

Study Guide for Common Wildflowers and Noxious Weeds near Pine, Colorado

Prepared by

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Staunton State Park Volunteers

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Yellow Flowers	1Y to 22Y
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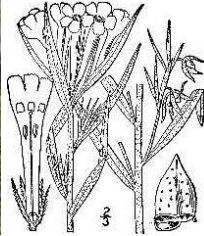
Common Name	Golden smoke	1Y
Synonyms	Scrambled eggs, Curvepod, Golden fumeroot	
Scientific Name	<i>Corydalis aurea</i>	
Synonyms		
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Fumitory (<i>Fumariaceae</i>) [<i>Papaveraceae</i>]	
Description Overall	Native, biennial, in clumps, unusual yellow flowers in clusters and soft bluish-green foliage.	
Height	To 16 inches	
Leaf	Fern-like, divided into many narrow segments.	
Flower	Yellow, separate petals stalked along stem with one petal that forms a sac-like spur, in long clusters.	
Fruit or seed	Hanging down and looking like a bean pod.	
Bloom time	May - September	
Habitat	Disturbed soil in road banks and ravines [Plains - Montane]	
Range	Western U.S. except West Coast, and Great Lakes	
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, SL, MP, BL, lower MC, lower BMC, BE, south of Elk Creek road	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Corydalis</i> is an ancient Greek name for the <i>crested lark</i>. <i>Aurea</i> means <i>golden</i>. Fumitory comes from the Latin <i>fumar</i> which means <i>to smoke</i> referring to the smoky color of its foliage, and giving this species its common name. It contains alkaloids and is POISONOUS. The pods may be mistaken for legumes because of fruit. Plants in this family are Bleeding hearts and two Eastern woodland wildflowers, Dutchman's breeches and Squirrel corn. It is a pioneer plant and appears after fire or other disturbances such as trail building. To increase production, watermelon seeds used to be soaked in a tea made from this plant.</p>	
Similar species		
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (top, both left), Drawing USDA, Al Schneider @swcoloradowildflowers.com (bottom right)	

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Common Name	Golden banner	2Y
Synonyms	Golden pea	
Scientific Name	<i>Thermopsis montana</i>	
Synonyms	<i>T. pinetorum</i> , <i>T. rhombiflora montana</i>	
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Pea (<i>Fabaceae</i>)	
Description Overall	Showy yellow pea-type flowers on erect stems, large patches.	
Height	To 3 feet	
Leaf	Compound and divided into 3 leaflets, alternate.	
Flower	1 inch yellow, pea-type in crowded clusters at top.	
Fruit or seed	Legume-pod, stiffly erect, hairy. (see lower left photo)	
Bloom time	May - July	
Habitat	Meadows and sunny areas [Plains - Subalpine]	
Range	Western U.S. except CA	
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, lower MC, north fork of NEC near FS gate, meadow above Elk Falls, south of Elk Creek road	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Thermos</i> is Greek for <i>lupine</i> and <i>opsis</i> means <i>like</i>, and it is sometimes called False Lupine.</p> <p>It contains toxic alkaloids and is POISONOUS to cattle and horses and has been known to cause deformity to calves. The flowers are attractive to butterflies, and is nice in butterfly and rock gardens. It needs to be grown from seeds since the plants don't transplant well.</p> <p>Folks new to area may confuse it with Yellow toadflax and think that it is a noxious weed; however native golden banner blooms earlier than introduced Yellow toadflax, and doesn't have orange tones found in toadflax.</p>	
Similar species	Spread-fruit golden banner (<i>T. divaricarpa</i>) –Pods widely spreading and often curved, dominant in lower elevations including plains (see separate page)	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all)	

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Common Name	Narrow-leaved puccoon	3Y
Synonyms	Fringed puccoon, Fringed or Yellow gromwell, Narrowleaf stoneseed	
Scientific Name	<i>Lithospermum incisum</i>	
Synonyms		
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Borage (<i>Boraginaceae</i>)	
Description Overall	Native, bright yellow trumpet-shaped flowers which spread to slightly fringed lobes, on bristly stems with stiff, short hairs.	
Height	To 20 inches	
Leaf	2 ½ inches long, alternate, narrow, lance-shaped.	
Flower	1 ½ inches long, trumpet-shaped, 5 flaring lobes, bright yellow.	
Fruit or seed	1/8 inch long with 4 hard, shiny, white nutlets.	
Bloom time	May - June	
Habitat	Dry meadows and gravelly slopes [Plains – Foothills]	
Range	Southwestern and central U.S. including MT and WY, southwest and southcentral Canada	
Where Found in Park	DP, SR	
Comments and Fun Facts	<i>Lithos</i> means <i>stone</i> in Greek and <i>sperma</i> means <i>seed</i> , in reference to the hard nutlets. <i>Puccoon</i> is pronounced like <i>raccoon</i> . Some native peoples cooked and ate the roots. Nutlets were used as beads for children. Its roots made a blue dye. Medicinal uses are too numerous to list, but it was a ceremonial medicine, an orthopedic aid, and chewed for colds and coughs.	
Similar species	Many-flowered puccoon (<i>L. multiflorum</i>) has more yellow flowers on a bushy plant and blooms later. (see separate page)	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (top left), Drawing USDA, Peter M. Dziuk minnesotawildflowers.info (lower left), easterncoloradowildflowers.com (lower right)	

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Common Name	Mountain parsley	4Y
Synonyms	Wild yellow or Mountain spring parsley	
Scientific Name	<i>Pseudocymopterus montanus</i>	
Synonyms	<i>Cymopterus lemmonii</i>	
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Parsley (<i>Apiaceae</i>)	
Description Overall	A native plant whose foliage resembles grocery-store parsley with bright yellow flat-topped flower heads on slender, erect stems.	
Height	To 2 feet	
Leaf	Dark green, compound, leaflets in groups of 3; linear usually narrowing at ends.	
Flower	Tiny, 1/8 inch bright yellow flowers which form flat clusters to 2 inches across, shaped like an umbrella.	
Fruit or seed	Two united carpels each with a single winged seed.	
Bloom time	June - August	
Habitat	Forests, meadows, rocky slopes, aspen groves [Foothills - Alpine]	
Range	TX to NV and WY	
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, MC, SL, MP	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Pseudo</i> means <i>false</i> in Greek and <i>cymopterus</i> comes from <i>cyma</i> meaning <i>wave</i> and <i>pteron</i> meaning <i>wing</i> alluding to the winged fruit.</p> <p>It changes appearance so much from early to late stages of maturity that it may be hard to identify.</p> <p>Short-tongued insects, like flies, are ideal pollinators because of this family's easily available nectar.</p> <p>Stalks and leaves can be used in flavoring soups and salads.</p>	
Similar species	Whiskbroom Parsley (<i>Harbouria trachypleura</i>); Similar flower but leaves do not narrow at ends and are stiff and wiry, like a "whiskbroom". (see separate page)	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (top left, middle), Al Schneider ©swcoloradowildflowers.com (top right, bottom)	

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Common Name	Early spring senecio	5Y
Synonyms	Western or Lamb's tongue groundsel or ragwort	
Scientific Name	<i>Senecio integerrimus</i>	
Synonyms	<i>S.perplexus</i>	
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Sunflower (Asteraceae)	
Description Overall	Tall, single stem arising from very hairy leaves before native plant blooms with clusters of yellow daisy-like flower heads.	
Height	To 2 feet	
Leaf	To 6 inches long, entire, greyish, start off very hairy but lose much of hair as plant blooms.	
Flower	To ¾ inch across, small daisy-type flower heads with 6-7 yellow ray florets and gold disc florets.	
Fruit or seed	Achene	
Bloom time	May - June	
Habitat	dry sites, hillsides, sloping meadows [Plains – Montane]	
Range	Western and northcentral U.S., and southwest Canada	
Found (in Park)	DP, CA, CM	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Senecio</i> is from the Latin, <i>sense</i>, meaning <i>old man</i>, and refers to the hairs on the seeds (achenes) of <i>Asteraceae</i> species.</p> <p>Flower heads aren't as well kept as the typical daisy head; they appear rather unkempt or <i>ratty</i>. They can also be referred to as "<i>ragworts</i>". The terminal bud opens first followed by the ones around it.</p> <p>Some members of this genus contain pyrrolizidine alkaloids that cause irreversible liver damage. This chemical can be in honey or milk derived from these species.</p>	
Similar species	<p>Fendler's senecio (<i>Packera fendleri</i>) leaves are narrow and have wavy edges. (see separate page)</p> <p>Note: Very similar species are included in either the <i>Packera</i> and <i>Senecio</i> genus.</p>	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (top left, lower left), Drawing USDA	



Common Name	Drab buttercup	6Y
Synonyms	Homely or Graceful buttercup	
Scientific Name	<i>Ranunculus inamoenus</i>	
Synonyms	<i>R. micropetalus</i>	
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Buttercup (<i>Ranunculaceae</i>)	
Description Overall	Native plant typically found in moist ground near the timberline, these plants have fairly long stems with small 5-petal flowers at the apex.	
Height	To 12 inches	
Leaf	Two differently shaped leaves; basal leaves are wedge-shaped, and stem leaves are deeply dissected into narrow segments.	
Flower	Small yellow flowers with 5 petals that do not overlap; green-domed centers.	
Fruit or seed	Small nutlets	
Bloom time	May - August	
Habitat	Moist ground and seepage slopes [Montane – Subalpine]	
Range	Western U.S. except CA and OR, and southwestern Canada	
Found (in Park)	DP, BE	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Ranunculaceae</i> is an ancient name, coming from the Latin word <i>rana</i> meaning frog. <i>Inamoenus</i> means <i>unattractive</i>. Called so by Edwin Green in 1896. To counter this unkind name, some call it Graceful Buttercup.</p> <p>Navajo peoples used it to protect hunters from their prey. The sap can irritate the skin.</p> <p>Because of the shape of the flower, bees do not pollinate these plants very well, but they do leave a good amount of pollen on the petals, which then slides down when it rains reaching the stigma to be fertilized.</p>	
Similar species		
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (top left, lower both), Al Schneider ©swcoloradowildflowers.com (top right),	



Common Name	Wallflower 7Y
Synonyms	Western wallflower, Prairie rocket
Scientific Name	<i>Erysimum capitatum</i>
Synonyms	
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Mustard (<i>Brassicaceae</i>)
Description Overall	Native annual with single, un-branched stem with rounded cluster of small 4-petaled flowers in a cross at top.
Height	To 20 inches
Leaf	To 3 inches long, narrow grayish-green, with small teeth, mostly in basal rosette.
Flower	Yellow or orange, 4 petals, cross-shaped.
Fruit or seed	To 3 inches long, slender seed pod (silique).
Bloom time	June - August
Habitat	Gravelly slopes or hillsides, along ridges, and in forest clearings [Montane - Alpine]
Range	Western and Central U.S., except northern plains
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, MC, MP above Elk Falls Pond
Comments and Fun Facts	<i>Eryomai</i> is Greek for <i>help</i> or <i>save</i> because of its medicinal properties. In England, it grows on old stone walls thus giving it its common name. There is no relationship to “a shy boy or girl at a dance.” Same species, also called Alpine Wallflower, is found above tree line, however plants are about 5 inches tall. Settlers used a poultice of this plant on open wounds; an infusion of the seed was used in the treatment of stomach or bowel cramps. A poultice of the warmed root was applied to treat toothache pain. Zuni peoples used an infusion of the whole plant externally for muscle aches. It attracts butterflies is used in wildflower gardens for landscaping.
Similar species	Western Wallflower (<i>E. asperum</i>) – Showy orange-yellow flowers found in Rockies and Central US and Canada from plains to subalpine. Often hybridizes with <i>E. capitatum</i> , leading to various hues.
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all)

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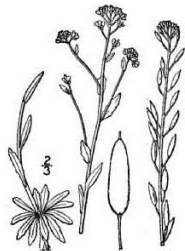
Common Name	Canadian lousewort 8Y
Synonyms	Yellow or Marsh lousewort, Wood Betony, High Heal-all
Scientific Name	<i>Pedicularis canadensis fluviatilis</i>
Synonyms	<i>P. fluviatilis</i>
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Figwort (<i>Scrophulariaceae</i>) [<i>Orobanchaceae</i>]
Description Overall	A native, woodland plant with spikes of whorled yellow flowers. Its leaves are fernlike, and arise from a basal rosette.
Height	6 to 12 inches
Leaf	To 6 inches long, mostly basal from rosette, soft and hairy, simple and lanceolate with many lobes appearing fern-like; a few small, alternate stem leaves.
Flower	¾ inch long yellow flowers which are tubular and hooded, in whorls on dense spikes.
Fruit or seed	Long, brown hairy seed capsule.
Bloom time	June
Habitat	Moist forest floors [Foothills]
Range	CO and NM
Found (in Park)	SR, DP, lower BMC, SL, BE
Comments and Fun Facts	Wm. Weber says the Canadian Lousewort grows from Sedalia southward, yet it is well established in several areas of SSP, also reported near Bailey. Native peoples used all parts for many medicinal purposes, in fact one common name is <i>High Heal-all</i> . It was used as an aphrodisiac and called <i>enticer root</i> . Early Canadian settlers used it in soups. Native peoples cooked the leaves like spinach and mixed the leaves with oats to fatten ponies. The flower is a favorite of bees. The plant is a parasite , attaching its roots to diverse species.
Similar species	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all)

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Common Name	Salsify 9Y
Synonyms	Oysterplant, Goat's beard, Jack-in-bed-by-noon
Scientific Name	<i>Tragopogon dubuis major</i>
Synonyms	<i>T. dubius</i>
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Sunflower (<i>Asteraceae</i>)
Description Overall	A non-native tall plant with dandelion-type yellow flower with green bracts longer than the ray flower (petal-like).
Height	To 4 feet
Leaf	Grass-like, pale grayish green, growing to 6 inches long at the bottom of the stem, but shorter towards the top of the stem.
Flower	A pale, lemon-yellow flower made of ray flowers (petal-like) with no disk flowers.
Fruit or seed	Achene - small, dry, single seed that does not open.
Bloom time	June - August
Habitat	Dry, hot slopes and valleys [Plains to Foothills]
Range	All U.S. except Southeast, and Canada
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, BE, lower MC
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Trogos</i> is Greek for goat, and <i>pogon</i> means beard. Roots of the first year plant can be boiled and are said to taste like oysters. However, the roots of the purple salsify (<i>T. porrifolius</i>) apparently taste more like oysters than those from this species.</p> <p>The flowers open to face the morning sun, but close at noon and when it is cloudy, giving it the nickname "Jack-in-bed-by-noon". The flower of this plant gives way to huge, puffy seed heads, looking like a "dandelion seed-head on steroids." (top right photo) It is not a good idea for kid's to blow these to the wind.</p> <p>The flower is edible, and was brought from Europe by settlers. The roots were known to be roasted as a coffee substitute. The leaves contain a white, milky sap that was collected and dried by Native Americans to chew like gum.</p>
Similar species	Meadow salsify (<i>T. pratensis</i>) – bracts are the same length as the ray flowers. (see separate page)
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all)

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Common Name	Golden draba	10Y
Synonyms		
Scientific Name	<i>Draba aurea</i>	
Synonyms	<i>D.luteola</i>	
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Mustard (<i>Brassicaceae</i>)	
Description Overall	Native, short, single stem with tiny 4-petaled yellow flowers (in a cross) and arranged in an umbel on top.	
Height	To 10 inches with a hairy, leafy stem.	
Leaf	To 2 inches long, simple, mostly basal, alternate leaves clasp stem.	
Flower	Clustered, tiny, with 4 hairy sepals and 4 bright yellow petals in a cross.	
Fruit or seed	¼ inch long, lance-shaped, flat and hairy pods.	
Bloom time	June - August	
Habitat	On slopes, open woods, forest clearings, and rocky meadows [Montane - Subalpine]	
Range	Western U.S. except CA and OR, all Canada	
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, Entrance road, MC, below BL trail, lower BMC, SL	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p>The word <i>aurea</i> means <i>golden</i>. AU is the chemical symbol for gold. <i>Drabe</i> is Greek for <i>acid</i> which <i>Dioscorides</i> used to refer to a cress.</p> <p>All flowers in mustard family have 4 petals in shape of a cross.</p> <p>Cruciferous vegetables (broccoli, cauliflower) are high in anti-oxidants and are in this large family, as are many weedy species.</p> <p>Drabas are often overlooked because of their small size and the genus has several dozen species in CO, either yellow or white, but all tiny. Some are found in alpine.</p>	
Similar species	Several other yellow drabas in SSP. (see separate pages)	
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Common Name	Yellow stonecrop	11Y
Synonyms	Orpine, Lanceleaf or Spearleaf stonecrop	
Scientific Name	<i>Amerosedum lanceolatum</i>	
Synonyms	<i>Sedum lanceolatum</i> , <i>S.stenopetalum</i>	
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Stonecrop (<i>Crassulaceae</i>)	
Description Overall	Native, perennial succulent plant with clusters of bright yellow star-shaped flowers. Before it blooms, its succulent rosette appears in early spring.	
Height	4 to 8 inches	
Leaf	Simple, alternate, lance-shaped, succulent, fleshy in basal clusters; leaves often fall off when flower blooms.	
Flower	Yellow, star-shaped on branched clusters.	
Fruit or seed	Five erect capsules with spreading pointed tips.	
Bloom time	June - August	
Habitat	Rocky ground, not very far above bedrock [Plains - Alpine]	
Range	Western U.S. and Canada	
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, MC, SL, MP, BL	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p>American and <i>sedum</i> were combined and shortened to form the word <i>amerosedum</i>. <i>Sedum</i> is from the Latin <i>sedere</i> meaning <i>to sit</i>, referring to the plant's habitat on rocks and walls. <i>Stonecrop</i> also alludes to its growing preference. <i>Lanceolatum</i> refers to the narrow, lance-shaped leaves of this succulent.</p> <p>It is the host plant (where they lay their eggs) for Phoebus Parnassian butterfly (bottom right photo). Both stonecrop and the butterfly are found from plains to alpine, with the butterfly going to higher elevations as the summer progresses; pollinated by both butterflies and native bees. Medicinal teas have been used for both diarrhea and lung problems.</p> <p>Stonecrops are great for rock gardens and make a good drought-tolerant ground cover. This plant has many different manifestations that can confuse beginners trying to identify it.</p>	
Similar species		
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (top, both middle, bottom left), Walter Siegmund Wikipedia.org (bottom right)	

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Common Name	Owlclover	12Y
Synonyms	Gold tongue	
Scientific Name	<i>Orthocarpus luteus</i>	
Synonyms		
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Figwort (<i>Scrophulariaceae</i>) [<i>Orobanchaceae</i>]	
Description Overall	Native, slender annual plant with a yellow spike of club-shaped flowers and a hairy stem which branches like a candelabra.	
Height	10 to 20 inches	
Leaf	Simple, to 1½ inches long, alternate, stalkless.	
Flower	5 inch spike with golden yellow flowers that are somewhat hidden by leaf-like green bracts.	
Fruit or seed	¼ - 1/3 Inch long, capsules, bean-like with many seeds.	
Bloom time	June - August	
Habitat	Meadows, fields, forest openings [Plains - Montane]	
Range	Western U.S. and Canada to MN and Ontario	
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, BE, lower MC, and connector trail between SR and MC	
Comments and Fun Facts	Nuttall called the genus <i>Orthocarpus</i> . <i>Ortho</i> means <i>straight</i> and <i>carpus</i> means <i>fruit</i> . <i>Luteus</i> is Latin for <i>yellow</i> . This has no relationship to owls and is NOT a clover! The Blackfeet peoples used these plants to dye small skins, feathers and horsehair red by either crushing the leaves and stems or using the flowering plant and rolling it on the item.	
Similar species		
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (top both), Peter M. Dziuk minnesotawildflowers.info (lower left)	

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Common Name	Shrubby cinquefoil	13Y
Synonyms	Yellow rose	
Scientific Name	<i>Pentaphylloides floribunda</i>	
Synonyms	<i>Potentilla floribunda</i> , <i>P. fruticosa</i> , <i>Dasiphora fruticosa</i>	
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Rose (<i>Rosaceae</i>)	
Description Overall	Native, common shrub with bright yellow flowers; woody shrubs look very black during winter months.	
Height	3 feet x 3 feet	
Leaf	Lance-shaped leaves, palmately compound, to 1 inch.	
Flower	Yellow, 1 inch across with 5 rounded petals.	
Fruit or seed	Numerous light brown achenes (nut-like fruits) which are densely covered with long white, straight hairs.	
Bloom time	June - September	
Habitat	Moist meadows, drainages, and ridges [Foothills - Alpine]	
Range	Western U.S., Northern U.S. and Canada	
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, meadows north and east of Elk Creek Road, lower MC, meadows off BE, and all along North Elk Creek	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Pente</i> means <i>five</i> in Greek and <i>phyllon</i> means <i>leaf</i>. Cinquefoil also means <i>five-leaved</i> in French. <i>P.floribunda</i> does have five leaflets, although this is not true of all <i>Potentilla</i> species. However, like other roses, their flowers all have five petals. <i>Potentilla</i> is the diminutive for <i>potens</i> which in Latin means <i>powerful</i> referring to the plants curative powers.</p> <p>Weber believes the plant was classified as a "<i>Potentilla</i>" for nearly two centuries "purely as a matter of tradition". It is drought tolerant with long bloom season, and used extensively in horticulture. Referred to as "Fast food plant" because it is planted widely at such businesses! It is attractive to butterflies. Deer and other ungulates generally prefer other plants but will browse on it if more desirable plants are absent.</p>	
Similar species	There are at least nine cinquefoils/potentillas in the park but no other one is a shrub. (see separate pages)	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all)	

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Common Name	Early cinquefoil	14Y
Synonyms	Neat, Red, or Pineland cinquefoil	
Scientific Name	<i>Potentilla concinna</i> var. <i>concinna</i>	
Synonyms		
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Rose (<i>Rosaceae</i>)	
Description Overall	Native, early-blooming, low plant with delicate, bright yellow flowers and palmate basal leaves which curl inward.	
Height	1 to 4 inches tall and 7 inches across.	
Leaf	1 to 3 inches x 1/3 inch, generally basal, 5 leaflets palmately arranged, toothed only above middle of each leaflet, often folded, with white-hairy underside; leaflets have more than 3 teeth at their tip and down the side of the leaflet.	
Flower	½ inch across, bright yellow flower, 5 rounded petals, with multiple stamen; 1 to 5 flowers per plant. Individual petals often fall off and are found on the ground next to the plant.	
Fruit or seed	Tiny, smooth, light brown achene.	
Bloom time	April - June	
Habitat	Woodlands [Foothills - Subalpine]	
Range	NM, CO, UT, and WY	
Where Found in Park	Entrance gate slope, lower MC, SL, MP, BE	
Comments and Fun Facts	<i>Potentilla</i> means <i>potent</i> referring to curative properties, and <i>concinna</i> is Latin for <i>neat</i> (well arranged) or <i>elegant</i> . <i>Bicrenata</i> means <i>twice notched</i> . <i>Potentillas</i> are commonly called cinquefoils. <i>Cinque</i> is Latin for <i>five</i> and <i>folium</i> means <i>leaf</i> for the 5-parted leaflet. The species was first discovered in Saskatchewan on the Franklin expedition in 1823.	
Similar species	Elegant cinquefoil (<i>P.concinna</i> var. <i>bicrenata</i>) has 3 teeth or less per leaflet. It is also found at SSP on entrance hill and lower MC, and blooms early. (see bottom right photo)	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (others), Dave Powell USDA bugwood.org (middle right)	



Common Name	Sulphur flower	15Y
Synonyms		
Scientific Name	<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i>	
Synonyms		
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Buckwheat (<i>Polygonaceae</i>)	
Description Overall	Native perennial growing in broad, loose mats with yellow flower clusters on stalks radiating from one point as in an umbrella.	
Height	6 to 12 inches	
Leaf	2 inches long, simple, growing in a basal rosette.	
Flower	¼ inches long, bell shaped, sulphur-yellow, growing in clusters 4 inches wide.	
Fruit or seed	Small, dry fruit with a thin close-fitting wall surrounding single seed.	
Bloom time	June - August	
Habitat	Dry forest openings, rocky slopes, road banks [Foothills - Subalpine]	
Range	Central and Northern Rockies to OR	
Where Found in Park	DP, SR	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Erion</i> is Greek for <i>wool</i> and <i>gonu</i> means <i>knee</i>. <i>Umbellatum</i> is for the umbrella-shape of its flowers.</p> <p>It is one of the host plants (where they lay their eggs) for the Acmon Blue butterfly (<i>Plebejus acmon</i>) (bottom right photo). They are pollinated by flies, wasps, native bees, and butterflies.</p> <p>The seeds were eaten by Pueblo peoples in the Four Corners area of the Southwest. Navajo peoples used as an emetic (to cause vomiting) for cleansing before ceremonies.</p> <p>Chipmunks eat the seeds and sheep graze on the plants.</p>	
Similar species		
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (top both, middle left, bottom right), Al Schneider ©swcoloradowildflowers.com (middle right), Calibas Wikipedia.org (bottom left)	

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Common Name	Bahia 16Y
Synonyms	Ragleaf bahia
Scientific Name	<i>Bahia dissecta</i>
Synonyms	<i>Amauriopsis dissecta</i>
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Sunflower (<i>Asteraceae</i>)
Description Overall	Native, tall, airy plant with many red-brown stems with bright yellow, pretty, rounded, daisy-type flowers. The spreading and arching of leafless flower stems is typical.
Height	8 to 36 inches
Leaf	Leaves are dissected and look similar to parsley. They occur sparsely along the red/brown stems and more noticeably at the base of the stem.
Flower	Golden/yellow, almost always with rounded, short overlapping ray flowers (petal-like) and a large center mound of disk flowers.
Fruit or seed	Achene (nut-like fruit).
Bloom time	July – September
Habitat	Disturbed areas, bare gravelly soil, and meadows [Foothills - Montane]
Range	CA to TX and WY
Where Found in Park	DP, SR roadside, SL
Comments and Fun Facts	<i>Bahia</i> is for Juan Francisco Bahi, Professor of Botany in Barcelona, Spain in the 19th century; <i>Dissecta</i> or <i>cut into pieces</i> , refers to the finely cut leaves. Augustus Fendler collected the first plants of this species near the Mora River in New Mexico in about 1846. Navajo peoples used it to treat many ailments including arthritis, menstrual pain, and as a contraceptive.
Similar species	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all)

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Common Name	Yellow false dandelion 17Y
Synonyms	Yellow or Short-beaked agoseris, Goat chickory
Scientific Name	<i>Agoseris glauca</i>
Synonyms	
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Sunflower (<i>Asteraceae</i>)
Description Overall	Native, dandelion-looking plant with pale yellow flower head, long and narrow basal leaves.
Height	To 2 feet
Leaf	To 14 inches, simple lance-shaped, pale green, entire to slightly lobed, all basal, not on stem, and contain a milky juice.
Flower	To 1 inch across, pale yellow head with ray (petal-like) flowers only (no disk flowers).
Fruit or seed	Achene (nut-like fruit) with short, stout, ribbed beaks up to one half as long as the body; dandelion-like seedhead.
Bloom time	July - August
Habitat	Forests, hillsides, meadows, roadsides, dry/sandy soils [Foothills to Alpine]
Range	Western and northcentral U.S. and southwestern Canada
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, MC, MP
Comments and Fun Facts	<p>Aex is Greek for goat and <i>seris</i> means chickory, leading to one its common names, Goat chickory. <i>glauca</i> is Greek for <i>gray</i>, referring to the powdery bloom on the stems and leaves.</p> <p>It was first collected by Thomas Nuttall in 1811 on the banks of the Missouri River. It is native, unlike the common dandelion which may be the most widespread weed in the world.</p> <p><i>Agoseris</i> sap contains rubbery compounds, and some native peoples chewed the leaves like gum.</p>
Similar species	Burnt-orange dandelion (<i>A.aurantiaca</i>) – flowers are burnt orange in color. Common dandelion (<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>) is non-native yellow flower with lobed leaves. (see separate pages)
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all)

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Common Name	Yellow evening primrose	18Y
Synonyms	Common or Hairy evening primrose	
Scientific Name	<i>Oenothera villosa</i>	
Synonyms	<i>O. biennis</i> , <i>O. strigosa</i>	
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Evening Primrose (<i>Onagraceae</i>)	
Description Overall	Native biennial plant with 4-petaled yellow cup-shaped flowers which age to orange on a tall, erect leafy stem. Flowers normally last only one day.	
Height	To 4 feet, but some much shorter.	
Leaf	Alternate, grayish, and woolly, narrowly lance-shaped, with sharp tips and short teeth.	
Flower	1½ inches long, tubular with 4 bright yellow petals closing during day; sepals are backward-bending.	
Fruit or seed	Erect, green, hairy, spindle-shaped capsules which are sharply winged (See middle left photo).	
Bloom time	July - September	
Habitat	Disturbed areas, roadsides, along ditches [Plains to Foothills]	
Range	Western U.S. and KY, NE to Great Lakes and Southern Canada	
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, BE, group picnic area, lower MC, south of Elk Creek road	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p>Flowers of the Evening Primrose Family (not related to Primrose Family) are pollinated by moths, night insects, butterflies and native bees.</p> <p>The seeds of several species in this genus were eaten by Native Americans; leaves can be eaten as salad greens or as a potherb; roots can be boiled like parsnips; reported to have a bitter taste.</p> <p>Note: only two plant families in CO have 4 petals: Mustard and Evening Primrose. Mustard flowers are in cross shape; those in Evening Primrose have more rounded petals.</p>	
Similar species	Cut-leaf Evening Primrose (<i>O. coronopifolia</i>) – Similar but shorter, with white flowers. (see separate page)	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all)	



Common Name	Smooth goldenrod	19Y
Synonyms	Missouri or Tight goldenrod	
Scientific Name	<i>Solidago missouriensis</i>	
Synonyms		
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Sunflower (<i>Asteraceae</i>)	
Description Overall	Native, with clusters of very small, yellow flower heads splayed along top of stem bending backward. It is most common low goldenrod in the CO foothills.	
Height	10 to 15 inches	
Leaf	To 5 inches long, linear, toothless, somewhat leathery in texture, upper often very narrow with 3 obvious parallel veins.	
Flower	To 8 inches long, yellow flower heads with both ray florets and disc florets.	
Fruit or seed	Achene	
Bloom time	July – September	
Habitat	Rocky slopes, roadsides and ditch banks [Plains – Montane]	
Range	Western and central U.S. except CA, and southern Canada	
Where Found in Park	DP, OM, SL, MP	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Solidus</i> means <i>to make whole or cure</i> in Latin, referring to its curative powers. During the Crusades, it was called <i>woundwort</i> because of ability to stop bleeding. Use in teas is common. Flowers and roots had many uses. It is not responsible for hay fever, which is caused by pollen from ragweed; both bloom at same time and goldenrod is more obvious.</p> <p>Its sap is high in latex and attempts have been made to breed cultivars that could be used as a source of rubber.</p>	
Similar species	Canada goldenrod (<i>S.canadensis</i>) – leaves are hairless and larger. Dune goldenrod (<i>S.simplex</i>) has 8 rays; Few-flowered goldenrod (<i>S.multiradiata</i>) has 13 rays. (see separate pages)	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all)	

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Common Name	Blanket flower	20Y
Synonyms	Brown-eyed Susan, Firewheel	
Scientific Name	<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>	
Synonyms		
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Sunflower (<i>Asteraceae</i>)	
Description Overall	Native with several erect, tall and unbranched stems and showy sunflower-type flower having yellow and red on "petals" (ray florets) and maroon center (disk florets).	
Height	To 2 feet	
Leaf	To 4 inches across, lance-shaped, lobed, basal leaves with fewer and smaller leaves alternately on stem.	
Flower	2-3 inches across, yellow ray and orange-brown to purple disk flowers.	
Fruit or seed	Achene (nut-like fruit with pappus (fluff)).	
Bloom time	July - August	
Habitat	Meadows, hillsides, open areas [Plains to Montane]	
Range	Western and northern U.S. except NV, all Canada	
Where Found in Park	DP, SR	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p>It was named for Gaillard de Charentonneau, a French amateur botanist. The common name resulted from the plant being used to dye fibers yellow, which were then woven into blankets.</p> <p>Pollinators like beetles, butterflies, flies, and bees benefit from the nectar and pollen by many flowers in this family, including Blanket flower.</p> <p>It is known to have been made into a tea to curb stomach problems or applied topically to help with sore eyes, nipples for nursing mothers, hair loss and saddle sores. Great for native gardens and is widely available in nurseries. Colors of hybrids vary from native species.</p>	
Similar species		
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all)	

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Common Name	Hairy golden aster	21Y
Synonyms	Hairy false golden aster	
Scientific Name	<i>Heterotheca villosa</i>	
Synonyms		
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Sunflower (Asteracea)	
Description Overall	Native, bushy plant with grey-green leaves, yellow daisy-type flowers with yellow centers.	
Height	To 28 inches	
Leaf	Grey-green, lower leaves wither early.	
Flower	½ inch yellow with 10-25 ray florets, yellow center (disk florets).	
Fruit or seed	Flattened, hairy achenes, long hair-like fluff (pappus).	
Bloom time	July – September	
Habitat	Open, well drained sites [Foothills – Montane]	
Range	Northwestern U.S. to TX and MI, southwestern Canada	
Where Found in Park	DP, SR	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Hetero</i> means <i>different</i> in Greek and <i>theca</i> means <i>case</i>, alluding to the differing seeds produced by the ray and disk flowers. <i>Villosa</i> means <i>hairy</i> in Latin. FNA recognizes at least 7 varieties of <i>H. villosa</i> in Colorado per Wm. Weber, who calls it variable. Native peoples heated the roots and applied them to cavities to relieve tooth aches.</p>	
Similar species	Golden aster (<i>H. fulcrata</i>) is a taller plant, and not hairy, thus the leaves are not grey-green in color. (see separate page)	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (top, lower right), Al Schneider @swcoloradowildflowers.com (lower left)	

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Common Name	Black-eyed Susan	22Y
Synonyms	Brown-eyed Susan	
Scientific Name	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	
Synonyms	<i>R. hirta pulcherrima</i>	
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Sunflower (<i>Asteraceae</i>)	
Description Overall	Native with several erect stems with single, large sunflower-type flower having yellow ray flowers and dark brown center (disk florets).	
Height	1 to 3 feet	
Leaf	Simple, alternate and clasping on erect stem, very hairy, entire (no teeth). Notable characteristic is three veins on each leaf which is winged.	
Flower	2 to 3 inches across with yellow ray and dome-shaped purple-brown disk flowers.	
Fruit or seed	Hairless, 4-sided achenes, pappus (fluff) absent.	
Bloom time	July - August	
Habitat	Dry soils, open woods, aspen groves, roadsides [Foothills to Montane]	
Range	All U.S., except NV and AZ, and Southern Canada	
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, BE meadow, above and below EF pond, upper BMC, lower MC, south of Elk Creek road	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Hirta</i> is Latin for <i>hairy</i> or <i>rough</i>. It was named for Professors Olaf Rudbeck, father and son, predecessors of Linnaeus at Uppsala.</p> <p>Tea was made from the roots to treat colds, heal sores, snakebites, swelling, and earaches, but some people can be allergic to it. Plants are being studied as potential treatment for HIV/AIDS (similar to Coneflowers or <i>echinacea</i>).</p> <p>It is drought tolerant and attractive in butterfly gardens, and is the state flower of Maryland.</p>	
Similar species		
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all)	

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Common Name	Yellow toadflax	1NW
Synonyms	Butter and eggs, Yellow toadflax	
Scientific Name	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	
Synonyms		
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Figwort (<i>Scrophulariaceae</i>) [<i>Plantaginaceae</i>]	
Description Overall	Colorado Noxious Weed , a narrow, non-native plant resembling a yellow snapdragon.	
Height	To 3 feet tall in dense patches.	
Leaf	Simple, narrow to 4 inches long, alternate and non-branching.	
Flower	1 inch long, yellow and orange on erect stems.	
Fruit or seed	1/3 inch long, broadly cylindrical capsules.	
Bloom time	June - September	
Habitat	Disturbed areas and open fields [Plains - Montane]	
Range	U.S. and Canada (introduced)	
Where Found in Park	MC (meadow above canyon), DP, SR, Dines parcel, developed areas of park	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Linum</i> is Latin for <i>flax</i> and refers to the foliage being similar.</p> <p>It is an escaped (ornamental) garden plant perhaps from mining towns that forms colonies and out competes native grasses and flowers.</p> <p>It is somewhat toxic to wildlife and reduces the native plants that wildlife depends on. SSP is attempting to control it; must be sprayed after the first frost in the fall and NOT pulled. Pulling just stimulates the roots to produce more and deeper roots. It reproduces by seed as well as by underground rootstock.</p>	
Similar species	<p>Dalmation Toadflax (<i>L. genistifolia dalmatica</i>) is also a Colorado noxious weed threatening habitat for native wildflowers in Jefferson County. It has much larger leaves (and the base leaves clasp the stem) (see lower right photo), and flowers are more generally yellow. They will hybridize with each other.</p>	
Photo credits	<p>Staunton SP Volunteers (top both), Michael Shephard USDA bugwood.org (lower left), rockymountainflora.com (lower right)</p>	

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Common Name	Mullein	2NW
Synonyms	Indian toilet paper, Flannel plant	
Scientific Name	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	
Synonyms		
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Figwort (<i>Scrophulariaceae</i>)	
Description Overall	A Colorado Noxious Weed , a non-native biennial covered in dense hair-like wool, with yellow flowers at top of spike. 1 st year is a rosette, 2 nd year develops stalk, blooms, and seeds.	
Height	To 6 feet tall	
Leaf	To 16 inches, simple, lance-shaped, soft, woolly, grayish-green, upper leaves much smaller than lower leaves; basal rosette the 1 st year.	
Flower	To 2 feet in a dense spike with 5 bright-yellow petals in saucer-shaped individual flowers; usually with single spike, but sometimes with three or more flower heads.	
Fruit or seed	Round, wooly capsules to about 1/3 inch long.	
Bloom time	June - September	
Habitat	Disturbed ground, roadsides, burned areas, prairies, meadows [Plains – Foothills]	
Range	North America - introduced	
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, lower MC, CA, SL, MP, BMC, off BE	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Verbascum</i> is an ancient Latin name used by Pliny. <i>Tapsus</i> was an ancient town in North Africa near Tunis where Julius Caesar defeated the Pompeians.</p> <p>Introduced from Europe for its medicinal value, but is native to Asia. It is a pioneer plant coming into an area after a disturbance such as a fire or road cuts. The seeds are a winter food for birds, available when other food is snow-covered. Elk only eat dried leaves when preferred foods are not available. Livestock will not eat.</p> <p>The leaves contain chemical used in lotions to soften skin & in medicines to soothe inflamed tissues. Leaf tea is reputedly useful as lung sedative. Leaves can be chopped, dried & smoked to relieve coughs. Pioneer girls rubbed the leaf on their cheeks as "rouge." Sometimes referred to as Indian Toilet Paper, but its hairs are irritating.</p>	
Similar species		
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all)	

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Common Name	Musk thistle	3NW
Synonyms	Nodding or Bristle thistle	
Scientific Name	<i>Carduus nutans macrolepis</i>	
Synonyms	<i>C. nutans</i>	
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Sunflower (<i>Asteraceae</i>)	
Description Overall	Colorado Noxious Weed. Biennial, non-native, 1st year's growth is a large, compact rosette; the 2 nd year plant has a tall, erect, spiny stem which is branched at the top with nodding purple to pinkish flower heads.	
Height	2 to 6 feet; 1 ½ to 2 ½ feet wide.	
Leaf	3 to 6 inches long, alternate, deeply cut, very spiny, and extend (clasp) down the stem making the stem appear winged. Wavy leaves are dark green with a light green midrib and mostly white margins. Each leaf lobe ends in a prominent, stiff, white or yellow spine.	
Flower	1 ½ to 3 inches across, flat, nodding, purple to pinkish (rarely white) disk flowers and no ray flowers, with lance-shaped, broad, spine-tipped bracts which curve upward.	
Fruit or seed	Achenes (nut-like fruits) are over 1/8th inch long, striated, glossy, yellow-brown with a hair-like plume.	
Bloom time	July - September	
Habitat	Disturbed areas, pastures [Plains – Foothills]	
Range	Introduced throughout U.S. except FL, and southern Canada	
Where Found in Park	Lower MC, CA, SR, DP, SR, SL, BE, south of Elk Creek road	
Comments and Fun Facts	In some countries, the dried flowers have been used like rennet to curdle milk. Once the rind of the stems has been removed, the thick pith can be boiled in salted water, similar to asparagus. It reproduces only by seed, and there are up to 20,000 seeds per plant.	
Similar species	Bull Thistle (<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>) bracts are narrower and needle-like, flower heads don't "nod". (see separate page)	
Photo credits	CO Dept. of Agriculture (top), easterncoloradowildflowers.com (middle left), Al Schneider @swcoloradowildflowers.com (middle right), Staunton SP Volunteers (bottom with sphinx moth)	

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Common Name	Canada thistle 4NW
Synonyms	Creeping thistle
Scientific Name	<i>Breca arvensis</i>
Synonyms	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Sunflower (<i>Asteraceae</i>)
Description Overall	Colorado Noxious Weed. It is a smaller, narrower, non-native, perennial member of thistle family with numerous, smallish, purplish to white flower heads.
Height	1 to 4 feet
Leaf	Alternate, set close on the stem, slightly clasping, very variable, typically smooth, green on both sides, sometimes white-hairy beneath; usually deeply cut into lobes and spine-tipped.
Flower	½ to ¾ x ¾ inch, numerous clusters, rose-purple to lavender to white, disk flowers only (no ray flowers).
Fruit or seed	Achene (nut-like fruit).
Bloom time	June - August
Habitat	Moist soils, ditch banks, meadows, pastures [Plains – Foothills]
Range	Introduced throughout U.S. except southeast, & Canada
Where Found in Park	DP, MC, SR, CA, SL, BE, BL, south of Elk Creek road
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Breca</i> is for Wm. Thomas Bree (1786-1863), a British plant collector. <i>Arvense</i> is Latin for <i>in the fields</i>.</p> <p>There are separate male and female plants (dioecious), often resulting in little or no seed production but abundant pappus (fluff). Small root pieces, ¼ x ½ inch, have enough stored energy to develop new plants. Also, these small roots can survive at least 100 days without nutrient replenishment. It forms dense stands.</p> <p>It spreads by seeds and aggressive creeping, horizontal roots (rhizomes.) Therefore manual pulling only accelerates its spread. It must be sprayed. Mowing can be done before it flowers.</p> <p>It produces about 1,000 to 1,500 seeds per plant and is wind dispersed. Seeds survive in the soil for up to 20 yrs.</p>
Similar species	Bull Thistle (<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>) – much larger plant with larger flower heads. (see separate page)
Photo credits	CO Dept. of Agriculture, (top, lower left), Staunton SP Volunteers (bottom), Al Schneider ©swcoloradowildflowers.com (middle right)



Common Name	Candytuft 1W
Synonyms	Mountain penny cress
Scientific Name	<i>Nocca fendleri</i>
Synonyms	<i>N. montana</i> , <i>Thalaspi montanum</i>
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Mustard (<i>Brassicaceae</i>)
Description Overall	Native, early spring flowering, short, single-stemmed plant with rounded clusters of small white flowers; found in clumps.
Height	To 5 inches tall (sometimes to 10 inches), with leafy stems.
Leaf	Simple, alternating, and clasping stem; basal rosette.
Flower	4 petals in cross-shape; white to purplish petals, ¼ inch long, with green to purple sepals.
Fruit or seed	Heart-shaped, flattened seed pods with pointed tips that grow horizontally (silique).
Bloom time	April to June
Habitat	Hillsides and slopes, in open forests and woods [Foothills - Alpine]
Range	Western U.S. and TX
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, SL, MP, lower MC, lower BMC, BE, BL
Comments and Fun Facts	Named for 18 th century Italian botanist Domenico Nocca by German botanist Conrad Moench in 1802. Augustus Fendler (1813-1883) was a renowned botanical collector. It is very common in the area, and one of the earliest plants to bloom, if not the first. It often begins to bloom when it is only one inch tall and continues blooming until mature.
Similar species	There are many white-flowered mustards (<i>Brassicaceae</i> sp.) in the park but most are much taller and non-native. (see separate pages)
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (top, middle both), Al Schneider ©swcoloradowildflowers.com (bottom)

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Common Name	Bracted alumroot 2W
Synonyms	
Scientific Name	<i>Heuchera bracteata</i>
Synonyms	
Family Com (Sci.) [APG IV]	Saxifrage (<i>Saxifragaceae</i>)
Description Overall	Native plant found growing in colonies in the cracks of rock, the whitish flower spike is on a slender, tall stalk which arises from leaves in a basal rosette.
Height	6 to 12 inches
Leaf	Simple leaf, lobed, in a basal rosette.
Flower	Small whitish-green, bell-shaped flowers densely arranged on a spike-like cluster.
Fruit or seed	Capsule
Bloom time	May - August
Habitat	Rocky canyon walls, cracks in rocks [Foothills to Alpine]
Range	CO and WY
Where Found in Park	MC, SL, MP, BE, LB, BL, CA, BMC, EF, CR, WM
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Heuchera</i> is in honor of the German botanist J. H. Heucher (1677-1747)</p> <p>It is often found growing with its cousin James' telesonix (<i>Telesonix jamesii</i>) and they are difficult to tell apart unless blooming or when dried blooms persist.</p> <p>The roots of round-leaved alumroot were chewed or made into a tea to relieve diarrhea and stomach problems.</p> <p>Gardeners may know its cousin "<i>Red Coral Bells</i>" and can often recognize this leaf. All alumroots are good as ground cover in rock and shade gardens. They attract butterflies and are drought tolerant.</p>
Similar species	Common alumroot (<i>H. parvifolia</i>) which has a more rounded leaf and yellowish flowers. James' telesonix (<i>Telesonix jamesii</i>) which has pink flowers and is endemic to CO, and rare. (see separate pages)
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (top both, lower right), W.D. and Dolphia Bransford wildflower.org (lower left)

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Common Name	Mouse-ear chickweed	3W
Synonyms	Field mouse-ear	
Scientific Name	<i>Cerastium strictum</i>	
Synonyms	<i>C. arvense strictum</i>	
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Chickweed (<i>Alsinaeae</i>) [<i>Caryophyllaceae</i>]	
Description Overall	A native plant with small white “mouse-eared” flowers, which grows in clumps.	
Height	To 10 inches	
Leaf	To 1½ inches, simple, lance-shaped, in pairs on opposite sides of stem.	
Flower	½ inch across, with 5 deeply-notched petals (looks like 10 petals)	
Fruit or seed	Cylindrical capsule with golden to reddish-brown seeds.	
Bloom time	May - August	
Habitat	meadows and openings in conifer forests [Plains - Alpine]	
Range	U.S. and Canada except TX and some of Southcentral/Southeast	
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, MC, OM, MP, SL, south of Elk Creek road, North fork of NEC at FS gate	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Cerastes</i> is Greek for <i>horned</i>, referring to its curved capsule. <i>Strictum</i> means <i>erect</i>, referring to the tall flowering stems. The chickweed family was named because plants in this family were fed to poultry, especially when sick.</p> <p>These flowers rely on insects to pollinate them because parent plant’s reproductive parts mature at different times. In other words, self-pollination does not occur.</p>	
Similar species	A weedy species, (<i>C. arvense</i>), of this genus is the bane of many a lawn owner.	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (top, middle left, bottom), easterncoloradowildflowers.com (middle right)	

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Common Name	Cutleaf daisy 4W
Synonyms	Cutleaf or Dwarf mountain fleabane, Gold buttons
Scientific Name	<i>Erigeron compositus</i>
Synonyms	<i>E. trifidus</i>
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Sunflower (Asteraceae)
Description Overall	Native, low growing plant, forming clusters on rocky ground with showy white to violet composite flowers, one per stem.
Height	To 4 inches
Leaf	Mostly basal, dissected 4 times into linear segments.
Flower	To 1 inch across, 20 to 60, typically white to violet, ray florets on tall stems with yellow disk flowers. Buds appear yellow before opening. Note: the even length of the bracts on the back of the flower head like a picket fence, one of the significant characteristics of daisies as compared to asters.
Fruit or seed	Achene, short hairy, white hair-like.
Bloom time	May - June
Habitat	Gravelly soil, dry areas, rocky slopes [Montane – Subalpine]
Range	Western U.S. including ND and SD, all Canada
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, SL, lower BMC, lower MC
Comments and Fun Facts	Native peoples chewed the plant and spit it on sores. They also made a decoction of plant mixed with any weeds and used it for broken bones. This is an earlier bloomer at SSP, so most of the time all one sees is the basal rosette growing in rocky areas.
Similar species	Many <i>Erigeron sp.</i> in SSP. (see separate pages)
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (top, middle left, bottom right), Al Schneider @swcoloradowildflowers.com (middle right), Gary A. Monroe USDA (lower left)

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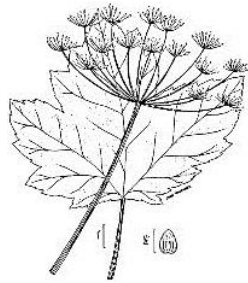
Common Name	Waxflower 5W
Synonyms	Cliffbush, Mountain mock orange
Scientific Name	<i>Jamesia americana</i>
Synonyms	
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Hydrangea (<i>Hydrangeaceae</i>)
Description Overall	Native shrub growing near rocks or between boulders with many stiff, gray to reddish brown branches that tend to shred bark, and clusters of white flowers.
Height	To 4 feet
Leaf	2-1/2 inches simple, opposite leaves, oval and coarsely-toothed; fuzzy white below, looks "quilted".
Flower	½ inch long flowers in clusters, with 5 white, waxy petals.
Fruit or seed	Clusters of seed heads which persist throughout winter.
Bloom time	May - July
Habitat	Canyons and on southern slopes [Foothills - Subalpine]
Range	WY, CO, NM, AZ
Where Found in Park	SL, MP, CA, LB, BL, OM, MC canyon
Comments and Fun Facts	Named after Edwin James, the doctor and naturalist with the 1819/1820 Major Stephen Long expedition to the southern Rocky Mountains of Colorado. James discovered hundreds of new plant species including many new alpine plants when he and two others summited Pike's Peak – the first white explorer to climb a 14er in U.S. Major Long named the mountain James Peak although it later became known as Pike's Peak even though Zebulon Pike did not climb it during his 1806 expedition, declaring the peak impossible to climb. A peak near St. Mary's Glacier now carries James's name. It is the only member of Hydrangea family in Colorado. Fossil records show it is as ancient as the rose making it a tertiary relic per Wm. Weber.
Similar species	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (top both, lower left), Allen Cressler, wildflower.org (lower right)

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Common Name	Parry's milkvetch	6W
Synonyms		
Scientific Name	<i>Astragalus parryi</i>	
Synonyms		
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Pea (<i>Fabaceae</i>)	
Description Overall	Native, short legume plant with grey feather-like leaves and white pea flowers.	
Height	To 6 inches	
Leaf	Compound, pinnate (leaflets along main axis like a feather), hairy and alternate.	
Flower	White to light purple striped pea-type flower, with purple keel.	
Fruit or seed	Legume or pea; ballooned or curved pods, and grooved lengthwise.	
Bloom time	May - July	
Habitat	Dry meadows and open slopes of canyons [Plains – Montane]	
Range	CO and WY - endemic	
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, lower MC, developed areas, lower BMC	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p>Named for Charles Parry (1823-1890) American botanical collector. There are 500+ species of <i>Astragalus</i> in North America.</p> <p>Within the family some plants are poisonous and others harmless. Harmful chemicals from the soil can be absorbed by plant causing it to be toxic. All milkvetch are <i>astragalus</i>; genus can be easily confused with locoweeds (<i>Oxytropis</i>) and an in-depth study of the flower is necessary to distinguish the difference.</p> <p>It is bee pollinated. Honey bees have been poisoned by milkvetch nectar.</p>	
Similar species	Flexible milkvetch (<i>A. flexuosus</i>) – purple flowers with more than 6 flowers per raceme on long wiry, sprawling stems. Leaflets are folded. (see separate page)	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all)	

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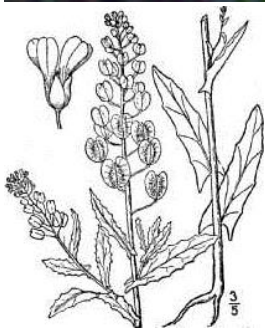
Common Name	Cow parsnip 7W
Synonyms	Cow cabbage, Hogweed
Scientific Name	<i>Heracleum sphondylium montanum</i>
Synonyms	<i>H. maximum</i> , <i>H. lanatum</i>
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Parsley (<i>Apiaceae</i>)
Description Overall	A tall, native, large-leaved plant with flat, white flower heads, with stout, hairy stems.
Height	To 4 feet when mature.
Leaf	To 12 inches across, compound, 3 lobes, similar to maple leaf.
Flower	To 12 inches wide, flat topped, made up of tiny white flowers in an umbrella shape; outer flowers are largest.
Fruit or seed	Flattened with two 1-seeded halves, egg to heart-shaped.
Bloom time	May - August
Habitat	Near streams and wet meadows areas [Foothills - Subalpine]
Range	U.S. except TX and Southeast; Canada
Where Found in Park	Along MC, BM Creeks and south of Elk Creek road, meadow off BE
Comments and Fun Facts	Named after Hercules but not because of its large size. Pliny thought the species had great medicinal value. This plant is hairy and has a strong smell when mature. Stems were eaten many different ways by natives, and used as a vegetable similar to celery. Roots were also cooked like parsnip. Dry stems were used as toy flutes and whistles. DO NOT confuse this with poison hemlock, leaves are very different. Carrots and celery are also in this family. Its <i>furanocoumarins</i> can cause dark blotches, rashes, and even blisters to skin of sensitive people.
Similar species	Giant angelica (<i>Angelica ampla</i>) – another large plant of this family, with a rounded umbel. (see separate page)
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all), Drawing USDA

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Common Name	Fendler's rockcress	8W
Synonyms		
Scientific Name	<i>Boechera fendleri</i>	
Synonyms	<i>Arabis hirsuta</i>	
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Mustard (<i>Brassicaceae</i>)	
Description Overall	Tall, slender, native plant with many stems which are long, very slender, erect and parallel with each other; flowers are white and have 4 petals in a cross.	
Height	10 to 15 inches	
Leaf	Very long and slender.	
Flower	Small, 4-petaled white mustard flower, in a cross.	
Fruit or seed	Long, thin seed heads (siliques) which arch downward.	
Bloom time	June - July	
Habitat	gravelly slopes and meadows [Foothills]	
Range	NV, UT, CO, AZ, NM, OK, and TX	
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, SL, BE, MC, MP	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p>Tyge Boecher, 1909-1983, was a Danish botanist and a specialist in Greenland flora. August Fendler was a mid-19th collector for Asa Gray who developed Harvard's herbarium.</p> <p>In early spring, the new vegetative shoots are affected by a rust fungus, <i>Puccinia monoica</i>, that covers the upper leaves with yellow-orange pustules. Bees are even fooled by this mimicry system and feed on a sweet, sticky substance that the fungus forces the plant to produce on the imitation flower (see lower right photo).</p>	
Similar species	Drummond's rockcress (<i>B.stricta</i>) - compare mature seed pods, and note that "Fendler's flail, and Drummond's don't." (see separate page)	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (top all, lower right), Russ Kleinman WNMU (lower left)	

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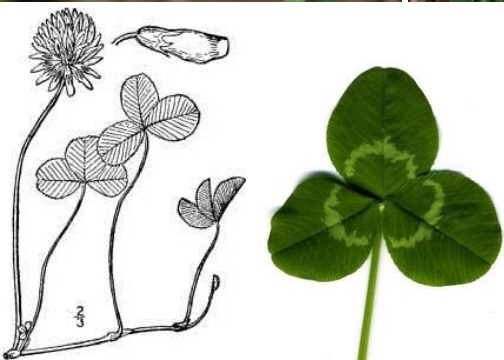
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Common Name	Field pennycress 9W
Synonyms	Fanweed, Stinkweed, Field cross, Frenchweed, Mithridate mustard
Scientific Name	<i>Thlaspi arvense</i>
Synonyms	
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Mustard (<i>Brassicaceae</i>)
Description Overall	Non-native, annual weed with a soft, twisted stem and a rank odor. The white flower cluster elongates as the plant matures, with blooms at the top and flat, heart-shaped seed pods resembling pennies.
Height	To 2½ feet
Leaf	Alternate, simple with their edges slightly wavy. Upper leaves are stalk-less and clasping; lower leaves are stalked, broader, and up to 3 inches long.
Flower	Small, white, 4 petals in a cross, ½ inch clusters make up elongated racemes.
Fruit or seed	Flat, heart-shaped, seed pods (siliques) resemble pennies or fans. Seeds dry to a papery brown shell. Each side of the pod holds up to 8 shiny black seeds.
Bloom time	May - July
Habitat	Common in fields and along roads [Plains - Montane]
Range	Introduced to U.S. except AL, all Canada
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, lower MC, lower BMC, south of Elk Creek road
Comments and Fun Facts	In Greek <i>thalein</i> means <i>to crush</i> , referring to the flat seeds resembling fans or pennies. Native to Asia, introduced from Europe. Troublesome weed in grain fields which can contaminate flour. Dairy animals eating this plant may produce bitter-flavored milk, and can be poisoned by eating hay with more than 25% pennycress. Iroquois peoples made tea from the leaves to soothe sore throats. Cherokee people used leaves for food. Havasupai people used the garlicy seeds in a variety of ways.
Similar species	Other mustards with white flowers. Best way to distinguish is looking at seed pods.
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all), Drawing USDA



Common Name	Few-flowered false Solomon's seal 10W
Synonyms	Star lily, Star Solomon's seal, Wild lily-of-the-valley
Scientific Name	<i>Maianthemum stellatum</i>
Synonyms	<i>Smilacina stellata</i>
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Mayflower (<i>Convallariaceae</i>) [<i>Asparagaceae</i>]
Description Overall	Native, erect-stemmed plant with a few dainty star-like white flowers at tip.
Height	To 2 feet
Leaf	Simple, alternate, with parallel veins, narrow, lance-shaped to 6 inches long.
Flower	Few, tiny, white, star-like flowers, 6 petals (tepals).
Fruit or seed	¼ inch long, dark blue or reddish-black berries.
Bloom time	May - July
Habitat	Meadows, shady gulches, stream sides, forests [Foothills - Subalpine]
Range	Western and Northern U.S., Southern Canada
Where Found in Park	MC, north fork of NEC near FS gate, below Elk Falls, BMC, south of Elk Creek road
Comments and Fun Facts	<i>Maia</i> is Greek for <i>May</i> and <i>anthos</i> means <i>flower</i> . The common name is for the resemblance of the circular leaf-scar on the rhizome to a signet. Native Americans cooked the berry or ate it raw, but too many can cause diarrhea. They boiled crushed, mature leaves or cooked young shoots similar to preparing asparagus. A root-tea has been used as an expectorant or to soothe sore throats.
Similar species	Plume false Solomon's seal (<i>M. amplexicaule</i>) – 1/8 inch tiny, numerous, white flowers on a 6 inch long cluster. Its leaves are broadly oval to 8 inches long. (see separate page)
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (top both, middle both), Al Schneider @swcoloradowildflowers.com (bottom)

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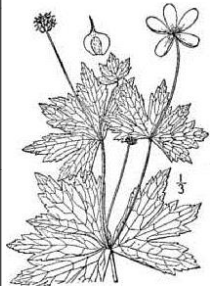
Common Name	White Dutch clover	11W
Synonyms	Ladino clover	
Scientific Name	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	
Synonyms		
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Pea (<i>Fabaceae</i>)	
Description Overall	Non-native perennial clover with white ball-like flower heads and creeping stems which root at their joints.	
Height	Several inches in patches to 2 feet wide.	
Leaf	Three rounded leaflets, 3/8 to 3/4 inch long, toothed, with white arc near the base.	
Flower	1/4 to 1/2 inch long, white or pink-tinged and sweet smelling, on long stems.	
Fruit or seed	4- to 5-seeded pods.	
Bloom time	May - July	
Habitat	Moist areas of meadows, forest clearings and roadsides. [Plains - Montane]	
Range	Introduced throughout U.S. and Canada	
Where Found in Park	SR, DP, MC, BMC, BL, BE, MP	
Comments and Fun Facts	<i>Repens</i> is Latin for <i>creeping</i> . It is commonly used in vegetation mixes. It is an excellent cattle feed, but not often eaten by deer or elk. The long flower stems allow them to be tied together to make necklaces. Bees love the plant and the result is a much-loved honey.	
Similar species	Red clover (<i>T. pretense</i>) has red or pink flowers, with V-shaped white marks on leaflets. Alsike clover (<i>T. hybridum</i>) has pink and white flowers. (see separate pages)	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (top, middle both), Drawing USDA, Lesley Ingram bugwood.org (bottom)	

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Common Name	Wild strawberry	12W
Synonyms		
Scientific Name	<i>Fragaria virginiana glauca</i>	
Synonyms	<i>F. virginiana</i>	
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Rose (<i>Rosaceae</i>)	
Description Overall	Native, common ground-hugging plant with long red runners and white 5-petaled flower.	
Height	To 4 inches	
Leaf	Blue-green, divided into 3 leaflets, about 1½ inches long.	
Flower	White 1 inch saucer-shaped flowers with 5 petals and many stamen, 5 hairy sepals which are reflexed. Flowers are shorter than leaves.	
Fruit or seed	Small, red berry which is sweet to taste.	
Bloom time	May - August	
Habitat	Meadows, forest openings, slopes [Foothills - Subalpine]	
Range	Western U.S., except CA and NV, Northern U.S. and Canada	
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, MC, Cabin district, BE above and below Elk Falls, lower BMC, south of Elk Creek road	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Fraga</i> is Latin for <i>strawberry</i> referring to its fragrance. Its delicious berries are eaten by animals and hikers alike. The berries are very high in vitamin C. Traditionally the berries were sun-dried by humans.</p> <p>All parts have been used for medicinal purposes including a tea brewed from the leaves which is a home remedy for diarrhea.</p> <p>It is a popular ground cover in gardens. The wild strawberry was crossed with another species to produce the cultivated varieties.</p>	
Similar species	Woodland strawberry (<i>F. vesca bracteata</i>) is taller, leaves are brighter green, and its berries are tasteless. Bracts are narrow and pointed, leaf tip is pointed. (see separate page)	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all), Drawing USDA	

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Common Name	Northern anemone 13W
Synonyms	Meadow or Canadian anemone, Round-the-leaf thimbleweed
Scientific Name	<i>Anemonidium canadense</i>
Synonyms	<i>Anemone canadensis</i> , <i>Anemone canadense</i>
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Buttercup (<i>Ranunculaceae</i>)
Description Overall	Native, tall plant with both basal and leaves that grow in a whorl at mid-stem, with delicate, single white saucer-shaped flowers arising on long stalks above the leaves.
Height	1 to 2 feet
Leaf	Basal leaves which are deeply lobed. Leaves come in whorls of 3-5 around the central stem.
Flower	Solitary, delicate, white, 5 petal-like sepals and numerous yellow stamen.
Fruit or seed	Fuzzy seedheads appear midsummer.
Bloom time	May - June
Habitat	Meadows, moist areas and stream-sides [Plains - Montane]
Range	Northern U.S. plus CO and NM, most of Canada
Where Found in Park	DP, lower MC
Comments and Fun Facts	<i>Canadense</i> is for Canada. These plants can tolerate temperatures down to -40°F! Toxic when eaten in large quantities, all parts of the plant are poisonous . Plants were highly esteemed by native peoples for their many medical uses, and were taken internally and applied externally. In a garden, these flowers like partly shady, moist soil and can become aggressive without competition.
Similar species	Red anemone (<i>Anemone multifida globosa</i>) has pink flower. (see separate page)
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all), Drawing USDA

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Common Name	Pussytoes 14W
Synonyms	Mountain, Nuttall's, Small-leaf, or Sun-loving pussytoes
Scientific Name	<i>Antennaria parvifolia</i>
Synonyms	<i>A. aprica</i>
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Sunflower (<i>Asteraceae</i>)
Description Overall	A native ground cover with grey-green foliage and upright stems with clusters of fuzzy whitish flowers.
Height	To 6 inches
Leaf	1 inch long, simple, woolly basal and stem leaves; forming mats.
Flower	3/8 inch across, with 3 – 10 flowers per head, white disk flowers only (no petal-like ray flowers).
Fruit or seed	Hairless achenes.
Bloom time	June - August
Habitat	Moderately dry sites [Foothills - Subalpine]
Range	Western and Northern U.S. and Canada to Great Lakes
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, CA, MP, MC
Comments and Fun Facts	The Latin <i>Antennaria</i> formed the name because the pappus was thought to resemble insect antennae. The female and male flowers are on separate plants (dioecious) and are distinctly different. Some species are known as "Indian tobacco" for it has been mixed with other leaves to produce a smoking medium. Leaves and stem juices were sometimes chewed like gum. It makes a good ground cover for rock gardens.
Similar species	Rosy pussytoes (<i>A. rosea</i>) - flowers are an obvious pink/red color. The pink bracts provide the color. (see separate page)
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all), Drawing USDA

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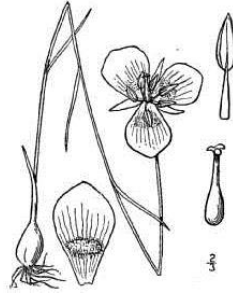
Common Name	Boulder raspberry 15W
Synonyms	Rocky Mountain or Flowering raspberry
Scientific Name	<i>Oreobatus deliciosus</i>
Synonyms	<i>Rubus deliciosus</i>
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Rose (<i>Rosaceae</i>)
Description Overall	Native shrub with bright white rose-type flowers on arching branches; new bark is red and tends to shred, and plants have NO thorns.
Height	To 5 feet high and 5 to 8 feet wide.
Leaf	1-2½ inches wide; alternate, simple, palmate (hand-like) with toothed margins.
Flower	Bright white flower, 3 inches wide, with 5 white petals and a lot of yellow anthers.
Fruit or seed	Red berries, 3/8 inch across.
Bloom time	June - July
Habitat	Sunny, open areas, edge of woods [Plains - Montane]
Range	WY, CO, NM and OK
Where Found in Park	MC, LB, SR
Comments and Fun Facts	<i>Oros</i> means <i>mountain</i> and <i>batos</i> means <i>bramble</i> . Berries are edible but not “delicious” in fact they have very little flavor. The original plants were collected at the mouth of Boulder Canyon by Edwin James thus it common name <i>Boulder Raspberry</i> . Its flowers are pollinated by bees. Plants are available at local nurseries and it is a great native shrub whose fruit attracts birds. Its foliage turns an attractive yellow in the fall.
Similar species	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all)

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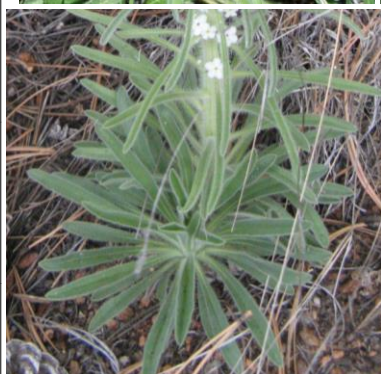
Common Name	Fendler's sandwort	16W
Synonyms	Desert sandwort	
Scientific Name	<i>Eremogone fendleri</i>	
Synonyms	<i>Arenaria fendleri</i>	
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Chickweed (<i>Alsinaceae</i>) [<i>Caryophyllaceae</i>]	
Description Overall	Native plant with several small, white flowers on slender stem with grass-like leaves.	
Height	To 10 inches	
Leaf	3 inches long, simple, linear, mostly at the base and grass-like.	
Flower	1/3 inch white, 5-petaled flower on branched and sticky stems.	
Fruit or seed	Egg-shaped capsules.	
Bloom time	June - September	
Habitat	Sunny, dry areas [Foothills - Alpine]	
Range	WY to TX and AZ	
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, MC, lower BMC	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Eremos</i> is Greek for <i>desert</i>. It was named in honor of Augustus Fendler (1813-1883) a botanical collector for both Asa Gray and George Engelmann.</p> <p>Its anthers have red pollen which makes it appear like each petals has two red dots. Pollen is shed and some dots may disappear.</p> <p>Powered root is known to be used to induce sneezing. Sandworts attract butterflies and it is attractive in a rock garden.</p>	
Similar species		
Photo credits	Dave Powell USDA bugwood.org (top left), Staunton SP Volunteers (top right, bottom), Al Schneider ©swcoloradowildflowers.com (lower both)	

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Common Name	Mariposa lily	17W
Synonyms	Star tulip, Sego lily	
Scientific Name	<i>Calochortus gunnisonii</i>	
Synonyms		
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Mariposa (<i>Calochortaceae</i>) [<i>Liliaceae</i>]	
Description Overall	Native with dainty white flower on slender stalk which grows in patches.	
Height	To 20 inches	
Leaf	Up to 10 inches long, grass-like and very narrow.	
Flower	2 inches across, 3 white petals and 3 translucent or pale green, pointed sepals; flower is cup-shaped, with a dark hairy spot at center.	
Fruit or seed	3-winged nodding and elliptic capsules, but usually grows from a bulb.	
Bloom time	June - August	
Habitat	Mountain meadows and aspen groves [Foothills – Subalpine]	
Range	Rocky Mountain States plus AZ, NE, and SD	
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, MC high meadow, lower BMC, below Elk Falls, BE-NW corner	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Callos</i> is Greek for <i>beautiful</i> and <i>chortos</i> means <i>grass</i>. <i>Mariposa</i> is Spanish for <i>butterfly</i>. It was named for J. W. Gunnison of Pacific Railroad surveyors.</p> <p>The Mormons kept from starving during their early years in Utah by eating bulbs of a closely related species (Sego lily) which is now Utah's state flower. Native Americans ground the starchy bulbs and made bread from the meal; boiled bulbs are said to taste like potatoes. Bears and rodents also eat its bulbs.</p>	
Similar species		
Photo credits	Drawing USDA, Staunton SP Volunteers (left both), Al Schneider ©swcoloradowildflowers.com (lower right)	

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Common Name	Miner's candle 18W
Synonyms	
Scientific Name	<i>Oreocarya virgata</i>
Synonyms	<i>Cryptantha virgata</i> , <i>C.spicata</i>
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Borage (<i>Boraginaceae</i>)
Description Overall	Hairy, single stemmed, tall, thin, native plant with small white flowers along erect stem with leaves sticking out between the flowers.
Height	To 3 feet
Leaf	Simple, linear and very hairy to 3 inches long, and protrude between flowers.
Flower	Clustered, white, bowl-shaped, ¼ to ½ inch across with yellow at its center, resembling forget-me-not flowers.
Fruit or seed	Nutlet
Bloom time	June - August
Habitat	Gravelly slopes and other dry areas [Foothills - Montane]
Range	CO and WY
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, SL, MP, MC
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Oros</i> is Greek for <i>mountain</i> and <i>caryon</i> means <i>nut</i>. The word <i>virgata</i> means <i>wand-shaped</i>. This distinctive plant resembles a tall, stout, spiked candle. It was dipped in wax and lit by miners to take into the mines, thus its common name.</p> <p>The plants are covered with stiff, bristle-like hairs. They are often pollinated by butterflies, and it is used as an ornamental in native gardens.</p> <p>The flower stalks remain throughout the winter and visitors may ask about them.</p>
Similar species	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (left both), Alan Cressler wildflower.org (right)

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Common Name	Green gentian 19W
Synonyms	Monument plant, Deer's ears, Elkweed
Scientific Name	<i>Frasera speciosa</i>
Synonyms	
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Gentian (<i>Gentianaceae</i>)
Description Overall	Native, "multi-ennial" with large rosette of leaves with or without a tall flower stalk.
Height	To 6 feet when in flower.
Leaf	10 to 20 inches, simple, lance-shaped, smooth, pale-green whorled leaves in a large rosette. Once the stalk forms the leaves are arranged around the stalk becoming increasingly shorter toward the top of the plant.
Flower	1 inch across, 4 petals white-greenish, speckled with dark purple spots, and slender sepals (4-5).
Fruit or seed	Slightly flattened capsules 3/4 inches long.
Bloom time	June - August
Habitat	Pine forests and meadows [Foothills – Subalpine]
Range	Western U.S., TX, SD, and northern Mexico
Where Found in Park	DP, LB, MC, SL, MP, SR, BE
Comments and Fun Facts	<p>Named in honor of John Fraser (1750-1811), colonial American botanist.</p> <p>Plants can live 20 to 80 years as a large rosette of leaves before a tall flower stalk emerges. The rosette leaves increase in size from year to year and about every four years the number of leaves in a plant's rosette increases. Thus the number of leaves roughly corresponds to the age of the plant. The plant flowers in only the last year of its life and then dies (monocarpic). Populations of these plants exhibit an unusual pattern of synchronized flowering that occurs every 2 to 4 years where large numbers of plants in an area flower resulting in peak blooms during those years.</p> <p>Dried leaves were mixed with mountain tobacco and smoked to "clear the mind" by Native Americans.</p>
Similar species	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (top and middle left), Al Schneider ©swcoloradowildflowers.com (right both and bottom)



Common Name	Northern bedstraw	20W
Synonyms	Cleavers	
Scientific Name	<i>Galium septentrionale</i>	
Synonyms	<i>G. boreale</i>	
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Madder (<i>Rubiaceae</i>)	
Description Overall	Native perennial plant with a slender erect square stem and four lance-shaped leaves in a whorl, with white flower clusters.	
Height	To 2½ feet	
Leaf	To 2 inches long, simple, lance-shaped, dark green; 4 leaves in a whorl (per node).	
Flower	1/8 inch across, in small clusters, with 4 white petals.	
Fruit or seed	Pair of short, hairy, ball-like nutlets each with one seed.	
Bloom time	June - August	
Habitat	Roadsides, open woods, moist meadows, slopes [Montane- Subalpine]	
Range	North America except Southeast U.S.	
Where Found in Park	DP, MC, SR, BMC, MP, BE, below EF Pond	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Gala</i> means <i>milk</i> in Greek and refers to the ability to curdle milk by some plants of this genus. This plant is often called <i>Cleavers</i> because it cleaves to clothes with its many barbed hairs. In midsummer the flower clusters have an intensely sweet smell.</p> <p>A tea can be made that was used for urinary tract inflammation, as a diuretic, and as a mild liver tonic for hepatitis; also said to be useful for healing burns or inflamed skin. It was used by pioneers to stuff mattresses because its “<i>cleaving</i>” nature helped produce loft.</p> <p>The Madder family is mostly found in tropics and includes coffee plants. The seeds of this plant can be roasted and used as a coffee substitute.</p> <p>There are several introduced species which are weedy and eight leaves in a whorl.</p>	
Similar species	Fragrant bedstraw (<i>G. triflorum</i>) has 6 wider leaves in whorl, minute flowers, range is all North America. (bottom right photo, lower BMC and below Elk Falls)	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all)	

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Common Name	Cutleaf evening primrose 21W
Synonyms	Crownleaf or Hairy-throat evening primrose
Scientific Name	<i>Oenothera coronopifolia</i>
Synonyms	
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Evening Primrose (<i>Onagraceae</i>)
Description Overall	Native, upright, bushy plant with leafy stems, white, 4-petaled flowers, round in appearance, and finely cut leaves.
Height	To 12 inches
Leaf	Pinnately cut leaves, alternate.
Flower	½ to 1¼ inch across, 4-petaled, rounded, white turning pink with age.
Fruit or seed	Green capsules.
Bloom time	June - July
Habitat	Gravelly, open mountain meadows and roadsides [Plains – Montane]
Range	ID, UT, AZ, WY, CO, NM, SD, NE, and KS
Where Found in Park	DP, MC, SR, MP
Comments and Fun Facts	<i>Cononopus</i> refers to its leaves being like those of the mustard. It was first collected by Edwin James in 1820 and appeared in the Flora of North America (1840) by Torrey and Gray. Native peoples considered it a “ <i>life medicine</i> ” and used a poultice of plant or roots to treat large swellings. The dried leaves were added to improve flavor of wild tobacco.
Similar species	Tufted evening primrose (<i>O. caespitosa</i>) - larger white flowers, stem-less. (see separate page)
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all), Drawing USDA

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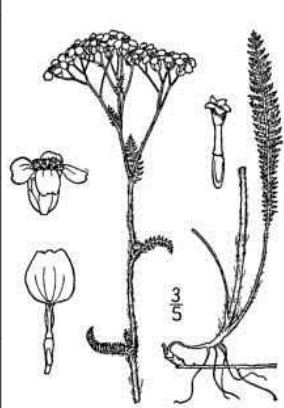
Common Name	Night-flowering catchfly 22W
Synonyms	Night-flowering campion
Scientific Name	<i>Silene noctiflora</i>
Synonyms	
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Pink (<i>Caryophyllaceae</i>)
Description Overall	Non-native annual with ballooned section with prominent green and reddish striped ribs behind its white flowers.
Height	To 3 feet, erect, stiff stems at swollen node (or joint).
Leaf	3½ inches simple, opposite, sticky, hairy.
Flower	1 inch, whitish, clusters of 5 petals coming from inflated tube.
Fruit or seed	Inflated, green-red striped.
Bloom time	June - September
Habitat	Disturbed areas, along roads [Plains - Foothills]
Range	Most of US and Southern Canada (introduced)
Where Found in Park	DP, MC, SR
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Silene</i> was Bacchus's drunken foster-father and <i>noctiflora</i> means <i>blooming at night</i>.</p> <p>Plants in the Pink family, like carnations and Sweet Williams, have thickened or swollen nodes or "knees." It was introduced from Eurasia, probably in grass seed, and showed up as early as 1820. Its seeds can be viable for five years, but it isn't listed as a noxious weed in Colorado.</p> <p>The flowers open at night and attract night-flying moths which are its pollinators.</p>
Similar species	There are several different <i>Silene</i> species in SSP. (see separate pages)
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all)

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Common Name	Silver scorpionweed	23W
Synonyms		
Scientific Name	<i>Phacelia hastata</i>	
Synonyms		
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Waterleaf (<i>Hydrophyllaceae</i>) [<i>Boraginaceae</i>]	
Description Overall	Native, weedy perennial, with many tight coiled, white or pale purple flowers on short branches at ends of leafy stems.	
Height	To 2 feet	
Leaf	2 to 4 inches long, basal and alternate, elliptic, prominently veined, laying close to stem with no stalk (appressed), silvery-hairy with smooth margins.	
Flower	Numerous, whitish to purplish, short and compact flowers with stamens that extend well past the petals; the inflorescences are in a helix when young, uncoiling as the flowers open, looking like the tail of a scorpion.	
Fruit or seed	Capsule, 2 chambered, two to several seeds per chamber.	
Bloom time	June - August	
Habitat	Dry open areas, gritty soil [Plains -Subalpine]	
Range	Western U.S. except NM and AZ including ND, SD, and NE, and southwest Canada	
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, MC near sawmill site	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Phakelos</i> is Greek for <i>fascicle</i> alluding to clusters of floral branches.</p> <p>They are a very valuable source of nectar for native bees.</p>	
Similar species	Rocky Mountain scorpionweed (<i>P. denticulata</i>), which has pinnately divided leaves and stamen that don't stick out from blue flower.	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all)	

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Common Name	Yarrow 24W
Synonyms	Milfoil, Tansy or Western yarrow, Nosebleed plant
Scientific Name	<i>Achillea millefolium lanulosa</i>
Synonyms	<i>A.lanulosa</i> , <i>A.millefolium</i> , <i>A.millefolium occidentale</i>
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Sunflower (<i>Asteraceae</i>)
Description Overall	Native, aromatic grayish herb with flat clusters of white flowers and fern-type soft leaves.
Height	6 to 10 inches tall, rarely to 3 feet.
Leaf	Compound, fern-like, alternate, greyish and narrow.
Flower	¼ inch white, flat-topped, umbel-like clusters of disk flowers and hairy bracts.
Fruit or seed	Flattened achene lacking hair (pappus).
Bloom time	June - September
Habitat	Meadows and roadsides [Foothills to Subalpine]
Range	U.S. and Canada
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, below BL, BE, lower BMC, upper MC, south of Elk Creek road
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Lanulosa</i> meaning wooly, referring to the leaves. Greek mythology says that yarrow was given to Achilles for the battle wound he acquired in his heel, which explains the genus name. <i>Mille</i> is French for <i>thousand</i> and <i>feuille</i> means <i>leaf</i>, for the many fine segments of the leaf.</p> <p>In Colorado, there is much confusion between the native and horticultural version, <i>A. millefolium</i>, and almost impossible to tell them apart. Wm. Weber says they all should be called <i>A.millefolium</i>, but <i>lanulosa</i> is the most abundant form below tree line.</p> <p>The alkaloid <i>achilleine</i> in fresh leaves is said to stimulate blood clotting in moderate cuts, and teas can help reduce menstrual flow and colon problems. It has been used for millenia as a medicine, insecticide and a fumigant.</p> <p>The dried flowers persist over winter and can be pointed out to park visitors. There are many hybrids available for the garden.</p>
Similar species	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (top both), Al Schneider ©swcoloradowildflowers.com (middle, lower right), Drawing USDA



Common Name	Death camas	25W
Synonyms	Mountain false death camas, Wand lily	
Scientific Name	<i>Anticlea elegans</i>	
Synonyms	<i>Zigadenus</i> or <i>Zygadenus elegans</i>	
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	False Hellebore (<i>Melanthiaceae</i>)	
Description Overall	Native perennial with erect stalks with many dainty white flowers on multiple stems.	
Height	To 15 inches, but occasionally to 2.5 feet.	
Leaf	Flat and narrow with parallel margins, grass-like and mainly basal.	
Flower	6-“petaled” small white flower stalked along a stem. Flower stem is pink, and hangs downward when in bud.	
Fruit or seed	Egg-shaped to oblong, dry, multi-chambered fruit splitting at maturity.	
Bloom time	July - August	
Habitat	Moist areas, along streams, forest clearings and meadows [Foothills - Alpine]	
Range	Western U.S. to MN except CA, all Canada	
Where Found in Park	BE, MC connector and canyon	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Anticlea</i> was Ulysses’ mother. <i>Elegans</i> means <i>elegant</i>. <i>Zigadenus</i> is from Greek word <i>zgon</i> meaning <i>a yoke</i> in reference to paired or yoked glands at the base of each petal.</p> <p>All parts of these plants are extremely POISONOUS and can be a serious danger to sheep and cattle because in early spring it is one of the few green plants available for grazing. Its bulblet could be mistaken for an onion and used to flavor a stew; 2 bulblets can be fatal to humans!</p>	
Similar species	Meadow death camas (<i>Toxicoscordion venenosum</i>) has smaller flowers, shorter to 6 inches tall, common in meadows at lower elevations. Seen south of Elk Creek road.	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all), Drawing USDA	

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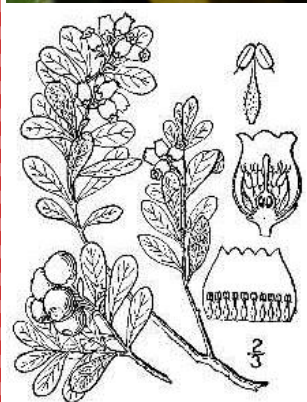
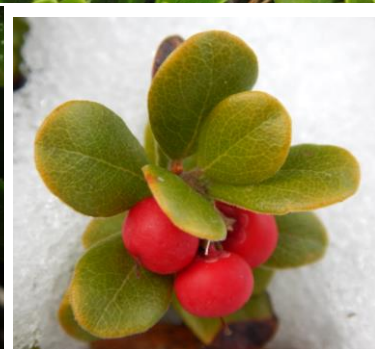
Common Name	Bistort 26W
Synonyms	American bistort, Knotweed, Miner's toes
Scientific Name	<i>Bistorta bistortoides</i>
Synonyms	<i>Polygonum bistortoides</i>
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Buckwheat (<i>Polygonaceae</i>)
Description Overall	Tall, slender, native perennial; single stem with an oblong spikelet of tiny white flowers; leaves are basal, as well as along stem.
Height	To 2 feet
Leaf	Linear, simple, to 10 inches long with distinctive venation, lance-shaped basal and stem leaves; a papery sheath encloses the stem below each bulging leaf node.
Flower	3/16 inch flowers making up oblong spikes, no petals, but 5 petal-like sepals.
Fruit or seed	Achene
Bloom time	July - August
Habitat	Wet meadows [Subalpine – Alpine]
Range	Western U.S. and southwestern Canada
Where Found in Park	DP, meadows above and below Elk Falls, MC connector
Comments and Fun Facts	<i>Bis</i> is Latin for <i>twice</i> and <i>tortus</i> means <i>twist</i> , alluding to the knotty rhizomes. It is said to have the odor of dirty socks, leading to one of its common names, <i>Miner's Toes</i> . It was first collected by Meriwether Lewis in Idaho in 1806. Bears dig the roots to eat. Native peoples ate the roots, stems and leaves in addition to using them for healing. Roots are said to taste similar to water chestnuts.
Similar species	Alpine Bistort (<i>B. vivipara</i>) – tiny plant, with bulblets on stem below flowers. Snowball saxifrage (<i>Micranthes rhomboidea</i>) often mistaken for (<i>B. bistortoides</i>), but it has no stem leaves and basal leaves are diamond-shaped, and it is in a completely different plant family (Saxifrage). (see separate pages)
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all), Drawing USDA,

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Common Name	Porter's aster 27W
Synonyms	Smooth white Aster
Scientific Name	<i>Symphyotrichum porteri</i>
Synonyms	<i>Aster porteri</i>
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Sunflower (<i>Asteraceae</i>)
Description Overall	Native plant with wiry, smooth/hairless stems, much branched, from a cluster of basal leaves, with many white daisy-like flowers with dark yellow centers.
Height	To 16 inches
Leaf	To 4 inches long x ¼ inch wide or less, narrow, simple, bright green stem leaves; basal leaves in cluster; smooth and hairless.
Flower	1/3 to ½ inch across, numerous, white, daisy-like ray florets with dark yellow disc florets, bracts/phyllaries are bent downward and 3 tiered.
Fruit or seed	Achene
Bloom time	July - September
Habitat	Meadows, roadsides [Foothills – Montane]
Range	CO endemic, northern NM, southern WY
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, BE, MC, below EF pond
Comments and Fun Facts	<i>Aster</i> is Greek for <i>star</i> . <i>Porteri</i> is for Thomas C. Porter, 1822-1901, who along with John M. Coulter wrote <i>A Synopsis of the Flora of Colorado</i> in 1874. One of its common names, <i>Smooth White Aster</i> , refers to the stems and leaves which are smooth and hairless, and the flower which is white.
Similar species	Other <i>asters</i> . (see separate pages)
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (top, lower right), rockymountainflora.com (lower left)

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Common Name	Kinnikinnik	1RP
Synonyms	Bearberry	
Scientific Name	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	
Synonyms		
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Heath (<i>Ericaceae</i>)	
Description Overall	An evergreen, native shrub and ground cover with small, dainty pink urn-shaped flowers in spring and lovely red berries in winter; forms mats.	
Height	To 6 inches, spreads to 5 to 6 feet.	
Leaf	Simple, alternate, small to 1 inch long, dark green, thick and shiny.	
Flower	About 1/3 inch long, pink and white, urn-shaped in hanging clusters.	
Fruit or seed	Red, round berry-like drupes to 3/8 inches across.	
Bloom time	April - June	
Habitat	Rocky forest openings, gravelly slopes [Foothills - Subalpine]	
Range	Northern and Southwestern U.S., all Canada	
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, BE, MC, CA, SL, MP, BL, LB, below Elk Falls	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Arctos</i> is Greek for <i>bear</i> and <i>staphyle</i> means <i>bunch of grapes</i>. <i>Ursi</i> is also Latin for <i>bear</i> giving it one of its common names.</p> <p>It is good forage for bear, deer, sheep and birds. The berries are very astringent when raw, but sweet when cooked down. Native Americans mixed them with grease or fish eggs. Leaves were smoked as a tobacco substitute or used to make tea. However extended use can lead to stomach and liver problems.</p> <p>It makes a very nice ground cover for shaded sites, a native substitute for holly, but it is difficult to transplant. The foliage is green in summer and reddish in the fall and winter. It has a circumpolar distribution in the northern hemisphere.</p>	
Similar species		
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all), Drawing USDA	

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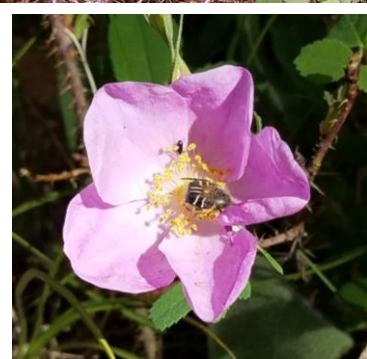
Common Name	Wax currant	2RP
Synonyms	Squaw currant	
Scientific Name	<i>Ribes cereum</i>	
Synonyms		
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Gooseberry (<i>Grossulariaceae</i>)	
Description Overall	Native shrub growing beneath conifers with many gray to red-brown branches with no thorns. New branches are sticky and have short, fine hairs.	
Height	To 5 feet	
Leaf	1-1/8 inch simple (not divided into similar parts) leaves are circular to kidney shaped with rounded teeth.	
Flower	¼ inch long, pinkish-white, tubular flowers that form drooping clusters.	
Fruit or seed	¼ inch diameter, red-orange berry.	
Bloom time	May - June	
Habitat	Canyon sides and dry gulches, understory of ponderosa pine forests [Foothills - Montane]	
Range	Western U.S. and Canada, northern U.S. Plains	
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, MC, MP, SL	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Cereum</i> means <i>waxy</i> and refers to the waxy appearance of the glandular leaves.</p> <p>The fruit of wax currant is used for making jam, jelly, or pie. Native Americans ate fresh, dried or made an alcoholic beverage and used the berries in pemmican, a concentrated food mix of dried buffalo meat, fat and sometimes fruit.</p> <p>Many animals eat the berries. Deer browse the new growth. Broad-tail hummingbirds visit them early in the season when other flowers are not yet in bloom. Colorado chipmunks eat the berries. Rabbits chew on twigs when all other plants are under snow. It is a nice shrub for native gardens.</p>	
Similar species		
Photo credits	Dave Powell USDA bugwood.org (top), Staunton SP Volunteers (middle, bottom right), easterncoloradowildflowers.com (bottom left)	

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Common Name	Shooting star	3RP
Synonyms	Few-flowered shooting star	
Scientific Name	<i>Dodecatheon pulchellum</i>	
Synonyms	<i>D. pauciflorum</i> , <i>D. radicatum</i>	
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Primrose (<i>Primulaceae</i>)	
Description Overall	Native, perennial plant with erect, fleshy stem and pink drooping, dainty flowers.	
Height	12 to 16 inches	
Leaf	To 12 inches long, bright green, basal, oblong to spoon-shaped.	
Flower	1½ inches long, drooping with 4-5 bent-back petals that are pink to purple, with yellow to purplish “beak” of fused stamen.	
Fruit or seed	Erect, cylindrical to egg-shaped capsules.	
Bloom time	May - July	
Habitat	Damp meadows, stream banks, and forest glades [Foothills – Subalpine]	
Range	Western U.S. and Canada	
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, OM, MC, BE near NEC, MP	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Dodeca</i> is Greek for <i>twelve</i> and <i>theos</i> means <i>god</i>. Pliny believed this primrose to be under the protection of the 12 superior gods.</p> <p>An exotic-looking flower that attracts the attention of even those with little interest in flowers. A half dozen or more flowers may be open at the same time on each plant.</p> <p>Members of the Primrose family all have flowers with yellow centers – look for the yellow at the base of the pink petals turned inside out. The fine powdery pollen can be released by the vibration of bee’s wings!</p>	
Similar species		
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all)	

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Common Name	Wood's rose	4RP
Synonyms	Wild or Prairie rose	
Scientific Name	<i>Rosa woodsii</i>	
Synonyms		
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Rose (<i>Roseacea</i>)	
Description Overall	Native shrub with thorny stems and lacking prickles, with pink, simple "roses" with many yellow stamen.	
Height	To several feet	
Leaf	Compound with 5-7 leaflets, egg-shaped, toothed and alternate with winged stalks.	
Flower	2½ inches across, 5 deep-pink petals, fragrant.	
Fruit or seed	Roundish, hard dark red "hip" and persists through the winter. (lower left photo)	
Bloom time	June - August	
Habitat	Along roads, trails, valleys, forest understory [Plains - Subalpine]	
Range	Central and Western U.S., all Canada	
Where Found in Park	MC, OM, below Elk Falls, upper BM Creek, south of Elk Creek road	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p>It was named after British botanist Joseph Woods (1776-1864) and doesn't refer to "growing in the woods" however it is an appropriate definition.</p> <p>Its hips (fruits) are a source of vitamins A, B, C, E & K. One bite provides 500 cc of Vitamin C. They are eaten by birds, chipmunks, squirrels, deer, coyotes & bears. Hips sustain birds and animals when ground is snow-covered. Dried hips are used to flavor teas and jellies; best picked after several frosts. Petals are edible</p> <p>Native Americans used all parts of plant for various medicinal and food uses. Some tribes considered rose hips to be "famine" food.</p> <p>This plant works well in a drought tolerant garden and is used as erosion control since it is a "pioneer" on disturbed sites. The 5-petaled, wild roses were hybridized over centuries to create the vast number of modern roses with multiple layers of petals.</p>	
Similar species		
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (middle, bottom right), Al Schneider @swcoloradowildflowers.com (top, bottom left)	

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Common Name	Scarlet paintbrush	5RP
Synonyms	Giant Red or Red Indian paint brush	
Scientific Name	<i>Castilleja miniata</i>	
Synonyms		
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Figwort (<i>Scrophulariaceae</i>) [<i>Orobanchaceae</i>]	
Description Overall	Native unbranched plant with very narrow, alternate leaves; Flowers are a dense, red, rounded, paintbrush-like spike on upper part of stem.	
Height	To 2 feet	
Leaf	To 4 inches long, simple, very narrow, lance-shaped; alternate; red, colored parts are actually leaf bracts.	
Flower	1 inch long, narrow, green “toothpick-looking” tube (with all sexual parts); it protrudes from brilliant red bracts; stem is sticky and hairy.	
Fruit or seed	Capsule	
Bloom time	June - July	
Habitat	Open woods, moist meadows [Foothills –Subalpine]	
Range	Western U.S. including ND, and southern Canada	
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, lower MC, lower BMC, SL	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Castilleja</i> is for Domingo Castillejo, an 18th century, Spanish botanist. <i>Miniata</i> means <i>colored red</i>. They are somewhat parasitic on roots of other plants, usually sage or blue grama, and must have these other plants along for a successful transplant. There are about 200 species in many colors and they are poisonous. State flower of Wyoming. Second-most widely distributed <i>Castilleja</i> in world per <i>Intermountain Flora</i>. They are pollinated by butterflies, bumblebees and native bees and a major source of nectar for broadtail hummingbirds. They are an important browse for animals.</p>	
Similar species	<p>Desert paintbrush (<i>C.chromosa</i>) – shorter to 2 ½ feet, with rounded spikes with red bracts; not found in SSP. Yellow paintbrush (<i>C.sulphurea</i>) with yellow or greenish-white bracts and flowers to 16 inches; not found in SSP. (top right photo)</p>	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (top both, lower left), Dave Powell USDA (lower right)	

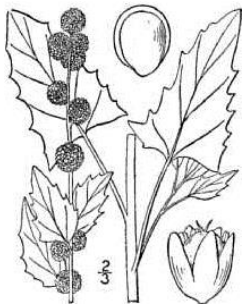


Common Name	Sticky geranium	GRP
Synonyms	Pink geranium, Western or Sticky Purple Cranesbill	
Scientific Name	<i>Geranium viscosissimum</i>	
Synonyms		
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Geranium (<i>Geraniaceae</i>)	
Description Overall	Native, stout, leafy, erect plant with twisted stems and many pinkish 5-petaled flowers; all parts of the plants are sticky.	
Height	To 3 feet	
Leaf	1 to 4 inches wide, thick in texture, deeply and palmately dissected into 5-7 lobes with sharply toothed margins; leaves almost completely surround stem.	
Flower	To 2 inches across, 5 pinkish petals, saucer shaped, radiating red lines which serve as nectar guides to certain insects.	
Fruit or seed	Long-beaked seed head "crane's bill-shaped".	
Bloom time	June - August	
Habitat	Wet roadside ditches and meadows [Foothills – Montane]	
Range	Western U.S. except AZ, plus SD and NE, southwestern Canada	
Where Found in Park	DP, MC, SR, MP, BE, south of Elk Creek road, below Elk Falls	
Comments and Fun Facts	Native peoples used the plants for various medicinal treatments including as an eye medicine or to apply to sores. It was also used as a love potion and in witchcraft.	
Similar species	Pineywoods geranium (<i>G.caespitosum</i>) lavender flowers with overlapping petals and exserted styles. (bottom left photo) Richardson's geranium (<i>G.richardsonii</i>) has white flowers. (see separate page)	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (top both, middle right, bottom both), Al Schneider ©swcoloradowildflowers.com (middle left)	



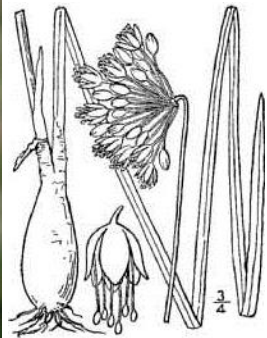
Common Name	Locoweed	7RP
Synonyms	Lambert's or Purple loco	
Scientific Name	<i>Oxytropis lambertii</i>	
Synonyms		
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Pea (<i>Fabaceae</i>)	
Description Overall	Native, perennial with boat-shaped petals; flower clusters with stalked flowers along main stem.	
Height	To 16 inches x 12 inches wide.	
Leaf	Compound with narrow, lance-shaped leaflets which grow at ground (basal).	
Flower	Pointed tip (keel), pink/red reddish-purple, or rarely white.	
Fruit or seed	Egg-shaped pods which taper to a slender point, very silky, grooved above.	
Bloom time	June - August	
Habitat	Mountain parks, open areas [Plains - Subalpine]	
Range	Rocky Mountains and central U.S. and Canada	
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, lower MC	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Oxys</i> is Greek for <i>sharp</i> and <i>tropis</i> means <i>keel</i> (the fused lower petals of a pea flower). It was named in honor of a British botanist, Aylmer Lambert (1761-1842).</p> <p>POISONOUS to horses, sheep and cattle. Toxic alkaloids are in many locoweeds and some are also high in selenium which they absorb from soils. They can cause an animal to go "loco" and are addictive.</p> <p>Plants are drought tolerant and are nice in butterfly and dry gardens.</p> <p>They are bee pollinated.</p>	
Similar species	Two other species (<i>O. deflexa sericea</i> and <i>O. multiceps</i>) are found in SSP. (see separate pages)	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (top both, middle), Patrick J. Alexander USDA bugwood.org (bottom), Drawing USDA	

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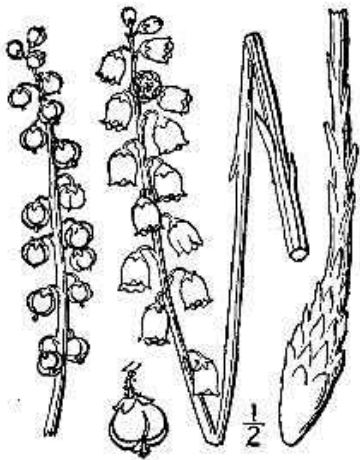
Common Name	Strawberry blite	8RP
Synonyms	Indian or Squaw paint	
Scientific Name	<i>Chenopodium capitatum</i>	
Synonyms	<i>Blitum capitatum</i>	
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Goosefoot (<i>Chenopodiaceae</i>) [<i>Amaranthaceae</i>]	
Description Overall	Native, annual with yellowish-green foliage, usually branched with unusual tight clusters of tiny red flowers.	
Height	About 12 to 16 inches with erect, smooth stem.	
Leaf	Triangular and smooth, alternate, coarsely toothed.	
Flower	1/32 inch in diameter (tiny) bright red, tight clusters on interrupted spikes on upper stem, no petals, turning bright red late in the season.	
Fruit or seed	Erect, black lens-shaped seeds enclosed in red-fleshy calyx (sepals).	
Bloom time	June - August	
Habitat	Mountain trails, forest clearings, gravelly hillsides [Montane - Subalpine]	
Range	Western, north central and Northeast U.S., most Canada	
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, MP, SL, MC, lower BMC, south of Elk Creek road	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Cheno</i> is Greek for <i>goose</i> and <i>podion</i> means <i>foot</i> for the leaf shape of some species. <i>Blite</i> is from Latin and Greek meaning <i>fleshy sepals</i>, and is not spelled <i>b-l-i-g-h-t</i>. Plants are high in Vitamin A, B1, B2, B6, and C as well as calcium and protein. Some Native Americans used flowers to make ink or dye for many purposes. Young plants have been eaten raw like spinach or cooked in soups and stews. It is a relative of spinach and was introduced to Europe in early 17 century. It does contain oxalate and <u>could lead to kidney stones or gout</u> which can be reduced by parboiling. This is an unusual looking plant which visitors are bound to ask about, especially when the flowers are bright red. They seem to require a period of many dry days in order to turn red, thus if the summer is rainy the flower heads will remain green.</p>	
Similar species		
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (top, lower left), Drawing USDA, easterncoloradowildflowers.com (lower right)	

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Common Name	Nodding onion	9RP
Synonyms	Lady's leek	
Scientific Name	<i>Allium cernuum</i>	
Synonyms		
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Onion (<i>Alliaceae</i>) [<i>Amaryllidaceae</i>]	
Description Overall	A native plant with flat, narrow, grass-like leaves and tiny bell-shaped pale pink to lilac-pink flowers which appear in loose nodding clusters (umbels) a top erect, leafless stems rising slightly above the foliage.	
Height	12 to 18 inches	
Leaf	Flat, narrow, grass-like, basal leaves erect, ascending or arching up to 12 inches long, linear in shape, medium green, smooth with parallel venation.	
Flower	Small, bell-shaped, pale pink flowers in nodding cluster	
Fruit or seed	An unsheathed, slender, conical purplish bulb.	
Bloom time	June - August	
Habitat	Dry woods, rock outcroppings and prairies [Foothills - Subalpine]	
Range	Most of U.S. and southern Canada	
Where Found in Park	DP, OM, lower MC	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Allium</i> is the ancient Latin name for <i>garlic</i>, <i>cernuum</i> means <i>nodding</i>.</p> <p>Its medicinal uses are similar to garlic and it is edible. Native Americans used the bulbs as a treatment for croup, colic, colds and fever. The juice of the plant is used as an insect repellent. Native peoples, trappers and early settlers used it as food. Bulbs are eaten by bears and ground squirrels. Elk and deer graze the early spring leaves.</p>	
Similar species		
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (both), Drawing USDA	

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Common Name	Pinedrops	10RP
Synonyms	Giant bird's nest	
Scientific Name	<i>Pterospora andromedea</i>	
Synonyms		
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Pinesap (<i>Monotropaceae</i>) [<i>Ericaceae</i>]	
Description Overall	Native reddish-purple, tall fleshy plant with reduced scale-type leaves.	
Height	To 3 feet	
Leaf	Tannish brown, slender to 1 inch, hairy and translucent or lacking leaves.	
Flower	Bell shaped and drooping from stout, red stems, petals reddish and yellow-green.	
Fruit or seed	Brown, rounded capsules which split open in 5 segments.	
Bloom time	June - August	
Habitat	Dry pine forest under debris [Foothills - Montane]	
Range	Western U.S., MI, New England and all Canada	
Where Found in Park	OM, MP, BE near NEC in forest, MC at beginning of canyon section, CA below Staunton Rocks, BL, BP	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Pteros</i> is Greek for <i>wing</i> and <i>spora</i> means <i>seed</i>. Its seeds are minute with fragile, lacy, transparent cellular wings, many times the size of the seed and providing buoyancy for wind dispersal. In Greek mythology Andromeda was the daughter of King Cepheus and Cassipela. She reappears in the 2010 film, <i>Clash of the Titans</i>.</p> <p>This plant lacks chlorophyll, and cannot make its own food. It is a saprophyte which feeds on the debris in pine forests. In the Northwest, it often grows beneath Ponderosa pines. Look for last year's dried plant standing erect (top right photo) in the woods until the new growth pushes it aside.</p> <p>The plant contains <i>glycosides</i> which could be toxic.</p>	
Similar species		
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all), Drawing USDA	

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Common Name	Beebalm	11RP
Synonyms	Horsemint, Pink or Wild bergamot, Lemon mint	
Scientific Name	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	
Synonyms	<i>M. menthifolia</i>	
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Mint (<i>Lamiaceae</i>)	
Description Overall	Native plant that grows in clumps, with erect, square, unbranched, stem. Flowers are crowded in roundish pink clusters.	
Height	To 3 feet	
Leaf	3½ inches long, opposite, bright green, egg shaped, sharp teeth (like a saw).	
Flower	3 inches across, rose-pink roundish clusters with two lipped petals and hairy spiny sepals.	
Fruit or seed	Small smooth nutlet with thick bony wall.	
Bloom time	June - August	
Habitat	Sunny hillsides and slopes, meadows, gullies [Plains - Montane]	
Range	TX to Canada, OR to WS	
Where Found in Park	SR,MC	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Monarda</i> was named in honor of Nicolas Monardes, a 16th century botanical writer. <i>Fistulosa</i> may refer to its hollow stem.</p> <p>Leaves exude a mint odor when crushed. Plants in Mint Family usually have square stems (but not all plants with square stems are mints).</p> <p>Pueblo peoples used the leaves for flavoring meats, soups and stews. The plant's volatile oil contains <i>thymol</i>, an antiseptic drug. Native Americans used the plant to treat open sores, wounds and as an eye wash. It was also used for headaches, fever and heart attack. Teas were brewed to treat colds, flu, and fevers.</p> <p>This plant is frequently visited by bees and hummingbirds, and it is a nice addition to butterfly or native gardens.</p>	
Similar species		
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all)	

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Common Name	Scarlet Gilia	12RP
Synonyms	Fairy trumpet, Skyrocket	
Scientific Name	<i>Ipomopsis aggregate collina</i>	
Synonyms		
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Phlox (<i>Polemoniaceae</i>)	
Description Overall	Native, biennial with slender stem, and bright red, trumpet-shaped flowers, clustered near top.	
Height	To 5 feet	
Leaf	2½ inches long, sticky and pinnately dissected; basal rosette 1 st year (top right photo).	
Flower	To 2 inches long; red, white or salmon-pink with silvery hairs along the surface.	
Fruit or seed	Dry, multi-chambered fruit splitting at maturity.	
Bloom time	June - September	
Habitat	Sunny, open woods, rocky slopes and dry fields [Foothills - Montane]	
Range	CO and NM	
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, MC, BMC	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Ipomoea</i> because it was similar to a genus including morning glories, one of which has tubular red flowers. The genus was named for Andre Michaux in 1803. <i>Gilia</i> was for Filippo Luigi Gilii (1756-1821) an Italian naturalist. The red-flowered plants are pollinated by hummingbirds and the white-flowered plants by hawk moths; also pollinated by bumblebees and native bees. The long tube and red color prevent many insects from feeding at the flower because their tongues are too short and they cannot see the color red. Cross-pollination can result in pink flowers. Red-flowered plants tend to grow in different canyons than white-flowered plants. They are reported to be poisonous, but sheep eat it without illness. Native Americans used it medicinally and in ceremonies. Seeds are utilized by birds, flowers and foliage by small mammals and grazers.</p>	
Similar species		
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (top both, lower left), easterncoloradowildflowers.com (lower right)	

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Common Name	Fireweed	13RP
Synonyms	Willowweed	
Scientific Name	<i>Chamerion danielsii</i>	
Synonyms	<i>C.angustifolium</i> , <i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>	
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Evening Primrose (<i>Onagraceae</i>)	
Description Overall	Native with erect stems and clusters of bright pinkish-purple flowers near top; can grow in large patches.	
Height	To 6 feet	
Leaf	To 8 inches long, simple, lance-shaped, with wavy, weakly-toothed margins.	
Flower	4 petals, pink to red or purplish, generally above leaves, and long stamen.	
Fruit or seed	3 inch long pods that release seeds with white silky hairs that are wind dispersed. (see lower right photo)	
Bloom time	July - September	
Habitat	Along roads, in burned areas & forest openings, edges of woods [Foothills - Subalpine]	
Range	U.S. and Canada, except TX and Southeast	
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, MC canyon, below Elk Falls, lower BMC, MP, SL, south of Elk Creek road	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Chamae</i> means <i>lowly</i> in Greek and <i>nerium</i> means <i>oleander</i> for its leaf shape. Because fireweed can colonize disturbed sites, including after a fire, it is used to reestablish vegetation, hence its common name.</p> <p>The young shoots were often collected in the spring by Native American people and mixed with other greens. As the plant matures the leaves become tough and somewhat bitter. They are a good source of vitamin A and C when properly prepared soon after picking. In Alaska, candies, syrups, jellies and even ice cream are made from fireweed.</p>	
Similar species	Alpine fireweed (<i>C.subdentatum</i>) – A much shorter plant than cousin above, leaves grow between the flowers and stick out. (See separate page)	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (top both, lower left), Al Schneider ©swcoloradowildflowers.com (lower right)	

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Common Name	Coneflower	14RP
Synonyms	Green prairie coneflower, Mexican hat	
Scientific Name	<i>Ratibida tagetes</i>	
Synonyms		
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Sunflower (<i>Asteraceae</i>)	
Description Overall	Native, perennial herb with drooping, deep-maroon ray flowers (petal-like) around green disk flowers raised in a cylindrical column to 1½ inches high atop a long, smooth, flexible stem.	
Height	12 to 18 inches	
Leaf	Fine medium grey-green foliage dissected in narrow, hairy lobes.	
Flower	Disk flowers form a tall, slender green central column with drooping deep-maroon petals.	
Fruit or seed	Achenes (nut-like fruit).	
Bloom time	July - August	
Habitat	Dry, open sites and along roads [Plains - Foothills]	
Range	AZ to MO and SD to TX	
Where Found in Park	Found very near RH group picnic area, thus probably came in when area was reseeded. It first appeared summer of 2014.	
Comments and Fun Facts	Common name comes because the flower resembles a sombrero or <i>Mexican Hat</i> . This plant is native to mid-west and it very drought tolerant.	
Similar species	Upright Prairie Coneflower (<i>R.columniflora</i>) has longer yellow or yellow and red ray flowers. It hasn't been found at SSP but both are common in wildflower seed mixes. The variation in color of rays of the <i>R.columnifera</i> may be due to past hybridization with <i>R. tagetes</i> . (right photo)	
Photo Credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (top both), Drawing USDA	

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Common Name	Pasque flower 1BP
Synonyms	Prairie crocus, Prairie anemone, May Day or Easter flower
Scientific Name	<i>Pulsatilla ludoviciana</i>
Synonyms	<i>P.patens hirsutissima</i> , <i>Anemone patens multifida</i>
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Buttercup (<i>Ranunculaceae</i>)
Description Overall	Native, very early spring blooming perennial that occurs in colonies with one large purplish, crocus-type flower per stem.
Height	8 to 15 inches
Leaf	Fine, slender leaves which gradually unfold below the flower. Flowers emerge before the leaves which are basal; also a whorl of thin stem leaves are beneath flower.
Flower	Lavender to purple, cup-shaped, 5-7 petal-like sepals resembling a tulip.
Fruit or seed	1 inch long hairy plumes, achenes not winged. (see middle left photo)
Bloom time	April - June
Habitat	Open forests [Plains - Alpine]
Range	Rockies to TX, Northern U.S. from West Coast to Great Lakes, most of Canada
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, lower MC
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Pasque</i> is old French, for <i>paskha</i> or <i>Passover</i> of the Jewish faith. Easter for the season when this flower blooms. It is the state flower of South Dakota. One of the earliest species to bloom.</p> <p>All parts are POISONOUS either taken internally or applied to the skin – it can irritate the skin even causing blisters. Domestic sheep have died from feeding on this plant. It contains a volatile oil and some tribes used it as a medicinal irritant.</p> <p>Denver Botanic Garden’s alpine area has beautiful dark purple Eurasian species which are worth a trip to see during spring.</p> <p>This plant is pollinated by flies, butterflies, wasps, native bees and bumblebees.</p>
Similar species	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all)

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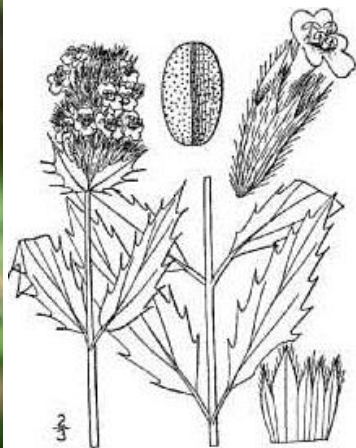
Common Name	Tall chiming bells 2BP
Synonyms	Languid ladies, Mountain or Stream-side bluebells, Lungwort
Scientific Name	<i>Mertensia ciliata</i>
Synonyms	<i>M. picta</i>
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Borage (<i>Boraginaceae</i>)
Description Overall	Native flower similar to blue bells but taller plant.
Height	To 4 feet tall, with an erect, curved, leafy stem.
Leaf	Lance-shaped to 6 inches, alternating, soft, smooth and deeply veined.
Flower	¾ inch blue bell-shaped flowers in nodding clusters which start off being pinkish.
Fruit or seed	Wrinkled nutlet.
Bloom time	June - August
Habitat	Stream-sides, ponds, and other moist areas [Montane - Alpine]
Range	Western US except CA and WA
Where Found in Park	SR, MC, BMC, North Elk Creek
Comments and Fun Facts	<p>This genus was named in honor of a German botanist, F. K. Mertens (1764-1831). This flower is also known as <i>Languid ladies</i>, with <i>languid</i> meaning <i>drooping from weakness or fatigue</i>.</p> <p>Native peoples used the roots of this plant to relieve itching caused by measles and smallpox.</p> <p>Chiming bells are eaten by elk, mule deer, and bears, and elk often bed down or calve in clusters of these flowers.</p> <p>The flowers remain pinkish until they are fertile, thus signaling their pollinators that they are not ready to be pollinated.</p>
Similar species	Lance-leaf chiming bells (<i>M. lanceolata</i>) – to 12 inches high in dry places. (see separate page)
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (top left, middle both), Mary Ellen Harte USDA bugwood.org (bottom), rockymountainflora.com (top right)

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Common Name	Wild iris 3BP
Synonyms	Western blue flag, Rocky Mountain iris
Scientific Name	<i>Iris missouriensis</i>
Synonyms	
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Iris (<i>Iridaceae</i>)
Description Overall	Native plant with clumps of sword-shaped leaves with slender, leafless, flower stalks with purple flower, similar to cultivated "iris" flowers.
Height	1 to 2 feet
Leaf	To 20 inches simple, stiff, upright, narrow, basal leaves.
Flower	4 inches across bluish purple flowers with darker purple veins and yellow. A white flower is rare. (bottom right photo)
Fruit or seed	Pod (capsule) 1/3 to 2 inches long (top right photo).
Bloom time	May - July
Habitat	Moist open areas, wet meadows [Foothills - Subalpine]
Range	Western U.S. (non-desert), east of Cascades
Where Found in Park	DP, Cabin district, MC connector, SR/MP junction, lower BMC
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Iris</i> is Greek for <i>rainbow</i>. This species was named for the source of the Missouri River.</p> <p>It is poisonous, and contains <i>irisin</i>, which irritates liver, pancreas, and digestive tract. Some Native Americans mashed a piece of rootstalk to use on tooth or gum aches to relieve pain. Until 1947 it was an official drug in the U.S. National Formulary for the treatment of syphilis.</p> <p>It is pollinated by native bees, bumblebees, and butterflies. Its flowers provide a large landing pad for the pollinators and the lined coloration on the petals provide visual clues to guide pollinators to the nectar and pollen.</p>
Similar species	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all)

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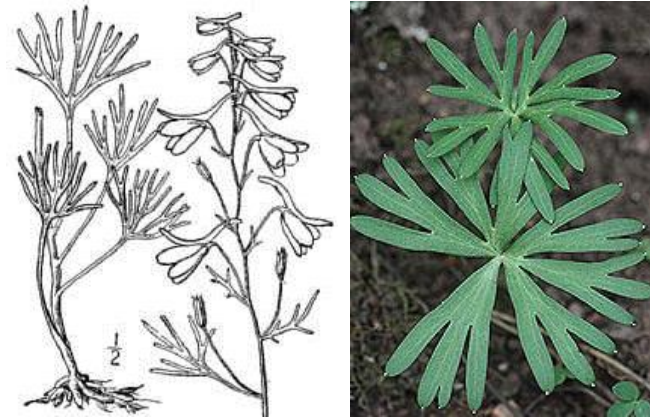


Common Name	Dragonhead mint 4BP
Synonyms	Dragon head, American dragonhead
Scientific Name	<i>Dracocephalum parviflorum</i>
Synonyms	<i>Moldavica parviflora</i>
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Mint (<i>Lamiaceae</i>)
Description Overall	Native, annual/biennial, is a weedy species, with tiny, purple flowers in a spike-like cluster.
Height	To 18 inches
Leaf	3 inches long, opposite, light green, large coarsely toothed, which stand out stiffly in an open airy pattern on erect, thick, square stem, typically branched. Surfaces and the stem are smooth to sparsely hairy.
Flower	1/3 inch long, blue, purplish or pinkish flower, in a thick, spike-like cluster, up to 4 inches long. Flowers are tubular with notched upper lip and 3 lobed lower, interspersed with comb-like (pectinate) bracts with spines at the tooth tips.
Fruit or seed	Nutlet, 1-seeded, black, high in oil content.
Bloom time	May - August
Habitat	Mountain meadows, disturbed soils [Foothills – Montane]
Range	Canada and northern half of U.S., including four corners states, NV, MS, and TN
Where Found in Park	DP, lower MC
Comments and Fun Facts	In Greek, <i>dracon</i> means <i>dragon</i> and <i>cephale</i> means <i>head</i> . <i>Parviflorum</i> is Latin for <i>small flowered</i> . The plant has been used by native peoples to treat diarrhea in children. A cold compound infusion has been used in the treatment of fevers and headaches. Externally, it has been used as an eyewash. Its leaves were used as flavoring and its seeds as food.
Similar species	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all), Drawing USDA



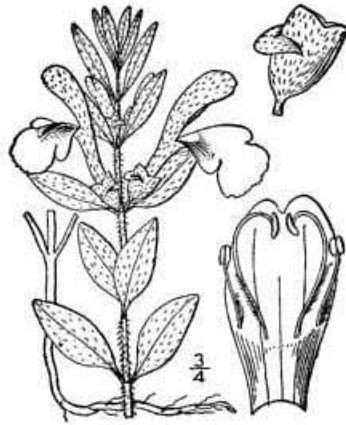
Common Name	Leatherbell	5BP
Synonyms	Sugarbowls, Leatherflower, Hairy clematis	
Scientific Name	<i>Coriflora hirsutissima</i>	
Synonyms	<i>C.douglasii</i> , <i>Clematis hirsutissima</i>	
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Buttercup (<i>Ranunculaceae</i>)	
Description Overall	Native bushy plant with erect slender stems producing small hairy leaf clusters with a purple bell-shaped flower which hangs down.	
Height	1 to 2 feet	
Leaf	Compound, feathery segments, opposite.	
Flower	To 1½ inches long, deep purple, urn-shaped flower which hang down, covered with fine grey hairs; a yellow center peaks out of petal tips.	
Fruit or seed	Silky, feathery, seed clusters, similar to Pasque flowers. (see bottom photo)	
Bloom time	May - June	
Habitat	Open, grassy slopes, meadows and pine forests [Plains - Montane]	
Range	Western U.S. except CA and NV	
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, lower MC	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Coriarius</i> is Greek for <i>of leather</i> referring to the texture of the tepals (combined petals and sepals). <i>Hirsute</i> means <i>hairy</i> or <i>clothed with coarse, straight spreading hairs</i>. The first specimen was collected by Meriwether Lewis in Idaho in May 1806. He referred to it as “one of the most common plants of the plains.”</p> <p>When the flowers first appear they are upright but they soon dangle “spilling any sugar that their bowls may contain.” Thus some of us agree that the common name “Leatherbell” is more appropriate.</p>	
Similar species		
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all),	

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Common Name	Nelson's larkspur	6BP
Synonyms	Early spring, Nuttall's, Low or Two-Lobe larkspur	
Scientific Name	<i>Delphinium nuttallianum</i>	
Synonyms	<i>D.nelsonii</i>	
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Hellebore (<i>Helleboraceae</i>) [<i>Ranunculaceae</i>]	
Description Overall	Native perennial with slender, smooth stem with clusters of purplish-blue flowers with conspicuous spur (nectary).	
Height	To 2 feet	
Leaf	Many, narrow, deeply divided leaves on long stalks; basal leaves wither when flowers bloom.	
Flower	To 1 inch long, deep blue-purple, 5 petal-like sepals, one which is spurred. Buds resemble dolphins leaping. (see bottom right photo)	
Fruit or seed	Starburst-shaped seed pods.	
Bloom time	May - June	
Habitat	Meadows, open woods [Plains – Montane]	
Range	Western U.S. including SD and NE, and southwestern Canada	
Where Found in Park	DP, MC, SR	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p>Nuttall is for Thomas Nuttall, 19th century botanist and teacher at Harvard Univ. Namesake for Larkspur, CO, as well as Larkspur, CA.</p> <p>All parts of all larkspur species contain potent neurotoxins that are very poisonous to cattle and may affect sheep and horses. The new growth and the seeds contain the highest concentrations of toxic substances. The neurotoxins, lead to respiratory failure, bloat and often death.</p> <p>Teas and alcohol extracts made from seeds have been used to kill lice and cure scabies.</p>	
Similar species	Subalpine larkspur (<i>D.barbeyi</i>) taller, up to 6 feet, blooms mid-summer, but flower is the same. (see separate page)	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (top left, bottom left), rockymountainflora.com (top right), easterncoloradowildflowers.com (middle right, bottom right), Drawing USDA	

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Common Name	Skullcap 7BP
Synonyms	Britton's skullcap
Scientific Name	<i>Scutellaria brittonii</i>
Synonyms	
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Mint (<i>Lamiaceae</i>)
Description Overall	A small native perennial plant with purple flowers in pairs, spreading from rhizomes.
Height	5 to 10 inches
Leaf	To ¾ inch, simple, opposite, egg shaped, grey-green which originate in pairs on the entire, square stem.
Flower	Purplish blue pairs of flowers with white ribs on lower lip which are attached at the nodes of the stem.
Fruit or seed	Nutlet with thick and bony wall surrounding a single seed.
Bloom time	May - July
Habitat	Openings in dry pine forests, on dry open slopes [Plains - Montane]
Range	CO, KS, NE, NM and WY
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, MC, lower BMC, SL
Comments and Fun Facts	<i>Scutella</i> is Latin for <i>dish</i> or <i>little shield</i> referring to the humpbacked calyx. It was named in honor of an American botanist, Lord Britton (1859-1934).
Similar species	Marsh Skullcap (<i>S. epilobifolia</i>) – non-native to 3 feet tall. (see separate page)
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all), Drawing USDA

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Common Name	Common harebell 8BP
Synonyms	Bluebells of Scotland, Bellflower, Witches' thimble
Scientific Name	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>
Synonyms	
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Bellflower (<i>Campanulaceae</i>)
Description Overall	Native, perennial, slender and erect, branched stems, with multiple, small blue bell-shaped flowers.
Height	6 inches to 2 feet
Leaf	3½ inches, alternate, linear.
Flower	Blue to purple, bell-shaped, several per stem; 5 short, fused sepals.
Fruit or seed	Nodding capsules.
Bloom time	June - September
Habitat	Grassy slopes, meadows; dry mountain slopes [Foothills - Subalpine]
Range	Most of U.S. and Canada, except Southeast, NV, KS, OK and KY
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, lower MC, lower BMC, BE above and below Elk Falls
Comments and Fun Facts	<i>Rotundifolia</i> means <i>round-leaved</i> , but refers to the roundish leaves at its base which tend to wither early. <i>Campanula</i> is the diminutive of <i>campana</i> which in Latin means <i>bell</i> . Harebell alludes to witches who were believed to be able to transform selves into hares. They were used for many medicinal purposes including an infusion of root as drops for sore ear, or its roots were chewed for heart ailments. The plants were rubbed on the body as protection from witches or while hunting. They are pollinated by butterflies, native bees and bumblebees. Plants are available in nurseries and are great for butterfly gardens and do tolerate shade. They attract hummingbirds. The flowers are edible.
Similar species	Parry's harebell (<i>C. parryi</i>) – single larger flower on one-stemmed plant; flower is flatter. (see separate page)
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (top, middle both, bottom right), Al Schneider ©swcoloradowildflowers.com (bottom left and center), Drawing USDA

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Common Name	Colorado columbine	9BP
Synonyms		
Scientific Name	<i>Aquilegia coerulea</i>	
Synonyms		
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Hellebore (<i>Helleboraceae</i>) [<i>Ranunculaceae</i>]	
Description Overall	Native with distinctive flower with blue-green foliage and large blue and white flowers.	
Height	To 3 feet	
Leaf	1 inch long, compound, with 3 leaflets, mostly basal.	
Flower	3 inches across, blue and white spurred petals.	
Fruit or seed	Erect clusters of 5-6 densely glandular-hairy pods.	
Bloom time	June - August	
Habitat	Open, moist forests, aspen groves [Foothills - Alpine]	
Range	Western U.S. except coastal states, plus SD	
Where Found in Park	SR, OM, upper BMC, MC, MP, BE, south of Elk Creek road	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p>This is the state flower of Colorado.</p> <p><i>Aqua</i> is Latin for <i>water</i> and <i>legere</i> means <i>to collect</i>, referring to the nectar at the base of each spur. Species of columbines vary dramatically in length of their spurs, which match the tongue lengths of major pollinators (i.e. bees, hummingbirds and moths). This one ranges in color from dark blue with shorter spurs at higher elevations to pale blue with longer spurs at lower elevations. The lighter color/longer spurs are believed to be an adaption for pollination by hawk moths at the upper end of their range. Hawk moths have tongues up to 14 inches long, and keep them coiled up under their heads when not in use.</p> <p>This plant can be somewhat toxic as forage; all parts of the plant are poisonous to humans.</p>	
Similar species	There are two other variations of <i>A.coerulea</i> in SSP. A subspecies <i>daileyae</i> coexists, lacking nectaries (spurs), shown in bottom right photo. Also a red hybrid was planted. (see separate page)	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (all)	



Common Name	Stickseed 10BP
Synonyms	False forget-me-not, Many-flowered stickseed
Scientific Name	<i>Hackelia floribunda</i>
Synonyms	
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Borage (<i>Boraginaceae</i>)
Description Overall	Native, biennial or short-lived perennial plant with clusters of small blue flowers which have a yellow eye.
Height	To 4 feet
Leaf	To 6 inches long, simple, lance-shaped and narrow, grayish and hairy beneath; with stout, hairy, fleshy stems.
Flower	Small, ¼ inch across, 5-petaled blue with yellow center, cup-shaped flowers, in clusters which droop.
Fruit or seed	Nutlets, 4 per each flower with prickles which have 2 barbs at their ends. Nutlets turn to face the same direction (second).
Bloom time	June - August
Habitat	Meadows and forest clearings which are wet during the spring [Foothills - Subalpine]
Range	Western U.S. including PA and Southern Canada
Where Found in Park	DP, MC
Comments and Fun Facts	<i>Hackelia</i> is from Joseph Hackel, who was a Czech botanist. <i>Floribunda</i> means <i>many-flowered</i> . Seeds of stickseed are challenging to remove from fur or clothing, and this ensures seed distribution far from the plant. Navajo peoples considered the plant to be poisonous and used its roots to treat serious injuries such as a fracture. The same native culture used the leaves and pollen in various ways for good luck in gambling and trading.
Similar species	
Photo Credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (top, middle left), Al Schneider ©swcoloradowildflowers.com (bottom), Drawing USDA

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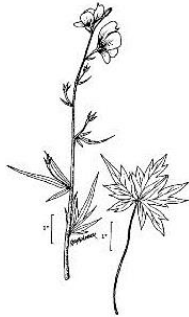
Common Name	Silvery lupine	11BP
Synonyms	Common lupine	
Scientific Name	<i>Lupinus argenteus</i>	
Synonyms		
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Pea (<i>Fabaceae</i>)	
Description Overall	Native, perennial growing singly or in colonies with distinctive palmate leaves and spike of pea-type flowers.	
Height	2 to 3 feet	
Leaf	To 3 inches long, palmately compound, divided into 5-11 slender leaflets; silvery and alternate.	
Flower	Blue-purple to white spike.	
Fruit or seed	To 1½ inch long, hairy pea-like pod with 4 to 6 seeds.	
Bloom time	June - September	
Habitat	Along trails, slopes, hillsides and open forests [Plains - Subalpine]	
Range	Western U.S. and Canada	
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, lower BMC	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Lupus</i> is Latin for wolf because of an old belief that it ruins soil. Wm. Weber lists nine lupines in Eastern CO. Entire plant, including fruits and seeds are poisonous to sheep so should not be considered edible. Children may think their seed pod is a “pea” and eat them. Native American tribes roasted the roots or used leaves for a potherb. The Navajo peoples made a greenish-yellow dye from lupine plants.</p> <p>Bees pollinate them; plants are drought tolerant and used in wildflower meadows or to attract butterflies. Some lupines are nitrogen fixing allowing plants to supply their own source of nitrogen through a symbiotic relationship with bacteria. Lupine hybrids are commonly available in garden centers and vary in color from deep purple to pink.</p>	
Similar species	Lodgepole lupine (<i>L. parviflorus myrianthus</i>) – deeper purple flower, grows in CO, UT and NM, associated with Lodgepole pines. (Not found in SSP yet, please report sightings to Park staff.) (bottom right photo)	
Photo credits	Rockymountainflora.com (top left, bottom right), Al Schneider @swcoloradowildflowers.com (middle and lower left), Staunton SP Volunteers (top and middle right)	

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Common Name	Blue mist penstemon	12BP
Synonyms	Low or Greenleaf penstemon, Front Range beardtongue	
Scientific Name	<i>Penstemon virens</i>	
Synonyms		
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Figwort (<i>Scrophulariaceae</i>) [<i>Plantaginaceae</i>]	
Description Overall	Dense mats of bright, shiny, green, native plants with dainty spikes of sky blue flowers on 6-10 erect, slender stems.	
Height	6 to 10 inches	
Leaf	To 3 inches, opposite, bright, shiny, green, lance-shaped, basal and clasping.	
Flower	½ inch long, tubular, sky blue with 5 fused petals, a 3-lobed lower lip and 2-lobed upper lip.	
Fruit or seed	Capsule	
Bloom time	June	
Habitat	Rocky, gravelly hillsides [Foothills – Subalpine]	
Range	WY and CO	
Where Found in Park	DP, SR, MC, SL	
Comments and Fun Facts	<p><i>Pente</i> is Greek for <i>five</i>. <i>Stamon</i> means <i>thread</i>. <i>Virens</i> means <i>green</i>, referring to the color of its leaves.</p> <p>Most abundant, small-flowered <i>penstemon</i> of the foothills. “They turn the foothills blue in June” per Wm Weber.</p> <p>They are pollinated by hummingbirds and bees. Plant can be ground and combined with vegetable oil and beeswax to produce a salve considered to be useful for skin irritations and as a lip balm.</p>	
Similar species	Other <i>Penstemon sp.</i> in SSP have much larger flowers. (see separate pages)	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (top both, lower right), easterncoloradowildflowers.com (lower left)	

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Common Name	Monk's hood	13BP
Synonyms	Columbian monkshood	
Scientific Name	<i>Aconitum columbianum</i>	
Synonyms		
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Hellebore (<i>Helleboraceae</i>) [<i>Ranunculaceae</i>]	
Description Overall	Tall native plant with several stems and stalks of purple-hooded flowers.	
Height	To 6 feet	
Leaf	To 8 inches, simple, palmately lobed (like a hand), alternate.	
Flower	1 inch x ½ inch wide with 5 blue/purple petals on tall flower stalks, 1 petal forming the distinctive hood ; occasionally white.	
Fruit or seed	Erect clusters of 3-5 linear pods.	
Bloom time	June - August	
Habitat	Forest openings, wet meadows and thickets [Montane - Alpine]	
Range	Western U.S. including SD and IA, BC in Canada	
Where Found in Park	DP, lower BMC, BE meadows, MC in canyon along creek	
Comments and Fun Facts	Beautiful but deadly, this plant is poisonous to both people and animals . All parts of the plant contain <i>aconitine</i> , a neurotoxin. Ingestion of even a small amount results in severe digestive upset. In a few minutes after the introduction of poisonous dose symptoms appear with a sensation of burning, tingling, and numbness in the mouth and followed by steady fall in the pulse and respiration steadily with death occurring from asphyxia. The plant has a very distinctive and unpleasant taste so accidental poisoning is rare. Bumblebees are its pollinator, but other insects are known to skip the tricky entry, just chew a hole in the base of the flower and "steal" the nectar, therefore not pollinating it.	
Similar species	Sub-alpine Larkspur (<i>Delphinium barbeyi</i>) – similar leaves but flowers differ with larkspur having sharp spur at back of flower. They often grow together. (see separate page)	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (top left, top right, lower center), Al Schneider @swcoloradowildflowers.com (top center, lower left), Drawing USDA	

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Common Name	Leafy aster	14BP
Synonyms	Alpine leafy-bract aster	
Scientific Name	<i>Symphotrichum foliaceum</i>	
Synonyms	<i>Aster foliaceum</i>	
Family Com. (Sci.) [APG IV]	Sunflower (<i>Asteraceae</i>)	
Description Overall	A native, purple daisy-type flowers with gold centers arising from leafy stems with ascending branches.	
Height	4 to 24 inches	
Leaf	Simple, to 3 inches long, slender and smooth, often clasping stem.	
Flower	Lavender to purple, narrow ray flowers (petals) with gold disk florets (centers); flower heads are about inches across and have large, leafy bracts (phillaries).	
Fruit or seed	Achene with pappus (fluff).	
Bloom time	July - September	
Habitat	Moist places in woods and mountain meadows [Montane – Subalpine]	
Range	Western U.S including NE, and southwestern Canada	
Where Found in Park	MC	
Comments and Fun Facts	They are of value to native bees and are a nice addition to a native garden.	
Similar species	Several subspecies which are difficult to distinguish.	
Photo credits	Staunton SP Volunteers (top), Drawing USDA, Al Schneider ©swcoloradowildflowers.com (middle, bottom)	

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