



Southwest Courtyard Garden

A demonstration garden of the Santa Fe Native Plant Project (SNaPP), a certification and public education program of the Santa Fe Extension Master Gardeners



The southwest courtyard garden at the entrance to the Extension Office demonstrates the wide variety of native plants, cultivars and hybrids that can be used to create a patio or courtyard garden in Santa Fe. The trees, shrubs, grasses, and perennials seen here are native to New Mexico, or are cultivars or hybrids of regional native plants. All are considered low maintenance with low or very low water requirements according to the SNaPP Guide to Native Plants for the Santa Fe Landscape. A simple drip irrigation system provides the plants supplemental water during periods of drought.

What are Native Plants? “Plants that have evolved over thousands of years to be able to survive in a particular region, and have adapted to the geography, hydrology, and climate of that region. A community of native plants provides habitat for a variety of native wildlife species; and will be hardy and resistant to the local conditions, thereby usually requiring less maintenance when used in landscaping.”

— US Environmental Protection Agency

In other words, a native plant is any plant that existed on the continent before the European settlement and wasn't under cultivation.

Why are Native Plants Important? They provide many benefits to our environment in addition to adding to the beauty of the landscape. Native plants:

- Serve as a natural habitat and food source for local insects, birds and other native wildlife
- Are well-adapted to our climate and in balance with our ecosystem
- Sustain populations of pollinators and attract a variety of beneficial insects
- Typically require little or no supplemental irrigation
- Usually require low maintenance
- Help control storm runoff and erosion
- Develop a strong relationship with native soil microorganisms and fungi
- Create a unique sense of place

For more information go to <https://www.sfemg.org> and click on Projects, then scroll down to Santa Fe Native Plant Project (SNaPP)

What we planted, by family

Unless otherwise noted, all plants are native to New Mexico¹ or the neighboring states², or are cultivars or hybrids of native plants. Named cultivars appear as *Genus species* ‘Cultivar Name’. Hybrids between species have an X in the botanical name.

Asteraceae (Aster or Composite)

Berlandiera lyrata (Chocolate Flower)
Engelmannia peristenia ‘El Dorado’
(Engelmann’s Daisy)
Helianthus maximiliani
(Maximilian Sunflower)
Liatris punctata (Spotted Gayfeather)
Melampodium leucanthum
(Blackfoot Daisy)
Solidago sphacelata ‘San Miguel Co.’³
(Golden Fleece Goldenrod)

Bignoniaceae (Catalpa)

Chilopsis linearis (Desert Willow)

Brassicaceae (Mustard)

Dimorphocarpa wislizeni (Spectacle Pod)

Amaranthaceae (Amaranth-Chenopod)

Atriplex argentea (Silverscale Saltbush)

Fabaceae (Legume)

Dalea candida (White Prairie Clover)
Dalea purpurea (Purple Prairie Clover)

Lamiaceae (Mint)

Agastache rupestris
(Hummingbird Mint, Giant Hyssop)
Salvia azurea (Blue Sage)
Salvia greggii ‘Flowerkisser® Coral Pink’
(Coral-Pink Sage)
Salvia greggii ‘Furman’s Red’
(Furman’s Red Texas Bush Sage)
Salvia greggii ‘Ultra Violet’
(Ultra Violet Autumn Sage)
Salvia pachyphylla ‘Mulberry Flambe’
(‘Mulberry Flambe’ Mojave Sage)
Scutellaria X ‘Dark Violet’
(‘Dark Violet’ Skullcap)
Scutellaria suffrutescens (Cherry Skullcap)⁴

Malvaceae (Mallow)

Callirhoe involucrata (Poppymallow)

Onagraceae (Evening Primrose)

Gaura lindheimeri ‘Rosyjane’ (Gaura)
Oenothera macrocarpa (Evening Primrose)
Zauschneria garrettii ‘Orange Carpet’
(Creeping Hummingbird Trumpet)

Plantaginaceae (Plantain & Snapdragon)

Penstemon barbatus (Scarlet Bugler)
Penstemon barbatus ‘Elfin Pink’
(‘Elfin Pink’ Penstemon)
Penstemon eatonii (Firecracker Penstemon)
Penstemon jamesii (James’ Penstemon)
Penstemon neomexicanus
(New Mexico Penstemon)
Penstemon pinifolius ‘Magdalena Sunshine’
(Pineleaf Penstemon)
Penstemon pseudospectabilis
(Desert Penstemon)
Penstemon strictus
(Rocky Mountain Penstemon)

Poaceae (Grass)

Bouteloua curtipendula (Sideoats Grama)
Panicum virgatum (Switchgrass)
Schizachyrium scoparium (Little Bluestem)
Sorghastrum nutans (Indiangrass)
Sporobolus wrightii (Giant Sacaton)

Polemoniaceae (Phlox)

Phlox nana (Santa Fe Phlox)

Polygonaceae (Buckwheat)

Eriogonum umbellatum ‘Kannah Creek’
(‘Kannah Creek’ Buckwheat)
Eriogonum umbellatum
(Sulpher Buckwheat)
Eriogonum wrightii (Wright’s Buckwheat)

Rosaceae (Rose)

Chamaebatiaria millefolium (Fernbush)
Purshia stansburyana (Cliffrose)

1. *Flora Neomexicana III: An Illustrated Identification Manual*, 2nd ed. Kelly W. Allred, Eugene M. Jercinovic. Illustrated by Robert DeWitt Ivey. LuLu, 2020
2. New Mexico’s neighboring states—TX, OK, CO, UT, AZ (USDA PLANTS Database (plants.usda.gov/))
3. Eastern U.S. (www.missouri-botanicalgarden.org) and choose Plant Finder in the menu)
4. Mexico (SEINet www.swbiodiversity.org)