

10 FARMING TIPS NATIVE PLANTS



- ✦ **Consider native crops.** Peppers, squash, beans, and corn are just some of our native plant crops. Choose varieties adapted to your area.
- ✦ **Look for landrace crops.** These crops are developed over years in specific geographical areas to make them more climate-adapted.
- ✦ **Integrate native flowers** around the perimeter of your fields, which will add beauty and attract pollinators, birds, and other beneficial wildlife.
- ✦ **Bring native grasses to your farm** that can withstand drought, support beneficial beetles, replace lawns, and provide food for livestock.
- ✦ **Plant for biodiversity.** A variety of species ensures healthy ecosystems and benefits wildlife throughout the year while limiting pest populations.
- ✦ Support your crops with **native nitrogen fixers or scavengers**, such as *Phacelia neomexicana* and prairie clover (*Dalea purpurea*).
- ✦ **Even native plants can become weeds.** Use caution when planting known 'escape artists' to ensure plants do not take over.
- ✦ **Not all native plants will grow in your area.** Consider soil type, sun exposure, water needs, and heat tolerance when choosing plants.
- ✦ **Seed collecting from flowering plants** is a great way to obtain climate-adapted plants. Obtain owner permission and collect ethically.
- ✦ Research how to **save seeds from your crops.** Different crops are pollinated differently and may result in unexpected hybrids.

For more information, see [The Landrace Chiles of Northern New Mexico](#) by S. Walker and C. Havlik (C-679, 2016, NMSU), [Perennial Plants for Pollinators in New Mexico](#) by M.L. Kersten and A. Skidmore (H-182, 2022, NMSU), and [Vegetable Seed Saving for Gardeners and Small-Scale Farmers](#) by S.J. Walker et al. (H-262, 2022, NMSU). Flyer produced by Bethany Abrahamson, NMSU Cooperative Extension, with assistance from S. McCoy-Hayes, Sandoval Extension Master Gardener. New Mexico State University is an equal opportunity employer and educator. NMSU and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. September 2026.