

BOULDER COUNTY NATURE ASSOCIATION – ECOSYSTEM STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE – MAY 2005

VASCULAR PLANT SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN IN BOULDER COUNTY

All species have full tracking status by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) except those noted as “watch-listed only”

See CNHP website for explanation of global and state ranks; see end of table for references; BC = Boulder County; Flw = flowers; Fr = fruit

Element ID	Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	BLM/USFS Sensitivity Status	FAMILY	HABITAT	NOTES Months are indicated by numbers 1 to 12
22418	<i>Acorus calamus</i>	Sweet Flag	G4?	SH	-	Acoraceae Sweetflag	Wetlands	Formerly frequent along meadows of piedmont valleys but disappearing as wetlands drained for development; extinct in Boulder
17408	<i>Aletes humilis</i>	Larimer Aletes	G2G3	S2S3	-	Apiaceae Parsley	Ponderosa Pine 6500-8700 ft	Found on Silver Plume granite; endemic in outer foothills, Boulder and Larimer Co. Flws 3-6; fruits 5-7
21002	<i>Alsianthe stricta</i>	Rock Sandwort	G5	S1	-	Alsiniaceae Chicweed	Wet tundra	Rare; known only from Mt. Evans
20956	<i>Amorpha nana</i>	Dwarf Wild Indigo	G5	S2S3	-	Fabaceae Pea	Outwash fans	Small shrub with purple flowers; locally common in BC on Shanahan, NCAR, NIST, and Davidson mesas
19450	<i>Anagallis minima</i>	Chaffweed	G5	S1	-	Primulaceae Primrose	Floodplains, piedmont valleys	In the <i>Juncus arcticus</i> zone; rare or overlooked; exceedingly inconspicuous plant
23563	<i>Apios americana</i>	American Groundnut	G5	S1	-	Fabaceae Pea	Sandstone cliffs, wetlands	Woodland-prairie relict; purplish-brown flowers; at White Rocks
18092	<i>Aquilegia saximontana</i>	Dwarf Columbine	G3	S3	-	Helleboraceae Hellebore	Subalpine/Alpine 9000-12,000 ft	Flw 7-8; endemic to central and north-central CO; frequent in alpine fell fields along Continental Divide
24246	<i>Argyrochosma fendleri</i>	Fendler Cloak-fern	G3	S3	-	Sinopteridaceae Lipfern	Talus and cliff crevices of arid canyonsides	Infrequent in outermost foothills
23792	<i>Aristida basiramea</i>	Forktip Three-awn	G5	S1	-	Poaceae Grass	Sandstone outcrops of outer hogbacks	Rare, limited to a few sites in Boulder, Jefferson, and Larimer counties; White Rocks in BC
17484	<i>Artemisia pattersonii</i>	Patterson's Wormwood	G3G4	S3	-	Asteraceae Sunflower	Alpine tundra	Infrequent and very local in BC; Niwot Ridge and trail to Chasm Lake, Long's Peak
24022	<i>Asclepias stenophylla</i>	Narrow-leaved Milkweed	G4G5	S2	-	Asclepiadaceae Milkweed	Outwash fans	Uncommon on mesas
16688	<i>Askellia nana (crepis)</i>	Dwarf Hawksbeard	G5	S2	-	Asteraceae Sunflower	Alpine Scree and talus 11,000-14,000 ft	Flws 7-8; very rare and local in BC; on Arapahoe Pass
22566	<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>	Black Spleenwort	G5	S1	-	Aspleniaceae Spleenwort	Restricted to sandstone cliffs	At White Rocks in BC
24358	<i>Asplenium septentrionale</i>	Grass-fern	G4G5	S3S4	-	Aspleniaceae Spleenwort	Arkosic rocks in outer foothills	Watch-listed only; fairly common; as the common name suggests, looks like a bunchgrass
18480	<i>Astragalus sparsiflorus</i>	Front Range Milkvetch	G3?	S3?	-	Fabaceae Pea	Rocky slopes, outer foothills	One record in BC in Gregory Canyon; endemic
17255	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	Paper Birch	G5	S1	-	Betulaceae Birch	Long Canyon, Green Mountain	Only Colorado locality
20475	<i>Botrychium echo</i>	Reflected Moonwort	G3	S3	-	Ophioglossaceae Adder's Tongue	Subalpine 9500-11,000 ft	Spores in July; rocky hillsides, grassy slopes and meadows; rare in BC

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22785	<i>Botrychium hesperium</i>	Western Moonwort	G3G4	S2	-	Ophioglossaceae Adder's Tongue	Subalpine and alpine	
23144	<i>Botrychium lanceolatum</i> var. <i>lanceolatum</i>	Lance-leaved Moonwort	G5T4	S3	-	Ophioglossaceae Adder's Tongue	Subalpine and alpine	Watch-listed only
	<i>Botrychium lineare</i>	Moonwort				Ophioglossaceae Adder's Tongue	Subalpine	Very rare in BC
23474	<i>Botrychium lunaria</i>	Common Moonwort	G5	S3	-	Ophioglossaceae Adder's Tongue	Subalpine and alpine	Watch-listed only; most common species in this genus in Colorado
23966	<i>Botrychium minganense</i>	Mingan's Moonwort	G4	S1	-	Ophioglossaceae Adder's Tongue	Tundra	Rare in BC
19971	<i>Botrychium pallidum</i>	Pale Moonwort	G3	S2	-	Ophioglossaceae Adder's Tongue	Open hillsides, burned or cleared areas 9800-10,000 ft	Spores 7-8
22022	<i>Botrychium simplex</i>	Least Moonwort	G5	S1	-	Ophioglossaceae Adder's Tongue	Subalpine peat fens	Rare in BC
18435	<i>Botrypus virginianus</i> ssp. <i>europaeus</i>	Rattlesnake Fern	G5	S1	-	Ophioglossaceae Adder's Tongue	Springs, ravines 6000-9500 ft	Spores 6-7
21172	<i>Callitriche heterophylla</i>	Large Water-starwort	G5	S1	-	Callitrichaceae Water Starwort	Wetlands	Only two reports, from Boulder and Teller counties
21581	<i>Carex diandra</i>	Lesser Panicked Sedge	G5	S1	USFS	Cyperaceae Sedge	Upper montane	Rare in BC; one record in Gold Hill; forms floating mats
23259	<i>Carex lasiocarpa</i>	Slender Sedge	G5	S1	-	Cyperaceae Sedge	Subalpine fens	
20528	<i>Carex oreocharis</i>	A Sedge	G3	S1	-	Cyperaceae Sedge	Outwash fans	Rare or local in BC
22544	<i>Carex saximontana</i>	Rocky Mountain Sedge	G5	S1	-	Cyperaceae Sedge	Dry slopes of foothill canyons	Very rare in BC; one record from Long Canyon, Green Mountain
22501	<i>Carex sprengelii</i>	Sprengel's Sedge	G5?	S2S3	-	Cyperaceae Sedge	Outer foothills, mesic canyons	Rare and local in BC
23135	<i>Carex sychnocephala</i>	Many-headed Sedge	G4	S1	-	Cyperaceae Sedge	Shores of small ponds	Very rare in BC; one record from Stapps Lakes
19249	<i>Carex torreyi</i>	Torrey Sedge	G4	S1	-	Cyperaceae Sedge	Outer foothills	One record in BC; mouth of Gregory Canyon, 1973
17753	<i>Castilleja puberula</i>	Downy Indian-paintbrush	G2G3	SNR	-	Scrophulariaceae Figwort	Rocky Tundra	Bracts yellowish, never red; common in BC
17062	<i>Crataegus chrysoarpa</i>	Yellow Hawthorn	G5	S1	-	Rosaceae Rose	Montane	Status in Boulder County doubtful
21235	<i>Crocanthemum bicknellii</i>	Frostweed	G5	S2	-	Cistaceae Rockrose	Base of outer foothills	Infrequent or rare in BC; north of Left Hand Canyon and north of Eldorado Springs
16702	<i>Delphinium ramosum</i> var. <i>alpestre</i>	Colorado Larkspur	G2	S2	-	Helleboraceae Hellebore	Subalpine, aspen groves	Infrequent in BC

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19919	<i>Descurainia ramosissima</i>	Villa Grove Tansy-mustard	G3?	S3?	-	Brassicaceae Mustard		
19693	<i>Dichantheium acuminatum</i> var. <i>sericeum</i>	A Grass	G5TNR	S1	-	Poaceae Grass	Rocky sites	In seeps along base of rimrock cliffs along Front Range
18813	<i>Draba exunguiculata</i>	Clawless Draba	G2	S2	USFS	Brassicaceae Mustard	Alpine tundra	Rare or very infrequent in BC; one record from Arapahoe Peak
19017	<i>Draba fladnizensis</i>	Arctic Draba	G4	S2S3	-	Brassicaceae Mustard	Alpine tundra	Infrequent in BC
17281	<i>Draba porsildii</i>	Porsild's Whitlow-grass	G3G4	S1	-	Brassicaceae Mustard	Alpine tundra	Rare in BC at Kiowa Peak above Green Lakes Valley
19390	<i>Drymaria effusa</i> var. <i>depressa</i>	Spreading Drymaria	G4T4	SNR	-	Alsinaeae Chickweed	Rocky mudflats	Diminutive annual; one occurrence known in Colorado at Rocky Mountain National Park
19330	<i>Eustoma grandiflorum</i>	Showy Prairie Gentian	G5	S3S4	-	Gentianeae Gentian	Streams, wetlands 3500-6000 ft	Watch-listed only; locally abundant on Boulder Creek floodplain south of White Rocks; Flw 7-8
20240	<i>Gaura neomexicana</i> ssp. <i>coloradensis</i>	Colorado Butterfly Weed	G3T2	S1	-	Onagraceae Evening primrose	Mixed grass prairie in drainage bottoms 5800-6200 ft	Federally listed; endemic in WY, CO, NB; Flw 6-9, Fr 7-10; very rare in BC; one record from Lee Hill
20790	<i>Gymnocarpium dryopteris</i>	Oak Fern	G5	S2S3	-	Athyricaeae Ladyfern	Subalpine willow carrs	Shaded woods and thickets; uncommon in BC
17086	<i>Juncus vaseyi</i>	Vasey Bulrush	G5?	S1	-	Juncaceae Rush	Spring slopes and meadows	Rocky Mountain National Park
21450	<i>Kobresia simpliciuscula</i>	Simple Kobresia	G5	S2	USFS	Cyperaceae Sedge	Moist, gravelly tundra	Frequent near Continental Divide of Front Range
20054	<i>Liatris ligulistylis</i>	Gay-feather	G5?	S1S2	-	Asteraceae Sunflower	Wetlands	Found once in Bear Canyon
17751	<i>Lilium philadelphicum</i>	Wood Lily	G5	S3S4	-	Liliaceae Lily	Foothills, Montane 6800-9800 ft	Watch-listed only; sporadic in BC in aspen groves; Flows 6-8
17861	<i>Listera convallarioides</i>	Broad-leaved Twayblade	G5	S2	-	Orchidaceae Orchid	Subalpine forests, cool ravines	Peaceful Valley in BC
16728	<i>Luzula subcapitata</i>	Colorado Wood-rush	G3?	S3?	-	Juncaceae Rush	Subalpine and alpine willow carrs	Endemic; infrequent in BC
22636	<i>Malaxis monophyllos</i> ssp. <i>brachypoda</i>	White Adder's-mouth	G4Q	S1	USFS	Orchidaceae Orchid	Shaded stream sides and wet areas 7200-8000 ft	One record in BC on Green Mt.; Flws 7-8
21778	<i>Nuttallia sinuata</i>	Wavy-leaf Stickleaf	G3	S2	-	Loasaceae Loasa	Foothills	Endemic to Front Range, Boulder to Larimer County; common in vicinity of Boulder; on Flagstaff Mountain and in Gregory Canyon
24461	<i>Oxybaphus decumbens</i>	Great Plains Four-o'clock	G5	S1	-	Nyctaginaceae Four O'Clock		

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20266	<i>Oxytropis parryi</i>	Parry's Crazy-weed	G5	S1	-	Fabaceae Pea	Subalpine	Rare in BC; one record from Caribou Hill above Nederland
16807	<i>Papaver kluanensis</i>	Alpine Poppy	G5T3T4	S3S4	-	Papaveraceae Poppy	Dry alpine meadows, scree, and talus 11,500-14,000 feet	Watch-listed only; rare in BC; at base of Arapahoe Glacier
22774	<i>Parnassia kotzebuei</i>	Kotzebue's Grass-of-parnassus	G4	S2	USFS	Parnassiaceae Grass-of-Parnassus	Subalpine to alpine; stream banks, wet areas; 10-12,000 ft	Rare in BC; Flow 6-7; Fr 7-8
23119	<i>Penstemon angustifolius</i> var. <i>vernalensis</i>	Vernal Narrow-leaf Penstemon	G5T3	S1	-	Scrophulariaceae Figwort	Piedmont valleys	Common in elevated parts of piedmont valley in BC
18196	<i>Phacelia denticulata</i>	Rocky Moutain Phacelia	G3?	S3?	-	Hydrophyllaceae Waterleaf	Outer foothills Montane slopes	Endemic, Front Range foothills to southern Wyoming; corolla is pale blue
20244	<i>Phippsia algida</i>	Snow Grass	G5	S2	-	Poaceae Grass	Glacial cirques	Usually over 12,000 feet
23937	<i>Physaria bellii</i>	Bell's Twinpod	G2	S2	-	Brassicaceae Mustard	Shales, limestones 5200-5800	Eastern Slope endemic Flw 3-5; Fr 6-7
24158	<i>Potamogeton diversifolius</i>	Waterthread Pondweed	G5	S1	-	Potamogetonaceae Pondweed	Slow streams and ditches	Piedmont valleys, BC, EP; uncommon
19580	<i>Potentilla rupincola</i>	Rocky Mountain Cinquefoil	G2	S2	USFS	Rosaceae Rose	Ponderosa pine or limber pine	Granitic outcrops; may occur with <i>Alletes humilis</i>
22854	<i>Pyrola picta</i>	Pictureleaf Wintergreen	G4G5	S3S4	-	Pyrolaceae Wintergreedn	Outer foothill forests	Watch-listed only White or gray-mottled leaf veins; Flws 6-8
24075	<i>Rotala ramosior</i>	Toothcup	G5	S1	-	Lythraceae Loosestrife	Moist slopes and ravines	Baseline Lake in BC; Fruits 7-8
17561	<i>Salix serissima</i>	Autumn Willow	G4	S1	BLM/USFS	Salicaceae Willow		Very rare; known on Eastern Slope only from vicinity of Rocky Mt. National Park
19770	<i>Selaginella weatherbiana</i>	Weatherby's Spike-moss	G3G4	S3S4	-	Selganiaceae Little Club-moss	North-facing cliffs	Watch-listed only; abundant in Boulder Canyon
22222	<i>Smilax lasioneura</i>	Carrion-flower	G5	S3S4	-	Smilacaceae Smilax	Gulches of outwash fans	Watch-listed only; infrequent in BC on outwash mesas, outer foothills of Front Range
17998	<i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i>	Ute Ladies' Tresses	G2	S2	-	Orchidaceae Orchid	Alluvial soils; floodplains 4500-6800	Federally listed; rare and local in BC; on floodplain of South Boulder Creek; Flws 7-9
23621	<i>Triodanis leptocarpa</i>	Slim-pod Venus' Looking-glass	G5?	S1	-	Campanulaceae Bellflower	Outwash fans	One record near Boulder; abundant on north base of Haystack Mountain
18494	<i>Utricularia minor</i>	Bladderwort	G5	S2	USFS	Lentibulariaceae Bladderwort	Subalpine ponds	Very inconspicuous; one record in BC in Silver Lake Valley
18073	<i>Viola pedatifida</i>	Prairie Violet	G5	S2	-	Violaceae Violet	5800-8800	Prairies, open woodlands and forest openings; dissected lvs; uncommon in BC
23496	<i>Virgulus novae-angliae</i>	New England Aster	G5	S1	-	Asteraceae Sunflower		Either an introduction or a prairie relict in Boulder-Denver area; mostly exterminated by development

This list was compiled by using the CNHP list for the state of Colorado and comparing that to the list of plants for Boulder County from the CU Herbarium website. Columns for Family, Habitat, and Notes were added to provide information on local occurrences of species and to assist in identifying those species most likely to be found in specific habitats. Most information about habitats is from Weber and Wittmann, Colorado Flora-Eastern Slope, and from the Checklist of Vascular Plants of Boulder County by W. A. Weber. Please let me know if there are any corrections or additions. Dianne Andrews, dandrews@boulder.net

References:

Colorado Natural Heritage Program web site, <http://www.cnhp.colostate.edu/>

Colorado Rare Plant Field Guide

Colorado Flora-Eastern Slope by W. A. Weber and R. C. Wittmann

Checklist of Vascular Plants of Boulder County by W. A. Weber

CU Herbarium website, <http://cumuseum.colorado.edu/Research/Botany/>; list of Boulder County taxa in the herbarium