

# Soapstone Prairie Natural Area Late June Plants



## Rough prickly poppy

*Argemone hispida*  
(Poppy family) native  
Leaves look like thistle, but the flowers are distinctly poppy-like. Stem and leaves very prickly.



## Yucca

*Yucca glauca* (Agave family)  
native  
Native Americans used pounded roots to make shampoo

## Scarlet gaura

(Scarlet beeblossom)  
*Gaura coccinea* or  
*Oenothera suffrutescens*  
(Evening Primrose family)  
native  
Generally under a foot tall, delicate, spidery with bright red anthers. Moth pollinated at night.



## Blanket flower

*Gaillardia aristata*  
(Sunflower family)  
native. One of the showiest plants of the prairie. Very attractive to butterflies.



## Larkspur

*Delphinium geyeri*  
(Buttercup family)  
native  
Beautiful blue



### **Skunkbush** *Rhus trilobata*

(Sumac family) native

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

### **Calcareous cryptantha**

*Oreocarya* or *Cryptantha thyrsoiflora*  
(Borage family) native  
Borage is from Latin for bristly hair. The foliage is covered with stiff hairs.



### **Prairie sunflower**

*Helianthus pumilus*  
(Sunflower family) native. Leaves feel like sandpaper.

### **Largeflower daisy**

*Townsendia grandiflora*  
(Sunflower family) native.  
These grow very close to the ground and are easily overlooked in the grass.



### **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](http://fcgov.com/anturalareas) (then go to "native plants" and to the wildflowers in Natural Areas —> [wildflower handouts for Soapstone Prairie](#))