

Soapstone Prairie Natural Area

Late July-Early August Plants



Photogragss



Bush sunflower

Helianthus pumilus
(Sunflower family)

native

The most abundant bushy plant along roads and trails. The leaves feel like sandpaper



Photogragss

Dalmatian toadflax

Linaria dalmatica
(Figwort or Plantain family)

alien

Attractive flowers but is a noxious weed as defined by the state. It is very difficult to get rid of because it produces abundant seed and has very deep roots



Photogragss

Larkspur

Delphinium geyeri
(Hellebore family)

native

Brilliant beautiful blue flowers with a tail called a spur. This is toxic to horses and cattle, but not to sheep



Photogragss

Prickly poppy

Argemone hispida
(Poppy family)

native

Very large showy flowers stems covered in prickles



Photogragss

Blanket flower

Gaillardia aristata
(Sunflower family)

native

A very bright, showy plant common in summer



Opposite leaf bahia

Picradeniopsis oppositifolia
(Sunflower family)

native

Usually abundant along roads and trails



Photogragss



Indian ricegrass

Achnatherum hymenoides
(Grass family)

native

Highly nutritious seeds used by birds and small animals. Native Americans also used this for food



Photogragss

Blue grama (often called "eyelash grass")

Chondrosium gracile
(Grass family)
native

One of most important forage plants of the short and mid-grass prairies. Abundant right now, but you have to look for it



Photogragss

Squirreltail

Elymus elymoides
(Grass family)
native

As this dries it spreads like a squirrel's tail.

Needle-n-thread grass

Hesperostipa comata
(Grass family)
native

Beautiful native grass with long awns (tails) that blow in the wind



Photogragss



Photogragss

New Mexican needle grass

Hesperostipa neomexiana
(Grass family)
native

Mixed with the grass to the left. This has "furry" awns that glisten in the sun, now dry and curled

Needle-n-thread



Seeds

New Mexican needle

Photogragss



Awn--New Mexican needle grass

