



## Welcome to Boulder Blossom's First Newsletter!

Happy Friday! We're thrilled you've joined Boulder Blossom's blooming community, where native Colorado beauty meets sustainability in every yard.

### Meet Boulder Blossom

We are Boulder County's new go-to for native and sustainable landscaping, on a mission to make every outdoor space reflect the natural wonders of our region. Our team brings ecological expertise to every project, creating gardens that are beautiful, water-wise, and vital homes for pollinators and wildlife. Learn more about our mission and story at [our website](#).

### Plant Feature Friday

This week we have TWO features to kick off our "Plant Feature Friday" series!

To start off, we're spotlighting Colorado's very own **Rocky Mountain Columbine** (*Aquilegia coerulea*):

- Colorado's state flower: iconic blue and white blooms with a delicate, airy look.
- Wildlife magnet: Hummingbirds and native bees love its nectar.
- Why we love it: Thrives in Boulder County soils, supports pollinators, and brings effortless alpine elegance to your garden.
- Check out our handy infographic for fun facts, planting tips, and a photo!

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLUMBINE

## (COLORADO'S STATE FLOWER!)

*Aquilegia caerulea*

“Columbine” comes from the Latin for “dove”, “Aquilegia” from “eagle”—look for the “dove-like” flowers and “eagle” spurs

Chosen by school kids in 1899 for its stunning beauty and local significance: blue petals for Colorado's skies, white center for snowy peaks, yellow stamens for gold mining history.

- ✓ Pollinator magnet to support local ecosystems
- ✓ Grows naturally in high-elevation meadows and aspen groves, thriving between 7,000–12,000ft
- ✓ Drought tolerant: Once established, it's hardy and needs little water—ideal for Colorado gardens
- ✓ Symbol of Strength: Represents Colorado's rugged landscape and resilient spirit
- ✓ Self-seeds easily; brings a vibrant, native touch to any outdoor space



Picking columbines is illegal on public land—enjoy with your eyes and camera, not your hands!

For our second feature, we have the **Indian Paintbrush** (*Castilleja*):

- Nature's paintbrush: Famous for its vibrant red, orange, and yellow “bracts” that look just like an artist's brush dipped in bold color.
- Pollinator favorite: Those fiery blooms attract bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds, helping support local ecosystems.
- Why we love it: Grows naturally throughout Boulder County's forests and meadows, tolerates our climate, and adds wild, native beauty to any outdoor space.
- Fun fact: Indian Paintbrush partners with neighboring plants underground to thrive.
- Check out the infographic below for more fun facts and a dazzling photo!

# INDIAN PAINTBRUSH

## NATIVE COLORADO PLANT

*Castilleja*

**The name "Indian paintbrush" comes from a combination of its appearance and Native American legends.**

The flower's bright, colorful bracts (modified leaves) resemble paintbrushes, and many Native American stories tell of a young artist who, unable to capture the colors of a sunset, is given magical paintbrushes by a spirit that then transform into these flowers

- ✓ Grows naturally in Colorado's diverse habitats: forests, meadows, sagebrush areas
- ✓ Hemiparasitic: draws nutrients from host plants
- ✓ Blooms from spring through summer with vibrant red, orange or yellow colors
- ✓ Symbol of natural beauty and ecological importance in Colorado
- ✓ The bracts (colored parts) attract pollinators, while the actual flowers are small and hidden inside



**Observe responsibly, leave them blooming for all to enjoy!**

## Native Landscaping Tip of the Week

Start simple: Swap out thirsty, non-native plants for drought-tolerant Colorado natives, like the Rocky Mountain Columbine, to save water, reduce maintenance, and support local wildlife!

## Question of the Week

Ever wonder what makes a plant "native", or the best garden maintenance tips based on the season? Send us your burning gardening questions! Each week, we'll answer one right here to help your yard become a native sanctuary.

## Local Eco-Events & News

- **Eldo After Dark: Bat Walk, Saturday August 16th 7:30-8:30 pm at Eldorado Canyon State Park-** Come along for our evening bat walk! We'll

learn about local bat species and explore the park they call home. More information [here](#).

- **Tending the Prairie: A Field Tour of Grassland Stewardship, Tues day, August 20th 5:30-7:30 pm at Jim Hamm Nature Area-** How does your community care for its prairies? Join The Watershed Center for an evening exploring grassland ecosystems near Longmont, CO. More information [here](#).

## Help Us Grow!

Have a favorite flower, a backyard wildlife visitor, or a gardening tip? Reply to this email or tag us on Instagram [@boulder\\_blossom](#) to be featured in an upcoming newsletter!

Thank you for supporting native gardens and local ecosystems-one yard at a time. Watch out for before and after photos and videos on our social media platforms as we complete our first projects!

Stay rooted,  
The Boulder Blossom Team

Learn more about us and book your **free consultation** on [our website!](#)



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