

May 2020

Gilpin County CSU Extension



NATIVE PLANTS & OTHER FAVORITES FOR GILPIN COUNTY

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A Message from the Gilpin County Master Gardeners

By: Sandy Hollingsworth



For many years, CSU Extension Gilpin County has held a much-anticipated plant sale at the Flea Market each June. The frenzy of shoppers waiting for the 9:00 sharp start time has been an energetic, fun community gathering.

In light of Coronavirus, we offer our sincere wishes to you and your families who are experiencing changes to your routines, lost jobs and health challenges. Our team of gardeners decided to forego a plant sale to respect Coronavirus social distancing, safer at home guidelines and squeezed budgets.

Each of us has compiled a short list of our favorite plants in three categories - perennials, shrubs, and annuals. We hope you will find these lists helpful for your high elevation home gardens.

Native plants can be purchased at Harlequin's Nursery in Boulder, Sturtz & Copeland Florist and Greenhouses in Boulder, McGuckin Hardware in Boulder, Echter's Nursery and Garden Center in Denver, and Little Valley Wholesale Nursery online.

Native Perennials

By: Sandy Hollingsworth
Gilpin County Master Gardener



Aquilegia Remembrance®
(Columbine)

This Columbine is deep violet & white which blooms in June. It grows 12 -18 inches tall in part sun to shade. This Hybrid is from our native *Aquilegia caerulea* and honors the memory of those shot at Columbine High School. It is a PlantSelect® plant. I often give it to friends who have lost a family member or beloved pet.

Fleabane
(*Erigeron speciosus*)



Fleabane is a native daisy which is lavender with a yellow disc center. Attractive to butterflies, blooming late June or July, and can grow to 2 feet tall, forming a bunch 18-24 inches in diameter over time. Grows best in well-drained soil and full sun.



Native Blanketflower
(*Gaillardia aristata*)

Our native blanket flower is yellow with reddish-brown to orange centers. It grows 12 inches tall. Blooms July to August form firm round seed heads which are easy to pick to use the seeds. Grows best in full sun and can tolerate drought after established.



Prairie Smoke
(*Geum triflorum*)

This native forms a mat of fuzzy leaves about 8 inches diameter. Blooms in June, flowers are red on spikes then form wispy seed heads which wave in the wind. Grows best in sun to part shade in well-drained soil.



Prairie Skullcap
(*Scutellaria resinosa*)

Prairie Skullcap is a mat forming ground cover with erect tubular blue and white flowers. Grows in part sun to sun, likes well drained soil. May reseed.

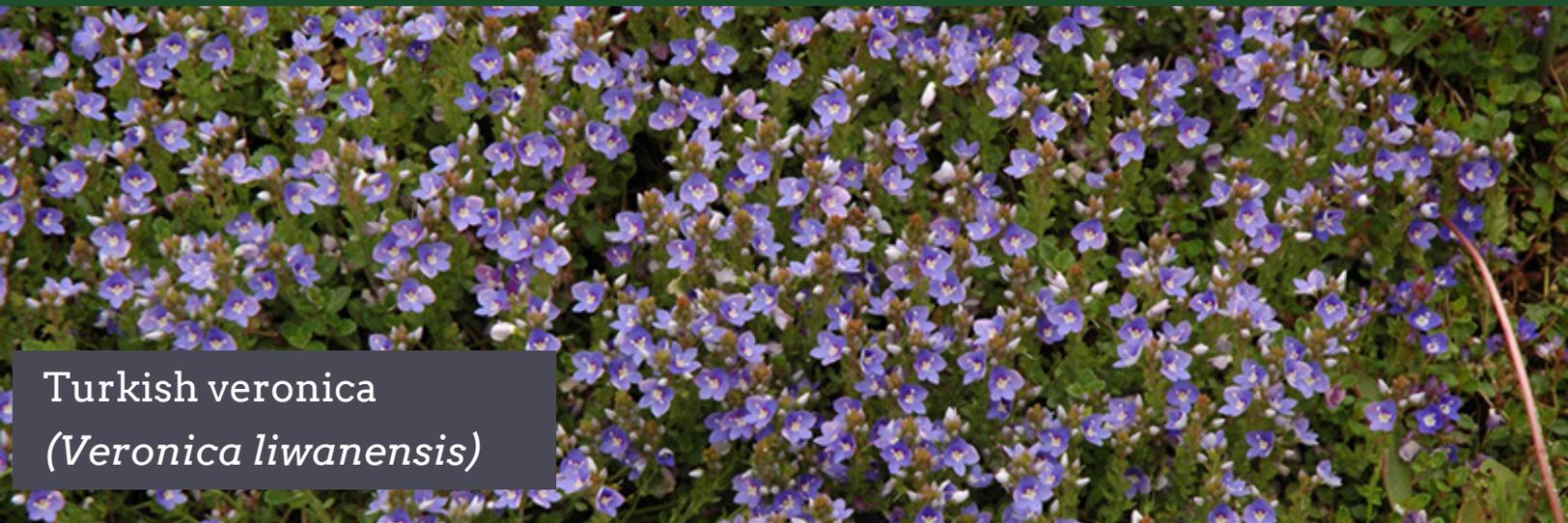


Penstemon

In general, I love all Penstemon including our common native Rocky Mountain *Penstemon strictus*. There are natives and non-natives. All have tubular flowers that attract bees and hummingbirds. Flowers vary from purple to red to pink to yellow depending on variety. They like full sun and well-drained soil and tolerate drought once established.

Some favorites of Penstemon for Gilpin County are:

- *Penstemon eatonii* (Firecracker Penstemon) – up to 24 inches tall, red flowers
- *Penstemon pinifolius* (Pineleaf Penstemon) – 6-8 inches tall, small flowers, vivid
- Silverton® bluemat penstemon - Lavender-blue 8-12 inches, silvery mounds of evergreen leaves. This is a Plant Select® plant. *Penstemon caespitosus* is the native mat penstemon
- *Penstemon virens* (Blue Mist Penstemon) – native, earlier bloom, 8-10 inches tall



Turkish veronica
(*Veronica liwanensis*)

Evergreen mats of glossy leaves with Cobalt-blue flowers early June – August, sun to part sun in well-drained soil. Also, *Veronica repens* with fuzzy leaves and blue-violet flowers.



Sage
(*Salvia nemerosa*)

Either 'May Night' with blue flowers or 'Rose Queen' with pink flowers do well. Prefer sun and well drained but not dry soil. Blooms late June to August, grow 18-24 inches tall. Erect flower stalks may repeat bloom if cut back after first bloom. Attracts bees.



Native Blue Flax
(*Linum lewisii*)

Linum lewisii likes dry, sunny locations. It blooms June to July depending on location. It has perky blue petaled flowers on stems with short straight leaves. It forms little ball seed heads and will slowly spread to other locations.



Stonecrop
(*Sedum lanceolatum*)

Sedum lanceolatum (Stonecrop) succulent ground cover reliably come back. Green to reddish leaves and gets yellow miniscule flowers on stalks in fall. Sun to part sun, can tolerate dry soil but prefers well drained. Cultivated varieties are often critter candy.

Favorite Shrubs

By: Christy Hoyl
Gilpin County Master Gardener

Serviceberry
(*Amelanchier alnifolia*)



Grow in sun/part shade, clusters of white flowers in summer, blue to black fruit in fall that attract birds. Native.



Common lilac
(*Syringa vulgaris*)

Very fragrant flowers that are purple or white. Mature height is 15 feet. Attracts butterflies.

Chokecherry
(*Prunus melanocarpa*)



Prefers sun/part shade, produces white flowers in summer, fruit is bright red to black, attracts birds.

Mountain Maple
(*Acer glabrum*)



Prefers sun/part shade, deciduous small tree, leaves turn yellow in the fall. Native.

Boulder raspberry
(*Rubus deliciosus*)



Sun to shade tolerant, spineless large white rose-like flowers in the summer, fruit raspberry-like in the fall. Native.

A photograph of a Harison yellow rose bush in full bloom. The image shows a dense cluster of bright yellow, five-petaled flowers on thin, woody stems. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting foliage.

Harison yellow rose
(*Rosa harisoni*)

Yellow blooms in the late spring, commonly found at old farm and miner's homesteads.



Pink tubular flowers in spring, edible orange to red berries in summer, attracts birds. Native.



Low open shrub, single yellow flowers through summer. Native.

Golden currant
(*Ribes aureum*)



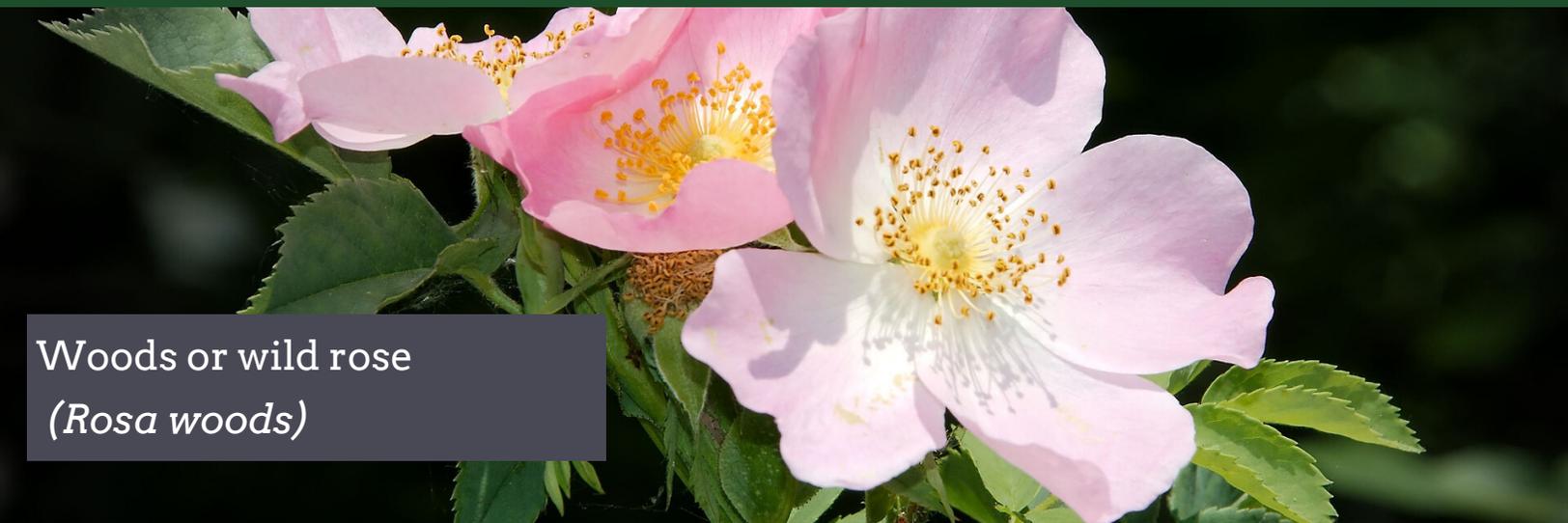
Yellow flowers in late spring, birds like the yellow to black fruit in summer. Native.

Arnold's red honeysuckle
(*Lonicera tatarica*)



Prefers sun/part shade, red-purple blossoms, red fruit in the fall.

Woods or wild rose
(*Rosa woods*)



Thicket shape, single pink flowers in summer that smell delightful, red-orange hips in the fall that attract wildlife. Native.

Cheyenne mock orange
(*Philadelphus lewisii*)



Fragrant white flowers in late spring, sun/partial shade, growing at the Gilpin Exhibit Barn to the right of the door.

Favorite Annuals

By: Christy Swarts
Gilpin County Master Gardener



Sunflowers
(*Helianthus annuus*)

Blooms summer until frost, in yellow, white, bronze and brown. They prefer full sun and will attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

Snap dragons
(*Antirrhinum majus*)



Blooms summer to frost in red, pink, rose, purple, bronze, yellow, orange, and white. These will tolerate cool temperatures and can drop seeds that germinate the following spring. Snap dragons do best in full to partial sun but the flowers can last longer with afternoon shade. These will attract butterflies and hummingbirds.



Salvia
(*Salvia splendens*)

Blooms until frost in red, white, pink, salmon, blue and lavender. They do best in full sun with moist well-drained soil and cool temperatures. Light shade can intensify the colors. Salvia will attract butterflies and hummingbirds.



Ornamental Cabbage/ Kale
(*Brassica oleracea*)

Blooms later summer through early winter. Foliage can be white, cream, purple, maroon and variegated. These will thrive with cooler temperatures in summer and early fall. Kale will have a looser head with fringed leaves, cabbage will have a tighter head with smooth-edge leaves. These like full sun.



Lobelia
(*Lobelia erinus*)

Blooms summer to autumn in blue, white, rose and purple. Lobelia does best with cool temperatures, full sun, and uniformly moist, well-drained soil. These attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

Calendula
(*Calendula officinalis*)



Blooms early summer to frost in bright orange, apricot, yellow and cream. Tolerates cooler temperatures and can be sown a few weeks before the average last frost date, they will bloom into late fall or until a hard frost. They do well in full sun.



Gerber Daisy
(*Gerbera jamesonii*)

Prefers full sun to produce flowers in colors ranging from white, pink, red, yellow, orange, burgundy.



Dusty Miller
(*Senecio cineraria*)

Blooms season-long foliage in silver-white. Dusty miller can survive a mild winter. They will continue to keep their color into late autumn even after a frost. They prefer full sun and well-drained soil.

Additional Resources



CSU-Extension Fact Sheets:

- [Native Shrubs for the Mountain Areas 7.422.](#)
- [Colorado Mountain Gardening Basics 7.244.](#)
- [Trees and Shrubs for the Mountain Areas 7.423](#)

[Low-Water Native Plants for the Mountains](#)

[Plant Recommendations for the Mountains](#)

[Colorado Mountain Gardening Blog](#)