



PLANTING STEWARDSHIP GUIDE

This guide provides information about native vegetation planted as part of the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition river improvement project completed on or near your property and what you can do to help steward these plants. This is intended to be a guide and represents a subset of plants installed; it may not reflect exactly the plants on or near your property.

Please contact BTWC staff at (970) 699-2906 if you have questions.



Ponderosa pine



Geyer's willow



narrowleaf cottonwood



chokecherry



redoiser dogwood



golden currant



Rocky Mountain maple



Blue spruce

The project team selected native plants that should thrive once they establish. You can help these young plants survive by watering them, (~5 gallons of water once per week) especially during hot, dry summer months, and by controlling weeds (see reverse).

Willows and cottonwoods are planted as stakes so their "feet" are in the water table, meaning they should not need supplemental watering. Although they appear dormant, once they grow they are native plants that are excellent at surviving along the river and providing natural bank stability. The **container plants** installed will grow to be the size of bushes. This includes golden currant, chokecherry, redoiser dogwood and others. These bushes will provide important habitat for birds, wildlife, and pollinators while stabilizing banks with their wide-spreading root systems. Once established, the **native trees** planted in this project will grow on the upland portions of the river corridor. Trees will provide shade and habitat.

To learn more about native plants, contact:

- Local Colorado State University (CSU) Extension Service
- Local Colorado Native Plant Society Chapter
- Become a Colorado Native Plant Master with CSU Extension Service
- Colorado Plant Database



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These are some common noxious weed species that may be found in the project area. For more information about noxious weeds, visit the Colorado State Extension Website, www.sam.extension.colostate.edu/, or the Colorado Department of Agriculture website, www.colorado.gov/pacific/agconservation/noxious-weed-species.



Knapweed

- Perennial
- Up to three feet high with pink and purple flowers.
- Inhibits the growth of competing plants, displaces native vegetation, and reduces forage
- Control: Prevent knapweed infestations by maintaining healthy native vegetation. If already established, herbicides in conjunction with planting competitive plants may be effective.



Thistle

- Perennial
- Two - four feet tall, purple to white flowers
- Spreads aggressively through roots and persistent seeds
- Control: prevent thistle from establishing by planting grasses and other plants. Mowing combined with herbicides can also be effective. Hand-pulling can stimulate growth.



Cheatgrass

- Annual
- Up to 36" tall with drooping stems
- Reproduces through seeds only
- Control: prevent cheatgrass from establishing by planting native grasses and plants. If established, mowing, tilling and herbicide can be effective.



Mullein

- Biennial forb
- First year rosette, second year 2-6' stem with yellow flowers
- Abundant seeds that can persist in the soil for many years
- Control: hand-pulling or digging up prior to flowering and seed production

