

Native Plants for Birds

Plants for Insects

Native insects are the foundation of a healthy bird habitat. Most songbirds rely on insects—especially caterpillars—to feed their young, and many adult birds depend on them for protein, fat, and essential nutrients.



Blanketflower
Gaillardia aristata

Prefers full sun and well-drained soil. Blooms late spring to fall.

Black-eyed Susan
Rudbeckia hirta

Prefers full sun and well-drained soil. Blooms early summer to mid-fall.



Goldenrod
Solidago spp.

Prefers full to part sun and all soil. Blooms late summer to fall.



Sandcherry
Prunus pumila besseyi

Prefers part sun and any soil. Blooms in spring with fruit through late summer.



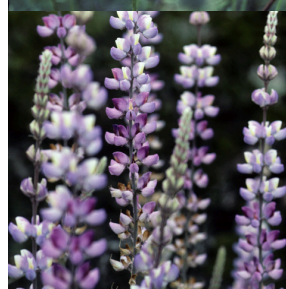
Gambel Oak
Quercus gambellii

Prefers full sun and low water. Blooms in late spring with showy fall foliage.



Prairie Coneflower
Ratibida columnifera

Prefers full sun and well-drained soil. Blooms late spring to fall.



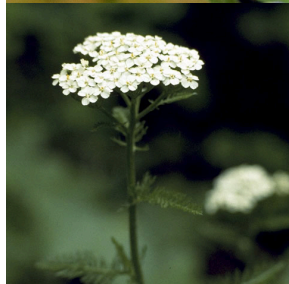
Silver Lupine
Lupinus argenteus

Prefers any light and dry soil. Blooms early- to mid-summer.



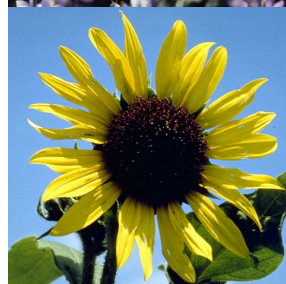
Blue Flax
Linum lewisii

Prefers full sun and dry soil. Blooms early spring to fall.



Common Yarrow
Achillea millefolium

Prefers full to part sun and well-drained soil. Blooms late spring to late summer.



Common Sunflower
Helianthus annuus

Prefers full sun and dry, well-drained soil. Blooms mid-summer to mid-fall.

Plants for Berries

Native berry-producing shrubs fruit at the times local birds need them most, and their berries are easier for native birds to digest than many ornamental varieties. These plants will attract birds like thrushes, waxwings, orioles, and catbirds.



Wax Currant
Ribes cereum

Prefers full to part sun and dry, well-drained soil. Blooms early spring to mid-summer.



Kinnickinnick
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi

Prefers any light and all soil. Blooms early spring to early summer with berries in mid- to late Summer. Evergreen.

Plants for Nectar

Native nectar provides the precise sugar concentrations and bloom timing that local nectar-feeding species evolved with. Broad-tailed, Rufous, Calliope, and Black-chinned Hummingbirds all rely on these plants during breeding and migration.



Colorado Columbine
Aquilegia coerulea

Prefers part sun to shade and well-drained soil. Blooms mid-spring to early summer.



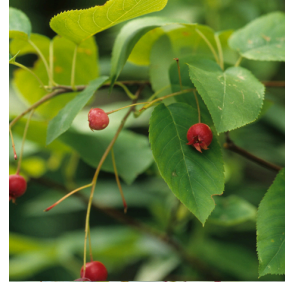
Indian Paintbrush
Castilleja spp.

Prefers full to part sun and well-drained soil. Blooms mid-spring to mid-summer.



Woods' Rose
Rosa woodsii

Prefers any light and all soil. Blooms late spring to mid-summer.



Serviceberry
Amelanchier alnifolia

Prefers any light and well-drained soil. Blooms late spring with berries through fall.



Chokecherry
Prunus virginiana

Prefers any light and well-drained soil. Blooms late spring with berries through late summer.



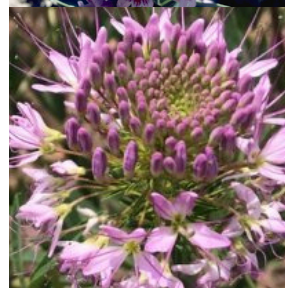
Beebalm
Monarda fistulosa

Prefers full to part sun and well-drained, moist soil. Blooms late spring to fall.



Penstemon
Penstemon spp.

Prefers full sun and dry soil. Blooms vary by species. Over 60 species native to CO.



Rocky Mountain Bee Plant
Cleome serrulata

Prefers full to part sun and dry, well-drained soil. Blooms mid-summer to fall.

Other recommended plants for birds: Trees/Shrubs - Blue Spruce, Boxelder Tree, Boulder Raspberry, Redosier Dogwood, Big Sagebrush, Rocky Mountain Juniper. Perennials - Showy Milkweed, Tickseed, Showy Four O'Clock, Rocky Mountain Iris, Blue Grama, Harebell, Nodding Onion, Narrow-leaf Fireweed.

For more native plant resources, visit <https://www.denveraudubon.org/colorado-native-plant-resources>.

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