

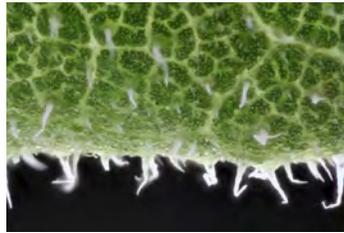
Soapstone Prairie Natural Area Late July Plants

Conditions are very dry now so blooms are scarce



Prairie sunflower *Helianthus pumilus*

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



Prickly poppy

Argemone spp.

(Poppy family) native

Leaves look like thistle, but the flowers are distinctly poppy-like. Stem, leaves and buds are very prickly. These are about finished blooming



Hairy goldenaster

Heterotheca villosa (Sunflower family) native.

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



Skunkbush *Rhus trilobata*

(Sumac family) native

Native americans used the wood for arrows and made a lemonade-like drink from the berries



Blanket flower

Gaillardia aristata (Sunflower family) native. One of the showiest plants of the prairie. Very attractive to butterflies. These are nearing end of blooming period

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



New Mexico needlegrass

Hesperostipa neomexicana (Grass family) native

Beautiful tall grass The seed has a long tail (awn) This tail is furry making the head look very white (most visible looking into the sun). The tail curls when dry.

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