

NWF Denver Do-not-Buy/ Do-not-Plant List

Denver Non-Native Plant to Avoid		Notes	Plant Instead	
Common Name	Latin Name		Common Name	Latin Name
Grasses				
Golden Bamboo	<i>Phyllostachys aurea</i> <i>Bambusa sp.</i>	available for sale online and in garden centers, quickly spreads by underground rhizomes and escapes cultivation	Big Bluestem Basin Wild Rye	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i> <i>Leymus cinereus</i>
Herbaceous Perennials				
Tropical Milkweed	<i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	When planted in areas where it does not die back in the winter, this plant helps to sustain high levels of parasites called OE that are highly detrimental to the health and migration success of Monarch butterflies.	Swamp Milkweed Showy Milkweed Butterfly Milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i> <i>Asclepias speciosa</i> <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>
Bouncingbet	<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>	Colorado B List Noxious Weed that introduced as an ornamental and is still promoted for gardening although it has naturalized widely.	Rocky Mountain Bee Plant Wild Geranium	<i>Cleome serrulata</i> <i>Geranium viscosissimum</i> or <i>G. caespitosum</i>
Dame's Rocket	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Colorado B List Noxious Weed that has been sold as and used as an ornamental over a long period of time. This species acts aggressively in otherwise undisturbed wet habitats, throughout abandoned gardens, and on steep slopes	Sidebells penstemon Palmer penstemon	<i>Penstemon secundiflorus</i> <i>Penstemon palmeri</i>
Oxeye Daisy	<i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i>	Colorado B List Noxious Weed that is still often sold in wildflower mixes, this aggressive species readily escapes cultivation.	Showy Daisy Yarrow	<i>Erigeron speciosus</i> <i>Achillea lanulosa</i>
Spurge – Myrtle, Cypress	<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i> <i>Euphorbia ...</i>	Both are Colorado A List Noxious Weeds that have been popular as ornamentals for low-water gardening situations although the sap causes skin irritation. These plants spread quickly and outcompete native species in sensitive environments.	Creeping mahonia Kinnickinnick Sulphur flower	<i>Mahonia repens</i> <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> <i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i>

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Toadflax – Dalmatian, Yellow	<i>Linaria genistifolia</i> <i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Colorado B List Noxious Weed that readily escapes from gardens and moves into open natural areas and along roadsides. The aggressive root system outcompetes native species for water and nutrients. Prolific seed is spread by both wind and animals.	Yellow Columbine Golden Banner	<i>Aquilegia chrysantha</i> <i>Thermopsis rhombifolia</i>
Vines				
Chinese Clematis	<i>Clematis orientalis</i>	Colorado B List Noxious Weed that spreads aggressively up fences, trees, and other vertical structures throughout right-of-ways, waterways, and rocky cliffs.	Western White Clematis Hops Vine	<i>Clematis ligusticifolia</i> <i>Humulus lupulus</i>
English Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	This vine can kill trees that it climbs and smother vegetation along the ground. It also hosts Bacterial Leaf Scorch, a disease problematic to some native trees and shrubs.	Riverbank Grape Western White Clematis	<i>Vitis riparia</i> <i>Clematis ligusticifolia</i>
Shrubs				
Butterfly Bush	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	This deciduous shrub easily invades riparian areas and areas that have been disturbed. Although it provides nectar, it is not a source of food for butterflies and moths, so wildlife is impacted when it is planted instead of or when it displaces native host plants.	False Indigo-Bush	<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>
Russian Olive	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Colorado B List Noxious Weed, quickly spreads along waterways including irrigation ditches and throughout pastures. It hybridizes with native <i>Elaeagnus sp.</i> , displaces native species, tolerant of a wide range of stressors including salt, drought, and shade, seeds are widely dispersed by wildlife.	Silver Buffaloberry Greene’s Mountain-Ash	<i>Shepherdia argentea</i> <i>Sorbus scopulina</i>
Oleander	<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Although attractive, all parts of this plant are highly toxic and can be fatal to humans, pets, and birds if ingested. Contact with the skin causes dermatitis. Oleander attracts pollinators with its flowers and scent, however offers no nectar reward, which wastes the pollinators’ energy. Seeds of this	Wood’s Rose Leadplant	<i>Rosa woodsii</i> <i>Amorpha canescens</i>

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		plant are spread by wind, making it easy to spread to natural areas.		
Scotch Broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Colorado Noxious Weed Watch List species that occurs throughout a wide range of habitats. This plant fixes nitrogen and therefor can outcompete many native species on dry, poor soils.	Mormon Tea	<i>Ephedra sp.</i>
Trees				
Saltcedar/ Tamarisk	<i>Tamarix sp.</i>	Colorado B List Noxious Weed in shrub or tree form, this group of plants invades wet areas and heavily uses water. Excess salt accumulates in the soil due to this species, which ends up making the area inhospitable for most other species.	Apache Plume Wax Currant	<i>Fallugia paradoxa</i> <i>Ribes cereum</i>

denotes plants that have been specified on landscape plans (or planted) for Taylor Morrison in Colorado

References:

Colorado Department of Agriculture [Noxious Weed Species ID](#) (includes definitions of Lists A-C and Watch List species)

Colorado Parks and Wildlife [Top Invasive Concerns: Noxious Weeds](#)

Colorado State University Extension Plant Talk Colorado [2125 – Top Invasive Ornamentals in Colorado](#)

Colorado Native Plant Society [Garden Smart Colorado](#)

University of Florida UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants [Plant Directory](#)

[Federal Noxious Weed List](#)

(In addition to the plants listed above, species listed as noxious weeds may not be planted in Colorado under any circumstances.)