



Purple prairie clover

Dalea purpurea (Pea family)

Native

In large clumps this year. Iconic flower of the prairies

White prairie clover

Dalea candida (Pea family)

Native

Often in low sprawling clumps



Musk thistle

Carduus nutans (Sunflower family)

Introduced

A tall weed that found where the land has been disturbed -- along roads and trails. This didn't appear in Colorado until 1950. On state noxious weed list





Poppymallow

Callirhoe involucratas (Mallow family)

Native

Deep taproot, sprawling form.
Few flowers so brightly colored

Flax

Adenolinum lewisii (Flax family)

Native

Native Americans made cordage from the plant fibers. Another species in the family has been used for millenia to make linen



Dwarf milkweed

Asclepias pumila (Milkweed family)

Introduced

Look for this hiding under a bush close to the trail



Prickly lettuce

Lactuca serriola (Sunflower family)

Alien

Frequent weed in gardens and fields

Blue grama

Chondrosum gracile (Grass family)

Native

A dominant of the short grass prairie. Withstands drought well and produces good forage. Tends to be inconspicuous. Also called “eyelash grass”



Buffalo grass

Buchloe dactyloides (Grass family)

Native

The other dominant of short grass prairie. Males and females are on separate plants. This is a male. These line the path edges.

