

Colorado Butterfly Plant
(*Gaura neomexicana coloradensis*)

03-0502-11

Colorado Butterfly Plant (*Gaura neomexicana coloradensis*)

Federal status: Threatened
Colorado status: Not listed

This plant grows to a height of two to three feet, with reddish, fuzzy stems and flowers that turn from white to red with age. Only a few flowers open at a time starting at the lower parts of the stem and working their way up. The fruits of the butterfly plant are hard and nut-like in appearance.

Habitat: This species grows in subirrigated, alluvial soils on level or slightly sloping floodplains and drainage bottoms, and old, abandoned stream channels with a high water table. Most populations are found a short distance from the actual channel and may even occur at the base of low, alluvial ridges at the interface between riparian meadows and drier grasslands. It is found at elevations of 5,000 to 6,400 feet in 6 Colorado counties: Adams, Boulder, Broomfield, Douglas, Jefferson, Larimer and Weld.



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