



Cooperative Extension Service

Brief facts . . .

Fire Wise landscaping can be aesthetically pleasing while reducing potential wildfire fuel.

Plant choice, spacing and maintenance are critical.

Your landscape and the plants in it must be maintained to retain their fire wise properties.

Fire Wise Plant Materials

Creating a defensible space around your home is one of the most important and effective steps you can take to protect you, your family and your home from catastrophic wildfire. Defensible space is the area between a structure and an oncoming wildfire (or between a burning structure and wildland vegetation) where nearby vegetation has been modified to reduce a wildfire's intensity.



Fire Resistance

Many native plants are highly flammable during different seasons of the year. At such times, left unmanaged, they can accelerate the spread of a wildfire through your neighborhood, threatening homes, property and lives.

All vegetation, naturally occurring and otherwise, is potential fuel for fire. Its type, amount and arrangement have a dramatic effect on fire behavior. There are no truly "fireproof" plant species. Plant choice, spacing and maintenance are critical to defensible space landscaping. Where and how you plant can be more important than what species you use. However, given alternatives, choose plant species that tend to be more fire resistant.

General concepts to keep in mind when choosing Fire Wise plant species:

- A plant's moisture content is the most important factor governing its volatility. (However, resin content and other factors in some species render them flammable even when the plant is well-watered.) Conifers tend to be flammable due to their oil and pitch content, regardless of water status.
- Deciduous plants tend to be more fire resistant, because their leaves have higher moisture content and their basic chemistry is less flammable. Also, when deciduous trees are dormant, there is less fuel to carry fire through their canopies.

In some cases, there is a strong correlation between drought tolerance and fire resistance. Examples of drought tolerant characteristics that can increase fire resistance:

- Drought deciduous plants drop their leaves or needles in extreme drought.
- Some drought-adapted species have smaller leaves or very succulent leaves that store moisture.
- Salt tolerant plants often show natural fire resistance. A notable exception to this trend is salt cedar, which is highly salt tolerant but contains extremely volatile oils and burns very hot.

Plants that are more resistant to wildfire have one or more of the following characteristics:

- They grow without accumulating large amounts of combustible dead branches, needles or leaves (aspen).
- They have open, loose branches with a low volume of total vegetation (currant and mountain mahogany).
- They have low sap or resin content (many deciduous species).
- They have high moisture content (succulents and some herbaceous plants).
- They grow slowly and need little maintenance (do not need frequent pruning).
- They are short and grow close to the ground (small wildflowers and groundcovers).



For more information on . . .

Wildland fire. Check out the Southwest Area World Wide Web page at www.fs.fed.us/r3/fire/

Wildland urban interface issues and recommendations on creating defensible space. Find good information at www.colostate.edu/Depts/CSFS/fire/interface.htm

Wildland urban interface issues, go to www.firewise.org

- They can reestablish following a fire, reducing relandscaping costs (aspen, New Mexico locust).

Some additional tips to follow when planning a Fire Wise landscape include:

- Landscape according to the recommended defensible-space zones. The plants nearest your home should be more widely spaced and smaller than those farther away.
- Plant in small, irregular clusters and islands, not in large masses.
- Break up the continuity of the vegetation (fuel) with decorative rock, gravel and stepping stone pathways. This will help modify fire behavior and slow its spread across your property.
- Plant a variety of types and species. Besides being aesthetically pleasing, this will help ensure a healthier ecosystem by reducing insects and diseases. A healthy, vigorous landscape can better resist catastrophic fires than unhealthy ones with insect and disease problems.
- In the event of drought and water rationing, prioritize the plants you wish to save. Provide supplemental water to those nearest your home. If you want to use “gray water,” you need a separate cesspool, and your wastewater recycling system must have a permit and be approved by the New Mexico Environment Department.
- Mulch to conserve moisture and reduce weed growth. Mulch can be organic (wood chips or small bark pieces) or inorganic (gravel or rock). Avoid pine bark, thick layers of pine needles or other materials that can easily carry fire.

Don't Forget Maintenance

A landscape is a dynamic, constantly changing system. Plants considered “fire resistant” and that have low fuel volumes can lose these characteristics over time. Your landscape and the plants in it must be maintained to retain their Fire Wise properties.

- Be aware of the growth habits of plants on your land and the changes that occur seasonally. Stay ahead of the need to reduce fuel volumes and break up fuel continuity.
- Remove annual, herbaceous plants after they have gone to seed or when the stems dry out.
- Rake up and dispose of litter as it builds up over the season.
- Mow or trim grasses to a low height within your defensible space. Keep grass shortest in the inner part of your defensible space and no more than 6 inches high in the outer portions. This is especially important as they begin to cure and dry.
- Remove plant parts damaged by snow, wind, frost, insect or disease.
- Timely pruning is critical. It not only reduces fuel volume, but also maintains healthier plants with more succulent, vigorous growth.

This publication is based on and borrowed heavily from a publication by Chuck Dennis of the Colorado State Forest Service, Colorado State University. Thanks to our neighbors to the north.

Fire Wise Plant List for New Mexico

Trees and Large Shrubs

| Scientific Name | Common Name | Appr. Water Needs | Sun/Shade Pref. | Appr. Mature Height (feet) | Elevation (1,000 feet) | | | | | | Appr. Bloom Month |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|------------------------|---|---|---|---|----|-------------------|
| | | | | | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9+ | |
| <i>Acer glabrum</i> | Rocky Mountain maple | M-H | S/PS/Sh | 6-10 | N | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | n/a |
| <i>Acer grandidentatum</i> | Big-tooth maple | M-H | S/PS | 10-20 | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | n/a |
| <i>Alnus oblongifolia</i> | NM or Arizona alder | H | S/PS | 50-60 | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | n/a |
| <i>Alnus tenuifolia</i> | Thin-leaf alder | H | S/PS | 10-20 | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | n/a |
| <i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i> | Saskatoon alder-leaf serviceberry | L-M | S | 6-15 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Apr-May |
| <i>Amelanchier utahensis</i> | Utah serviceberry | VL-M | S | 5-10 | ? | Y | Y | Y | ? | N | May |
| <i>Betula occidentalis</i> | Water birch | H | S/PS | 6-10 | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | n/a |
| <i>Celtis reticulata</i> | Netleaf hackberry | L-M | S | 10-20 | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | N | |
| <i>Cercis canadensis</i> | Redbud tree | M | S | 5-15 | Y | Y | Y | ? | N | N | Apr |
| <i>Chilopsis linearis</i> | Desert willow | L-M | S/PS | 6-20 | Y | Y | Y | ? | ? | N | May-Aug |
| <i>Crataegus erythropoda</i> | Red hawthorn | M-H | S/PS | 6-8 | N | ? | Y | Y | Y | ? | May |
| <i>Crataegus rivularis</i> | River hawthorn | H | S/PS | 8-10 | | | Y | Y | Y | ? | May |
| <i>Forestiera neomexicana</i> | New Mexico olive | L-M | S/PS | 10-20 | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | N | n/a |
| <i>Fraxinus anomala</i> | Singleleaf ash | M-H | S/PS | 10-20 | Y | Y | Y | ? | N | N | n/a |
| <i>Fraxinus cuspidata</i> | Flowering (or fragrant) ash | M | S/PS | 10-15 | ? | Y | Y | Y | ? | N | Apr-May |
| <i>Fraxinus velutina</i> | Velvet ash | M | S/PS | 20-30 | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | n/a |
| <i>Juglans major</i> | Arizona walnut | M-H | S | 20-40 | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | n/a |
| <i>Juglans minor</i> | Little walnut | M | S | 10-20 | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | N | n/a |
| <i>Mahonia trifoliata</i> | Algerita | L | S | 6-8 | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | ? | May-Jun |
| <i>Mahonia haematocarpa</i> | Red Mahonia | L | S | 6-10 | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | ? | May-Jun |
| <i>Platanus wrightii</i> | Arizona sycamore | M-H | S | 20-80 | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | n/a |
| <i>Populus angustifolia</i> | Narrow-leaf cottonwood | M-H | S | 30-90 | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | n/a |
| <i>Populus sargentii</i> | Plains cottonwood | M-H | S | 30-90 | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | n/a |
| <i>Populus wicklizenus</i> | Rio Grande cottonwood | M-H | S | 30-90 | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | ? | n/a |
| <i>Populus tremuloides</i> | Aspen | M-H | S | 20-40 | | | Y | Y | Y | Y | n/a |
| <i>Prunus americana</i> | American wild plum | M | S/PS | 10-20 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | Apr |
| <i>Prunus emarginata</i> | Bitter cherry | L-M | S/PS | 10-20 | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | May |
| <i>Prunus virginiana</i> | Western chokecherry | H | S/PS | 10-30 | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Apr |
| <i>Robinia neomexicana</i> | New Mexico locust | L-M | S/PS | 10-20 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Apr-Jun |
| <i>Salix amygdaloides</i> | Peachleaf willow | H | S/PS | 30-60 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | n/a |
| <i>Salix gooddingii</i> | Goodding's black willow | H | S/PS | 30-90 | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | ? | n/a |
| <i>Sambucus cerulea</i> | New Mexico elder | M | S-PS | 10-20 | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | May-Jun |
| <i>Sambucus mexicana</i> | Mexican elder | M | S-PS | 20-30 | Y | Y | Y | ? | N | N | May |
| <i>Shepherdia argentea</i> | Silver buffaloberry | M | S/PS | 10-15 | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | n/a |
| <i>Syringa vulgaris</i> | Common lilac | M | S | 6-8 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | May |
| <i>Yucca elata</i> | Soap tree yucca | VL-L | S | 3-15 | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | N | Jun |

Water needs: VL = very low, L = low, M = moderate, H = high

Sun shade preference: S = full sun, PS = partial sun, Sh = shade

Elevation in 1,000 feet: Y = yes, N = not recommended, ? = unknown or doubtful

Approximate bloom month is an estimate based on observed flowering or from field guides



Shrubs

| Scientific Name | Common Name | Appr. Water Needs | Sun/Shade Pref. | Appr. Mature Height (feet) | Elevation (1,000 feet) | | | | | | Appr. Bloom Month |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|------------------------|---|---|---|---|----|-------------------|
| | | | | | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9+ | |
| Agave parryi | Mescal | VL | S | 2-12 | Y | Y | Y | ? | N | N | Jun-Aug |
| Aloysia Wrightii or A. gratissima | Desert lavender | VL-L | S | 3-6 | Y | Y | Y | ? | N | N | Jun-Aug |
| Amorpha fruticosa | False indigo, indigobush | M-H | S/PS | 2-3 | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | N | May-July |
| Arctostaphylos uva-ursi | Kinnikinnick, bearberry | M-H | PS/Sh | 1-2 | ? | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | |
| Ceanothus fendleri | Buckbrush, Fendler ceanothus | M | S | 2 | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | May-Aug |
| Cercocarpus intricatus | Dwarf mountain mahogany | VL-L | S | 4-6 | ? | Y | Y | Y | ? | N | n/a |
| Cercocarpus montanus | Mountain mahogany | L-M | S/PS | 6-8 | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | ? | n/a |
| Chrysothamnus spp. | Rabbitbrush | VL-L | S | 2-6 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Jul-Aug |
| Cornus stolonifera | Red osier dogwood | H | S/Sh | 4-6 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Jun-Jul |
| Fallugia paradoxa | Apache plume | VL-L | S | 2-4 | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | N | Jun-Oct |
| Fendlera rupicola | Cliff fendlerbush | L-M | S/PS | 4-6 | ? | Y | Y | Y | ? | N | May |
| Fendlerella utahensis | Utah fendlerella | L-M | S | 3 | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | May |
| Holodiscus dumosus | Ocean spray, cliff or rock spirea | L-M | S/PS | 4 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Jun |
| Jamesia americana | Waxflower | M-H | S/Sh | 2-4 | N | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | Jun |
| Lonicera involucrata | Bush honeysuckle, inkberry | M-H | PS/Sh | 4 | N | ? | ? | Y | Y | Y | Jun |
| Mahonia repens | Creeping grape holly | L-H | S/Sh | 1-2 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Mar-May |
| Nolina microcarpa | Beargrass | VL-L | S | 3 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Jun |
| Opuntia imbricata | Cane cholla | VL-L | S | 3-5 | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | N | Apr |
| Opuntia lindheimeri | Cow tongue prickly pear | VL-L | S | 3-6 | Y | Y | Y | ? | N | N | Apr |
| Opuntia phaeacantha | Purple-fruit prickly pear | VL-L | S | 1-3 | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | ? | May |
| Penstemon ambiguus | Sand penstemon | VL-L | S | 1-3 | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | N | Jun-Jul |
| Philadelphus microphyllus | Little-leaf mock orange | M | S | 2-3 | N | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | Jun |
| Physocarpus monogynus | Mountain ninebark | M | S/Sh | 2-4 | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Jun |
| Potentilla fruticosa | Shrubby cinquefoil | M | S/PS | 2-3 | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | May-Sep |
| Purshia tridentata | Antelope bitterbrush | L-M | S | 1-3 | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | N | Jun-Aug |
| Ribes aureum | Golden currant | M | S/PS | 2-3 | ? | Y | Y | Y | ? | N | May |
| Rosa woodsii | Wood's wild rose | M | S/PS | 2-3 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | July |
| Shepherdia canadensis | Russet buffaloberry | M-H | S | 5-6 | N | ? | ? | Y | Y | Y | n/a |
| Symphoricarpos spp. | Snowberry | M-H | S/PS | 2-3 | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | n/a |
| Yucca baccata | Banana yucca | VL-L | S | 2-3 | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | N | Jun |
| Yucca glauca | Great Plains yucca | VL-L | S | 2-3 | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Jun |

Water needs: VL = very low, L = low, M = moderate, H = high

Sun shade preference: S = full sun, PS = partial sun, Sh = shade

Elevation in 1,000 feet: Y = yes, N = not recommended, ? = unknown or doubtful

Approximate bloom month is an estimate based on observed flowering or from field guides



Flowers and Ground Covers

| Scientific Name | Common Name | Appr. Water Needs | Sun Shade Pref. | Appr. Mature Height (feet) | Elevation (1,000 feet) | | | | | | Appr. Bloom Month |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|------------------------|---|---|---|---|----|-------------------|
| | | | | | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9+ | |
| <i>Achillea lanulosa</i> | Western yarrow | L-H | S/PS | 1.5-2 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Jul |
| <i>Aconitum columbianum</i> | Monkshood | M-H | S | 2 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Jun-Jul |
| <i>Allium cernuum</i> | Nodding onion | L-H | S/PS | 1 | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Jun |
| <i>Allium geoyeri</i> | Wild onion | L-H | S/PS | 1 | N | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | Jun |
| <i>Anemone patens</i> | Pasque flower | M | S/PS | 1 | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Mar |
| <i>Antennaria rosea</i> | Pink pussytoes | M | S/PS | <.5 | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Jun |
| <i>Aquilegia chrysantha</i> | Yellow columbine | M-H | S/PS | 1-2 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Jul |
| <i>Aquilegia coerulea</i> | Blue columbine | M-H | S/PS | 1-2 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Jun-Jul |
| <i>Aquilegia desertorum</i> | Red columbine | M-H | S/PS | 1-2 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Jun-Jul |
| <i>Artemisia frigida</i> | Fringed sage | VL-M | S | 1-1.5 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | n/a |
| <i>Aster laevis</i> | Smooth aster | L-H | S/PS | 1-3 | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | ? | Aug-Sep |
| <i>Calochortus</i> spp. | Mariposa lily | M-H | S | .5-2 | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Jul-Aug |
| <i>Claytonia lanceolata</i> | Spring beauty | M | Sh | .5-1.5 | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | Apr |
| <i>Convallaria majalis</i> | Lily of the valley | H | Sh | .5 | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | May |
| <i>Delphinium</i> spp. | Delphinium | M-H | S/PS | .5-3 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Jun-Jul |
| <i>Echinacea purpurea</i> | Purple coneflower | M | S | 2-3 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Jul-Aug |
| <i>Epilobium angustifolium</i> | Fireweed | H | S/PS | 3 | N | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | Jul-Aug |
| <i>Erigeron flagellaris</i> | Trailing fleabane | L-M | S | <1 | ? | Y | Y | Y | ? | N | Jun-Jul |
| <i>Erysimum asperum</i> | Western wallflower | M | S/PS | 1-2 | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Jun-Jul |
| <i>Gaillardia pulchella</i> | Blanket flower | L-M | S | 1-2 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Jul-Sep |
| <i>Gallium boreale</i> | Northern bedstraw | M-H | Sh | <1 | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | May |
| <i>Geranium caespitosum</i> | Wild geranium | M | Sh/PS | 2 | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | May-Oct |
| <i>Gnaphalium</i> spp. | Everlasting | M | S/PS | .5-2 | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | Aug |
| <i>Helianthella quinquinervis</i> | Aspen sunflower, 5-nerved wood sunflower | M | S | 1 | N | ? | ? | Y | Y | Y | Jun |
| <i>Helianthus maximiliani</i> | Maximilian sunflower | M-H | S/PS | 2-5 | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | Aug |
| <i>Heuchera</i> spp. | Coral bells | M-H | Sh/PS | 1-2 | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Jun-Jul |
| <i>Ipomopsis aggregata</i> | Scarlet gilia | M | S/PS | 1-3 | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Jun-Jul |
| <i>Iris germanica</i> | Bearded iris | L-M | S/PS | 1-3 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Apr-Jun |
| <i>Iris missouriensis</i> | Wild iris | M-H | S | 2-3 | N | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | Jun |
| <i>Lavandula</i> spp. | Lavender | L-M | S | 1-2 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Jun-Nov |
| <i>Lesquerella fendleri</i> | Fendler bladderpod | VL-L | S | .5 | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | N | May |
| <i>Leucocrinum montanum</i> | Sand lily | L-M | S | <1 | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | ? | May |
| <i>Liatris punctata</i> | Dotted gayfeather | VL/L | S | 1-2 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Aug-Oct |
| <i>Linum lewisii</i> | Blue flax | L-H | S/PS | 1-2 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | May-Sep |
| <i>Mertensia fransiscana</i> | Fransiscan bluebells | M-H | Sh/PS | 1-2 | N | N | ? | Y | Y | Y | Jun-Jul |
| <i>Mimulus guttatus</i> | Yellow monkey flower | H | Sh | 1 | ? | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | Jun-Jul |

Water needs: VL = very low, L = low, M = moderate, H = high

Sun shade preference: S = full sun, Sh = shade, PS = partial sun

Elevation in 1,000 feet: Y = yes, N = not recommended, ? = unknown or doubtful

Approximate bloom month is an estimate based on observed flowering or from field guides.



Flowers and Ground Covers (continued)

| Scientific Name | Common Name | Appr. Water Needs | Sun/ Shade Pref. | Appr. Mature Height (feet) | Elevation (1,000 feet) | | | | | | Appr. Bloom Month |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|---|---|---|---|----|-------------------|
| | | | | | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9+ | |
| <i>Monarda fistulosa</i> | Bergamot | M-H | S/PS | 1-2 | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Jul-Oct |
| <i>Oenothera caespitosa</i> | Stemless evening primrose | L-M | S | 1-2 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Jun-Aug |
| <i>Parthenocissus quinifolia</i> | Virginia creeper, woodbine | M | S/PS | vine | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | n/a |
| <i>Penstemon alamosensis</i> | Alamo penstemon | VL-L | S/PS | 1-3 | Y | Y | Y | ? | ? | N | Apr |
| <i>Penstemon angustifolius</i> | Taperleaf penstemon | VL-L | S | 1-2 | ? | Y | Y | Y | ? | N | May |
| <i>Penstemon barbatus</i> | Scarlet penstemon | L-M | S/PS | 1-3 | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | Jun |
| <i>Penstemon cobaea</i> | Foxglove penstemon | L | S | 1-4 | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | N | Jun |
| <i>Penstemon cardinalis</i> | Cardinal penstemon | L-M | S/PS | 1-2 | N | ? | Y | Y | Y | ? | Jun |
| <i>Penstemon eatonii</i> | Eaton's firecracker | L-M | S/PS | 1-3 | ? | Y | Y | Y | | N | Apr |
| <i>Penstemon neomexicanus</i> | New Mexico penstemon | L | S/PS | 1-2 | ? | ? | Y | Y | Y | ? | July |
| <i>Penstemon pinifolius</i> | Pine-leaved penstemon | L-M | S/PS | .5 | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | Jun |
| <i>Penstemon pseudospectabilis</i> | Perfoliate penstemon | VL-L | S/PS | 2-5 | ? | Y | Y | Y | ? | N | Jun |
| <i>Penstemon palmeri</i> | Palmer penstemon | VL-L | S/PS | 2-4 | Y | Y | Y | ? | N | N | Jun |
| <i>Penstemon strictus</i> | Purple mountain penstemon | L-M | S/PS | 1-2 | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | Jun |
| <i>Penstemon superbus</i> | Superb penstemon | L | S/PS | 2-5 | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | N | Apr |
| <i>Penstemon thurberi</i> | Thurber penstemon | L | S | 1-3 | Y | Y | Y | ? | N | N | Jun |
| <i>Penstemon whippleanus</i> | Dusky penstemon, Whipple penstemon | M | S/PS | 1-2 | N | N | ? | Y | Y | Y | Jul |
| <i>Phlox nana</i> | Santa Fe phlox | L | S/PS | <1 | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | Jun |
| <i>Phlox subulata</i> | Moss phlox | M | S | <.5 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | May |
| <i>Polemonium foliosissimum</i> | Jacob's ladder | H | S/PS | 1-2 | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | May-Aug |
| <i>Potentilla thurberi</i> | Red cinquefoil | H | S/PS | 1-2 | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Aug |
| <i>Ratibida columnifera</i> | Prairie coneflower | L-M | S | 2 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Jul-Sep |
| <i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i> | Cutleaf coneflower | M-H | S/PS | 2-3 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Jul-Sep |
| <i>Salvia</i> spp. | Sage | L-M | S/PS | 1-3 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Jun |
| <i>Saxifraga</i> spp. | Saxifrage | M-H | S/PS | .5-1 | N | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | Jul-Aug |
| <i>Scutellaria drummondii</i> | Scullcap | VL/L | S/PS | .5 | Y | Y | Y | ? | N | N | Apr |
| <i>Sedum</i> spp. | Stonecrop | L-M | S/PS | 1-1.5 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Jul-Aug |
| <i>Sedum lanceolatum</i> | Yellow stonecrop | M | S/PS | .5 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Jul-Aug |
| <i>Sempervivum</i> sp. | Hen and chicks | L-M | S/PS | .5 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | n/a |
| <i>Senecio spartioides</i> | Broom groundsel | VL-L | S | 2-3 | Y | Y | Y | ? | N | N | Sep |
| <i>Solidago canadensis</i> | Canada goldenrod | M-H | S | 2-3 | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | Jul-Aug |
| <i>Thalictrum fendleri</i> | Fendler meadowrue | H | S/PS | 2-3 | N | ? | ? | Y | Y | ? | Jul-Aug |
| <i>Thermopsis gracilis</i> | Golden pea | M-H | S/PS | 1.5 | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | May |
| <i>Tradescantia occidentalis</i> | Western spiderwort | M | S/PS | 1.5 | ? | Y | Y | Y | Y | ? | Jun-Aug |
| <i>Thymus</i> spp. | Thyme | L-M | S | <.5 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Apr |
| <i>Zinnia grandiflora</i> | Rocky Mountain zinnia | VL-L | S | .5 | Y | Y | Y | ? | N | N | Jun-Jul |

Water needs: VL = very low, L = low, M = moderate, H = high

Sun shade preference: S = full sun, PS = partial sun, Sh = shade

Elevation in 1,000 feet: Y = yes, N = not recommended, ? = unknown or doubtful

Approximate bloom month is an estimate based on observed flowering or from field guides





Cane Cholla



Golden Currant



Cliff Fenderbush



Lilac



Elderberry



Mountain Ninebark



New Mexico Locust



Prickly Pear Cactus



Woods Rose



Snowberry



Velvet Ash

New Mexico State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and educator. NMSU and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.

The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, age or handicap, and is an equal opportunity employer.