Soapstone Prairie Natural Area
September Plants 2012

Photograss

Gayfeather
Liatris punctata
(Sunflower family)

native

A nice purple contrast to the many yellow flowers this time of year

Photograss

Bush sunflower
Helianthus pumilus
(Sunflower family)

native

Bushy plant with rough leaves and stems. Seeds eaten by Native Americans.

Photograss

period

Broom groundsel
Senecio spartioides
(Sunflower family)

native

Native American dye plant.Toxic to and un-palatable to livestock. Near end of blooming

Photograss

Blanketflower
Gaillardia aristata
(Sunflower family)

native

One of the brightest flowers on the prairie; these are just about finished blooming now

Photograss

Curly-cup gumweed
Grindelia squarrosa
(Sunflower family)

native

Very sticky buds. Very drought and poor soil tolerant. Can be used to make a yellow dye.

Photograss

White prairie aster
Virgulus falcata (Symphotricum falcatum)
(Sunflower family)

native

common weedy aster

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Photograss

Broom snakeweed

Gutierrezia sarothrae
(Sunflower family)

native

Usually in symmetrical mounds dried stems used for brooms; unpalatable to livestock

Photograss

Blue grama

Chondrosum *gracile*
*(***Grass family***)*

native

One of the most important forage grasses of the plains; sometimes called the “eyelash” grass

Photograss

Lacy tansyaster

Machaeranthera pinnatifida
(Sunflower family)

native

Common late summer; finely divided leaves look lacy

Photograss

Plains thistle

Cirsium canescens
(Sunflower family)

native

These are still blooming but looking scraggly. Native thistles are an important food source for insects and birds

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