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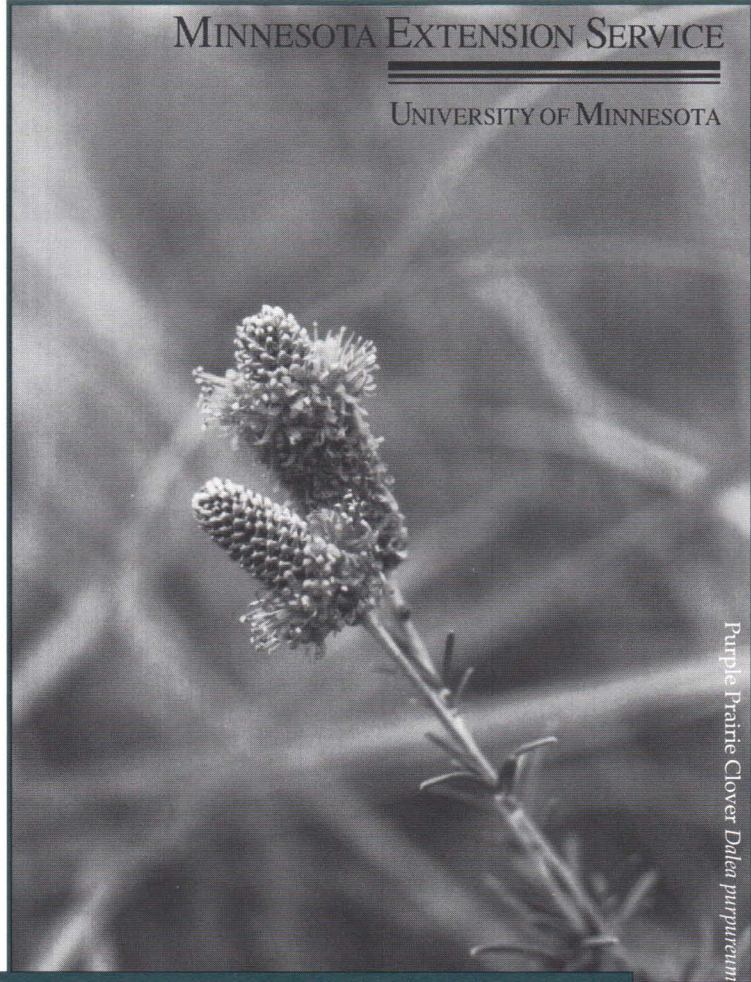
Big Bluestem *Andropogon gerardii*



MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Purple Prairie Clover *Dalea purpurea*



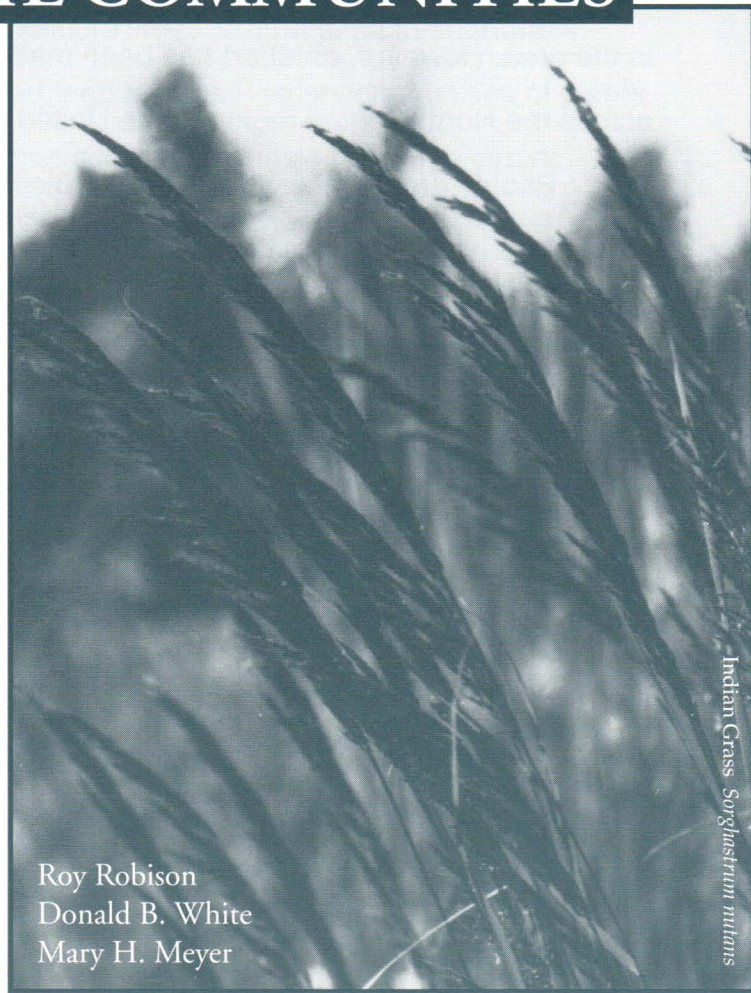
PLANTS IN PRAIRIE COMMUNITIES

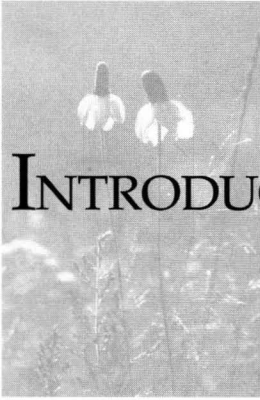
Pasque Flower *Pulsatilla patens*



Roy Robison
Donald B. White
Mary H. Meyer

Indian Grass *Sorghastrum nutans*





INTRODUCTION

This bulletin describes three typical prairie communities: **wet**, **mesic**, and **dry**, and the plants found in these communities. Characteristics of each community are provided along with typical plants found in each site. This information should be useful to professional designers, teachers, landscape architects as well as amateur gardeners who have an interest in native plants and their landscape use.

Although the extensive table "Characteristics of Prairie Plants" lists 158 grasses and forbs, it is not offered as a comprehensive or exhaustive compilation of all native plants found in the area. However, an effort has been made to cover the more significant species occurring across the North Central region of the United States.

People are not always aware of protected and/or rare species. Each state has its own regulations as well as lists of threatened and endangered plants. Some states may require licensing or registration with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) or other agencies for collection and/or propagation of native plants. The by-word of all who are interested in native plants should be "Check before you collect." Check with your local county extension educator, the DNR, the Department of Agriculture, private landowners or the appropriate state agency if public lands are involved. In all cases, respect for the environment and other people's property is important.

Planting and maintenance of a prairie is beyond the scope of this publication. Consult the reference list for further information, and for references on botanical names and native plant organizations and horticultural societies.

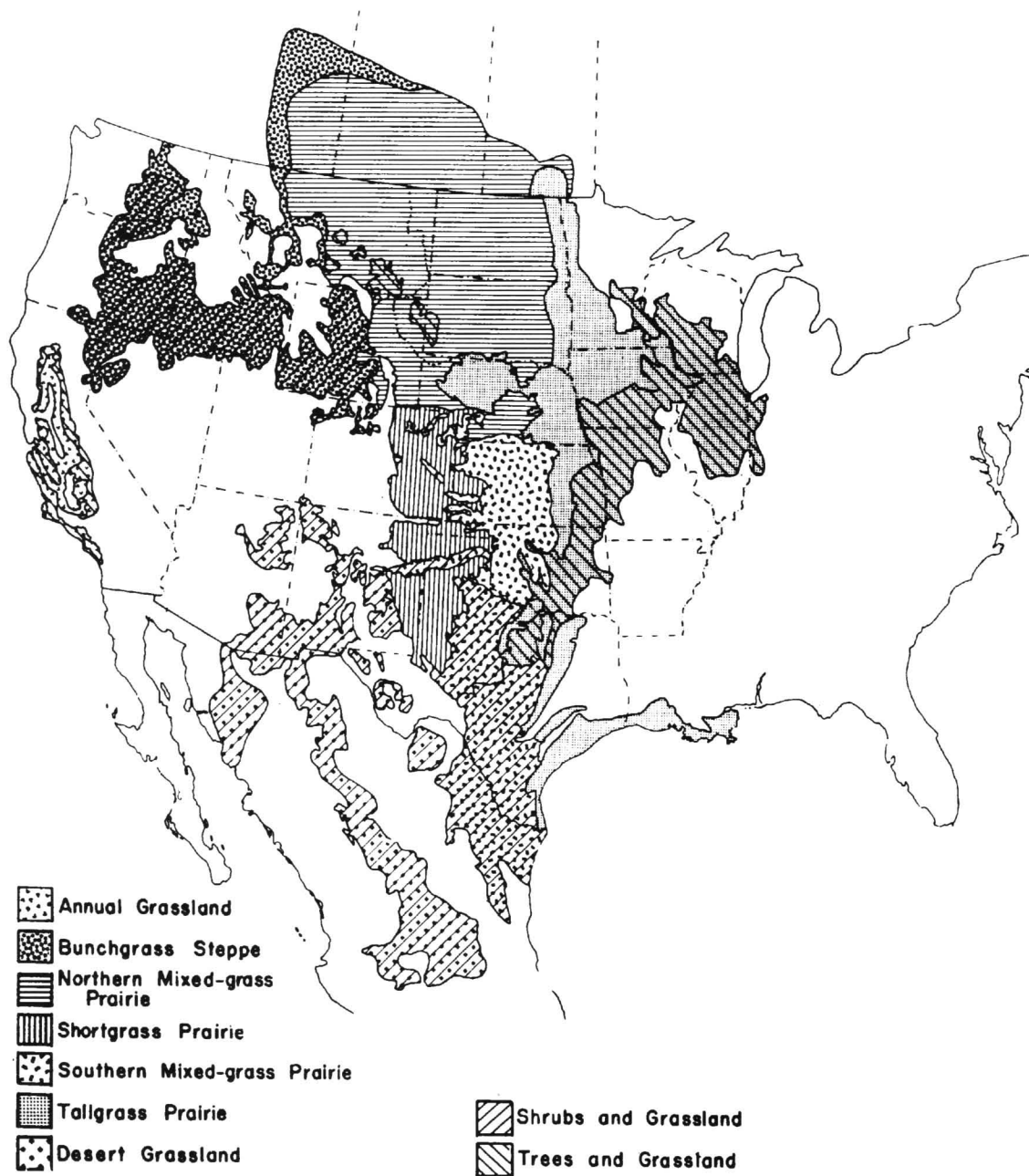
PRAIRIES IN THE UNITED STATES



Prior to European settlement, vast grasslands or prairies existed throughout the central United States (Map on page 3). Today, very little of the original prairie exists due to commercial agriculture, development of communities, towns, roads, etc. Some estimates are that the shortgrass prairie and the mixed-grass prairie cover about 1/5 and 1/4, respectively, of the areas they once did. Of the tallgrass prairie, only about 1% remains in the United States today. These three grassland communities are based on rainfall. The higher annual precipitation in the east resulted in the tallgrass prairie and the decreased moisture westward resulted in shortgrass.

Within the major types of prairies (short, mixed, and tallgrass) exist communities of plants that thrive on specific sites. Three of the most common sites—wet, mesic, and dry—are discussed in this bulletin. Species composition of these three habitats changes as one goes from east (tallgrass) to west (shortgrass). A wet habitat in the tallgrass prairie is floristically quite different from a wet habitat in the shortgrass prairie. This publication generally applies to the tallgrass and mixed-grass regions. Many plants are quite restricted in their habitat preferences and may be limited to one habitat. For example, *Aster simplex*, panicled aster, prefers only wet sites, while other species, like *Schizachyrium scoparium*, little bluestem, and *Oenothera pilosella*, prairie sundrops, are more tolerant and may occur in all three communities.

MAJOR GRASSLAND TYPES OF THE U.S. AND ADJACENT CANADA AND MEXICO



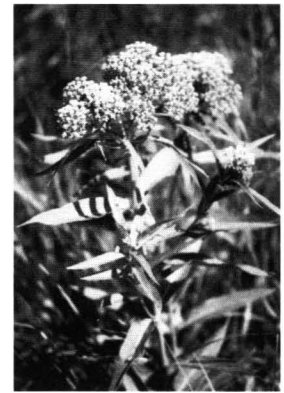
Adapted from the True Prairie Ecosystem 1981. T.G. Risser.



Bottle Gentian



New England Aster



Swamp Milkweed

PLANTS OF WET PRAIRIES

The wet prairie plant community develops wherever the water table is high. Areas that are flooded or saturated by groundwater for more than a few days during a normal year are typical of wet prairies. Here the soil is waterlogged within the plant root zone for extended periods of time during the growing season. Local wet prairies develop in depressions where runoff accumulates or where the water table is close to the surface. The soil of wet prairie consists of silt and clay loam with high organic matter and nutrients. Wet prairie soils are poorly drained and are typically dominated by grasses with sedges an important component of the community. Forbs or wildflowers are abundant but usually fewer forb species occur in wet prairies than in mesic prairies. Plants found growing in this environment include:

Wild Garlic *Allium canadense*
 Big Bluestem *Andropogon gerardi*
 Canada Mayflower *Anemone canadensis*
 Indian Hemp *Apocynum cannabinum*
 Swamp Milkweed *Asclepias incarnata*
 Common Milkweed *A. syriaca*
 New England Aster *A. novae-angliae*
 Crooked-stemmed Aster *A. prenanthoides*
 Purple-stemmed Aster *A. puniceus*
 Panicled Aster *A. simplex*
 Flat-topped Aster *A. umbellatus*
 Blue joint Grass *Calamagrostis canadensis*
 Marsh Marigold *Caltha palustris*
 Bicknell's Sedge *Carex bicknellii*
 Woolly Sedge *C. lanuginosa*
 White Turtle head *Chelone glabra*
 Water Hemlock *Cicuta maculata*
 False Toad flax *Comandra richardsiana*
 Small White Lady's Slipper *Cypripedium candidum*
 Showy Tick-trefoil *Desmodium canadense*
 Midland Shooting star *Dodecatheon meadia*
 Common Horsetail *Equisetum arvense*
 Joe-Pye Weed *Eupatorium maculatum*
 Boneset *E. perfoliatum*
 White Camas *Figadenus elegans*
 Queen of the Prairie *Filipendula rubra*
 Wild Strawberry *Fragaria virginiana*
 Northern Bedstraw *Galium boreale*
 Bottle Gentian *Gentiana andrewsii*

Sneezeweed *Helenium autumnale*
 Sawtooth Sunflower *Helianthus grosseserratus*
 Sweet Grass *Hierchloe odorata*
 Yellow Stargrass *Hypoxis hirsuta*
 Blue Flag Iris *Iris versicolor*
 Wild Blue Flag Iris *I. virginica var. shrevei*
 Path Rush *Juncus tenuis*
 Showy Vetchling *Lathyrus venosus*
 Prairie Blazing star *Liatris pycnostachya*
 Marsh Blazing star *L. spicata*
 Michigan Lily *Lilium michiganense*
 Wood Lily *L. philadelphicum*
 Cardinal Flower *Lobelia cardinalis*
 Great Blue Lobelia *L. siphilitica*
 Pale Spiked Lobelia *L. spicata*
 Prairie Loose strife *Lysimachia quadriflora*
 Wild Bergamot *Monarda fistulosa*
 Mat Muhlygrass *Muhlenbergia richardsonis*
 Prairie Sundrops *Oenothera pilosella*
 Primrose *O. rhomboides*
 Cowbane *Oxypolis rigidior*
 Switch Grass *Panicum virgatum*
 Marsh Betony *Pedicularis lanceolata*
 Prairie Phlox *Phlox pilosa*
 False Dragonhead *Physostegia virginiana*
 White Fringed Orchid *Platanthera leucophaea*
 Western White Fringed Orchid *P. praeclara*
 Purple Fringed Orchid *P. psycodes*
 Mountain Mint *Pycnanthemum virginianum*
 Bristly Buttercup *Ranunculus pensylvanicus*
 Grayheaded Coneflower *Ratibida pinnata*
 Black-eyed Susan *Rudbeckia hirta*

Sweet Coneflower *R. subtomentosa*
 Swamp Saxifrage *Saxifraga pensylvanica*
 Great Bulrush *Scirpus validus*
 Prairie Dock *Silphium terebinthinaceum*
 Riddell's Goldenrod *Solidago riddellii*
 Prairie Cord Grass *Spartina pectinata*
 Nodding Lady Tresses *Spiranthes cernua*
 Meadow Sweet *Spirea alba*
 Steeple Bush *S. tomentosa*
 Tall Meadow Rue *Thalictrum dasycarpum*
 Prairie Spiderwort *Tradescantia bracteata*
 Ohio Spiderwort *T. ohioensis*
 Blue Vervain *Verbena hastata*
 Ironweed *Vernonia fasciculata*
 Culver's Root *Veronicastrum virginicum*
 Blue Marsh Violet *Viola nephrophylla*
 Heart leaved Golden Alexander *Zizia aptera*
 Golden Alexander *Z. aurea*



Showy Penstemon



Pasque Flower



Rattlesnake Master

PLANTS OF DRY PRAIRIES

Many dry prairies in the eastern grasslands are often found on steep hillsides or rocky areas that are not economically feasible to develop. Moving westward, dry prairies are more common in general due to the lower rainfall, between 10 and 20 inches per year. These dry prairie communities typically have a shallow soil profile, with a thin layer of organic matter and sandy, well-drained soil with low water-holding capacity. In western areas of the shortgrass prairie, evapotranspiration exceeds precipitation and can cause salts to accumulate in a hard layer three to six feet below the surface. This hardpan of limestone-like calcium carbonate causes the soil to be more alkaline and may be a distinguishing characteristic of the dry prairie community in the shortgrass prairie. This condition is rarely found in the tallgrass prairie, even in dry sites because the rainfall is adequate. Species composition varies in the dry prairie, depending on the soil, geography, topography, and climate. Typical plants found growing in the dry prairie community are:

Western Wheat Grass *Agropyron smithii*
 Prairie Onion *Allium stellatum*
 Lead plant *Amorpha canescens*
 Big Bluestem *Andropogon gerardi*
 Caroliana Anemone *Anemone caroliniana*
 Thimble Flower *A. cylindrica*
 Pussy toes *Antennaria neglecta*
 Lyre-leaved Rockcress *Arabis lyrata*
 Beach Wormwood *Artemisia caudata*
 Prairie Sage *A. ludoviciana*
 Blunt-leaved Milkweed *Asclepias amplexicaulis*
 Green Milkweed *A. hirtella*
 Oval-leaved Milkweed *A. ovalifolia*
 Butterfly Flower *A. tuberosa*
 Whorled Milkweed *A. verticillata*
 Short-green Milkweed *A. viridiflora*
 Heath Aster *Aster ericoides*
 Smooth Aster *A. laevis*
 Aromatic Aster *A. oblongifolius*
 Sky Blue Aster *A. oolentangiensis*
 syn. [*Aster azureus*]
 Silky Aster *A. sericeus*
 Ground Plum *Astragalus crassicaarpus*
 Downy Wood Mint *Blephilia ciliata*
 Sideoats Grama *Bouteloua curtipendula*
 Blue Grama *B. gracilis*
 Hairy Grama *B. hirsuta*
 Buffalo Grass *Buchloe dactyloides*
 Sand Reed Grass *Calamovilfa longifolia*
 Harebell *Campanula rotundifolia*
 Pennsylvania Sedge *Carex pensylvanica*
 Yellow Paint Brush *Castilleja sessiliflora*
 Partridge Pea *Chamaecrista fasciculata*
 Coreopsis *Coreopsis palmata*
 White Prairie Clover *Dalea candidum*
 syn. [*Petalostemum candidum*]
 Purple Prairie Clover *D. purpureum*
 syn. [*Petalostemum purpureum*]
 Silky Prairie Clover *D. villosum*
 syn. [*Petalostemum villosum*]
 Prairie Larkspur *Delphinium virescens*
 Illinois Tick-trefoil *Desmodium illinoense*
 Pale Purple Coneflower *Echinacea angustifolia*

Canada Wildrye *Elymus canadensis*
 Purple Love Grass *Eragrostis spectabilis*
 Rattlesnake Master *Eryngium yuccifolium*
 Flowering Spurge *Euphorbia corollata*
 Downy Gentian *Gentiana puberula*
 Prairie Smoke *Geum triflorum*
 Mock Pennyroyal *Hedeoma hispida*
 Longleaf Bluet *Hedyotis longifolia*
 syn. [*Houstonia longifolia*]
 Showy Sunflower *Helianthus laetiflorus*
 Downy Sunflower *H. mollis*
 Oxeye *Heliopsis helianthoides*
 Golden Aster *Heterothera villosa*
 syn. [*Chrysopsis villosa*]
 Alumroot *Heuchera richardsonii*
 Hairy Hawkweed *Hieracium longipilum*
 False Heather *Hudsonia tomentosa*
 Path Rush *Juncus tenuis*
 Junegrass *Koeleria macrantha*
 syn. [*Koeleria cristata*]
 False Boneset *Kuhnia eupatorioides*
 Rough Blazing star *Liatris aspera*
 Cylindric Blazing star *L. cylindrica*
 Dotted Blazing star *L. punctata*
 Hoary Puccoon *Lithospermum canescens*
 Caroliana Puccoon *L. caroliniana*
 Pale Spiked Lobelia *Lobelia spicata*
 Wild Lupine *Lupinus perennis*
 Wild Bergamot *Monarda fistulosa*
 Dotted Mint *M. punctata*
 Muhly Grass *Muhlenbergia* sp.
 Primrose *Oenothera rhomboides*
 Prairie Primrose *O. rhomboides*
 Brittle Prickly Pear *Opuntia fragilis*
 Prickly Pear *O. humifusa*
 Long stalked Panic Grass *Panicum perlongum*
 White Penstemon *Penstemon albidus*
 Smooth Penstemon *P. digitalis*
 Slender Penstemon *P. gracilis*
 Showy Penstemon *P. grandiflorus*
 Pale Penstemon *P. pallidus*
 Seneca Snakeroot *Polygala senega*
 Prairie Cinquefoil *Potentilla arguta*
 Prairie Turnip *Psoralea esculenta*

Scurf Pea *P. tenuiflora*
 Pasque Flower *Pulsatilla patens*
 syn. [*Anemone patens*]
 Prairie Buttercup *Ranunculus rhomboideus*
 Upright Coneflower *Ratibida columnifera*
 Wild Petunia *Ruellia humilis*
 Little Bluestem *Schizachyrium scoparium*
 syn. [*Andropogon scoparius*]
 Small Skullcap *Scutellaria parvula*
 Common Blue-eyed Grass *Sisyrinchium albidum*
 Blue-eyed Grass *S. campestre*
 Gray Goldenrod *Solidago nemoralis*
 White Upland Aster *S. ptarmicoides*
 syn. [*Aster ptarmicoides*]
 Rigid Goldenrod *S. rigida*
 Rough Dropseed *Sporobolus asper*
 Prairie Dropseed *S. heterolepis*
 Porcupine Grass *Stipa spartea*
 Prairie Spiderwort *Tradescantia ohioensis*
 Hoary Vervain *Verbena stricta*
 American Vetch *Vicia americana*
 Bird's Foot Violet *Viola pedata*
 Arrow-leaved Violet *V. sagittata*



Purple Prairie Clover



Grayheaded Coneflower



Big Bluestem

PLANTS OF MESIC PRAIRIES

The mesic (from the Greek meso or middle, meaning neither wet nor dry) prairie community occurs in fairly level outwash deposits, gently rolling hills, or ground moraine. In some areas loess deposits (the fine wind-deposited material) overlie glacial till. Mesic prairies have lighter soil, receive or retain less water, and have more surface drainage than wet prairies. Most are found on loam and sandy loam soils. Rainwater soaks in but doesn't collect from the surrounding area. Mesic prairies may closely resemble dry communities, but grasses grow more vigorously and there are more flower species. These are ideal growing conditions for native legumes, which enrich the soil with nitrogen for other prairie species. Disturbance by fire, mowing, or grazing is necessary to prevent invasion by brush and trees. Common plants in this type of community include:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| Fragrant Hyssop <i>Agastache foeniculum</i> | Purple Coneflower <i>E. purpurea</i> | Wild Quinine <i>Parthenium integrifolium</i> |
| Prairie Dandelion <i>Agoseris glauca</i> | Canada Wildrye <i>Elymus canadensis</i> | Wood Betony <i>Pedicularis canadensis</i> |
| Prairie Onion <i>Allium stellatum</i> | Fire Weed <i>Epilobium angustifolium</i> | Smooth Penstemon <i>Penstemon digitalis</i> |
| Nodding Onion <i>A. cernuum</i> | Rattlesnake Master <i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i> | False Dragonhead <i>Physostegia virginiana</i> |
| Lead plant <i>Amorpha canescens</i> | Flowering Spurge <i>Euphorbia corollata</i> | Seneca Snakeroot <i>Polygala senega</i> |
| Big Bluestem <i>Andropogon gerardi</i> | White Camas <i>Figadenus elegans</i> | Prairie Cinquefoil <i>Potentilla arguta</i> |
| Canada Mayflower <i>Anemone canadensis</i> | Wild Strawberry <i>Fragaria virginiana</i> | Rattlesnake Root <i>Prenanthes racemosa</i> |
| Thimble Flower <i>A. cylindrica</i> | Northern Bedstraw <i>Galium boreale</i> | Mountain Mint <i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i> |
| Pussy toes <i>Antennaria neglecta</i> | Yellow Gentian <i>Gentiana alba</i> | Prairie Buttercup <i>Ranunculus rhomboideus</i> |
| Spreading Dog bane <i>Apocynum androsaemifolium</i> | syn [<i>Gentiana flavida</i>] | Upright Coneflower <i>Ratibida columnifera</i> |
| Wild Columbine <i>Aquilegia canadensis</i> | Bottle Gentian <i>G. andrewsii</i> | Grayheaded Coneflower <i>R. pinnata</i> |
| Sullivant's Milkweed <i>Asclepias sullivantii</i> | Downy Gentian <i>G. puberula</i> | Prairie Rose <i>Rosa</i> sp. |
| Common Milkweed <i>A. syriaca</i> | Stiff Gentian <i>Gentianella quinquefolia</i> | Black-eyed Susan <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> |
| Butterfly Flower <i>A. tuberosa</i> | syn [<i>Gentiana quinquefolia</i>] | Little Bluestem <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> |
| Heath Aster <i>Aster ericoides</i> | Fringed Gentian <i>Gentianopsis crinata</i> | syn [<i>Andropogon scoparius</i>] |
| Smooth Aster <i>A. laevis</i> | syn [<i>Gentiana crinata</i>] | Rosin Plant <i>Silphium integrifolium</i> |
| New England Aster <i>A. novae-angliae</i> | Prairie Smoke <i>Geum triflorum</i> | Compass Plant <i>S. lacinatedum</i> |
| Sky Blue Aster <i>A. oolentangiensis</i> | Wild Licorice <i>Glycyrrhiza lepidota</i> | Cup Plant <i>S. perfoliatum</i> |
| syn [<i>Aster azureus</i>] | Longleaf Bluet <i>Hedyotis longifolia</i> | Prairie Dock <i>S. terebinthinaceum</i> |
| syn [<i>Aster azureus</i>] | syn [<i>Houstonia longifolia</i>] | Common-eyed Grass <i>Sisyrinchium albidum</i> |
| Crooked-stemmed Aster <i>A. prenanthoides</i> | Sawtooth Sunflower <i>Helianthus grosseserratus</i> | Blue-eyed Grass <i>S. campestre</i> |
| Canadian Milk Vetch <i>Astragalus canadensis</i> | Showy Sunflower <i>H. laetiflorus</i> | Starry False Solomon's Seal <i>Smilacina stellata</i> |
| White Wild Indigo <i>Baptisia alba</i> | Maximilian Sunflower <i>H. maximiliani</i> | Grass-leaved Goldenrod <i>Solidago graminifolia</i> |
| Wild Blue Indigo <i>B. australis</i> | Downy Sunflower <i>H. mollis</i> | Missouri Goldenrod <i>S. missouriensis</i> |
| syn [<i>Baptisia leucantha</i>] | Western Sunflower <i>H. occidentalis</i> | Rigid Goldenrod <i>S. rigida</i> |
| Prairie Wild Indigo <i>B. bracteata</i> | Oxeye <i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i> | Showy Goldenrod <i>S. speciosa</i> |
| syn [<i>Baptisia leucophaea</i>] | Golden Aster <i>Heterothera villosa</i> | Indian grass <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> |
| Kalm's Brome <i>Bromus kalmii</i> | Alumroot <i>Heuchera richardsonii</i> | Prairie Cord Grass <i>Spartina pectinata</i> |
| Poppy Mallow <i>Callirhoe triangulata</i> | Canada Hawkweed <i>Hieracium canadense</i> | Prairie Dropseed <i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i> |
| Harebell <i>Campanula rotundifolia</i> | Showy Vetchling <i>Lathyrus venosus</i> | Porcupine Grass <i>Stipa spartea</i> |
| Bicknell's Sedge <i>Carex bicknellii</i> | Roundheaded Bush clover <i>Lespedeza capitata</i> | Goats rue <i>Tephrosia virginiana</i> |
| Mead's Sedge <i>C. meadii</i> | Rough Blazing star <i>Liatris aspera</i> | Tall Meadow Rue <i>Thalictrum dasycarpum</i> |
| Wild Senna <i>C. hebecarpa</i> | Meadow Blazing star <i>L. ligulistylis</i> | Meadow Parsnip <i>Thaspium trifoliatum</i> |
| Indian Paint Brush <i>Castilleja coccinea</i> | Michigan Lily <i>Lilium michiganense</i> | Prairie Spiderwort <i>Tradescantia bracteata</i> |
| New Jersey Tea <i>Ceanothus americanus</i> | Wood Lily <i>L. philadelphicum</i> | Ohio Spiderwort <i>T. ohioensis</i> |
| Pasture Thistle <i>Cirsium discolor</i> | Hoary Puccoon <i>Lithospermum canescens</i> | Hoary Vervain <i>Verbena stricta</i> |
| Hill's Thistle <i>C. hillii</i> | Carolina Puccoon <i>L. caroliniana</i> | Culver's Root <i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i> |
| False Toad flax <i>Comandra palmata</i> | Great Blue Lobelia <i>Lobelia siphilitica</i> | American Vetch <i>Vicia americana</i> |
| Coreopsis <i>Coreopsis palmata</i> | Pale Spiked Lobelia <i>L. spicata</i> | Bird's Foot Violet <i>Viola pedata</i> |
| White Prairie Clover <i>Dalea candidum</i> | Wild Bergamot <i>Monarda fistulosa</i> | Prairie Violet <i>V. pedatifida</i> |
| syn. [<i>Petalostemum candidum</i>] | Dotted Mint <i>M. punctata</i> | Heart leaved Golden Alexander <i>Zizia aptera</i> |
| Purple Prairie Clover <i>D. purpureum</i> | Violet Wood Sorrel <i>Oxalis violacea</i> | Golden Alexander <i>Z. aurea</i> |
| syn. [<i>Petalostemum purpureum</i>] | Prairie Panic Grass <i>Panicum leibergii</i> | |
| Showy Tick-trefoil <i>Desmodium canadense</i> | Scribner Panic Grass <i>P. oligoanthes</i> | |
| Illinois Tick-trefoil <i>D. illinoense</i> | Switch Grass <i>P. virgatum</i> | |
| Midland Shooting star <i>Dodecatheon meadia</i> | | |
| Pale Purple Coneflower <i>Echinacea anaustifolia</i> | | |

CHARACTERISTICS OF PRAIRIE PLANTS

Key for table

Competitiveness: 1= aggressive, can compete with weedy and exotic species, easiest to establish; 2 = intermediate, not as competitive with weedy and exotic plants, slower to establish; 3 = competition sensitive, will not compete and declines or dies with weedy species and exotics.

Old fields, disturbed sites: Native prairie plants that can be found growing on extensively disturbed sites. These species can be tough enough to survive grazing, mowing, plowing, spraying, or some other land management practices.

Plants restricted to virgin prairies: Prairie plants found growing on virgin (not plowed or disturbed) prairie remnants. Most of these plants will not tolerate any kind of disturbance such as plowing, heavy grazing, or mowing.

Plants established by seeds or plants: Some prairie plants can be established by seeds (**S**) or (**P**) or both (**S/P**). Recommendations are based on the difficulty of germination, survival rate, growth rate, and what is currently available through nurseries. Native plants should be nursery-propagated and purchased through licensed nurseries to support the conservation of native species.

	COMPETITIVENESS	OLD FIELDS, DISTURBED SITES	RESTRICTED TO VIRGIN PRAIRIES	ESTABLISHMENT	FLOWER COLOR	HEIGHT	HABITAT PREFERENCE	PERIOD OF BLOOM	COMMENTS
<i>Agastache foeniculum</i> Fragrant Hyssop	1	Yes	No	S/P	Purple	1-3'	Mesic	July-Aug.	Attractive dense, purple spiked flowers, aromatic flowers and leaves.
<i>Agoseris glauca</i> Prairie Dandelion	3	No	Yes	P	Yellow	6-12"	Dry	June	Dandelion-like flowers. Rare in some areas.
<i>Agropyron smithii</i> Western Wheat Grass	2	No	No	S/P	—	16-24"	Dry	July	Most of growth occurs in spring and fall.
<i>Allium canadense</i> Wild Garlic	3	No	Yes	S/P	Pinkish	6-12"	Mesic-dry	May-June	Can't stand heavy grass competition. Needs small companions.
<i>Allium cernuum</i> Nodding Onion	2	No	Yes	S/P	Pinkish	12-16"	Mesic-dry	July-Aug.	Can't stand heavy grass competition. Needs small companions.
<i>Allium stellatum</i> Prairie Onion	3	No	Yes	S/P	Pinkish	12-16"	Mesic-dry	July-Aug.	Can't stand heavy grass competition. Needs small companions.
<i>Amorpha canescens</i> Lead Plant	2	No	Yes	S/P	Purple	1-3'	Dry-mesic	June-July	A very showy woody shrub, grows slowly. A native legume.
<i>Andropogon gerardi</i> Big Bluestem (on cover)	1	Yes	No	S/P	—	2-6'	Mesic-dry	Aug.-Sept.	A warm season grass, forms a solid sod, very aggressive on moist sites.
<i>Anemone canadensis</i> Canada Mayflower	1	No	No	P	White	12-18"	Mesic-wet	May-July	Found growing in colonies.
<i>Anemone caroliniana</i> Carolina Anemone	3	No	Yes	P	White to Violet	8-15"	Dry	Apr.-May	Showy, needs small companions, sensitive to early spring fires.
<i>Anemone cylindrica</i> Thimble Flower	2	No	No	S/P	White	12-16"	Dry-mesic	June-July	Seedheads are interesting, needs small companions.
<i>Antennaria neglecta</i> Pussy toes	1	Yes	No	P	White	4-12"	Dry-mesic	May-June	Forms solid patches.
<i>Apocynum androsaemifolium</i> Spreading Dog bane	3	Yes	No	P	Pink	1-3'	Mesic	June-July	Small, aromatic flowers. Has milky juice like milkweed.
<i>Apocynum cannabinum</i> Indian Hemp	3	No	No	P	Green-white	1-3'	Mesic-dry	June-Aug.	Small flowers. Has milky juice like milkweed.
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i> Wild Columbine	2	Yes	No	S/P	Red-yellow	1-2'	Mesic	June-July	Self seeds readily. A species found in woods or prairies, very attractive.
<i>Arabis lyrata</i> Lyre-leaved Rockcress	3	No	No	P	White	6-12"	Dry	April-May	Low growing.
<i>Artemisia caudata</i> Beach Wormwood	2	No	No	S/P	Green-white	1-2'	Dry	July-Sept.	Self seeds readily.

<i>Artemisia ludoviciana</i> Prairie Sage	3	Yes	No	S/P	Green/white	1-3'	Dry-Mesic	July-Aug.	Attractive foliage all year.
<i>Asclepias amphexicaulis</i> Blunt-leaved Milkweed	2	No	Yes	S/P	Green/purple	1-2'	Dry	June-July	Self seeds readily, rare in some areas.
<i>Asclepias hirtella</i> Green Milkweed	3	No	Yes	S/P	Green/white	1-2'	Dry	June-Aug.	Tall, subtle flowers.
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i> Swamp Milkweed	1	Yes	No	S/P	Pink	2-4'	Wet-mesic	July-Aug.	Aggressive, needs competition. Good for attracting monarch butterflies.
<i>Asclepias ovalifolia</i> Oval-leaved Milkweed	3	No	Yes	S/P	White	10-24"	Dry	June-July	Subtle flowers.
<i>Asclepias sullivantii</i> Sullivant's Milkweed	3	No	Yes	P	Purple/pink	2-4'	Mesic	July	Unusual waxy leaves.
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i> Common Milkweed	1	Yes	No	S/P	Pink	2-4'	Dry-mesic	July-Aug.	Nodding flower heads.
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> Butterfly Flower	3	No	No	S/P	Orange	1-2'	Dry-mesic	July-Aug.	Highly desirable, very showy! Attracts monarch butterflies
<i>Asclepias verticillata</i> Whorled Milkweed	1	Yes	No	S/P	White	12-24"	Dry-mesic	July-Aug.	May become aggressive under moist conditions.
<i>Asclepias viridiflora</i> Short-green Milkweed	3	No	Yes	P	Green/white	1-2'	Dry-mesic	June-July	Subtle flowers.
<i>Aster ericoides</i> Heath Aster	1	Yes	No	S/P	White	1-3'	Dry-mesic	Aug.-Sept.	Can become aggressive and weedy, needs competition.
<i>Aster laevis</i> Smooth Aster	2	No	No	S/P	Blue	1-3'	Dry-mesic	July-Sept.	Moderately showy.
<i>Aster novae-angliae</i> New England Aster	1	Yes	No	S/P	Purple	1-6'	Wet-mesic	Aug.-Oct.	Tall, very showy, can become aggressive.
<i>Aster oblongifolius</i> Aromatic Aster	3	No	No	P	Purple	1-2'	Dry	Sept.-Oct.	Moderately showy.
<i>Aster oolentangiensis</i> syn [Aster azureus] Sky Blue Aster	2	Yes	No	S/P	Blue	1-4'	Mesic-dry	Sept.-Oct.	Needs competition, self seeds readily. An attractive fall flower display.
<i>Aster prenanthoides</i> Crooked-stemmed Aster	3	No	No	S/P	Pink/ white	2-3'	Wet-mesic	Aug.-Sept.	Great for wet areas.
<i>Aster puniceus</i> Purple-stemmed Aster	1	No	No	S/P	White	2-5'	Wet-mesic	Aug.-Sept.	Aggressive, great for wet areas.
<i>Aster sericeus</i> Silky Aster	2	No	No	S/P	Purple	1-2'	Dry	Aug.-Sept.	Attractive flowers and foliage.
<i>Aster simplex</i> Panicked Aster	1	No	No	S/P	White	2-4'	Wet	Aug.-Oct.	Aggressive, great for wet areas.
<i>Aster umbellatus</i> Flat-topped Aster	1	No	No	S/P	White	2-5'	Wet-mesic	July-Aug.	Aggressive, great for wet areas.
<i>Astragalus canadensis</i> Canadian Milk Vetch	1	No	No	S/P	White	1-3'	Dry-mesic	July-Aug.	Aggressive, spreads fast.
<i>Astragalus crassicaulis</i> Ground Plum	3	No	Yes	P	White	6-12"	Dry	May-June	A delicate plant, fruit is interesting, needs small companions.
<i>Baptisia alba</i> White Wild Indigo	2	No	Yes	P	White	2-4'	Mesic-dry	June-July	A native legume, very attractive foliage and flowers.
<i>Baptisia australis</i> syn [Baptisia leucantha] Wild Blue Indigo	1	No	Yes	S/P	Blue	2-5'	Mesic	June-July	A native legume, very attractive foliage and flowers.
<i>Baptisia bracteata</i> syn [Baptisia leucophaea] Prairie Wild Indigo	2	No	Yes	S/P	Yellow	1-2'	Mesic-dry		A native legume, needs small companions for support.
<i>Blephilia ciliata</i> Downy Wood Mint	3	No	No	P	Purple	12-24"	Mesic-dry	June-July	Short, compact growth.
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i> Sideoats Grama	2	No	No	S/P	—	1-3'	Dry	July-Sept.	Moderately aggressive, a bunch grass that self seeds readily, no fall color.
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> Blue Grama	2	No	No	S/P	—	12-18"	Dry	July-Sept.	A bunch grass with no fall color, seed heads are interesting.
<i>Bouteloua hirsuta</i> Hairy Grama	2	No	No	S/P	—	12-18"	Dry	July-Sept.	A bunch grass with no fall color, seed heads are interesting.
<i>Bromus kalmii</i> Kalm's Brome	2	No	Yes	S/P	—	1-3'	Dry-mesic	Aug.-Sept.	Prefers calcareous soils, no fall color.
<i>Buchloe dactyloides</i> Buffalo Grass	2	Yes	No	P	—	6-12"	Dry	July	A short grass that grows thick like sod.
<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i> Blue joint Grass	1	No	No	P	—	2-5'	Wet	July-Aug.	Forms solid clumps.
<i>Calamovilfa longifolia</i> Sand Reed Grass	1	No	Yes	P	—	4-5'	Dry-mesic	July-Aug.	Attractive fall color.
<i>Callirhoe triangulata</i> Poppy Mallow	2	No	Yes	P	Red/ purple	1-2'	Dry-mesic	June-Aug.	Rare in some areas.
<i>Caltha palustris</i> Marsh Marigold	3	No	No	P	Yellow	12-24"	Wet	May	Needs plenty of moisture.
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i> Harebell	3	No	No	P	Blue	6-12"	Dry-mesic	July-Aug.	Self seeds readily, needs good drainage.
<i>Carex bicknellii</i> Bicknell's Sedge	1	No	No	P	—	12"	Mesic-wet	May-July	Grows in clumps.
<i>Carex meadii</i> Mead's Sedge	1	No	No	P	—	12-16"	Mesic-wet	May-June	Grows in calcareous soils.
<i>Carex pensylvanica</i> Pennsylvania Sedge	1	No	No	P	—	6-12"	Mesic-dry	May-June	Can tolerate semi-shady areas.
<i>Cassia hebecarpa</i> Wild Senna	3	No	Yes	P	Yellow	3-6'	Mesic	July-Aug.	A native legume.
<i>Castilleja coccinea</i> Indian Paint Brush	3	No	Yes	S	Red	1-2'	Mesic	June-Aug.	Annual or biennial, semi-parasitic on other plant roots.

<i>Castilleja sessiliflora</i> Yellow Paint brush	3	No	Yes	S	Yellow	1-2'	Dry	July	Annual or biennial, semi-parasitic on other plant roots.
<i>Ceanothus americanus</i> New Jersey Tea	2	Yes	No	P	White	1-3'	Dry-mesic	June-July	Attractive woody shrub.
<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i> syn [<i>Cassia fasciculata</i>] Partridge Pea	3	No	No	S/P	Yellow	6-24"	Dry	July-Aug.	A native legume, annual.
<i>Chelone glabra</i> White Turtle head	3	No	No	P	White	2-3'	Wet-mesic	Aug.	Flower heads resembles "turtles".
<i>Cicuta maculata</i> Water Hemlock	3	Yes	No	P	White	3-5'	Wet-mesic	June-Aug.	Poisonous.
<i>Cirsium discolor</i> Pasture Thistle	3	Yes	No	P	Purple	2-5'	Mesic	Aug.-Sept.	Large, attractive flowers.
<i>Cirsium hillii</i> Hill's Thistle	3	Yes	No	P	Purple	1-2'	Mesic-dry	June	Biennial. Large attractive flowers.
<i>Comandra palmata</i> False Toad flax	3	Yes	No	P	White	6-12"	Wet-mesic	June-July	Flowers are inconspicuous, semi-parasitic on other plant roots.
<i>Coreopsis palmata</i> Coreopsis	2	Yes	No	P	Yellow	1-3'	Mesic	June-Aug.	Showy, attractive flowers, self seeds readily.
<i>Cypripedium candidum</i> Small White Lady's Slipper	3	No	Yes	NA	White	10-16"	Wet-mesic	May-June	Sensitive to competition, low growing. Very difficult to establish
<i>Dalea candidum</i> [<i>Petalostemum candidum</i>] White Prairie Clover	2	No	Yes	S/P	White	1-3'	Dry-mesic	July-Aug.	A native legume, attractive foliage and flowers.
<i>Dalea purpureum</i> syn [<i>Petalostemum purpureum</i>] Purple Prairie Clover (on cover)	2	No	Yes	S/P	Purple	1-3'	Dry	July-Aug.	A native legume, attractive foliage and flowers.
<i>Dalea villosum</i> syn [<i>Petalostemum villosum</i>] Silky Prairie Clover	2	No	Yes	S/P	Purple	1-3'	Dry	July-Aug.	A native legume, attractive foliage and flowers.
<i>Delphinium virescens</i> Prairie Larkspur	3	No	Yes	S/P	White	1-3'	Dry-mesic	June-July	Sensitive to hot weather, may die-back during droughts, re-growth in cool weather.
<i>Desmodium canadense</i> Showy Tick-trefoil	1	Yes	No	S/P	Purple	1-4'	Wet-mesic	July-Aug.	A native legume, aggressive, flowers are showy.
<i>Desmodium illinoense</i> Illinois Tick-trefoil	1	Yes	No	S/P	White-pink	1-2'	Mesic	July-Aug.	A native legume, sometimes aggressive, needs competition.
<i>Dodecatheon meadia</i> Midland Shooting star	2	No	Yes	P	White to pink	12"	Wet-dry	May-June	Very showy, sensitive to spring fires. Can tolerate some shade.
<i>Echinacea angustifolia</i> Pale Purple Coneflower	1	No	Yes	S/P	Purple	2-3'	Mesic-dry	June-July	Aggressive, needs competition.
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> Purple Coneflower	1	Yes	No	P	Purple	2-4'	Mesic-dry	June-Sept.	A native legume, attractive foliage and flowers.
<i>Elymus canadensis</i> Canada Wildrye	1	Yes	No	P	—	2-4'	Mesic	July-Aug.	More aggressive on warmer, moist sites, may gradually disappear.
<i>Equisetum arvense</i> Common Horsetail	1	Yes	No	S/P	—	2-3'	Wet-mesic	May	Can become aggressive.
<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i> Fire Weed	1	Yes	No	S/P	Pink	2-5'	Mesic	July-Aug.	Tall, bushy, very attractive flowers.
<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i> Purple Love Grass	1	Yes	No	S/P	—	1-2'	Dry	July-Sept.	Delicate, attractive seedheads.
<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i> Rattlesnake Master	1	No	No	S/P	White	2-4'	Mesic-dry	July-Aug.	Aggressive on moist sites, attractive seedheads.
<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i> Joe-Pye Weed	1	No	No	S/P	Pink	3-5'	Wet-mesic	July-Aug.	Usually grows in large colonies.
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i> Boneset	2	No	No	S/P	White	3-5'	Wet-mesic	July-Aug.	Usually grows in large colonies.
<i>Euphorbia corollata</i> Flowering Spurge	2	Yes	No	S/P	White	1-3'	Dry-mesic	June-Aug.	Moderately showy flowers, self seeds readily.
<i>Filipendula rubra</i> Queen of the Prairie	2	No	Yes	S/P	Pink	3-6'	Wet-mesic	June-Aug.	Uncommon, a large and showy plant.
<i>Fragaria virginiana</i> Wild Strawberry	1	Yes	No	P	White	6-12"	Wet-mesic	May-June	Fruit attractive to birds. Leaves turn red in fall.
<i>Galium boreale</i> Northern Bedstraw	2	Yes	No	S/P	White	1-2'	Wet-mesic	June-Aug.	Self seeds readily, a good ground cover.
<i>Gentiana alba</i> syn [<i>Gentiana flavida</i>] Yellow Gentian	3	No	Yes	P	White-yellow	1-2'	Wet-mesic	Sept.-Oct.	Petals stay closed, sensitive to heavy grass competition.
<i>Gentiana andrewsii</i> Bottle Gentian	3	No	No	P	Blue	1-2'	Wet-mesic	Sept.-Oct.	Petals stay closed, sensitive to heavy grass competition.
<i>Gentiana puberula</i> Downy Gentian	3	No	Yes	P	Blue	1-2'	Dry-mesic	Sept.-Oct.	Low growing habit, petals open, rare in most areas.
<i>Gentianella quinquefolia</i> syn [<i>Gentiana quinquefolia</i>] Stiff Gentian	3	No	Yes	S/P	Blue	1-2'	Wet-mesic	Sept.-Oct.	Petals stay closed, sensitive to heavy grass competition.
<i>Gentianopsis crinata</i> [<i>Gentiana crinata</i>] Fringed Gentian	3	No	Yes	S/P	Blue	1-2'	Wet-mesic	Sept.-Oct.	Petals open, rare in most areas.
<i>Geum triflorum</i> Prairie Smoke	3	No	No	P	Red	6-12"	Dry-mesic	April-May	Sensitive to spring fires and heavy grass competition, attractive in mass.
<i>Glycyrrhiza lepidota</i> Wild Licorice	3	No	Yes	P	Cream	2-3'	Mesic-dry	June-July	A native legume.
<i>Platanthera praecleara</i> syn [<i>Habenaria leucopaea</i>] White Fringed Orchid	3	No	Yes	NA	White	1-3'	Wet-mesic	June-July	Very difficult to establish.

<i>Platanthera psycodes</i> syn [<i>Habenaria psycodes</i>] Purple Fringed Orchid	3	No	Yes	NA	Purple	1-3'	Wet-mesic	June-July	Very difficult to establish.
<i>Hedeoma hispida</i> Mock Pennyroyal	3	No	No	P	Blue	2-12"	Dry	June-Aug.	Annual, low growing.
<i>Hedyotis longifolia</i> syn [<i>Houstonia longifolia</i>] Longleaf Bluet	3	No	No	P	Blue	4-12"	Dry	June-Oct.	Needs small companions, rare in some areas.
<i>Helenium autumnale</i> Sneezeweed	2	Yes	No	S/P	Yellow	2-5'	Wet-mesic	Aug.-Sept.	Numerous flowers, usually found in large colonies.
<i>Helianthus grosseserratus</i> Sawtooth Sunflower	1	Yes	No	S/P	Yellow	4-7'	Wet-mesic	Aug.-Oct.	Can become weedy. Very easy to establish.
<i>Helianthus laetiflorus</i> Showy Sunflower	1	Yes	No	S/P	Yellow	2-6'	Mesic	Aug.-Oct.	Establishes quickly, needs competition. Tall attractive flowers.
<i>Helianthus maximiliani</i> Maximilian Sunflower	1	Yes	No	S/P	Yellow	2-5'	Mesic	July-Oct.	Aggressive.
<i>Helianthus mollis</i> Downy Sunflower	1	Yes	No	S/P	Yellow	2-3'	Dry-mesic	Aug.-Sept.	Very easy to establish.
<i>Helianthus occidentalis</i> Western Sunflower	1	Yes	No	S/P	Yellow	2-6'	Mesic-dry	Aug.-Oct.	Large, showy flowers.
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i> Oxeye	1	No	No	S/P	Yellow	2-6'	Mesic	July-Sept.	Showy flowers, grows in colonies.
<i>Heterothera villosa</i> syn [<i>Chrysopsis villosa</i>] Golden Aster	1	Yes	No	S/P	Yellow	1-2'	Dry-mesic	July-Oct.	Self seeds easily, can become aggressive on moist sites.
<i>Heuchera richardsonii</i> Alumroot	3	No	Yes	P	Greenish	1-2'	Dry-mesic	May-June	Small, delicate flowers, leaves turn red in fall. Needs small companions.
<i>Hieracium canadense</i> Canada Hawkweed	2	No	No	S/P	Yellow	2-4'	Mesic	July-Sept.	Moderately attractive flowers, self seeds readily.
<i>Hieracium longipilum</i> Hairy Hawkweed	2	No	No	S/P	Yellow	2-4'	Dry	July-Aug.	Prefers sandy areas.
<i>Hierchloe odorata</i> Sweet Grass	2	No	No	P	—	1-2'	Wet-mesic	May-June	Aromatic leaves.
<i>Hudsonia tomentosa</i> False Heather	3	No	No	P	Yellow	4-12"	Dry	May-June	Prostrate growth habit.
<i>Hypoxis hirsuta</i> Yellow Stargrass	3	No	Yes	P	Yellow	4-12"	Wet-mesic	May-July	Delicate flowers, needs small companions.
<i>Iris versicolor</i> Blue flag Iris	2	No	No	P	Blue	2-3'	Wet-mesic	June-July	Grows in large colonies.
<i>Iris virginica</i> var. <i>shrevei</i> Wild Blue flag Iris	2	No	No	P	Blue	1-2'	Wet-mesic	May-July	Grows in large colonies.
<i>Juncus tenuis</i> Path Rush	2	No	No	S/P	—	6-12"	Wet-dry	June	Can be found on compacted soil.
<i>Koeleria macrantha</i> syn [<i>Koeleria cristata</i>] Junegrass	3	No	No	S/P	—	1-2'	Dry	May-July	Very attractive flowers and seedheads, can't tolerate heavy grass competition.
<i>Kuhnia eupatorioides</i> False Boneset	1	No	No	S/P	Cream	2-4'	Dry	Aug.-Sept.	Aggressive, can become aggressive on moist sites.
<i>Lathyrus venosus</i> Showy Vetchling	1	Yes	No	S/P	Purple	2-4'	Wet-mesic	June-July	Attractive, showy flowers.
<i>Lespedeza capitata</i> Roundheaded Bush clover	2	Yes	No	S/P	Cream	2-5'	Dry-mesic	Aug.-Sept.	A native legume, seedheads are very attractive.
<i>Liatris aspera</i> Rough Blazing star	2	No	Yes	S/P	Purple	1-4'	Mesic-dry	Aug.-Sept.	Great for attracting monarch butterflies.
<i>Liatris cylindrica</i> Cylindric Blazing star	2	No	Yes	P	Purple	6-12"	Dry	Aug.-Sept.	Needs small companions for support. Rare in some areas.
<i>Liatris ligulistylis</i> Meadow Blazing star	2	No	Yes	S/P	Purple	2-4'	Mesic-dry	Aug.-Sept.	Great for attracting monarch butterflies.
<i>Liatris punctata</i> Dotted Blazing star	2	No	Yes	P	Purple	1-2'	Dry	Sept.-Oct.	Needs small companions for support.
<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i> Prairie Blazing star	2	No	Yes	S/P	Purple	2-4'	Wet-mesic	July-Aug.	Showy, spectacular summer display of purple flowers.
<i>Liatris spicata</i> Marsh Blazing star	2	No	Yes	P	Purple	2-4'	Wet-mesic	Aug.-Sept.	Attractive flowers, needs companions for support.
<i>Lilium michiganense</i> Michigan Lily	3	No	Yes	P	Orange	2-6'	Wet-mesic	June-July	Rare in most areas, large attractive flowers.
<i>Lilium philadelphicum</i> Wood Lily	3	No	Yes	P	Orange	1-3'	Mesic-wet	June-Aug.	Rare in most areas, large attractive flowers.
<i>Lithospermum canescens</i> Hoary Puccoon	3	No	Yes	NA	Yellow	1-2'	Dry-mesic	May-June	Attractive flowers and foliage, rare in some areas.
<i>Lithospermum caroliniana</i> Caroliniana Puccoon	3	No	Yes	NA	Yellow/orange	1-2'	Dry-mesic	May-June	Attractive flowers and foliage, rare in some areas.
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> Cardinal Flower	3	No	No	S/P	Red	2-5'	Wet-mesic	Aug.-Sept.	Tall growth habit, brilliant red flowers, attracts hummingbirds. Short-lived.
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i> Great Blue Lobelia	3	No	No	S/P	Blue	1-3'	Wet-mesic	Aug.-Sept.	Can tolerate partial shade.
<i>Lobelia spicata</i> Pale Spiked Lobelia	2	No	No	S/P	Blue	1-2'	Mesic-dry	June-Sept.	Blooms for a long time.
<i>Lupinus perennis</i> Wild Lupine	2	No	Yes	S/P	Blue	1-2'	Dry-mesic	May-June	A native legume, very attractive flowers.
<i>Lysimachia quadriflora</i> Prairie Loose strife	2	No	No	P	Yellow	1-2'	Wet-mesic	July-Aug.	Grows in large colonies.
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i> Wild Bergamot	3	Yes	No	S/P	Violet	2-3'	Wet-dry	July-Aug.	Needs competition, very attractive flowers.

<i>Monarda punctata</i> Dotted Mint	3	Yes	No	S/P	Violet-white	1-3'	Dry-mesic	July-Sept.	The flower bracts are very attractive, not the petals. Beautiful in masses.
<i>Muhlenbergia racemosa</i> Green Muhly Grass	2	No	No	P	—	1-2'	Dry	June-July	A great companion for other low growing species.
<i>Oenothera pilosella</i> Prairie Sundrops	3	No	No	P	Yellow	2-3'	Wet-dry	July-Aug.	Flowers bloom for a short time.
<i>Oenothera rhomboides</i> Primrose	3	No	No	P	Yellow	2-3'	Wet-dry	July-Aug.	Flowers bloom for a short time.
<i>Opuntia fragilis</i> Brittle Prickly Pear	3	No	Yes	P	Yellow	3-6"	Dry	May-June	Unusual, low growing, rare in some areas.
<i>Opuntia humifusa</i> Prickly Pear	3	No	Yes	P	Yellow	3-6"	Dry	June-July	Unusual, low growing, rare in some areas.
<i>Oxalis violacea</i> Violet Wood Sorrel	3	No	No	NA	Violet	12"	Dry-mesic	May-June	Very attractive flowers, a good companion for short species.
<i>Oxypolis rigidior</i> Cowbane	3	Yes	No	S/P	White	2-5'	Wet-mesic	Aug.-Sept.	Poisonous.
<i>Panicum leibergii</i> Prairie Panic Grass	1	No	Yes	NA	—	1-2'	Mesic	July	Grows in clumps.
<i>Panicum oligosanthos</i> Scribner Panic Grass	1	No	No	NA	—	1-2'	Dry-mesic	June-July	Grows in clumps.
<i>Panicum perlongum</i> Long stalked Panic Grass	1	No	No	NA	—	10-24"	Dry	June-July	Grows in clumps.
<i>Panicum virgatum</i> Switch Grass	1	Yes	No	S/P	—	3-5'	Dry-mesic	July-Sept.	Grows in clumps, can become aggressive in moist areas.
<i>Parthenium integrifolium</i> Wild Quinine	3	No	No	P	White	2-3'	Dry-mesic	June-Aug.	Attractive foliage.
<i>Pedicularis canadensis</i> Wood Betony	3	No	No	P	Yellow	6-12"	Mesic-dry	May-June	Flowers are very attractive, parasitic on other plant roots.
<i>Pedicularis lanceolata</i> Marsh Betony	3	No	No	P	Yellow	1-2'	Wet	July-Aug.	Flowers are very attractive, parasitic on other plant roots.
<i>Penstemon albidus</i> White Penstemon	3	No	Yes	P	White	12-16"	Dry-mesic	May	Self seeds readily.
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i> Smooth Penstemon	3	No	Yes	P	White	2-3'	Mesic	June-July	Numerous, white flowers, leaves turn red in fall.
<i>Penstemon gracilis</i> Slender Penstemon	3	No	Yes	P	Pink	6-12"	Dry-mesic	May-June	Very attractive flowers, self seeds readily.
<i>Penstemon grandiflorus</i> Showy Penstemon	3	No	No	S/P	Pink	2-3'	Dry-mesic	July-Aug.	Very attractive flowers, self seeds readily.
<i>Penstemon pallidus</i> Pale Penstemon	3	No	Yes	P	Pink	1-3'	Dry	May-June	Very attractive flowers, self seeds readily.
<i>Phlox pilosa</i> Prairie Phlox	2	No	Yes	P	Pink	1-3'	Wet-mesic	May-July	A vigorous grower.
<i>Physostegia virginiana</i> False Dragonhead	2	No	No	S/P	Pink	2-3'	Wet-Mesic	Aug.-Sept.	Tall, spike-like flowers.
<i>Polygala senega</i> Seneca Snakeroot	3	No	Yes	P	White	12-20"	Dry-mesic	May-June	Unusual, attractive flowers and growth habit.
<i>Potentilla arguta</i> Prairie Cinquefoil	3	No	No	S/P	Yellow	2-3'	Mesic-dry	June-July	Unusual, delicate foliage.
<i>Prenanthes racemosa</i> Rattlesnake Root	3	No	No	S/P	Violet	2-4'	Mesic-dry	Aug.-Sept.	Seedheads resemble Liatris.
<i>Psoralea esculenta</i> Prairie Turnip	3	No	Yes	S/P	Blue	12-24"	Dry	June-July	A native legume, delicate and attractive flowers, rare in some areas.
<i>Psoralea tenuiflora</i> Scurf Pea	3	No	Yes	S/P	Blue	12-24"	Dry	June-July	A native legume, delicate and attractive flowers, rare in some areas.
<i>Pulsatilla patens</i> syn [Anemone patens] Pasque Flower (on cover)	3	No	Yes	P	White-violet	4-12"	Dry-mesic	May-June	Needs small companions, can't tolerate heavy grass competition. Feather-like seed heads.
<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i> Mountain Mint	1	Yes	No	P	White	2-3'	Wet-mesic	Aug.-Sept.	Aromatic foliage and flowers.
<i>Ranunculus pensylvanicus</i> Bristly Buttercup	1	Yes	No	P	Yellow	1-2'	Wet	July-Aug.	Not competition sensitive.
<i>Ranunculus rhomboideus</i> Prairie Buttercup	1	No	No	P	Yellow	6-12"	Dry-mesic	April-May	Not competition sensitive.
<i>Ratibida columnifera</i> Upright Coneflower	2	No	No	S/P	Yellow	1-4'	Dry-mesic	July-Aug.	Needs competition, self seeds readily.
<i>Ratibida pinnata</i> Grayheaded Coneflower	1	Yes	No	S/P	Yellow	2-6'	Mesic-wet	July-Aug.	Aggressive, tall, and showy. Needs competition, self seeds readily.
<i>Rosa</i> sp. Prairie Rose	1	Yes	No	P	Pink	1-4'	Dry-mesic	June-July	Very large, showy flowers, rose hips are attractive in fall.
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> Black-eyed Susan	1	Yes	No	S/P	Yellow	1-2'	Wet-mesic	July-Aug.	Short lived perennial that self seeds readily.
<i>Rudbeckia subtomentosa</i> Sweet Coneflower	1	No	Yes	P	Yellow	3-4'	Wet-mesic	July-Aug.	Tall, branched with small attractive flowers.
<i>Ruellia humilis</i> Wild Petunia	2	No	No	P	Violet	6-12"	Dry	July-Aug.	Blooms for a short time.
<i>Saxifraga pensylvanica</i> Swamp Saxifrage	3	No	Yes	P	Green	2-3'	Wet-mesic	May-June	Tall, plants with long stalks, small flowers.
<i>Scutellaria parvula</i> Small Skullcap	3	No	Yes	NA	Blue	6-12"	Dry-mesic	June-July	Small flowers.
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> syn [Andropogon scoparius] Little Bluestem	2	Yes	No	S/P	—	1-3'	Dry-mesic	Aug.-Sept.	A short prairie grass that grows in clumps, attractive reddish fall color.
<i>Scirpus validus</i> Great Bulrush	1	Yes	No	S/P	—	2-6'	Wet-mesic	May-June	Often grows in large colonies.

<i>Silphium integrifolium</i> Rosin Plant	1	No	No	S/P	Yellow	2-5'	Dry-mesic	July-Aug.	Tall, coarse, aggressive.
<i>Silphium laciniatum</i> Compass Plant	1	No	No	S/P	Yellow	3-8'	Mesic-dry	June-Aug.	Very tall, attractive flowers, leaves orient with the sun.
<i>Silphium perfoliatum</i> Cup Plant	1	No	No	S/P	Yellow	2-6'	Mesic	July-Sept.	Interesting shaped leaves trap water.
<i>Silphium terebinthinaceum</i> Prairie Dock	1	No	No	S/P	Yellow	4-8'	Mesic-wet	July-Sept.	The tallest prairie flower, basal leaves reach 2' in diameter.
<i>Sisyrinchium albidum</i> Common Blue-eyed Grass	3	No	Yes	P	White	6-12"	Dry-mesic	May-June	Small, attractive, delicate flowers, grows in small colonies.
<i>Sisyrinchium campestre</i> Blue-eyed Grass	3	No	Yes	P	Blue	6-12"	Dry-mesic	May-June	Small, attractive, delicate flowers, grows in small colonies.
<i>Smilacina stellata</i> Starry False Solomon's Seal	1	No	Yes	P	White	1-2'	Mesic-wet	July-Aug.	Purplish berries very attractive, grows very dense to form a ground cover.
<i>Solidago graminifolia</i> Grass-leaved Goldenrod	1	Yes	No	S/P	Yellow	1-3'	Mesic	Aug.-Sept.	Attractive flowers, but aggressive.
<i>Solidago missouriensis</i> Missouri Goldenrod	1	No	Yes	S/P	Yellow	1-3'	Dry-mesic	Aug.-Oct.	Attractive flowers, but aggressive.
<i>Solidago nemoralis</i> Gray Goldenrod	1	Yes	No	S/P	Yellow	1-3'	Dry-mesic	Aug.-Oct.	Attractive, arching flower heads.
<i>Solidago ptarmicoides</i> syn [<i>Aster ptarmicoides</i>] White Upland Aster	3	No	No	S/P	White	1-2'	Dry	Aug.-Sept.	Rare in some areas.
<i>Solidago riddellii</i> Riddell's Goldenrod	1	No	Yes	S/P	Yellow	1-3'	Wet-mesic	Sept.-Oct.	Attractive flowers, but aggressive, needs competition. Turns red in fall.
<i>Solidago rigida</i> Rigid Goldenrod	1	Yes	No	S/P	Yellow	2-4'	Dry-mesic	Sept.-Oct.	Attractive flowers, but aggressive.
<i>Solidago speciosa</i> Showy Goldenrod	1	Yes	No	S/P	Yellow	2-3'	Dry-mesic	Aug.-Oct.	Most attractive of all the goldenrods, aggressive, turns red in fall.
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> Indian grass (on cover)	1	Yes	No	S/P	—	2-6'	Mesic-dry	Aug.-Sept.	Aggressive, needs competition, attractive bronze seedheads in fall.
<i>Spartina pectinata</i> Prairie Cord Grass	1	Yes	No	P	—	3-6'	Wet-mesic	July-Aug.	Usually found growing in large colonies in moist to wet areas.
<i>Spiranthes cernua</i> Nodding Lady Tresses	3	No	Yes	NA	White	1-2'	Wet-dry	Aug.-Sept.	A native orchid that is hard to find.
<i>Spirea alba</i> Meadow Sweet	2	No	No	P	White	3-6'	Wet-mesic	July-Aug.	A woody shrub with large, fragrant flowers, leaves turning orange in fall.
<i>Spirea tomentosa</i> Steeple Bush	2	No	No	P	Pink	3-6'	Wet-mesic	July-Aug.	A woody shrub with large, fragrant flowers, leaves turning red in fall.
<i>Sporobolus asper</i> Rough Dropseed	1	Yes	No	S/P	—	2-4'	Mesic-dry	Aug.-Sept.	Attractive seedheads, can become aggressive under moist conditions.
<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i> Prairie Dropseed	2	Yes	No	S/P	—	2-3'	Mesic-dry	Aug.-Sept.	Attractive, delicate seedheads.
<i>Stipa spartea</i> Porcupine Grass	2	No	Yes	S/P	—	2-3'	Dry-mesic	May-June	A short prairie bunch grass, seedheads are long, needle sharp.
<i>Tephrosia virginiana</i> Goats rue	3	No	No	S/P	Pink	1-2'	Dry-mesic	June-July	Grows in clumps, very attractive flowers.
<i>Thalictrum dasycarpum</i> Tall Meadow Rue	2	No	Yes	S/P	Purple	3-4'	Wet-mesic	June-July	Tall, attractive foliage.
<i>Thaspium trifoliatum</i> Meadow Parsnip	1	No	No	S/P	Yellow	2-3'	Mesic	May-June	Resembles Golden Alexander.
<i>Tradescantia bracteata</i> Prairie Spiderwort	1	Yes	No	S/P	Blue	1-2'	Mesic-wet	June-Aug.	Low growing, flowers for a long time.
<i>Tradescantia ohioensis</i> Ohio Spiderwort	2	Yes	No	S/P	Blue	1-2'	Dry-mesic	June-Aug.	Low growing, flowers for a long time.
<i>Verbena hastata</i> Blue Vervain	1	Yes	No	S/P	Blue	3-4'	Wet-mesic	Aug.-Sept.	Numerous flowers, leaves turn reddish-purple.
<i>Verbena stricta</i> Hoary Vervain	1	Yes	No	S/P	Blue	2-3'	Mesic-dry	June-Sept.	Attractive spike flowers, can become weedy under moist conditions.
<i>Vernonia fasciculata</i> Ironweed	1	No	No	S/P	Red-purple	2-5'	Wet-mesic	July-Aug.	Aggressive, tall and coarse.
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i> Culver's Root	3	No	No	S/P	White	3-6'	Mesic-wet	July-Aug.	Attractive spike flowers.
<i>Vicia americana</i> American Vetch	1	No	No	S/P	Blue	2-3'	Dry-mesic	May-Aug.	Blooms a long time.
<i>Viola nephrophylla</i> Blue Marsh Violet	3	No	No	P	Blue	3-8"	Wet-mesic	May-June	Low growing, numerous flowers.
<i>Viola pedata</i> Bird's Foot Violet	3	No	No	P	Blue	3-8"	Dry-mesic	May-June	Low growing, numerous flowers.
<i>Viola pedatifida</i> Prairie Violet	3	No	No	P	Blue	3-8"	Dry-mesic	May-June	Low growing, numerous flowers.
<i>Viola sagittata</i> Arrow-leaved Violet	3	No	No	P	Purple	3-8"	Dry-mesic	May-June	Low growing, numerous flowers.
<i>Zizia aptera</i> Heart leaved Golden Alexander	1	No	No	S/P	Yellow	1-3'	Wet-mesic	May-June	Large, showy flowers.
<i>Zizia aurea</i> Golden Alexander	1	No	No	S/P	Yellow	1-3'	Wet-mesic	May-June	Large, showy flowers.

OTHER PRAIRIE PLANT COMMUNITIES

Several other prairie plant communities are found in the Midwest, constituting a small fraction of the total vegetation that exists today. They contain the same herbaceous plant species found in the wet, mesic, and dry prairie communities, but in different proportions.

OAK SAVANNA

Oak savannas were a common ecotype between the eastern deciduous forest and the tallgrass prairie. These were park-like groves of oak, often bur oak, *Quercus macrocarpa*, and mesic prairie grasslands. Today most savannas have been destroyed, although some groves of trees still exist in pastures or in suburban housing developments. Fire was a significant factor in influencing the position and extent of this community. Some public land surveys of Minnesota indicate that rather than a park-like grove, this community may have been more brushland with small groves of trees intermixed with open prairie.

FENS

Fen is a geologic term used to describe low, swampy, boggy areas, but the word also describes the soil/plant relationship. Fens are wet prairie communities found on hillsides, fed by internal springs, associated with either extinct or existing glacial lakes of a dolomitic limestone source. Water and soil conditions tend to vary slightly from site to site, but they generally tend to be high in magnesium sulfates, magnesium and calcium bicarbonates. Sedges and grasses are the dominant plants found in fens.

ASPEN PARKLAND

The aspen parkland plant communities are found in the far north of the Midwest, a transition area between the coniferous forest to the northeast and the prairie communities of the west. Ancient beach ridges hold large concentrations of peat, gravel, and sand. These poorly drained areas shelter and wet and mesic prairie communities, supporting populations of aspen and other fast-growing trees between prairie fires. The aspen parkland once covered vast acreages within the poorly drained flatlands left by Glacial Lake Agassiz. Remnants existing today are a mosaic of wet prairie, sedge meadow, shrub thicket, and aspen groves.

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