

Soapstone Prairie Natural Area

Late July Plants



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Bush sunflower

Helianthus pumilus

native

sandpapery leaves, abundant along Lindenmeier Trail; seeds a favorite of Native Americans



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Rough prickly poppy

Argemone hispida

native

bright and abundant; extremely prickly; contains toxic alkaloids



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Opposite leaf bahia

Picradeniopsis oppositifolia

native

very common along roadsides and trails



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Indian blanketflower

Gaillardia aristata

native

One of the brightest plants on the prairie



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Largeflower daisy

Townsendia grandiflora

native

low-growing delight



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Larkspur

Delphinium geyeri

native

beautiful flowers but toxic to cattle -- sheep can eat them



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Skeletonweed

Lygodesmia juncea

native

numerous nearly leafless stems with sparse flowers: roots can be used as chewing gum



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Blue grama

Chondrosium gracile

native

Major constituent of short grass plains
Often called "Eyelash grass"



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White prairie clover

Dalea candida

native

common on plains at base of mountains



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Calcareous cryptantha

Oreocarya thysiflora

native

husky, very hairy plant with small flowers: common on plains



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Purple prairie clover

Dalea purpurea

native

same locations as species above



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Scarlet gaura

Gaura coccinea

native

delicate and beautiful;