

Soapstone Prairie Natural Area Late July – Early August Plants



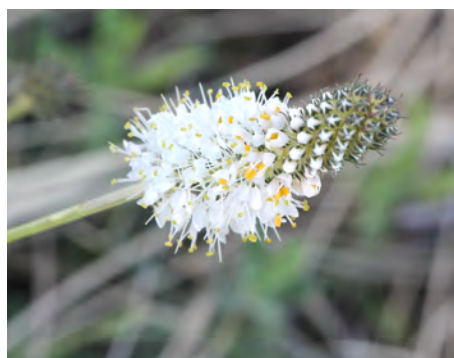
Larkspur *Delphinium geyeri* (Hellebore family) native

Beautiful plants that are a wonderful contrast to the otherwise mostly yellow blooms around them. These are toxic to most livestock except sheep, so the first cattlemen in this area did not graze their cattle up here.

Prairie sunflower

Helianthus pumilus (Aster family)
native

The most common sunflower blooming this time of year. The foliage has small bristly hairs that make leaves and stems feel like sandpaper. Seeds were a favorite food with some Native American



Prickly poppy

Argemone hispida (Poppy family)
native

White showy flowers stand out in the green prairie. Besides being extremely prickly, they are toxic to livestock. This combination keeps them from being eaten

White prairie clover *Dalea candida*
(Pea family) native

These are drought and deer resistant and will grow in poor soils. Like other members of this family they can fix Nitrogen from the air and so help provide soil fertility for themselves.

Blanket flower*Gaillardia aristata* (Sunflowerfamily) native

One of the most beautiful flowers on the prairie with its large orange center (disk flowers) and bright yellow rays.

**Broomlike ragwort***Senecio spartioides* (Sunflower family) native

These tend to form fairly large rather compact clumps. A dye plant for Native Americans. Toxic to livestock

**Calcareous cryptantha***Oreocarya thrysiflora* (Borage family) native

These are among the most recognizable plants here. They have extremely fuzzy foliage. This trait makes the Borage family often be called the “bristly Borages”. Notice the tiny yellow “eyes” in the white flowers.



Photoglass

**New Mexican needle grass***Hesperostipa neomexicana* (Grass family) native

This beautiful grass is a “needle” grass because of the sharp point on the tip of the seed. This species has feathery awns (the tail on the seed) that give patches of it a silvery look. Test your observation skills by seeing if you can distinguish it from other patches of grass around it (Hint: best seen with the sun behind you).

These sheets are available at: fcgov.com/naturalareas (go to “native plants” and to the wildflowers in Natural Areas —> [wildflower handouts for Soapstone Prairie](#))

