



Photos by Jennifer Ackerfield

## Follow Your Nose

Have you noticed a strong, musky, unpleasant odor while taking your daily walk? Have you wondered, "What is that awful smell?" Meet purple mustard, *Chorispora tenella*, an invasive plant from Europe and Asia. This plant is easily distinguished by its four cross-shaped, purple petals. Follow your nose and see if you can find this smelly mustard.

Help the Gardens document the abundance and distribution of purple mustard by photographing as many plants as possible by May 31. For large populations, only photograph one plant every 50 feet to show the extent of coverage. Post your findings to iNaturalist so they can be added to the

[Denver EcoFlora Project](#).

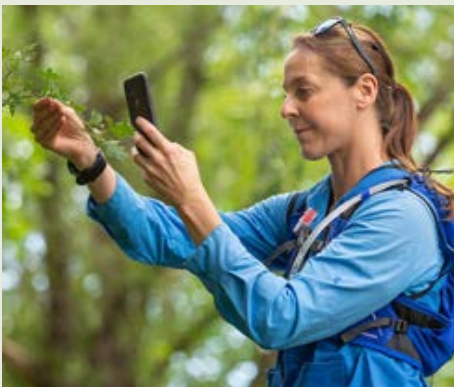


Photo by Scott Dressel-Martin

## What is an EcoQuest?

EcoQuests are part of the Denver EcoFlora Project. These monthly quests challenge citizens to become citizen scientists and observe, study and conserve the native plants of the Denver – Boulder metro area via iNaturalist, an easy-to-use mobile app.

## How Do I Get Started?

1. Download the iNaturalist app or register online at [iNaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org).
2. Take photos of the plants in bloom that you find on your daily neighborhood walk. It is okay if they are weeds! Avoid taking photos of cultivated plants in gardens or in your home.
3. If you are concerned about revealing the location of sensitive plants or observations at your own house, you can hide the exact location from the public by changing the "geoprivacy" of the observation to "obscured."
4. Post your findings on iNaturalist via the app.
5. Your observations will automatically be added to the Denver EcoFlora Project.
6. Sign up to be a member of the [Denver EcoFlora Project](#) on iNaturalist to receive updates and additional information.

## How Do I Participate Given COVID-19?

As a participant, it is up to you how much or how little you take part. Please stay close to home and maintain a social distance of 6 feet from others. Wear a cloth mask in public areas. Respect closures and avoid places of high use. Do only what feels safe for you and your family and is in accordance with your local regulations.

## What is the Goal?

The Denver EcoFlora Project is designed to meaningfully connect citizens with biodiversity and to assemble novel observations and data on the metro area's flora to better inform policy decisions and conservation strategies.