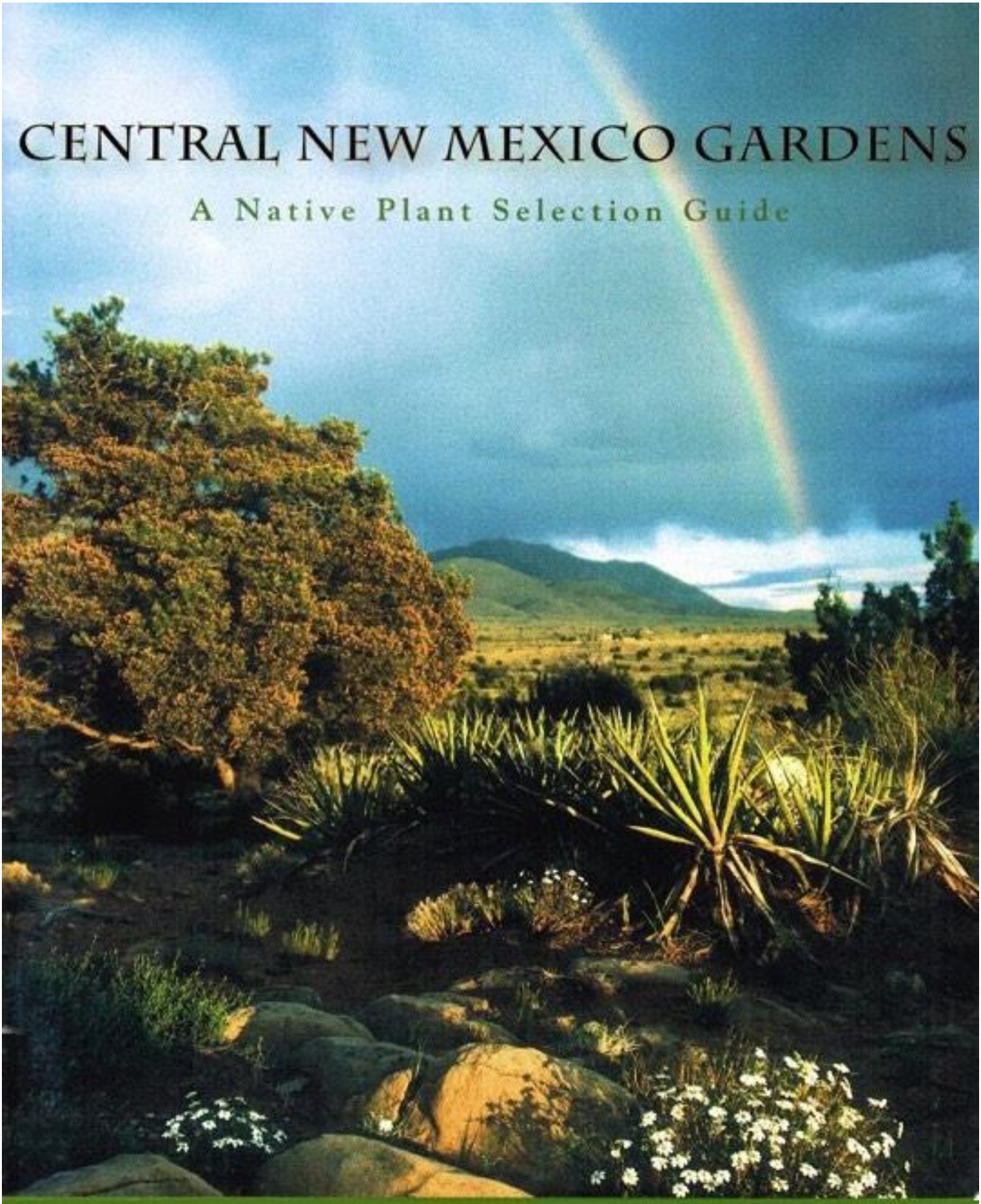
CENTRAL NEW MEXICO GARDENS

A Native Plant Selection Guide



REVISED AND EXPANDED 2017 – THE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY of NEW MEXICO

In Memorium

This book is dedicated to Aspen Evans. She spent a lifetime learning the native plants of the mountains and mesas surrounding her. She collected their seeds, nurtured their seedlings, and brought the wisdom of the wild to the rest of us. Understanding the natural world and sharing the bounty is a process she would never have finished if she had lived twice as long. We have her path to follow.

Preface

Welcome to the new edition of Central New Mexico Gardens, a Native Plant Selection Guide, 2018. The first edition written in 2005 provided a representative sample of native plants available in 2005 along with useful gardening tips and information on each plant. In the twelve years since the publication of the first edition of this book, we have gained insights about the importance of native plants and the role they play. In addition, many more native plants are available now, and the 2018 edition has been expanded to include some of this greater diversity.

In recent years, the critical importance of pollinators that are essential for our native plants to survive has been established. The 2018 edition of this book highlights this by adding them to the plant descriptions. Finally, this new edition of the book is an on-line document readily available to anyone with an internet connection.

My thanks to Tom Stewart, Peggy Wells, and George Miller for their contributions to this edition.

Virginia Burris, Project Coordinator

What is a Native Plant? Why is it Important?

by Bob Sivinski (Botanist for the New Mexico Forestry Division, retired)

The resident plant species that evolved within, or naturally dispersed to, these regions are “native” or “indigenous” species. Other plant species that have been introduced into these regions since Europeans began bringing plants to North America are “alien” or “exotic” species. Read the entire essay here https://www.npsnm.org/education/native-plants/

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Introduction

This document is designed to introduce you to landscape plants native to Central New Mexico. Colorful and rugged, these plants look superb in gardens, require minimum water to maintain, and also offer food and shelter to native wildlife as well as pollen and nectar for the pollinators of these native plants.

Native plants are well adapted: Native plants have evolved interdependent relationships with native wildlife, insects, and fungi. They are our best landscape choices because they prosper despite thin, alkaline soil, scanty rain, brutal sun, withering wind, and abrupt temperature swings.

Native plants conserve water: Water used for household purposes is recycled to the river, but water put on landscapes is lost. Therefore, a landscape of native plants is a highly effective way of conserving water. Many can survive on rainfall alone after they become established, and it takes only a small amount of supplemental water for them to grow and flourish, filling your garden with blooms.

Native plants belong in our environment: Although attractive plants from other areas may be successful in our gardens, they may disrupt the natural ecology and reduce the biological diversity. When we landscape with native plants, we actually help restore a unique ecosystem, whereas non-native plants often overrun natural habitats, displacing native plants and animals. Sometimes eradication of invasive plants becomes impossible once they take hold, and native plants disappear along with their pollinators.

In its natural surroundings an individual plant is not an isolated being. It is a member of an interactive community of other plants and animals. Since plants cannot move, they must attract an agent to deliver their pollen. Attractants such as nutritious nectar attract hungry pollinators that will provide a vital service for a reward. Hummingbirds love red flowers the size and shape of their long bills. Small flowers forming a cluster are commonly visited by bees for the easily available nectar. Moths find night bloomers by their fragrances and pale color. Brightly-colored delicate flowers with nectar deep within a narrow flower are frequented by butterflies that reach the nectar with their long tongues. By planting native plants we support pollinators. Pollinators are necessary to the survival of a great many plants, insects and animals including humans.

Pollination leads to seeds, which when ripe must be distributed. Again, most plants rely on members of their communities for dispersal. Birds eat the berries and drop the indigestible seeds a distance away. Hairy seeds may be picked up by a passing animal and carried away to germinate elsewhere.

In addition, native plants and their seeds are eaten by native insects, which in turn are eaten by other insects, birds and reptiles. Caterpillars alone constitute much of a baby bird's high protein diet.

When we plant native plants, we help restore plant and animal interconnections which have been disrupted. As a plus, we have the opportunity to observe the natural plant and wildlife interactions in our gardens and landscapes.

Native plants are available at nurseries: Native trees and shrubs as well as wild flowers can be found in local nurseries. We urge lovers of native plants not to dig them in the wild. Unless you have permission, the practice is illegal. In addition, native plants dug from the wild rarely survive.

Establishing the Garden: Realizing the Dream

Planning

The goal is to transform your yard into an inviting natural landscape using native plants that will also attract wildlife.

First, you need to decide how much money you want to spend and how much of the work you want to do yourself. The most economical choice is to personally design and install the landscape. The easier choice may be to hire professionals to do both the plan and the installation. Another approach is to choose what parts you would like to do, and which parts you will need professional help with. If you are doing the work, installation can be done in stages over months or even years.

Second, what do you want your landscape to do? Do you want a place to entertain? To keep pets? To offer a rich play area for children? To grow vegetables? To promote and support pollinators? To attract wildlife? Do you have a view to show off or an eyesore to hide?

Here are some considerations when creating a wildlife haven:

1. Native plants are best because they provide food for wildlife.
2. A variety of flower colors, shapes and blooming times from spring through fall will host the maximum number of pollinators.
3. Do not use insecticides or herbicides. If certain insects overrun some plants, you may use soap spray or oil spray.

When these decisions are made, begin to sketch your general plan. If you want hardscape features such as walls, fences, paths, ponds, patios or benches, these need to be installed before planting. If the hardscape will interfere with trenching for irrigation lines, the lines should go in before the hardscape. Then consider what types of plants you will want to use: plants for shade, ground cover, visual interests such as color and form, screening, fruit trees, and so forth.

Finish your plan by selecting specific native plants chosen for their suitability in your specific area.

Selecting Plants

This document describes some of the best landscape plants native to Central New Mexico. They are organized by plant type: Trees, Shrubs and Vines, Cacti and Succulents, Grasses, and Wild Flowers. Within each section and in the Index, plants are listed alphabetically by scientific name, its previous scientific name (synonym) if applicable, and by the common name.

For further information, consult the books and websites recommended in Suggested Information Sources. Visit public landscapes which use native plants. Also notice the native plants which grow wild in areas similar to your site. Visiting native plant nurseries and talking to the experts there can be very helpful in selecting the right plants. (See list of nurseries under Suggested Information Sources.)

Planting

Soil amendments are generally not necessary in the native garden. Some gardeners amend soil to help retain water; however, adding amendments to holes for trees and shrubs is detrimental to the establishment of the plant. The hole becomes, in effect, a pot. The roots stay in the soft enriched soil in the hole rather than extending out normally into the native soil.

When ready to plant, dig a hole as deep as the root ball and twice as wide. Score the sides of the hole vertically to help direct the roots outward. Loosen the roots if they are matted or have circled in the pot. Place the plant in the hole and refill with the original soil, packing gently. The new roots will easily penetrate this loosened soil. Water thoroughly. Observe the plant and soil, and water again when the soil is dry, probably in two or three days. Gradually lengthen the time between watering. The plant may need temporary protection from the sun, wind, rabbits or deer.

Caliche is a special problem for gardeners in our area. It is mineralized soil and rock hard. Water will not drain through it. If you must plant a tree or shrub in caliche, use a pickaxe or digging bar to dig a drainage hole through the caliche layer. Otherwise, the plant may become waterlogged in its caliche "pot."

Do not cover the root zone of plants with plastic. Plastic prevents essential water and air from reaching the roots. Porous landscape fabric is fine.

If a drip system is planned, install after the plants are in the ground.

Watering Systems

In New Mexico, it is necessary to plan a watering system. Some of the reasons for this are:

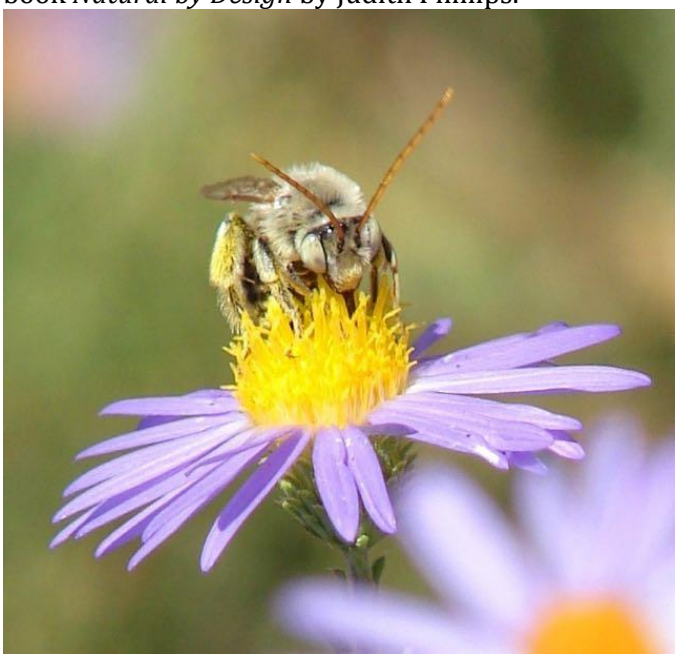
- Enormous root systems are one of the survival strategies of arid-adapted plants. Since a containerized plant does not have such a root system, it needs to be watered the first growing season until it can extend its roots.
- If mountain plants are grown at lower elevations, they will require more water than they receive from rainfall.
- Some plants will flower longer and more profusely with added water.

In the Southwest, drip irrigation is the most effective and efficient way to irrigate most of the landscape. It is also easy to install. Sprinklers are still an effective way to water a lawn (observing local watering ordinances).

You can simplify the drip irrigation of your garden by grouping plants with similar water needs on one drip line. If you irrigate plants with different water needs on the same line, supply the thirstier plants with more drip emitters or give them emitters that drip more gallons per hour.

As a final caution, do not over-water. It is a common mistake to overestimate how much water the plants need. Experiment with the frequency of watering and watch the plants' reaction. Yellow leaves are often a sign that the soil is being kept too moist. Wilting, along with powder-dry soil, indicates the plant needs water.

A complete discussion of the irrigation of native plants, including drip systems, can be found in the book *Natural by Design* by Judith Phillips.



Mulching

After planting and laying the drip system, mulching is recommended. Wood chips, bark, pecan shells, compost, gravel, rocks, or even boulders can be mulch. Mulch reduces the evaporation of moisture, keeps roots cool and retards weed growth. Bark and wood chips will slowly break down, improving the soil. The mulch will also visually connect and 'finish' the landscape, especially when the plants are still small.

Maintenance

With the garden planted and the irrigation installed, it is time to enjoy your garden, knowing its maintenance will be minimal

If you planted a Blue Grama or Buffalograss lawn, you can mow it or let it grow for a more natural look. Native ornamental grasses and perennial flowers may be groomed in late spring by cutting off the dead leaf blades and stems. Some native bees lay their eggs in the dead flower stems. Removing hollow flower stems before late spring will also remove the native bee larvae that winter over in the them. Remove the stems later after the bees have left.

It is best not to leave your irrigation system on automatic through the winter. Gradually increase the watering frequency in spring, increase it again for summer, reduce it in fall, and shut off the system before first frost. You can temporarily reconnect drip hoses and timers if watering is needed in the winter.

Use of Pesticides

Use of pesticides kills bees and other beneficial insects. When seeds are coated or plants treated with neonicotinoids, these systemic pesticides spread throughout the entire plant – from leaves to pollen and even nectar. See "How Neonicotinoids Can Kill Bees: The Science Behind the Role These Insecticides Play in Harming Bees."

http://xerces.org/neonicotinoids-and-bees/

Studies have found that pest populations recover more quickly from insecticide treatment than beneficial insect populations do. Therefore, using insecticides can perpetuate an imbalance of pest and beneficial insect populations and result in more pests. (Holm, p. 41) Even naturally derived insecticides such as pyrethrin formulations are harmful to pollinators, especially if applied when flowers are present. (Holm, p 31)

The answer is usually not in another chemical but is in the whole approach to gardening. Insect pests are usually not a big problem for native plants, especially if they are in a combination and not a monoculture. And native plants tend to attract predatory insects that keep pests under control. A few caterpillars can be tolerated with the understanding that they are butterflies in an immature stage and may be food for the neighborhood songbirds.

Do not use pesticides in your own yard. Check out non-toxic applications of Diatomaceous earth, oil sprays, soapy water and other inexpensive and safe remedies. When considering even "natural" sprays, always test on a few leaves of your valued plants first as some may be sensitive, and never exceed the recommended strengths of solutions.

Using the Plant Profiles

At the core of this book are profiles of plants that are native to Central New Mexico. Of the basic subheadings for each plant, only four – "Pollinator(s)," "Host Plant", "Water", and "Areas" need explanation.

Pollinator: An animal (includes insects or other animals) that can move pollen and effect pollination. **Pollinators are central to the life cycle of flowering plants**. Flowering plants cannot reproduce without pollinators to fertilize the flowers and make seed formation possible.

Host Plant: A species of plant that a caterpillar will feed upon. The female butterfly (or moth) must lay her eggs on or near the host plant.

Water Usage

Very low water plants, once established, need little or no irrigation. They can survive on rainfall alone in the Heights, Valley, and West Mesa areas, but with deep monthly watering they will grow larger and fuller. Often these are plants native to the high desert.

Low water plants, once established, need regular deep irrigation at fairly long intervals. In our three lower, warmer areas, this may range from once every week or two in summer, to once a month in winter when most plants are leafless. In the cooler East Mountains area and the foothills, low water plants may be self-sufficient. These plants are native to high plains, foothills and woodland areas.

Medium water plants need regular irrigation at more frequent intervals. In the three lower areas, watering may be needed every week in summer and every two weeks in winter. These plants in the East Mountains area require less water. Medium water plants are plants from the mountains or near the river.

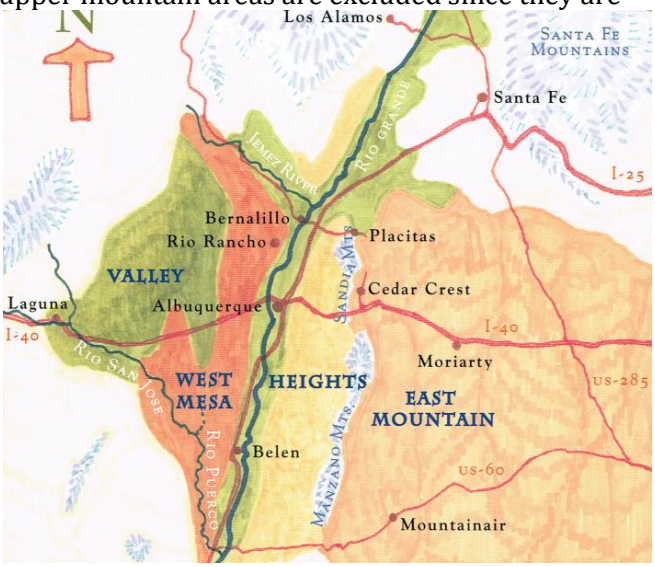
Additional water is needed for new plantings, plants actively flowering, and plants growing in deep sand. Drought and persistent periods of sunny, hot, or windy weather increase water requirements.

Central New Mexico Areas

Central New Mexico includes sand hills, desert grassland, savanna, dense shrub chaparral, woodlands, and forested mountains.

The average annual precipitation ranges from less than 8 inches in parts of Albuquerque to over 21 inches on top of the mountains. Over one-half of this falls from July to September.

For gardening purposes, Central New Mexico is divided into four areas ranging within climate Zones 4-7 assigned to Central New Mexico by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Sandia Crest and other upper mountain areas are excluded since they are



higher than our major communities. To help you decide which native plants will be most successful in your garden, find the area on the map which best matches your location. Then note in the plant profiles which plants grow in that area.

East Mountains

Where: the lower portions of the eastern Sandia and Manzano Mountains, and the plains directly to the east, 6,000 to 8,000 feet. This area includes Edgewood, Moriarty, Mountainair, Sandia Park, and Tijeras.

Climate: our coolest, least arid area. The East Mountains area differs greatly from other areas in its significantly cooler temperatures and short growing season of 140 to 165 days.
Soils: clay to rocky, with isolated sandy areas.

Heights

Where: sloped areas east of the Rio Grande Valley, and lower foothills of the western Sandia and Manzano Mountains, up to about 7,500 feet. This area includes Albuquerque's Heights, Four Hills, High Desert, the western parts of Placitas, and the University area.
Climate this area is semi-arid and is a natural thermal belt, where cold air drains away to the Valley. The Heights have cool to mild winters, while the 180- to 210-day growing season is long and hot. Strong, desiccating winds occasionally blow through locations near canyons.
Soils: well-draining, decomposed granite interspersed with caliche, with pockets of sand near I-25.

Valley

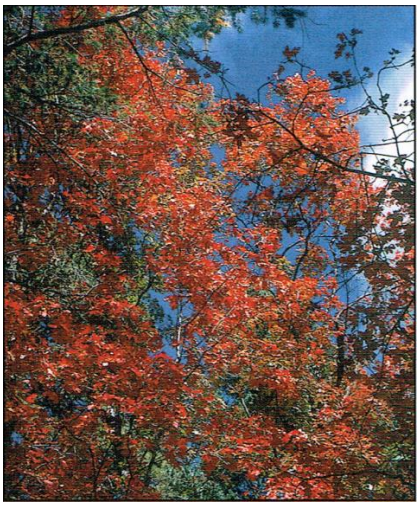
Where: the Rio Grande Valley, the Rio Puerco Valley, and large arroyos, down to 4500 feet. It includes Madrid, Bernalillo, the eastern parts of Placitas, and most of Corrales in the Rio Grande Valley, and Laguna Pueblo in the Rio Puerco Valley. The growing season is 160 to 185 days.
Climate: arid to semi-arid, but with colder nights than the Heights and West Mesa due to nighttime drainage of cold air.
Soils: heavy clay and caliche are common, with some sandy layers or rock in uplands.

West Mesa

Where: west of the Rio Grande Valley. This area includes Rio Rancho, the sand hills of Corrales, Nine Mile Hill, Taylor Ranch, and Westgate.
Climate: mild, mostly arid area with average temperature and growing season similar to the Heights, but with higher daytime temperatures.
Soils: well-drained sand, with caliche in low areas.

Trees

Trees, the "ceilings for landscape," provide shady oases in this land of sun. The kinds of trees and their placement determine the character of the garden. Native trees of our area are small to medium-sized. Trees should be on a regular watering schedule. As they grow, add drip emitters and move some of the emitters farther from the trunk to accommodate the expanding root zone. Leaving the lower branches on the trunk for several years will protect the tender bark of a newly planted tree from drying wind, hot sun and freezes. Most trees are pollinated by the wind.



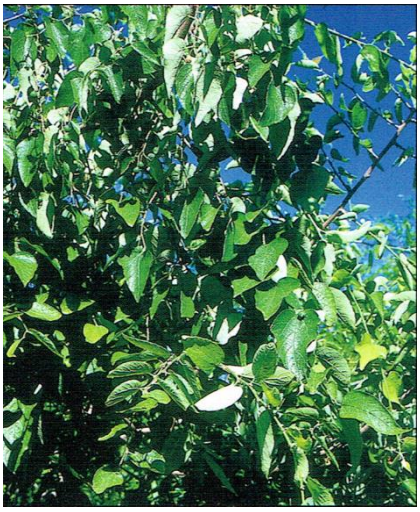
Bigtooth Maple

Maple family

Acer grandidentatum

Pollinator	Wind
Size	25' High x 25' Wide
Foliage	Deciduous
Water	Medium
Exposure	Part shade
Areas	East Mountains, Heights, Valley

For an area with moist soil and some shade, nothing is more stunning than the Bigtooth Maple. This is the most colorful of our native trees. In summer, cloaked in large-toothed leaves, it gives solid shade. In fall, the leaves turn brilliant reds and oranges, reminiscent of the fall colors of the eastern forests. Some people may be allergic to the pollen produced by the insignificant spring flowers.



Netleaf Hackberry

Elm Family

Celtis reticulata

Pollinator	Wind
Host plant to	Many butterflies, including Snout, Question Mark, Mourning Cloak and Emperor butterflies
Size	25' High x 25' Wide
Foliage	Deciduous
Water	Medium
Exposure	Sun
Areas	All

As a shade tree, the Netleaf Hackberry develops a spherical canopy of slender, descending branches, but it can also be pruned into a large shrub. The undersides of the oval, serrated leaves have a prominent network of veins. The leaves turn yellow before falling. Like all hackberries, Netleaf Hackberry develops a warty bark as it ages. Birds like the small orange berries.

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Desert Willow Catalpa family

Chilopsis linearis

Pollinator	Large bees, hummingbirds
Size	15–25’ High x 12–20’ Wide
Foliage	Deciduous
Water	Low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	Heights, Valley, West Mesa

Desert Willow has winding, gnarled trunks visible through the willow-like leaves. The summer-blooming, pale to deep pink and purple flowers attract hummingbirds. In winter, pencil-shaped pods dangle from the branches. Occasionally, nurseries stock varieties with white or burgundy flowers. In the fall, gradually withdraw water to help Desert Willow harden off for winter. Water no more than once a month until it leafs out again. This tree is also visited by goldfinches.

New Mexico Olive Olive family

Forestiera pubescens Syn. *Forestiera neomexicana*

Pollinator	Bees
Size	15’ High x 12’ Wide
Foliage	Deciduous
Water	Low
Exposure	Sun or part shade
Areas	All

New Mexico Olive can be pruned into a tall hedge or trimmed up to form a small multi-trunked specimen tree. Left natural, the branches bend and curve at interesting angles. Small birds, such as bushtits, find cover from larger birds by hiding in the closely growing branches. In early spring, the small greenish-yellow flowers provide nectar for bees. By fall, clusters of oval blue-black fruits (loved by some birds) appear on the female trees, and the bright green, deciduous leaves turn yellow. The creamy bark stands out in the winter. New Mexico Olive may develop mildew in humid areas such as a lawn. It is likely to be found in nurseries labeled as *Forestiera neomexicana*.

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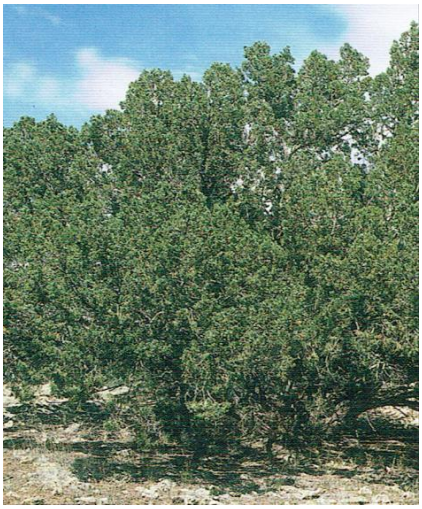

One-seed Juniper

Cypress family

Juniperus monosperma

Pollinator	Wind
Host plant to	Juniper Hairstreak butterfly
Size	15’ High x 15’ Wide
Foliage	Evergreen
Water	Low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	All

One-seed Juniper is a shrub-like tree with many stems ascending from the ground. Older trees are picturesque with convoluted trunks and branches. As one of the most common trees in Central New Mexico, One-seed Juniper is exquisitely adapted to our ecosystem. Deer and bears, as well as, birds, eat the fleshy fruit. All male junipers release pollen that afflicts allergy sufferers. Therefore, the City of Albuquerque has banned the sale or planting of male junipers within city limits.

Rocky Mountain Juniper

Cypress family

Juniperus scopulorum

Pollinator	Wind
Host plant to	Juniper Hairstreak butterfly
Size	20’ High x 15’ Wide
Foliage	Evergreen
Water	Low
Exposure	Sun or part shade
Areas	East Mountains, Heights, Valley

In contrast to the One-seed Juniper, Rocky Mountain Juniper is taller and grows from a single large trunk. The lacy foliage is blue-green, and the weak slender branches tend to droop. On older trees the bark shreds into fibrous strips. Rocky Mountain Juniper is used for a specimen tree or for a windbreak. Birds flock to these trees for the small blue berries. Because male junipers release pollen in the spring, the City of Albuquerque has banned planting male juniper within the city limits.

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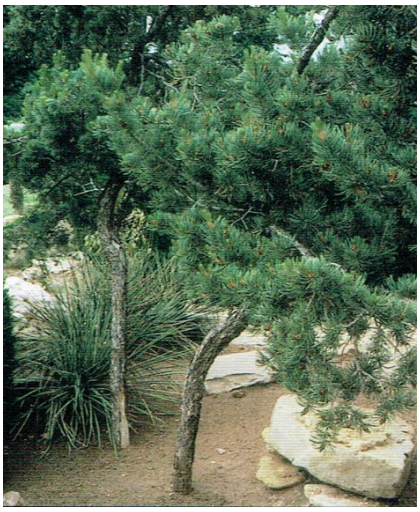


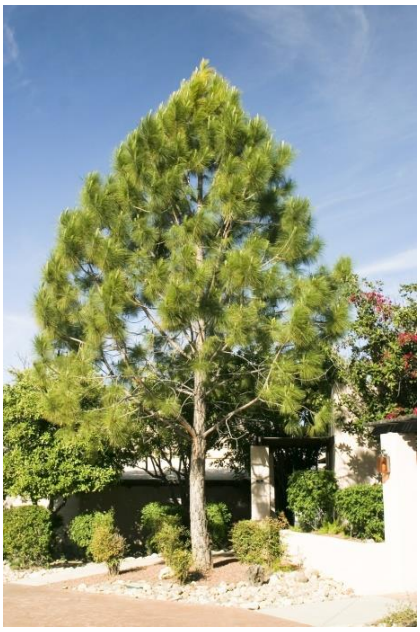
Piñon Pine

Pine family

Pinus edulis

Pollinator	Wind
Size	20’ High x 15’ Wide
Foliage	Evergreen
Water	Medium
Exposure	Sun
Areas	East Mountains, Heights

Piñon Pine is one of the most common trees of our area. When space allows the tree’s natural shape to develop, the branching is horizontal, the crown is low and rounded, and the tree is symmetrical. More often the trunk is gnarled and the tree develops interesting shapes. The short stiff needles are aromatic and the bark is dark and rough. Every few years the irregularly shaped cones produce a bumper crop of nutritious pine nuts, enjoyed by squirrels, jays and humans.



Ponderosa Pine

Pine family

Pinus ponderosa

Pollinator	Wind
Host plant to	Pine White, Pine Elfin, and Hairstreak butterflies
Size	60’ High x 25’ Wide
Foliage	Evergreen
Water	Medium
Exposure	Sun
Areas	East Mountains

Ponderosa Pine thrives in the upper parts of the East Mountains area. The young trees have dark, rough bark, but as they develop into stately trees the bark develops orange plates with a fragrance like vanilla. The piney smell and the sight of the wind in the branches are the essence of the mountain forest. In high desert towns such as Albuquerque, the Ponderosa Pine requires much maintenance to counter the effects of alkaline soil, insects, high temperatures and low precipitation.

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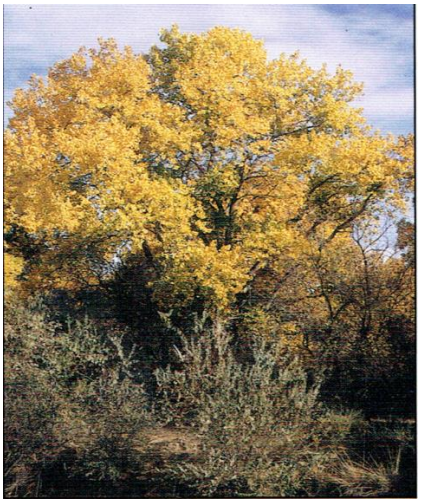


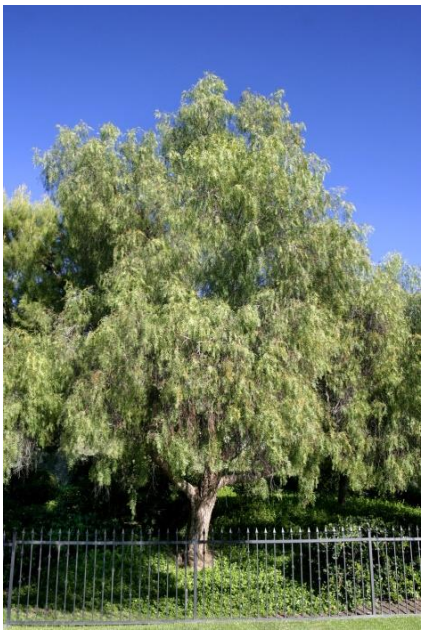
Valley Cottonwood

Willow family

Populus deltoides

Pollinator	Wind
Host Plant to	Tiger Swallowtails, Mourning Cloak and Weidemeyer's Admiral butterflies
Size	80' High x 60' Wide
Foliage	Deciduous
Water	Medium
Exposure	Sun
Areas	East Mountains, Valley

Stately and majestic, the Valley Cottonwood is the largest shade tree used in the Albuquerque area. The shiny green triangular leaves of this fast-growing tree rustle in the breeze and turn yellow in the fall before dropping. Because of its large size and invasive roots, the Valley Cottonwood should be reserved for large lots away from sewer lines and pavement. Cavity dwelling birds and squirrels live in hollows that develop in older cottonwoods. Branches on older trees sometimes break in storms and high winds. *Populus angustifolia* and *Populus tremuloides* also occur in Central New Mexico.



Honey Mesquite

Legume family

Prosopis glandulosa

Pollinator	Various bees
Host plant to	Gray Metalmark and Reakirt's Blue butterflies
Size	5' - 30' High and Wide
Foliage	Deciduous
Water	Low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	Heights, West Mesa

Honey Mesquite is found on drier, more upland sites than Screwbean Mesquite. It can be grown as a bushy screen or barrier plant or pruned up to a multi-trunked small tree. The spiny branches bear finely divided bright green leaves. One of the last trees to leaf out, it soon produces 4" spikes of tiny fragrant yellow flowers. These are followed by tan pods mottled with red. The pods are eaten by grazing animals and rabbits. Honey mesquite thrives in heat but is marginally cold hardy. The tree prefers rocky or sandy soil and needs only occasional deep watering. However, with generous water, it will grow rapidly to as much as 30 feet. It is sometimes attacked by borers and twig-girdling beetles.

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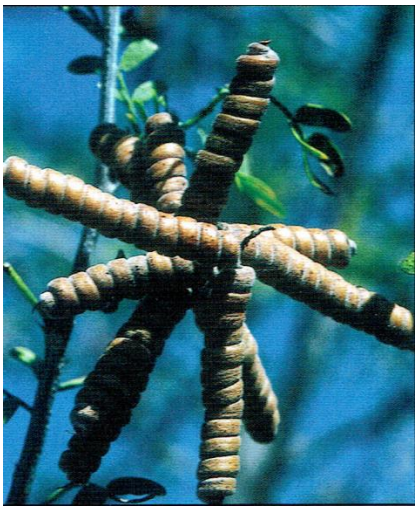

Screwbean Mesquite

Mimosa Family

Prosopis pubescens

Pollinator	Various bees
Size	20’ High x 25’ Wide
Foliage	Deciduous
Water	Low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	Heights, Valley, West Mesa

This graceful, open tree was once more common, but its former habitat in the Rio Grande Valley, from Bernalillo to El Paso, is now quite urbanized. It bears pale yellow flowers in late April and May and later, unique screw-shaped seedpods (photo). This spiny tree, with its gray-green compound leaves, casts light shade and has a graceful appearance in scale with smaller spaces. However, Its prickliness requires a cautious approach. Both Screwbean and Honey Mesquites grow only at lower elevations, where winters are milder.

Gambel Oak

Beech family

Quercus gambelii

Pollinator	Wind
Host Plant to	Colorado Hairstreak, Duskywing, Sister and other butterflies.
Size	20-30’ High x 20’ Wide
Foliage	Deciduous
Water	Medium
Exposure	Sun
Areas	All

As an accent tree or a shrubby thicket, Gambel Oak is a superb addition to a landscape and provides shiny foliage all year. The dark green, deeply lobed leaves turn bronze or copper in the fall and remain on the branches throughout the winter. When deeply watered regularly, this versatile tree will grow fast, but can tolerate dry periods. Gambel Oak can adapt to a wide range of soils. Ancient Pueblo Indians ate the acorns and used the wood for weaving sticks, digging sticks, clubs and arrows.

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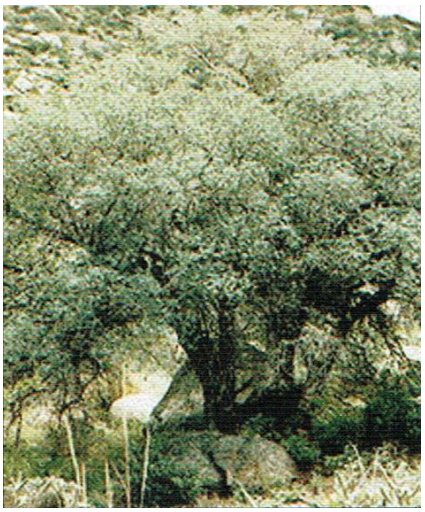

Shrub Live Oak

Beech family

Quercus turbinella

Pollinator	Wind
Host Plant to	Hairstreak, Horace's Duskywing, Propertius Duskywing butterflies
Size	18' High x 20' Wide
Foliage	Evergreen
Water	Low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	Heights, Valley, West Mesa

Grayish, spiny, holly-like leaves persist on the branches until new leaves appear in the spring. Inconspicuous early spring flowers develop into inch-long acorns that are eaten by wildlife. This species and the Gray Oak (*Quercus grisea*) are native to milder foothills throughout the southwest. In the wild, Shrub Live Oak rarely exceeds six feet, but in the garden it can be coaxed into a small tree. Gray Oak, a true tree, gets about 30 feet tall with oval blue-gray evergreen leaves.

New Mexico Locust

Legume family

Robinia neomexicana

Pollinator	Bumblebees
Host Plant to	Silver-Spotted Skipper and Duskywing butterflies
Size	20' High x 15' Wide
Foliage	Deciduous
Water	Medium
Exposure	Sun to part shade
Areas	East Mountains, Heights, Valley

The dazzling pink-purple flower clusters of New Mexico Locust are unique and earn this small spring-blooming tree a prominent site in a native landscape. In summer, the tree produces flat, brown seedpods. The tree has an open crown with long bluish-green leaves and thorns on all steams and branches. New Mexico Locust forms a thicket but limiting its water can control this invasive tendency.

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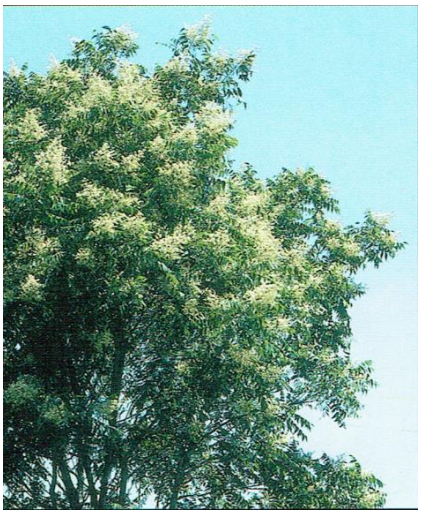

Western Soapberry

Soapberry family

Sapindus saponaria Syn. *Sapindus drummondii*

Pollinator	Not yet known
Host plant to	Soapberry Hairstreak butterfly
Size	25’ High x 25’ Wide
Foliage	Deciduous
Water	Low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	Heights, Valley, West Mesa

In spring, large sprays of white flowers appear among the bright green leaves of Western Soapberry. Then, in fall the leaves turn gold. Translucent amber berries, which contain a soap-making compound, hang from the branches all winter. Western Soapberry tolerates a great deal of heat and wind and also does well in tight planting areas. It does not thrive in colder areas.

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Shrubs & Vines

Shrubs are the dominant plant form in Central New Mexico and they fill a variety of roles in the garden. Dwarf shrubs can be merely ankle-height. These are useful for year-round borders. Shrubs of medium height help define spaces in the garden and form backdrops for smaller plants. Some tall shrubs can be visual screens or be pruned into small trees. Evergreen and semi-evergreen shrubs keep the garden green in the winter. Some shrubs have colorful flowers while others have interesting textures such as large leathery leaves or fine small leaves. Vines turn fences into green walls and may also have flowers or fall color.

False Indigo Bush

Legume family

Amorpha fruticosa

Pollinator	Many types of bees; nectar plant for Monarch butterflies
Host plant to	Dogface and Sulfur butterflies
Size	8’ High x 8’ Wide
Blooms	Deep purple and orange
Foliage	Deciduous
Water	Medium
Exposure	Sun or shade
Areas	Heights, Valley

The lacy-leaved False Indigo Bush is handsome in May when spikes of small purple flowers open at the branch tips. It is also eye-catching in the fall when leaves turn golden before dropping. Flowers, with their long orange stamens, attract butterflies, and birds feed on the clusters of seedpods in fall. A compact plant in full sun, False Indigo Bush grows more open and airy in the shade. It is best to deep-water every two weeks unless roots can reach ground water.

Sand Sage

Aster family

Artemisia filifolia

Pollinator	Wind
Size	4’ High x 4’ Wide
Blooms	Inconspicuous
Foliage	Evergreen
Water	Very low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	All

The silvery foliage of Sand Sage contrasts with the greenery of other plants. The slender gracefully shaped stems and small threadlike leaves are densely covered with white hairs and give off a pleasant fragrance. The small green flowers produce copious amounts of wind-blown pollen. Sand Sage requires well-drained soil. *Filifolia* means “threadleaf,” another common name for this plant.

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Fringed Sage Aster family

Artemisia frigida

Pollinator	Wind, but provides special value as building material for bees
Size	8” High x 1’ Wide
Blooms	Inconspicuous
Foliage	Evergreen
Water	Low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	All

Fringed Sage, with its gray, finely cut leaves, is a year-round ground cover. The clusters of small yellow flowers in late summer are hardly noticeable among the light, lacy leaves. *Frigida*, meaning “cold,” refers to the cold, northern part of the range in which it lives. After it blooms, shear off the old flower stalks to encourage renewal of the foliage.

Fourwing Saltbush Goosefoot family

Atriplex canescens

Pollinator	Wind
Host plant	For Saltbush Sootywing butterfly
Size	5’ High x 8’ Wide
Blooms	Inconspicuous, but with unusual fruits
Foliage	Evergreen
Water	Very low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	All

The grayish-greenish Fourwing Saltbush is a fast-growing, long-lived shrub. In late summer the female plants bear fine yellowish flowers. These are followed by seeds surrounded by four paper-thin chartreuse “wings” that eventually dry to pale yellow. Some people are allergic to the wind-blown pollen produced by the male plants. Quail and other wildlife are commonly seen feeding on the protein-rich seeds. Cut Fourwing Saltbush back periodically to keep the plant compact and do not overwater.

Red Barberry

Barberry family

Berberis haematocarpa Syn. *Mahonia haematocarpa*

Pollinator	Bumblebees
Size	3-8’ High x 10’wide
Blooms	Yellow
Foliage	Evergreen
Water	Low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	All

With it prickled, holly-like leaves, Red Barberry adds texture to a border. In spring, clusters of small fragrant flowers cover this large dense shrub. The red berries produced in the summer attract quail and other ground-feeding birds. Light pruning of the young plant will thicken it. As an impenetrable barrier, Red Barberry adds security to an area. *Berberis fremontii* and *Berberis trifoliata*, or Algerita, are similar native shrubs.

Creeping Mahonia

Barberry family

Berberis repens Syn. *Mahonia repens*

Pollinator	Not yet determined
Size	8” High x 2’ Wide
Blooms	Yellow
Foliage	Evergreen
Water	Medium
Exposure	Part shade
Areas	East Mountains, Heights

Creeping Mahonia has spiny holly-like leaves and purple berries and is useful as a border or ground cover. In spring, clusters of small, round flowers appear among the shiny green leaves. In fall, purple berries resembling small grapes are borne among foliage that, by then, has turned red. The berries do not last long as birds and other wildlife find them delectable.

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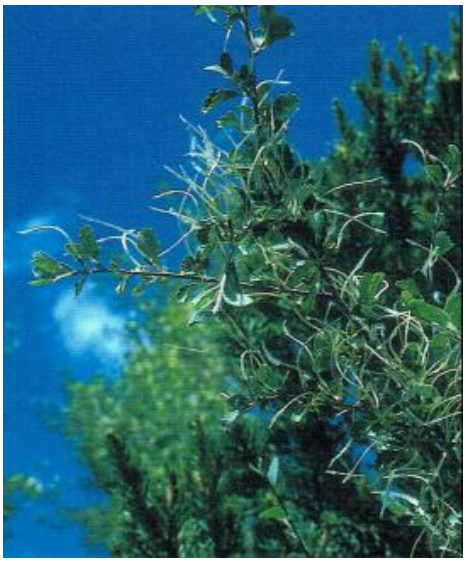

Mountain Mahogany

Rose family

Cercocarpus montanus Syn. *Cercocarpus breviflorus*

Pollinator	Wind and/or insects
Host plant to	Hairstreak butterflies
Size	7’ High x 5’ Wide
Blooms	Inconspicuous
Foliage	Deciduous to semi-evergreen
Water	Low
Exposure	Full sun to part shade
Areas	East Mountains, Heights

The dense, upright Mountain mahogany can be pruned into a graceful small tree. When left to grow naturally, a row of these shrubs will form a dense windbreak or screen. Mountain Mahogany has reddish bark, small wedge-shaped leaves and a spicy fragrance. It is particularly valued in a landscape for the abundant feathery-tails seeds. Clad in these silky curlicues, Mountain Mahogany shines in the winter sun.

Feather Dalea

Legume family

Dalea formosa

Pollinator	Reakirt’s Blue butterfly
Host plant to	Reakirt’s Blue butterfly
Size	2’ High x 3’ Wide
Blooms	Purple and yellow
Foliage	Semi-evergreen
Water	Very low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	Heights, Valley, West Mesa

Feather Dalea’s charming fuzzy pea flowers occur in clusters, each flower surrounded by feather plumes. First blooming March, these shrubs often give a second show after summer rains. This delicate dalea, with its tiny leaves, is beautiful in a low border and in areas left natural such as rocky hillsides and prairies. The seeds are an important food source for wildlife. Since it is nitrogen-fixing, Feather Dalea fertilizes itself and nearby plants.

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Chamisa

Aster family

Ericameria nauseosa Syn. *Chrysothamnus nauseosus*

Pollinator	Nectar plant for Monarch, Painted Lady, other butterflies
Host plant to	Checkerspot and Zephyr Angelwing butterflies
Size	5’ High x 6’ Wide
Blooms	Yellow
Foliage	Deciduous
Water	Low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	All

Chamisa, also known as Rabbit Brush, is a large showy shrub, covered in the fall with stunning masses of deep yellow flowers. The stems are blue-green, even in winter. Matted woolly hairs on the long, narrow leaves give the plant a silvery appearance. If Chamisa becomes thin and rangy, a severe pruning will restore its rounded shape. Some people dislike the odor of the blossoms, as reflected in the botanical name.

Apache Plume

Rose family

Fallugia paradoxa

Pollinator	Bees, *Pronuba* moth
Size	4’ High x 5’ Wide
Blooms	White
Foliage	Semi-evergreen
Water	Low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	All

The white flowers and pink feathery seed heads of Apache Plume bring a distinctive airy aspect to the garden from May to October. The small, scattered, lobed leaves are deep green. Those leaves that persist into winter develop a dark bronzy color which contrasts with the silvery twigs. Apache Plume makes an interesting specimen plant or a good natural hedge that provides cover and seeds for birds. Removing the oldest stems in early spring will encourage heavy blooming.

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Cliff Fendlerbush

Hydrangea family

Fendlera rupicola

Pollinator	Not yet determined
Size	6-8’ High x 4-8’ Wide
Blooms	White
Foliage	Deciduous
Water	Medium
Exposure	Sun to part shade
Areas	East Mountains, Heights

Cliff Fendlerbush is a handsome shrub in April and May when it is covered with pink buds and fragrant white flowers. The pointed tips of the four petals form a distinctive cross-shaped flower. In winter, the furrowed gray bark of the leafless arching stems is attractive. When pruned, Cliff Fendlerbush can be used in hedges and borders. *Rupicola* means “living among rocks,” indicating the natural habitat of rocky hillsides.

Mountain Spray

Rose family

Holodiscus dumosus

Pollinator	Various bees and bee-mimicking *Syrphid* flies
Host plant to	Swallowtail butterflies
Size	6’ High x 6’ Wide
Blooms	White
Foliage	Deciduous
Water	Medium
Exposure	Part shade
Areas	East Mountains

Mountain Spray’s long graceful stems, bearing small white flowers, arch like the spray from a breaking ocean wave. The pyramidal floral clusters add laciness to the landscape. Even a slight breeze will reveal the silvery undersides of the leaves. Occasionally cut out the oldest stems to promote flowering. Mountain Spray is also called Rock Spray, Rock Spirea and Ocean Spray. *Dumosus*, meaning “compact or bushy,” refers to the growth habit of the plant.

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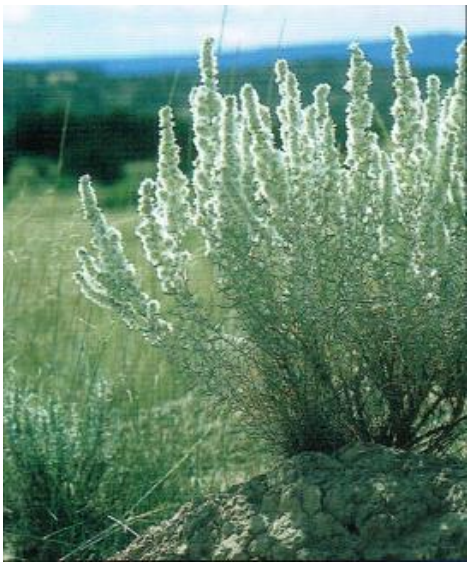

Winterfat

Amaranth family

Krascheninnikovia lanata Syn. Ceratoides lanata

Pollinator	Wind
Size	3’ High x 3’ Wide
Blooms	Inconspicuous
Foliage	Semi-evergreen
Water	Very low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	East Mountains, Heights, Valley, West Mesa

Winterfat is a small, white shrub that attracts attention to itself in fall and winter when it develops long woolly spikes of seed heads. The light blue-green leaves are also covered with woolly hairs, giving the entire shrub its white appearance. Use Winterfat in a meadow or among other shrubs for fall and winter accents. Cut back in early spring and use the prunings with dried arrangements. Inconspicuous flowers produce pollen with allergy potential. Winterfat is a prime source of winter food for wildlife.

Creosote Bush

Caltrop family

Larrea tridentata

Pollinator	Numerous types of bees
Size	5’ High x 5’ Wide
Blooms	Yellow
Foliage	Evergreen
Water	Very low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	Heights, Valley, West Mesa

In the spring, Creosote Bush is covered with yellow flowers. When these are replaced with small white, hairy fruit, the effect is a green shrub lightly covered with snow. After a rain, the glossy leaves are aromatic. It can provide a textural accent and contrast beautifully with silver-leaved plants. A dominant Chihuahuan Desert plant, Creosote Bush thrives with little water and poor soil, but added water gives it a more rounded, dense appearance. This shrub can be extremely long-lived.

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Mariola

Aster family

Parthenium incanum

Pollinator	Unknown; other Partheniums attract a number of bee species
Size	2’ High x 3’ Wide
Blooms	Creamy
Foliage	Semi-evergreen
Water	Very low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	Heights, Valley, West Mesa

Mariola leaves are lacy and silvery, providing color and texture to a garden. The pleasant fragrance and habit of this compact shrub can enhance even small spaces. Small cream-colored flowers are held above the leaves in a graceful bouquet from late summer into fall. Mariola is a fast-growing, long-lived plant and looks tidier if old flower stems are cut off in late winter.

Littleleaf Mockorange

Hydrangea family

Philadelphus microphyllus

Pollinator	Native bees
Size	5’ High x 5’ Wide
Blooms	White
Foliage	Deciduous
Water	Medium
Exposure	Sun to part shade
Areas	East Mountains, Heights, Valley

The showy white flowers blanketing the fountain-shaped Littleleaf Mockorange fill the garden with the fragrance of orange blossoms in May and June. Slender branches bear small leaves, as the name *microphyllus* implies. Littleleaf Mockorange requires well-drained soil. Pruning just after bloom creates a dense plant suitable for a screen.

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Chokecherry

Rose family

Prunus virginiana

Pollinator	Early season bees, miner bees (*Andrena*)
Host plant to	Hairstreak and Two-Tailed Swallowtail butterflies
Size	12’ High x 6’ Wide
Blooms	White
Foliage	Deciduous
Water	Medium
Exposure	Sun to part shade
Areas	East Mountains, Heights

Chokecherry graces the may landscape with small flowers cascading from each branch tip. Later, the small dark cherries attract wildlife and are also good for making jelly and wine. The oval leaves are shiny dark green, turning yellow in autumn. Naturally a multi-stemmed shrub, Chokecherry can be pruned into a tree if the suckers are removed annually.

Broom Dalea

Legume family

Psorothamnus scoparius Syn. *Dalea scoparia*

Pollinator	Cellophane bees, digger bees, and others
Size	3’ High x 5’ Wide
Blooms	Purple
Foliage	Deciduous
Water	Very low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	West Mesa, Heights (sandy areas)

In May and August, dense round clusters of delicate, fragrant purple flowers seem to float above almost invisible slender stems. The rest of the year it looks like a bush of blue-gray sticks with sparse tiny leaves. A row of Broom Daleas makes an interesting low border. A native of dry, sandy soil, Broom Dalea should be watered very sparingly even when first transplanted. The seeds attract doves and quail, and bees make “Purple Sage” honey from the nectar.

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Cliffrose

Rose family

Purshia stansburyana Syn. *Purshia stansburiana*

Pollinator	Bees
Host plant to	Behr's Hairstreak and Desert Elfin butterflies
Size	10' High x 6' wide
Blooms	Creamy
Foliage	Evergreen
Water	Low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	East Mountains, Heights, West Mesa

In May, the erect stems of Cliffrose are densely covered with creamy fragrant flowers. Later, white silky plumed seed envelop Cliffrose in a feathery haze. Throughout the year, the shrub is crowded with delicate dark green, resinous leaves. Cliffrose needs well-drained soil. Pruning in late winter increases the density, while selective pruning after blooming brings out a windswept aspect that makes a beautiful focal point.

Littleleaf Sumac

Sumac family

Rhus microphylla

Pollinator	Bees
Size	8' High x 10-12' Wide
Blooms	Small white clusters
Foliage	Deciduous
Water	Very Low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	Heights, Valley, West Mesa

Littleleaf Sumac is a dense attractive shrub that can be used as a hedge or screen. In spring, small clusters of flowers attract numerous bees. In early summer, spherical orange-red fruits appear among the shiny leaves. In autumn, the small dark green leaves turn burgundy-red before dropping. Give it well-drained soil, plenty of room, and little water.

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Threeleaf Sumac

Sumac family

Rhus trilobata Syn. *Rhus aromatica*

Pollinator	Native bees
Size	5’ High x 5-7’ Wide
Blooms	Inconspicuous
Foliage	Deciduous
Water	Low
Exposure	Sun to part shade
Areas	All

Threeleaf Sumac is covered with shiny green leaves and red lentil-sized berries during the summer. In autumn, the leaves turn a rich red-orange, making a colorful accent plant or hedge. Inconspicuous yellow flowers bloom in early spring before the leaves develop. Quail and other ground-feeding birds flock to Threeleaf Sumac when the fruit drops. These “lemonade” berries can be crushed and made into a refreshing drink.

Golden Currant

Currant family

Ribes aureum

Pollinator	Various bees, bee-mimicking flies
Host plant to	Copper and Angel Wing butterflies
Size	5’ High x 5’ Wide
Blooms	Yellow
Foliage	Deciduous
Water	Medium
Exposure	Sun or part shade
Areas	East Mountains, Heights, Valley

The fast-growing, long-lived Golden Currant adds interest to the landscape in spring, summer and fall. In April to May, trumpet-shaped yellow flowers give off a spicy fragrance. Delicious dark red or black berries attract songbirds to Golden Currant bushes during the summer. In the fall, the small maple-like leaves turn red. *Aureum*, meaning “golden,” describes the shrub in bloom.

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Woods' Rose

Rose family

Rosa woodsii

Pollinator	*Eucera* and other specialized bees
Size	4-6' High x 6-10' Wide
Blooms	Pink
Foliage	Deciduous
Water	Medium
Exposure	Part shade
Areas	East Mountains

The flowers of Woods' Rose, like "antique" rose varieties, are saucer-shaped with five petals. The serrated leaflets of this spiny shrub turn bright orange-red in fall. In late summer, clusters of red, ornamental, vitamin-rich hips develop and remain on the plant to provide sustenance for birds throughout the winter. Woods' Rose suckers freely, so it is best used as a boundary hedge or small thicket.

Virgin's Bower

Buttercup family

Clematis ligusticifolia Syn. *Clematis neomexicana*

Pollinator	Bees
Size	20'
Blooms	White
Foliage	Deciduous
Water	Medium
Exposure	Sun to part shade
Areas	All

Virgin's Bower is a lush woody vine that will cover a large fence or trellis with the aid of its long leaf stalks (petioles). Fragrant clusters of small star-shaped flowers attract butterflies. Female plants develop showy silvery bundles of feathery seeds in late summer. This fast-growing vine has compound leaves with long sharply pointed leaflets. It grows in all soils.

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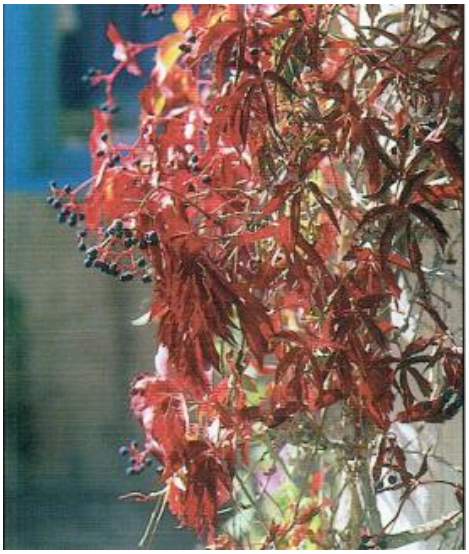
Snapdragon Vine

Snapdragon family

Maurandya antirrhiniflora

Pollinator	Bees, species not yet determined
Size	5’
Blooms	Lavender
Foliage	Deciduous
Water	Low
Exposure	Sun to part shade
Areas	Heights, Valley, West Mesa

This climbing or trailing plant has leaf stalks that curve and twist around anything that can support it. Snapdragon-like flowers have a hairy, creamy ridge at the base of the flower opening. This diminutive vine blooms in summer and fall, then dies back to the ground each winter. It appreciates having its root zone shaded.



Woodbine

Grape family

Parthenocissus vitacea Syn. *Parthenocissus inserta*

Pollinator	Bees
Size	20’
Blooms	Insignificant
Foliage	Deciduous
Water	Medium
Exposure	Sun to part shade
Areas	East Mountains, Heights, Valley

While Woodbine is attractive in summer, it is breathtaking in fall when leaves turn a brilliant red. At this time, its blue berries are highly attractive to roadrunners and songbirds. This fast-growing woody vine climbs with tendrils, but lacks the suction discs of it eastern cousin, Virginia Creeper. Woodbine can be used to cover a chain link fence or to ramble over rocks.

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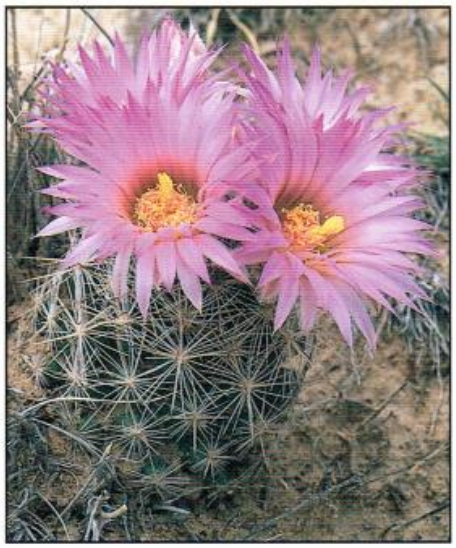
Cacti & Succulents

Cacti and other succulents embody the flavor Southwest native gardens. Throughout the year, their striking forms contrast with other plants. When in flower, their large, colorful blooms are the focal points in the garden. Because of their ability to store water in their stems, they thrive in the driest part of a landscape. It is best to place sharp-spined cactuses away from walkways and out of the wind, both to protect people and to prevent windblown leaves and litter from catching in the spines.



New Mexico Pincushion Cactus Cactus Family

Coryphantha vivipara Syn. *Escobaria vivipara*

Pollinator	
Size	6” High x 8” Wide
Blooms	Pink flowers in spring and summer
Foliage	Spines
Water	Very low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	All

The New Mexico Pincushion Cactus bears large satiny flowers in spring and again during summer rains. Plump juicy berries follow the flowers. The spherical stems are nearly obscured by numerous small spines lying close to the skin. The Latin name *vivipara* indicates the New Mexico Pincushion Cactus can reproduce by forming side stems that can become independent plants.

Tree Cholla Cactus family

Cylindropuntia imbricata *Opuntia imbricata*

Pollinator	Leafcutter bees and other bees
Size	6’ High x 5’ Wide
Blooms	Magenta flowers in late spring
Foliage	Spines
Water	Very low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	All

Tree Cholla contributes height and texture to a desert garden. When in flower, it rivals rose bushes with abundant large colorful flowers. The spiny cylindrical stems form interesting branching structures. Large yellow fruits decorate the stems throughout the winter. Wildlife find food and shelter in Tree Cholla. The woody skeletons are used for crafts.

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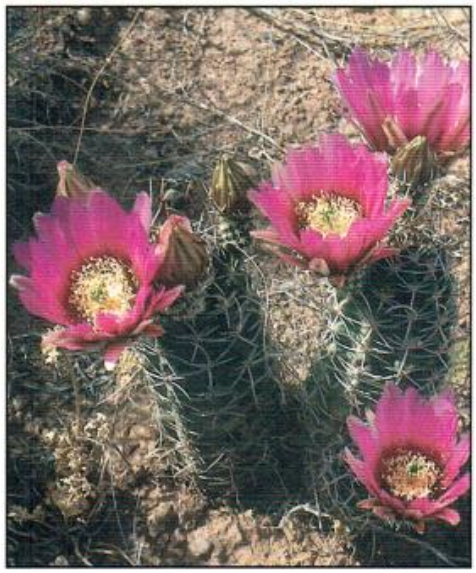
Red-Flowered Hedgehog Cactus

Cactus family

Echinocereus coccineus

Pollinator	Bees, hummingbirds
Size	12” High x 12” Wide
Blooms	Red flowers in spring
Foliage	Spines
Water	Very low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	All

A profusion of large orange-red flowers provides a spectacular accent to any local landscape. A colony will grow from one stem, adding more stems every year. After several years, the mound could be up to three feet across and bear dozens of flowers. The red flowers attract hummingbirds, while songbirds eat the plump juicy red fruits. Claret Cup Hedgehog Cactus (*Echinocereus triglochidiatus* var. *triglochidiatus*), popular in the nursery trade, has larger, darker, flowers and fewer, stouter spines.



Strawberry Hedgehog Cactus

Cactus Family

Echinocereus fendleri

Pollinator	*Agapostemon* (metallic green) bees
Size	8” High x 6-8” Wide
Blooms	Magenta flowers in spring
Foliage	Spines
Water	Low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	All

A low clump of three-inch-wide stems of Strawberry Hedgehog Cactus will burst into bloom in spring. When it does, the large colorful flowers eclipse all else in the garden. As the spiny edible fruits ripen, they turn from green to reddish-purple and taste like strawberries. European explorers noted the similarity of these cacti to the spiny mammals of English hedgerows.

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Claret Cup Hedgehog Cactus

Cactus Family

Echinocereus triglochidiatus

Pollinator	Hummingbirds
Size	12-18" High by 18" wide
Blooms	Bright red (Claret wine colored) to orange-red in early spring
Foliage	Spines
Water	Low
Exposure	Full sun to partial shade
Areas	All

Claret cup Hedgehog Cactus is native to a variety of habitats from low desert to rocky slopes, scrub, and mountain woodland. There are a number of varieties of this highly variable cactus species. In general it is a clumping cactus, forming mounds from a few to hundreds of spherical to cylindrical stems. It is densely spiny and somewhat woolly. The showy flower is a bright red to orange-red funnel shaped bloom. The flowers are among the earliest to bloom in spring to coincide with the arrival of hummingbirds from their wintering grounds.

Green Pitaya

Cactus Family

Echinocereus viridiflorus

Pollinator	Sweat bees and other native bees
Size	4" High x 6" Wide
Blooms	Green to brownish flowers in spring
Foliage	Spines
Water	Low
Exposure	Full sun to partial shade
Areas	All

A small hedgehog that can be found in a variety of habitat types, including desert scrub, woodlands, dry grasslands, and short-grass prairie. It occasionally forms clumps of small stems. In May and June, the green to brownish flowers form near the base of the plant followed by dry fruits. It is wonderful plant for rock gardens and troughs. It is one of the most cold-hardy cactus along with some of the prickly pears.

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Pineapple Cactus

Cactus Family

Echinomastus intertextus

Pollinator	Leafcutter and Diadasia bees
Size	6” High x 4” Wide
Blooms	White tinged with pink in early spring
Foliage	Spines
Water	Very low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	All

Chihuahuan Pineapple Cactus, also known as Early Bloomer, is the earliest flowering cactus in Central New Mexico. In March, pale inch-wide flowers emerge from the top of the solitary stem. Called “pineapple cactus” because of its shape, it is the hardiest of the barrel cacti and grows in juniper savannah and desert grassland. At higher altitudes its range may be limited more by excess moisture than by cold.

Little Nipple Cactus

Cactus Family

Mammillaria meiacantha Syn. *Mammilaria heyderi var. meiacantha*

Pollinator	Native Bees
Size	2-3" High by 6” Wide
Blooms	White to pinkish in mid-spring
Foliage	Spines
Water	Low
Exposure	Full sun to partial shade
Areas	All

Little Nipple Cactus is the hardiest Mammillaria and native to central New Mexico. It is a low growing species, often partly obscured by grass or other vegetation in the variety of habitats where it is found, including grassland, oak and pinyon-juniper woodland. During dry spells the height is reduced further, to or even below the ground level. The white to pinkish flowers, with darker midstripes, appear from March into May and the red fruits follow as late as October into March.

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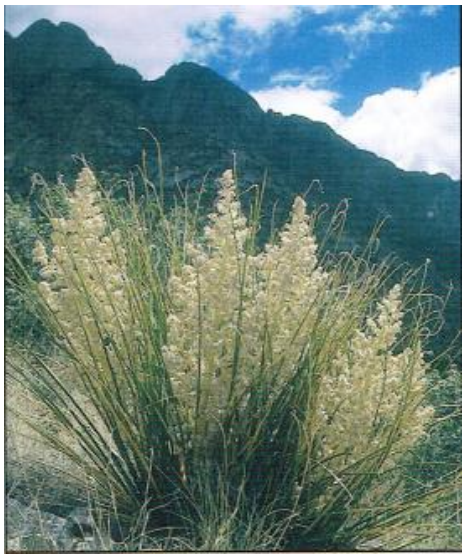

Beargrass

Asparagus Family

Nolina geenei Syn. *Nolina texana*

Pollinator	Not determined, possibly the Sandia Hairstreak
Host plant to	Sandia Hairstreak butterfly
Size	3’ High x 3’ Wide
Blooms	Spikes of tiny white or purplish flowers in spring
Foliage	Evergreen
Water	Low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	All

Beargrass is not a true grass at all, but a close relative of the yuccas. Long stiff, narrow leaves form a dense fountain shape. In spring, two-foot-long lacy flowering stalks appear among the leaves, each bearing hundreds of small flowers. With leaves narrower than yucca leaves and stiffer than grass, Beargrass can provide a substitute for ornamental grass in low-water situations. *Nolina greenei* is the native species in our area, but is often offered by nurseries as *Nolina texana*.

Engelmann Prickly Pear

Cactus Family

Opuntia engelmannii

Pollinator	Various bees, including leafcutter bees
Size	6’ High x 6” Wide
Blooms	Large yellow flowers in spring
Foliage	Spines
Water	Very low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	Heights, Valley, West Mesa

Engeimann Prickly Pear, the largest of the prickly pears, with numerous foot-wide pads, is a striking accent plant. The four-inch showy flowers are replaced in mid-summer by purple pear-shaped fruits that may be made into jelly, preserves or beverages. Because of its size, Engelmann Prickly Pear makes an effective living fence. It requires a well-drained soil.

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Purple Prickly Pear Cactus Family

Opuntia macrocentra

Pollinator	Various bees
Size	2' High x 3' Wide
Blooms	Yellow flowers in late spring to early summer
Foliage	Spines
Water	Very low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	Heights, Valley, West Mesa

Purple Prickly Pear adds winter color to the garden when cold weather turns the pads from a blue-green to shades of purple. The five-inch-wide oval pads are thin in cross-section. Top edges of the pads may be armed with black spines that can be as long as six inches. Purple Prickly Pear bears yellow flowers with brilliant red centers. The fruit is like a reddish-orange ping-pong ball. This cactus requires good drainage and is prone to rot if kept continuously moist.

Banana Yucca Asparagus family

Yucca baccata

Pollinator	Yucca Moths
Host plant to	Yucca Moths
Size	3' High x 6' wide
Blooms	White flowers on 5 foot spikes in spring
Foliage	Evergreen
Water	Low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	All

With its rosette of two-foot-long leaves, Broadleaf Yucca adds form to a garden. In spring, clusters of large, creamy flowers bloom on stalks that are as long as the leaves. Later the flowers develop into banana-shaped bunches of fleshy fruit, a staple food of the Pueblo people. Extra watering during the spring and summer months will increase growth.

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Soap Tree Yucca

Asparagus family

Yucca elata

Pollinator	Yucca Moths
Host plant to	Yucca Moths
Size	7-20’ High x 3’ Wide
Blooms	Tall spikes of large white flowers in summer
Foliage	Evergreen
Water	Low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	Heights, Valley, West Mesa

The dramatic silhouette of the Soap Tree Yucca lends a distinctive southwestern appearance to the garden. A dense tuft of two-foot-long, sword-like leaves encircles the top of the stout trunk. During summer months, the flower stalk bears a striking elongated cluster of large, waxy flowers. An extract from the roots produces lather for washing. Even today soap from yucca root is used for shampooing. Soap Tree Yucca is the State Flower of New Mexico.

Narrowleaf Yucca

Asparagus family

Yucca baileyi var. intermedia Syn. *Yucca glauca*

Pollinator	Yucca Moths
Host plant to	Yucca Moths
Size	2’ High x 2’ Wide
Blooms	Large white flowers in spring and summer
Foliage	Evergreen
Water	Very low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	All

This elegant plant brings the desert into the garden. Stiff narrow leaves form a clump at the base. Every two or three years, four-foot flower stalks crowded with waxy white bell-shaped flowers push up well above the leaves. The yucca plant was important to prehistoric Native Americans in many ways. The leaves yielded fiber needed for weaving sandals, mats, nets and baskets.

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Grasses

Native grasses come in many sizes and forms, from turf to five-foot tall specimens. The native lawn grasses, Buffalograss and Blue Grama, need little fertilizer, are relatively free of disease and insect damage, and use one-fourth the water bluegrass requires.

The colorful leaves of native ornamental grasses add interest to the garden during the fall and winter when many other plants are dormant. When planted in open areas, the long narrow leaves move gracefully in the breeze, and the fluffy seed heads shine in backlight. The wind blows and scatters the grass seed. All grasses are pollinated by the wind and not by insects. Many native grasses serve as host plants for specific butterfly larvae. Small birds eat the grass seeds. You may wish to cut back bunching grasses in early spring for a neater appearance before new growth emerges. Or for a natural look and to provide shelter for wildlife, leave the dried leaves in place. All the grasses excel at holding soil and preventing erosion.

Lawn Grasses

Blue Grama Grass family

Bouteloua gracilis

Pollinator	Wind
Host plant to	Many species of Skipper butterfly, including, Rhesus, Uncas, Orange and Simius Roadside Skippers.
Size	12'' High x 6" Wide
Water	Low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	All

A light and airy meadow effect results when Blue Grama is allowed to grow naturally and form seed stalks. Mow Blue Grama meadows in winter after the seed heads have dried. For a thick lawn, mow Blue Grama four inches high monthly during the growing season. Water deeply every seven to ten days during the summer. The soft finely textured leaves fade to light tan as they go dormant. Blue Grama is available as seed and plugs. Seed must be sown during hot weather to give the young grass time to establish itself before winter.

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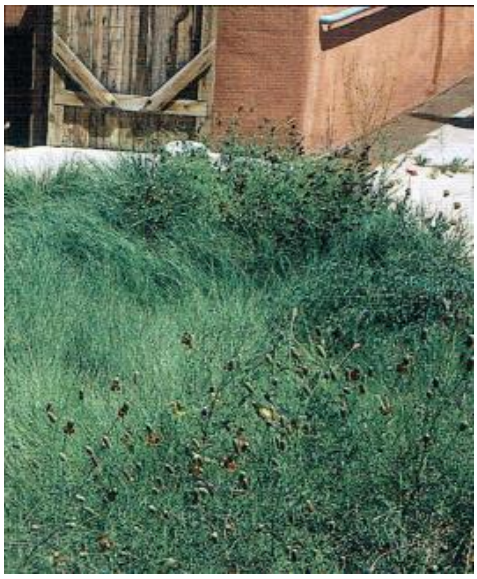

Buffalograss Grass family

Buchloe dactyloides

Pollinator	Wind
Size	4-6” High x 12’’ Wide
Water	Low to medium
Exposure	Sun
Areas	All

Fine-leaved Buffalograss can be used alone in a lawn or meadow or mixed with Blue Grama. Blue Grama germinates sooner than Buffalograss, but Buffalograss fills in bare areas by extending above-ground runners. The soft light green leaves fade to buff in winter. Buffalograss is available as seed, plugs or sod. Seed must be sown during the summer months for the grass to be established by winter. Buffalograss is so low growing that it does not require mowing. But, if you wish, it can be mowed a few times a year for a “tidy” appearance.

Ornamental Native Grasses

Indian Ricegrass Grass family

Achnatherum hymenoides Syn. *Oryzopsis hymenoides*

Pollinator	Wind
Host plant to	Larvae of Skipper butterflies
Size	12” high x 18” Wide
Water	Low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	West Mesa, Heights

Indian Ricegrass might accent a rock garden or border, or it may be used in a meadow where its light lacy flower heads contrast with surrounding plants. This cool season bunch grass blooms in spring. By early summer birds are attracted to and eat the large seeds. Indian Ricegrass is an indicator of sandy soil and is especially suited to the West Mesa area. Cut back to three inches in late winter.

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Cane Bluestem

Grass family

Bothriochloa barbinodis

Pollinator	Wind
Size	2-3’ High x 2’ Wide
Water	Low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	All

Cane Bluestem gives new life to the garden in late summer. Fluffy white seed heads shimmer in the moonlight above the foliage and persist until spring. In fall, the leaves change from green to rosy pink. Over-watering will cause long floppy stems. Cut back in late winter. Silver Bluestem (*Bothriochloa laguroides*) is very similar, but may not tolerate elevations over 6500 feet.

Sideoats Grama

Grass family

Bouteloua curtipendula

Pollinator	Wind
Size	2’ High x 1’ Wide
Water	Medium
Exposure	Full sun to part shade
Areas	All

A meadow effect is achieved by the round clumps of Sideoats Grama. The coarse vertical leaf blades are blue-green in spring and straw-color in in fall. Sideoats Grama flowers from July through September. The long seeds hang in rows like pennants on one side of the stiff flowering stalks. Deep-water twice a month in summer. Cut back to six or eight inches in late winter.

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Sand Lovegrass

Grass family

Eragrostis trichodes

Pollinator	Wind
Size	2’ High x 1’ Wide
Water	Medium
Exposure	Full sun to part shade
Areas	All

In August, Sand Lovegrass produces large airy red seed heads that rise like a rosy cloud a foot above the leaves. The seed heads will remain attractive nearly all winter and can be cut for dried arrangements. Despite its name, Sand Lovegrass will grow in most soils. While it is stunning in the late summer landscape, Sand Lovegrass reseeds too profusely to use in tidy flowerbeds. Deep water twice monthly in drier areas. Cut back to three inches in late winter.

Bush Muhly

Grass family

Muhlenbergia porteri

Pollinator	Wind
Size	1’ High x 3’ Wide
Water	Low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	Heights, Valley, West Mesa

Bush Muhly forms a low bushy mound of dense intricately entwined stems covered in pale green leaves. In late summer, fluffy pink-purple seed heads transform the clump into a cotton candy cloud. Bush Muhly can be used in meadow plantings or massed in open areas. Not only is this grass bushy, it tends to grow up through bushes, protecting itself from grazers. Deep-water once a month. Cut back to six inches at the end of winter.

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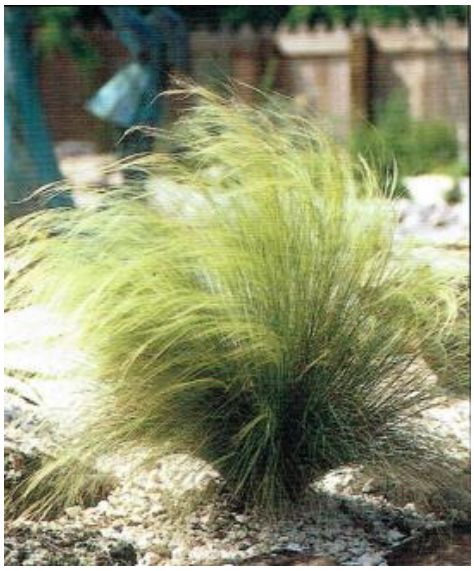

Thread Grass

Grass family

Nassella tennuissima Syn. *Stipa tennuissima*

Pollinator	Wind
Size	2’ High x 2’ wide
Water	Low
Exposure	Full sun or part shade
Areas	All

The arching form of this cool season bunchgrass is attractive year round. However, Thread Grass is breathtaking in May when its fine leaves are topped by even finer seed heads that flow and drift in the breeze. In fall and winter, it fades to a buff color retaining threads of green. However, Thread Grass is an aggressive reseeder and can be invasive in areas with gravel, stones or pavers. To prevent this, remove the seed display before seeds mature and scatter.

Little Bluestem

Grass family

Schizachyrium scoparium

Pollinator	Wind
Size	2’ High x 1’ Wide
Water	Medium
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	All

Little Bluestem is a warm season bunchgrass. The leaves can be green or blue-green, picking up subtle shades of orange, pink and purple in late summer. As the season progresses and the flower stalks mature into cottony seed heads, the leaves turn pink-russet, keeping this color all winter. Little Bluestem reseeds too readily to plant in flowerbeds, but works well in meadows or as a visually striking ground cover. Deep-water two to four times a month in summer. Cut back dead foliage to six inches in late winter.

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Indiangrass

Grass family

Sorghastrum nutans

Pollinator	Wind
Size	2+’ High x 2’ wide
Water	Low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	All

For most of the year, Indiangrass masquerades as an ordinary coarse-bladed rhizomatous bunchgrass. In late summer, multiple flower stalks shoot up three to six feet. These terminate in spikes of fluffy golden seed heads that bend gracefully in the wind. The leaves become bronze-colored in the fall. During the growing season, water Indiangrass once a week if growing in sand or once a month in clay. Cut back to four inches in the winter.

Giant Sacaton

Grass family

Sporobolus wrightii

Pollinator	Wind
Size	5' high x 3-4' wide
Water	Low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	Heights, Valley, West Mesa

Giant Sacaton adds a stunning accent to the garden. Although it is as large and stately as pampas grass, Giant Sacaton needs far less water. In summer, tall graceful flower heads push up through the arching leaves. In fall the feathery seed heads turn into gold. Deep-water twice a month in summer and monthly the rest of the year. Cut back to one foot late in winter.

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WILDFLOWERS

Masses of color are achieved throughout the year with plantings of wildflowers. They also bring interesting foliage and pleasing fragrance into the garden. Spreading, vertical or rounded plant shapes add abundant variety. During the day, red flowers attract hummingbirds, and at night, fragrant white flowers on your patio attract hummingbird moths and other nocturnal moths. Use wildflowers with native grasses for a flowery meadow. Although not as permanent as shrubs, wildflowers provide beauty and interest while shrubs mature. In winter, some die back, while others leave low tufts of green leaves.

Common Yarrow Aster family

Achillea millefolium

Pollinator	Bees, butterflies
Size	2' High x 1' Wide
Blooms	Heads of white flowers May through mid-September
Water	Medium
Exposure	Sun to shade
Areas	East Mountains, Heights, Valley

Common Yarrow creates a bed of dark green, finely divided, aromatic leaves. From these, arise stems bearing flattish heads of small flowers. Yarrow spreads by its roots and can sometimes become invasive in moist soils. Yet it can benefit the whole garden by attracting beneficial insects. Yarrow grows in the Sandia and Manzano Mountains, but is adaptable to other areas if it gets watered. Since it can be mowed and can tolerate light foot traffic, it can serve as a ground cover. Nurseries carry a number or color variations of common yarrow. It is unknown how pollinators respond to or benefit from these.

Purple Hyssop Mint family

Agastache pallidiflora

Pollinator	Bees, butterflies, occasional hummingbirds
Host plant to	Painted Lady, Checkered White, Variegated Fritillary, Checkered Skipper, and Dainty Skipper butterflies
Size	2' High x 2' Wide
Blooms	Pink-purple spikes of flowers in summer
Water	Medium
Exposure	Part shade
Areas	East Mountains, Heights, Valley

In summer bloom, Purple Hyssop accents the garden with slender raspberry spikes, which also make attractive cut or dried flower arrangements. Remove old flower stalks to encourage longer bloom. The whole plant gives off an intense fragrance when it is touched. In our lower elevations, Purple Hyssop requires extra water and shade. Perennial.

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Yerba Mansa

Lizardtail family

Anemopsis californica

Pollinator	Bees
Size	18” High x 2 ‘ Wide
Blooms	White floral heads in summer to fall
Water	Medium
Exposure	Full sun to deep shade
Areas	Heights, Valley

Yerba Mansa is an attractive summer-blooming plant as well as a dense ground cover. Its charm comes from the conical floral head of small flowers with an apron of large white bracts at the base. The flower stalks rise from clumps of large leathery oval leaves, which turn a rich red-brown in fall. Preferring heavy soils, Yerba Mansa naturally grows in marshy places, but can withstand drought once it is established. Perennial.

Golden Columbine

Buttercup family

Aquilegia chrysantha

Pollinator	Butterflies, hummingbirds, hawkmoths
Size	3-4’ High x 2-3’ Wide
Blooms	Yellow flowers in May and June
Water	Medium low
Exposure	Sun to part shade
Areas	East Mountains, Heights, Valley

Golden Columbine, larger and showier than other columbines, also needs less water and less shade. Ornate yellow flowers grow above the leaves on long stems adding a burst of color to the garden. Each petal extends into a long narrow “nectar spur” that signals by its size, shape and fragrance a content of quality food. Long-tongued insects: butterflies and hawkmoths, as well as some hummingbirds, are able to reach the sugary substance at the end of the spur.

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Red Columbine

Buttercup family

Aquilegia desertorum

Pollinator	Hummingbirds, hawkmoths
Size	18” High x 1’ Wide
Blooms	Red and yellow spurred flowers June into August
Water	Medium
Exposure	Mostly Shade
Areas	East Mountains

Slender stems rise from a basal rosette of three lobed leaves. At the top dangle flowers of red bracts with backward projecting spurs. Inside, yellow petals extend down below the bracts, the pistols and stamens extending further. Red Columbines grow in ponderosa forest to the subalpine zone, so they will need extra water and shade in the lower elevations.

Prickly Poppy

Poppy family

Argemone pleiacantha

Pollinator	Bees, butterflies
Size	2-3’ High x 2’ Wide
Blooms	Large white flowers all summer
Water	Very Low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	All

Being prickly all over, this would be a thoroughly unlovable plant if it were not for its huge 4” white crepe flowers. From a distance, fields of Prickly Poppy look littered with tissues. Closer, the flowers look more like fried eggs, because of their yellow centers. The bluish leaves resemble holly. The small black seeds are eaten by songbirds, doves and quail. Because the sap is toxic, prickly poppy isn’t eaten by insects or mammals. Perennial.

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Showy Milkweed Milkweed family

Asclepias speciosa

Pollinator	Butterflies (Monarchs, Queens, Swallowtails, Fritillaries and others), moths, bees, wasps, hummingbirds
Host plant to	Butterflies and moths
Size	2-3’ High and 1’ Wide
Blooms	Balls of pink flowers in summer
Water	Medium low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	All

This, the largest of our milkweeds, is distinguished by its big grayish, fuzzy leaves. Showy Milkweed may spread by underground stems to form colonies. Its large seedpods break open to release seeds on silky parachutes, a feature of all milkweeds. Monarch Butterflies, in particular, lay their eggs on milkweed. The caterpillars can eat the bad-tasting leaves and accumulate a toxin that serves to protect them and the adult butterflies they become from predators. Perennial.

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Whorled Milkweed Milkweed family

Asclepias subverticillata

Pollinator	Bees, butterflies (Monarchs, Queens, Swallowtails, Fritillaries and others) flies, moths wasps
Host plant to	Butterflies and moths
Size	2-3' High x 1' Wide
Blooms	Umbels of small white flowers in summer
Water	Very low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	All

Whorled Milkweed (so called because the long narrow leaves are grouped in whorls of three to five along the stem) is not as showy as the other milkweeds described here, but it is a favorite nectar and forage plant of monarch butterflies.

"Milkweed flowers are unique. The showy part of the flower is not the petals, but a crown of five nectar cups perched atop each flower. In the center of this crown, pollen is packaged in pairs of waxy balls that are joined by straps, in a saddlebag configuration. When an insect lands on the crown to drink from the nectar cups, it often loses its foothold on the slippery surface and a leg may slip into a tiny slit and hook onto a pair of pollen balls. Then, having finished his meal, the visitor flies off with the pollen saddlebags attached. Strategically placed hooks on the next milkweed flower it visits will snag the pair pollen balls and deposit them on the stigma" (Dodson, Carolyn. 2007, p. 100). Perennial.

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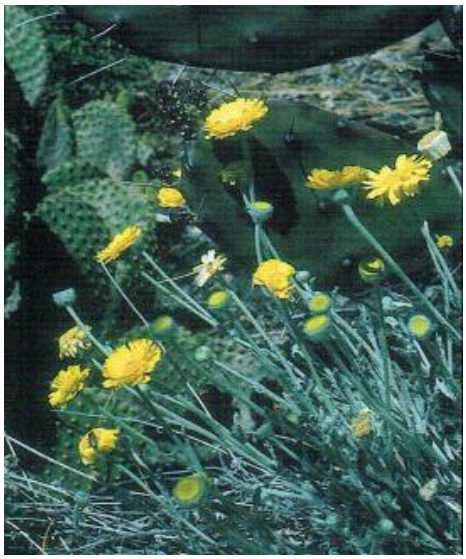
Butterflyweed Milkweed family

Asclepias tuberosa

Pollinator	Bees, butterflies (Monarchs, Queens, Swallowtails, Fritillaries and others) flies, moths wasps, hummingbirds
Host plant to	Monarch and Queen butterflies and moths
Size	1-3' High x 1' Wide
Blooms	Bright orange flowers in late spring to early fall
Water	Medium to medium low
Exposure	Sun to part shade
Areas	All

This vibrant orange milkweed is a favorite of butterflies and gardeners Butterflyweed has deep fleshy roots, which allow the plants to compete with grass in a meadow. It tolerates poor, rocky soil and may self-seed. The 3-6" long seedpods are attractive in floral arrangements. All milkweeds host yellow aphids. These can be hosed off or sprayed with soap spray, but they are inevitable. The aphids don't seem to harm the plant, and they are part of the food chain.



Desert Marigold Aster family

Baileya multiradiata

Pollinator	Bees, butterflies
Size	18" High x 12" Wide
Blooms	Yellow flowers spring to fall
Water	Very low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	Heights, Valley, West Mesa

The large flower heads of Desert Marigold arise from bunches of lacy white downy leaves. *Multiradiata*, meaning "many rays," describes the dozens of bright yellow ray petals crowded around the golden center. After seed set, the persistent rays become bleached and papery. Desert Marigold reseeds readily and, with supplemental water, will bloom in summer as well as spring and fall. Biennial.

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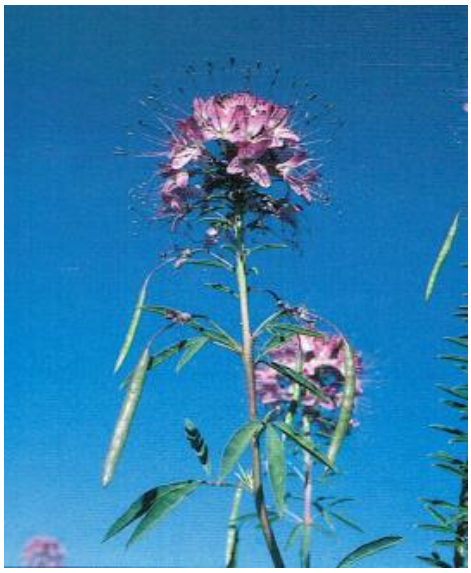
Hartweg's Sundrops

Evening Primrose family

Calylophus hartwegii Syn. *Oenothera hartwegii var. fendleri*

Pollinator	Beetles and bee flies
Size	12" High x 18" Wide
Blooms	Yellow flowers in spring and fall
Water	Low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	All

The bushy mounds of Sundrops are covered with large crinkly flowers. The pointed tips of the four petals form a square flower. Like most flowers in the Evening Primrose family, those of Sundrops fade after one day and are continually replaced. Newly opened flowers are yellow, while old flowers are orange, creating and interesting color effect. Sundrops grow best in well-drained soil. With intermittent watering, they will produce new blooms all summer. Perennial.



Bee Plant

Caper family

Cleome serrulata

Pollinator	Bees
Host plant to	For Checkered White and Western White butterflies
Size	3' High x 2' Wide
Blooms	Pink-purple flowers in summer
Water	Low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	All

Bee Plant has large round clusters of flowers at the end of each branch. Long stamens make the flowers look fluffy. Slender seedpods dangle below the colorful balls of flowers. *Serrulata* indicates the clover-like leaves have small saw-teeth. Bee Plant readily reseeds in a garden. Butterflies as well as bees and humans love the showy flowers. Annual.

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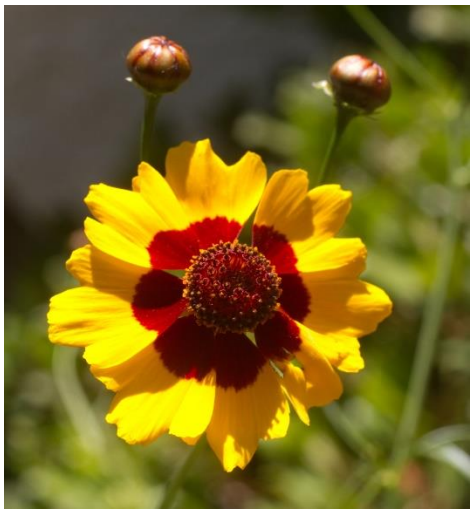

Plains Coreopsis

Aster family

Coreopsis tinctoria

Pollinator	Bees, butterflies
Size	2-3’ High x 12-18” Wide
Blooms	Yellow flowers June to September
Water	Low medium
Exposure	Sun to part shade
Areas	All

Long-blooming with smooth pinnate leaves and branching wiry stems, Plains Coreopsis bears a multitude of striking daisy flowers. The yellow ray petals are painted maroon around the reddish purple center. Plains Coreopsis thrives in poor soil and reseeds freely. Annual.

Purple Prairie Clover and White Prairie Clover

Pea family

Dalea purpurea Syn. *Petalostemon purpureum*

Dalea candida

Pollinator	Bumblebees, honey bees, and polyester bees/plasterer bees
Host plant to	Southern Dogface butterfly
Size	2’ High x 2’ Wide
Blooms	Purple flowers in June and July
Water	Low
Exposure	Sun to light shade
Areas	All

Clusters of stems are covered by dark green, finely textured leaves and terminate in compact cylinders of small flowers. The versatile Purple Prairie Clover blends well in prairies, makes a statement in mass plantings and shows off its fan shape when planted in open spaces. The roots fix nitrogen, improving the soil. Purple Prairie Clover reseeds prolifically, also providing birds with a treat. White Prairie Clover, *Dalea candida*, is very similar, except that the white (photo inset), sweetly fragrant flowers bloom from May to September. White Prairie Clover is a specific host for the caterpillars of Dogface Butterflies. Both Dalea species are perennials.

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Datura

Potato family

Datura wrightii

Pollinator	Hummingbird moth, Hawkmoth
Size	3-4' High x 3-4' Wide
Blooms	White flowers in summer and fall
Water	Low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	Heights, Valley, West Mesa

Glowing in moonlight, the sweet fragrance of night-blooming Datura, or Moonflower, attracts hummingbird moths. Large white trumpet-shaped flowers grace the bushy dark green plant. The fruit is a two-inch spiny seedpod, or "thorn-apple." The large malodorous leaves die in winter, leaving brittle bone-white twigs. All parts of Datura, also known as Jimsonweed, are poisonous if eaten, making it rabbit-proof. Perennial.

Purple Aster

Aster family

Dieteria canescens Syn. *Machaeranthera canescens*

Pollinator	Bees, butterflies
Size	1-4' High x 1-2' Wide
Blooms	Purple flowers late summer and fall
Water	Low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	All

Purple Aster is ubiquitous in Albuquerque, volunteering in yards and vacant lots alike. While it is a biennial, it reseeds readily, so that once one has it, one always has it. This aster would suit a casual gardener or grace a meadow. Its size depends on the water it receives, but cutting it back once or twice during the growing season will keep it more compact. Biennial.

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Showy Daisy

Aster family

Erigeron formosissimus

Pollinator	Bees, butterflies
Size	2” High x 6 to 14” Wide
Blooms	Purple flowers in summer
Water	Medium
Exposure	Part shade
Areas	East Mountains

This delicate aster, or fleabane, grows at the middle elevations in the Rocky Mountain. The yellow center is surrounded by numerous narrow ray petals, which appear evenly clipped around the edges. The roots spread underground giving rise to a large colony of “beautiful daisies.” Perennial.

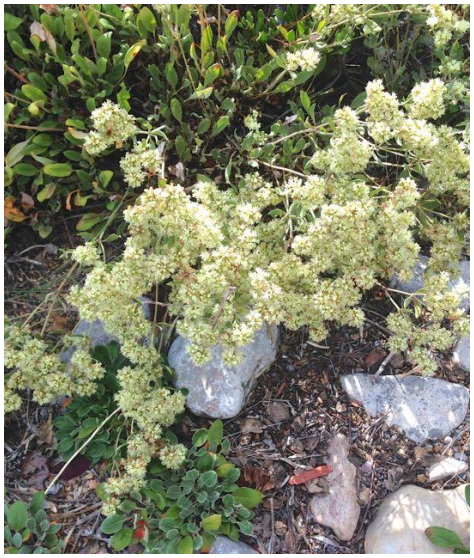
Buckwheatbrush

Buckwheat family

Eriogonum corymbosum

Pollinator	Bees
Size	2-3’ High x up to 4’ Wide
Blooms	Small white flowers July to October
Water	Very low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	West Mesa. Heights, East Mountains

While Buckwheatbrush is covered with mounds of small white (sometimes yellow) flowers in summer, it is just as colorful in fall. The russet seeds cling on the maroon branches, and the leaves turn red. This attractive little shrub will stand out in dry rocky areas.



Antelope Sage

Buckwheat family

Eriogonum jamesii

Pollinator	Butterflies, native bees
Size	4-12” High x 7” Wide
Blooms	Cream to pink, July through September
Water	Low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	All

Antelope Sage, or James Buckwheat, forms low mats or mounds in rocky soil. The 1½” clusters of small flowers rise above hairy leaves on mostly bare stalks. The undersides of the leaves are white with dense hairs, and the leaves take on red highlights in the fall. Bees make particularly fine honey from buckwheat flowers. Perennial.

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Wright's Buckwheat

Buckwheat family

Eriogonum wrightii

Pollinator	Reakirt's and Rita Blue butterflies, bees and *Sphecid* wasps
Host plant to	Various Blues, Hairstreaks and Metalmark butterflies
Size	18" High x 2' Wide
Blooms	Pink-white flowers in summer through fall, turning orange
Water	Low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	Heights

This attractive semi-evergreen small shrub is perfect for tight spaces and can be used to extend the blooming season in the garden. Native of foothill areas from Albuquerque southward, Wright's Buckwheat is abundant in granite outcrops, though uncommon as yet in nurseries. A related species at home in the colder East Mountains area is Antelope Sage (see profile above). In late summer, Wright's Buckwheat has small pink to white pompom flower clusters floating in the air above a low mound of gray basal leaves. The tiny flowers turn orange and persist beyond September. Both buckwheat species require well-drained soil. Perennial.

Western Wallflower

Mustard family

Erysimum capitatum

Pollinator	Bees, beetles, flies, Painted Lady butterfly
Size	2' High x 2' Wide
Blooms	Yellow flowers April to September
Water	Medium
Exposure	Full sun to part shade
Areas	East Mountains, Heights

Bright color is added to the garden with these large round balls of yellow flowers. Western Wallflowers are typical mustard family flowers with four petals arranged in a Maltese cross. Long narrow seedpods extend outward from the stem, below the flower clusters. Linear toothed leaves form a basal rosette and extend up along the erect stems. The fragrant flowers attract butterflies. At high altitudes, Western Wallflowers can be copper-colored rather than yellow. Biennial.

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Purple Geranium

Geranium family

Geranium caespitosum

Pollinator	Bees, bumblebees
Size	2’ High x 2’ Wide
Blooms	Purple flowers in summer
Water	Medium
Exposure	Shade
Areas	East Mountains

Half-inch-wide saucer-like flowers are scattered around on these sprawling geraniums. The five petals are streaked with dark purple lines. Purple Geranium is also called “Cranesbill,” referring to the long narrow seed capsules with pointed tips. The maple-like leaves turn red in the fall. Plant Purple Geranium in moist but well-drained soil. Perennial.

Fernleaf Verbena

Verbena family

Glandularia bipinnatifida Syn. *Verbena bipinnatifida*

Pollinator	Various butterflies, bees and wasps
Host plant to	Theona Checkerspot butterfly
Size	1’ High x 2’ Wide
Blooms	Purple flowers throughout the growing season
Water	Very low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	All

Profuse clusters of verbena flowers make a brilliant display. *Bipinnatifida,* meaning “with feathery leaves,” describes this low fern-like plant. Flowers appear in April and periodically during summer in response to rain or twice-monthly watering. The short-lived Fernleaf Verbena reseeds well. The Spanish name for this plant, *Moradilla,* means “little purple plant.” Plant in well-drained soil. Perennial. Nurseries may also offer Glandularia wrightii, a similar verbena native to our area.

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Native Sunflower Aster family

Helianthus annuus

Pollinator	Bees, wasps, flies, Checkerspot Butterflies, pollen-eating beetles
Host plant to	Bordered Patch butterfly
Size	Up to 7' High x 2' Wide
Blooms	Yellow flowers late June through September
Water	Low to Medium Low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	All

This multi-flowered sunflower is the wild ancestor to our modern cultivated sunflowers. The flowers are smaller, at 3-5" wide, but they are numerous. The large rough leaves are heart-shaped or lance shaped. The plant's size will vary greatly depending on how much water it gets. Finches and other birds seek out the seeds, but the seedheads still drop enough seeds to grow next springs' sunflowers. Annual.

Bush Morning Glory Morning Glory family

Ipomoea leptophylla

Pollinator	Bees
Size	3' High x 4' Wide
Blooms	Magenta flowers in May through August
Water	Low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	Heights, Valley, West Mesa

Bush Morning Glory flowers are redder than the domesticated, annual variety and have dark centers. These flowers open in the morning and close by noon. *Leptophylla*, meaning "with narrow leaves," describes the erect leaves. Bush Morning Glory dies back in winter and emerges late in spring. While flowering, the plant needs deep monthly watering. Perennial.

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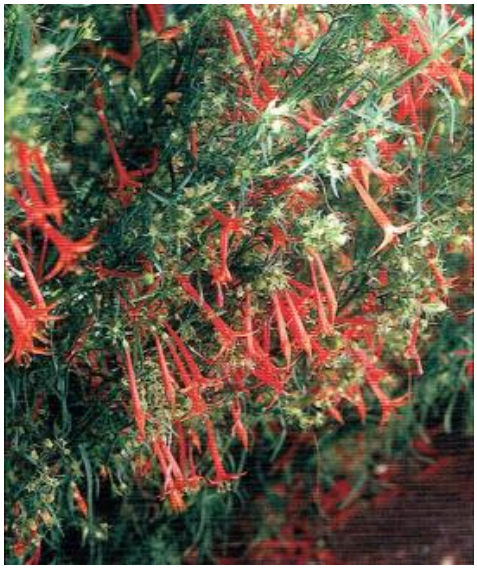

Scarlet Gilia

Phlox family

Ipomopsis aggregata

Pollinator	Hummingbirds
Size	2’ High x 1’ Wide
Blooms	Red flowers in summer
Water	Medium
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	All

Bright red trumpet-shaped flowers dangle along the length of the tall stems of Scarlet Gilia. The pointed petals of the star-like flowers are spotted with yellow. A rosette of grayish fern-like leaves develops in the first year and the flower stalk rises the second year. This stunning plant attracts hummingbirds. Scarlet Gilia reseeds readily. Biennial.

Rocky Mountain Iris

Iris family

Iris missouriensis

Pollinator	Bumblebees
Size	2’ High x 18” Wide
Blooms	Blue flowers in spring
Water	Medium
Exposure	Part shade
Areas	East Mountains

Like the cultivated varieties, this light-blue to purple iris has three erect standard petals and three spreading yellow-striped sepals. Bumblebees follow their dark blue guide lines to nectar. Dense clumps of sword-shaped leaves spread in a fan-like arrangement similar to those of garden irises. The Rocky Mountain Iris, however, is smaller and more delicate. Perennial.

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Gayfeather

Aster family

Liatris punctata

Pollinator	Short-tongued bees
Size	18” High x 18” Wide
Blooms	Purple flowers in September
Water	Low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	All

Gayfeather’s flowering season is brief but glorious. From a mound of grassy leaves, spikes of purple flowers burst into bloom. After growing a few years, Gayfeather will give a truly impressive flower display. Birds flock to the fluffy seeds after flowering. Plant in well-drained soil. The huge taproot is difficult to transplant once established. Monthly deep watering encourages more flowers. Gayfeather is a long-lasting cut flower,, and when dried stays purple for several months. Perennial.

Blue Flax

Flax family

Linum lewisii

Pollinator	Flies, bees, Variegated Fritillary Butterflies
Host plant to	Variegated Fritillary butterfly
Size	20” High and Wide
Blooms	Sky blue flowers in spring
Water	Medium low
Exposure	Part shade
Areas	All

Stiff erect stems are covered by fine narrow leaves. The whole plant takes on a graceful vase shape with the blue blossoms at the top. The flowers last only one day, but another set opens the next day. As a mountain meadow plant, Blue Flax does best with some shade and extra water in the lower elevations. Perennial.

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Blackfoot Daisy

Aster family

Melampodium leucanthum

Pollinator	Bees, Reakirt's Blue butterfly
Size	12" High x 15" Wide
Blooms	White flowers throughout the season
Water	Very low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	All

The low mounds of Blackfoot Daisy are abundantly covered with daisy-like flowers of broad white rays surrounding a yellow center. Flowering begins in April and will continue until October if the plant is watered deeply once or twice a month. Watering too frequently shortens its life. Maintain the neat appearance by cutting Blackfoot Daisy back nearly to the crown in winter. This perennial reseeds readily in well-drained soil.

Desert Four O'clock

Four O'clock family

Mirabilis multiflora

Pollinator	Moths, hummingbirds
Size	1' High x 6' Wide
Blooms	Magenta flowers from May to September
Water	Very low
Exposure	Full sun to part shade
Areas	East Mountains, Heights, West Mesa

An abundance of large, magenta, trumpet-shaped flowers adorn Desert Four O'clocks in early morning and late afternoon. During the middle of the day, the flowers are closed. The dark-green leathery leaves and stems die back each fall and re-emerge late the next spring. Desert Four O'clock makes an excellent ground cover in well-drained soil and is visited by hummingbird hawk moths and hummingbirds. Perennial.

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Beebalm

Mint family

Monarda fistulosa

Pollinator	Painted Lady and Black Swallowtail butterflies, numerous bees, moths, butterflies, hummingbirds, bumblebees and small black sweat bees.
Size	2’ High x 1’ Wide
Blooms	Rose-lavender clusters in summer
Water	Medium
Exposure	Part shade to sun
Areas	East Mountains

Large floral balls top the leafy clumps of Beebalm. The long tubular flowers are highly attractive to butterflies and humming birds. The finely toothed oval leaves are velvety to the touch. As an added benefit, Beebalm has oregano-scented leaves that can be used for flavoring in the kitchen. The scent attracts pollinators but also repels mosquitoes. Our Beebalm is sometimes sold as *Monarda menthaefolia*. Also called Wild Bergamot, it is perennial.

White Tufted Evening Primrose

Evening Primrose

Oenothera caespitosa

Pollinator	Humming bird moths
Size	8” High x 12” Wide
Blooms	White flowers in May
Water	Low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	All

Large showy fragrant flowers on White Tufted Evening Primrose open at dusk and close shortly after sunup the next morning. The stemless flowers nestle in a rosette of hairy gray-green leaves. This tough desert native lives only a few years, but self-sows readily. Place White Tufted Evening Primroses where you will see them and their hummingbird moth pollinators in the evening and night. This semi-evergreen plant requires well-drained soils and occasional watering to stimulate flowering unless it rains. Perennial.

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Pale Evening Primrose

Evening Primrose

Oenothera pallida

Pollinator	Moths
Size	12” High x 18” Wide
Blooms	White flowers in spring and summer
Water	Very low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	All

A multitude of fragrant flowers covers this low, bushy plant. In contrast to White Tufted Evening Primrose, Pale Evening Primrose is even more arid-adapted and has smaller, more numerous flowers which stay open all day. The leaf shapes of different subspecies may vary from strap-like to lobed. Pale Evening Primrose grows in sandy soil. A European cousin of our native evening primroses was thought to induce a taste for wine, hence the name *Oenothera*: wine imbibing. Perennial.

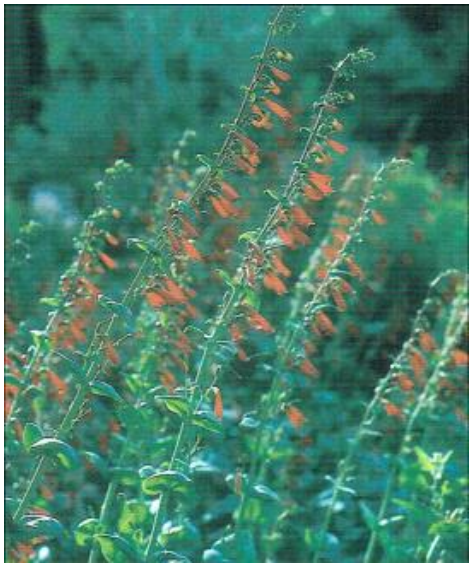
Bush Penstemon

Plantain family

Penstemon ambiguous

Pollinator	Humming bird moths, bee flies
Size	2’ High x 2’ Wide
Blooms	Pink flowers in May through June
Water	Very low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	Heights, West Mesa, Valley (sandy or gravelly soil areas only)

In full bloom, Bush Penstemon is a stunning spherical mound covered with flowers. These uncharacteristic penstemon flowers are in the form of a curved tube that opens out with flat lobes, white above and pink below. Hummingbird moths frequent these plants in early evening. Mid-summer rains may bring out a second blooming season. These long-lived plants require well-drained soil. Perennial.



Scarlet Bugler Penstemon

Plantain family

Penstemon barbatus

Pollinator	Hummingbirds
Size	2’ High x 2’ Wide
Blooms	Scarlet flowers in June
Water	Medium
Exposure	Sun to part shade
Areas	All

Scarlet Bugler Penstemon displays a profusion of inch-long flowers hanging loosely from one side of the two-foot tall stalks. The flowering stems rise from a mat of narrow leaves in early summer. Hummingbirds love the tubular red flowers. Scarlet Bugler may re-bloom in summer if deadheaded after the first bloom. At lower elevations, it needs afternoon shade. Scarlet Bugler will grow in heavy soil if on a slope. Perennial.

Palmer Penstemon

Plantain family

Penstemon palmeri

Pollinator	Bumblebees; carpenter and *Osmia* bees
Size	4’ High x 2’ Wide
Blooms	Pink flowers in spring
Water	Very low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	Heights, West Mesa

Palmer Penstemon’s showy display of large plump flowers on tall stems is spectacular in a native garden. Pale pink flowers streaked with red lines emit a sweet fragrance. The toothed prickly leaves forming the bushy basal rosette tend to deter rabbits. Pairs of leaves are joined together and encircle the stem. Plant in well-drained soil. Palmer Penstemon, native to Arizona but has become naturalized in New Mexico and reseeds readily. Perennial.

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Sidebells Penstemon Plantain family

Penstemon secundiflorus

Pollinator	Bees
Size	2’ High x 1’ Wide
Blooms	Blue/pink tubular flowers May to July
Water	Moderately Low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	East Mountains

The flower stalks rise above an evergreen basal rosette of leaves, bearing flowers on one side of the stem, hence, “sidebells.” The flowers can’t seem to decide what color they should be. They may be purple, pink, blue, even white, with the colors sometimes fading into each other. Like all penstemons, Sidebells need well-drained soil. Perennial. (See a pen and ink drawing of this species on the Table of Contents page.)

Rocky Mountain Penstemon Plantain family

Penstemon strictus

Pollinator	Bees
Size	2' High x 1" Wide
Blooms	Blue-purple tubular flowers in spring
Water	Low medium
Exposure	Sun to part shade
Areas	All

Lovely blue-purple flowers line numerous two-foot stems for about three weeks in spring. This is one of the easiest penstemons to grow: it tolerates a broader range of soil and sunlight than more aridly adapted penstemons. For a nice color contrast, plant near Scarlet Buglar Penstemon, which blooms about the same time. Perennial.

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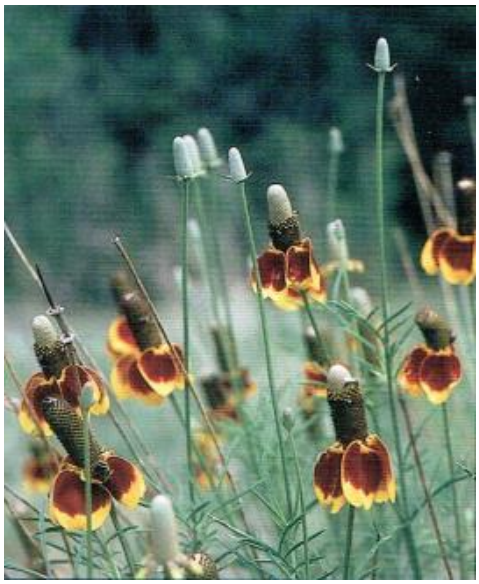
Paperflower

Aster family

Psilostrophe tagetina

Pollinator	Bees and wasps
Size	12” High x 2‘ Wide
Blooms	Yellow flowers from spring through late fall
Water	Very low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	All

Paperflower forms a neat mound of woolly leaves covered by flowers hovering above the leaves. The flowers consist of three broad yellow rays that become papery when dry and persist on the plant well into winter. Paperflower provides color over a long season. It makes a bright border or it can accent a meadow. Although short-lived, it reseeds well. Paperflower requires well-drained soil. Perennial.



Mexican Hat

Aster family

Ratibida columnifera

Pollinator	Nectar bees, butterflies and other insects
Size	18” High x 18” Wide
Blooms	Yellow and maroon flowers May through September
Water	Low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	All

A tall, wide-brimmed Mexican charro hat is exactly what these two-inch-long flowers resemble as they wave in the breeze on long, slender stems. The “hat” is like a sunflower, but with an elongated conical disk and a few broad colorful, drooping ray petals. Scattered in a meadow, Mexican Hat can be mowed with the grass and birds will eat the seeds. Although short-lived, it reseeds freely. Sometimes known as Prairie Coneflower, it is a perennial.

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Black-eyed Susan

Aster family

Rudbeckia hirta

Pollinator	Bees
Size	3’ Tall x 18” Wide
Blooms	Yellow flowers in summer and fall
Water	Medium
Exposure	Part shade
Areas	All

Orange-yellow daisy-like flowerheads have a black center. The rough 4” leaves of this branching biennial are lance shaped. Cutting these flowers for bouquets will encourage them to bloom profusely. There are a number of cultivars available in nurseries, whose usefulness to wildlife is unknown. Perennial.

Cut-leaf Coneflower

Aster family

Rudbeckia laciniata

Pollinator	Butterflies, bees
Size	Up to 6’ High x 3’ Wide
Blooms	Yellow flowers June into September
Water	Medium
Exposure	Sun
Areas	East Mountains, Heights, Valley

These large perennial daisies have 4” lobed leaves. The 3” flower heads, borne on long stalks, have droopy ray petals and a high greenish-yellow cone. A distinctive wildflower of the mountains that needs some extra water at lower elevations. As with Black-eyed Susan, there are a number of cultivars available in nurseries whose usefulness to wildlife is unknown. Perennial.

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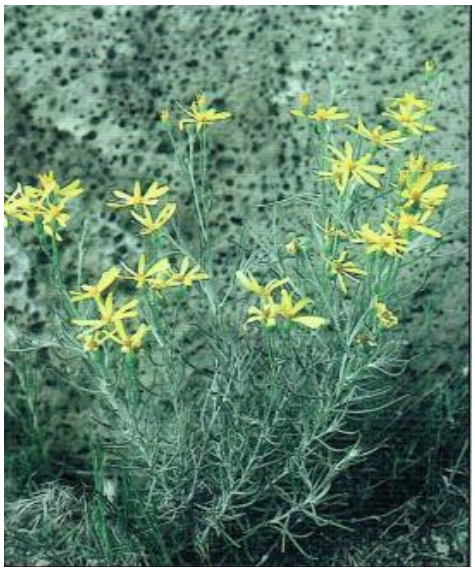

Threadleaf Groundsel

Aster family

Senecio flaccidus

Pollinator	Flies, beetles, butterflies and moths
Size	2’ High x 18” Wide
Blooms	Yellow flowers midsummer through fall
Water	Very low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	East Mountains, Heights, West Mesa

Threadleaf Groundsel is covered with branched clusters of lemon yellow daisies that brighten the late summer garden. The long, narrow leaves, a frosty bluish green, contrast with the wider foliage of other garden plants. Flowers are followed by fluffy white seed heads. In time, the gray stems become woody. A native of dry rocky plains, Threadleaf Groundsel grows in well-drained soil, including sloping clay soil. Perennial.

Broom Groundsel

Aster family

Senecio spartioides

Pollinator	Bees
Size	2' to 3’ High and Wide
Blooms	Yellow flowers June through October
Water	Low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	East Mountains, Heights, West Mesa

This bushy groundsel tends to lose its narrow lower leaves just as it starts blooming profusely, making it look a bit top heavy. The flower heads themselves appear spare, having only 5 to 8 narrow ray petals. These are arranged in flat-topped clusters, attractive to bees. After blooming, silvery-white hairs carry the tiny seeds away on the wind. The name Senecio, meaning “old,” refers to the similarity of the spent flowers, with their “white hair,” to the head of an aged man.

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Goldenrod Aster family

Solidago altissima Syn. *Solidago canadensis*

Pollinator	Bees, butterflies, beetles, solitary wasps
Size	1 -5' High x 1-4' Wide
Blooms	Heads of yellow flowers August into September
Water	Medium
Exposure	Sun
Areas	All

Pyramid-shaped clusters of over 100 flowers rise on stalks above mats of dark green linear leaves. Goldenrod is a long-lived perennial with deep roots and is an aggressive, competitive plant when in the moist soil it prefers, spreading by rhizomes. Therefore, it is best planted with other aggressive flowers or shrubs. It is pollinated by many insects, and moth caterpillars feed on the foliage. Contrary to popular legend, Goldenrod pollen does not cause hay-fever. Again, there are cultivars in nurseries, whose usefulness to wildlife is unknown. Perennial.

Scarlet Globemallow Mallow family

Sphaeralcea coccinea

Pollinator	Ground-nesting bees such as Diadasia and Mellisodes
Host plant to	Checkered and other skipper butterflies, and calligraphic beetles
Size	10" High x 24" Wide
Blooms	Salmon flowers May through September
Water	Very low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	All

Scarlet Globemallow has lacy, silver-green leaves and spikes of dime o nickel-sized, hollyhock-like flowers. With its long bloom period, it makes an effective ground cover or dry border, or it can be naturalized in a meadow. It spreads from rhizomes in well-watered areas. Gooseberry Globemallow (*Sphaeralcea grossularifolia*) is a lower ground cover with orange flowers and gray-green, incised leaves. Perennials.

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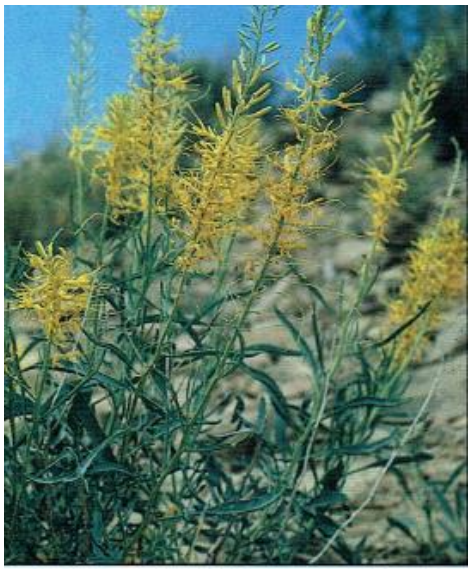

Prince's Plume

Mustard family

Stanleya pinnata

Pollinator	Small native bees and butterflies
Host plant to	Becker's White butterfly
Size	4' High x 3' Wide
Blooms	Yellow plumes in spring
Water	Low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	Heights, Valley, West Mesa

Prince's Plume displays foot-long feathery plumes of yellow flowers on tall stalks. As flowers fade, they are replaced by long narrow drooping seedpods. The basal leaves are grayish. The delicate airy presence of these plants contrasts beautifully with more solid plants. Plant Prince's Plume in dry sandy soils, which are its native habitat. Perennial.

Heath Aster

Aster family

Symphyotrichum ericoides Syn. *Aster ericoides*

Pollinator	Bees, wasps, flies, butterflies, moths, beetles
Size	2-3' High x 1-1½' Wide
Blooms	White flowers in August to October
Water	Low
Exposure	Sun
Areas	All

This bushy perennial has hairy stems and linear leaves. The flowers are small white daisies with yellow centers, followed by white tufts of seeds. It spreads underground by roots and tolerates poor soil and drought. It can be used with grasses for a striking effect. Nurseries may offer cultivars whose usefulness to wildlife is unknown.

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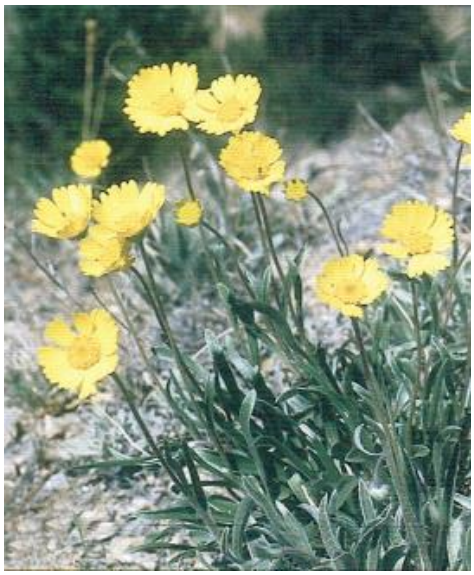

Perky Sue

Aster family

Tetraneuris argentea Syn. *Hymenoxys argentea*

Pollinator	Bees
Size	7” High x 4” Wide
Blooms	Yellow flowers spring and summer
Water	Low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	All

Our earliest blooming daisy, Perky Sue, has bright flowers contrasting with long silvery silky leaves. One plant will sprout new plants close by, forming a clump. Perky Sue needs well-drained soil and prefers gravel mulch to bark mulch. Bitterweed (*Tetraneuris scaposa*) blooms about the same time, has a taller profile, and is suitable for hotter, drier locations. Papery flowers float six to twelve inches above a dark basal rosette of fragrant grass-like leaves. Both daisies show well in dry borders, between rocks, and along dry streambeds. Perennials.

Desert Mule’s Ear

Aster family

Wyethia scabra

Pollinator	Bees
Size	12” High x 30” Wide
Blooms	Yellow flowers in mid-summer
Water	Very low
Exposure	Full sun
Areas	Heights, West Mesa

The wiry white stems of Desert Mule’s Ear sprawl on the ground, carrying large daisies that smell like vanilla. *Scabra*, meaning “rough,” describes the long coarse sandpapery leaves. Plant Desert Mule’s Ear in a dry flowerbed or as a ground cover among sand-loving shrubs. This long-lived plant looks best when trimmed back to the crown in late winter. Desert Mule’s Ear is adapted to sand. Perennial.

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Prairie Zinnia

Aster family

Zinnia grandiflora

Pollinator	Bees, butterflies
Size	4” High x 6” Wide
Blooms	Yellow flowers summer and fall
Water	Low
Exposure	Full sun to light shade
Areas	All

Low compact Prairie Zinnias are covered entirely with yellow daisy-like flowers during blooming season. The flower heads consist of a few rotund rays surrounding an orange disk. When dried and faded, the papery flowers remain on the plant. Though slow to spread at first, this ground cover can creep over an extensive area after a few years. Start from pot-grown plants as garden or wild transplants rarely survive. Prairie Zinnia is a natural in rock gardens. Perennial.

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Suggested Information Sources

Books

1. Dodson, Carolyn. Mountain Wildflowers of the Southern Rockies. Albuquerque, NM: Museum of New Mexico Press, 2007.
   This plant guide gives useful facts about mountain wildflowers, such as botanical, natural and cultural histories, plus plant evolution, strategies for survival, family characteristics and origins of common and scientific names. It features excellent wildflower photos and drawings.

2. Hodoba, Theodore B. Growing Desert Plants from Windowsill to Garden. Santa Fe, NM: Red Crane Books, 1995.
   This book has an excellent section on gardening for wildlife.

3. Holm, Heather. Pollinators of Native Plants: Attract, Observe and Identify Pollinators and Beneficials with Native Plants. Minnetonka, MN: Pollination Press, 2014
   Holm's book is full of wonderful basic information on urban and suburban landscapes, including mutualism between plants and pollinators.

4. Miller, George Oxford. Landscaping with Native Plants of the Southwest. St. Paul, MN: Voyageur Press, 2007.
   This comprehensive and richly illustrated book provides a definitive guide for species selection. The in depth plant profiles describe 350 native plant species.

5. Phillips, Judith. Growing the Southwest Garden. Portland, OR: Timber Press, 2015.
   Adapting to climate shifts in the Southwest, a place known for extremes, takes some new thinking. Native plants, constantly adjusting to changes in their environs, are models for building resilience into our gardens.

6. Phillips, Judith. Natural by Design: Beauty and Balance in Southwest Gardens. Santa Fe, NM: Museum of New Mexico Press, 1995.
   Using natural systems to inspire garden design explores the relationship between science and art. The result are gardens in balance with their surroundings, comfortable to live in, easier to maintain and supportive of wildlife. The companion book, Plants for Natural Gardens. *describes many different native plant options for gardening in high desert ecosystems.*

7. Sivinski, Robert. New Mexico Thistle Identification Guide, Native Plant Society of New Mexico, 2016. To be found at https://www.npsnm.org/education/thistle-identification-booklet/
   Know the species of thistle you are killing! It may be a native plant, and destroying it is actually harmful. Native thistles are valuable pollinator plants. Do not confuse native thistles with the Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense) which is extremely invasive and is taking over the Northern Great Plains.

8. Tallamy, Douglas W. Bringing Nature Home: How You can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants (Updated and Expanded). *Portland, OR: Timber Press, 2012.*
   Start with Answers to Tough Questions, p. 272 - 285, which addresses the most often asked questions about the use of native plants. A wonderful eye-opener. Tallamy's message is valuable even though the plants mentioned as examples grow on the East Coast.

9. Xerces Society. Attracting Native Pollinators. North Adams, MA: Storey Publishing, 2011.
The Xerces Society promotes understanding, providing and managing habitat for pollinating insects.

Websites

Websites are famously subject to change. These websites were current at the date of this publication.

1. Ecobeneficial, Eierman, Kim. http://www.ecobeneficial.com/
Kim Eierman covers important basic concepts and includes very good videos and interviews on planting tips and the requirements of native bees.

2. Holm, Heather. http://www.pollinatorsnativeplants.com
Heather Holm, author of Pollinators of Native Plants, gives the big picture of pollinators, beneficial insects and flower visitors, and stresses the pivotal role of native plants in supporting pollinators and beneficial insects. There is a good summary of "Why Native Plants."

3. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center https://www.wildflower.org/
The Center is a good source of information on plants native to New Mexico.

4. National Wildlife Federation. https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife

5. Pollinator Partnership. http://www.pollinator.org/
Pollinator Partnership's three initiatives are North American Pollinator Protection Campaign, National Pollinator Week and Ecoregional Planting Guides.

6. Tallamy, Douglas W. https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=tallamy+douglas
Dr. Tallamy's presentations on YouTube, address biodiversity, "The Living Landscape" and other topics.

7. Xerces Society. https://xerces.org
News, articles and resources about conservation of invertebrates.

8. Xerces Society. https://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/agric/2010/Native-Plants-for-culture/managing-pesticides-to-protect-bees/ Also see Xerces Society's book, Protecting Bees from Pesticides (may be out of print).

9. Xerces Society. https://xerces.org/neonicotinoids-and-bees/
2016 downloadable (pdf) publication. Protecting Bees from Pesticides: How Neonicotinoids Can Kill Bees: The Science Behind the Role These Insecticides Play in Harming Bees. There is also a downloadable (pdf) graphic illustration showing what can happen to neonicotinoids in the environment.

Native Plant Nurseries

While most nurseries carry some native plants, those listed below specialize in natives or carry a good selection.

Jericho Nursery
http://www.jerichonursery.com
6921 Pan American Fwy NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109
Tel: 505-508-5059
and
101 Alameda NW
Albuquerque, NM 87114
Tel: 505-899-7555
Full service nurseries carrying a number of native plants.

Osuna Nursery and Greenhouses
www.osunanursery.com
501 Osuna Road NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113
Tel: 505-345-6644
Has a large native plant collection.

Perennial Delights
www.perennialdelights.com
3871 Corrales Road
Corrales, NM
Tel: 408-504-0622
Locally grown perennials including native plants and cultivars of natives.

Plants of the Southwest
https://plantsofthesouthwest.com/
6680 4th Street NW
Albuquerque, NM 87107
Tel: 505-344-8830
Large selection of native and adapted plants. Many locally grown.

Rio Grande Cacti
Grow many cacti native to the southwest. Many are sold at Plants of the Southwest and at local cactus shows. Open only by appointment. Contact by e-mail. riograndecacti@hotmail.com

Santa Ana Garden Center
http://santaana.org/garden.htm
960 Highway 550
Pueblo of Santa Ana, NM 87004
Tel: 505-867-1322
Wide selection of native plants grown at the pueblo nursery. Good selection of trees and shrubs.

Trees That Please
www.treesthatplease.org
3084 NM Hwy 47
Los Lunas, NM 87031
Tel: 505-866-5027
Retail nursery selling locally grown native trees, specializing in oaks.

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Index

NOTE: All the plants listed in this Index are plants native to central New Mexico as defined by the Native Plant Society of New Mexico.

This Index has been designed to be used as a convenient way to choose native plants that grow in central New Mexico. Use this list when creating your landscape plan and when shopping for plants. Each plant is listed by their scientific name or names and their common name.

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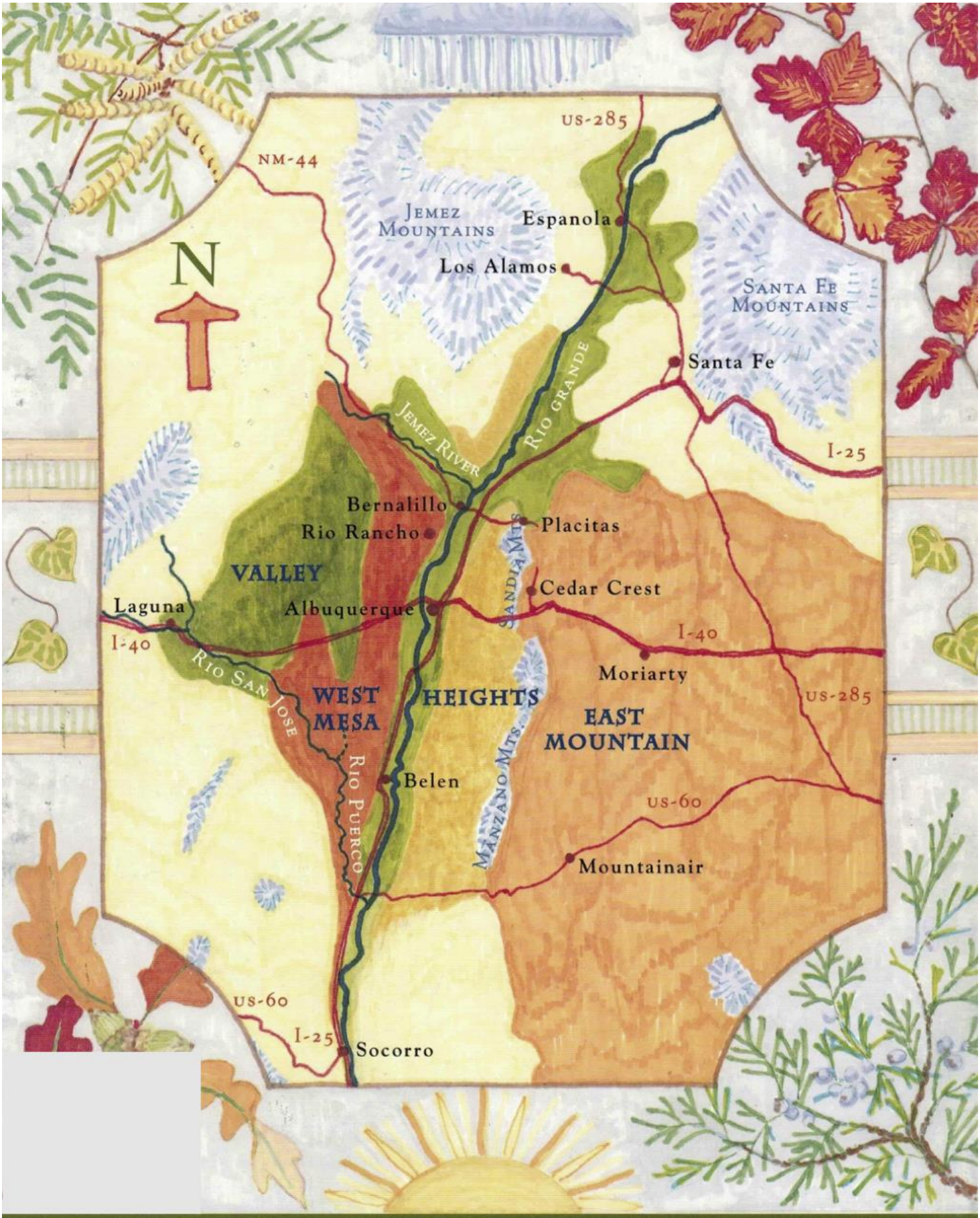

MAP OF GARDENING AREAS FOR CENTRAL NEW MEXICO