



**Calcareous cryptantha/
Oreocarya thyrsoiflora (Borage
family) native.**

These form quite symmetrical bushy clumps. Very hairy foliage.



Milkweed

Asclepias speciosa (Dogbane family) native.

Important host for Monarch butterflies. When monarch caterpillars eat the plant, the milky sap they ingest makes them distasteful to their predators.



Blanketflower

Gaillardia aristata (Sunflower family) native.

Long blooming season, especially prolific this year



Yucca

(Yucca glauca) (Agave family) native

A pronuba moth lays its eggs in the flower whose fruit feeds the moth's offspring. In the process, the moth pollinates the flowers. Native Americans used the leaf fibers for cordage and made a shampoo from the roots.

**Soapstone Prairie
Plants
Late June**



Prickly pear cactus

(Opuntia polyacantha) (Cactus family) native

Blossom colors range from cream to yellow, pink and copper. The pads which are actually stems have numerous long spines.



awn

Needle-n-thread

Hesperostipa comata (Grass family) native.

Beautiful tall grass with long awns (tails on the seeds) looking like needles with attached threads. These awns blow in the wind making the prairie look like it has waves flowing over it.



awn

New mexican needle grass

Hesperostipa neomexicanas (Grass family) native

Looks like Needle-n-thread except the awns are furry. They appear very silvery when backlit.



Prickly poppy

Argemone hispida (Poppy family) native

These are very abundant this year with large white petals and bright yellow stamens. Their foliage has numerous sharp prickles. The flowers are host to a variety of beetles and other insects.



Little sunflower

Helianthus pumilus (Sunflower family) native

Nondescript yellow flowers. Stems and leaves covered with short bristly hairs that feel rough to the touch.