



## DO YOU KNOW THESE NATIVE, WATER-WISE WONDERS?

These are some water-thrifty wildflowers native to the Western United States and used in home landscapes. Can you tell which is which?

**A** • 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 largish taproot as it ages and resents transplanting once established
- The flowers on this plant give it one of its common names

**B** • 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

**C** • 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

**D** • 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

**E** • 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

**F** • 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
- It's flowers range in color from white, lavender, pink to a rich purple in color

**G** • 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](http://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')**