

# Soapstone Prairie Natural Area Early August Plants

Conditions are very dry so blooms are scarce



## **Prairie sunflower** *Helianthus pumilus*

(Sunflower family) native. Leaves have short stiff hairs that make them feel like sandpaper. Abundant



## **Broomlike ragwort**

*Senecio spartioides* (Sunflower family) native. Mounded form. Flower stems may be lanky. Leaves at base. Flowers have relatively few long yellow rays (each ray is a flower in itself) A native American dye plant



## **Hairy goldenaster**

*Heterotheca villosa* (Sunflower family) native.

Shorter and bushier with smaller flowers than the Prairie sunflower. This has hairy, woolly foliage.



**Dotted gayfeather** *Liatris punctata*

(Sunflower family-although it doesn't look like a sunflower) native  
One of the few flowers this time of year that is not yellow. "dotted" name from glandular dots on leaves. Has a very deep taproot that makes it very drought tolerant.



**Blanket flower**

*Gaillardia aristata* (Sunflower family) native. One of the showiest plants of the prairie. Very attractive to butterflies. These have blooming for weeks and tolerate the drought well.

**Curlycup gumweed**

*Grindelia squarrosa* (Sunflower family) native.

Each head has multiple green bracts that curve downward and are very sticky (hence the common name). Livestock avoid it for its bitter taste. A yellow dye can be made from the flowers.



**Blazingstar** *Mentzelia spp.*

(stickleaf family) native  
Beautiful plant whose white petals open at night.

These sheets are available online at: [fcgov.com/anturalareas](http://fcgov.com/anturalareas) (then go to "native plants" and to the wildflowers in Natural Areas → [wildflower handouts for Soapstone Prairie](#))