

Gardening with Southwestern Native Plants



Jennifer Bousset, Ph.D.
Colorado State University + CoNPS



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Colorado Native Plant Society (CoNPS)

- *CoNPS is a non-profit organization dedicated to furthering the knowledge, appreciation + conservation of native plants + habitats of Colorado through education, stewardship + advocacy.*
- Founded in 1976, 1,000+ members, 6 chapters
- Hikes, workshops, seminars, annual conference
- 5x year *Aquilegia* newsletter + 2x month e-News
- Native plant publications, outreach, and advocacy



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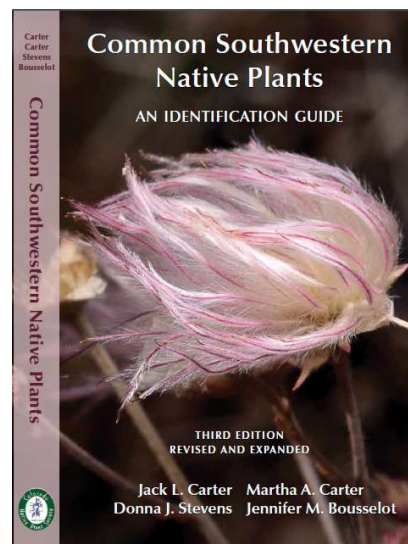
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Common Southwestern Native Plants Book

- 3rd edition, published by CoNPS
- Revision – double the herbaceous section
- Learned the 'ins and outs' of publishing
- All proceeds go to CoNPS
- Wholesale vs. retail



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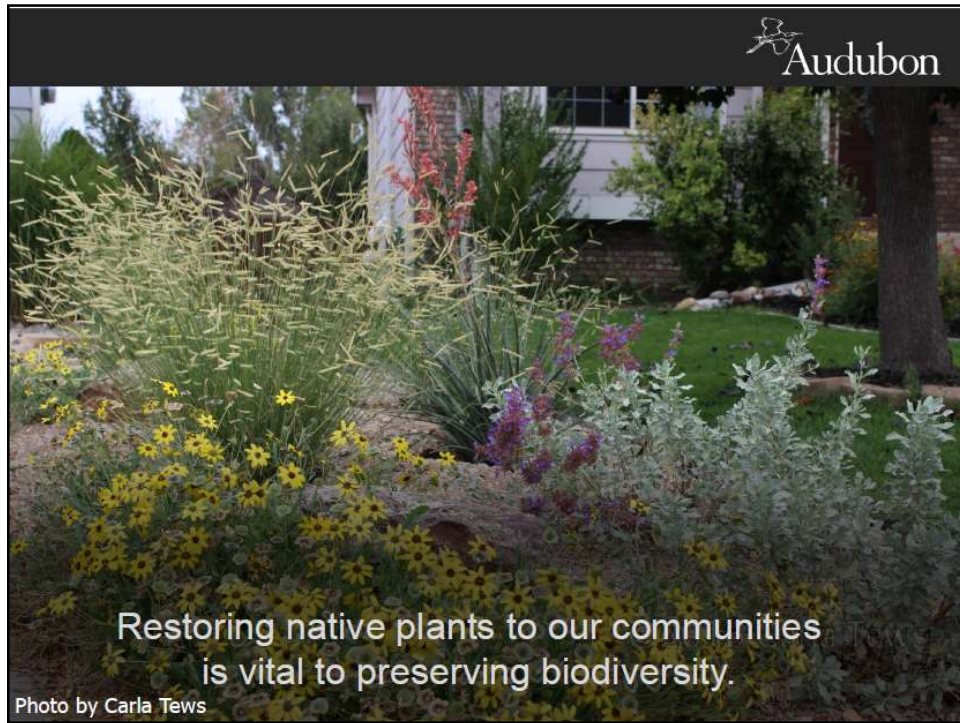
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Why Native?

by Deryn Davidson

Work w/nature = fewer resources

- Up to 60% of municipal fresh water in western U.S. is used for landscapes
- Still use water, but less

Provide pollinator habitat

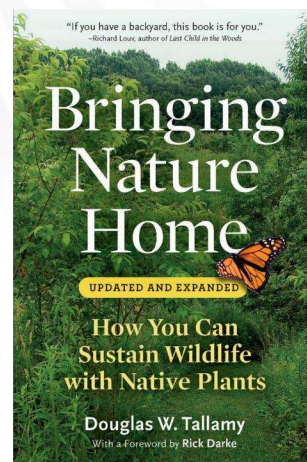
- If you build it, they WILL come



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Native Plants in Gardens

- Natives = caterpillars = birds
- Coevolution of natives
 - Pollinators know to use them
- Add to existing gardens
- No need to be purists
- Nativars vs. hybrids debate
- 5th Landscaping with Colorado Native Plants Conference



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Planting Native Plants

- Finding native plants
- Soil amendments
- Bareroot transplanting
- Seeding with natives



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Plant This, Not That:

Native Plant Alternatives to Garden Plants




Jennifer Bousselot, Ph.D.
CoNPS.org + CSU




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Plant Types



- Trees
- Shrubs
- Perennials
- Grasses



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Trees



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Instead of Callery Pear...

Pyrus calleryana



Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)

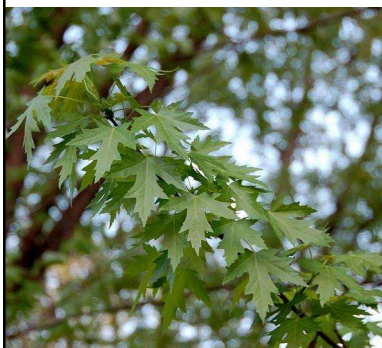
- White spring blooms
- Smooth, dark bark
- Edible fruit



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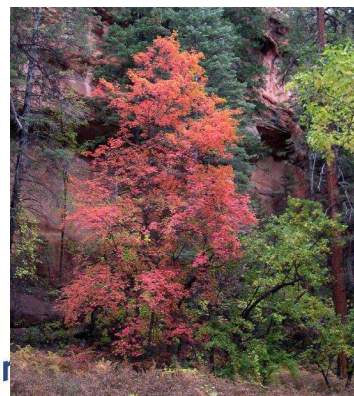
Instead of Silver Maple...

Acer saccharinum



Bigtooth Maple (*Acer grandidentatum*)

- Beautiful maple leaf shape
- Chlorosis not an issue
- Fall color
- Branches

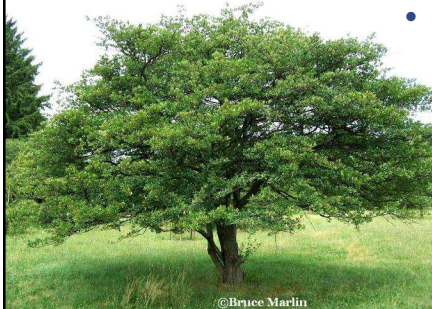


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Instead of Cockspur Hawthorn...

Crataegus crus-galli Common Hoptree (*Ptelea trifoliata*)

- Small tree
- Glossy leaf



©Bruce Marlin



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Shrubs



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Instead of Russian Sage...

Perovskia atriplicifolia Leadplant (*Amorpha canescens*)



- Purple blooms in summer
- Upright
- Legume
- Bees



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Instead of Blue Mist Spirea...

Caryopteris x clandonensis



Desert 4 O'Clock (*Mirabilis multiflora*)

- Ethereal purple summer blooms
- Silvery mounding foliage



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Instead of Barberry...

Berberis thunbergii



Three-leaf Sumac (*Rhus trilobata*)

- Low, dense growth
- Ornamental fruit



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Instead of Bumald Spirea...

Spiraea x bumalda



Apache Plume (*Fallugia paradoxa*)

- Long bloom time – a paradox
- Dense branching – pruning
- Contrasting foliage color



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Instead of Forsythia...

Forsythia x intermedia Golden Current (*Ribes aureum*)



- Early yellow blooms
- Clove scent
- Upright
- Fruit



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Instead of a Shrub Rose...

Rosa sp.



Boulder Raspberry (*Rubus deliciosus*)

- Fleshy white blooms
- Part shade
- Thornless
- Red stems



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Perennials



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Instead of Tickseed...

Coreopsis verticillata Chocolate Flower (*Berlandiera lyrata*)

- Yellow daisy flowers all season
- Chocolate fragrance
- Extremely drought tolerant



Color

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Instead of Chrysanthemums...

Chrysanthemum morifolium



Baby Blue Rabbitbrush
(*Chrysothamnus* [*Ericameria*] *nauseosus* var. *nauseosus* 'Baby Blue')

- Fall bloom
- Mounding
- Pollinators
- Silvery



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Instead of May Night Salvia...

Salvia nemorosa



Beardtongue (*Penstemon* spp.)

- Upright, tidy, floriferous



Colorac

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Instead of Crocus...

Crocus sp.



Pasque Flower (*Pulsatilla patens*)

- Early spring lavender blooms
- Ornamental seedhead



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Instead of Oregano...

Origanum vulgare



Beebalm (*Monarda fistulosa*)

- Fragrant foliage and flowers
- Pollinators



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Instead of Delphinium...

Delphinium grandiflorum



Rocky Mountain Penstemon
(*Penstemon strictus*)

- Does not lodge
- Upright
- Floriferous
- Pollinators



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Grasses



Colorado



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Instead of Miscanthus...

Miscanthus sinensis

Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)

Upright
Seedhead



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Photo Courtesy of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

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Instead of Karl Foerster...

*Calamagrostis x
acutiflora*

Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium
scoparium*)

- Fall color
- Upright
- Wildlife



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Native Plant Resources

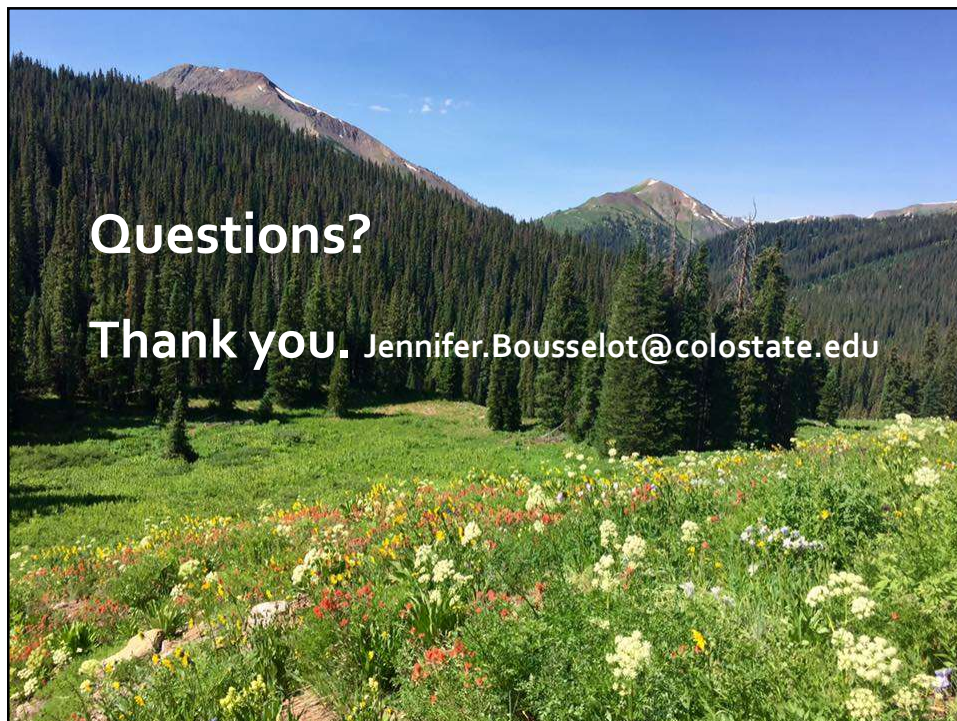


- CoNPS.org
 - Native plant vendor list
 - Virtual Plant Sale in Fall (?)
 - CoNPSpromote@gmail.com
- Native plant pictures: SEINet
 - Jack & Martha Carter and friends
- Non-native plant pictures: Wikipedia
 - Colorado State University



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