

Soapstone Prairie Natural Area

Late May Plants



Locoweed *Oxytropis sericea*
(Pea family) native

Photogress

The most abundant flower right now. This Spring has been cool and other flowers are slow to bloom. Leaves are at the base of the plant and not on the flowering stem. This plant is beautiful to look at but is toxic to livestock, especially to horses.



Wallflower

Erysimum spp. (Mustard family) native

Wallflower is abundant in this early season and is one of the brightest spots on the prairie.

Photogress

Missouri milkvetch

Astragalus missouriensis
(Pea family) native

There are a number of milkvetches at Soapstone, mostly blooming early. Some milkvetches are also called locoweed. There are hundreds of species of *Astragalus* in North America.



Photogress





Photoglass

Mountain bladderpod

Lesquerella montana (Mustard family) *native*

This plant is usually found on granitic soils. It grows relatively close to the ground with small 4-petaled flowers and pods that turn up.. These are quite abundant along the Lindenmeier Trail.



Photoglass

Whisk broom parsley

Harbouria trachyleura (Parsley family) *native*

Another spot of yellow color to brighten up the landscape. This is not abundant.

You may notice that the most common early plants are in the Mustard and Pea families.