Colorado Native Plant Society

INSTRUCTION/CLARIFICATION OF SURVEY – MONITORING NATIVE PLANTS IN THE GARDEN

Names of Plants: The full scientific name is preferred. For consistency, it would be best to use the publications, *Colorado Flora Eastern Slope, Colorado Flora, Western Slope* by William A Weber and Ronald C Wittmann, and/or the *Catalog of Colorado Flora* at http://cumuseum.colorado.edu/Research/Botany/Databases/catalog.html for correct spellings and identification, and final determination if the plant in question is actually a native of Colorado (and not an alien).   Examples of scientific names:

> Species = *Acer glabrum*
>
> Subspecies = *Negundo aceroides* subsp. *Interius* (Subspecies = a subdivision of a species, with possible morphological differences, and/or a specific geographic range)
>
> Variety = *Crataegus macracantha* var. *occidentalis* (Variety = a subdivision of a species found within the range of the species, a lower category than subspecies.)
>
> Cultivar = *Padus virginiana* subsp. *melanocarpa* 'Canada Red' (Cultivar = a native species that has been selected for improvement, and propagated for certain traits, such as early flowering or taller flower stalks.   For the purposes of this survey, Plant Select® plants that are cultivars of native plants can also be monitored.

You can also refer to the Colorado Native Plant Society's fact sheet, Suggested Native Plants for Horticultural Use on the Front Range of Colorado which can be found at:
http://www.conps.org/pdf/Horticulture%20&%20Restoration/Native%20Plants%20for%20Horticulture.pdf, and other fact sheets relating to native plant gardening: http://www.conps.org/Committees/horticulture.shtml

Common names may be recorded on the survey, but when submitting final report to CoNPS, please include the full scientific name. If in doubt about the correct identification, please note this on your survey. You can also submit some photos to us and, if possible, we will help with the identification.

Plants can be listed sequentially as you walk through your yard, i.e., front yard by driveway, back yard border, etc.   You may have the same plant in many different areas of your yard, growing in different soils, exposures, mulches, micro-climates, receiving different amounts of irrigation. Please go ahead and list these duplicates.

After your survey has been sent to us at the end of the season and entered into our database, we can send you the next season's survey with your plant names already pre-printed in this column, in the order that you prefer. You'll just have to add any new plants.

Plant Growth: The next two columns should be filled out continuously throughout the growing season, from early spring through fruit formation.   Examples:

> When foliage of herbaceous plants first starts emerging in the spring, on the first line, first column, write: **4/10/11**
>
> When blooming begins, on the third line, first column, write: **5/15/11**

Irrigation/Winter Watering: Irrigation amounts can be filled out each time you irrigate if amounts differ each time; or can be entered at the end of the season if irrigation amounts are the same each time. If you apply different amounts to different areas of your yard, you may want to enter this information on the other side of the survey, and make a note "see other side". Examples:

> Week ending 7/9/11 – back yard border = ½ inch; front yard pond area = ¾ inch.
>
> 6/30/11 – front yard pond area = ¼"

For help in figuring out how much irrigation you've applied, see Colorado State University Garden Notes #266 – Converting Inches to Minutes - http://www.cmg.colostate.edu/gardennotes/266.pdf

'Winter watering' = yes/no; if yes, enter the amount: example: **Feb – once, March – twice**.

Exposure: Is the plant in the sun all day, or just in the afternoon? Is it in part shade all season long, all day long ?   Exposure may differ slightly from spring through fall for some plants in your garden. Example: **May – Sun – All Day; Sept – PtSh – PM.**

Size of Plant (or Grouping) at its Peak of Growth for the Season: Depending upon the type of plant (tree vs herbaceous), give an approximate figure for the width and/or height of the plant, or grouping. Examples: for *Penstemon strictus* = largest grouping covers an area **20' x 13' wide**.   Rosa woodsii **= 4'w. x 7'ht.**   Populus tremuloides = **4'ht**

Approximate Date of Original Planting: Not critical if you don't remember – estimates are fine.
Examples: 4-5 years ago, in spring;   2009, fall;   4-15-11;
Note: With any future purchases of seed or plants, it would also be helpful to know from where the seed or plants originated. Did they originate from the front range area, elsewhere in the State, or out-of-state ?

Originally Planted How?
"A" = started, or planted, from seed
"B" = transplanted from a nursery, or the wild. Record the size of the container if you remember.
        Example: B – 4" pot
"C" = self-seeded

Soils/Mulches:
        Original soil type: Examples: Clay; decomposed granite; sandy loam
        Amendments added at planting time: Examples: garden compost; aged sheep manure; none
        Types of mulch used: Examples: None; pea gravel 1/8"; med. Bark;

Fertilized: Yes/No.   If yes, list how much of each type (NPK etc), and how often.
Examples: yes – 20-10-5 – once late June; yes - bone meal – 3-15-0 – once in fall

Miscellaneous Notes:
Record any specific pollinators you observe during the season
Record any damage caused by insects, disease, hail, wildlife, drought
Record overall condition of the plant at the end of the season. Did it prosper this year, or did it die during the season?
If you have natives that depend on a host, is the host planted nearby ?

Photos: Have you taken any photos you'd like to submit to us for posting on our website ?   We welcome any high quality photos of successful native plant combinations, close-ups, with or without pollinators, a photo of a particular border or garden. These photos will help to encourage other gardeners to start planting native plants in their gardens.

It is very important to identify the photos that you take. We can only upload digital photos on our website. When you download photos from your camera, it will automatically assign a jpeg number for each photo. Use that number to identify the photo that you list in information that you send to us.   Please downsize them to 800 pixels wide if you have that capability. If not, we can do that for you.

When submitting photos to us, please fill out and submit with your photos, "Photograph Record Report – Monitoring Native Plants in the Garden", which you can download from our website.

Questions or suggestions? Call Linda at 970-663-4085 or email conpsoffice@aol.com

Completed survey can be mailed before October 15, 2011 to:
Colorado Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 200
Fort Collins, CO 80522