Northern Arizona Native Plants

2017 Fall Master Gardener Class

Native Plant	Size	Requirements	Color	Bloom Time	Life Cycle	Landscape Use	Wildlife Value	Companion Plant	Habitat	Picture (all pictures by Max Licher unless otherwise noted)
Blackfoot Daisy Melampodium leucanthum	12 in. (some source say up to 3 ft.)	Water Requirement: Low-Medium moisture with good drainage. Avoid drip systems Sun Exposure: Full sun	White with yellow center	Late Spring - Early Fall	Perennial	Clumpy Shrub. Well- drained border or rock gardens.	Attractive to nectar- insects, including bees and butterflies, and seed-granivorous birds; deer and rabbit- resistant.	garden plants	Arid landscapes including plains, prairies, meadows, dry calcareous soils (native range: AZ, CO, NM, TX, KS, OK)	
Blanketflower Gaillardia aristata	Mature Size: 6-8 in. (some varieties grow to 18 in.) Mature Width: 6in. spreading to 24in.	Water Requirement: Drought tolerant and drought resistant; needs little water once established Sun Exposure: Full sun	Yellow with orange-red base and amber-red center (colors in species vary from solid yellows to deep reds to variegated blooms)	Summer - Fall	Herbaceous perennial. Propagates by seed or plant	Will self-seed and naturalize where seeded or planted from starts. Good plant for xeriscaping.	Provides nectar for butterflies and some varieties provide food for caterpillars in the Lepidoptera species (butterflies and moths). Resistant to deer and rabbits.	Blue flax, Yarrow, Agastache, low water plants	Gaillardia species found from Mexico to Canada. Likes sandy/gravely soils but not heavy clays.	
Blue Flax Linum lewisii	1/2 ft.	Water Requirement: Low (Water regularly the first growing season. Thereafter, infrequent, but deep watering.) Sun Exposure: Full Sun	Blue	April- October	Perennial	Ornamental	Attracts large number of native bees.	Baileya multiradiata (Desert Marigold) Coreopsis tinctoria (Plains Coreopsis) Eschscholzia Californica (California Poppy)	Prairies; open, rocky woods; meadows; dry hillsides; coniferous forests	
Bridges Penstemon Penstemon rostriflorus synonym: Penstemon bridgesii	to 3.3 ft.	Water Requirement: Low to moderate water, can be drought tolerant but does like some summer water. Sun Exposure: Full sun	Scarlet red to red/orange	Mid to late Summer -Early Fall	Perennial. Propagate with seed or cuttings, seeds do best with cold moist stratification.	Can grow in rocky areas and sandy soils, excellent addition to a native garden. Adds beautiful color with red flowers & bright green leaves.	Attracts pollinators & provides nectar, pollen and food. Great for hummingbird gardens, butterfly gardens & bee gardens. Deer resistant.		Dry rocky slopes in pinyon-juniper and oak woodlands, ponderosa pine forests; 900-2400 m (3000-8000 ft.); Coconino, Gila, Mohave, Navajo, and Yavapai counties; southwestern U.S.	

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Cutleaf coneflower Rudbeckia laciniata	Mature Size: 7 ft. Mature Width: ~3 ft.	Water Requirement: Moderate Sun Exposure: Partial shade to sun	Yellow	July-September	Perennial	Mounding at the base, but taller flowering stems emerge to add height. Good back border plant. Does well in moist soils. Can tolerate strong winds. Also used for cut flowers.	Good pollinator plant attracting bees, butterflies, moths, flies, and some birds. Poisonous to livestock. Not often disturbed by deer.		Mountain meadows, moist canyons, along streams, and sun/shade borders.	
Desert columbine, Arizona columbine, Red columbine Aquilegia desertorum	Mature Size: 1.5 - 2 ft. Mature Width: 15 in 2 ft.	Water Requirement: Low to moderate Sun Exposure: Plant in morning sun/afternoon shade or dappled shade, although at elevations above 7,000 ft. they will do fine in full sun with regular irrigation.	Red petaloid sepals and yellow petals	Late Spring - Early Fall (Dead head to encourage continued blooming)	Herbaceous perennial. Individual columbine plants can be short lived (3 to 4 years), but they will colonize areas of the garden where they will live for many years.	Accent, border, container, hummingbird garden, rock garden. Leave plants standing over the winter and cut back to 1-2" above the soil in mid-spring when the plants begin to wake up.	Attractive to hummingbirds. Resistant to deer and rabbits.	Daylilies, other columbines	Rare in northern Arizona and New Mexico; on limestone outcrops and canyon slopes in ponderosa pine forests. It is native to the middle elevations of Coconino County in Arizona and is very amenable to nonmountain climates.	
Desert Goldenrod Solidago velutina	Mature Size: 30 in.	Water Requirement: little water once established. Sun Exposure: Full sun	Yellow	Late Summer - Early Fall	Perennial	Pollinator gardens.	Attracts bees and butterflies.	fall asters and milkweeds	Meadows and hillsides	
Fendler's sundrops Calylophus hartwegii fendleri	Mature Size: 10 - 12 in. Mature Width: 24 in.	Water Requirement: Drought tolerant. Water once or twice a month to maintain blooms. Sun Exposure: Full sun to part shade		Spring - Summer	Perennial	Ornamental, ground cover. Good choice for rock garden or rocky slope.	Attracts butterflies, bees, birds.		Hot and dry areas	Image Credit: Patrick Alexander

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Golden Columbine (a.k.a. Golden Spur Columbine) Aquilegia chrysantha	Mature Size: Up to 30 - 36 in. Mature Width: 18 in.	Water Requirement: Moderate water Sun Exposure: Half sun or shade; full sun possible at 7,000 ft. or higher	Yellow	April - September	Perennial	Wildflower and rock gardens; woodlands and borders.	Deer resistant, rabbit resistant; attracts pollinators such as hummingbirds, bees, butterflies, moths.		Aspen groves, canyons, moist woodlands, alongside streams (riparian zones), 3,000 to 11,000 feet elevation (Above 7,000 ft. is ideal.)	
Littleleaf pussytoes Antennaria parvifolia	Mature Size: 0-1 ft.	Water Requirement: Low to moderate Sun Exposure: Partial to full shade	White	Late Spring - Early Summer	Perennial	Ground cover	Butterflies and bees.	Native grasses such as Arizona fescue, blue grama and little bluestem among ponderosa pine.	Mountain forests from 5,000 to 12,000 ft.	
Milkweed Asclepias spp.	Mature Size: 1-4 ft. Mature Width: 1 1.5 ft.	Water Requirement: medium, or: "water well first summer and ignore." Sun Exposure: full sun	Light pink, white, or purple	Mid - Late Summer	Herbaceous Perennial	Native landscaping.	Attracts butterflies and other pollinators. Deer resistant.	Verbena, Purple Salvia, Mammoth Sunflowers	Occurs in many sunny, dry habitats including fields and roadsides	
Mountain Beebalm Monardella odoratissima	Mature Size: 1 ft. Mature Width: 2 ft.	Water Requirement: Medium drought tolerant Sun Exposure: Full sun to part shade	Lavender or Rose purple	May - September	Perennial	Borders, accents, rock gardens, ground cover.	Attractive to bees and butterflies.	Columbine and silver sage	High elevation, rocky areas at 6,000 - 11,000 ft.	
Mountain meadow- rue Thalictrum fendleri	Mature Size: 3.3–6.6 ft. Mature Width: 19 - 40 in.	Water Requirement: Moderate water Sun Exposure: Shade – mostly shade but some sun in the am	Green, yellow, or purple	Early/Mid Summer (June- August)	Herbaceous Perennial	Perfect for shade garden, with some moisture.	Attracts birds & butterflies. Also - Decoctions prepared from the roots of Thalictrum fendleri were used medicinally by Native Americans to cure colds and gonorrhea, and in ceremonies.	Willow, birch, mountain brush, sagebrush-snowberry, boxelder-cottonwood, alder, ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, aspen- tall forb, and spruce-fir communities	Found in many types of habitats, including open places to shaded areas in woodlands and forests,. Is a common understory species in ponderosa pine forests	

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Mallow	Mature Size: 36 in. Mature Width: 15-18 in.	Water Requirement: Moderate Sun Exposure: Full sun, Morning sun, then afternoon sun	Pink	Mid to late Summer (April, May, June)	Perennial	For low lying areas that collect water after a rain shower.	Bee Friendly.	Mimulus aurantiacus	Moist meadows, Streams	
Owl's claws, Western sneezeweed Hymenoxys hoopesii	Mature Size: 24- 40 in. Mature Width: 15-36 in.	Water Requirement: Low to moderate Sun Exposure: Full sun	Bright Yellow	Late Spring - Early Summer	Perennial	Wildflower meadow, naturalizing, back of border or pond, butterfly garden, cold areas in the garden.	Attracts bees, butterflies and birds: resistant to elk and deer; poisonous to sheep.	blue flag, silvery lupine, geranium larkspur, Rocky Mountain penstemon, scarlet bugler, asters and fleabanes, orange mountain gooseberry, shrubby cinquefoil, alpine timothy, tufted hairgrass, ebony sedge.	High elevation (7,000- 11,000 ft.) coniferous forest and mountain meadows.	
Palmer's Penstemon Penstemon palmeri Gray var. palmeri	Mature Size: Up to 55 in. Mature Width: 1 in.	Water Requirement: Very drought hardy and intolerant of overwatering. Sun Exposure: Requires full sun and welldrained soils. Fully coldhardy.	Pale to bright Pink	Early - Mid Summer	Herbaceous Perennial	Stunning in borders or as a specimen plant. Very xeric and heat tolerant.	Attracts bumble bees and other large native bees.	Use with other high desert plants such as Pinyon Pine, Utah Agave, Big Sagebrush, Desert Willow, Mormon Tea, Buckwheat, Apache Plume, Chaparral Yucca, Banana Yucca. *They do not like to be crowded with other plants.	Desert and foothill habitats	
Pineleaf Penstemon Penstemon pinifolius	Mature Size: 1.5 ft. Mature Width: 2 ft.	Water Requirement: little to moderate Sun Exposure: full sun; partial shade in hottest climates	Red-orange	Late Spring - Early Summer	Perennial (3-4 yrs.)	For rock garden, border or small scale ground cover.	Attracts hummingbirds; repels rabbits.	Artemesia, flax, salvia	From plains and deserts to forest glades and foothills to highest mountains (Zones 1-24)	Image Credit: Patrick Alexander
Purple Aster Dietera canescens	Mature Size: 4 ft.	Water Requirement: high water Sun Exposure: shade tolerant to full sun	Purple	June-November	Annual, Biennial, or Perennial	Restoration / reclamation, early colorizer.	Provides food for birds and animals. Pollination for bees and butterflies.	Shadescale desert, wyo big sage brush, shrub, mountain, big sagebrush, aspen, & limberpine	Rangelands, moving up to higher elevations or in valley bottoms	

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purple geranium Geranium caespitosum	Mature Size: 1 - 2 ft. Mature Width: 2 - 4 ft.	Water Requirement: Medium Sun Exposure: Partial shade	Purple, sometimes with white, but never all white	May-September	Perennial	Beautify in color.	Deer resistant.	Spider plant, asparagus fern	Forest, Rocks, meadows.	
Richardson's Cranesbill Geramium richardsonii	Mature Size: 8 - 31 in. Mature Width: 6 in.	Water Requirement: Moderate water, do not let dry out Sun Exposure: Full sun in the morning with afternoon shade, Geraniums stop blooming in hot weather	White to purple petals with darker purple veining	April-October	Herbaceous Perennial. Grows from a woody taproot and older plants develop rhizomes.	Flower Gardens with shade in the afternoon.	Valuable forage species for livestock, deer, and elk. Infusion of dried roots taken or powdered leaves used as snuff for nosebleed.	Coniferous forests from 6,500-11,500 ft., Aspen and Spruce	Native to western North America, found in multiple habitats, especially mountains and forests	
Rocky Mountain Columbine Aquilegia caerulea	Mature size: 1.79 ft. Mature Width: 15 in.	Water Requirement: well drained evenly moist soil Sun Exposure: partial sun to light shade if full sun generally compact flower	Blue and white petals and spurs, white cup yellow center	April-July	Perennial	Very popular garden plant, makes dependable border plant. Especially nice in woodland gardens and hummingbird gardens. Best planted in groups.	Attracts long-tongued nectar feeders. Ignored by rabbits and deer.	Harebells and Siberian Iris	CO, AZ, NM	
Rocky Mountain penstemon, Beardtongue Penstemon strictus	Mature Size: 8- 27 in. Mature Width 12-35 in.	Water Requirement: Average moisture (15 - 20 in.) Well drained Sun Exposure: Full sun Morning sun	Blue to purple, white	Spring - After being planted for about a year (will flower after one winter)	Herbaceous Perennial	Ornamental - highly drought tolerant, easy to seed, self-sows readily. Erosion Control.	Pollinator plant (bees, butterflies, hummingbirds), Host plant for checkerspot butterfly. Forage for deer, antelope, and birds. Protection/cover for birds.	Paintbrush (Castilleja) species	Forests Ponderosa pine Spruce fir Piñon-Juniper Upper elevation (6,000 - 10,000ft) Rocky or sandy roadsides Wooded slopes Open meadows Limestone ridges	Image Credit: Patrick Alexander
Rubber rabbitbrush, chamisa Ericameria nauseosa	Mature Size: 5 ft. Mature Width: 5 ft.	Water Requirement: Very low to low Sun Exposure: Full sun	Yellow	Late Summer - Fall	Perennial	Dry gardens, wildflower meadows, butterfly garden, low- maintenance shrub, xeriscape, screening, fast growth.	Important species for butterflies and many other insect pollinator species. Food source for rabbits, deer, elk, and pronghorn. Provides shelter for birds and small mammals.	Sagebrush, blue grama grass, purple asters, prickly pear cactus, cholla	Grasslands and high- desert scrublands	inings of edit. Father Alexander

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Sacred datura, Jimsonweed Datura wrightii	Mature Size: 3-6 ft.	Water Requirement: medium Sun exposure: sun, part shade	White	May - November	Perennial	Perennial garden, bog or pond area.	High deer resistance.	Tomatoes	Disturbed areas, along roadsides, ditches, and sandy washed from 1,000-6,000 ft. in elevation.	
Sand Dune wallflower, Wheeler's wallflower <i>Erysimum wheeleri</i>	in.	Water Requirement: Low/Drought tolerant Sun Exposure: Part to Full	Orange	March - September	Biennial	Xeriscape	Deer resistant.		mixed conifer/Elevation 7000 to 12000	
Scarlet bugler, golden-beard penstemon, and beard lip penstemon Penstemon barbatus	4 ft. Mature Width: 9 - 12 in.	Water Requirement: Moderate water with good drainage is needed. Drought tolerant once established. Sun Exposure: Plant the Scarlet Bugler in full sun or part shade.	Reb tubular flowers	Summer	Perennial	and interest in your	Attracts hummingbirds, pollinators and provides nectar, pollen and food.	Salvia Sclarea (clary sage); Echinacea Paradoxa (Yellow Coneflower) or Echinacea Pallida (pale purple coneflowers).	Common in the mountains of the southwest from 4000 to 10,000 ft.	
Silver Lupine, Silvery Lupine Lupinus argenteus	in.	Water Requirement: The Silver Lupine does not require much watering and is tolerant of dry soil. Sun Exposure: This plant requires part to full sun and is somewhat shade intolerant.	Blue	June - October	Perennial	Add to the beauty and variety of a landscape. As a great nitrogen fixer it is often found in areas of poor soil development, it helps make nitrogen into a useable form for other plants and contributes to the soil and plant diversity	Attracts pollinators. Contains a toxin poisonous to livestock, especially sheep. It is only toxic in large quantities eaten at one time; it is not cumulative.	The Silver Lupine is often found among pine, aspen, fir, spruce, and juniper trees. It is also often found among native grasses such as Blue Gramma, Deer Grass, and Indian Ricegrass.	It is found in open clearings of pine / coniferous forests, in the elevations of 6,000- 10,000 ft.	

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Skyrocket, Scarlet Gilia, Scarlet Trumpet, Skunk Flower Ipomopsis aggregata		Water Requirement: Low water usage; requires a well-drained dry soil in sun or partial shade; requires a light very well drained fertile soil in full sun Sun Exposure: Full day of direct sunlight, partial shade tolerant	Bright red to red-orange	May - September	Biennial or Short-lived Perennial	Aesthetically pleasing blooms, attracts hummingbirds, low water usage, can be included in conservation and wildlife habitat plantings to increase species diversity.	Nectar for the hummingbirds.	Good to plant near gardens where birds and other pollinators are needed.	Roadsides and openings in coniferous forests; Pinyon Juniper Woodland, Montane Conifer Forest, Disturbed Areas; 5000 - 9000 feet	
' '	Mature Size: 0-6 in.	Water Requirement: Low Sun Exposure: Full sun - Morning Sun. Can tolerate Evening Shade	White	June - August	Perennial Sends out runners	Borders, Containers, Ground Cover.	Provides nectar for small butterflies.	Any English Garden flowers	Mountain meadows, woodlands, montane, roadsides, subalpine	
Whipple's penstemon Penstemon whippleanus	ft.	Water Requirement: Medium Sun Exposure: Full sun to Half shade	Deep wine- lavender to black-purple bilaterally symmetrical flowers	July - September	Herbaceous Perennial	Conspicuous flowers.	Special value to native bees.	Rocky Mountain penstemon, Cardinal flower, Purple coneflower, Joe Pye weed (finegardening.com)	In meadows or on wooded slopes, moist areas; subshrub (Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at UT site)	
Wild four o'clock Mirabilis multiflora	Mature Size: 12- 15 in. Mature Width: 24-60 in.	Water Requirement: Low (1 in. per month) Sun Exposure: Full Sun; Part Shade Tolerant	Magenta, pink, or purple	Summer - Autumn; evening blooms	Herbaceous Perennial	Long, aesthetic blooms for gardens; attracts pollinators.	Pollinator Attractor (Bees, Birds, Butterflies, Hummingbirds)	Milkweed	High desert and xeric shrublands; Pinyon/Juniper woodlands	
Wild fuchsia, Hummingbird's Trumpet Zauschneria (Epilobium canum latifolium)	Mature Size: 1- 3ft. Mature Width: ft.	Water Requirement: Low moisture tolerant Sun Exposure: Full sun or afternoon shade	Orange-red	August - October	Perennial	Erosion control and to look pretty and attract hummingbirds.	Important for hummingbirds.	Prickly pear, banana yuccas, juniper, iron wood, rabbit bush, hedgehog cactus, native grasses.	Well drained rocky slopes up to 10,000 ft. elevation. Cliffs, coastal scrub, coniferous forests, and alpine mixed forests.	Image Credit: Russ Kleinman

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Balm, Wild Bergamot Monarda fistulosa var.	4 ft. Mature Width: 3-4 ft.	Water Requirement: Evenly moist in well drained soil Sun Exposure: Full Sun, can tolerate some shade	Light lavender to pinkish white	Mid - Late Summer	Perennial	Pollinator plant that attracts bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Known for culinary and medicinal uses. Low maintenance, fragrant, deer resistant, and drought tolerant.	Attracts pollinators and is deer resistant.	Bean and cauliflower (not broccoli or cabbage)	Well drained soil.	
Mallow Callirhoe involucrata	in.	Water Requirement: Drought Resistant Sun Exposure: Full Sun	Rich wine-red color, with a white eye	Summer	Perennial	Ground cover useful on slopes or cascading over retaining walls, perfect for hot south or west facing beds.	Provides nectar for bees and attracts butterflies.	Purple Prairie Clover and Sundrops	The ideal habitat is anywhere in the United States and particularly suitable above 7000 feet, perfect for the Northeast, Midwest, Southwest, West and the Pacific Northwest.	Image Credit: John Hilty