

**Colorado State University Extension  
NATIVE PLANT MASTER® PROGRAM**

**PLANT STEWARDSHIP GUIDELINES**

In order to preserve and sustain native plant populations, plant collecting is forbidden during Native Plant Master Program activities with the following exceptions. Colorado State University Extension has obtained special permission for limited collection for teaching purposes on the public and/or private lands where courses are held under these conditions:

1. A program instructor may collect plants or plant parts for immediate demonstration or explanation; non-native species should be used wherever possible. If natives are used, ensure through positive identification that the plant is common both statewide and at the collection locality; collect only plant parts if feasible for the character being illustrated.
2. Such collecting should be done inconspicuously (so that persons not with the program are neither offended nor motivated to do likewise), and with regard for any possible effect on the plant population. Rare, threatened, endangered, or sensitive species should never be collected for instructional purposes. Program participants may not collect plants unless directed to do so by the instructor for purposes as described above.
3. Collecting is permissible for scientific study (with the appropriate collecting permit, if required, for the area in question). “Scientific study” means, for the purposes of this policy, study by a trained botanical scientist with an expectation that the study results will lead to published information. Collected specimens will be deposited in a recognized, publicly accessible herbarium.
4. For plants whose identity is unknown, a serious effort should first be made to identify the plant in situ without collection. If this is not successful, the plant may be collected according to these guidelines. No plants may be collected if there is not a large population (> 50 individuals) of the plants at the site.

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5. If a plant is collected for later identification according to the above guidelines, one plant in bloom and one in fruit should be collected. The entire plant should be collected (including roots, bulbs, corms, etc. as such structures are key to successful identification) or a portion of the plant showing bloom and fruit if the plant is too large to be easily transported. Prior to identification, the plant should be temporarily preserved under refrigeration in a closed container for up to one week or pressed if it will be identified after one week.

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