



Frequently Asked Questions

How are you affiliated with the Wild Ones in the Midwest?

We are a fully chartered chapter of Wild Ones Natural Landscapers Ltd., the national non-profit organization headquartered in Wisconsin. We are the only chapter in Colorado, and the only chapter in the West. We enjoy support from, and collaborate on projects with, the national organization and other chapters. While we have access to resources and guidelines for running a chapter, we enjoy the freedom to shape our chapter to meet the needs of our region and community.

How large is the Front Range Chapter?

Our membership is growing! Following a strategic planning meeting in the fall of 2018 and an expansion of our board of directors in 2019, we have more than tripled in size. Our members actively support our mission and appreciate the practical resources and programming we offer. Our chapter ranges geographically from Fort Collins to Colorado Springs; a handful of members reside in adjacent mountain communities. All of our native plant resources include appropriate elevation ranges.

How do you connect with your members?

We connect with our members through the Front Range Report (our monthly newsletter), occasional emails highlighting upcoming events and volunteer opportunities, and regular posts to social media (find us on [Facebook](#)). Our quarterly member mixers are part social, part educational online events. We have plans to pilot a Member Mentor program to connect new members to seasoned gardeners who share their geographic challenges.

How are you different from the Colorado Native Plant Society (CoNPS) and other conservation organizations?

Our Wild Ones Front Range Chapter is one of several organizations in Colorado that advocate for native plants. We share mission alignment with CoNPS, People and Pollinators Action Network, and the Audubon Rockies Habitat Hero program, to name a few. We partner with these groups on many things, including the [Landscaping with Colorado Native Plants Conference](#) and the newly formed [Colorado Native Landscaping Coalition](#). **We focus on supporting individuals and communities committed to transforming home and public landscapes into diverse, water-saving gardens rich with native plants, insects, birds and other wildlife.** We do this with a grass-roots, neighbor-helping-neighbor approach. We swap seeds and plants. We share knowledge and resources. Come join us!

Do you have meetings and speakers?

We have speakers and events related to native plant gardening throughout the year. On our [calendar](#) you will find member mixers, programs featuring guest speakers, how-to workshops, film screenings, book club meetings, seed and plant swaps and sales, public and private garden tours, and the annual Landscaping with Colorado Native Plants Conference. Events occur online and in person. New events are regularly added to the calendar, so check back often or sign up to receive our newsletter to keep informed.

How do you define a native plant?

Wild Ones defines *a native plant as one that occurs naturally in a particular region, ecosystem and/or habitat and was present prior to European settlement*. Expanding on this, Doug Tallamy and Rick Darke define a native plant in their book *The Living Landscape* as *a plant or animal that has evolved in a given place over a period of time sufficient to develop complex and essential relationships with the physical environment and other organisms in a given ecological community*. With these definitions in mind, Wild Ones advocates for the selection of plants and seeds derived, insofar as is possible, from local or regional sources at sites having the same or similar environmental conditions as the site of planting. Such plant material is often termed “the local ecotype.” Sourcing local ecotypes is especially critical when engaged in wildlands restoration projects.

Where do I find a list of native plants for this region?

Check our website! You’ll find plenty of resources on the [Native Landscaping](#) and [Native Plant Data Sheets](#) tabs.

How do I find native plants or seeds?

Our Wild Ones Front Range Chapter will be co-hosting native Plant and [Seed Swaps](#) this year. These are public, pay-it-forward events. At the plant swaps, members and supporters donate plants that they have grown from seed or dug from their gardens. For the Native Seed Swaps, seeds are collected in member home gardens and public landscapes (with permission). These events are a lot of fun and everyone goes home with something new! As our gardens grow, so does our capacity to share plants and seeds. New members who may not have seeds or plants to swap are welcome, too. We appreciate any donations to cover event costs and materials.

Ask for native plants at your local garden center. As the demand for native plants increases, the supply will follow. A new Native Plant Resource List is forthcoming (March 2021).