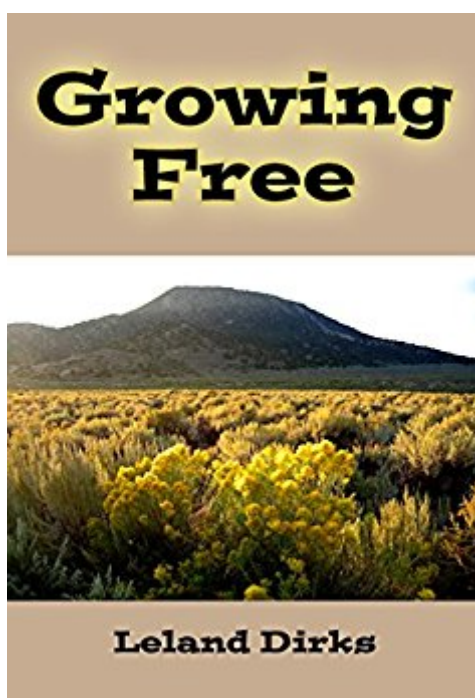


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# Growing Free: An Eclectic Guide To Wildflowers And Other Plants Of The Eastern San Luis Valley



## Synopsis

Leland moved from an inner-city neighborhood in Denver to five acres in the eastern part of Colorado's San Luis Valley more than a decade ago. He knew he was moving to a desert and expected only the omnipresent sage. It was a rainy summer when he began building his off-grid home, and as he worked on the roof, he noticed an astonishing thing: large swaths of brilliant color. The rabbitbrush was coming into its glorious yellow bloom, and the purple of the asters painted areas that he thought had only weeds. In the years that followed, he discovered more flowers and plants, their names, and their uses. He has collected that information and his photographs into this slim volume. The book is neither an extensive nor a complete listing. It contains only the plants he has encountered in the eastern part of the Valley, at about 8,500 feet in elevation, and only his favorites. Forty-three plants in all, mostly native, with many reputed to have medicinal, ceremonial, or food value. The book lists both scientific and common names and will be a valuable addition to anyone who loves the wild plants of the San Luis Valley.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The minutes this arrived, I was hooked and sat right where I was and didn't look up for an hour. I

was waiting for this book to be published and know the author, so I knew it was in the works. It's quite a simple book, but one that will be a definite part of my library so my curiosity about plants growing in the San Luis Valley, especially ones that the author cites as his "favorites," can become my favorites, too. I have a small house in the area and we've talked about certain plants and flowers from time to time and now I have a lot of information at my fingertips. I especially like the interspersed gems about the San Luis Valley, its peoples, history, and development. The photos are great and reading what the Indians used various plants and types of tree parts for in the past was fascinating. And -- I know now to avoid Locoweed!

Growing free is a gorgeous book about the plants that live in the San Luis Valley. Leland, with his fantastic photography gives us a glimpse of the beauty that surrounds him in his beloved San Luis Valley in Colorado. I highly recommend it for the photography alone, but his information about the plants is excellent , too.

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