

# City of Longmont Native Plant Species Pre-Approved Mix Menu for Commercial Developments

**Purpose.** This guide helps planners, designers, and contractors choose ecologically appropriate, cost effective native plantings for new and redevelopment projects. It consolidates species recommendations, mowing guidance, budget tiers, and *preapproved* seed/plant mixes so that submittals may move quickly through review.

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## 1. Quick-Start Decision Path

### 1. **Identify site water regime**

- *Dryland / Xeric* (little or no supplemental irrigation)
- *Moist / Run-off Basin* (receives roof or pavement runoff or experiences brief ponding)

### 2. **Check mowing expectation**

✓ = routinely mowed 2–4× season to ≈6 in.

✗ = no routine mowing (occasional dormant-season chop OK)

### 3. **Match cost tier** to budget:

\$ low (< \$20/lb. seed | \$\$ moderate | \$\$\$ premium (>\$75/lb. seed)

### 4. **Select from the species mix menu** in Section 2.

### 5. **Adjust mix to meet availability** using the guidance below the mix menu and the complete list of herbaceous species in the appendix.

### 6. **Select shrub(s) for planting** from section 3, if directed by the selected pre-approved mix.

### 7. **Submit mix name or custom list** with supplier quotes for City signoff.

## 2. Pre-Approved Native Mixes

### Flexibility rule – read first

For quick bidding and availability checks, applicants have limited leeway to adjust an approved seed mix without re-submittal. Descriptions of every target site (Targets 4 – 16) are in **Appendix B**.

When a listed species isn't currently stocked by Granite Seed, Pawnee Buttes, Arkansas Valley, or Buffalo Brand:

- If the species represents  $\leq 5\%$  of the total seed weight → you may omit it outright.
- If it exceeds  $5\%$  → choose one of the following remedies:
  1. Redistribute that weight by increasing any of the remaining species up to 5 percentage points each, *or*
  2. Replace it with a species from the pre-approved master list (**Appendix A**) that matches:
    - the same functional group (grass, graminoid, or forb)
    - the same water-need class (Dry/Xeric or Mesic/Hydric)
    - the same mowing-tolerance category.
- Any other adjustments require prior review.

ID	Mix Name & Target Site	Composition (% bulk seed unless noted)	Height & Maintenance	Cost Tier
1A	<b>Compact Parkway Xeric: Front Range Carpet</b> (dry, full sun, routine mow $\leq 6$ in.)	Blue grama 30%   Buffalograss 20%   Prairie junegrass 10%   Sandberg bluegrass 10%   Lewis flax 10%   Scarlet globemallow 10%   Blanketflower 5%   Yarrow 5%	$\leq 18$ in.; mow 2–3× yr	\$
1B	<b>Compact Parkway Xeric: White-Gold Sward</b>	Blue grama 30%   Sideoats grama 15%   Rocky Mtn Fescue 10%   Sandberg bluegrass 10%   Blanketflower 10%   White sagewort 10%   Yarrow 5%   Lewis Flax 5%   Scarlet globemallow 5%	Same as 1A	\$

ID	Mix Name & Target Site	Composition (% bulk seed unless noted)	Height & Maintenance	Cost Tier
2A	<b>Xeric Pollinator &amp; Habitat: <i>Prairie Jewel</i></b> (dry islands, no mow)	Little bluestem 30%   Alkali sacaton 15%   Indian ricegrass 15%   Rocky Mtn penstemon 10%   Showy milkweed 10%   Blanketflower 5%   Purple prairie clover 5%   Scarlet gilia 5%   Scarlet globemallow 5%   Selected shrubs*	1–5 ft; no mow	\$\$
2B	<b>Xeric Pollinator &amp; Habitat: <i>Silver Sage</i></b>	Little bluestem 30%   Indian ricegrass 15%   Prairie sandreed 15%   Rocky Mtn. Penstemon 10%   Dotted blazingstar 10%   Purple prairie clover 10%   Narrow-leaf coneflower 5%   Colorado four-o'clock 5%   Selected Shrubs*	1–5 ft; no mow	\$\$
3A	<b>Rain-Garden Low-Mow (45-60% sand**): <i>Green Swale</i></b>	Canada wildrye 25%   Nebraska sedge 20%   Switchgrass 15%   Swamp milkweed 10%   Showy milkweed 10% Blue vervain 10%   Blue-flag iris 5%   Black-eyed Susan 5%   Selected shrubs*	≤ 40 in.; optional dormant mow	\$–\$\$
3B	<b>Rain-Garden Low-Mow (45-60% sand**): <i>Cool Seasons</i></b>	Slender wheatgrass 25%   Canada wildrye 20%   Baltic Rush 15%   Fox sedge 10%   Swamp milkweed 10% Blue vervain 10%   New England aster 5%   Spike rush 5%   Selected shrubs*	Same height/maintenance	\$–\$\$
4A	<b>Rain-Garden Tall Habitat (45-60% sand**): <i>Riparian Reach</i></b>	Switchgrass 21%   Prairie cordgrass 18%   Indiangrass 13%   Blue wildrye 9%   Fox sedge 9%   Swamp milkweed 10%   Blue-flag iris 10%   Bluejoint reedgrass 5%   Blue vervain 5%   Selected shrubs*	3–6 ft; no mow	\$\$–\$\$\$

ID	Mix Name & Target Site	Composition (% bulk seed unless noted)	Height & Maintenance	Cost Tier
4B	<b>Rain-Garden Tall Habitat (45-60% sand**): <i>Color Burst</i></b>	Prairie cordgrass 23%   Big bluestem 18%   Switchgrass 13%   Fox sedge 9%   Maximilian sunflower 9%   Blue vervain 9%   Swamp milkweed 9%   New England aster 5%   Black-eyed Susan 5%   Selected shrubs*	4–6 ft; no mow	\$\$– \$\$\$
5A	<b>Budget Dryland Meadow: <i>Sunrise Prairie</i></b>	Blue grama 30%   Sideoats grama 18%   Canada wildrye 15%   Little bluestem 8%   Blanketflower 8%   Purple prairie clover 8%   Dotted blazingstar 8%   Lewis flax 5%	1–3 ft; optional annual mow	\$
5B	<b>Budget Dryland Meadow: <i>Shortgrass Prairie</i></b>	Buffalograss 30%   Sand dropseed 20%   Prairie junegrass 8% Needle-and-thread 12%   Scarlet globemallow 8%   Prairie sagewort 8%   Hairy golden aster 9%   Lewis flax 5%	Same height/maintenance	\$
6A	<b>Part-Shade Xeric Courtyard: <i>Courtyard Calm</i></b> (30–50% shade, routine mow)	Canada wildrye 27%   Blue grama 22%   Prairie junegrass 13%   Sandberg bluegrass 8%   Yarrow 18%   Lewis flax 6%   Harebell 6%   Selected shrubs*	≤ 24 in.; one late-summer mow	\$–\$\$
6B	<b>Part-Shade Xeric Courtyard: <i>Woodland Edge</i></b>	Western wheatgrass 23%   Blue grama 23%   Prairie junegrass 13%   Sandberg bluegrass 19%   Yarrow 13%   Lewis flax 9%   Sulphur buckwheat 5%   Upland white goldenrod 5%   Selected shrubs*	Same height/maintenance	\$–\$\$

ID	Mix Name & Target Site	Composition (% bulk seed unless noted)	Height & Maintenance	Cost Tier
7A	<b>Ephemeral Wet-Meadow:</b> <i>Prairie Pool</i> (ponds ≤24 h)	Slender wheatgrass 22%   Baltic rush 18%   Nebraska sedge 20%   Canada wildrye 9%   Swamp milkweed 9%   Blue vervain 9%   Blue-flag iris 4%   Sawbeak sedge 5%   Plains coreopsis 5%   Selected shrubs*	2–4 ft; no routine mow	\$\$
7B	<b>Ephemeral Wet-Meadow:</b> <i>Prairie Streamside</i>	Western wheatgrass 23%   Basin wildrye 18%   Woolly sedge 18%   Spike rush 14%   Swamp milkweed 9%   Blue vervain 9%   American bulrush 5%   Seep monkeyflower 5%   Selected shrubs*	Similar height/maintenance	\$\$
8A	<b>Pollinator Pocket:</b> <i>Pocket Fireworks</i> (entry beds, ≤30 in.)	Blue grama 32%   Lewis flax 13%   Dotted blazingstar 14%   Blanketflower 9%   Scarlet gilia 9%   Smooth blue aster 13%   Firecracker penstemon 5%   Plains coreopsis 5%   Selected shrubs*	≤ 30 in.; mow optional	\$–\$\$
8B	<b>Pollinator Pocket:</b> <i>Pastel Prairie</i>	Blue grama 28%   Sand lovegrass 13%   Lewis flax 13%   Dotted blazingstar 13%   Prairie sagewort 9%   Narrow-leaf coneflower 14%   Smooth blue aster 5%   Blanketflower 5%   Selected shrubs*	Same height/maintenance	\$–\$\$
9A	<b>Slope &amp; Berm Stabilization:</b> <i>Slope Shield</i>	Sand lovegrass 22%   Sideoats grama 17%   Sand dropseed 13%   Little bluestem 12%   Prairie coneflower 8%   Rocky Mtn. penstemon	1–4 ft; mow every 2–3 yrs	\$

ID	Mix Name & Target Site	Composition (% bulk seed unless noted)	Height & Maintenance	Cost Tier
		8%   Scarlet globemallow 4%   Indian ricegrass 8%   Western wheatgrass 8%   Selected shrubs*		
9B	<b>Slope &amp; Berm Stabilization: <i>Deep-Roots</i></b>	Blue grama 16%   Green needlegrass 18%   Prairie sandreed 13%   Big bluestem 13%   Sand dropseed 8%   Purple prairie clover 8%   Colorado four-o'clock 8%   Needle-and-thread 8%   Tall dropseed 8%   Selected shrubs*	Same height/maintenance	\$
10A	<b>Screen &amp; Buffer Strip: <i>Prairie Screen</i></b>	Switchgrass 27%   Indiangrass 18%   Big bluestem 18%   Prairie cordgrass 9%   Stiff goldenrod 9%   Maximilian sunflower 9%   Nuttall's sunflower 5%   New England aster 5%   Selected shrubs*	4–7 ft screen; prune shrubs 3-yr cycle	\$\$
10B	<b>Screen &amp; Buffer Strip: <i>Tall Prairie</i></b>	Prairie cordgrass 22%   Switchgrass 18%   Tall dropseed 14%   Big bluestem 14%   Hoary vervain 13%   White prairie clover 9%   Illinois bundleflower 5%   Dotted blazingstar 5%   Selected shrubs*	Similar height; more shrub mass; prune 3-yr cycle	\$\$
11A	<b>Snow-Dump Island: <i>Salt Swale</i></b>	Alkali sacaton 26%   Switchgrass 17%   Baltic rush 12%   Fox sedge 12%   Blanketflower 9%   Scarlet globemallow 9%   Nuttall's alkaligrass 5%   Alkali muhly 5%   Selected shrubs*	1–3 ft; no routine mow; cut every 2 yrs	\$–\$\$
11B	<b>Snow-Dump Island: <i>Salt Meadow</i></b>	Inland saltgrass 27%   Alkali sacaton 22%   Sand dropseed 15%   Baltic rush 9%   Scarlet	Same height/maintenance	\$–\$\$

ID	Mix Name & Target Site	Composition (% bulk seed unless noted)	Height & Maintenance	Cost Tier
		globemallow 11%   Switchgrass 10%   Creeping wildrye 6%   Selected shrubs*		
12A	<b>Utility Corridor: <i>Service Strip</i></b>	Blue grama 35%   Buffalograss 35%   Prairie junegrass 15%   Yarrow 15%	≤ 8 in.; routine mow ≤ 6 in.	\$
12B	<b>Utility Corridor: <i>Low-Grow Blend</i></b>	Buffalograss 40%   Blue grama 30%   Sandberg bluegrass 15%   Yarrow 10%   Blanketflower 5%	Same height/maintenance	\$
13A	<b>Rock-Mulch Accent: <i>Hot Pockets</i></b>	Sand lovegrass 22%   Scarlet globemallow 18%   Lewis flax 18%   Scarlet gilia 14%   Prairie sagewort 9%   Dotted blazingstar 9%   Tansy aster 5%   Firewheel 5%   Selected shrubs*	≤ 18 in.; no mow— occasional deadhead	\$
13B	<b>Rock-Mulch Accent: <i>Silver &amp; Blue</i></b>	Needle-and-thread 18%   Dotted blazingstar 19%   Scarlet globemallow 15%   Scarlet gilia 15%   Prairie sagewort 9%   Lewis flax 10%   Blanketflower 9%   Harebell 5%   Selected shrubs*	Same height/maintenance	\$
14A	<b>Dog-Relief Strip: <i>Tough Turf</i></b>	Buffalograss 35%   Blue grama 22%   Prairie junegrass 18%   Sandberg bluegrass 8%   Yarrow 5%   Field sedge 6%   Rocky Mtn. fescue 6%	≤ 6 in.; routine mow; high traffic tolerant	\$
14B	<b>Dog-Relief Strip: <i>Resilient Lawn</i></b>	Buffalograss 30%   Blue grama 27%   Prairie junegrass 18%   Slender wheatgrass 9%	Same height/maintenance	\$

ID	Mix Name & Target Site	Composition (% bulk seed unless noted)	Height & Maintenance	Cost Tier
		Sandberg bluegrass 5%   Yarrow 6%   Inland saltgrass 5%		
15A	<b>Detention Forebay: <i>Sediment Sill</i></b>	Prairie cordgrass 25%   Switchgrass 20%   Fox sedge 20%   Woolly sedge 15%   Torrey's rush 10%   Baltic rush 10%   Selected shrubs*	2–5 ft; coppice or cut every 2–3 yrs	\$
15B	<b>Detention Forebay: <i>Sedge &amp; Switch</i></b>	Switchgrass 25%   Prairie cordgrass 20%   Slender wheatgrass 15%   Baltic rush 15%   Swamp milkweed 10%   Blue vervain 15%   Selected shrubs*	Same height/maintenance	\$
16A	<b>Riparian Setback: <i>Buffer Blend</i></b>	Big bluestem 25%   Switchgrass 20%   Prairie cordgrass 15%   Indiangrass 10%   Blue vervain 10%   Swamp milkweed 10%   Canada wildrye 10%   Selected shrubs*	4–7 ft; no mow; coppice shrubs 3-yr cycle	\$\$
16B	<b>Riparian Setback: <i>Willow Screen</i></b>	Prairie cordgrass 20%   Basin wildrye 20%   Canada wildrye 15%   Big bluestem 15%   Switchgrass 10%   Hoary vervain 10%   Maximilian sunflower 10%   Selected shrubs*	Same height/maintenance	\$\$

\*Selected Shrubs: Many of the seed mix specifications (e.g., Target 4 – Rain Garden Tall Habitat) indicate a shrub should be planted in addition to the seeding. A list of pre-approved shrubs for planting, and the target sites for which they would be suitable, is included in section 3 below.

\*\*For higher soil sand contents in rain-gardens, see Appendix C.

### 3. Pre-Approved Shrub Table

Common Name	Scientific name	Target Sites	Height (ft)	Spread (ft)	Key Pros
Saskatoon serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	4,5,6,7,8,16	6-15	4-10	Edible berries for birds & people; showy spring bloom; good for hedgerows.
Utah serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier utahensis</i>	5,6,8,9,10	4-12	4-8	Very drought-tolerant; nectar for early pollinators; browsed by deer.
Silver sagebrush	<i>Artemisia cana</i>	5,8,9,11	2-5	3-5	Dense cover for sage-grouse; browse for pronghorn; salt & alkali tolerant.
Sand sagebrush	<i>Artemisia filifolia</i>	5,8,9,11	3-6	3-6	Excellent wind-break on sandy slopes; stabilizes dunes.
Fringed sagebrush	<i>Artemisia frigida</i>	5,6,8,9,13	0.5-1.5	1-2	Low, aromatic groundcover; grazed lightly by sheep & elk; winter green.
Black sagebrush	<i>Artemisia nova</i>	5,8,9	1-3	2-3	Palatable winter forage for mule deer; thrives on shallow, stony soils.
Basin big sagebrush	<i>Artemisia tridentata</i> ssp. <i>tridentata</i>	5,9,10	2-6	4-6	Keystone big-sage habitat; deep roots tap sub-soil moisture.
Mountain big sagebrush	<i>Artemisia tridentata</i> var. <i>vaseyana</i>	5,9,10	2-5	3-6	Cold-hardy; important cover at higher elevations.
Wyoming big sagebrush	<i>Artemisia tridentata</i> var. <i>wyomingensis</i>	5,9,10	2-4	3-5	Tolerates very low precipitation; key sage-grouse winter forage.

Common Name	Scientific name	Target Sites	Height (ft)	Spread (ft)	Key Pros
Fourwing Saltbrush	<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	5,8,9,11	2-6	3-6	Salt & drought tolerant; excellent wildlife browse & seed.
Shadscale Saltbrush	<i>Atriplex confertifolia</i>	5,9,11	1-3	2-4	Handles saline clay & gravel; dense bird nesting cover.
Mat saltbush	<i>Atriplex corrugata</i> (mat saltbush)	5,9,11	1-2	3-4	Low mat stabilizes barren alkali flats; salt spray resistant.
Gardner's saltbush	<i>Atriplex gardneri</i>	5,9,11	1-3	3-4	Cold-tolerant saltbush for high plains; palatable winter browse.
Mound saltbush	<i>Atriplex obovata</i>	5,9,11	2-4	3-5	Rapid colonizer of disturbed saline soils; seeds eaten by birds.
Alderleaf mountain mahogany	<i>Cercocarpus montanus</i>	5,6,8,9,10	4-10	4-6	Nitrogen-fixing root nodules; high-protein browse; deep roots for cuts.
Blackbrush	<i>Coleogyne ramosissima</i>	5,9	2-5	3-5	Fire-resistant shrub for gypsum or limestone soils; wildlife cover.
Bunchberry dogwood	<i>Cornus canadensis</i>	6,16	0.2-0.5	1-2	Shade, moisture-loving groundcover; edible drupes; fall color.
Red-osier dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	4,7,15,16	6-12	8-12	Bright red stems for winter interest; stabilizes streambanks; wildlife berries.

Common Name	Scientific name	Target Sites	Height (ft)	Spread (ft)	Key Pros
Rubber rabbitbrush	<i>Ericameria nauseosa</i>	5,8,9,11,13	3-6	3-5	Late-season yellow nectar; colonizes mine spoils; drought & salt tolerant.
Apache plume	<i>Fallugia paradoxa</i>	5,8,9,13	3-6	3-5	Showy seed plumes; long bloom; thrives in hot gravel.
Winterfat	<i>Krascheninnikovia lanata</i>	5,8,9,11	1-3	2-4	Valuable winter forage; tolerant of saline & alkaline soils.
Creeping Oregon Grape	<i>Mahonia repens</i>	6,13	0.5-1	2-3	Evergreen ground-layer for shade; blue berries feed birds.
Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	4,6,8,16	8-25	6-15	Fragrant blossoms; wildlife fruit; good for thickets.
Antelope Bitterbrush	<i>Purshia tridentata</i>	5,8,9	3-6	3-6	Nitrogen-fixing shrub; high-value deer browse; drought hardy.
Smooth sumac	<i>Rhus glabra</i>	5,6,8,10	6-15	8-15	Striking red fall color; stabilizes steep banks; wildlife drupes.
Three-leaf Sumac	<i>Rhus trilobata</i>	5,6,8,10	3-6	4-8	Aromatic leaves deter deer; orange-red fall color; drought tolerant.
Golden Currant	<i>Ribes aureum</i>	4,5,6,8,16	4-8	4-6	Early yellow flowers for pollinators; edible fruit; tolerates shade.

Common Name	Scientific name	Target Sites	Height (ft)	Spread (ft)	Key Pros
Wax currant	Ribes cereum	5,6,8,9	3-5	3-5	Pink tubular flowers for hummingbirds; drought tolerant.
Woods' Rose	Rosa woodsii	4,5,6,7,16	3-6	3-6	Dense thicket for songbirds; hips rich in vitamin,C; tolerates flooding.
Red elderberry	Sambucus racemosa	4,7,16	6-12	6-10	Fast shrub for moist shade; wildlife berries; red stems in winter.
Greasewood	Sarcobatus vermiculatus	5,9,11	4-8	6-8	Extreme salinity tolerance; stabilizes alkali flats; bird perch.
Silver Buffaloberry	Shepherdia argentea	5,8,9,10	8-15	6-12	Nitrogen-fixing; bright red edible berries; windbreak value.

## 4. Maintenance Cheat Sheet

Task	Dryland (mow ✓)	Dryland (no-mow)	Moist basin (mow ✓)	Moist basin (no-mow)
<b>Mowing / Cutting</b>	2-4× per season to 6 in.	None; dormant chop every 2-3 yrs	1 late-fall or early-spring cut	None; cut shrub rows on 3-yr rotation
<b>Irrigation</b>	Water to establish (1 yr)	Same	Supplemental only in drought	Same

<b>Weed Control</b>	Pre-emergent + hand weed Year 1	Spot-spray as needed	Similar—watch weedy annuals in wet soils	Spot-spray along shrub lines
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## Contacts & Resources

- City of Longmont Natural Resources: [jim.krick@longmontcolorado.gov](mailto:jim.krick@longmontcolorado.gov) , [jes.gray@longmontcolorado.gov](mailto:jes.gray@longmontcolorado.gov)
- CSU Extension Fact Sheets & Plant Database: <https://extension.colostate.edu/publications-2/>
- Colorado native plant regional seed supplier list: <https://frontrange.wildones.org/resources/purchase-native-plants/>
- Local large-scale seed suppliers:
  - Arkansas Valley Seeds: <https://avseeds.com/>
  - Buffalo Brand Seed: <https://www.buffalobrandseed.com/>
  - Granite Seed: <https://nativeseedgroup.com/who-we-are/granite-seed>
  - Pawnee Buttes Seed: <https://pawneebutteseed.com/>

## Appendix A. List of Acceptable Plant Species for Mix Substitution

ScientificName	Common Name	Water Need	Functional Group	Mowing Compatible	Cost	Key Pros	Key Cons
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	Dry/Xeric	Forb	Yes	\$\$\$	Pollinator magnet; mowable lawn replacement	Can spread aggressively

ScientificName	Common Name	Water Need	Functional Group	Mowing Compatible	Cost	Key Pros	Key Cons
<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>	Indian ricegrass	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (light)	\$	Drough-tough, wildlife forage	Requires well-drained soils
<i>Achnatherum robustum</i>	Sleepygrass	Mesic/Hydric	Grass	No	\$\$	Tall bunchgrass for erosion control	Limited seed availability
<i>Agrostis scabra</i>	Ticklegrass	Dry/Xeric	Forb	Yes	\$\$	Establishes quickly; turf potential	May lodge in heavy shade
<i>Alisma triviale</i>	Northern water plantain	Mesic/Hydric	Forb	No	\$\$\$	Aquatic water-quality species	Needs standing water
<i>Allium cernuum</i>	Nodding onion	Dry/Xeric	Forb	No	\$\$\$	Showy flowers, edible bulbs	Slow germination
<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	Common ragweed	Dry/Xeric	Forb	Yes	\$	Pioneer soil-builder	Highly allergenic pollen
<i>Ambrosia psilostachya</i>	Western ragweed	Dry/Xeric	Forb	Yes	\$\$	Perennial cover for wildlife	Can be aggressive in pastures
<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	Western pearly everlasting	Mesic/Hydric	Forb	No	\$\$	Host for painted lady caterpillars	Short-lived blooms
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	Big bluestem	Dry/Xeric	Grass	No	\$	Excellent bird cover; deep roots	Needs room; not mow-tolerant

ScientificName	Common Name	Water Need	Functional Group	Mowing Compatible	Cost	Key Pros	Key Cons
Andropogon hallii	Sand bluestem	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$	Deep sand adaptation; wildlife cover	Needs sandy soils; limited mowing tolerance
Anemone cylindrica	Candle anemone	Dry/Xeric	Forb	No	\$\$\$	Graceful seed heads; pollinator nectar	Expensive seed; slow to establish
Angelica ampla	Giant angelica	Mesic/Hydric	Forb	No	\$\$\$	Tall umbels; attracts beneficial insects	Biennial; needs partial shade
Apocynum cannabinum	Hemp dogbane	Mesic/Hydric	Forb	Yes (resprouts)	\$\$	Tough fiber; high pollinator value	Toxic latex; can spread aggressively
Aquilegia coerulea var. coerulea	Colorado blue columbine	Mesic/Hydric	Forb	No	\$\$\$	State flower; hummingbird magnet	High seed cost; dislikes heavy clay
Argemone polyanthemus	Crested pricklypoppy	Dry/Xeric	Forb	No	\$\$	Showy for pollinators	Spiny foliage; not mowing tolerant
Aristida purpurea	Purple threeawn	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$\$	Extreme drought tolerance; erosion control	Can invade bare soil; sharp awns
Arnica fulgens	Foothill arnica	Dry/Xeric	Forb	No	\$\$\$	Medicinal; orange daisies for pollinators	Seed scarce; not tolerant of mowing
Artemisia campestris	Field sagewort	Dry/Xeric	Forb	No	\$	Fragrant foliage; soil stabilization	Short-lived; low germination

ScientificName	Common Name	Water Need	Functional Group	Mowing Compatible	Cost	Key Pros	Key Cons
Artemisia arbuscula	Little sagebrush	Dry/Xeric	Forb/small subshrub	No	\$	Low-growing drought sage; wildlife browse	Woody; poor mowing tolerance
Artemisia cana	Silver sagebrush	Dry/Xeric	Forb/small subshrub	No	\$\$\$	Silver foliage, browsing deterrent	High seed cost; woody form
Artemisia filifolia	Sand sagebrush	Dry/Xeric	Forb/small subshrub	No	\$\$	Sand stabilization; aromatic foliage	Woody; not mow tolerant
Artemisia frigida	Prairie sagewort	Dry/Xeric	Forb/small subshrub	Yes (light)	\$\$	Aromatic groundcover; drought tough	Can spread; needs dry soils
Artemisia nova	Black sagebrush	Dry/Xeric	Forb/small subshrub	No	\$	Budget low sage for shallow soils	Woody subshrub; slow germination
Asclepias incarnata	Swamp milkweed	Mesic/Hydric	Forb	Yes (late only)	\$\$\$	Monarch host; wetland accent	Requires moist soil; mowing removes flowers
Asclepias speciosa	Showy milkweed	Dry/Xeric	Forb	Yes (late only)	\$\$\$	Showy pink blooms; monarch host	Spreads rhizomes; high seed cost
Asclepias tuberosa	Butterfly milkweed	Dry/Xeric	Forb	No	\$\$\$	Bright orange pollinator magnet	Slow to establish; fragile taproot
Astragalus canadensis	Canadian milkvetch	Mesic/Hydric	Forb	Yes (light)	\$\$	Nitrogen fixer; pollinator forage	Short-lived; prefers moist sites

ScientificName	Common Name	Water Need	Functional Group	Mowing Compatible	Cost	Key Pros	Key Cons
Balsamorhiza sagittata	Arrowleaf balsamroot	Dry/Xeric	Forb	Yes (light)	\$\$\$	Early yellow bloom; drought hardy	Premium seed cost; deep taproot
Beckmannia syzigachne	American sloughgrass	Mesic/Hydric	Grass	Yes	\$	Palatable wetland hay; high protein	Needs standing water; weak under drought
Bolboschoenus maritimus	Cosmopolitan bulrush	Mesic/Hydric	Graminoid	No	\$\$\$	Wetland erosion control; waterfowl food	High seed cost; establishment must stay flooded
Bouteloua curtipendula	Sideoats grama	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (>6 in stubble, <1x per summer)	\$\$	Deep roots, tolerant of heat and slope	Thatches if mowed too low
Bouteloua dactyloides	Buffalograss	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes	\$\$	Forms dense, 3-6 in. sod; minimal water	Goes straw-brown in winter; poor shade tolerance
Bouteloua eriopoda	Black grama	Dry/Xeric	Grass	No	\$\$\$	Prime wildlife forage on sandy range	Very slow to establish; dislikes traffic
Bouteloua gracilis	Blue grama	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (light)	\$\$	Drought-proof turf; larval host grass	Thins in shade; needs firm seedbed
Bouteloua hirsuta	Hairy grama	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (light)	\$\$	Handles rocky, dry soils, showy seed combs	Sparse sod; slow fill-in

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Bromus carinatus	California brome	Mesic/Hydric	Grass	Yes	\$	Quick cool-season cover; nurse grass	Short-lived; lodges if cut too low
Bromus ciliatus	Fringed brome	Mesic/Hydric	Grass	Yes	\$\$	Shade-tolerant; thrives on moist loam	Susceptible to lodging with frequent cuts
Bromus marginatus	Mountain brome	Mesic/Hydric	Grass	Yes	\$	Fast, deep-rooted erosion control	Short-lived; coarse at maturity
Calamagrostis canadensis	Bluejoint Reedgrass	Mesic/Hydric	Grass	Yes (annual early spring)	\$\$\$	Wet meadow grass; early season structure	Jackstraws at frost; seed very pricey
Calamovilfa longifolia	Prairie sandreed	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$	Tall sand binder; drought tough	Slow seed germination; not shade tolerant
Campanula rotundifolia	Harebell	Dry/Xeric	Forb	Yes (light)	\$\$\$	Delicate blue bells; pollinator nectar	Flowering lost under frequent mowing
Carex aquatilis	Water sedge	Mesic/Hydric	Graminoid	No	\$\$\$	Rhizomatous bank stabilizer; waterfowl cover	Needs standing water; expensive seed
Carex athrostachya	Slenderbeak sedge	Mesic/Hydric	Graminoid	No	\$\$\$	Wet sedge meadow clump; shade tolerant	Seed scarce; not mowing tolerant

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Carex bebbii	Bebb's sedge	Mesic/Hydric	Graminoid	No	\$\$\$	Dense tussock; high wildlife value	Very expensive seed; slow to establish
Carex hoodii	Hood's sedge	Dry/Xeric	Graminoid	Yes (light)	\$\$\$	Short dryland sedge; erosion control	Seed limited; tolerates only high cut
Carex microptera	Smallwing sedge	Mesic/Hydric	Graminoid	No	\$\$\$	Streambank stabilizer; saline tolerant	Tall; lodging under clipping
Carex nebrascensis	Nebraska sedge	Mesic/Hydric	Graminoid	Yes (annual hay)	\$\$\$	Sod-forming riparian sedge; palatable hay	Requires wet roots; pricey seed
Carex pellita	Woolly sedge	Mesic/Hydric	Graminoid	Yes (annual hay)	\$\$\$	Woolly sedge; rapid colony-former	Aggressive rhizomes; seed cost high
Carex praegracilis	Clustered field sedge	Mesic/Hydric	Graminoid	Yes (low mow)	\$\$\$	Forms dense sod for low- water lawns; high salt tolerance	Expensive seed; requires moist establishment
Carex simulata	Analogue sedge	Mesic/Hydric	Graminoid	Yes (annual hay)	\$\$\$	Wet-meadow sedge; stands brief flooding	Expensive seed; slow to establish
Carex stipata	Sawbeak sedge	Mesic/Hydric	Graminoid	No	\$\$\$	Rapid pioneer on fresh silt; erosion control	Expensive seed; lodging if clipped

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Carex vulpinoidea	Fox sedge	Mesic/Hydric	Graminoid	Yes (annual hay)	\$\$\$	Wide moisture range; fox sedge for stormwater cells	Can be aggressive; expensive seed
Castilleja linariifolia	Wyoming Indian paintbrush	Dry/Xeric	Forb	No	\$\$\$	Striking red bracts; hemiparasite aids natives	Very costly seed; host required; mowing kills display
Castilleja minor	Lesser Indian paintbrush	Mesic/Hydric	Forb	No	\$\$\$	Moist-meadow paintbrush; attracts hummingbirds	Seed scarce; parasitic; dislikes clipping
Castilleja rhexiifolia	Splitleaf Indian paintbrush	Mesic/Hydric	Forb	No	\$\$\$	High-elevation pink paintbrush; pollinator value	Expensive seed; slow, host dependent; not mow tolerant
Castilleja sulphurea	Sulphur Indian paintbrush	Dry/Xeric	Forb	No	\$\$\$	Sulfur-yellow bracts; alpine accent	Expensive seed; hemiparasite; mowing removes bracts
Chamerion angustifolium	Fireweed	Mesic/Hydric	Forb	Yes (light after bloom)	\$\$\$	Fireweed recolonizes burns; bee nectar	Aggressive rhizomes; expensive seed
Cleome lutea	Yellow spiderflower	Dry/Xeric	Forb	No	\$\$	Fast annual for pollinators; nitrogen fixer	Tall annual; mowing prevents seed; seed sold in packets

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Cleome serrulata	Rocky Mountain bee plant	Dry/Xeric	Forb-annual	No	\$\$	Fast annual color; superb pollinator nectar	3-4 ft tall; mowing removes bloom
Coreopsis lanceolata	Lanceleaf tickseed	Dry/Xeric	Forb	Yes (light)	\$\$	Long May–July gold bloom; reseeds	Cutting too low stops rebloom
Coreopsis tinctoria	Golden tickseed	Mesic/Hydric	Forb-annual	No	\$	Quick annual splash in wet basins; pollen for native bees	Needs disturbance; mowing halts reseed
Crepis acuminata	Tapertip hawksbear	Dry/Xeric	Forb	Yes (light)	\$\$	Early yellow daisies; forage for deer	Deep taproot sensitive to scalping
Dalea candida	White prairie clover	Dry/Xeric	Forb	Yes (light)	\$\$	Nitrogen fixer; mid-summer white spikes	Grazing cut too low weakens crowns
Dalea purpurea	Purple prairie clover	Dry/Xeric	Forb	Yes (light)	\$\$	Nitrogen fixer; rich purple bloom	Seed price creeping upward
Danthonia californica	California oatgrass	Mesic/Hydric	Grass-cool	Yes (4 in.+)	\$\$\$	Shade-tolerant lawn alternative; winter green	Seed costly; slow fill
Delphinium occidentale	Subalpine larkspur	Mesic/Hydric	Forb	No	\$\$\$	Striking 4–6 ft blue spikes; hummingbird	Toxic to livestock; mowing removes stems

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<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Tufted hairgrass	Mesic/Hydric	Grass-cool	Yes (annual spring)	\$\$\$	Dense ornamental tufts; moist-shade tolerant	Seed expensive; thatches if cut low
<i>Desmanthus illinoensis</i>	Illinois bundleflower	Dry/Xeric	Forb-legume	Yes (annual )	\$\$	Nitrogen fixer; wildlife seed pods	Needs warmth to establish; coarse stems
<i>Digitaria californica</i>	Arizona cottontop	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$\$\$	Palatable warm-season bunchgrass for sandy soils; good forage	Slow seedling vigor; expensive seed
<i>Distichlis spicata</i>	Inland saltgrass	Mesic/Hydric	Graminoid	Yes (low mow)	\$	Salt-tolerant rhizomatous turf; handles urine & deicer salts	Can thatch thickly; turns brown under drought
<i>Echinacea angustifolia</i>	Narrowleaf purple coneflower	Dry/Xeric	Forb	Yes (late cut)	\$\$\$	Medicinal narrowleaf coneflower; pollinator magnet	Seed pricy; mowing before bloom removes show
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Eastern purple coneflower	Mesic/Hydric	Forb	Yes (late cut)	\$\$	Easy to establish; ornamental purple blooms	Can self-sow aggressively in rich loam; mowing early removes color
<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	Spike rush	Mesic/Hydric	Graminoid	Yes (annual hay)	\$\$\$	Creeping habit for forebays & wetlands; seed for ducks	Expensive seed; needs saturated soils

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Eleocharis rostellata	Beaked spikerush	Mesic/Hydric	Graminoid	No	\$\$\$	Roots at stem tips; stabilizes saline seeps	Seed scarce; mowing collapses arching stems
Elymus canadensis	Canada wildrye	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$	Fast nurse crop; cheap seed	Short-lived; can lodge at maturity
Elymus elymoides	Squirreltail	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$	Low-input erosion control	Sharp awns deter pets; lifespan short
Elymus glaucus	Blue wildrye	Mesic/Hydric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$\$	Fills shaded moist banks; wildlife cover	Can outcompete forbs in mixes
Elymus lanceolatus	Thickspike wheatgrass	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$	Drought & saline tolerant	Can dominate mixes; coarse leaves
Elymus trachycaulus	Slender wheatgrass	Mesic/Hydric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$	Quick cool-season cover; handles saline soils	Short-lived; lodges if cut too low
Elymus virginicus	Virginia wildrye	Mesic/Hydric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$	Establishes in shady moist areas; good forage	Can be aggressive in irrigation; short lifespan
Engelmannia pinnatifida	Engelmann's daisy	Dry/Xeric	Forb	Yes (light)	\$\$	Long spring bloom; drought-tolerant pollinator	Coarse foliage; mowing early removes flowers

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Eragrostis trichodes	Sand lovegrass	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$	Airy seedheads; excellent sand stabilizer	Seed dormancy; needs warmth to germinate
Erigeron speciosus	Aspen fleabane	Mesic/Hydric	Forb	Yes (light)	\$\$\$	Showy; bee and butterfly nectar	High seed cost; weak under drought
Eriogonum heracleoides	Parsnipflower buckwheat	Dry/Xeric	Forb	No	\$\$\$	Late-season yellow pollen	Woody base; mowing removes shape; seed costly
Eriogonum racemosum	Redroot buckwheat	Dry/Xeric	Forb	No	\$\$\$	Stabilizes dry slopes; pollinator value	Slow to establish; expensive seed
Eriogonum umbellatum	Sulphur buckwheat	Dry/Xeric	Forb	No	\$\$\$	Thrives in gravel	Woody mat; mowing impossible; seed expensive
Erysimum capitatum	Sanddune wallflower	Dry/Xeric	Forb	Yes (light)	\$\$	Fragrant orange flower; biennial-perennial	Short-lived; mowing before seed removes stand
Eschscholzia californica	California poppy	Dry/Xeric	Forb	No	\$\$	Bright orange spring poppy; quick annual color	Needs disturbance to reseed; mowing halts bloom
Festuca arizonica	Arizona fescue	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$\$	Forms fine, drought-tough clumps	Slow to fill; scalps if cut <4 in.

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<i>Festuca campestris</i>	Rough fescue	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (light)	\$\$\$	Builds deep thatch; wildlife winter forage	Seed expensive; fails under heavy traffic
<i>Festuca idahoensis</i>	Idaho fescue	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (light)	\$\$	Fine-leaf sod for dry slopes	Needs firm seedbed; seedlings slow
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red fescue	Mesic/Hydric	Grass	Yes (turf)	\$	Shade tolerant	Can thatch; high water on sand
<i>Festuca saximontana</i>	Rocky Mountain fescue	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (low mow)	\$\$\$	Adds blue color; drought hardy	Seed expensive; sparse sod
<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>	Blanketflower	Dry/Xeric	Forb	Yes (light)	\$\$	Perennial; long June-Sept bloom	Early mowing removes flowers; can self-sow
<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	Indian blanket	Dry/Xeric	Forb	No	\$	Showy annual for quick color	Annual; reseeds only with disturbance
<i>Geranium viscosissimum</i>	Sticky purple geranium	Mesic/Hydric	Forb	Yes (light)	\$\$	Showy pink flowers; pollinators	Flops after heavy mowing; moderate seed price
<i>Glyceria grandis</i>	American mannagrass	Mesic/Hydric	Graminoid	Yes (annual hay)	\$\$\$	Tall grass for wet riparian zones	Needs constant moisture; seed expensive

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<i>Glyceria striata</i>	Fowl mannagrass	Mesic/Hydric	Graminoid	Yes (annual hay)	\$\$\$	Tolerates shaded wetlands	Seed scarce; lodging when clipped too low
<i>Gutierrezia serotroae</i>	Broom snakeweed	Dry/Xeric	Forb	Yes (light)	\$	Pioneer on disturbed dry soils; pollinator nectar	Woody stems; can become weedy; early mowing removes flower
<i>Hedysarum boreale</i>	Utah sweetvetch	Mesic/Hydric	Forb	Yes (light)	\$\$\$	Fixes nitrogen; wildlife forage	Seed expensive; slow to establish; mowing may delay bloom
<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	Common sunflower	Dry/Xeric	Forb-annual	No	\$	Fast annual cover; bird seed rich in oil	Tall; mowing removes seed heads; can self-seed aggressively
<i>Helianthus maximiliani</i>	Maximilian sunflower	Dry/Xeric	Forb	No	\$\$	Perennial tall sunflower; late nectar & seed for birds	May lodge; mowing defeats height screen
<i>Helianthus nuttallii</i>	Nuttall's sunflower	Mesic/Hydric	Forb	No	\$\$\$	Wet-meadow sunflower; monarch & bird value	Seed scarce, expensive; spreads rhizomes; mowing removes display

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<i>Heliomeris multiflora</i>	Showy goldeneye	Dry/Xeric	Forb	No	\$\$	Long bloom; drought tough	Mowing before August removes color
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	Smooth oxeye	Mesic/Hydric	Forb	Yes (light)	\$\$	Adaptable, supports bees	Can spread; needs staking in rich soils; early mowing stops bloom
<i>Hesperostipa comata</i>	Needle-and-thread	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$	Anchors sandy soils; wildlife forage	Sharp awns problematic for pets; short-lived under mowing
<i>Hesperostipa neomexicana</i>	New Mexico Feathergrass	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$\$	Xeric ornamental	Sharp awns problematic for pets; slow to germinate
<i>Heterotheca villosa</i>	Hairy golden aster	Dry/Xeric	Forb	Yes (light)	\$\$	Late yellow blooms; drought tolerant	Can become woody; mowing removes display
<i>Hordeum brachyantherum</i>	Meadow barley	Mesic/Hydric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$\$	Quick cool-season cover and forage in moist meadows; tolerates brackish soils	Short-lived; lodges under frequent mowing
<i>Hordeum jubatum</i>	Foxtail barley	Mesic/Hydric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$	Pioneer on salty disturbed soils; cheap seed	Awns injure livestock and pets; can be weedy

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Ipomopsis aggregata	Scarlet gilia	Dry/Xeric	Forb	No	\$\$	Loved by hummingbirds; drought tolerant	Biennial needs disturbance; mowing removes stalks
Iris missouriensis	Rocky Mountain iris	Mesic/Hydric	Forb	No	\$\$\$	Thrives in wet meadows; rhizomatous bank stabilizer	Seed expensive; toxic to livestock; mowing shreds leaves
Juncus arcticus	Baltic rush	Mesic/Hydric	Graminoid	Yes (annual hay)	\$\$\$	Withstands flooding & salinity; stormwater favorite	Seed expensive; needs saturated soils
Juncus confusus	Colorado rush	Mesic/Hydric	Graminoid	Yes (annual hay)	\$\$\$	Handles compaction and seasonal flooding	Seed scarce; slow to establish; mowing reduces vigor
Juncus effusus	Common rush	Mesic/Hydric	Graminoid	Yes (late clip)	\$\$	Soft rush forms dense colonies; widely available seed	Can spread aggressively; requires high moisture
Juncus ensifolius	Swordleaf rush	Mesic/Hydric	Graminoid	Yes (annual hay)	\$\$\$	Thrives on wet shoulders; wildlife cover	Seed expensive; constant moisture needed

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Juncus tenuis	Poverty rush	Mesic/Hydric	Graminoid	Yes (low mow)	\$	Thrives on compaction; low turf height	Can become weedy; sparse ornamental value
Juncus torreyi	Torrey's rush	Mesic/Hydric	Graminoid	Yes (annual hay)	\$\$\$	Resists ice scour; 3-4 ft vertical structure	Seed scarce, expensive; needs saturated toe-slope
Koeleria macrantha	Prairie junegrass	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (turf)	\$	Greens early; fine turf for xeric lawns	Goes dormant in heat
Leptochloa dubia	Green sprangetop	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$\$	Quick warm-season cover	May winter-kill in cold snaps
Leymus cinereus	Basin wildrye	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$	Tall buffer; drought & saline tolerant	Coarse; bulky stems; seed cheap but large
Leymus triticoides	Beardless wildrye	Mesic/Hydric	Grass	Yes (annual hay)	\$\$	Sods wet saline soils	Aggressive rhizomes
Liatris punctata	Dotted blazingstar	Dry/Xeric	Forb	No	\$\$	Showy purple spikes; drought tolerant; pollinator	Taproot dislikes mowing
Linum lewisii	Lewis flax	Dry/Xeric	Forb	Yes (light)	\$\$	Long bloom; fine foliage	Early mowing removes bloom; self-seeds moderate

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Lomatium dissectum	Fernleaf biscuitroot	Dry/Xeric	Forb	No	\$\$\$	Medicinal; early pollinator	Slow; deep taproot; seed expensive
Lupinus argenteus var. rubricaulis	Silver lupine	Dry/Xeric	Forb	Yes (light)	\$\$	Nitrogen fixer; blue flowers	Can host alkaloids toxic to livestock
Lupinus caudatus	Tailcup lupine	Dry/Xeric	Forb	Yes (light)	\$\$	Early pollinator forage; nitrogen fixer	Can be toxic to livestock; mowing removes bloom
Machaeranthera tanacetifolia	Tansyaster	Dry/Xeric	Forb	Yes (light)	\$\$	Late purple bloom; drought hardy	Can become weedy; early mowing removes flowers
Mentzelia albicaulis	Creeping Oregon grape	Dry/Xeric	Forb-annual	No	\$	Thrives in disturbed soils; showy yellow	Sticky burs; reseeds only with disturbance
Mimulus guttatus	Seep monkeyflower	Mesic/Hydric	Forb	No	\$\$\$	Bright yellow; wet toe-slope	Seed expensive; needs constant moisture; mowing removes stalks
Mirabilis multiflora	Colorado four o'clock	Dry/Xeric	Forb	No	\$\$	Evening pink blooms; deep taproot	Dies back annually; mowing removes stems
Monarda fistulosa	Wild bergamot	Mesic/Hydric	Forb	Yes (light)	\$\$	Aromatic leaves; nectar for pollinators	Powdery mildew; early mowing removes bloom

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Muhlenbergia asperifolia	Scratchgrass	Mesic/Hydric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$	Forms low mats; salt tolerant	Can thatch
Muhlenbergia montana	Mountain Muhly	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$\$	Fine texture; drought tough	Slow fill-in
Muhlenbergia wrightii	Spike Muhly	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$\$	Ornamental grass; deep roots	May winter-kill in harsh zones
Nassella viridula	Green Needlegrass	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$	Early green forage; deep roots	Seed dormancy high; sharp awns at maturity
Oenothera biennis	Evening Primrose	Dry/Xeric	Forb-biennial	Yes (light)	\$	Yellow night flowers; pollinator	Biennial; mowing in year 2 removes stalks
Oenothera elata	Tall Evening	Mesic/Hydric	Forb-biennial	Yes (light)	\$	Yellow night bloom; wildlife seed	Biennial; mowing year 2 removes stalks; can reseed
Oenothera pallida	Pale Evening	Dry/Xeric	Forb-biennial	Yes (light)	\$\$	Fragrant white flowers	Biennial; sensitive taproot; early mowing removes bloom
Oligoneuron rigidum	Stiff Goldenrod	Dry/Xeric	Forb	Yes (light)	\$\$	Late season yellow nectar; drought tolerant	Can spread; mowing before August removes bloom

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<i>Osmorhiza occidentalis</i>	Sweet Cicely	Mesic/Hydric	Forb	No	\$\$\$	Aromatic; shady moist sites; wildlife forage	Seed expensive; mowing removes tall umbels
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Switchgrass Biomass	Mesic/Hydric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$	High biomass; deep roots; erosion control	Tall; can lodge; early mowing removes habitat value
<i>Papaver nudicaule</i>	Iceland Poppy	Dry/Xeric	Forb-biennial	No	\$\$	Bright spring colors; ornamental	Short-lived; mowing removes blooms
<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	Western Wheatgrass	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$	Rhizomatous sod; drought & saline tolerant	Coarse leaves; can dominate mixes
<i>Pedicularis groenlandica</i>	Elephanthead Lousewort	Mesic/Hydric	Forb	No	\$\$\$	Showy wet meadow species	Hemiparasite; seed scarce, expensive; mowing removes stalk
<i>Penstemon angustifolius</i>	Narrowleaf Penstemon	Dry/Xeric	Forb	No	\$\$	Bright blue spikes; drought hardy	Mowing removes display
<i>Penstemon barbatus</i>	Beardlip Penstemon	Dry/Xeric	Forb	Yes (late)	\$\$	Red hummingbird flowers; reseeds	Needs late clip; early mowing removes bloom
<i>Penstemon eatonii</i>	Firecracker Penstemon	Dry/Xeric	Forb	Yes (late)	\$\$	Red spikes; hummingbird	Early mowing removes bloom

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Penstemon eriantherus	Fuzzy-Tongue Penstemon	Dry/Xeric	Forb	No	\$\$	Drought hardy; showy lavender	Woody base; mowing ruins plants
Penstemon grandiflorus	Large-Flower Penstemon	Dry/Xeric	Forb	No	\$\$\$	Striking pink tubes	Seed expensive; sensitive taproot; mowing kills stalks
Penstemon pachyphyllus	Thickleaf Penstemon	Dry/Xeric	Forb	No	\$\$\$	Silvery foliage; drought tolerant	Seed expensive; woody; mowing removes bloom
Penstemon palmeri	Scented Pale Penstemon	Dry/Xeric	Forb	Yes (late)	\$\$	Scented pale-pink trumpets; attracts bees	Tall 4-5 ft; early mowing removes bloom
Penstemon procerus	Small Penstemon	Dry/Xeric	Forb	Yes (light)	\$	Small for turf-style plantings; blue	Short lived under competition
Penstemon rydbergii	Meadow Penstemon	Mesic/Hydric	Forb	Yes (light)	\$\$\$	Prefers moist slopes; blue tubes	Seed scarce, expensive; mowing before July removes bloom
Penstemon strictus	Rocky Mt	Dry/Xeric	Forb	Yes (light)	\$\$	Hardy blue spikes; reseeds	Can be short-lived if mowed heavy
Phacelia crenulata	Notch-leaved phacelia	Dry/Xeric	Forb-annual	No	\$	Pollinator magnet; soil builder	Sticky foliage; mowing stops reseed

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Phleum alpinum	Alpine Timothy	Mesic/Hydric	Grass	Yes (annual hay)	\$\$	For cool wet meadows; early forage	Short growing season; thick litter
Pleuraphis jamesii	James' Galleta	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$	Dod former for arid sites; heavy grazing tolerant	Slow to germinate in cool soil
Poa alpina	Alpine Bluegrass	Mesic/Hydric	Grass	Yes (turf)	\$\$	For cool moist soils; early green	Dormancy in heat; shallow roots
Poa fendleriana	Muttongrass Drought	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (light)	\$	Drought forage; fine turf look	Growth slows in heavy shade
Poa palustris	Fowl Bluegrass	Mesic/Hydric	Grass	Yes (turf)	\$	For wet meadows; wildlife forage	Needs moisture; lodging under frequent cut
Poa secunda	Sandberg Bluegrass	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (low mow)	\$	Early spring green; low turf	Dormant in midsummer; sparse under irrigation
Pseudoroegneria spicata	Bluebunch Wheatgrass	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (annual hay)	\$	Deep root; erosion control	Slow to establish; coarse mature foliage
Puccinellia nuttalliana	Nuttall's Alkaligrass	Mesic/Hydric	Graminoid	Yes (annual hay)	\$\$\$	Salt-tolerant pioneer; low turf	Seed expensive; needs moist saline soil to establish

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Ratibida columnifera	Prairie Coneflower	Dry/Xeric	Forb	Yes (light)	\$	Drought bloom; pollinator	Biennial/perennial; mowing pre-July removes bloom
Rudbeckia hirta	Black-Eyed	Mesic/Hydric	Forb-biennial	Yes (light)	\$	Quick color; reseeds	Biennial; mowing removes stalk
Schizachyrium scoparium	Little Bluestem	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$	Ornamental fall red; drought tolerant	Can lodge on rich soils
Schoenoplectus acutus	Hard-Stem	Mesic/Hydric	Graminoid	Yes (annual hay)	\$\$\$	Strong culms; wildlife cover	Seed expensive; needs saturated soil; mowing removes vertical cover
Schoenoplectus americanus	American Bulrush	Mesic/Hydric	Graminoid	Yes (annual hay)	\$\$\$	Salt-tolerant; shoreline stabilizer	Seed expensive; establishment requires moisture
Schoenoplectus pungens	Common Threesquare	Mesic/Hydric	Graminoid	Yes (annual hay)	\$\$\$	Dense stems; erosion control	Seed expensive; mowing before frost removes habitat
Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani	Soft-Stem	Mesic/Hydric	Graminoid	Yes (annual hay)	\$\$\$	Flexible stems; stormwater ponds	Seed expensive; aggressive rhizomes; needs wet feet

ScientificName	Common Name	Water Need	Functional Group	Mowing Compatible	Cost	Key Pros	Key Cons
<i>Scirpus microcarpus</i>	Small-Fruited	Mesic/Hydric	Graminoid	Yes (annual hay)	\$\$\$	For wet meadows; wildlife	Seed expensive; can lodge under heavy clip
<i>Scirpus pallidus</i>	Pale Bulrush	Mesic/Hydric	Graminoid	Yes (annual hay)	\$\$\$	Tolerates alkaline wetlands; forage for waterfowl	Seed scarce expensive; needs saturated soils
<i>Setaria vulpiseta</i>	Plains Bristlegrass	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$	Warm-season forage; drought tolerant	Can be weedy; awns may irritate pets
<i>Solidago ptarmicoides</i>	Upland White	Dry/Xeric	Forb	Yes (light)	\$\$	Late nectar; drought hardy	Mowing pre-August removes bloom
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Indiangrass Tall	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$\$	Tall warm-season screen; wildlife cover	Tall; can lodge
<i>Sparganium eurycarpum</i>	Bur-Reed	Mesic/Hydric	Graminoid	No	\$\$\$	Valuable for marsh restoration	Seed expensive; mowing not practical; needs standing water
<i>Spartina pectinata</i>	Prairie Cordgrass	Mesic/Hydric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$\$	Stout rhizomes; stabilizes floodplains	Tall (>5 ft); early mowing removes vertical habitat
<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>	Scarlet Globemallow	Dry/Xeric	Forb	Yes (light)	\$\$	Orange bloom; grazing tolerant	Woody base; mowing before July removes flowers

ScientificName	Common Name	Water Need	Functional Group	Mowing Compatible	Cost	Key Pros	Key Cons
Sphaeralcea parvifolia	Desert Globemallow	Dry/Xeric	Forb	Yes (light)	\$\$	Silver leaves; drought hardy	Mowing reduces seed set
Sporobolus airoides	Alkali Sacaton	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$	Salt-tolerant bunchgrass; erosion control	Slow seedling growth without moisture
Sporobolus compositus	Tall Dropseed	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$	Late airy plumes; deep root	Can lodge under irrigation
Sporobolus contractus	Spike Dropseed	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$	Warm-season cover for sandy soils	Limited nursery availability
Sporobolus cryptandrus	Sand Dropseed	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$	Fragrant seed; quick pioneer	Can thatch; Short-lived in shade
Sporobolus giganteus	Giant Dropseed	Mesic/Hydric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$\$\$	>6 ft; wet meadow show; wildlife cover	Seed scarce, expensive; mowing removes tall structure
Sporobolus heterolepis	Prairie Dropseed	Dry/Xeric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$\$	Fine texture; ornamental; drought	Slow to establish; dislikes heavy clay
Symphotrichum laeve	Smooth Blue	Dry/Xeric	Forb	Yes (light)	\$\$	Late nectar; pollinator	Mowing pre-Aug removes bloom
Symphotrichum novae-angliae	New England	Mesic/Hydric	Forb	Yes (light)	\$\$	Vivid late purple; pollinator magnet	Mowing pre-Aug removes bloom

ScientificName	Common Name	Water Need	Functional Group	Mowing Compatible	Cost	Key Pros	Key Cons
<i>Thelesperma filifolium</i>	Greenthread Tea	Dry/Xeric	Forb	Yes (light)	\$	Long yellow bloom; drought hardy	Can reseed aggressively; mowing removes flowers
<i>Thermopsis rhombifolia</i>	Golden Banner	Dry/Xeric	Forb	No	\$\$	Early spring yellow; nitrogen-fixer	Woody stems; mowing removes stalk
<i>Triglochin maritima</i>	Seaside Arrow	Mesic/Hydric	Graminoid	Yes (annual hay)	\$\$\$	Salt marsh stabilizer	Seed expensive; some parts poisonous to livestock
<i>Trisetum spicatum</i>	Spike Trisetum	Mesic/Hydric	Grass	Yes (annual)	\$\$	Early cool-season forage in alpine meadows	Short growth; lodging if cut low
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Broadleaf Cattail	Mesic/Hydric	Graminoid	No	\$	Water filtration; wildlife cover	Aggressive rhizomes; mowing difficult
<i>Verbena hastata</i>	Blue Vervain	Mesic/Hydric	Forb	Yes (light)	\$	Tall purple spikes; pollinators	Mowing before August removes bloom
<i>Verbena stricta</i>	Hoary Vervain	Dry/Xeric	Forb	Yes (light)	\$	Drought-tough; long bloom	Can spread; mowing removes flowers

ScientificName	Common Name	Water Need	Functional Group	Mowing Compatible	Cost	Key Pros	Key Cons
Vicia americana	American Vetch	Dry/Xeric	Forb-legume	Yes (light)	\$	Nitrogen fixer; wildlife forage	Climbing habit; mowing removes bloom
Vulpia octoflora	Six-Weeks	Dry/Xeric	Grass-annual	No	\$	Quick nurse cover; early green	Dies early
Wyethia amplexicaulis	Mule's Ears	Dry/Xeric	Forb	No	\$\$\$	Early yellow bloom; deep taproot for erosion control	Seed expensive; slow establishment; mowing removes large leaves

## Appendix B. Target Site Descriptions

Below are concise profiles of every landscape "archetype" referenced in the pre-approved mix table. Use them to match your project areas to the appropriate seed palette and maintenance program.

Target site	Where you find it	Typical constraints	Design goal
<b>Compact Parkway (xeric)</b>	4-6 ft curb-walk strips, parking-lot fingers	Full sun, reflected heat, shallow soil, routine mowing $\leq 6$ in.	Dense, low, drought-proof groundcover that stays tidy and salt-tolerant.
<b>Xeric Pollinator &amp; Habitat Island</b>	Larger beds in hot, unirrigated corners	No routine mowing; room for 1-5 ft height	Season-long bloom, wildlife forage, minimal water.

Target site	Where you find it	Typical constraints	Design goal
<b>Rain-Garden Low-Mow</b>	Shallow bio-swales and downspout basins	Brief ponding, summer drought, annual or one-off mow	0–40 in. vegetation that survives wet-dry cycling.
<b>Rain-Garden Tall Habitat</b>	Deeper pond centers, backside of lots	Same wet–dry cycle, but height allowed to 4–6 ft, zero mowing	Dense stems for flow dissipation, bird & pollinator shelter.
<b>Budget Dryland Meadow</b>	Utility parcels, solar arrays, slope toes	No irrigation, once-a-year mow	Cheapest prairie look that suppresses weeds.
<b>Part-Shade Xeric Courtyard</b>	E/N-facing courtyards, light tree canopy	30–50 % shade, routine mowing	Short, drought-tough species that accept dappled light.
<b>Ephemeral Wet-Meadow</b>	Depressions that pond a few hours	Flash inundation, hot/dry later, no mowing	2–4 ft plants that tolerate alternately wet and dry roots.
<b>Pollinator Pocket</b>	Entry beds, signage corners	Height cap $\approx$ 30 in., high visibility	Continuous color May–Oct., kid-friendly scale, optional mow.
<b>Slope &amp; Berm Stabilization</b>	South-facing cut/fill slopes, berm crowns	Lean soil, wind, mow every 2–3 yrs	Deep roots for erosion control, upright form.
<b>Screen &amp; Buffer Strip</b>	Property edges, service drives	Need 4–7 ft living screen, no routine mowing	Dense stems or shrub mass, low pruning frequency.
<b>Snow-Dump Island</b>	Curb-enclosed snow pile bays	Heavy winter saturation, salts, summer drought	Salt-tolerant grasses/rushes that green back quickly.
<b>Utility Corridor / Easement Strip</b>	Bands over buried utilities	No woody roots >18 in., routine mowing, equipment access	Ultra-short turf natives with shallow roots.

Target site	Where you find it	Typical constraints	Design goal
<b>Rock-Mulch Accent Bed</b>	Narrow ribbon of decorative rock	Reflective heat, 4–6 in. soil, foot scuffing	Tap-rooted, glare-tolerant flowers needing minimal water.
<b>Dog-Relief Strip</b>	Apartment or hotel pet areas	High traffic, nitrogen/urine load, routine mowing	Tough native turf that recovers from spots and compaction.
<b>Detention Forebay / Inlet Shelf</b>	Sediment sills in storm ponds	Flash inundation, sediment scraping, wet clay	Rhizomatous sedges/rushes that rebound after clean-outs.
<b>Riparian Setback Zone</b>	25–100 ft mandated buffers along water	Periodic flooding, limited grading, tall veg allowed	Tall grasses & shrubs for habitat and bank stability.

## Appendix C. Alternative Rain Garden Mixes for Higher Sand Content

ID	Mix Name & Target Site	Composition (% bulk seed unless noted)	Height & Maintenance	Cost Tier
3A	<b>Rain-Garden Low-Mow (60-75% sand): <i>Green Swale</i></b>	Canada wildrye 25%   Nebraska sedge 20%   Switchgrass 20%   Swamp milkweed 9%   Showy milkweed 10%   Blue vervain 10%   Blue-flag iris 3%   Black-eyed Susan 3%   Selected shrubs*	≤ 40 in.; optional dormant mow	\$–\$\$
3B	<b>Rain-Garden Low-Mow (60-75% sand): <i>Cool Seasons</i></b>	Slender wheatgrass 28%   Canada wildrye 22%   Baltic Rush 15%   Fox sedge 10%   Swamp milkweed 10%	Same height/maintenance	\$–\$\$

ID	Mix Name & Target Site	Composition (% bulk seed unless noted)	Height & Maintenance	Cost Tier
		Blue vervain 6%   New England aster 5%   Spike rush 4%   Selected shrubs*		
4A	<b>Rain-Garden Tall Habitat (60-75% sand): <i>Riparian Reach</i></b>	Switchgrass 24%   Prairie cordgrass 18%   Indiangrass 15%   Blue wildrye 9%   Fox sedge 9%   Swamp milkweed 10%   Blue-flag iris 5%   Bluejoint reedgrass 5%   Blue vervain 5%   Selected shrubs*	3–6 ft; no mow	\$\$– \$\$\$
4B	<b>Rain-Garden Tall Habitat (60-75% sand): <i>Color Burst</i></b>	Prairie cordgrass 23%   Big bluestem 18%   Switchgrass 16%   Fox sedge 9%   Maximilian sunflower 6%   Blue vervain 9%   Swamp milkweed 9%   New England aster 5%   Black-eyed Susan 5%   Selected shrubs*	4–6 ft; no mow	\$\$– \$\$\$
3A	<b>Rain-Garden Low-Mow (75-90% sand): <i>Green Swale</i></b>	Canada wildrye 22%   Nebraska sedge 12%   Switchgrass 25%   Swamp milkweed 11%   Showy milkweed 12%   Blue vervain 6%   Black-eyed Susan 6%   Slender wheatgrass 6%   Selected shrubs*	≤ 40 in.; optional dormant mow	\$–\$\$
3B	<b>Rain-Garden Low-Mow (75-90% sand): <i>Cool Seasons</i></b>	Slender wheatgrass 30%   Canada wildrye 24%   Baltic Rush 10%   Fox sedge 8%   Swamp milkweed 12%   Blue vervain 6%   New England aster 8%   Spike rush 2%   Selected shrubs*	Same height/maintenance	\$–\$\$
4A	<b>Rain-Garden Tall Habitat (75-90% sand): <i>Riparian Reach</i></b>	Switchgrass 28%   Prairie cordgrass 12%   Indiangrass 17%   Blue wildrye 9%   Fox sedge 9%   Swamp milkweed 12%   Blue-flag iris 5%   Bluejoint reedgrass 3%   Blue vervain 5%   Selected shrubs*	3–6 ft; no mow	\$\$– \$\$\$

ID	Mix Name & Target Site	Composition (% bulk seed unless noted)	Height & Maintenance	Cost Tier
4B	<b>Rain-Garden Tall Habitat (75-90% sand):</b> <i>Color Burst</i>	Prairie cordgrass 16%   Big bluestem 15%   Switchgrass 20%   Fox sedge 9%   Maximilian sunflower 6%   Blue vervain 9%   Swamp milkweed 9%   New England aster 6%   Black-eyed Susan 10%   Selected shrubs*	4–6 ft; no mow	\$\$– \$\$\$

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