

EXPLANATION	
VEGETATION UNIT	PLANT SPECIES
G GRASSLAND ¹ Mixed grass prairie with occasional stands of low shrubs such as skunkbrush and yucca	<p>Grasses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Big bluestem (<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>) *Blue grama (<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>) *Buffalo-grass (<i>Buchloe dactyloides</i>) Cheatgrass (<i>Bromus tectorum</i>) Crested wheat-grass (<i>Agropyron cristata</i>) Six-weeks fescue (<i>Festuca octoflora</i>) *June-grass (<i>Koeleria gracilis</i>) *Kentucky bluegrass (<i>Poa pratensis</i>) Little barley (<i>Hordeum jubatum</i>) Needle-and-thread (<i>Stipa comata</i>) Sand dropseed (<i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i>) Sand-reed (<i>Calamovilfa longifolia</i>) Squirrel-tail (<i>Sitanion longifolium</i>) Three-awn (<i>Aristida longisetia</i>) *Western wheat-grass (<i>Agropyron smithii</i>) Wild-rye grass (<i>Elymus canadensis</i>) <p>Other plants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beard-tongue (<i>Penstemon secundiflorus</i>) Black-eyed susan (<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>) Blazing star (<i>Liatris punctata</i>) Bushy eriogonum (<i>Eriogonum effusum</i>) Butterweed (<i>Senecio tridenticulatus</i>) Gaillardia (<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>) Globe mallow (<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>) Gumweed (<i>Gnaphalium squarrosa</i>) Locoweed (<i>Oxytropis lamberti</i>) Nebraska lupine (<i>Lupinus plattensis</i>) Prairie cone-flower (<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>) Prickly-pear cactus (<i>Opuntia rafinesquei</i>) Skunkbrush (<i>Rhus trilobata</i>) Stonewort (<i>Sedum lanceolatum</i>) Sunflower (<i>Helianthus annuus</i>) Sunflower (<i>Helianthus pumilus</i>) White gilia (<i>Pomopsis spicata</i>)
S SHRUBLAND Open stands of scrub oak, skunkbrush, and mountain mahogany interspersed with stands of grass.	<p>Shrubs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Mountain mahogany (<i>Cercocarpus montanus</i>) *Scrub oak (<i>Quercus gambelii</i>) *Skunkbrush (<i>Rhus trilobata</i>) Chokecherry (<i>Prunus virginiana</i>) Golden currant (<i>Ribes aureum</i>) Oregon-grape (<i>Mahonia repens</i>) Wax currant (<i>Ribes cereum</i>) Wild plum (<i>Prunus americana</i>) Yucca (<i>Yucca glauca</i>) <p>Grasses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Blue grama (<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>) *Buffalo-grass (<i>Buchloe dactyloides</i>) *Western wheat-grass (<i>Agropyron smithii</i>) Kentucky bluegrass (<i>Poa pratensis</i>) Needle-and-thread (<i>Stipa comata</i>) <p>Other plants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beard-tongue (<i>Penstemon secundiflorus</i>) Bushy eriogonum (<i>Eriogonum effusum</i>) Globe mallow (<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>) Gumweed (<i>Gnaphalium squarrosa</i>) Locoweed (<i>Oxytropis lamberti</i>) Milk vetch (<i>Astragalus bisulcatus</i>) Pasture sagebrush (<i>Artemisia frigida</i>) Prickly-pear cactus (<i>Opuntia rafinesquei</i>) Sand lily (<i>Leucocorynum montanum</i>) Sunflower (<i>Helianthus pumilus</i>) White gilia (<i>Pomopsis spicata</i>) Wild geranium (<i>Geranium fremontii</i>) Wild onion (<i>Allium textile</i>) Wild rose (<i>Rosa arkansana</i>)
P PINE FOREST Very open stands of ponderosa pine and shrubs mixed with stands of grass. Found only on very coarse soils.	<p>Tree and shrubs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Mountain mahogany (<i>Cercocarpus montanus</i>) *Ponderosa pine (<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>) *Skunkbrush (<i>Rhus trilobata</i>) Yucca (<i>Yucca glauca</i>) <p>Grasses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Blue grama (<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>) Buffalo-grass (<i>Buchloe dactyloides</i>) June-grass (<i>Koeleria gracilis</i>) Needle-and-thread (<i>Stipa comata</i>) <p>Other plants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beard-tongue (<i>Penstemon secundiflorus</i>) Bluebell (<i>Mertensia lanceolata</i>) Bushy eriogonum (<i>Eriogonum effusum</i>) Milk vetch (<i>Astragalus adsurgens</i>) Pasque flower (<i>Pulsatilla patens</i>) Pasture sagebrush (<i>Artemisia frigida</i>) Prickly-pear cactus (<i>Opuntia rafinesquei</i>) Pussy-toes (<i>Anemone rosea</i>) Scarlet gilia (<i>Sphaeralcea aggregata</i>) Snakeweed (<i>Gutierrezia sarothrae</i>) Spreading fleabane (<i>Erigeron divergens</i>) Sunflower (<i>Helianthus pumilus</i>) White gilia (<i>Pomopsis spicata</i>)
F FLOOD PLAIN Much more diverse flora in larger drainages than in smaller ones.	<p>Trees and shrubs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Cottonwood (<i>Populus sargentii</i>) *Skunkbrush (<i>Rhus trilobata</i>) *Snowberry (<i>Symphoricarpos occidentalis</i>) *Willow (<i>Salix heteror.</i>) Chokecherry (<i>Prunus virginiana</i>) Rabbitbrush (<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i>) Wormwood (<i>Artemisia filifolia</i>) <p>Grasses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kentucky bluegrass (<i>Poa pratensis</i>) Sand-reed (<i>Calamovilfa longifolia</i>) Squirrel-tail (<i>Sitanion longifolium</i>) Western wheat-grass (<i>Agropyron smithii</i>) Wild-rye (<i>Elymus canadensis</i>) <p>Other plants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bindweed (<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>) Cryptantha (<i>Cryptantha jamesii</i>) Dogbane (<i>Apocynum androsaemifolium</i>) Evening primrose (<i>Oenothera caespitosa</i>) Field horsetail (<i>Equisetum arvense</i>) Pasture sagebrush (<i>Artemisia frigida</i>) Penny-cress (<i>Thlaspi arvense</i>) Pigweed (<i>Chenopodium album</i>) Prickly poppy (<i>Argemone polyanthemos</i>) Rubus (<i>Rubus</i> spp.) Scarlet gaura (<i>Gaura coccinea</i>) Scouring rush (<i>Equisetum hyemale</i>) Sedges (<i>Carex</i> spp.) Spurge (<i>Euphorbia dentata</i>)
C CULTIVATED LAND ¹ Limited to irrigated sod farms and cornfields	

¹ Dryland wheat farming is common in many parts of the quadrangle. These areas are included in the grassland unit even though the native plants have been almost completely displaced; the dryland wheat farming areas are not included in the cultivated-land unit.

ECONOMIC BOTANY

The land in the Parker quadrangle is rapidly undergoing a transition from agricultural use to residential development. Thus, there is a correspondingly rapid increase in the demand for plants which can be used for landscaping purposes. Water availability is a limiting factor in any landscape planning, and it is an especially critical consideration in the Parker area because of the relatively small amounts of water available for home irrigation. In view of these demands and limitations, the use of native plants that are adapted to the local climate provides a distinct advantage over the use of introduced plants because the native species require little artificial watering or fertilizing once they are established. The two native trees which are commonly used in home plantings are the ponderosa pine and the cottonwood. The pine is probably adaptable to a wider variety of sites than the cottonwood, since the latter requires more water to achieve maximum growth. Shrubs which make attractive yard plantings are chokecherry, golden currant, mountain mahogany, Oregon-grape, rabbitbrush, scrub oak, skunkbrush and wax currant. Scrub oak is difficult to grow, but it can be utilized if good stock is obtained and properly cared for. The chokecherry, golden currant, Oregon-grape, and wax currant are useful, in addition to their esthetic value, for the fruit they produce.

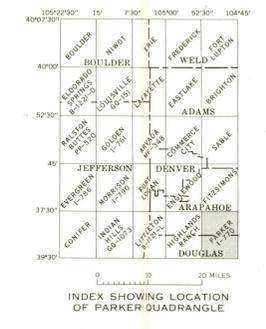
The grasses that would be most useful in establishing a "native" planting include blue grama grass, western wheat-grass, and buffalo grass. These three grasses are the most common ones found in the native grasslands of the area. Other grasses, such as squirrel-tail, big bluestem, and June-grass, could be added for variety.

The herbaceous plants exclusive of the grasses and grasslike plants include all those which we generally call "wildflowers." These are listed under "other plants" in the explanation. The number of wildflowers which are native and which could be used in landscaping is very large; the following list is necessarily an arbitrary and highly selective one: beard-tongue, bluebell, bushy eriogonum, butterweed, globe mallow, loco-weed, pasture sagebrush, prickly-pear cactus, pussy-toes, scarlet gilia, sunflowers, wild geranium, and wild rose.

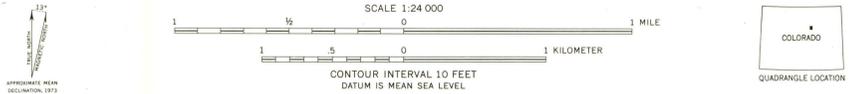
This discussion is intended as only a very brief introduction to the subject. For further information and assistance, local plant nurseries or local offices of the U.S. Department of Agriculture should be consulted.

SELECTED REFERENCE

Weber, W. A., 1967, Rocky Mountain flora. Boulder, University of Colorado Press, 437 p.



Base from U.S. Geological Survey, 1965
Photorevision as of 1972
10,000-foot grid based on Colorado coordinate system, central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 13, shown in blue



**VEGETATION MAP OF THE PARKER QUADRANGLE,
ARAPAHOE AND DOUGLAS COUNTIES, COLORADO**

By
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1973