

Wildflowers of Lookout Mountain Nature Center

Lookout Mountain Nature Center
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**Jefferson County
Open Space**
enriching life

Flower Checklist

WHITE FLOWERS

- ___ Chokecherry
- ___ Serviceberry
- ___ Wild plum
- ___ Waxflower
- ___ Wild strawberry
- ___ Spring beauty
- ___ Whiplash daisy
- ___ Porter aster
- ___ Yarrow
- ___ Death camas
- ___ Sun-loving cat's paw
- ___ Yucca

PINK/PURPLE FLOWERS

- ___ Wild rose
- ___ Wild geranium
- ___ Shooting-star
- ___ Showy daisy
- ___ Smooth aster
- ___ Tansy aster
- ___ Nodding onion
- ___ Showy milkweed
- ___ Gayfeather
- ___ Bee balm
- ___ Lambert's locoweed
- ___ One-Sided penstemon
- ___ Spotted coralroot
- ___ Wax current

BLUE FLOWERS

- ___ Common harebell
- ___ Blue flax
- ___ Colorado columbine
- ___ Silvery lupine
- ___ Blue mist penstemon
- ___ Early larkspur

RED FLOWERS

- ___ Indian paintbrush
- ___ Scarlet gilia

YELLOW FLOWERS

- ___ Blanket flower
- ___ Black-eyed susan
- ___ Prairie coneflower
- ___ Golden aster
- ___ Curlycup gumweed
- ___ Woolly cinquefoil
- ___ Golden banner
- ___ Sulphur flower
- ___ Goldenrod
- ___ Whiskbroom parsley
- ___ Fringed sage
- ___ Prairie sage
- ___ Creeping Oregon-grape
- ___ Yellow stonecrop
- ___ Skunkbrush

White Flowers

Chokecherry *Padus virginiana*

Tent caterpillars spin webs on chokecherry shrubs. Caterpillars emerge in spring to feed on the tender leaves, which damages some shrubs, but keeps the plant's population healthy by eliminating these weak plants.



Height: 20' at maturity.
Habitat: Foothills, montane shrublands, woodlands
Flowers: May-June
Fruits: July-August

Serviceberry *Amelanchier alnifolia*

Snowy clusters of serviceberry blooms offer food for early spring bees. Summer brings juicy berries to feed hungry birds like the spotted towhee.



Height: 4-30' at maturity.
Habitat: Slopes, canyons, open coniferous forests
Flowers: April-July
Fruits: July-August

Skunkbrush *Rhus aromatica*

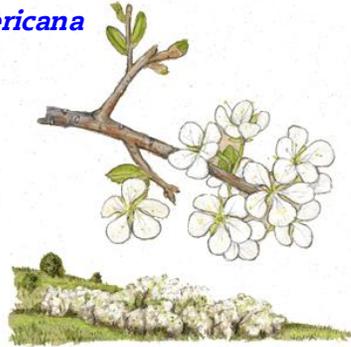
Skunkbrush offers unique early spring blooms to silvery winter bark. This species is a member of the mostly tropical sumac family which includes delicious food sources such as cashews, pistachios, and mangos.



Height: to 6'
Habitat: Sandy, dry areas, on rocky slopes and canyonsides, and in open woods.
Flowers: April-June
Fruits: Late summer

Wild Plum
Prunus americana

Wild plum's spring blossoms, summer green leaves, and tasty fall plums offer plentiful food for wildlife. The bark is fire-resistant, making it a great shrub for a fire-wise landscape.



Height: 30' at maturity.
Habitat: *Moist valleys and upland slopes*
Flowers: *April-May*
Fruits: *July-August*



Creeping Oregon-Grape
Mahonia repens

Native relatives of the Oregon-grape were abundant in Colorado millions of years ago. Early spring's yellow blooms become autumn's colorful clusters of edible berries.



Height: to 10"
Habitat: *On hillsides, in conifer woods, and in scrub oak thickets.*
Flowers: *April-June*
Fruits: *August-September*



Waxflower
Jamesia americana

Fossilized leaves from this family have been found in Colorado dating back 27 million years when the climate here was much warmer.

Include waxflower, a native hydrangea shrub, in your landscape; it's as if you are welcoming ancient plant relatives to your home.

Height: 3-6'
Habitat: *Rocky slopes, mixed shrub communities, coniferous woods*
Flowers: *May-September*



Yellow Stonecrop
Amerosedum lanceolatum

The watertight succulent leaves of yellow stonecrop allow it to survive times of drought. This great rock garden plant spreads slowly.



Height: to 8"
Habitat: *Open, sunny areas such as prairie, tundra, rocky and gravelly slopes, trails, and roadsides*
Flowers: *June-August*





Fringed Sage
Artemisia frigida

Fringed sage is deer-resistant and needs very little water or care. Its silvery look and pleasant fragrance blend well in a natural landscape. Fringed sage attracts the silvery green moth, *Shinea cumatilis*.

Height: to 12"
Habitat: *Dry hillsides, and in meadows and clearings in woods*
Flowers: *July-October*



Wild Strawberry
Fragaria virginiana

Wild strawberries grow much like their garden cousins. Summer's creeping green leaves signal autumn's arrival by turning a brilliant red.

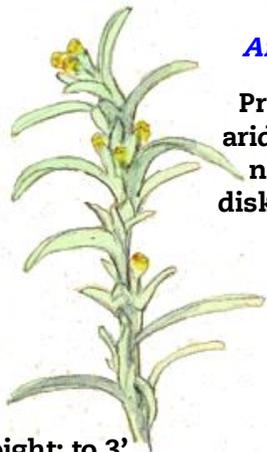
Height: *6-12"*
Habitat: *Fields, open slopes, woodland edges*
Flowers: *April-May*
Fruits: *June-July*



Prairie Sage
Artemisia ludoviciana

Prairie sage is well adapted to Colorado's arid climate and it adds a silvery sheen to a natural landscape. Pollen from these tiny disk-shaped flowers is transported by wind.

Height: to 3'
Habitat: *Dry areas on prairie slopes and gravelly hillsides, along roads and railroad tracks, and in waste ground and open woods.*
Flowers: *July-October*



Spring Beauty
Claytonia rosea

Warm days late in winter bring spring beauties into bloom signaling spring's approach. When the temperature drops, the flowers close tightly.

Height: *6-12"*
Habitat: *Ponderosa pine forests, moist ground from foothills to high mountains*
Flowers: *April-July*



Whiplash Daisy
Erigeron flagellaris



Whiplash daisies extend finger-like stems to form a mat, making them excellent ground cover. Myriads of the tiny white daisies are butterfly magnets from June through October.

Height: to 16"
Habitat: *Exposed sites such as hillsides, meadows, and prairies*
Flowers: *June-October*

Goldenrod
Solidago missouriensis



Goldenrod's heavy pollen is eaten and transported by insects, not by wind. A wide array of insects are drawn to feast at this brilliant fast food landing pad.

Height: to 18"
Habitat: *Rocky slopes, stream banks, and roadsides, and in ditches and forest openings*
Flowers: *July-September*

Porter Aster
Aster porteri

The highly drought-tolerant Porter aster blooms faithfully August through September attracting late summer pollinators to its small white landing pads.



Height: to 18"
Habitat: *Fields, meadows, forest openings*
Flowers: *August-September*

Whiskbroom Parsley
Harbouria trachypleura



Clusters of tiny yellow flowers on this native whiskbroom parsley invite short-tongued pollinators such as flies to enjoy its pollen and nectar.

Height: 2-20"
Habitat: *Dry meadows and open woods, and on sunny slopes*
Flowers: *May-July*

Golden Banner
Thermopsis divaricarpa



Like a snapdragon, also a member of the pea family, golden banner flowers are hinged. Only the weight of a bumble bee can open the “door.”

Height: to 3'
Habitat: *Sandy and gravelly areas of roadsides, valleys, ravines, meadows, and clearings*
Flowers: *April-July*

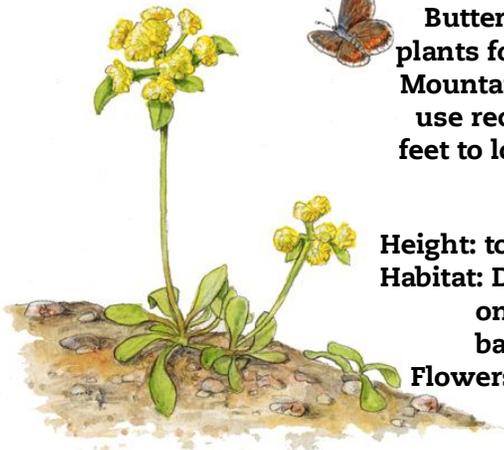
Yarrow
Achillea lanulosa



Colorado’s only native yarrow is sturdy and deer-resistant. This species has long been renowned for its medicinal properties. Various parts of the plant are said to relieve the symptoms of headaches, fevers, cold, influenza, excessive bleeding, toothache, stomach ulcers, and a myriad of other ailments.

Height: 12-40”
Habitat: *Open areas from lowlands to mountain highlands*
Flowers: *March-October*

Sulphur Flower
Eriogonum umbellatum



Butterflies need very specific plants for their eggs. Tiny Rocky Mountain dotted blue butterflies use receptive sensors on their feet to locate sulphur flowers for their nurseries.

Height: to 16”
Habitat: *Dry forest openings and on rocky slopes and road banks*
Flowers: *June-August*

Death Camas
Toxicoscordium venenosum



Toxicon means “poison for arrows” in Greek! This species is highly poisonous and has been known to kill humans, livestock, and even honeybees that ingest any part of this plant. Enjoy these dainty flowering jewels from afar!

Height: 8-20”
Habitat: *Dry meadows, grassy hillsides, montane forests in exposed places*
Flowers: *May-July*

Sunloving Catspaw
Antennaria parvifolia



An underground root system allows sunloving catspaw to quickly spread and form a thick drought-tolerant groundcover. The flowers look and feel like a cat's paw.

Height: to 6"

Habitat: *Openings in dry forests and on plains*

Flowers: *July-September*

Curlycup Gumweed
Grindelia squarrosa



Nature designed this native plant to spread quickly into disturbed landscapes. Curlycup gumweed provides plentiful food for late summer pollinators like the *Shinea mortua*, a camouflaged moth which also lays eggs on this flower.

Height: to 3'

Habitat: *Waste places, abandoned fields, and along roads*

Flowers: *July to October*



Yucca
Yucca glauca

Pronuba moths and yucca plants have a special relationship. The moth pollinates the yucca blossoms, while the blossoms and pollen provide home and food for the moth and its young.



Height: Flower stalk up to 5'

Habitat: *Dry areas, deserts, prairie slopes and hillsides*

Flowers: *May-July*



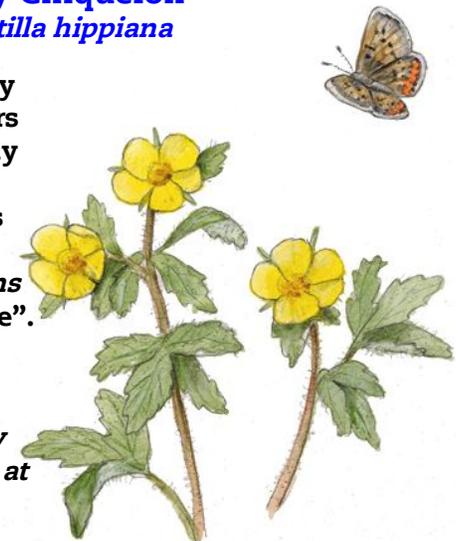
Wooly Cinquefoil
Potentilla hippiana

The cup shape of the wooly cinquefoil (sink-a-foil) offers easy pollen access for many insects. The supposed medicinal qualities of this plant inspired the genus name, from the Latin *potens* meaning "powerful little one".

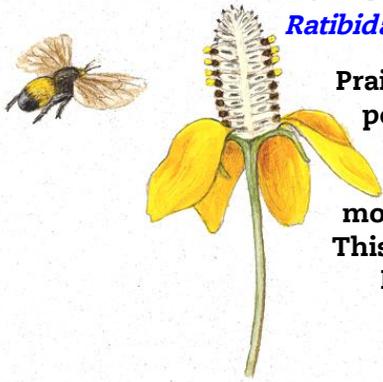
Height: to 20"

Habitat: *Dry ground on hillsides and gravelly slopes, in fields, and at forest borders*

Flowers: *June-August*



Prairie Coneflower
Ratibida columnifera



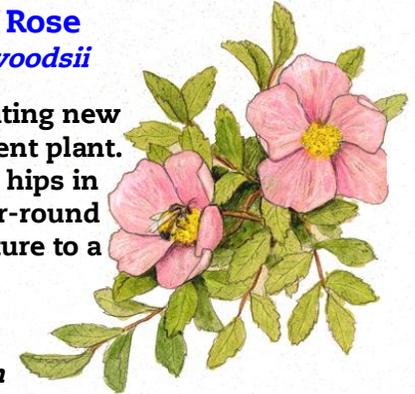
Prairie coneflowers offer fast food for pollinators. In fact, all sunflowers are made up of hundreds of tiny ray and/or disk flowers providing more accessible food for pollinators. This flower is also called the Mexican Hat because of its similarity in appearance to a sombrero.

Height: to 30"
Habitat: *Limy soils along roads as well as on mesas, prairie slopes, and hillsides*
Flowers: *June-September*



Pink and Purple Flowers

Wild Rose
Rosa woodsii



Wild rose spreads easily, sprouting new stems several feet from the parent plant. Pink blossoms in spring, rose hips in fall and red prickly stems year-round add continuous color and texture to a natural landscape.

Height: *up to 6'*
Habitat: *Along roads, trails, on hillsides, in draws, and sunny, open valleys*
Flowers: *June-August*

Golden Aster
Heterotheca villosa



Golden clusters of miniature sunflowers bloom brightly even in the driest of summers. They are so common in the West that they are difficult to overlook. They are everywhere in dry places, often in very showy displays.

Height: *to 9"*
Habitat: *Dry areas on slopes and hillsides, in fields and open woods, and along roads*
Flowers: *July-September*

Wild Geranium
Geranium caespitosum



Vivid lines called nectar guides lead insects to sweet rewards. Wild geranium is deer-resistant and needs little water. The flowers and red fall leaves add color to a natural landscape.

Height: *8-32"*
Habitat: *Openings in dry forests and on plains*
Flowers: *May-August*

Shooting-star
Dodecatheon pulchellum

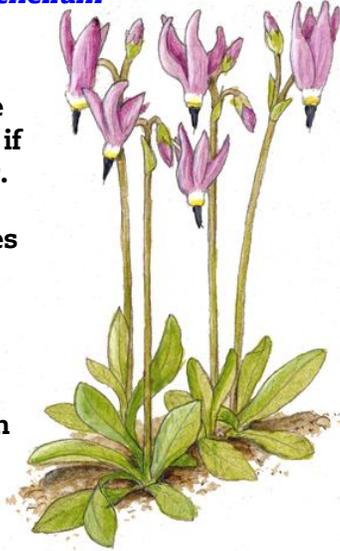
Can you find the stars in a moist mountain meadow or stream? The petals of shooting-stars fold back as if a star were shooting across the sky.

Shooting-star has various fanciful names in Native American languages such as rain's navel, curlew's bill, and beautiful maiden.

Height: to 16"

Habitat: Cool, shady, wet places such as damp meadows, stream banks, and forest glades

Flowers: April-July



Yellow Flowers

Blanket Flower
Gaillardia aristata

The blanket flower and *Schinia masoni* moth share an essential partnership. The flower offers a safe place for the moth to lay her eggs, while the caterpillars eat some seeds limiting the plant population and keeping it healthy.



Height: to 28"

Habitat: Open, sunny areas such as hillsides, meadows, and clearings in woods

Flowers: June-August

Showy Daisy
Erigeron speciosus

Smooth Aster
Aster laevis

Tansy Aster
Machaeranthera spp.



June-August

August-October

August-November

These asters bloom one after the other, offering long-term color and essential food for wildlife.

Height: up to 3'
Habitat: Meadows, open woods, on slopes

Black-Eyed Susan
Rudbeckia hirta

Black-eyed susans, part of the sunflower family, are deer-resistant and drought-tolerant in your landscape. The flower is native to the Eastern United states west to the foothills of the Rocky Mountains and is the state flower of Maryland.



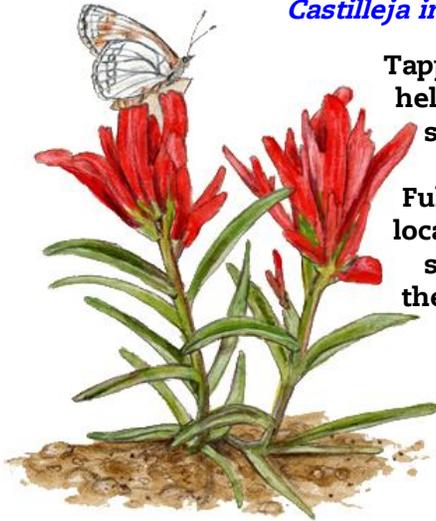
Height: to 30"

Habitat: Aspen groves, open woodlands, on hillsides, and along trails and roads

Flowers: July-August

Red Flowers

Indian Paintbrush *Castilleja integra*



Tapping into other root systems helps this semi-parasitic plant stay healthy in arid climates.

Fulvia checkerspot butterflies locate Indian paintbrush using sensors on their feet. Once they find the right plant, they lay their eggs.

Height: to 16"
Habitat: *Rocky or gravelly soil along ridges and on hillsides and shrubby slopes.*
Flowers: *June-August*

Nodding Onion *Allium cernuum*



Drought-tolerant nodding onions are closely related to the onions we eat. Ground squirrels and bears feed on the bulbs and leaves.

Height: 4-20"
Habitat: *Moist soils in cool mountain forests*
Flowers: *June-October*



Scarlet Gilia *Ipomopsis aggregata*



Height: to 5'
Habitat: *dry areas, such as sunny, open woods, rocky slopes, and fields*
Flowers: *June-September*

Red flowers, like the trumpet-shaped scarlet gilia, send an open invitation to hummingbirds. Nature has specially shaped and "painted" this flower to fit this tiny bird.

Showy Milkweed *Asclepias speciosa*

Monarch butterflies drink nectar from the sweet-smelling exotic blossoms of showy milkweed. Female monarch butterflies lay their eggs exclusively on milkweed plants. Toxins within the plant enter the caterpillar's body as it feeds, making it poisonous to predators.



Height: up to 6'
Habitat: *In sandy and disturbed areas of fields, roadsides, fence rows, brushy slopes, and open woods*
Flowers: *May-August*



Gayfeather *Liatris punctata*

Gayfeather radiates brilliant flowering stalks in the late summer months. Large, lengthy roots store moisture, allowing this plant to thrive in Colorado's arid climate.



Height: 6-32"
Habitat: *Dry open places, on plains and in coniferous forests*
Flowers: *August-September*

Blue Mist Penstemon *Penstemon virens*

After pollination, blue mist penstemon petals turn pink signalling to insects that the flower has already been pollinated. Blue mist penstemon is a very hardy, drought-tolerant plant.



Height: *to 10"*
Habitat: *Rocky, gravelly areas, such as road banks and hillsides*
Flowers: *June-August*



Bee Balm *Monarda fistulosa*

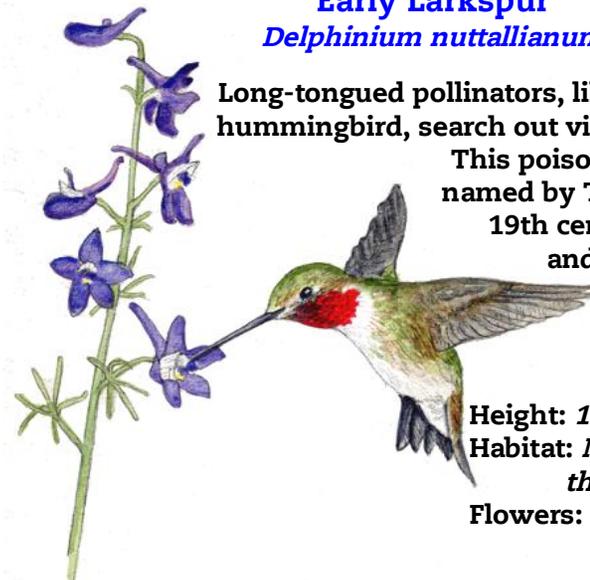
Bee balm needs little water and grows easily, spreading with underground roots. The midsummer blossoms and minty smelling leaves make this a great addition to your natural landscape. This plant is said to have many medicinal uses including the treatment of colds, headaches, burns, and warts.



Height: *1-3'*
Habitat: *Dry fields, thickets, and borders*
Flowers: *May-July*

Early Larkspur *Delphinium nuttallianum*

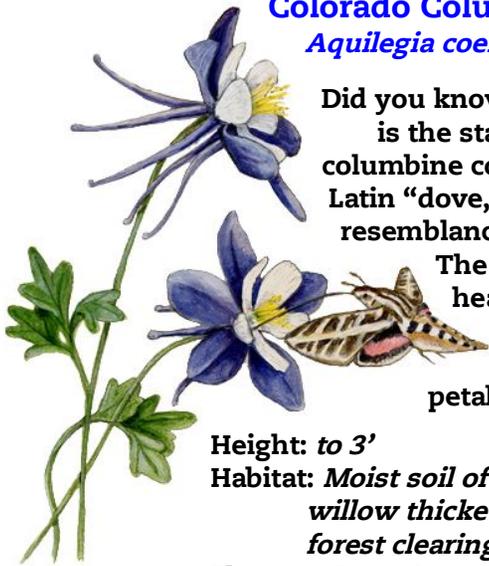
Long-tongued pollinators, like this broad-tailed hummingbird, search out violet-blue larkspurs. This poisonous flower was named by Thomas Nuttall, a 19th century botanist and explorer.



Height: *12"*
Habitat: *Meadows, fields, thickets, and woods.*
Flowers: *May-June*

Colorado Columbine

Aquilegia coerulea



Did you know the Colorado columbine is the state flower? The name columbine comes from *columbinus*, in Latin “dove,” referring to the flower’s resemblance to a cluster of 5 doves.

The spurs represent the birds’ heads and shoulders, the spreading sepals, the wings, the blade of the petal each bird’s body.

Height: to 3’

Habitat: *Moist soil of ravines, rocky slopes, willow thickets, aspen groves, and forest clearings*

Flowers: *June-August*

Silvery Lupine

Lupinus argenteus

The palm-shaped leaves of silvery lupine catch beads of rain and dew, funneling water toward the roots. This pea family member adds precious nitrogen to the soil, enriching it for other plants.

Height: *12-30” at maturity.*

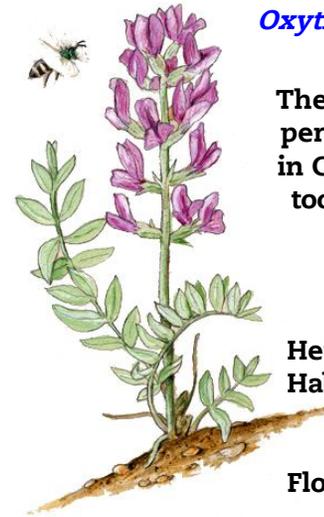
Habitat: *Ponderosa pine forests and meadows*

Flowers: *June-August*



Lambert’s Locoweed

Oxytropis lambertii



The sun-loving Lambert’s locoweed is a perennial with a unique magenta color in Colorado landscapes. If livestock eat too much locoweed, they can become ill and act “loco.”

Height: *to 16”*

Habitat: *Dry areas and sandy soil along roads, in meadows, and on gravelly slopes*

Flowers: *April-August*

One-sided Penstemon

Penstemon secundiflorus

One-sided penstemon is the perfect shape for bees to wiggle into and feast upon. Add native penstemons to a natural landscape for drought-tolerant, easy-to-maintain beauty.

Height: *to 20”*

Habitat: *Dry sandy areas, such as hillsides, roadsides, slopes, fields, and pastures*

Flowers: *May-July*

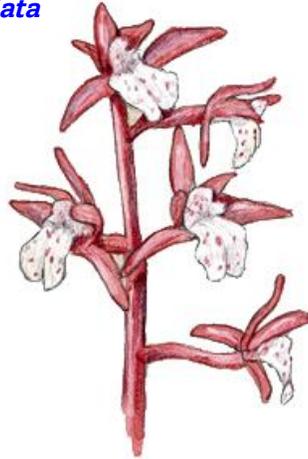


Spotted Coralroot
Corallorhiza maculata

Spotted coralroot orchids do not have chlorophyll for manufacturing sugar. This fragile beauty obtains its nourishment from rotting leaves and wood on the forest floor.



Height: 8-32"
Habitat: *Shady woods*
Flowers: *April-September*



Blue Flowers

Common Harebell
Campanula rotundifolia

Common harebell flowers hang down to protect pollen and nectar from weather. The shape gathers heat and provides shelter for insects. These hardy yet dainty flowers bloom from May to October.



Height: *Up to 2'*
Habitat: *Grassy slopes, in meadows and forest clearings, at the edges of woods, and even on grassy tundra.*
Flowers: *May-October*

Wax Current
Ribes cereum

Wildlife feast on tasty summer berries which help spread the seeds. Bitter tasting leaves make wax current a deer-resistant shrub.



Height: *up to 4'*
Habitat: *Dry soils, sunny slopes*
Flowers: *May-June*
Fruits: *July-August*



Blue Flax
Adenolinum lewisii

Spreading readily, blue flax makes an ocean of blue throughout the summer in Colorado's arid climate. This plant is traditionally used by many Native cultures in the United States to make cordage, and it is closely related to the species from which linen and linseed oil come.



Height: *6-32"*
Habitat: *Dry hillsides, rocky slopes, roadsides, and forest clearings*
Flowers: *May-August*