

## Colorado State Forest Service Nursery – Perennial Info Sheet

### Lanceleaf Coreopsis

#### *Coreopsis lanceolata*

Description: A clump forming perennial plant, with bright yellow, 1-2 inch diameter flowers forming from April-June. Prefers full sun, but will tolerate light shade, though flower production tends to be less. Will grow in many soil types, but thrives in a well-draining soil.

Size: 1 - 2.5 ft. height; 1-2 wide inch flowers

Water Use: Medium

Uses: Attracts native bees and butterflies



### Eastern Purple Coneflower

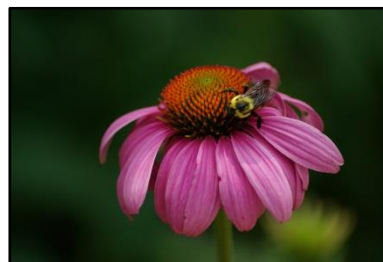
#### *Echinacea purpurea*

Description: A popular perennial that produces blossoms with a distinct reddish central “cone”, and lavender colored petals from April – Sept. Prefers full sun and well drained soils. Low drought tolerance

Size: 2 - 5 ft. height

Water Use: Medium

Uses: Attractive to several pollinators including bees, hummingbirds and butterflies.



### Lemon Beebalm

#### *Monarda citriodora*

Description: An aromatic, winter annual with tuft like, purple and white flowers that bloom from May – July (as late as the end of Sept/beginning of Oct. provided adequate moisture is available) Plant has a distinct citrus smell, and grows readily in full sun to partial shade. Once established, plant is capable of reseeding itself, and despite being an annual, will typically regrow from year to year in the same area.

Size: 1 - 2 ft. height,

Water Use: Low

Uses: Attracts honeybees, bumblebees, hummingbirds and butterflies. Edible leaves can be used raw or cooked for flavoring dishes.



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## Rocky Mountain Penstemon

*Penstemon strictus* Benth.

Description: A 1-3 ft. tall evergreen perennial that will spread as ground cover, and produces tall spires containing blue or purple flowers from May – June. Prefers a drier, lightweight and well-draining soil, and will thrive in partial shade.

Size: 1 - 3 ft. height,

Water Use: Low

Uses: Attractive to bees and other pollinators. Seed often found in mixes intended for erosion control or reclamation uses.

Elevation: Up to 10,000 ft.



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## Blanket Flower

*Gallardia aristata*

Description: A native perennial wildflower that grows to a height of 1-3 ft. and produces 2-3 inch yellow flowers with bright red centers from July – September. It will thrive in sunny, well drained soils. Long life span and the ability to readily reseed can lead to aggressive spreading.

Size: 1 - 3 ft. height; 2 – 3 in. wide flowers

Water Use: Medium

Uses: Useful as a ground cover, and as a food source for wildlife, livestock and pollinators.

Elevation: Up to 9,000 ft.



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## Yellow Upright Prairie Coneflower

*Ratibida columnifera*

Description: A native, late season perennial which typically grows to a height of 1-3 ft. with flowers appearing from May – October, provided adequate moisture through the late season. Will thrive in sunny locations and in a variety of soil types. Slightly pungent foliage is said to repel deer, however deer will browse the flowers themselves. Is an aggressive grower that can push out weaker species.

Size: 1.5 – 3 ft. tall, flowers of 2-4 inch diameter, with prominent central “cones” rising up from the center by .5 – 2 inches.

Water Use: Medium

Uses: Palatable to all classes of domestic livestock when utilized during early stages of growth. Seeds also useful for several species of bird and small mammals. Will attract pollinators such as bees and butterflies. Various parts of the plant are edible.

Elevation: up to 7,500 ft,



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## Black-Eyed Susan

*Rudbeckia Hirta*

Description: A biennial plant, which will grow to a height of around 3 ft.

Distinct yellow flowers with dark brown, globular centers appear from June – September, and often times do not appear until the second year of growth. Though not a true perennial, Black-Eyed Susan easily re-seeds, and a stand of flowers will likely regrow each year from the prior season's fallen seed. Thrives in partial shade to full sun, especially in sandy, well drained soils. Can tolerate heavier soils provided it is not too moist.



Size: 1 – 3 ft.

Water Use: Medium

Uses: Offers protection and a source of food for many song and game birds. May attract pollinators such as bees and butterflies.

Elevation: Up to 9,000 ft.

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## Yellow Potentilla

*Dasiphora fruticosa ssp. floribunda*

Description: A rounded shrub, typically 3-4 ft. in both height and diameter, though capable of reaching 6-8 ft. that produces small, grayish green leaves and showy yellow flowers from June through September. Leaves may be evergreen depending upon the location of planting. Prefers sunny areas, but is tolerant of many soil types. Uses little water and is not particularly susceptible to pests, making this a virtually maintenance free plant.



Size: Typically 3-4 ft. in size, but capable of reaching 6-8 ft. if conditions are correct. Flowers range from .5 – 1.5 inches.

Water Use: Low

Uses: Attractive to pollinators like bees and butterflies. Good for erosion control.

Elevation: 5,000 – 11,000 ft.

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## Purple Poppy Mallow

*Callirhoe involucrata*

Description: A low growing, spreading perennial that forms a thick mat of foliage up to 3 ft. around. 1.5 – 2.5 inch wide, chalice shaped purple and white flowers appear on stalks from March through June. Will thrive in partial to full sun, in many soil types as long as they drain well.

Size: 1 - 2.5 ft. height; 1 - 2.5 in. wide inch flowers

Water Use: Medium

Uses: Attractive to pollinators such as bees and butterflies.

Elevation: Up to 7,000 ft.



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## Colorado Blue Columbine (Rocky Mountain Columbine)

*Aquilegia coerulea*

Description: The state flower of Colorado. A short lived perennial featuring large, upright flowers which grow from June through August. Will thrive in shady areas in moist, rocky soils. Each plant lives only 4-5 years, but reseeds readily. Those planted at higher elevation may be more colorful, while those at lower elevation may produce flowers of pale blue or white color.

Size: 1 – 3 ft.

Water Use: Medium

Uses: Attractive to pollinators such as bees and butterflies, but also a good food source for hummingbirds.

Elevation: Up to 11,000 ft.



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## Blue Grama Grass

*Bouteloua gracilis*

Description: A fine-leaved grass that produces blue-green seed heads which hang horizontally from the tips of the stems. An important forage grass native to the Great Plains and southwest. Thrives in partial to full sun and is tolerant of cold and heat, as well as drought and can survive off of as little as 7" of rain. Lower moisture levels will lead to the plant growing in clumps rather than spreading out as a mat.

Size: 1 – 3 ft.

Water Use: Low - Medium

Uses: provides good grazing for wildlife and seed grazing birds

Elevation: Up to 9,500 ft.



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## Little Bluestem Grass

*Schizachyrium scoparium*

Description: A medium height grass reaching heights of 3 feet by September. Typically grows in clumps ranging from 6 – 18 inches across. Green stalks have a blue/purple tint at the base during spring/summer and turn a reddish color with vibrant white seed tufts in the fall. Will do well in full sun to partial shade and is very drought tolerant in a wide range of soil conditions with the exception of wetlands.

Size: 1 – 4 ft.

Water Use: Low

Uses: Rated as a fair forage species, and is readily grazed by livestock, deer and elk, and seed is eaten by many upland song and game birds. Due to its quick growth and tolerance for a wide range of soil conditions, it is often found in seed mixes for re-vegetation of damaged land. Not recommended for small areas as species reseeds readily.

Elevation: Up to 7,500 ft.

