• Though it can cover large areas of ground when given the warm temperatures it likes, it dies back to its base each winter
  • This plant forms a large taproot as it ages and resents transplanting once established
  • The flowers on this plant give it one of its common names

• This plant is native to Wyoming
  • The late summer/fall color of its flowers look great along sandstone pavers
  • The leaves become tinted a dark burgundy color as fall arrives
  • Its common name is derived in part from its bright-yellow flowers

• This plant is not very noticeable until the flower stalk starts to elongate and bursts into bloom
  • This plant is a late-season hummingbird pleaser
  • A short-lived perennial or biennial in the phlox family
  • It was first described from a specimen collected by Meriwether Lewis

• Sometimes called gumbo lily, this long-blooming plant does well even in clay soils
  • Its lightly lemon-scented flowers, which can be up to 3-4 inches across, are often visited by sphinx moths
  • Its flowers only last one day; the time of day they open is part of its common name
  • Though this deep tap-rooted plant is well-behaved, some of its relatives can become weedy in a garden setting

• A different species of plant (which requires more water) can sometimes be found in floral bouquets
  • Another common name for this plant is blazing star
  • The flower stalks of this plant have a bottle-brush shape

• 39 species of this genus are native to Wyoming
  • This plant family is a favorite of hummingbirds and bumble bees
  • One of its common names comes from its blue-green, clam-like leaves
  • This short-lived perennial produces spectacular blooms for a short period of time
  • Its flowers range in color from white, lavender, pink to a rich purple in color

• The distinctive, small flower heads on this plant are responsible for its common name
  • There are more than 18 species in Wyoming
  • This plant makes a great xeric creeping groundcover
  • Groups of this plant often consist of only female plants
  • Its species name means “with small leaves”

Publications listing more water-wise native plants can be found under the ‘Water-wise Plantings’ heading by visiting barnyardsandbackyards.com and selecting the ‘Resources – Landscaping’ page.

Photographs by J.S. Thompson

ANSWERS: A. Purple poppymallow, winecups (*Callirhoe involucrata*), B. Sulfur-flower buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum var. aureum*), C. Scarlet gilia (*Ipomopsis aggregata*), D. Tufted evening primrose (*Oenothera cespitosa*), E. Dotted gayfeather (*Liatris punctata*), F. Large-flowered penstemon or shell-leaf penstemon (*Penstemon grandiflorus*), G. McClintock pussytoes (*Antennaria parvifolia ‘McClintock’*).