acanthium/> <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30759795/>



# *Kochia scoparia* (Common Kochia)



## Plant information:

- **Family:** Amaranthaceae
- **Life Cycle:** Annual
- **Origin:** Eurasia
- **Weed status:** invasive if not properly managed
- **Habitat:** fields, roadsides, disturbed areas



## Plant description at maturity:

- **Flower:** 5-sepaled, green, small
- **Leaves:** alternate, grey-green leaves, ovate and up to 2.5 inches long and 0.25 inches wide, hairy, three prominent veins
- **Stem:** round and often red, soft hairs, many branched

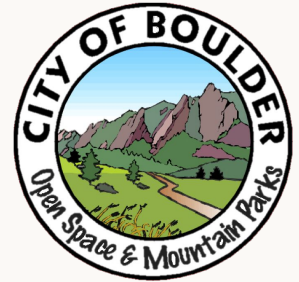


<https://extension.umass.edu/weed-herbarium/weeds/kochia-scoparia>

Citations for all information included: [https://plants.usda.gov/DocumentLibrary/factsheet/pdf/fs\\_kosc.pdf](https://plants.usda.gov/DocumentLibrary/factsheet/pdf/fs_kosc.pdf)  
<https://extension.umass.edu/weed-herbarium/weeds/kochia-scoparia>



# *Chenopodium sp.* (Goosefoot)



## Plant information:

- **Family:** Amaranthaceae
- **Life Cycle:** Annual
- **Origin:** Eurasia
- **Habitat:** full-sun, fields, disturbed soils
- **Seasonality:** July-October



## Plant description at maturity:

- **Flower:** terminal clusters mid summer-fall, very light green or pink panicles of spikes
- **Leaves:** alternate, goose-foot shaped, green with sometimes tints of pink along margins, white mealy coating produced by tiny hairs
- **Stem:** Striated, stiff, angular
- **Fruit:** tiny, rounded, black, green, or brown seeds

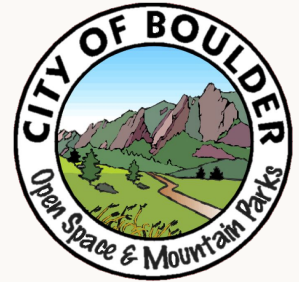


NY State IPM Program



Forest and Kim Starr

Citations for all information included: <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/chenopodium-album/>



# *Physalis sp.* (Ground cherry)

## Plant information:

- **Family:** Solanaceae
- **Life Cycle:** annual
- **Origin:** North America and South America
- **Habitat:** meadow, fields, disturbed areas
- **Seasonality:** summer



<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/physalis/>

## Plant description at maturity:

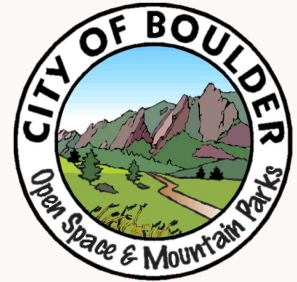
- **Flower:** radially symmetrical, yellow
- **Leaves:** alternate, smooth or irregularly toothed diamond shaped leaves
- **Stem:**
- **Fruit:** green that matures to yellow or orange, encased in lantern-like inflated calyx



<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/physalis/>



Kim Starr  
<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/physalis/>



# *Cirsium arvense* (Creeping Thistle)

## Plant information:

- **Family:** Asteraceae
- **Life Cycle:** Perennial
- **Origin:** Europe
- **Weed status:** invasive
- **Habitat:** disturbed areas, wet meadows, agricultural sites
- **Seasonality:** June-Oct
- **National distribution:** most of US and southern Canada



[https://www.inaturalist.org/guide\\_taxa/16328](https://www.inaturalist.org/guide_taxa/16328)

## Plant description at maturity:

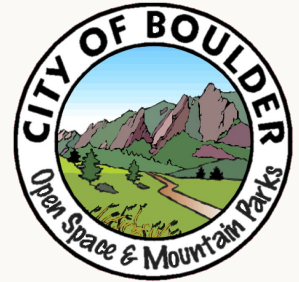
- **Flower:** pink/purple flower heads, close, spineless bracts
- **Leaves:** green, prickly, alternate, oblong, lobed, hairy, 3-6 inches in length
- **Stem:** slender smooth grooved stems with sometimes short hairs



<https://adams.extension.colostate.edu/ag-ecology/canada-thistle/>

Citations for all information included: <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/cirsium-arvense/>  
<https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/canada-thistle>





# *Carduus nutans* (Musk thistle)

## Plant information:

- **Family:** Asteraceae
- **Life Cycle:** biennial
- **Origin:** Europe
- **Weed status:** invasive
- **Habitat:** disturbed areas such as pastures, roadsides, ditches, prairies
- **Seasonality:** blooms June-July



<https://weedsience.ca.uky.edu/content/musk-thistle>

## Plant description at maturity:

- **Flower:** flower heads droop to 90 degree angle, tiny purple flowers on flower heads, 1.5-3 inches wide, sharp points on bracts
- **Leaves:** first year - grows as group of leaves near the ground, deep lobes, edges with spines.
  - second year - sends up a flowering stalk with branching stems and alternate, spikes, lobed leaves



<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/herbaceous/muskthistle.html>



# *Ratibida columnifera* (Mexican Hat)

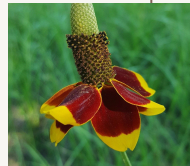
## Plant information:

- **Family:** Asteraceae (Aster)
- **Life Cycle:** Perennial
- **Origin:** North America
- **Weed Status:** Native
- **Habitat:** sun; dry fields, prairies, along roads, railroads
- **Bloom Season:** June-August
- **National distribution:** West, Mid-west



## Plant information at maturity:

- **Flower:** 4 to 12 droopy, wide, bright yellow petals, notched at the tip, around an erect, cylindrical cone; 1 to several long-stalked flower heads, deep red or yellow streaked with red
- **Leaves:** Leaves are up to 6 inches long giving the appearance of compound leaves but are lobed
- **Stem:** multiple from the base, mostly unbranched, rough-hairy, and leafy in the lower half.
- **Fruit:** cone becomes a head of tiny, hairy, narrowly winged, brown seeds.



Citations for all information included: <https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/prairie-coneflower>

[https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\\_plant=raco3](https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=raco3)



# *Solidago rigidum* (Stiff Goldenrod)



## Plant information:

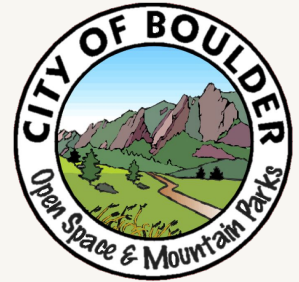
- **Family:** Asteraceae (Aster)
- **Life Cycle:** Perennial
- **Origin:** Canada
- **Habitat:** Prairie; sun/shade, dry/moist soil
- **Seasonality:** July-October
- **National distribution:** Northeast, Southeast, Midwest
- **Uses:** attracts butterflies



## Plant information at maturity:

- **Flower:** flat-topped yellow flower heads
- **Leaves:** long, oval, over-wintering, basal leaves
- **Stem:** thick, leathery, unbranched stems 1-5 ft. tall and often occur in clumps





# *Symphotrichum laeve* (Smooth Blue Aster)

## Plant information:

- **Family:** Asteraceae (Aster)
- **Life Cycle:** Perennial
- **Origin:** United States
- **Weed status:** Native
- **Habitat:** sun; dry; fields, prairies, open woods
- **Seasonality:** August-October
- **National distribution:** Midwest, Northeast, Southeast (rare)



## Plant information at maturity:

- **Flower:** 1 inch across with 15 to 30 bluish purple petals; narrow green bracts with diamond shaped-point
- **Leaves:** up to 4 inches long and 1½ inches wide, smooth, waxy, toothless and hairless
- **Stem:** rounded at the base or with a pair of small lobes that wrap around and clasp the stem
- **Fruit:** dry seed with a tuft of light brown hair





# *Trifolium pratense* (Red Clover)

## Plant information:

- **Family:** Fabaceae (Pea)
- **Life Cycle:** Perennial
- **Origin:** Europe, Asia, Africa
- **Weed status:** Invasive
- **Habitat:** sun; fields, along roads
- **Seasonality:** June-September
- **National distribution:** Throughout the United States; considered exotic



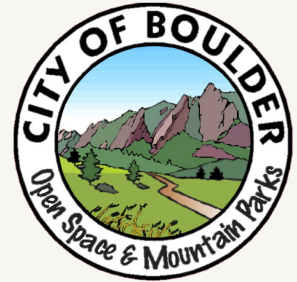
## Plant information at maturity:

- **Flower:** pink or purple, compound flower head; 1 inch long and ½ - 1 inch wide
- **Leaves:** ovate green, compound leaves possessing three leaflets ½ - 2 inches long
- **Stem:** 6 – 24 inches tall with a hairy stem



Citations for all information included: <https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/red-clover>

[http://www.bio.brandeis.edu/fieldbio/EFG\\_DEB\\_SHU/species%20pages/Red%20Clover/Red%20Clover.html#:~:text=History%20and%20Comments%3A%20Red%20Clover,to%20use%20in%20crop%20rotations.](http://www.bio.brandeis.edu/fieldbio/EFG_DEB_SHU/species%20pages/Red%20Clover/Red%20Clover.html#:~:text=History%20and%20Comments%3A%20Red%20Clover,to%20use%20in%20crop%20rotations.)



# *Vicia americana* (American Vetch)

Plant information: such as

- **Family:** Fabaceae (Pea)
- **Life Cycle:** Perennial
- **Origin:** United States
- **Weed status:** Native
- **Habitat:** part shade, sun; fields, prairies, open woods, thickets, along roads
- **Seasonality:** May-September
- **National distribution:** Northeast, Midwest, West, Northwest, Southwest



Plant information at maturity:

- **Flower:** 2 to 9 flowers in loose clusters; slightly elongated,  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch long
- **Leaves:** compound with 4 to 8 pairs of leaflets and a tendril at the end of the leaf
- **Stem:** angled, hairless, and branched
- **Fruit:** pea-shaped pod, about 1 inch long, that turns from green to reddish brown as the fruit ripens



Citations for all information included: <https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/american-vetch>



# *Malus domestica* (Apple Tree)

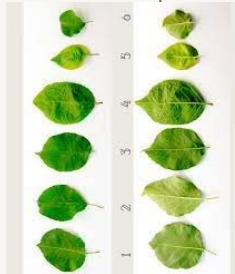
## Plant information:

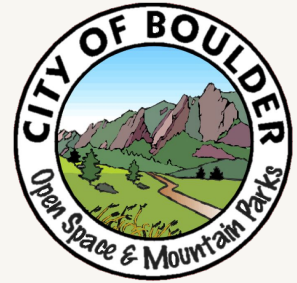
- **Family:** Rosaceae
- **Life Cycle:** Perennial
- **Origin:** Central Asia to Afghanistan
- **Habitat:** between 0 to 8,202 ft. above sea level; well-drained soils with pH levels of about 5.5 to 7.5; temperate areas
- **Seasonality:** April-October
- **Colorado distribution:** Across the front range
- **National distribution:** Most states, excluding Hawaii
- **Common uses:** Agriculture



## Plant information at maturity:

- **Flower:** 1-3 inches white or pink flowers; 4-5 rayed petals
- **Leaves:** Very variable leaf shape and size. Underside has raised veins
- **Branch:** brown/copper color; Small dwarf shoots line the stems.
- **Fruit:** Large, round, firm fruits that often have a waxy coating. Some varieties ripen late summer and some in the fall. Ranges in color: red, gold/yellow, green; ranges in flavor from sweet to sour;





# *Gaillardia aristata* (Blanket Flower)

## Plant information:

- **Family:** Asteraceae (Daisy)
- **Life Cycle:** Perennial
- **Origin:** Northern & Western US
- **Weed status:** Native
- **Habitat:** Well-draining soil
- **Seasonality:** June-Sep
- **Colorado distribution:** foothills & montaine
- **National distribution:** Northern & Western US (Excluding Nevada)
- **Common and traditional uses:** None found



## Plant information description at maturity:

- **Flower:** The orange-red disks are surrounded by inch-long petals tipped in yellow with a dark red base.
- **Leaves:** Simple, alternate, rough, 3-6 inches
- **Stem:** Rough & hairy 2-4ft
- **Fruit:** Seed-like fruits

Citations for all information included: <https://plants.ncsu.edu/plants/gaillardia-aristata/> <https://www.swcoloradowildflowers.com/Yellow%20Enlarged%20Photo%20Pages/gaillardia.htm#~:text=Gaillardia%20aristata%20seeds%20itsell%20readily,ven%20nice%20in%20flower%20gardens> <https://budburst.org/plants/258>

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/gaillardia-aristata.shtml>





# *Trifolium repens* (White Clover)

## Plant information:

- **Family:** Fabaceae (Pea)
- **Life Cycle:** Perennial
- **Origin:** Europe
- **Weed status:** Invasive
- **Habitat:** Meadows, moist grasslands, roadsides, fields; plains, valleys
- **Seasonality:** June-September
- **National distribution:** Throughout the United States
- **Common uses:** Nitrogen fixer



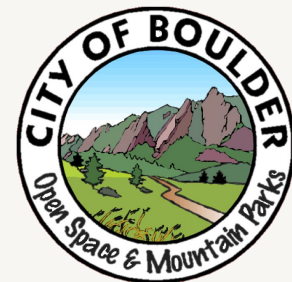
## Plant information at maturity:

- **Flower:** ½–1½ inches in diameter white flower heads
- **Leaves:** 3-leaflet pattern with pale crescent across middle





# *Geum triflorum* (Prairie Smoke)



## Plant information:

- **Family:** Rosaceae
- **Life Cycle:** Perennial
- **Origin:** Canada to west USA
- **Weed status:** Native
- **Habitat:** Meadows
- **Seasonality:** May- Aug
- **Colorado distribution:** Foothills planes montane
- **National distribution:** Canada to the northern and western US
- **Common and traditional uses:** A strong decoction of the roots is used as a tonic in the treatment of severe coughs and fevers. This decoction can also be used as an eyewash and as a mouthwash for sore throats.



## Plant information description at maturity:

- **Flower:** reddish-purple, bell-shaped flowers that hang in groups of three.
- **Leaves:** bright green fern-like clumps
- pinnately compound; often look poor during the heat of the summer but resume growth in late summer and fall
- **Stem:** red/purple and hairy
- **Fruit:** After fertilization, the bell-like flowers turn upward and silvery-pink fluffy plumes begin to grow from the pistils





# *Liatrix punctata* (Dotted Blazing Star)

## Plant information:

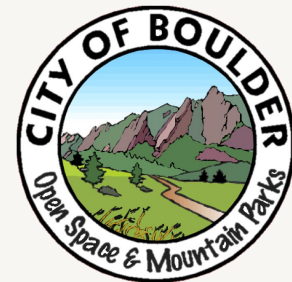
- **Family:** Asteraceae
- **Life Cycle:** Perennial
- **Origin:** Great plains and the Midwest
- **Weed status:** Native
- **Habitat:** dry, open slopes
- **Seasonality:** July- Sep
- **Colorado distribution:** Plains & foothills
- **National distribution:** from Alberta south to New Mexico and Mexico, east to Michigan, and south to Arkansas
- **Common and traditional uses:** Tea gargled to soothe sore throats



## Plant information description at maturity:

- **Flower:** Lavender color. Disc flowers crowd together to form a lavender spike encompassing the top third or half of the stem
- **Leaves:** Green, Leaves are very narrow and grass-like, up to 4 inches long and ¼ inch wide near the base of the plant,
- **Stem:** usually multiple from the base, sometimes single, and are hairless.
- **Fruit:** Seed-like fruit with a tuft of light brown hair to carry it off in the wind.





# *Linum lewisii* (Blue/Prairie Flax)

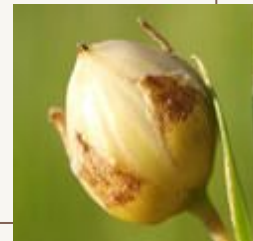
## Plant information:

- **Family:** Linaceae
- **Life Cycle:** Perennial
- **Origin:** Mid-Western US & Canada
- **Weed status:** Native
- **Habitat:** dry slopes, forest clearings, roadsides.
- **Seasonality:** May- Aug
- **Colorado distribution:** plains to subalpine
- **National distribution:** Mid-Western US & Canada
- **Common and traditional uses:** Native Americans made cordage and twine from this plant by soaking the plant to yield the fibers



## Plant information description at maturity:

- **Flower:**  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 inch across, bright blue to blue-violet or occasionally white, with deeper blue radiating from the center, 5 spreading, broadly oval to wedge-shaped petals,
- **Leaves:** numerous, alternate, linear to lanceolate,
- **Stem:** Long & Slender
- **Fruit:** Round capsule with glossy surface. Yellowish at maturity





# *Lotus corniculatus* (Bird's-Foot Trefoil)

## Plant information:

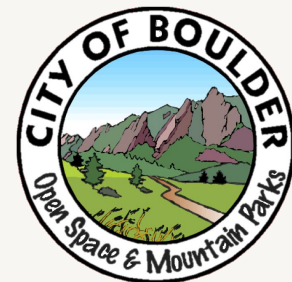
- **Family:** Fabaceae (pea)
- **Life Cycle:** Perennial
- **Origin:** Europe
- **Weed status:** Weed
- **Habitat:** tolerates a variety of soil types including dry, moist, or droughty soils
- **Seasonality:** May-Aug
- **Colorado distribution:** roadsides, fields, prairies, open disturbed areas.
- **national distribution:** All the US excluding: NV, FL, LA, MS, SC, AK, HI
- **History:** Brought here initially as a forage crop then marketed as “good for erosion control”



## Plant information description at maturity:

- **Flower:** bright yellow, sometimes streaked with red, ½ inch long
- **Leaves:** clover-like, compound, stipulate and alternate
- **Stem:** nearly square, emerge from a single root crown and have many branches that can become tangled and matted
- **Fruit:** slender, purplish-brown pod about 1 inch long





# *Atriplex* spp. (Orache)

## Plant information:

- **Family:** Amaranthaceae
- **Genus:** *Atriplex*
- **Life Cycle:** annual or perennial
- **Origin:** Native
- **Habitat:** arid, saline or alkaline environments
- Important forage for wildlife
- **National distribution:** Present in western ½ of US



## Plant information description at maturity:

- **Flower:** 1-5 dry, sepals, which may more may not be fused together
- **Leaves:** leaves located on lower part of stem, simple, alternate or opposite
- **Stem:** may be fleshy
- **Fruit:** Brown and black fruits, some have soft outer surface, some are glossy and hard.





# *Lactuca* spp. (Lettuce)

## Plant information:

- **Family:** Lactuceae
- **Genus:** Lactuca
- **Life Cycle:** annual, perennial
- **Origin:** Southwestern Asia
- **Habitat:** wide range; along roads waste places, rocky slopes, forest edges and along streams
  - One of the earliest domesticated vegetables



## Plant information description at maturity:

- **Flower:** head either individual or in groups, bell or cylindrical shaped, and vary in size. Many small yellow, orange, blueish, purpleish, or white flowers
- **Leaves:** located at bottom of stem, and come in various shapes: smooth edges, small teeth, or divided into sections
- **Stem:** singular, usually erect, branched, and either smooth or slightly hairy
- **Fruit:** brown or black with varying shapes, have pappus (small, fuzzy structure) attached to them



# *Asteraceae* sp. (Sunflower)



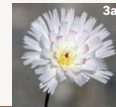
## Plant information:

- **Family:** Asteraceae
- **Life Cycle:** annuals, biennials, perennials
- **Origin:** Europe and Asia
- **Habitat:** arid, saline or alkaline environments
- **Colorado distribution:** Western slope range from popular cut flowers, edible plants, and invasive weeds
  - ex. sunflower oil, camomile, marigolds, Stevia



## Plant information description at maturity:

- **Flower:**
  - head composed of many little flowers bunched together (inflorescence). Base of head could be flat, cone shaped or columnar.
  - Either ray, disk, or ligulate flowers. Heads consist of ligulate (strap shaped) (3a), ray flowers only, ray and disk flowers (3b), or disk flowers only (3c)
- **Stem:** Varies, but usually erect
- **Leaves:** Concentrated at base of stem or along stem itself. Can be either alternate or opposite, and simple or compound.







# *Malva spp.* (Mallow)

## Plant information:

- **Family:** Malvaceae
- **Genus:** Malva
- **Life Cycle:** Annual or perennial
- **Origin:** Eurasia, N. Africa
- **Habitat:** arid, saline or alkaline environments
- **Colorado distribution:** Western slope
- Includes hibiscus, cotton and cacao



## Plant information description at maturity:

- **Flower:** Leaf like structure called an epicalyx often subtends flower. 5 sepals are fused at the base, and 5 petals are free or fused at the base.
- **Leaves:** Alternate, Simple, palmately-lobed, or opposite
- **Fruit:** Sacks that release seeds, or a seed holding structure carrying cheese wheel shaped seeds



Citations for all information included: [https://www.blm.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2022-01/BLMCO.Plant\\_ID\\_Guide\\_2021\\_508.pdf](https://www.blm.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2022-01/BLMCO.Plant_ID_Guide_2021_508.pdf)

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/ucb/reader.action?docID=3039763#> [https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/search?scientific\\_name=Malva&wh](https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/search?scientific_name=Malva&wh)



# *Matricaria perforata* (Scentless Chamomile)

## Plant information:

- **Family:** Asteraceae
- **Genus:** Tripleurospermum
- **Life Cycle:** Annual, short lived perennial
- **Origin:** Europe
- **Weed status:** weedy, non-native to US
- **Habitat:** Sun, disturbed soil, roadsides, fields, dry shorelines, lawns, wastelands
- **Seasonality:** Blooms May-December
- **National distribution:** generally northern US



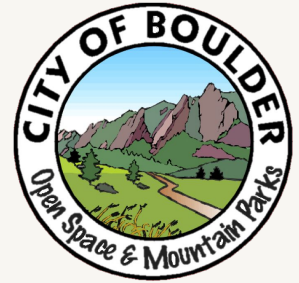
## Plant information description at maturity:

- **Flower:** Single, daisy type flowers at tip of branching stems. 1-2" across, 10-12 white ray flowers (petals). Yellow, button shaped disk at center. As it matures, it expands to a dome-shaped disk, and petals droop down.
- **Leaves:**  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 3" in length, feathery appearance, with thin, thread-like parts branching off
- **Stem:** Singular, direct, slightly ridged, hairless. Branching occurs in upper part of of plant
- **Flower:** Disk transforms into round head of dry, brown, triangular seeds.





# *Hibiscus Trionum* (Flower of an Hour)



## Plant information:

- **Family:** Malvaceae
- **Genus:** Hibiscus
- **Life Cycle:** Annual
- **Origin:** Europe
- **Weed status:** Weedy
- **Habitat:** Sun, fields, roadsides, waste areas
- **Seasonality:** Blooms July-September
- **Colorado distribution:** Present, but not noxious in most parts of US/ CO



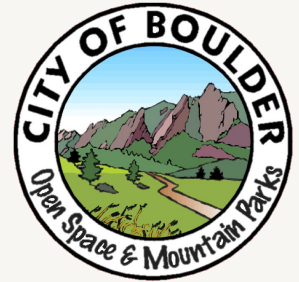
## Plant information at maturity:

- **Flower:**
  - 2-2 ½" across
  - 5 round, overlapping pale yellow petals with a deep purple at the base
- **Leaves:** 3" long, 2" wide. Palmately compound mostly in 3's, and leaflets have rounded lobes.
- **Stem:** Branched at base, sparsely woolly, semi-erect or sprawling
- **Fruit:** Sepals enclose calpules containing dark, kidney shape





# *Achillea millefolium* (Common yarrow)



## Plant information:

- **Family:** Asteraceae
- **Genus:** Achillea
- **Life Cycle:** Perennial
- **Origin:** Native
- **Habitat:** Partially shady environments, fields, prairies, open woods, roadsides
- **Distribution:** present in all of US



## Plant information description at maturity:

- **Flowers:**
  - flat, 2-4" clusters of 4-6 white to pink flowers at the end of branching stems.
  - Individual flowers 1/4" across, have 4-6 white ray flowers (petals) with notched tips, and cream colored or pale yellow disk flowers.
- **Leaves:** narrow and finely divided, feathery and fern like. Often covered in fine hairs
- **Stem:** Often covered in fine hairs
- **Fruit:** Heads become oval-ecliptic seed heads





# *Andropogon gerardii* (Big Bluestem)

## Plant information:

- **Family:** Poaceae (grass)
- **Genus:** Andropogon
- **Life Cycle:** Perennial
- **Origin:** Native
- **Habitat:** partially shady, average to dry soil, plains, prairies, railroads, road sides, open woods
- **Seasonality:** fruiting season July-August
- **Distribution:** Most of US except west coast



## Plant information description at maturity:

- **Flower:** 2-6 slender, finger-like spikes clustered at tips of branches in upper plant. Spikes= 2-4" long, pointed upward. Could be purplish or yellowish. Flower clusters along spikes
- **Leaves:** Mostly crowded at bottom of stem, and become fewer as you move up. Upper surface is rough textured with long, white spreading hairs near the base.
- **Stem:** Erect, hairless, with few branches. Often blueish to purple in color with waxy coating. Where leaf meets stem (sheath), forms "V" shape.
- **Fruit:** inside mature spikelet (flower cluster) is a long, narrow golden brown seed. Entire spikelet eventually falls off.



# *Medicago sativa* (Alfalfa)



## Plant information:

- **Family:** Fabaceae (pea)
- **Life Cycle:** Perennial
- **Origin:** The UK
- **Weed status:** Semi-invasive
- **Habitat:** Fields and openings
- **Seasonality:** June-Sep
- **Colorado distribution:** Foothills & montane
- **National distribution:** All across the US
- **Common and traditional uses:** Alfalfa is prepared as a tea; the seed sprouts can be eaten mixed with meat and other vegetables.



## Plant information description at maturity:

- **Flower:** Purple. about 1/3 inch long, pea-shaped
- **Leaves:** Trifoliate leaves, with long narrow leaflets serrated at the tips
- **Stem:** Long, green, slightly hairy
- **Fruit:** coiled legume with 2 to 4 spirals, up to 1/3 inch diameter, turning brown when ripe





# *Monarda fistulosa* (Beebalm, Wild bergamot)

## Plant information:

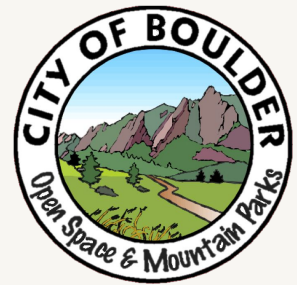
- **Family:** Lamiaceae (mint)
- **Life Cycle:** Perennial
- **Origin:** US
- **Weed status:** Native
- **Habitat:** moist areas
- **Seasonality:** July-Aug
- **Colorado distribution:** streamsides, canyonsides, ravines and meadows
- **National distribution:** All across the US except California and Florida
- **Common and traditional uses:** Pueblo Native Americans used leaves for flavoring meats, soups and stews in cooking



## Plant information description at maturity:

- **Flower:** Round cluster 1 to 2 inches across. Color ranges from purple to lavender to pink, rarely white. Two-lipped flowers with long stamens
- **Leaves:** 1-4in long and up to 1½ in wide. Rounded at the base and tapering to a point at the tip. Hairy underneath and smooth or hairy on top
- **Stem:** reddish brown color, square, and hairy to varying degrees.
- **Fruit:** nutlets (small nut or dry fruit surrounding a single seed that does not split open upon maturity)





# *Penstemon secundiflorus* (Penstemon)

## Plant information:

- **Family:** Plantaginaceae
- **Life Cycle:** Perennial
- **Origin:** US
- **Weed status:** Native
- **Habitat:** Sandy slopes and roadsides
- **Seasonality:** Mar-May
- **Colorado distribution:** plains to montane
- **National distribution:** CO, NM, WY
- **Common and traditional uses:** fresh plant is ground and combined with vegetable oil and beeswax to produce a salve considered to be useful for skin irritations and as a lip balm.



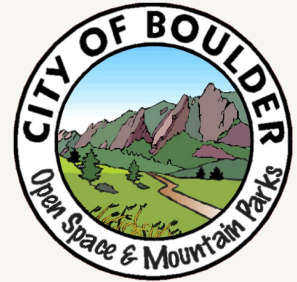
## Plant information description at maturity:

- **Flower:** Pink-purple, clusters of 1–4 flowers on one side of stem. A gradually expanding tube and 5 spreading, rounded lobes
- **Leaves:** 4in long, grayish-green, simple, a slight waxy coating, opposite on stem
- **Stem:** Erect, unbranched, no hairs
- **Fruit:** capsule (dry, multi-celled fruit that splits open on maturity)





# *Amelanchier alnifolia* (Serviceberry)



## Plant information:

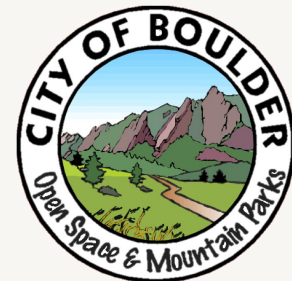
- **Family:** Rosaceae (Rose)
- **Life Cycle:** Perennial
- **Origin:** US
- **Weed status:** Native
- **Habitat:** Moist stream banks to drier hillsides
- **Seasonality:** Feb-Mar
- **Colorado distribution:** open woods
- **National distribution:** Western and Northern US up through Canada
- **Common and traditional uses:** fruit makes good jams and jellies and is also excellent fresh; Plains Native Americans mixed with buffalo meat and fat to make pemmican.



## Plant information description at maturity:

- **Flower:** Compact clusters of fragrant, white flowers
- **Leaves:** 2-5 cm long, green, oval, and petiolate.
- **Stem:** Bushy plant, woody stems
- **Fruit:** Pink-blue; pome (fleshy fruit with outer part soft and papery structure containing seeds in center)





# *Sambucus racemosa* (Red Elderberry)

## Plant information:

- **Family:** Caprifoliaceae (Honeysuckle)
- **Life Cycle:** Perennial
- **Origin:** US
- **Weed status:** Native
- **Habitat:** Rich or rocky woods; slopes
- **Seasonality:** April-June
- **Colorado distribution:** moist cliffs & ravines
- **National distribution:** Not present in the southern states and FL, excluding GA
- **Common and traditional uses:** While the seeds are poisonous, if they are removed, the berries may be eaten raw or cooked. Raw, the berries (and seeds) were specifically helpful to Native Americans, they were used as an emetic and purgative to detoxify the body



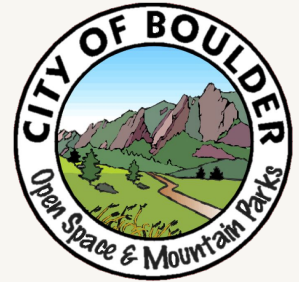
## Plant information description at maturity:

- **Flower:** Cluster of white flowers
- **Leaves:** Leaves are opposite, compound in groups of 5 or 7. 2- 5 inches long, 1 to 2 inches wide
- **Stem:** Bushy plant, woody stems
- **Fruit:** bright red berry ¼ inch or less diameter





# *Juniperus scopulorum* (Rocky Mountain Juniper)



## Plant information:

- **Family:** Cupressaceae
- **Life Cycle:** Perennial
- **Origin:** US
- **Weed status:** Native
- **Habitat:** mixed or pure stands of open woodland areas
- **Seasonality:** April-june
- **Colorado distribution:** elevations of up to 7500 feet, often on dry and rocky ridges
- **National distribution:** Western US and Canada
- **Common and traditional uses:** Rocky Mountain juniper was and still is used by many tribes for incense in purification and ritual. The Blackfeet made a tea from the berries of the Rocky Mountain juniper to stop vomiting



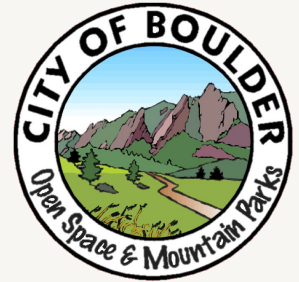
## Plant information description at maturity:

- **Flower:** Junipers are gymnosperms, which means they have seeds, but no flowers or fruits.
- **Leaves:** green/blue-green, usually barely overlapping and closely appressed, needlelike and 1/4-1/2" long
- **Bark:** dark reddish-brown to grayish in color, thin, fibrous, and usually shreds with age.
- **Fruit:** Seed cones are blue. Though technically incorrect, the seed cones are often referred to as berries.





# *Ribes aureum* (Golden Currant)



## Plant information:

- **Family:** Grossulariaceae
- **Life Cycle:** Perennial
- **Origin:** US
- **Weed status:** Native
- **Habitat:** Moist to drier hillsides & river valleys
- **Seasonality:** Mar-July
- **Colorado distribution:** montane meadows, and stream-sides
- **National distribution:** All the US except the south east
- **Common and traditional uses:** They were an important food source for the Plains Indians. The fruits were eaten fresh or dried and mixed with dried buffalo meat to make pemmican. The berries can also be converted into jams and jellies



## Plant information description at maturity:

- **Flower:** The five large, golden-yellow, petal-like lobes
- **Leaves:** Three-lobed, maple-like leaves
- **Stem:** long, wand-like stems
- **Fruit:** Usually red, orange, brown or black, rarely yellow.





# *Artemisia Ludoviciana* (Western mugwort)

## Plant information:

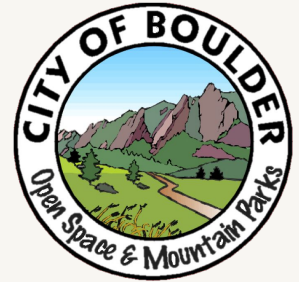
- **Family:** Asteraceae
- **Life Cycle:** Perennial
- **Origin:** North America, most of U.S., Canada, and Mexico
- **Weed status:** Invasive; Western native that was introduced East
- **Habitat:** Dry slopes, canyons, open pine woods, dry prairies
- **Seasonality:** Mid-spring to late summer
- **Colorado distribution:** plains to alpine
- **Common and traditional uses:** Leaves make a tea for soothing stomach, while roots can be used for laxative, difficulty with childbirth, or difficulty urinating. Natives used for ceremonial and cleaning purposes.



## Plant information description at maturity:

- **Flower:** Small, yellow flowers
- **Leaves:** Elliptical, 5 in long to 1 in wide, with rounded/pointed tips and no stalk. White grey in color
- **Stem:** Greenish white, usually 2-3' tall
- **Fruit:** Cypsela (dry single seeded fruit formed from a double ovary, resulting in one seed)





# *Asclepias speciosa* (Showy milkweed)

## Plant information:

- **Family:** Apocynaceae
- **Life Cycle:** Perennial
- **Origin:** Western half of North America (British Columbia to the central U.S.)
- **Weed status:** Considered a weedy species throughout early and mid succession
- **Habitat:** Wide range of moist conditions, typically found along canal banks, riparian sites, sub-irrigated or partially flooded wetlands with sedges and rushes
- **Seasonality:** May-September
- **Colorado distribution:** Moist roadsides and fields
- **Common and traditional uses:** Used as a cleansing and healing agent by desert tribes to heal warts, sores, cuts ringworm, and more.



## Plant information description at maturity:

- **Flower:** Spherical clusters of small, star-shaped, pinkish-white, fragrant flowers
- **Leaves:** Elongate, pointed, simple and entire, grown oppositely on stem 3-8 in long, 1-4 in wide
- **Stem:** Ascending to erect, about 20-50 in
- **Fruit:** Rough follicle about 2-4 in long, filled with several flat, oval seeds



Citations for all information included: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/database/feis/plants/forb/ascspe/all.html>

<https://www.westernnativeseed.com/plant%20guides/ascspe.pdf>



# *Bouteloua curtipendula* (Sideoats grama)

## Plant information:

- **Family:** Poaceae
- **Life Cycle:** Perennial
- **Origin:** North and South America, from Canada to Argentina
- **Weed status:** Threatened in many states
- **Habitat:** Glades, prairies, open rocky woodlands, wooded bluffs, barrens, railroad right of ways
- **Seasonality:** June-September
- **Colorado distribution:** Dry prairies
- **Common and traditional uses:** Used ornamentally in many lawns and to provide food and shelter for birds/wildlife.



## Plant information description at maturity:

- **Flower:** Small bright purple and orange flowers
- **Leaves:** Linear, mostly basal leaves, less than 20 in long with distinct stiff hairs along margins
- **Stem:** Hairless and erect, sometimes arching at the tip end; solitary or in small clumps, turn tan in fall and stay this color throughout winter
- **Fruit:** Grain/seed; Golden brown, oblong-elliptic, abt 3mm long and 1 mm wide



Citations for all information included: <https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/grass-sedge-rush/side-oats-grama>



# *Bouteloua gracilis* (Blue grama grass)

## Plant information:

- **Family:** Poaceae
- **Life Cycle:** Perennial
- **Origin:** Western U.S. from Southern Canada to Southern Mexico
- **Weed status:** Native; Vulnerable to extinction in some areas
- **Habitat:** Dry prairies and plains
- **Seasonality:** May-October
- **National distribution:** Great Plains and the Southwest
- **Common and traditional uses:** Can be used to make a multitude of items, such as combs and brooms



## Plant information description at maturity:

- **Flower:** Red tinted flowers that mature to a tan/straw color
- **Leaves:** Mostly basal with 2-3 alternate on the stem, 1-6 in wide, often curled, usually short hairy near base, with few long, white hairs along the edge
- **Stem:** Erect or horizontal with a rise at the lower node, hairless, dense clumps root at nodes and form mats from rhizomes
- **Fruit:** Oblong-elliptic and Brown, 2.5-3 mm long; Grain/seed



Citations for all information included: <https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/grass-sedge-rush/blue-grama>





# *Dactylis glomerata* (Orchard Grass)

## Plant information:

- **Family:** Poaceae
- **Life Cycle:** Perennial
- **Origin:** Eurasia, Africa
- **Weed status:** Considered a weed throughout most U.S.
- **Habitat:** Part shade; Moist to dry disturbed soils; Roadsides, fields, woodland edges, thickets, river banks, trail edges
- **Seasonality:** June-September
- **National distribution:** Found from Maine to gulf states and from Atlantic to east Great Plains
- **Common and traditional uses:** Used as feed for livestock and other wildlife, as well as erosion control.

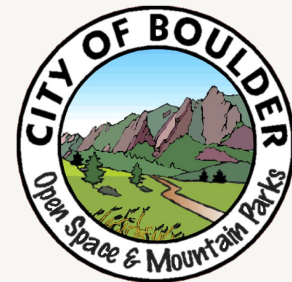


## Plant information description at maturity:

- **Flower:** Red tinted flowers that mature to a tan/straw color
- **Leaves:** Mostly basal with 2-3 alternate on the stem, 1-6 in wide, often curled, usually short hairy near base, with few long, white hairs along the edge
- **Stem:** Erect or horizontal with a rise at the lower node, hairless, dense clumps root at nodes and form mats from rhizomes
- **Fruit:** Oblong-elliptic and brown, 2.5-3 mm long; Grain/seed



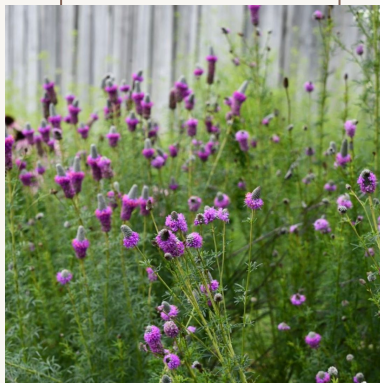
Citations for all information included: <https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/grass-sedge-rush/orchard-grass>



# *Dalea purpurea* (Purple Prairie Clover)

## Plant information:

- **Family:** Fabaceae
- **Life Cycle:** Perennial
- **Origin:** Central Canada and most of U.S.
- **Weed status:** Extirpated in MI, OH, threatened/concerned in TN and KY
- **Habitat:** Prairies, limestone glades, savannas, sand hills and dunes around MI
- **Seasonality:** July-September
- **Colorado distribution:** Frequent and infrequent population exist across Eastern Colorado
- **Common and traditional uses:** Native Americans used the plant for a variety of medicinal purposes, including heart ailments, treating fresh wounds, and easing diarrhea. The roots are/were used as candy.



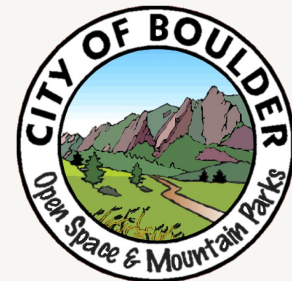
## Plant information description at maturity:

- **Flower:** Dense, cylindrical spikes of purple flowers
- **Leaves:** Small, compound leaves 1.5-3 in long, with 3-7 linear leaflets
- **Stem:** Wiry, slightly ridged green stems
- **Fruit:** Legume, with 1-2 seeds ranging from green-yellow-brown



Citations for all information included: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/database/feis/plants/forb/dalpur/all.html#FEDERAL%20LEGAL%20STATUS>

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/dalea-purpurea/>



# *Elymus Canadensis* (Canada Wild Rye)

## Plant information:

- **Family:** Poaceae
- **Life Cycle:** Perennial
- **Origin:** Native to most of North America
- **Weed status:** Native but can be aggressive due to self-seeding
- **Habitat:** Grasslands, ravines, depressions, verges, open woodlands, ditches, fencerows
- **Seasonality:** March-June
- **National distribution:** North America aside from AL, FL, GA, SC
- **Common and traditional uses:** Provides food, shade, nesting, and erosion control.



## Plant information description at maturity:

- **Flower:** Heavy, greenish, flowers, in 6 in spikes, similar to wheat or rye
- **Leaves:** 4-10 leaves are alternate, up to 12 in long, ~.5 in wide, mostly flat, sometimes rolled along edge and hairless
- **Stem:** Unbranched, smooth, erect; single or multiple from base that form dense or loose clumps
- **Fruit:** Caryopsis (Dry, one-seeded fruit, characteristic of grass), typically green or tan



Citations for all information included: <https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/grass-sedge-rush/canada-wild-rye>

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/database/feis/plants/graminoid/elycan/all.html>