

## Why should I become a Native Plant Master?

Have you always wanted to learn more about the beautiful plants that grow in nature? Would you like to learn how to use them in your landscape? Consider becoming a Native Plant Master! This is a fun way to spend three or more mornings in the field this summer, getting to know the plants of Colorado.

Anyone can take one or more courses in this program, but to become a Native Plant Master (and the envy of all your co-workers, family and friends), you will need to take three courses and give back some time educating others.

## What is a Native Plant Master?

A Native Plant Master is a volunteer who receives special training about Colorado plants and certification from Colorado State University Extension who then uses that training to educate the public. Anyone can take Native Plant Master courses even if they do not wish to make educational contacts with the public. The mission of the Native Plant Master Program is to educate the public about native plants in order to foster stewardship, sustainable landscaping and management of weeds that threaten native ecosystems.



*San Miguel and West Montrose  
Counties*

Colorado  
State  
University

Extension

For more information, call  
**970-327-4393**

The mission of Extension is to provide practical, research-based information and relevant educational programs to enhance the quality of life for Colorado citizens.

Colorado State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Jefferson County Cooperating. Colorado State University Extension is dedicated to serve all people on an equal and nondiscriminatory basis.

Native Plant Master Program Collaborators



BECOME  
A  
**NATIVE  
PLANT  
MASTER™**

Colorado  
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University

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<http://sanmiguel.colostate.edu/>

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## What training is provided?

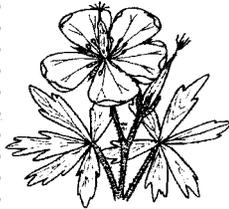
Award-winning Native Plant Master courses are offered at various open space parks and public lands. Participants may apply to take one or more courses. No course is a required prerequisite for another course. Class size is limited and course fees are \$90 per course. Courses are offered at a reduced price of \$60 per course for participants who agree to educate at least 20 people per year per course about Colorado plants.

**Each 4 hour course is taught on three consecutive Friday or Saturday mornings.**

## 2017 Course Schedule

*May 27, June 23, Scotch Creek, near Rico and July 28<sup>th</sup>*

*Geranium viscosissimum*  
Sticky Geranium, Geraniaceae



## What does each course cover?

Courses are taught in the field using living examples of Colorado flora. All courses will include the use of a botanical key, *Colorado Flora, Western Slope*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, by Weber and Wittman. For each course, students learn:

- Session 1:** identification, including scientific names, key botanical characteristics and family features;
- Session 2:** ecological relationships, including non-native plants;
- Session 3:** landscape, food and other human uses.

Instructors for the courses have extensive field experience, are Native Plant Masters and/or have advanced degrees. The course manual is based on data from the Colorado Plant Database at <http://jeffco.us/coopext/intro.jsp>

## Can anyone take courses?

You can take courses even if you don't plan on becoming a Native Plant Master. This option is for those who do not wish to make public educational contacts or report contacts made. In order to successfully complete a course, participants must pass an exam.

## Who is eligible to apply?

Applicants who wish to become Native Plant Masters must be at least 21 years old and must:

- Successfully complete three courses in three different months and/or locations, including passing field exams. (Courses do not have to be completed in the same year.)
- Teach at least 20 people per year about Colorado plants for each course taken;
- By Dec. 31, report on the number of educational contacts made.

## How do you become a Native Plant Master?

After successfully completing three courses and the public contact requirement, participants will be awarded Native Plant Master certification and a special patch. Certification may be maintained by teaching at least 60 people per year about Colorado plants and reporting quarterly on those contacts.

## How do you apply?

For questions or to request an application, see [www.colonativeplantmaster.org](http://www.colonativeplantmaster.org) or <http://sanmiguel.colostate.edu/> or contact San Miguel and West Montrose Counties CSU Extension Office at 970-327-4393 or Email Mary [maryw@sanmiguelcountycolorado.gov](mailto:maryw@sanmiguelcountycolorado.gov) or Yvette [Yvette.Henson@colostate.edu](mailto:Yvette.Henson@colostate.edu)

***Application process required; registration is limited. Applications are due no LATER than 1 WEEK prior to courses.***

## Why native plants?

Colorado has a wealth of native plants, colorful wildflowers, grasses, shrubs and trees, which are well adapted to our variable climate, soils, temperatures and elevations.

The Colorado Native Plant Society recommends the use of native plants in landscaping, both because of their adaptability and because Colorado has a unique regional horticulture worth promoting and protecting.

**NOTE:** Courses can be moderately strenuous and may require walking on steep inclines for up to two miles on wet, rough, and/or slippery footing during windy, cold, hot or rainy days.