



Three leaf sumac

Rhus trilobata (Sumac family) native. This shrub produces red, fuzzy berries that were used by native Americans to make a lemonade-like drink. The branches could be used for arrow shafts.



Rubber rabbitbrush

Ericameria nauseosa (Sunflower family) native.

Large mounded shrubs. Iconic symbols of late summer through fall. Can yield yellow dye. It was once hoped that its latex sap could be used for rubber manufacturing, but it was not



Broom snakeweed

Gutierrezia sarothrae (Sunflower family) native.

Small often symmetrical mounds. Stems have been bound for brooms and flowers used topically for snakebite.

Soapstone Prairie Plants Fall



Mountain mahogany

Cercocarpus montanus (Rose family) native.

The seed have furry tails that curl and straighten with changes in moisture. When on the ground, this motion allows them to plant themselves.



Fringed sage

Artemisia frigida (Sunflower family) native
Gray-green soft foliage. Blooming plants look very similar to winterfat (shown on right) but these flower heads are fuzzy. Strong sage odor, but this is not culinary sage



White sagebrush

Artemisia ludoviciana (Sunflower family) native.
Grayish color with larger leaves than Fringed sage. Leaves softly hairy. Sagey odor but again not a culinary sage.



Winterfat

Krashennikovia lanata (Goosefoot family) native.
Similar gray-green color to the sages but this is in a different family. The leaves are narrow and the flowering heads are densely hairy. Makes very good winter forage for wildlife and livestock.