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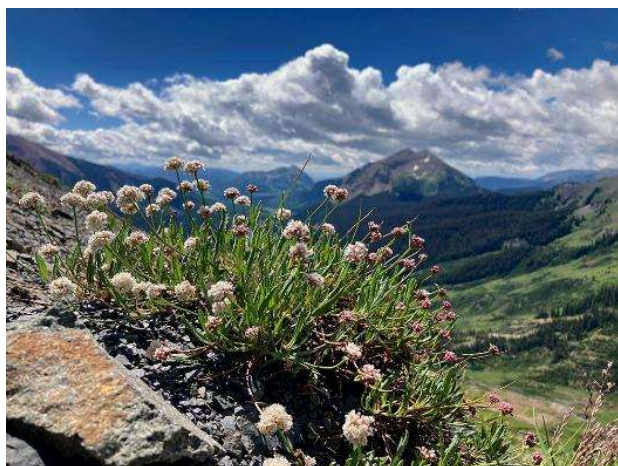
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NORTH AMERICAN ALPINE PLANT CONSERVATION ATLAS
Created in collaboration with Betty Ford Alpine Gardens



As leaders in North American alpine plant conservation, Denver Botanic Gardens and Betty Ford Alpine Gardens (Vail, CO) are taking action to track, preserve, protect and champion these vulnerable habitats. The [North American Alpine Plant Conservation Atlas](#) is a new, web-based resource, co-created by the two public gardens, that organizes information on taxonomy, ecology and conservation for alpine plants found in North America.

Warming in alpine regions over recent decades is outpacing the average global warming rate, making alpine plants particularly vulnerable to climate change. Because high-elevation species are adapted to low temperatures and deep snowpack, even small shifts in temperature can have major consequences on phenology, reproduction, and survival. Given the threats, conservation action is desperately needed to safeguard our alpine treasures.

"This website is the first resource of its kind to focus solely on the alpine flora of North America and offers easy access to information for not only researchers and conservationists, but anybody interested in learning more about alpine plants," says Alex Seglias, seed conservation research associate.

As part of the North American Botanic Garden Strategy for Alpine Plant Conservation, scientists from the two public gardens built a list of known and documented species of vascular plants that occur in alpine ecosystems of North America. Using this taxonomic checklist and other available data, researchers and land managers can gain a better understanding of what gaps exist in our knowledge of plants in the North American alpine.

Regular seed collection and vouchering (the process of collecting plant samples and preserving them in an herbarium) trips will ensure the scientists have robust documentation of alpine plants throughout their range. The atlas website pulls together information from across many sources that will ultimately help shape scientific efforts to conserve alpine habitats. The website was made possible by federal funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) ([MA-255890-OMS-24](#)).

"Colorado is home to so many incredible alpine plants, but we are really excited about this new tool to help conservation efforts across the whole continent," says Rick Levy, scientific data manager.

Atlas Creators:

- Jen Toews, Assistant Manager, Plant Records at Denver Botanic Gardens
- Richard Levy, Scientific Data Manager at Denver Botanic Gardens
- Alexandra Seglias, Seed Conservation Research Associate at Denver Botanic Gardens
- Emily Griffoul, Alpine Strategy Coordinator & Conservation Scientist at Betty Ford Alpine Gardens
- Jennifer Neale, Director of Research and Conservation at Denver Botanic Gardens

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About Denver Botanic Gardens: Green inside and out, Denver Botanic Gardens celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2026 and is considered one of the top botanical gardens in the United States and a pioneer in water conservation. Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, and the American Public Gardens Association, the Gardens has a robust living plant collection, natural history collection and art collection along with temporary art exhibitions. The Gardens' Denver location features a 24-acre urban oasis in the heart of the city, offering unforgettable opportunities to flourish with unique garden experiences— as well as world-class exhibitions, special events, education and plant conservation research programs. Additional sites extend this experience throughout the Front Range: Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms is a 700-acre native plant refuge with an active farm in Jefferson County; Mount Goliath is a high-altitude trail and interpretive site on the Mount Blue Sky Scenic Byway. The Gardens also manages programming at Plains Conservation Center in Aurora. For more information, visit us online at www.botanicgardens.org.