

ALPINE FLORA -- PLACER GULCH

Scientific and common names mostly conform to those given by John Kartesz at bonap.net/TDC

FERNS & FERN ALLIES

CYSTOPTERIDACEAE -- Bladder Fern Family

Cystopteris fragilis

Brittle Bladder Fern

delicate feathery fronds hiding next to rocks and cliffs

PTERIDACEAE -- Maidenhair Fern Family

Cryptogramma acrostichoides

American Rockbrake

two different types of fronds; talus & rocky areas

GYMNOSPERMS

PINACEAE -- Pine Family

Picea engelmannii

Englemann's Spruce

ANGIOSPERMS -- MONOCOTS

CYPERACEAE -- Sedge Family

Carex haydeniana

Eriophorum chamissonis

Hayden's Sedge

Chamisso's Cotton-Grass

very common alpine sedge; compact, dark, almost triangular inflorescence

Cottony head; no leaves on culm

ALLIACEAE -- Onion Family

Allium geoyeri

Geyer's Onion

pinkish; onion smell

LILIACEAE -- Lily Family

Llyodia serotina

Alp Lily

white; small plant in alpine turf

MELANTHIACEAE -- False Hellebore Family

Anticlea elegans

Veratrum californicum

False Deathcamas

Cornhusk Lily; CA False Hellebore

greenish white; showy raceme above basal grass-like leaves

greenish; huge lvs; huge plant; mostly subalpine

ORCHIDACEAE -- Orchid Family

Plantanthera aquilonis

Green Bog Orchid

greenish, in bracteate spike, spur about as long as or a bit shorter than lip

POACEAE -- Grass Family

Deschampsia caespitosa

Festuca brachyphylla ssp. *coloradoensis*

Phleum alpinum

Poa alpina

Poa arctica

Trisetum spicatum

Tufted Hair Grass

Short-leaf Fescue

Mountain Timothy

Alpine Blue Grass

Arctic Blue Grass

Narrow False Oat

open inflorescence; thin, wiry leaves; 2 florets/spikelet; glumes longer than low floret

dark; narrow inflorescence; thin, wiry leaves

dark; fuzzy, dense, cylindrical inflorescence

wide, compact inflorescence; wide leaves; short plant

dark; open inflorescence; thin, wiry leaves

dark; long, narrow, inflorescence

ANGIOSPERMS -- DICOTS

APIACEAE -- Parsley Family

Angelica grayi
Conioselinum scopulorum
Ligusticum porteri
Oreoxis alpinus
Oreoxis bakeri
Oxyopolis fendleri
Podistera eastwoodiae
Cymopterus lemmonii

Gray's Angelica
 Rocky Mountain Hemlock-parsley
 Porter's Wild Lovage, Osha
 Tundra Alpine-parsley
 Baker's Alpine-parsley
 Fendler's Cowbane
 Eastwood's Woodroot
 Mountain Parsley

yellowish; large skyrocket umbel; large for a tundra plant
 white; similar but smaller than osha; leaves not shiny like osha
 white; dissected lvs; tall plant
 yllw; lvs appear pinnate w divided leaflets; involucl bracts narrow and entire
 yllw; lvs appear pinnate w divided leaflets; involucl bracts wide and tri-parted
 white; once-pinnate leaves; medium height; likes wet areas
 yllw; lvs appear pinnate w fan-shaped leaflets; involucl bracts long and tri-parted
 yllw; lvs bipinnate w ultimate divisions narrow; tall in forests but very low on tundra

ASTERACEAE -- Sunflower Family

Achillea millefolium
Agoseris aurantiaca
Agoseris glauca
Anaphalis margaritacea
Antennaria corymbosa
Arnica mollis
Arnica parryi
Arnica rydbergii
Artemisia scopulorum
Chaenactis douglasii var. *alpina*
Cirsium scopulorum
Erigeron compositus
Erigeron coulteri
Erigeron elatior
Erigeron glacialis
Erigeron grandiflorus
Erigeron leiomerus
Erigeron melanocephalus
Erigeron pinnatisectus
Erigeron vagus
Hieracium triste
Helianthella quinquenervis
Heterotheca pumila
Hymenoxys hoopesii
Hymenoxys grandiflora
Oreochrysum parryi
Packera dimorphophylla
Packera wernerifolia
Pyrrocoma uniflora
Senecio amplexens var. *amplexens*
Senecio amplexens var. *holmii*
Senecio atratus

Common Yarrow, Milfoil
 Orange False-dandelion
 False-dandelion
 Pearly Everlasting
 Flat-top Pussytoes
 Cordilleran Leopardbane
 Nodding Leopardbane
 Subalpine Leopardbane
 Alpine Sagebrush
 Pincushion; Dusty Maiden
 Alpine Thistle
 Cut-leaf Fleabane
 Coulter's Fleabane
 Tall Fleabane
 Glacier Fleabane
 Large-flower Fleabane
 Rockslide Fleabane
 Black-head Fleabane
 Feather-leaf Fleabane
 Rambling Fleabane
 Woolly Hawkweed
 Nodding Dwarf Sunflower
 Alpine False Golden-aster
 Orange Sneezeweed
 Old-man-in-the-mountain
 Parry's-goldenweed
 Two-leaf Groundsel
 Rocky Alpine Groundsel
 Plantain Goldenweed
 Daffodil Senecio
 Showy Alpine Ragwort
 Tall Black-tip Ragwort

white; just a few rays & disks per flowerhead; finely dissected lvs; aromatic
 orange; no disk flowers; milky sap; dandelion-like lvs all basal
 yellow; no disk flowers; milky sap; dandelion-like lvs all basal
 white; flower heads persistent; forms patches
 white; rayless; very low mat; fuzzy white leaves; dark spot in center of phyllaries
 yellow; ray flowers present; brown pappus; tall plant
 yellow; rayless
 yellow; ray flowers present; acuminate leaves
 yellowish w black on phyllaries; inconspicuous flower heads; rayless; common
 white; rayless; grayish hairy lvs largest near base
 purplish; rayless; bristly; flower heads sessile on elongate stalk
 white; sometimes w yllw disks only; leaves repeatedly ternately divided
 white; large wide rays; tall plant
 Lavender; long-hairy, reflexed phyllaries; tall plant
 lavender; glandular hairy phyllaries; relatively wide rays; large plant
 purplish; white hair on phyllaries; small plant
 lavender; spatulate-oblongate leaves; grows on rocky sites; low plant
 whitish; long purple hairs on phyllaries; small plant
 purplish; pinnatifid leaves; low plant
 white; leaves fan-shaped w/ 3 broad, round lobes; low plant
 yllw; small plant w small flowers; easily overlooked
 yellow; rays & disks; tall sunflower-like plant; mostly subalpine
 yellow; rays & disks; forms mounds; pleasant aromatic foliage
 yellow; disks & long, skinny rays; almost succulent, glabrous lvs; tall plant
 yllw rays & disks; huge flwr heads face horizontal; dissected hairy lvs; medium plant
 yellow; disks & short rays; lvs entire; upper lvs crowded below head & phyllary-like
 yellow; disk & rays; stem lvs much more toothed than basal lvs; short plant
 yellow; disks & rays; round-spatulate lvs; low, mat-like mounds
 yellow-orange; disks & rays; lanceolate leaves entire; phyllaries partly reflexed
 yellow; disks & long rays; nodding flower heads; tall plant
 like above, but shorter plant; more rounded & succulent leaves
 yellow; disks & rays; large plant; likes disturbed ground

<i>Senecio bigelovii</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strap Flower, Nodding Ragwort	yellow; disks only; nodding flower head; tall plant
<i>Senecio crassulus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Thick-leaf Ragwort	yellow; disks & rays; tall plant
<i>Senecio fremontii</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dwarf Mountain Ragwort	yellow; disks & rays; thick, succulent, toothed leaves; low mounded plants
<i>Senecio soldanella</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Colorado Ragwort	yellow; disks & rays; purple foliage; low plant; alpine scree & bare dirt
<i>Senecio triangularis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Arrow-leaf Ragwort	yellow; disks & rays; narrow triangle-shaped toothed leaves; tall plant
<i>Solidago multiradiata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rocky Mountain Goldenrod	yellow; rays & disks; relatively few rays (+/- 13) are short
<i>Taraxacum eriophorum</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wool-bearing Dandelion	yellow; smaller than common dandelion; lvs tend to entire; brown hairs in leaf axils
<i>Taraxacum scopulorum</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rock Dandelion	yellow; a miniature dandelion; was <i>T. lyratum</i>
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Dandelion	yellow; rays only; milky sap
<i>Tonestus pygmaeus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Boreal Serpentweed	yellow; rays & disks; broad leaf-like phyllaries; low plants

BORAGINACEAE -- Borage Family

<i>Mertensia ciliata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tall Fringe Bluebells	blue to purple; glabrous bluish-green leaves; tall plant
<i>Mertensia franciscana</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Franciscan Bluebells	blue to purple; pustulant hairs on upper leaf surface; leaves dark green; tall plant
<i>Mertensia lanceolata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prairie Bluebells	blue to purple; pubescent leaves; short plant
<i>Phacelia sericea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Purple Fringe	purple; prominent exerted styles & anthers; spikelike inflorescence

BRASSICACEAE -- Mustard Family

<i>Boechnera stricta</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Canadian Rockcress	whitish; erect & appressed siliques & pedicels, medium plant
<i>Cardamine cordifolia</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Heartleaf Bittercress	white; thick stands along streams; tall plant
<i>Descurainia incana</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mountain Tansy-mustard	yellow; flowers inconspicuous; pedicels appressed against the rachis
<i>Draba aurea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Golden Whitlow-grass	yellow; entire cauline lvs; low plant
<i>Draba breweri</i> var. <i>cana</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cushion Whitlow-grass	creamy white; low plant
<i>Draba crassa</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Thick-leaf Whitlow-grass	yellow; large entire, succulent, ciliate lvs; low plant
<i>Draba crassifolia</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Snowbed Whitlow-grass	yellow; tiny basal rosette & scape; tiny plant
<i>Draba fladnizensis</i> var. <i>pattersonii</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Austrian Whitlow-grass	whitish; tiny basal rosette & scape; tiny plant
<i>Draba graminea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rocky Mountain Whitlow-grass	yellow; entire, grass-like leaves; bracteate inflorescence; low plant
<i>Draba spectabilis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Showy Whitlow-grass	yellow; toothed cauline lvs; low plant
<i>Draba streptobrachia</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alpine-tundra Whitlow-grass	yellow; narrow, usually entire lvs; low plant
<i>Erysimum capitatum</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wallflower	yellow, purple, or white; showy
<i>Noccaea fendleri</i> ssp. <i>glauca</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wild Candytuft; Alpine Pennycress	white; clasping leaves; short plant
<i>Rorippa alpina</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alpine Yellowcress	yellow; sprawling; lowest leaves pinnatifid, upper leaves toothed or wavy margined
<i>Smelowskia americana</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fern-leaf False Candytuft	white to pale purple; dissected leaves; short plants of ridges

CAMPANULACEAE -- Bellflower Family

<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Harebell	bluish purple; bell-shaped flowers; most lvs linear, but basal lvs round
-------------------------------	--------------------------	----------	--

CAROPHYLLACEAE -- Pink Family

<i>Arenaria lanuginosa</i> ssp. <i>saxosa</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Spreading Sandwort	white; five entire petals; small, low plant
<i>Cerastium arvense</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Field Mouse-ear Chickweed	white; five notched petals; small to medium plant
<i>Minuartia macrantha</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	House's Stitchwort	white; acute sepals; tiny lvs; caespitose
<i>Minuartia obtusiloba</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alpine Stitchwort	white; blunt-tipped sepals; tiny lvs; caespitose
<i>Silene acaulis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moss Campion; Cushion Pink	pink; caespitose mounds
<i>Silene</i> sp.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Flycatch	whitish; opposite lvs; sticky internodes; small erect plant
<i>Stellaria irrigua</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Colorado Starwort	white; tiny petals split to the base, much smaller than sepals; delicate

Stellaria longipes
Stellaria umbellata

Long-stalk Starwort
 Umbrella Starwort

white; petals so deeply notched they almost look like ten petals; short upright stems
green; tiny flowers with no petals; diffuse inflorescence

CRASSULACEAE -- Stonecrop Family

Rhodiola integrifolia
Rhodiola rhodantha
Sedum lanceolatum

King's Crown
 Queen's Crown; Rose Crown
 Lance-leaf Stonecrop

dark reddish; broad succulent lvs; tall plant
pink; broad succulent lvs; tall plant
yellow; round succulent lvs; short plant

ERICACEAE -- Heath Family

Vaccinium myrtillus

Low Bilberry; Whortleberry

pinkish white; angled green stems; a tiny shrub

FABACEAE -- Pea Family

Trifolium attenuatum
Trifolium nanum
Trifolium parryi

Rocky Mountain Clover
 Tundra Clover
 Parry's Clover

purplish; long, narrow leaflets
pinkish white; flowers do not surpass leaves; low mat plant
purple; showy flower head on tall scape

GENTIANACEAE -- Gentian Family

Gentiana algida
Gentiana parryi
Gentiana prostrata
Gentianella amarella
Gentianopsis thermalis
Swertia perennis

Arctic Gentian; Whitish Gentian
 Parry's (Bottle) Gentian
 Pygmy (Moss) Gentian
 Autumn Dwarf-gentian
 Rocky Mtn Fringed Gentian
 Star Gentian; Felwort

white with purple spots; long, narrow, entire lvs; low plant
bright blue; five corolla lobes; erect stems; showy
blue; 8 corolla lobes - 4 short toothed alternate w/ 4 large entire lobes; tiny plant
lavender; small flowers; erect fringe in throat; erect plant
blue; petals fringed; erect plant; showy
dark purple-blue; 4 to 5 petals; erect plant of wet areas

GERANIACEAE -- Geranium Family

Geranium richardsonii

Richardson's Geranium

white; typical geranium lvs

GROSSULARIACEAE -- Currant Family

Ribes laxiflorum
Ribes montigenum

Trailing Black Currant
 Western Prickly Gooseberry

no spines; trailing
reddish; saucer-shaped flowers; stems thorny

MONTIACEAE -- Candy-flower Family

Claytonia megarhiza
Lewisia pygmaea

Alpine Spring Beauty
 Alpine (Pygmy) Bitterroot

pinkish white; rosette of succulent; spatulate, basal lvs; can form showy mounds
pink; succulent lvs; tiny plant

ONAGRACEAE -- Evening Primrose Family

Chamaenerion angustifolium ssp. *circumvagum*
Epilobium anagallidifolium
Epilobium hornemannii

Narrow-leaf Fireweed
 Pimpernel Willowherb
 Hornemann's Willowherb

bright pink; 4 petals; tall plant
pinkish to whitish; 4 petals; small, dainty, clumped plant
pinkish to whitish; 4 petals; small, erect plant

OROBANCHACEAE -- Broomrape Family

Castilleja haydenii
Castilleja miniata

Hayden's Indian Paintbrush
 Red Indian Paintbrush

pink-purple; bracts with some linear lobes; strictly alpine, often on ridges
red to orange-red; bracts deeply cleft

Castilleja occidentalis
Castilleja rhexifolia
Castilleja rhexifolia X occidentalis
Pedicularis groenlandica
Pedicularis parryi

Pale Yellow Indian Paintbrush
 Rosy Indian Paintbrush
 hybrid paintbrush
 Elephant Head
 Parry's Lousewort

yellow
rosy red; bracts entire or shallowly lobed
white to pinkish to various shades in between; very common hybrid
pink; elephant-trunk shaped flowers; wet areas
creamy yellow; fern-like pinnatifid leaves

PHRYMACEAE -- Lopseed Family

Mimulus tilingii

Subalpine Monkey Flower

yellow; clumped, "turf-forming" mats; opposite leaves; wet places

PLANTAGINACEAE -- Plantain Family

Besseya alpina
Chionophila jamesii
Penstemon harbourii
Penstemon whippleanus
Veronica wormskjoldii var. *wormskjoldii*

Alpine Kittentails (Coraldrops)
 Rocky Mountain Snowlover
 Harbour's Beardtongue
 Dark Beardtongue
 Alpine Speedwell

purple; short plant; ridges
pale cream; secund inflorescence; short plant
blue; sprawling plant of loose scree
very dark maroon
deep blue; irregular, but almost radially symmetrical; short erect plant

POLEMONIACEAE -- Phlox Family

Polemonium pulcherrimum
Polemonium viscosum

Beautiful Jacob's Ladder
 Sky Pilot

blue; pinnate lvs; mostly subalpine
dark blue; sticky whorled leaflets; strong odor; erect plant

POLYGONACEAE -- Buckwheat Family

Bistorta bistortoides
Bistorta vivipara
Oxyria digyna

American Bistort
 Serpent Grass
 Mountain Sorrel

white; inflorescence a cylindrical spike; medium height plant
white; inflorescence a spike with flowers above & bulblets below; small erect plant
reddish green; shiny, orbicular lvs; low plant usually among rocks

PRIMULACEAE -- Primrose Family

Androsace septentrionalis
Primula parryi

Fairy Candelabra; Rock Primrose
 Parry's Primrose

white; scapose stems from basal rosette; tiny, dainty plants
purple; wet areas; medium height; showy

RANUNCULACEAE -- Buttercup Family

Aconitum columbianum
Aquilegia coerulea
Caltha leptosepala
Delphinium barbeyi
Ranunculus alismifolius
Ranunculus eschscholtzii
Ranunculus inamoenus
Ranunculus macauleyi
Thalictrum alpinum
Thalictrum fendleri
Trollius laxus ssp. *albiflorus*

Columbian Monkshood
 Colorado Blue Columbine
 White Marsh Marigold
 Subalpine Larkspur
 Water-plantain Buttercup
 Spruce-fir Buttercup
 Graceful (Ugly) Buttercup
 Rocky Mountain Buttercup
 Alpine Meadowrue
 Fendler's Meadowrue
 American Globeflower

blue; hooded upper sepal; tall; mostly subalpine
blue & white; petals spurred
white; leaves entire; wet areas
blue; spurred upper sepal; tall; mostly subalpine
yellow; often with up to ten petals; leaves entire; erect plant
yellow; large flowers; lower leaves deeply lobed halfway or more; low plant
yellow; small flowers; lobed leaves; erect plant
yellow; black-hairy sepals; wet areas near snowbanks; low plant
greenish; dioecious; tiny flowers; columbine-like lvs -- smaller & shorter than next
greenish; dioecious; tiny flowers; columbine-like lvs; taller than previous
creamy white; leaves palmately divided

ROSACEAE -- Rose Family

Dasiphora fruticosa ssp. *floribunda*

Shrubby Cinquefoil

yellow; shrub

Fragaria virginiana
Geum rossii
Potentilla concinna
Potentilla glaucophylla
Potentilla gracilis
Potentilla nivea
Potentilla subjuga
Sibbaldia procumbens

Wild Strawberry
 Alpine Avens; Ross' Avens
 Red Cinquefoil
 Mountain-meadow Cinquefoil
 Graceful Cinquefoil
 Snow Cinquefoil
 Colorado Cinquefoil
 Creeping Glow-wort

white; grayish-green lvs; sprawling plant
yellow; abundant
yellow; lvs palmate; blooms before lvs mature; low almost-mat plant
yellow; lvs palmate, not bicolored, toothed in upper half of leaflets only
yellow; lvs palmate; bicolored, toothed entire length; larger plant
yellow; lvs trifoliate, bicolored; low, matted plant
yellow; lvs subpalmate; sometimes lvs bluish-green above
yellow; tiny petals; trifoliate lvs; leaflets toothed @ apex; abundant but inconspicuous

SALICACEAE -- Willow Family

Salix brachycarpa
Salix nivalis
Salix petrophila
Salix planifolia

Short-leaf Willow
 Snow Willow
 Alpine Willow
 Tea-leaf Willow

coetaneous short catkins; pubescent capsules; grayish green leaves entire
obtuse leaves w/ prominent veins; prostrate shrub of tundra
acuminate leaves; prostrate shrub of tundra
precocious catkins; pubescent capsules; purplish-brown twigs; shiny dark green lvs

SAXIFRAGACEAE -- Saxifrage Family

Heuchera parvifolia
Micranthes odontoloma
Micranthes oregana
Micranthes rhomboidea
Saxifraga austromontana
Saxifraga cernua
Saxifraga caespitosa
Saxifraga chrysantha
Saxifraga flagellaris
Saxifraga rivularis

Little-leaf Alumroot
 Streambank Saxifrage
 Bog Saxifrage
 Snowball Saxifrage
 Spotted (Matted) Saxifrage
 Nodding Saxifrage
 Tufted Alpine Saxifrage
 Golden Saxifrage
 Whiplash Saxifrage
 Alpine-brook Saxifrage

greenish; tiny flowers on long scapes; lvs basal
white; diffuse inflorescence
white; similar to the next but with an interrupted inflorescence
white; capitate inflorescence; scapose
white; dots on petals; linear leaves; matted plant of rocky habitats
white; bulblets below flowers; glandular pubescent; small plant
white; lvs three-parted at apex; glandular pubescent; grows in tufts
yellow; no stolons; leaves not ciliate; small plant
yellow; obvious stolons; ciliate leaves; small plant
white; small and delicate; hiding in shady places in cliffs & boulders

VALERIANACEAE -- Valerian Family

Valeriana acutiloba var. *acutiloba*
Valeriana edulis

Cordilleran Valerian
 Tobacco Root

white; capitate inflorescence; opposite compound lvs
white; tiny flowers; tall inflorescence; long leaflets

VIOLACEAE -- Violet Family

Viola adunca var. *bellidifolia*

Hook-spur (Field) Violet

blue; obscurely caulescent