

## **GARDENS AND THEIR KEY PLANTS AT CHATFIELD VISITORS' CENTER GARDENS**

### **Moist Meadow**

Deep, loamy soil in a low floodplain provides the opportunity to grow a bounty of beautiful grasses and forbs native to North American mid-grass and tall-grass prairies. Combined to evoke the ebb and flow of colors and textures in these diverse plant communities, this garden is a lively mecca for insects and birds, providing larval food, nectar, pollen, seed, cover, and nesting material.

### **Grasses**

Big bluestem *Andropogon gerardii* WindwalkerR

Undaunted ruby muhly *Muhlenbergia reverchonii*

Little bluestem *Schizachyrium scoparium* 'Prairie Blues'

Prairie dropseed *Sporobolus heterolepis* and compact selection 'Tara'

### **Herbaceous perennials**

Nodding onion *Allium cernuum*

Pearly everlasting *Anaphalis margaritacea*

Smooth aster *Aster laevis* 'Bluebird'

Aromatic aster *Aster/Symphotrichum oblongifolium* 'October Skies'

Dwarf blue false indigo *Baptisia minor*

Tennessee coneflower *Echinacea tennesseensis*

Prairie smoke *Geum triflorum*

Western sunflower *Helianthus occidentalis*

Lemon Queen sunflower *Helianthus xasperrima* 'Lemon Queen'

Mountain gayfeather *Liatris ligulistylis*

Pitcher sage *Salvia azurea* 'Nekan'

Rough goldenrod *Solidago rugosa* 'Fireworks'

### **Rain Garden**

This low-lying space is periodically inundated by stormwater. Also known also as a bio swale, it collects rainwater and slows its movement. Plants that thrive in mud help hold the soil in place. These grow to luxuriant heights while making use of and cleansing runoff. Tall-grass prairie natives are the stars here, attracting bees, butterflies, and various birds to feed among their lofty blossoms and seed heads.

### **Woody Plants**

Button bush *Cephalanthus occidentalis*

Bur oak *Quercus macrocarpa*

### **Grasses**

Palm sedge *Carex muskingumensis*

Switchgrass *Panicum virgatum* ‘Prairie Blues’, ‘Northwind’, ‘Heavy Metal’ (MM-a mix—16 total)

### **Herbaceous Perennials**

Compact Joe Pye weed *Eupatorium/Eutrochium purpureum* ‘Little Joe’

Compact sneezeweed *Helenium autumnale* short selection

White summer phlox *Phlox paniculata* ‘David’

Obedient plant *Physostegia virginiana* ‘Miss Manners’

Black-eyed Susan *Rudbeckia laciniata*

Cutleaf compass plant *Silphium laciniatum*

Ohio goldenrod *Solidago ohioensis*

Culverroot *Veronicastrum virginicum* ‘Album’, ‘Fascination’, ‘Lavendelturm’

### **Dry Prairie**

This garden reflects upland plant communities of the North American Great Plains. Short in stature and frugal with water, plants native to dry short-grass prairie are diverse and colorful, and support a wide range of native creatures. Bunching rather than spreading grasses are used here, responding to light and wind while allowing colorful flowers to intermingle, giving the planting garden-like appeal.

### **Grasses**

Grama *Bouteloua* ‘Blonde Ambition’

### **Herbaceous Perennials**

Fringed sage *Artemisia frigida*

White sage *Artemisia ludoviciana*

Butterflyweed *Asclepias tuberosa*

Prairie winecup *Callirhoe involucrata*

Purple prairie clover *Dalea purpurea* ‘Stephanie’

Dwarf rabbitbrush *Ericameria nauseosa* ssp. *nauseosa*

Indian blanket *Gaillardia aristata* ‘Amber Wheels’

Gayfeather *Liatris punctata*

Blue flax *Linum lewisii*

Rocky Mountain penstemon *Penstemon strictus*

Prairie petunia *Ruellia humilis*

Spiderwort *Tradescantia occidentalis*  
Sopaweed *Yucca glauca*

### **Watersmart Avenue (Chaparral Garden)**

Both sides of this main path feature garden-worthy western natives that thrive in hot, dry conditions. Natural chaparral communities inspire the design: shrubs, small trees, perennials, grasses, succulents, and fiber plants mingle in a generously lush manner, belying their dry habitat. Well-combined textures of evergreen foliage, plant form, and structure give this garden strong year-round interest.

### **Woody Plants**

Leadplant *Amorpha canescens*  
Hardy manzanitas *Arctostaphylos* spp.  
Saltbush *Atriplex canescens*  
Fendler's barberry *Berberis fendleri*  
Fernbush *Chamaebatiaria millefolium*  
Big blue/silver rabbitbrush *Ericameria nauseosa*  
Apache plume *Fallugia paradoxa*  
Fendlerbush *Fendlera rupicola*  
New Mexican olive *Forestiera pubescens* ssp. *neomexicana*  
Bristlecone pine *Pinus aristata* 'Blue Bear'  
Dwarf pinyon *Pinus edulis* 'Farmy', 'Trinidad'  
One-needle pine *Pinus monophylla* 'Blue Jazz'  
Dwarf ponderosa pine *Pinus ponderosa* 'Mary Ann Heacock'  
Wavy-leaf oak *Quercus undulata*

### **Grasses**

Giant sacaton *Sporobolus wrightii* 'Windbreaker'

### **Herbaceous Perennials**

Sunset hyssop *Agastache rupestris*  
Dwarf hyssop *Agastache* 'Coronado'  
Prairie winecup *Callirhoe involucrata*  
Sulfur flower *Eriogonum umbellatum*  
Desert four o'clock *Mirabilis multiflora*  
Silverleaf evening primrose *Oenothera macrocarpa* ssp. *incana* 'Silver Blade', *O. m.* ssp. *oklahomensis* 'Comanche Campfire'  
Plains prickly pear selections *Opuntia phaeacantha*, *O. polyacantha*  
*Penstemon linarioides* var. *coloradoensis*

Red, yellow pineleaf penstemon *Penstemon pinifolius*  
Rocky Mountain penstemon *Penstemon strictus*  
Santa Fe phlox *Phlox nana*  
Purple mountain sage *Salvia pachyphylla*  
Plains skullcap *Scutellaria resinosa* ‘Smoky Hills’  
Banana yucca *Yucca baccata*  
*Zauschneria garrettii* ‘Orange Carpet’ hummingbird trumpet

### **North Slope (Montane Garden)**

This narrow, steep, partly shaded space showcases smaller plants from montane forests and meadows of the Rockies and some Midwestern woodlanders. Delicate foliage textures compliment blossoms, giving the planting a soft appearance. Plants hug the slope and take hold among the rocks of the wash, slowing erosion along this challenging area while offering a fresh green respite for the eye.

### **Woody Plants**

Waxflower *Jamesia americana*  
Mountain juniper *Juniperus communis* var. *saxatilis* ‘Montana Spreader’  
Flat-topped Colorado spruce *Picea pungens* ‘Mesa Verde’  
Boulder raspberry *Rubus deliciosus*  
Birchleaf spirea *Spiraea betulifolia* ‘Tor’

### **Grasses and Sedges**

Mountain sedge *Carex appalachica*  
Tufted hair grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*

### **Herbaceous Perennials**

Red columbine *Aquilegia canadensis*  
Mountain fleabane *Erigeron speciosus*  
Coralbells *Heuchera rubescens* var. *versicolor*, *H. sanguinea*  
Wild blue flag *Iris missouriensis*  
Horsemint *Monarda fistulosa*  
Blue mist penstemon *Penstemon virens*  
Creeping Jacob’s ladder *Polemonium reptans*  
Wood poppy *Stylophorum diphyllum*  
Meadow rue *Thalictrum aquilegifolium*  
Rue anemone *Thalictrum (Anemonella) thalictroides*  
Golden banner *Thermopsis montana*

### **Critter-Resistant Bulbs Planted at Chatfield**

Naked boys *Colchicum bornmuelleri*, *C.* 'Lilac Wonder', *C.* 'Violet Queen'  
Daffodils: *Narcissus* Bravoure, St. Keverne, Smiling Sun, February Gold,  
Rapture, Surfside, Golden Echo, Angel Eyes, Elka, Kokopelli, Segovia, W. P.  
Milner

Ornamental onions: *Allium aflatunense* Purple Sensation, *A. azureum*, *A.*  
*albopilosum*, *A. karataviense*, *A. moly* 'Jeannine'

Grecian windflower: *Anemone blanda* 'Blue Shades', 'White Splendour'

Blue camas: *Camassia leichtlinii* 'Blue Danube', 'Caerulea'

Foxtail lilies: *Eremurus* 'Cleopatra', *Eremurus* 'Romance', *Eremurus* 'Spring  
Valley Hybrids'

Checker lily: *Fritillaria meleagris* 'Alba'

Spanish bluebells: *Hyacinthoides hispanica* 'Excelsior'

*Iris bucharica*

Snow iris: *Iris histrioides* 'Katharine Hodgkin', *Iris reticulata* 'Cantab', 'J.S. Dijt'

grae hyacinth: *Muscari* 'Blue Spike', 'Saffier', 'Blue Magic', 'White Magic',  
'Valerie Finnis'

Glory of the snow: *Scilla forbesii*, *S. luciliae*, *S. sardensis*

Squills: *S. scilloides* var. *libanotica*, *S. mischtschenkoana*