

Guide to Early Blooms in Colorado Springs



Pasque Flower—*Pulsatilla ludoviciana*

Buttercup family

Pasque is French for Easter, referring to the blooming time just after the snow melts (although here along the Front Range, snow is possible until well after Easter!). The stem and flowers are covered with soft, silky hairs to trap warmth for these brave early bloomers. Look for pasque flowers in the dead leaves around scrub oaks and mountain mahogany.

Sand Lily—*Leucocrinum montanum*

Agave family, formerly in the Lily family

Sometimes called star lily. Leaves are grass-like. This low-lying flower can be found in open meadows and along gravel trails. Be careful not to step on them!



Chiming Bells—*Mertensia lanceolata*

Borage family

Little dangling bell-shaped flowers protect the nectar and pollen from rain and wind, saving it for the pollinators. Bees see blue, purple, violet, white and yellow. They do not see red. Thus, bees are very attracted to blue flowers like the chiming bells! Leaves are slightly hairy on top, a common characteristic of the Borage family.

