A Guide to the Tallgrass Prairies of Eastern Nebraska and Adjacent States

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A Guide to the Tallgrass Prairies of Eastern Nebraska and Adjacent States

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Introduction and Acknowledgments

This booklet represents an initial attempt at putting together some useful information on the locations, composition and ecology of tallgrass prairies of eastern Nebraska, one of the state’s most valuable and most endangered ecosystems. Little of this information is directly based on my own work, and in particular I have relied on the studies of Kay Kottas, Robert Kaul and Steve Rolfsmeier for information on the plants of tallgrass prairies, as well as classic work on Nine-mile Prairie by John Weaver and T. L. Steiger. To help with field identification, I have also used public-domain plant drawings from A. B. Hitchcock’s *Manual of the Grasses of the United States*, the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture’s *Selected Weeds of the United States* and the Nebraska Dept. of Agriculture and Inspection’s *Nebraska Weeds*. All other drawings my own. Rachel Simpson kindly looked at my lists of plants and corrected some spelling errors, and several other people have also offered suggestions on content.

Most importantly, the long-term work by Ernie Kousek and Tim Knott has been invaluable in locating and helping to obtain conservation easements on surviving tallgrass prairie remnants in southeastern Nebraska. Tim Knott provided me some maps and information on relict tallgrass prairie tracts in eastern Nebraska, and Ernie Rousek added some historic information on Nine-mile Prairie. The coordinated efforts of Wachiska Audubon of Lincoln, Nebraska in facilitated these easements and obtained money to purchase some prime examples of tallgrass prairies. Were it not for these efforts, the work of the National Audubon Society in preserving Spring Creek Prairie, and earlier efforts by botanists such as A. T. Harrison and Robert Kaul to preserve Nine-mile Prairie we would have very little means of studying and celebrating the biological complexities and special esthetic beauties of native tallgrass prairie in eastern Nebraska. – Paul A. Johnsgard
Communities Dominated by Grass

- Mixed-grass Prairie
- Mixed-Tallgrass Transition
- Tallgrass Bluestem Prairie
- Kansas Mixed Prairie

Communities Dominated by Deciduous or Coniferous Trees

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Adapted from a map of Nebraska's Native Vegetation by Kaul (1975)
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Nebraska’s Tallgrass Prairies

Of all of the grassland types in North America, the tallgrass prairie has been the most ravaged. One estimate of its original extent, based on a map published by A. W. Küchler, was 221,375 square miles (573,511 km), as compared with 218,543 square miles (566,174 km) for mixed-grass prairie and 237,476 square miles (615,223 km) for shortgrass prairie. At least 95 percent of the tallgrass prairie is now gone; if the Sandhills prairies were classified as tallgrass prairie (they are usually considered as mixed-grass prairie) they would certainly be the largest remaining remnant in all of North America. However the species diversity of Sandhills prairie plants is much lower than in true tallgrass prairie. T. L. Stieger reported that at least 237 species of vascular plants occurred on various tallgrass prairie sites totaling about ten square miles near Lincoln. One of the best-studied of all tallgrass prairies is Nine-mile Prairie, near Lincoln, where 392 species of plants (291 native) have been detected over a half-century of study by John Weaver and more recent botanists. It now comprises only some 230 acres, but was about 800 acres when originally studied. Similarly, Audubon’s Spring Prairie near Denton, of slightly over 600 acres, was also found by Kay Kottas to support over 300 species. By comparison, a similar-sized mixed-grass prairie site in the Nebraska Loess Hills that was studied by Steven Rothenberger contained 239 species. These figures compare with a total of 194 plant species reported from the two-square-mile Arapahoe Prairie in the central Sandhills.

Besides big bluestem, Indiangrass, switchgrass and, in wetter sites, prairie cordgrass, are important high-stature grasses of tallgrass prairie. All are well above three feet tall at maturity, and have root systems that extend down 8-12 feet for switchgrass, 7-8 feet for prairie cordgrass, and 5-6 feet for Indiangrass. All of these are warm-season grasses that are strongly rhizomatous. Two of the three are also continuous sod-formers, but Indiangrass is a more bunchy species, mainly spreading from tillers that are produced from late summer rhizomes that overwinter and provide for early spring growth the following year. Seed production estimates for big bluestem, Indiangrass and switchgrass seem to average substantially less than that of little bluestem, but this statistic seems subject to considerable experimental variability. Additionally, all these species reproduce mainly by rhizomes rather than from seed dispersal.

Ecology of the Tallgrass Prairie

The tallgrass prairie is one of the most romantic concepts of the American West. The imagined view of endless bison herds plodding through grasses so tall that they half obscured them from sight is a powerful image, and one that today must remain more in the realm of fancy than of fact. Quite probably most bison occurred on prairies of shorter stature, and the taller grasses that were present were likely soon clipped by the hungry migrants, but at least the vision is a most attractive one. One image that can still be realized is the sight of tallgrass prairie in full bloom from June through September, when dozens of prairie forbs vie for the attention of bees, butterflies and moths.

Such famous plant ecologists as Frederick Clements and John Weaver studied this prairie and similar ones in eastern Nebraska for many decades. A study of several such tallgrass prairies established that about 200 species of upland forbs were typically present, and that 75 of these were present in 90 percent of the prairies they examined. The most abundant and most consistently occurring upland forb was lead plant, which has a root system that can be up to more than 16 feet in length and is provided with nitrogen-fixing nodules. The gayfeather or blazing star may have roots of a comparable length. Many species of goldenrods are also present, with roots up to eight feet long. John Weaver once calculated that a square foot of big bluestem sod might contain about 55 linear feet, and an acre about 400 miles of densely matted rhizomes, from the surface to a depth of only a few inches. The strong roots of big bluestem have individual tensile strengths of 55-64 pounds, making prairie sod one of the strongest of natural organic substances. It is indeed strong enough to construct
sod-built houses that have sometimes lasted a century or more in the face of Nebraska’s relatively inhospitable climate.

John Weaver once calculated that the big bluestem has root systems up to about three feet in diameter, that penetrate to a depth of nearly seven feet. Some 43 percent of its underground biomass is concentrated in the top 2.5 inches (10 cm) of soil, and 78 percent in the top six inches (30 cm). The overall underground (root and rhizome) biomass of tallgrass prairies is usually 2-4 times greater than the aboveground biomass. The root component usually contributes about 30 percent of the annual primary production, or up to nearly 40 percent in the case of grazed prairie. Overall annual primary production of organic matter in tallgrass prairie average about 300 grams per square meter (or nearly 3,000 pounds per acre). Likewise, the total underground parts of tallgrass prairie may contribute more than a ton of new organic matter per acre annually. Annual turnover (decomposition) rates for the above-ground parts of tallgrass prairie average about 80 percent, resulting in an average turnover period for the aboveground component of about 1.25 years, whereas turnover periods for underground biomass averages about three or four years. As a result, prairie soils are constantly being re-fertilized by organic matter that has been produced during the past few growing seasons.

The soils of tallgrass prairie are among the deepest and most productive for grain crops of any on earth. They represent the breakdown products of thousands of generations of annual productivity of grass and other herbaceous organic matter. Because of these organic materials and the clays usually present in prairie soils, such soils have excellent water-holding capabilities. In addition to the humus and related organic matter thus produced, many prairie legumes have nitrogen-fixing root bacteria that enrich and fertilize the soil to a depth of at least 15 feet. Earthworms and various vertebrate animals such as gophers make subterranean burrows that mix and aerate prairie soils, in the case of earthworms to a depth of 13 feet or more.

### Tallgrass Prairie Types

#### Tallgrass Prairie

The five dominant grasses of upland tallgrass prairie are actually those of medium stature, and consist of little bluestem, needlegrass, prairie drop-seed, Junegrass, and side-oats grama. All are bunchgrasses and, of all these perennial native grasses, little bluestem is easily the most important. It alone may comprise 60-90 percent of the total vegetational cover, and in very favorable sites it may lose its bunching form and produce a continuous sod of interlocking roots. However, in most cases the major upland grasses occur in clumps spaced about a foot or more apart, with roots extending downward at least 4-5 feet. John Weaver once calculated that a strip of prairie sod four inches wide, eight inches deep and 100 inches long held a tangled network of roots having a total length of more than 20 miles! In prairie the total weight of underground vegetation in the form of roots is likely to be as great as the aboveground parts, and much of this is recycled back into the soil on a yearly basis. In contrast, forests and woodlands store most of their productivity as woody above-ground parts, which recycle back into the soil only when the trees eventually die, or perhaps are burned.

Most of the important grasses of the tallgrass prairie are from 3-6 feet tall, with the higher slopes having a greater proportion of mid-stature species. One of the few large and bushy shrubs to be of significance on the uplands is wild plum, although the smaller lead plant is widely distributed, and both prairie rose and New Jersey tea are likely to exist as scattered plants.

Forbs of the tallgrass prairie are numerous, as mentioned earlier. In the uplands lead plant is usually the most important forb, although it has a woody base and might well be classified as a half-shrub. Other important prairie half-shrubs include prairie rose and New Jersey tea. The stiff sunflower is also one of the most widely distributed upland forbs, and also extends to many lowlands. Other regular forb participants are prairie goldenrod, prairie flax, wild alfalfa, heath aster, bastard toadflax, and daisy fleabane. Several sunflowers, such as the saw-toothed sunflower, Maximilian’s sunflower, and Jerusalem artichoke are important prairie forbs,
especially in moister situations, and the Jerusalem artichoke has enlarged starchy tubers that can be eaten raw or cooked in various ways. A legume, prairie turnip, was an important food source for Native Americans.

**Wet Mesic Prairie**

If the plants of upland tallgrass prairie are impressive, those of the lowland prairie are even more so. In this situation big bluestem may comprise 80-90 percent of the overall prairie vegetation, and together with little bluestem the two species represent at least 75 percent of all true prairie communities. Big bluestem is substantially taller than little bluestem and where both occur together the shorter species may be shaded out. On slopes and drier hilltops the smaller species has an advantage over the larger one. The roots of big bluestem are about 6-8 feet deep, and those of little bluestem are about five feet deep, so big bluestem has an advantage in moister sites. However, its roots tend to grow directly downwards, whereas those of little bluestem and other bunchgrasses tend to spread widely, intercepting a much broader area than the aboveground parts of the plant. Like many prairie perennials, both bluestem species are believed to be long-lived. Both species are warm-season grasses, and continue to grow through the summer. Big bluestem may rarely reach a height of 8-10 feet in some lowland sites by late summer, when it finally bursts into full flower. Other very tall grasses of lowland sites are prairie cordgrass, Canada wild rye, Indiangrass, and switchgrass. An additional 20 or more grass species are of importance in lowland prairie.

In typical lowland prairie big bluestem is dominant, but Indiangrass, switchgrass and Canada wildrye may also be abundant, and in wetter sites prairie cordgrass may take the place of big bluestem as the dominant species. Typical shrubs include wild plum, rough-leafed dogwood, and wolfberry. There are many summer- and fall-flowering composites, such as sunflowers, goldenrods and asters, and prairie fringed orchids are likely in slightly moister ravines. Many taller forbs are part of the low prairie flora. Among these is compass-plant, which grows to nearly 10 feet tall, and has leaves that may be nearly two feet long. Younger plants especially have their leaves twisted vertically, and the leaf axis is oriented almost perfectly north-south (thus the plant’s common name). This trait allows them to take advantage of early morning and late afternoon sunlight, but not become too desiccated during mid-day hours. A related species, the cup-plant, has opposites leaves united at their bases in such a way that a small cup-like structure is formed that holds water after rains.

**Sumac-Dogwood Shrubland**

Over much of eastern Nebraska a shrubby community dominated by smooth sumac, rough-leaved dogwood, and sometimes also wild plum, wolfberry, and coralberry are fairly common. It occurs along the edges of woodlands, or in ravines of tallgrass prairies, over well-drained soils. The shrubs may be fairly open or quite dense, at times even restricting human passage, but in the more open stands an understory of typical prairie plants may be present. Recurrent prairie fires once restricted this community, but fire suppression in recent times has encouraged its growth. Fire reduction has also encouraged the proliferation of eastern red cedar, which in eastern Nebraska is a much more serious threat to prairie survival than are sumac and dogwood.

**Bur Oak Woodland**

This upland community type sometimes occurs near or is interspersed with tallgrass prairie, forming a savanna-like community, especially where recurrent burning or grazing helps to control the understory.

**Profiles of Some Typical Tallgrass Species**

**Big Bluestem**

Big bluestem is a warm-season grass, often growing six feet or more during the hot summer months, and finally bursting into blossom in September. By October it is starting to shed its seed crop, which in natural stands might reach 100 pounds per acre, and much more in planted stands. By then its stemmy and rather rank
foliage is not so attractive to large ungulates, but earlier in the season it is a highly preferred food for most grazing mammals.

*Andropogon* translates as “man’s beard,” a fair description of its flowering head, which includes an equal mix of somewhat hairy and sessile but fertile spikelets, and adjacent stalked but infertile ones. Although the undisputed dominant of moist tallgrass prairie, big bluestem has an overall range extending east to the Atlantic coast, north in eastern Canada almost to James Bay, and south well into Mexico. Other species of this genus have similar ranges and little bluestem, sometimes placed in the same genus, is also a warm-season grass with a range similar to that of big bluestem. Sand bluestem is an extremely close relative of big bluestem that is more sand- and arid-adapted, but is otherwise nearly identical, and sometimes the two forms hybridize where their ranges overlap in Nebraska.

**Little Bluestem**

This is the “shaggy” prairie grass of which Willa Cather wrote lovingly, whose English name refers to a bluish cast that is present on the lower leaves and stem nodes of growing plants. However, by midsummer much of the entire visible plant is starting to turn a rich Indian-red, and by fall one can easily recognize little bluestem by its combination of bunch-like or “shaggy” shape and its wonderful overall coppery red color, almost matching the colors of a autumnal prairie sunset. It and side-oats grama, whose equally distinctive florets that hang down one side of the plant stem like the feathers of a Lakota brave’s war-lance, and was thus called “Banner-waving-in-the-wind grass”, are two of the easily recognized and highly distinctive grasses of mixed-grass prairies.

Little bluestem is by far the most important plant of mixed-grass prairie, and it also extends eastward to share dominance with big bluestem in tallgrass prairie. It likewise penetrates the entire Sandhills region, and locally may even find opportunities for survival in moist depressions of short-grass prairie. Like big bluestem it is a warm-season species, obtaining much of its growth in the warmest summer months, and sending out graceful feathery flowering stalks in early fall, typically in late September and October. Its abundant seeds are soon dropped, but the upright stems and leaves persist over the winter. Cattle are not as fond of using little bluestem for winter forage as are bison. In good years little bluestem may produce 200 or more pounds of seeds per acre, or at least as much as big bluestem. This compares with about 100 pounds of seeds per acre produced by side-oats grama, and 100-180 pounds for blue grama.

**Western Prairie Fringed Orchid**

The western prairie fringed orchid is a lovely, all too ephemeral orchid that may remain hidden for years, suddenly appear in full bloom during late June or early July for a week or so, then disappear as quickly and quietly as it had materialized. Thus one must watch closely for it, usually in the wetter swales of tallgrass prairie. A farmer-photographer friend told me of once haying in a prairie meadow, and seeing its blooms just as the plant was about to be mowed down. Before he could stop the machine the flower had gone into the mower. Going back in following summers, he wasn’t able to find the plant again. The plants often remain unseen for several years, in a dormant, subterranean state, nourished by micorrhizae. They may then suddenly exhibit mass blooming, possibly stimulated by fire or by shifts in soil moisture that are associated with varied rainfall patterns.

There are many species of the genus *Plantathera*, most of which have whitish or greenish flowers, and are pollinated by nocturnal or crepuscular moths. The white blossoms of the fringed orchid show up well under low-light conditions, and no doubt help attract the moths. The enlarged and strongly fringed lower petal and sepals also might draw attention to the blossoms. Studies on the pollination biology by Charles J. Sheviak and Marlin L. Bowles have filled in the details for this species and a closely related but smaller one, the eastern prairie fringed orchid, which is fairly widespread in more eastern states. Both species have blossoms that are
creamy white to white, and in both the blossom fragrance is very sweet, intensifying after sunset. The blossoms of the western form are somewhat more creamy, and their fragrance more spicy, than in the eastern species. Their petal and sepal shapes also differ, and in the western species the blossom heads are shorter and denser, with fewer but larger individual blossoms.

Both species are specifically adapted to pollination by sphinx moths, being nocturnally fragrant, deeply fringed, with extruded reproductive columns, and extremely long nectar-bearing spurs. There is a very limited entrance access to the spur, and the pollinaria are situated in such a way that they will adhere either to the proboscis or eyes of the visiting moth. After the pollen bearing structures have deposited their pollen on a moth, the columns rotate, so that they now fully expose their stigmas, ready to receive pollen from the next moth that visits.

Sheviak and Bowles estimated that any pollinating moths of the western species must have a proboscis length between 35-45 mm, and must also have an across-the-eyes distance that approximates the distance between the pollen-bearing viscidia. Five prairie-ranging sphinx moths seem to meet these requirements, all of which are native to Nebraska (achemon sphinx, white-lined sphinx, wild cherry sphinx, laurel sphinx, and vashti sphinx). Of these, the head measurements of vashti sphinx does not quite “fit” the proper requirements, and it may only be a nectar thief, able to obtain nectar without carrying away pollen. The same is possibly true of the wild cherry sphinx.

Although it historically occurred all across eastern Nebraska, the current known distribution of the western prairie fringed orchid is limited to Lancaster County, eastern Seward County, Hall County, and east-central Cherry County. In 1989 the species was listed federally and concurrently by the State of Nebraska as a threatened species.

**Small White Lady’s-slipper**

This beautiful little orchid once had a range similar to those of the eastern and western fringed prairie orchids combined. It extended west into eastern Nebraska, and east to the southern New England states. It favors damp soil but full sunlight, often occurring in wetter meadows than where the prairie fringed orchid might also occur.

This little lady’s slipper blooms fairly early, in May and June, or about the same time as the yellow lady’s slipper, and before the fringed white prairie orchid. The blossoms may open before the leaves are fully unfurled, the flowers being mostly yellowish green except for the lower lip, which is glossy white, with some flecks and narrow lines of purple. The conspicuous stamen-bearing structure is golden yellow, with conspicuous crimson spots, the colors probably serving as insect attractants. There is usually only a single blossom per stem, but sometimes two. However, the plants often grow in clumps, with stems up to 12 inches high, and with the long, oval leaves wrapping around the stem at their bases. The white slipper-shaped pouch is up to an inch in length, and the two lateral petal-like sepals are long, narrow and rather twisted, and the dorsal hood is formed by a sepal that is also elongated and somewhat twisted.

The pollination ecology of this species is still little known, but is probably much like that of a close European relative (C. calceola) that probably was separated from it during glacial periods. This species was one of the many orchids studied by Charles Darwin. He discovered that orchid flowers of this pouch-like type act as “conical traps, with the edges inwards, like the traps which are sold to catch beetles and cockroaches.” Insects are perhaps attracted by scent, or by the conspicuous white color of the pouch, with the crimson spots on the yellow staminode attracting further attention, and the purple lines leading inwards along the pouch perhaps acting as false nectar-guides. The plant produces a variety of fragrances, some of which are similar to sex-attractant pheromones used by bees for attracting females. Insects that crawl into the pouch become trapped, and can only escape by exiting through one of the two rear openings. In doing so they must first brush the surface of the stigma, and later one of the anthers. This sequence prevents self-pollination of the flower. Most of
the visitors are bees, especially solitary bees of various genera such as Andrena, a large and widespread group of bees that dig nesting burrows in soil and are thus called mining bees. Bumblebees may alight on the pouch, but cannot enter, and some small bees and flies that do enter are too small to effect pollination.

Once very common in the wet meadows of eastern Nebraska, this orchid is now rare, and is currently known only from Howard, Pierce, Platte and Sherman counties. It is on the list of Nebraska’s threatened species.

**Western and Eastern Meadowlarks**

Nebraska is a bit unusual in that over much of our state both eastern and western meadowlarks can be seen and heard. Where they commonly occur together, as in the eastern fourth of the state, the eastern meadowlark is likely to be found in the lower, moister sites, and the western on uplands and drier habitats. But often both can be heard singing almost simultaneously, and it is the difference in the advertising songs of the males that make field identification easiest. The western has a complex, melodious and trumpet-like series of many short notes, uttered too rapidly to count them easily. The eastern has a more trombone-like series of a few more obviously sliding-scale notes. If one can see the singer, it may be apparent that the lower cheek (“malar”) area of the western is more tinged with yellowish, like the chin, whereas in the eastern this area has little if any yellowish color present. Intermediate songs, as well as intermediate-looking birds, are sometimes present and may leave the observer in doubt as to their identity.

Individual male western meadowlarks sing a variety of unique song types, usually ranging from about three to 12. Some of these song types may be shared with other males in the local population, but no two males exhibit the exact same repertoire. A male may repeat one his song types several times, but will switch to a different type on hearing a rival, perhaps to reduce the likelihood of this other male becoming less responsive to a particular rival’s song type. Song-switching may also be important both in territorial defense and in achieving mate attraction. Males having the largest song repertoires also tend to be among the first to obtain mates, and have greater reproductive success than do less gifted males, suggesting that song is one of the effective ways to attract a maiden, as humans have also more recently discovered.

The nests of meadowlarks are always extremely well hidden; those I have found have been more the result of accident than design. When walking through prairies and looking for flowers or other things, I have at times been startled by the eruption of a meadowlark at my feet. A careful parting of the grasses will then reveal a roofed-over nest, with four or five speckled eggs. Such nests are best left alone and carefully covered over again, for in spite of their concealment they are often lost to egg predators.

**Greater Prairie-chicken**

Greater prairie-chickens are well named. They are indeed closely linked to true prairie, and they are “great” not only in terms of relative size (at least as compared to the lesser prairie-chicken) but also in their aesthetic appeal. There are few other places in North America where one is, within about a hundred miles of our state’s largest cities, able to secrete oneself within a blind on a pre-dawn spring morning, and experience what is one of the most exciting avian shows imaginable. Some of the most pleasurable memories of my life have been formed in such locations. It is like being a first-row spectator at a play whose general plot one knows almost by heart. Yet, with every such experience there is enough uncertainty as to its outcome as to make each such viewing like attending an opening-day performance, where the performers’ roles may be unexpectedly altered, and the morning’s outcome uncertain. Add to this the sight of a golden sunrise on the eastern horizon, the sounds of meadowlarks and distant coyotes greeting the dawn, and the scene is complete. Or, with the approach of a thunderstorm, sudden strong winds, or the unexpected visit of a coyote or prairie falcon, the whole performance may suddenly disappear before one’s eyes. They are truly ‘such things as dreams are made on.’
Like the sharp-tailed grouse, prairie-chickens display sexually on traditional sites called arenas or leks, in which the social status of each male is the sole factor influencing his opportunity for mating successfully. This is Darwinian sexual selection in its clearest form; even a minor setback in status relative to that of neighboring males, such as repeated loss in fights over territorial boundaries, might be enough to exclude a male from hierarchical advancement toward the status of “master cock.” The master cock is the factor that holds the “glue” of the entire social structure into a working, coherent group. Should he be suddenly removed from a stable lek, the resulting fights over new territorial boundaries, and associated disruptions over who might replace the dominant male will result in reduced fertilization rates among the females, and a possible disintegration of the entire lek structure.

The sounds and postures of the greater prairie-chicken in display are quite different from those of the sharp-tailed grouse. A low-pitched, dove-like “booming” replaces the sharp-tail’s “cooing,” and a stately erect posture, with two ear-like pinnae erected vertically and the lowered wingtips brushing the ground, replaces the frenzied dances and outstretched wings of the sharp-tail. Yet, hybrids sometimes occur in areas where both species coexist. This is most likely to happen when females visit mixed lek and, for whatever reason, allow themselves to be mated by a master cock of the wrong species. Once the females have been mated, the males play no further role in assuring the species’ successful reproduction. The females make their nests, lay their eggs, and tend their broods all alone, probably not encountering the adult males again until fall flocks begin to assemble.

Massasauga Rattlesnake

Rattlesnakes of any type are not particularly appealing animals for most people, although their danger to humans is considerably over-rated. I knew of only two students who were bitten by prairie rattlesnakes, a larger species than the massasauga, while I taught nearly 20 summers at our biological field station. One was grazed when a student picked up a snake that had been run over and that the student thought was dead. The other was bit during a show of foolhardy machismo by another young man whose hormones had seemingly drowned any good sense that might have otherwise been there. Both victims recovered rapidly; fewer people are killed by snake bites each year in the U.S. (about a dozen, out of 6-7 thousand bit each year) than are killed as a result of being stung by bees, wasps or ants.

In part because of the universal human persecution of rattlesnakes, and partly because of habitat loss in this species’ original prairie range, this little rattlesnake has nearly disappeared from the Nebraska scene. One of its very few remaining haunts is around Burchard Lake State Recreation Area in Pawnee County of southeastern Nebraska, where greater prairie-chickens also survive in small numbers. When George Hudson did a survey of Nebraska’s reptiles and amphibians during the 1950s, he was aware of records from Lancaster, Fillmore, Gage and Nemaha counties. There were five records from Lancaster County, including one from the prairie remnant near Lincoln called Nine-mile Prairie. A more recent survey by John Lynch produced a few more locations, but only in Pawnee County (Pawnee Prairie and Burchard Lake) is the species likely to be still present and receiving some degree of protection. It was recently added to the list of Nebraska’s threatened species.

(Derived from The Nature of Nebraska, by P. A. Johnsgard (2001)
Part 2: Plants of the Tallgrass Prairies

Drawing by P. Johnsgard: Fire on the Mountain
Checklist of Prairie and Grassland Plants of Nebraska

Taxa (families, genera, species) in the following lists are arranged alphabetically by Latin names. “Eastern half,” Southeastern etc. refer to the entire state. Listing is mostly limited to widespread species illustrated in the field guides cited. Kaul et al. (2006) provided keys to all species. Abbreviations are as follows:

- 9-mile = species that were reported from Nine-mile Prairie (Lancaster County) by Kaul & Rolfsmeier (1987).
- SCP = species reported from Spring Creek Prairie (Lancaster County) by Kottas (2000).
- Iowa = species reported from Iowa prairies and illustrated by Christiansen & Muller (1999).
- Platte = species reported from Platte Valley and/or Bader Memorial Park by Whitney & Whitney (1987).

Common Prairie Grasses and Sedges

This list includes nearly 100 of Nebraska’s grasses and sedges, especially those of eastern Nebraska. All of Nebraska’s grasses were illustrated and described by Hitchcock (1935); page references refer to this source. Drawings from this source or from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (1970) and reproduced in part in Part 4 are marked as “Illustration --”.

Symbol meanings are as follows:

- # = species that were described and illustrated photographically by Johnson and Larson (1999).
- $ = species described and illustrated photographically by Larson and Johnson (1999).
- * = weedy, often introduced, species illustrated photographically and described by Stubbendieck et al. (1995).
- + = species that were illustrated and described (line drawings) by Stubbendieck et al. (1997).
- ++ = species described and illustrated photographically by Ratzlaff & Barth (2007)
- @ = species described and illustrated (line drawings) by Brown (1979).
- ## = species described and illustrated photographically by Haddock (2005)
- $$ = species described & illustrated (paintings) by Phillips Petroleum Co. (1963)

Grass Family – POACEAE (ca. 200 species in Nebraska)

Slender wheatgrass. *Agropyron caninum (trachycaulum).* #+ Widespread. Platte, p. 238
Crested wheatgrass. *Agropyron cristatum.* ++$ Widespread, p. 240
Quackgrass. *Agropyron repens.* ++@<=$+++. Introduced, weedy. Platte, p. 232 (Illustration 1)
Western wheatgrass. *Agropyron smithii.* ++$ Widespread. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, p. 234, ++
Redtop bent. *Agrostis stolonifera.* ++$++ Widespread introduced weed. 9-mile, SCP, Platte, p. 338,
Big bluestem. *Andropogon gerardii.* #+@<=$++## Mostly eastern. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte, p. 757 (Illustration 2),
Sandhills bluestem. *Andropogon hallii.* ++$ Sandhills prairie, p. 759
Prairie threeawn. *Aristida oligantha.* ++$ Mostly eastern. 9-mile, SCP, Platte, p. 463 (Illustration 4)
Red (Purple) threeawn *Aristida purpurea longiseta.* ++$ Widespread, p. 474
Wild oats. *Avena fatua.* ++$ Widespread, introduced weed. Platte, p. 300 (Illustration 5)
Side-oats grama. *Bouteloua curtipendula.* ++$#+$++ Widespread. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte, p. 535(Illustration 6),
Blue grama. *Bouteloua gracilis.* #+$#+$++ Widespread. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte, p. 540 (Illustration 7),
Hairy grama. *Bouteloua hirsuta.* #+$#+$ Mostly western. Iowa, SCP, Platte, p. 540 (Illustration 7),
Smooth brome. *Bromus inermis.* ++#+$, $++Widespread, introduced weed. 9-mile, SCP, Platte, p. 38
Japanese brome. *Bromus japonica.* $+$++ Widespread, introduced weed. 9-mile, SCP, Platte, p. 42 (Illustration 8)
Downy brome. *Bromus tectorum.* ++#+$ Widespread, introduced weed. 9-mile, SCP, p. 51
Buffalo grass. *Buchloe dactyloides.* ++$#+$++ Mostly western. 9-mile, SCP, p. 545 (Illustration 9)
Bluejoint. *Calamagrostis canadensis.* +@ Widespread. Iowa, p. 323 (Illustration 10)
Northern reedgrass *Calamagrostis inexpecta.* Widespread. Platte, p. 326
Prairie sandreed. *Calamovilfa longifolia.* #+$#+$++ Widespread. Iowa, Platte, p. 331 (Illustration 11)
Longspine sandbur. *Cenchrus longispinus.* #+$#+$ Widespread, weedy. SCP, Platte, p. 52 (Illustration 12)
Orchardgrass. *Dactylis glomerata.* ++$#+$+$ Widespread, introduced weed. SCP, p. 182
Dichanthelium. *Dichanthelium acuminatum.* Upland disturbed areas. 9-mile, SCP, p. 220
Scribner’s dichanthelium, *Dichanthelium oligosanthes scribnerianum.* $+$++ Disturbed areas. 9-mile, SCP, Platte, p. 672
Smooth crabgrass. *Digitaria ischaemum.* ++$ Eastern half, introduced weed. P. 576
Large crabgrass. *Digitaria sanguinalis.* ++$++Widespread, introduced weed. 9-mile, SCP, Platte, p. 58 (Illustration 13)
Saltgrass. *Distichlis spicata* **++** Widespread, saline soils, weedy. P. 175
Barnyardgrass. *Echinochloa crus-galli* **@** Widespread, introduced weed. 9-mile, Platte, p. 712 (Illustration 14)
Goosegrass. *Eleusine indica* **@** Introduced weed. 9-mile, Platte, p. 499 (Illustration 15)
Canada wildrye. *Elymus canadensis* **@** Widespread, dry soils. 9-mile, Iowa, Platte, p. 261 (Illustration 16)
Stinkgrass. *Eragrostis ciliaris* **@** Western annual. 9-mile, SCP, Platte, p. 155
Purple lovegrass. *Eragrostis spectabilis* **@** Eastern half, weedy. 9-mile, SCP, Platte, p. 164 (Illustration 17)
Sixweeks fescue. *Festuca (Vulpia) octoflora* **++** Widespread, weedy. 9-mile, Platte, p. 59
Fowl mannagrass. *Glyceria striata* **++** Widespread, moist soils. 9-mile, SCP, p. 89 (Illustration 19)
Foxtail barley. *Hordeum jubatum* **++** Widespread, weedy. SCP, Platte, p. 268 (Illustration 20)
Little barley. *Hordeum pusillum* **@** Widespread, weedy. 9-mile, SCP, p. 269 (Illustration 21)
Prairie junegrass. *Koeleria pyramidata* **++** Widespread. 9-mile, SCP, 281
Bearded sprangletop. *Leptochloa fascicularis* **++** Widespread, weedy. 9-mile, p. 493
Plains muhly. *Muhlenbergia cuspidata* **++** Widespread, dry soils. 9-mile, Iowa, p. 386
Marsh muhly. *Muhlenbergia racemosa* **++** Widespread, weedy. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte
Nimblewill. *Muhlenbergia schreberi* **++** Eastern third, weedy. 9-mile, p. 397 (Illustration 22)
False buffalo grass. *Munroa squarrosa* **++** Western half, dry plains, p. 545
Indian ricegrass. *Oryzopsis hymenoides* **++** Western half. p. 443
Witchgrass. *Panicum capillare* **++** Widespread, weedy. 9-mile, SCP, Platte, p. 689 (Illustration 23)
Fall panicum. *Panicum dichotomiflorum* **++** Eastern half, weedy. 9-mile, p. 652 (Illustration 24)
Small (Scribner) panicgrass. *Panicum oligosanthes* **++** Widespread, mostly east, p. 672
Switchgrass. *Panicum virgatum* **++** Widespread, tallgrass prairies. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, p. 697 (Illustration 25)
Paspalum. *Paspalum setaceum* **++** Widespread, upland areas. 9-mile, SCP, Platte, p. 607
Reed canarygrass. *Phalaris arundinacea* **++** Widespread, weedy. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte, p. 555 (Illustration 26)
Timothy. *Pileum pratense* **++** Widespread. 9-mile, Platte, p. 367
Annual bluegrass. *Poa annua* **++** Eastern fourth, introduced weed, p. 106
Canada bluegrass. *Poa compressa* **++** Widespread, introduced. 9-mile, SCP, p. 106
Kentucky bluegrass. *Poa pratensis* **++** Widespread, introduced weed. 9-mile, SCP, Platte, p. 115 (Illustration 27)
Tumblegrass. *Schedonardus paniculatus* **++** Widespread, weedy. 9-mile, p. 508
Little bluestem. *Schizachyrium (Andropogon) scoparium* **++** Widespread, 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte, p. 753
Giant foxtail. *Setaria faberi* **++** Eastern half, introduced weed. SCP, p. 725 (Illustration 28)
Yellow foxtail. *Setaria glauca* **++** Widespread, introduced weed. 9-mile, SCP, Platte, p. 84 (Illustration 28)
Bristly foxtail. *Setaria verticillata* **++** Widespread, introduced weed, p. 719
Green foxtail. *Setaria viridis* **++** Widespread, introduced weed. 9-mile, SCP, p. 724 (Illustration 28)
Indiangrass. *Sorghastrum nutans* **++** Widespread. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte, p. 777 (Illustration 29)
Johnsongrass. *Sorghum halepense* **++** Widespread, weedy. p. 773 (Illustration 30)
Alkali cordgrass. *Spartina gracilis* **++** Western half, 513
Prairie cordgrass. *Spartina pectinata* **++** Widespread. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte, p. 509 (Illustration 31)
Prairie wegletail grass. *Sphenopholis obtusata* **++** Upland disturbed areas, 9-mile, SCP, Platte, p. 283
Tall dropseed. *Sporobolus asper* **++** Widespread. 9-mile, SCP, Platte, p. 417 (Illustration 32)
Sand dropseed. *Sporobolus cryptandrus* **++** Sandhills, also widespread, weedy. Platte, p. 425 (Illustration 33)
Prairie dropseed. *Sporobolus heterolepis* **++** Eastern half, 9-mile, SCP, p. 428 (Illustration 33)
Poverty dropseed. *Sporobolus vaginatus* **++** Western half, weedy. SCP, p. 416
Needle-and-thread. *Stipa comata* **++** Mostly central and western, Platte, p. 452
Porcupine grass. *Stipa spartea* **++** Widespread, native prairies. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, p. 450 (Illustration 34)
Green needlegrass. *Stipa viridula* **++** Mostly western. Iowa, p. 457
Eastern gamagrass. *Tripsacum dactyloides* **++** Southeastern. p.790
Sedge Family – Cyperaceae (At least species in Nebraska)
Fescue sedge. *Carex brevior* **++** Widespread. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte
Needleleaf sedge. *Carex eleocharis* **++** Widespread. Platte
Threadleaf sedge. *Carex filifolia* **++** Western half, upland prairies.
Sun sedge *Carex heliophila.* # Widespread. 9-mile, SCP
Woolly sedge. *Carex langoinsa* #&$ Widespread, low prairies. 9-mile, Platte
Meade's sedge. *Carex meadii.* ## ++Upland prairie. 9-mile, SCP, Platte
Fox sedge. *Carex vulpinoides.* #&##$++ Widespread. 9-mile, Platte
Schweinitz’s flatsedge *Cyperus schweinitzii.* Widespread. SCP, Platte

**Common Terrestrial Forbs (Wildflowers & Weedy Broad-leaved Herbs)**

The following list of more than 400 broad-leaved herbageous species is mostly limited to those described and illustrated in regional identification guides. Familial, generic and specific names are sequentially organized alphabetically. Species illustrated in Part 4 are identified as “(Illustration. --)”. A few species that are variably woody are also included in the list of shrubs. Symbol meanings are as follows:

- * = invasive or “weedy” forbs that are described and illustrated by Stubbendieck *et al.* (1995)
- # = wildflowers that are described and illustrated by Farrar (1990)
- ## = wildflowers described and illustrated by Haddock (2005)
- ++ = weedy species described and illustrated by U. S. Dept. of Agriculture (1970)
- @ = species described and illustrated by Johnson and Larson (1999). See also Larson and Johnson (1999)
- @@ = wildflowers described and illustrated by Ladd (1995)
- ** = wildflowers described and illustrated by Ratzlaff & Barth (2004)

**Pigweed Family – AMARANTHACEAE** (17 species in Nebraska)

Tumble pigweed. *Amaranthus albus.* ++ Widespread, weedy. 9-mile
Prostrate pigweed. *Amaranthus graecizans.* Widespread, weedy
Redroot pigweed. *Amaranthus retroflexus.* ++Widespread, weedy. 9-mile, SCP

**Common Terrestrial Forbs (Wildflowers & Weedy Broad-leaved Herbs)**

Common water hemp. *Amaranthus rudis.* Mostly eastern, weedy. SCP
Field froelichia. *Froelichia floridana.*# Widespread, sand dunes, rocky open woods.
Slender froelichia. *Froelichia gracilis.*+##Mostly eastern, sandy areas, rocky open woods.

**Cashew Family – ANACARDIACEAE** (5 species in Nebraska)

Poison ivy. *Toxicodendron (Rhus) spp.* Statewide; often a variably woody shrub or vine. 9-mile, SCP

**Parsley Family – APIACEAE (= Umbellifereae)** (31 species in Nebraska)

Spotted waterhemlock. *Cicuta maculata.*#+@#++##++ Widespread, near streams, poisonous. 9-mile
Poison hemlock. *Conium maculatum.* *++@#++##++ Widespread, weedy; poisonous. 9-mile. Iowa, SCP
Queen Ann’s lace (Wild carrot). *Daucus carota.* #++##++** Mostly eastern, weedy. (Illustration 35)

**Cow parsley. *Heracleum sphondylium.*#++**Eastern and northern, shaded woods. 9-mile
Wild parsley (desert biscuitroot). *Lomatium foeniculaceum.*#++##++ Eastern and Panhandle, dry prairies. SCP

**Leafy musineon. *Musineon divaricatum.*# Western half, rocky prairies, open woods.
**

**Narrow-leaved musineon. *Musineon tennifolium.*# Panhandle, dry prairies, open woods.
Sweet cicely. *Osmorhiza claytonii.* #**Missouri Valley, wooded hillsides.
**

**Prairie parsley. *Polyaena nuttallii.*#++** Eastern third, low, moist prairies.

Black snake-root. *Sanicula canadensis.* ** Widespread. 9-mile, SCP.

**Heartleaf alexander Zizia aptera.*@ Moist meadows. Iowa,
Golden alexander. *Zizia aurea.* #** Missouri Valley, low prairies, ditch margins. Iowa,

**Dogbane Family – APOCYNACEAE** (4 species in Nebraska)

**Hemp (Prairie) dogbane. *Apocynum cannabinum.*#++ Widespread, prairies, open woods, weed. Iowa, SCP, Platte

**Milkweed Family – ASCLEPIADACEAE** (17 species in Nebraska)

Sand milkweed. *Asclepias arenaria.*#++ Widespread, sandy upland prairies.

Swamp milkweed. *Asclepias incarnata.*##+++ Widespread, wet prairies, moist banks. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte

Wooly milkweed. *Asclepias lanuginosa.*@@ Mostly central, sandy prairies.

Plains milkweed. *Asclepias pumila.*# Widespread.

Showy milkweed. *Asclepias speciosa.*#++@@ Mostly western, moist prairies, near water, Platte
Narrow-leaved milkweed. *Asclepias stenophylla.* #+ ###++ Widespread, sandy or rocky prairies. 9-mile, SCP, Platte
Smooth milkweed. *Asclepias syriaca.* #+ ###++ Eastern third, sandy, loamy or rocky prairies. 9-mile, Iowa,
Common milkweed. *Asclepias verticillata.* #+ ###++ Banks, floodplains, waste areas. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP (Illustration 36)
Butterfly milkweed. *Asclepias tuberosa.* #+ ###++ Eastern half, sandy or rocky prairies. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP
Whorled milkweed. *Asclepias viridis.* #+ ###++ Widespread, sandy soils. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte (Illustration 37)
Spider milkweed. *Asclepias viridis.* #+ ###++ Southwestern, dry, sandy prairies. 9-mile, SCP
Green milkweed. *Asclepias viridiflora.* #+ ###++ Widespread, sandy or rocky prairies. Iowa, Platte
Honeyvine (Sand vine) milkweed. *Cynanchum laeve.* #+ ###++ Eastern; weedy and spreading.

**Sunflower Family – ASTERACEAE (= COMPOSITAE)(243 species in Nebraska)**

Common yarrow. *Achillea millefolium.* #+ ###++ Widespread, sandy or rocky prairies. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte (Illustration 38)
Common ragweed. *Ambrosia artemisifolia.* #+ ###++ Mostly eastern, disturbed sites, weedy. 9-mile, SCP, Platte
Western ragweed. *Ambrosia psilostachya.* #+ ###++ Widespread, open prairie, waste sites. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte
Giant ragweed, *Ambrosia trifida.* Widespread, weedy. 9-mile, SCP
Pussy-toes. *Antennaria neglecta.* #+ ###++ Widespread, prairies, open woodlands, pastures. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP
Rocky Mountain pussy-toes. *Antennaria parviflora.* #+ Mostly western, prairies, open woods, roadsides, Platte
Common burdock. *Arctium minus.* #+ ###++ Eastern half, weedy.
Absinth wormwood. *Artemisia absinthium.* #+ Weedy, introduced.
Biennial wormwood. *Artemisia biennis.* #+ ###++ Widespread, damp, sandy soil, streambanks.
Western sagewort. *Artemisia campestris.* #+ ###++ Widespread, upland grasslands. Iowa,
Silky wormwood (Tarragon). *Artemisia dracunculus.* #+ ###++ Widespread, dry, open sites. 9-mile, Iowa,
Fringed sagewort. *Artemisia frigida.* #+ ###++ Western half, shortgrass prairies. Iowa,
Cudweed sagewort. *Artemisia ludoviciana.* #+ ###++ Widespread, dry plains. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte

White (Heath) aster. *Aster ericoides.* #+ ###++ Widespread, open, upland prairies. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte
White prairie aster. *Aster falcatus.* # Mostly western, dry places.
Fendler’s aster. *Aster fendleri.* Local along Kansas border in central Nebraska.

New England aster. *Aster novae-angliae.* #+ ###++ Eastern half. moist, sandy areas. Iowa, Platte
Aromatic aster. *Aster oblongifolius.* #+ ###++ Widespread, rocky or sandy open sites. Iowa,
Azure aster. *Aster oolentangiensis (azureus).* # Missouri Valley, prairie, open woods.
Willowleaf aster. *Aster praealtus.* #+ ###++ Eastern half, damp or drying sites. Iowa, Platte
Silky aster. *Aster sericeus.* #+ ###++ Eastern third, dry, upland sites, open woods. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP
Panicled aster. *Aster simplex.* #+ ###++ Widespread, 9-mile, SCP, Platte
Slender aster. *Aster subalbus.* # Southeastern, damp, saline sites, weedy.

Spanish needles. *Bidens bipinnata.* #+ ###++ Eastern half, damp, disturbed sites, weedy.
Nodding beggarticks. *Bidens cernus.* #+ ###++ Widespread, muddy, disturbed sites, weedy. 9-mile, SCP, Platte
Tickseed sunflower. *Bidens coronata.* #+ ###++ Eastern half, damp, drying sandy sites. SCP

Devils beggarticks. *Bidens frondosa.* #+ ###++ Widespread, moist wooded sites. 9-mile, SCP, Platte
Tall beggar-ticks. *Bidens fruticosa.* #+ ###++ Widespread, weedy. 9-mile, SCP.
Tuberous Indian plantain. *Cactalia plantaginea (tuberosa).* #+ Widespread, rocky prairies. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP
Musk thistle. *Carduus nutans.* #+ ###++ Widespread, pastures, prairies, weedy. 9-mile, SCP, Platte
Russian knapweed. *Centauraea repens.* #+ ###++ Scattered records, introduced weed.

Oxeye daisy. *Chrysanthemum leucanthemum.* #+ ###++ Widespread, Fields, waste places, weedy (Illustration 39)
Golden aster. *Chrysopsis villosa.* #+ ###++ Widespread, open, sandy uplands, Platte
Chicory. *Cichorium intybus.* #+ ###++ Widespread, weedy, introduced species. SCP

Tall thistle. *Cirsium altissimum.* #+ ###++ Mostly eastern, waste sites, weedy. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP
Canada thistle. *Cirsium arvense.* #+ ###++ Widespread, waste sites, weedy.

Platte thistle. *Cirsium canescens.* #+ Mostly western, sandy upland prairies.

Flodman’s thistle. *Cirsium flodmanii.* #+ Widespread, moist, open pastures, weedy. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte

Yellowspine thistle. *Cirsium ochrocentrum.* # Mostly southwestern, dry, sandy prairies.

Wavyleaf thistle. *Cirsium undulatum.* #+ Widespread. Widespread, dry prairies, weedy. SCP

Bull thistle. *Cirsium vulgare.* #+ ###++ Widespread, waste sites, weedy, introduced species. SCP (Illustration 40)

Horseweed. *Coneza canadensis.* #+ ###++ Widespread, disturbed sites, weedy. 9-mile, Platte
Plains coreopsis. *Coreopsis tinctoria.*+++@ Widespread, sandy ground, disturbed site Platte

Hawk’s-beard. *Crepis runcinata.* +@ Mostly western, open, often damp, meadows.

Fetid marigold. *Dyssocha papposa.*@@+++ Widespread, open fields, disturbed sites. 9-mile, SCP

Purple coneflower. *Echinacea angustifolia.* +@@@+++ Widespread, open, rocky prairies. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP

Western fleabane. *Erigeron bellidiastum.* @@ Mostly western, open, damp, sandy sites.

Low fleabane. *Erigeron annuus.* @@ Western half, open, dry prairies.

Daisy fleabane. *Erigeron strigosus.* +@@@+++ Widespread in eastern half. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte

Tall Joe-pye weed. *Eupatorium altissimum.* @##+++ Southeastern, pastures, disturbed sites, Platte

Spotted Joe-pye weed. *Eupatorium maculatum.* @@ Mostly northern, moist, wooded sites, Platte

Boneset. *Eupatorium perfoliatum.* +@@@+++ Widespread, damp, low ground. 9-mile

White snakeroot. *Eupatorium rugosum.* +++ Eastern half, open woods, disturbed sites. 9-mile, SCP

Blanket flower. *Gaillardia aristata.* @ Western half (local)

Fragrant boneset. *Gaura linearis.* @@@ Southeastern, prairies, open woods.

Curly-top gumweed. *Grindelia squarrosa.* +@@+++ Widespread, waste places, weedy. 9-mile, SCP, Platte (Illustration 41)

Broom snakeweed. *Gnaphalium obtusifolium.* ,@@@@@ Southeastern, prairies, open woods.

Cutleaf ironplant. *Haplopappus spinulosus.* +@+++ Widespread, open prairies.

Common sneezeweed. *Helenium autumnale.* +@@ Widespread, moist, open sites. Iowa, Platte

Common sunflower. *Helianthus annuus.* @##+++ Open sites. 9-mile, SCP, Platte (Illustration 42)

Sawtooth sunflower. *Helianthus grosseserratus.* +@@@@+++ Eastern, prairies, bottomlands. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte

Maximilian sunflower. *Helianthus maximilianii.* +++++++ Widespread, prairies, sandy areas. 9-mile, Iowa, Platte

Nuttall’s sunflower. *Helianthus nuttallii.* @+ Scattered records.

Plains sunflower. *Helianthus petiolaris.* +@@+++ Widespread, open sandy sites, Platte

Stiff sunflower. *Helianthus rigidus.* +@@+ Eastern half, dry or damp prairies. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP

Jerusalem artichoke. *Helianthus tuberosus.* +@@@@ Widespread, open or shaded, moist sites. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte

False sunflower (Oxeye). *Heliopsis helianthoides.* @@@@@@ Eastern, dry, open woods, weedy. 9-mile. Iowa, SCP, Platte

Camphorweed. *Heterotheca latifolia.* Extreme southern, open, sandy, disturbed sites.

Hawkweed. *Hieracium longipilum.* @@ Upland prairie. 9-mile, SCP.

Stemless hymenoxys. *Hymenoxys acacilis.* +@ Western third, rocky breaks, calcareous soils.

Poverty sumpweed. *Iva xantifolia.* Western half, dry, often alkaline soils, prairies.

Marshelder. *Iva xanthifolia.* @ Widespread, borders of streams and local drying sites, Platte

Falseboneset. *Kuhnia eupatorioidea.* @@@@@++ Widespread, open prairies. 9-mile, SCP

Blue lettuce. *Lactuca oblengifolia.* @@@@@+++ Widespread, low, moist meadows. 9-mile, SCP

Prickly lettuce. *Lactuca serriola.* ++++ Widespread, disturbed sites, weedy. 9-mile, SCP, Platte (Illustration 43)

Rough gayfeather. *Liatris aspera.* +++++++ Eastern half, open woods on sandy sites. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP

Dotted gayfeather. *Liatris punctata.* +++++++ Widespread, dry, sandy upland prairies. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte

Blazing star (scaly gayfeather) *Liatris glabra.* @@@+ Widespread, especially Sandhills.

Thick-spire gayfeather. *Liatris pycnostachya.* @+++@ Eastern half, open damp prairies. Iowa, Platte,

Skeletoon weed. *Lygodesmia juncea.* @@@@++ Widespread, open high prairies. Iowa,

Viscid aster. *Machaeranthera linearis.* @+@ Western half, open, dry, sandy sites. 9-mile

Pineapple weed. *Matricaria matricarioides.* @@@ Eastern and northern, waste sites, weedy. SCP

False dandelion. *Microseris cuspidata.* +@@+ Widespread, dry or drying open prairie. 9-mile, SCP

Snakeroot. *Prenanthes racemosa.* # Scattered records, varied habitats. Iowa, SCP

Prairie coneflower. *Ratibida columnifera.* @@@+++ Widespread, disturbed sites, weedy. 9-mile, Iowa,

Gray-headed coneflower. *Ratibida pinnata.* +@@+++ Eastern, disturbed prairies, open woods. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP

Black-eyed susan. *Rudbeckia hirta.* @@@+++ Widespread, disturbed prairies, waste sites. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte

Golden glow. *Rudbeckia laciniata.* @+++ Eastern half, moist places. 9-mile, SCP, Platte

Lambstongue groundsel. *Senecio integerrimus.* @ Mostly northern, sometimes poisonous. 9-mile

Prairie ragwort. *Senecio plattensis.* @@@@@+++ Widespread, open prairies, may be poisonous. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte

Riddle groundsel. *Senecio riddelli.* @ Western half, open sites, sandy areas; poisonous to livestock.

Threetooth ragwort. *Senecio trigonellus.* # Mostly western, sandy plains.

Rosinweed. *Silphium integrifolium.* @@@@+++ Eastern third, open, disturbed sites. Iowa, SCP

**Borage Family – BORAGINACEAE (29 species in Nebraska)**


**Mustard Family – BRASSICACEAE (74 species in Nebraska)**


**Cactus Family – CACTACEAE (6 species in Nebraska)**

Pincushion cactus. Coryphantha vivipara. #+@ Western half, dry sandy or rocky prairie Missouri pincushion. Coryphantha missouriensis. @ Scattered records. dry soils. Little (Brittle) prickly pear. Opuntia fragilis. *##@ Western half, sandy or rocky prairie. Bigroot prickly pear. Opuntia macrohiza. @@ Widespread, sandy gravelly or rocky prairie. Plains prickly pear. Opuntia polycanacna. #+## Mostly western, dry, sandy prairie.

**Caesalpinia Family – CAESALPINIACEAE (6 species in Nebraska)**

Partridge-pea. Cassia fasciculata. ##@+++* Eastern half, rocky or sandy prairies. 9-mile, SCP

**Bellflower Family - CAMPanulACEAE (12 species in Nebraska)**

American bellflower. Campanula americana. #+++ Eastern third, open woods, wet sites. 9-mile Harebell. Campanula rotundifolia. +#@ Dry woods, meadows. Blue lobelia. Lobelia siphilitica. #+++@** Widespread, moist soil, woods and meadows. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP
Palespike lobelia. Lobelia spicata. Widespread, prairies, meadows, open woods. Iowa.
Western looking-glass. Triodanis leptocarpa. Southeastern, prairies, pastures, disturbed sites. 9-mile
Venus' looking glass. Triodanis perfoliata. Widespread, sandy prairies, disturbed sites. 9-mile, SCP

**Hemp Family – CANNABACEAE (3 species in Nebraska)**
Hemp. Cannabis sativa. Upland disturbed areas, 9-mile, SCP.

**Caper Family – CAPPARACEAE (Cleomaceae) (4 species in Nebraska)**
Rocky Mountain beeplant. Cleome sernilata. Widespread, prairies, open woods.

**Pink Family – CARYOPHYLLACEAE (35 species in Nebraska)**
Grove sandwort Arenaria lateriflora. Northern counties.
Prairie chickweed. Cerastium arvense. Western half, disturbed areas.
Deptford pink. Dianthus armeria. Southeastern, disturbed sites, introduced, weedy. SCP
Bouncing bet. Saponaria oficinalis. Widespread, disturbed sites, introduced, weedy.
Sleepy catchfly. Silene antirrhina. Upland disturbed areas. 9-mile, SCP.

**Goosefoot Family – CHENOPODIACEAE (42 species in Nebraska)**
Lamb's quarters. Chenopodium berlandieri. Upland disturbed areas. 9-mile, SCP.
Mapleleaf goosefoot. Chenopodium gigantospermum. Widespread, disturbed sites.
Winged pigweed. Cycloloma atriplicifolium. Widespread, sandy sites, weedy. Platte
Kochia. Kochia scoparia. Widespread, introduced weed. 9-mile
Nuttall povertyweed. Monolepis nuttalliana. Widespread, disturbed sites, weedy.

**St. John’s Wort Family – CLUSIACEAE (=HYPERICACEAE) (8 species in Nebraska)**
Common St. John’s wort. Hypericum perforatum. Widespread, open sites, introduced. SCP

**Spiderwort Family – COMMELINACEAE (5 species in Nebraska)**
Erect dayflower. Commelina erecta. Scattered records, sandy or rocky soils.
Long-bracted spiderwort. Tradescantia bracteata. Widespread, disturbed sites. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte
Prairie spiderwort. Tradescantia occidentalis. Widespread, prairies, disturbed sites, Platte
Ohio spiderwort. Tradescantia ohiensis. Southeastern, disturbed sites, prairies. Iowa.

**Morning-glory Family – CONVOLVULACEAE (19 species in Nebraska)**
Hedge bindweed. Calystegia sepium. Upland disturbed areas. 9-mile, SCP, Platte (Illustration 51)
Field bindweed. Convolvulus arvensis. Widespread, introduced weed. 9-mile. SCP, Platte (Illustration 52)
Ivyleaf morning-glory. Ipomoea hederacea. Southeastern, open ground, weedy.
Bush morning-glory. Ipomoea leptophylla. Widespread, plains and prairies.

**Stonecrop Family – CRASSULACEAE (2 species in Nebraska)**
Virginia stonecrop. Penthorum sedoides. Mostly eastern, ditches, streambanks. 9-mile, SCP
Stonecrop. Sedum lanceolatum. Panhandle, open, rocky sites.

**Cucumber Family – CUCURBITACEAE (4 species in Nebraska)**
Buffalo gourd. Cucurbita foetidissima. Southern half, sandy waste sites.
Wild cucumber. Echinocystis lobata. Widespread, moist and open woods. 9-mile
Bur cucumber. Sicyos angulatus. Southeastern, damp river soils, waste sites. 9-mile, SCP

**Dodder Family – CUSCUTACEAE (12 species in Nebraska).**
Field dodder. Cuscuta pentagona. Scattered records, parasitic. 9-mile

**Horsetail Family – EQUISETACEAE (6 species in Nebraska)**
Field horsetail. Equisetum arvense. Widespread, disturbed sites. 9-mile

**Spurge Family – EUPHORBIACEAE (28 species in Nebraska)**
Flowering spurge. Euphorbia corollata. Eastern fourth, rocky prairies, waste sites. Iowa
Toothed spurge. Euphorbia dentata. Widespread, prairies, waste sites. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP
Spotted spurge. Euphorbia maculata. Eastern half. prairies, waste sites. 9-mile
Snow-on-the-mountain. Euphorbia marginata. Widespread, prairies, waste sites. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte
Eyebane. *Euphorbia nutans.* **Upland disturbed areas. 9-mile, SCP.**

**Bean Family – FABACEAE (= LEGUMINACEAE) (ca. 100 species in Nebraska)**


Canada milk-vetch. *Astragalus canadensis.* ++ Widespread, moist prairies, open woods. 9-mile, Iowa, Platte

Painted milk-vetch. *Astragalus ceramicus.* @@ Mostly western, sandy prairies.

Ground-plum. *Astragalus crassicarpus.* ++++ Widespread, prairies, rocky soils. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte

Drummond milk-vetch. *Astragalus drummondii.* Western.

Lotus milk vetch, *Astragalus lotiflorus.* Widespread. Iowa,

Missouri milk-vetch. *Astragalus missouriensis.* @@ Mostly western, prairies, bluffs, ravines.

Woolly locoweed. *Astragalus mollissimus.* ++++ Mostly western; poisonous to livestock.

Alkali (creamy) milk-vetch. *Astragalus racemosus.* @@ Scattered records; poisonous to livestock.

Large wild indigo. *Baptisia lactea.* + Southeastern, rocky prairies, hillsides, poisonous.

Plains wild indigo. *Baptisia (leucophea) bracteata.*

Canada tickclover. *Desmodium illinoensis.*

Tick trefoil. *Desmodium purpureum.*

Golden prairie clover. *Dalea aurea.* @@ Mostly west, loamy prairies.

Slender (Nineanther) dalea. *Dalea enneandra.* Widespread.

Canada tickclover. *Desmodium canadense.* @@ Widespread, rocky or sandy prairies. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte

Tick trefoil. *Desmodium illinoensis.* @@@++ Widespread; poisonous. Iowa, (Illustration 53)

Tick clover. *Desmodium lacteum.*

Tick trefoil. *Desmodium purpureum.*

Wild licorice. *Glycyrrhiza lepidota.*

Hoary vetchling. *Lotus corniculatus.*


Bird's-foot trefoil. *Lotus corniculatus.* ++@@++ Southeastern, prairies, pastures. 9-mile, SCP

American deervetch. *Lotus purshianus.* Widespread. SCP

Silvery lupine. *Lupinus argenteus.* # Western half, rocky prairies, open woods.

Low lupine. *Lupinus pusillus.* Western half, sandy prairies.

Alfalfa. *Medicago falcata.* @ Introduced forage crop.

Sweet-clover. *Melilotis officinalis & M. alba.* @@@++ Widespread, waste places, forage crop, SCP, Platte

Purple (Lambert) locoweed. *Oxytropis lamberti.* @@@@++Widespread; poisonous. Iowa, (Illustration 53)

White prairie-clover. *Petalostemon (Dalea) candida.* @@@@++ Widespread, weedy. 9-mile, Iowa, Platte

Round-headed prairie-clover. *Petalostemon (Dalea) multiflora.* Western half, prairies, open woods.

Purple prairie-clover. *Petalostemon (Dalea) purpurea.* @@@@++ Widespread, rocky prairies. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte

Silky prairie-clover. *Petalostemon (Dalea) villosa.* @@++ Widespread, sandy prairies, open woods, SCP

Silver-leaved scurf-pea. *Psoralea (Pediomerum) argophylla.* ++@@++ Widespread, prairies. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte


Broadleaf scurf-pea (Prairie-turnip). *Psoralea (Pediomerum) esculenta.* @@@@++ Widespread, prairies 9-mile, Iowa, SCP

Wild alfalfa. *Psoralea tenuiflora.* @@@+ Widespread, prairies, roadsides. 9-mile, SCP, Platte

Prairie buck-bean. *Thermopsis rhombifolia.* @+ Western half, prairies, open woods.

Covers. *Trifolium spp.* @@@++ Mostly introduced and cultivated forage plants. 9-mile, SCP, Platte

American vetch. *Vicia americana.*@@@@++ Widespread, mostly sandy soils. 9-mile, Iowa,

**Gentian Family – GENTIANACEAE (6 species in Nebraska)**

Prairie gentian. *Eustoma grandiflorum.* ++ Mostly western, moist meadows and prairies. Platte

Closed gentian. *Gentiana andrewsii.* @@@++ Northeastern, wet meadows, prairies or woods. Iowa,

Downy gentian. *Gentiana puberulenta.* @@@@++ Eastern half, dry woods and prairies. 9-mile, Iowa,

**Geranium Family – GERANIACEAE (5 species in Nebraska)**

Carolina geranium. *Geranium carolinianum.* + Southeastern, open woods, prairie ravines. Iowa,

Wild cranesbill. *Geranium maculatum.* # Southeastern, rich or rocky woods.

**Waterpod Family – HYDROPHYLLACEAE (4 species in Nebraska)**

Waterpod. *Ellisia nycteelea.*@@@@++ Widespread, sandy prairies, open woods. 9-mile, SCP

Scorpion weed. *Phacelia hastata.* @ Panhandle, sandy to rocky soils, disturbed sites.

**Iris Family – IRIDACEAE (7 species in Nebraska)**

White-eyed grass. *Sisyrinchium campestre.* @@@@@++ Eastern half, prairies, open woods. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte
Blue-eyed grass. *Sisyrinchium montanum.* #+## Western half, prairies, open woods.

**Mint Family – LAMIACEAE (= LABIATAE)** (49 species in Nebraska)
Rough false pennroyal. *Hedeoma hispidum.* Widespread, waste sites, open ground. 9-mile, Platte
Motherwort. *Leonurus cardiaca.* +** Mostly eastern, waste sites, weedy. SCP
American bugleweed. *Lycopus americanus.* ** Widespread, moist, exposed sites. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte
Field mint. *Mentha arvensis.* ** Widespread, moist sites. SCP, Platte
Wild bergamot. *Monarda fistulosa.* #+@ ##@## Widespread, prairies, open woods. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte

Plains (Spotted) bee balm. *Monarda (Alonarda) pectinata.* #+ Mostly western, upland prairies.
Catnip. *Nepeta cataria.* #+ ##@## Widespread, waste sites, introduced weed, Platte
Pitcher’s (Blue) sage. *Salvia azurea (pitcheri) ##@@## Southeastern, rocky to sandy prairies. 9-mile, SCP
Lanceleaf sage. *Salvia reflexa.* Widespread, disturbed sites. 9-mile
Marsh scullcap. *Scutellaria galericulata.* # Mostly western, wet sites.
Leonard small scullcap. *Scutellaria parvula.* @@ Eastern, upland prairies, open woods. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte
Marsh hedge-nettle. *Stachys palustris.* @@ Mostly eastern, dry to wet prairies, Platte
American germander. *Teucrium canadense.* #+ ###@@## Widespread, streambanks, pastures. 9-mile, SCP, Platte

**Lily Family – LILIACEAE** (32 species in Nebraska)
Wild onion. *Allium canadense.* #+##*** Widespread, prairies, open woods. 9-mile, Iowa, Platte
Pink wild onion. *Allium stellatum.* ##@@## Eastern half, Iowa,
Wild white onion. *Allium textile.* @@ Western half, prairies, coniferous woods, Platte
Asparagus. *Asparagus officinalis.* Upland prairie. 9-mile, SCP, Platte
Prairie fawn lily. *Erythronium mesochoreum.* # Eastern, prairies, open woods
Yellow star grass. *Hypoxis hirsuta.* #+@@ Mostly eastern, prairies, open woods. Iowa, Platte
Mountain lily. *Leucocrinum montanum.* #+@ Western half, shortgrass prairies, coniferous woods.
Turk’s cap (Canada) lily. *Lilium canadense.* ## Eastern, prairies, open woods.
Western red lily. *Lilium philadelphicum.* #+@@@ Northern half, open woods, prairies, Iowa,
Solomon’s seal. *Polygonatum biflorum.* #++ Widespread, moist deciduous woods. 9-mile
False Solomon’s seal. *Smilacina stellata.* #+## Widespread, moist to dry woods. 9-mile, Platte

**Flax Family – LINACEAE** (8 species in Nebraska)
Stiffstem flax. *Linum rigidum.* Widespread. Sandy prairies and hillsides. Iowa,
Grooved (prairie) flax. *Linum sulcatum.* #+##@@ Eastern half, prairies, open woods. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP

**Loosestrife Family – LYTHRACEAE** (7 species in Nebraska)
Winged loosestrife. *Lythrum alatum (decotanum) ##+ Widespread, wet soils. Iowa, Platte
Purple loosestrife. *Lythrum salicaria.* ###@@ Widespread, moist sites, introduced weed. 9-mile, Platte

**Mallow Family – MALVACEAE** (15 species in Nebraska)
Velvet leaf. *Abutilon theophrasti.* ** Upland disturbed areas, 9-mile, SCP.
Pink poppy mallow. *Callirhoe alcaeoides.* ### Eastern half, dry, sandy prairies. 9-mile, Platte
Purple poppy mallow. *Callirhoe involucrata.* #+###@@## Widespread, dry, sandy prairies. 9-mile, SCP, Platte
Flower-of-an-hour. *Hibiscus (Malviscus) trionum.* #+ Eastern half, waste sites; introduced weed. SCP
Red false (Scarlet globe) mallow. *Sphaeralcea coccinea.* #+##@@ Widespread, dry prairies, hillsides.

**Mimosa Family – MIMOSACEAE** (2 species in Nebraska)
Illinois bundleflower. *Desmanthus illinoensis.* ##+## Widespread, rocky or sandy prairies. 9-mile
Sensitive brier. *Schrankia nutallii.* @@ Mostly eastern, rocky or sandy soils.

**Four-O’Clock Family – NYCTAGINACEAE** (9 species in Nebraska)
Hairy four-o’clock. *Mirabilis hirsuta.* #+ Widespread, prairies, open woods. 9-mile, Iowa, Platte
Wild four-o’clock. *Mirabilis nyctaginea.* #+###@@## Widespread, waste places, weedy. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte

**Evening Primrose Family – ONAGRACEAE** (28 species in Nebraska)
Plains yellow evening primrose. *Calypso serratula.* #+## Widespread, dry prairies. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte
Fireweed. *Epilobium* spp. + Widespread, disturbed sites, often appears following fire. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP
Scarlet gaura. *Gaura coccinea.* **Widespread, dry prairies, open woods. Iowa,**

Large-flowered gaura. *Gaura longiflora.* #, #@@@ **Southeastern, rocky prairies, open woods. 9-mile, SCP**

Small-flowered gaura. *Gaura parviflora* (= mollis). **Upland disturbed areas, 9-mile, SCP, Platte**

Common evening primrose. *Oenothera biennis.* **Widespread, streambanks, open woods. SCP, Platte (Illustration 54)**

Fremont's evening primrose *Oenothera macrocarpa var. fremontii.* ##@@ **Local along KS border**

White-stemmed evening primrose. *Oenothera nuttallii.* #@ **Western half, dry prairies, open woods.**

Fourpoint evening primrose. *Oenothera rhombipetala.* #+ **Widespread, sand dunes, sandy prairies. Iowa, Platte**

Yellow evening primrose. *Oenothera villosa.* ## **Upland disturbed areas, 9-mile, SCP.**

**Orchid Family** – **ORCHIDACEAE** (19 species in Nebraska)

Small white lady's-slipper. *Cypripedium candidum.* #@@ **Moist meadows. State threatened. 9-mile, Iowa,**

Large yellow lady-slipper. *Cypripedium calceolus.* #**W** **Lower Missouri Valley, moist soils, prairies or woods.**

Prairie fringed orchid. *Platanthera praecala* #@@ **Scattered records in east. Iowa (Nationally threatened). Platte**

Nodding lady's-tresses. *Spiranthes cernua.* ###@@ **Eastern half, prairies, open woods. Iowa, SCP, Platte**

**Broom-rape Family** – **OROBRANCHACEAE** (3 species in Nebraska)

Cancer-root. *Orobanche fasciculata.*+ **Scattered records, dry prairies, sandy soils.**

**Woodsorrel Family** – **OXALIDACEAE** (3 species in Nebraska)

Gray-green wood sorrel. *Oxalis dillenii.* ###@@ **Mostly eastern, open woods, waste sites, weedy. 9-mile, SCP, Platte**

Yellow wood sorrel. *Oxalis stricta.* #**W** **Mostly eastern, open woods, waste sites, weedy. 9-mile, SCP (Illustration 55)**

Violet wood sorrel. *Oxalis violacea.* ###@@ # **Mostly eastern, open woods, weedy. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP**

**Poppy Family** – **PAPAVERACEAE** (6 species in Nebraska)

Annual pricklypoppy. *Argemone polyanthemos.* **## **Widespread, sandy soils, waste sites.**

**Unicorn-plant Family** – **PEDALIACEAE** (1 species in Nebraska)

Devil's claw. *Proboscidea louisianica.* # **Southern counties, sandy pastures, waste sites, weedy.**

**Plantain Family** – **PLANTAGINACEAE** (10 species in Nebraska)

Buckhorn plantain. *Plantago lanceolata.* ++ **Scattered records. Waste sites, introduced weed. SCP**

Woolly plantain (Indianwheat). *Plantago patagonica.* #@ **Widespread. waste sites, weedy. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte**

Blackseed plantain. *Plantago rugelii.* #+++ **Mostly eastern. waste sites, shady places, weedy. 9-mile, SCP**

**Phlox (Polemonium) family** – **POLEMONIACEAE** (16 species in Nebraska)

Slenderleaf collomia. *Collinia linearis.* # **Mostly northern, native prairies.**

Gilia. *Ipomopsis longifolia.* #+ **Western half, dry sandy soil.**

Plains phlox. *Phlox andicola.* #+ **Western half, dry, sandy prairies.**

Blue phlox. *Phlox divaricata.* #+++ **Eastern fourth, open woods, rocky slopes**

Prairie phlox. *Phlox pilosa.* #++,# **Eastern fourth, open woods, meadows. Iowa,**

**Milkwort Family** – **POLYGALACEAE** (4 species in Nebraska)

White milkwort. *Polygala alba.* #+= **Widespread, rocky prairie hillsides.**

Whorled milkwort. *Polygala verticillata.* Upland disturbed areas. 9-mile, SCP.

**Buckwheat Family** – **POLYGONACEAE** (46 species in Nebraska)

Umbrella plant. *Eriogonum annuum.* #@@ **Widespread, dry open grasslands.**

Common knotweed. *Polygonum arnoestrom* # **Widespread, waste sites, introduced weed. 9-mile, SCP**

Pink smartweed. *Polygonum bicornre.* # **Mostly eastern, wet sites. 9-mile**

Pale smartweed. *Polygonum lapathifolium.* #**W** **Widespread, disturbed sites, weedy. 9-mile, SCP**

Pennsylvania smartweed. *Polygonum pensylvanicum.* #++ **Widespread, disturbed sites, weedy. 9-mile, SCP (Illustration 56)**

Bushy knotweed. *Polygonum ramossissimum.* **Widespread, damp, brackish soils.**

Climbing false buckwheat. *Polygonum scandens.* #++ **Widespread, waste sites, introduced weed. 9-mile**

Wild begonia (veiny dock). *Rumex venosus.* #+ **Widespread, sandy dunes and riverbanks.**

**Primrose Family** – **PRIMULACEAE** (10 species in Nebraska)

Shooting star. *Dodecatheon pulchellum.* #+ **Scattered records, moist woods and prairies.**

Fringed loosestrife. *Lysimachia ciliata.* #+++ **Widespread, moist woods and wetter sites. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte**

Moneywort. *Lysimachia nummularia.* + **Southeastern, moist sites. Introduced.**

Tufted loosestrife. *Lysimachia thyrsiflora.* #+ **Widespread, moist to wet sites, Platte**

**Buttercup Family.** **RANUNCULACEAE** (39 species in Nebraska)
Meadow anemone. *Anemone canadensis.* #+@,@@** Mostly eastern, wet prairies, wet woods. Iowa, Platte
Candle anemone. *Anemone cylindrica.* #+@,@@** Northern and eastern, open prairies and pastures. 9-mile, Iowa, Platte
Pasque flower. *Anemone patens.* #+@,@@ Mostly northern, open prairies, often rocky soil. Iowa,
Wild columbine. *Aquilegia canadensis.* #+@#** Northern and eastern, moist woods.
Fremont’s clematis. *Clematis fremontii.* #,## Southern counties, rocky prairie hillsides.
Virgin’s bower. *Clematis virginiana.* + Eastern half, partly woody, climbing vine. 9-mile
Prairie larkspur. *Delphinium virens.* #+@,@@** Widespread, prairies and pastures. 9-mile, Iowa, Platte
Early wood (Smallflower) buttercup. *Ranunculus abortivus.* #,##** Widespread, moist woods. 9-mile
Threadleaf buttercup. *Ranunculus flabellaris.* # Scattered records, moist and wet sites.
Macoun’s buttercup. *Ranunculus macounii.* # Western half, streambanks, wet meadows. Platte
Purple meadow rue. *Thalictrum dasycarpum.* #,@@,** Widespread, moist habitats. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte

**Rose Family – ROSACEAE** *(55 species in Nebraska)*
Wild strawberry. *Fragaria virginiana.* #### Mostly eastern, moist soils, prairies, open woods. Iowa, SCP
Sulphur cinquefoil. *Potentilla recta.* #+@,@@++ Mostly eastern, waste sites, prairies. SCP (Illustration 57)

**Madder Family – RUBIACEAE** *(14 species in Nebraska)*
Catchweed bedstraw. *Galium aparine.* #,** Widespread, woods, prairies, waste ground. 9-mile, SCP
Northern bedstraw. *Galium boreale.* #,@@ Northern half, rocky prairies, woods, roadsides. Iowa,
Narrow-leafed bluets. *Hedyotis nigricans.* +@ Southeastern, rocky prairies, woods. 9-mile, SCP

**Sandalwood Family – SANTALACEAE** *(1 species in Nebraska)*
Bastard toad-flax. *Comandra zimbellata.* #+@,** Eastern fourth, dry, sandy to rocky soils. 9-mile, Iowa,

**Figwort Family – SCROPHULARIACEAE** *(54 species in Nebraska)*
Rough purple gerardia. *Agalinis aspersa.* #,## Widespread, dry prairie, open woods. 9-mile, SCP
Slender gerardia. *Agalinis tenuifolia.* #+@ Widespread, moist woods and prairies, Platte
Allegheny monkey-flower. *Minulus ringens.* ### Eastern half, wet streamsides, sometimes emergent. 9-mile, Platte
White beardtongue. *Penstemon albidus* #+@# Widespread, sandy to gravel soils, open prairie.
Narrow beardtongue. *Penstemon angustifolius.* #+@ Mostly western, sandhills and sandy prairie.
Cobea gerardia. *Penstemon cobaea.* #+@,#+@ Southeastern, open prairies, pastures, weedy. 9-mile
Crested beardtongue. *Penstemon eriantherus.* # Western half, sandy to gravelly soil, dry prairies.
Slender penstemon. *Penstemon gracilis* #+@ Widespread, sandy to gravel soil, dry prairies, Platte
Shell-leaf penstemon. *Penstemon grandiflorus.* #+@,#+@## Widespread, sandy to loamy prairies. 9-mile, Iowa,
Common mullein. *Verbascum thapsus.* #+@,**+** Widespread, introduced weed. 9-mile, SCP, Platte (Illustration 59)
Brooklime speedwell. *Veronica americana.* #** Widespread. emergent in aquatic sites.
Water speedwell. *Veronica anagallis-aquatica.* #,## Widespread, emergent in aquatic sites, Platte
Purslane speedwell, *Veronica peregrina.* ++ Upland disturbed areas. 9-mile, SCP

**Nightshade Family – SOLANACEAE** *(19 species in Nebraska)*
Jimsonweed. *Datura stramonium.* #+* Eastern half, waste sites; poisonous. SCP
Clammy groundcherry. *Physalis heterophylla.* #+@# Widespread, prairies, open woods. Iowa, Platte,
Spearleaf ground-cherry. *Physalis longifolia.* #+@ Upland disturbed areas, 9-mile, SCP
Virginia groundcherry. *Physalis virginiana.* #+@ **Widespread, open woods, waste sites. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte
Carolina horse-nettle. *Solanum carolinense.* #,#,#** Southeastern, waste sites, open woods; poisonous. SCP
Black nightshade. *Solanum ptycanthum.* #+@ Upland disturbed areas, 9-mile, SCP.
Buffalobur. *Solanum rostratum.* #+@### Widespread, waste sites; poisonous. 9-mile, SCP, Platte

**Nettle Family – URTICACEAE** *(6 species in Nebraska)*
Pennsylvania pellitory. *Parietaria pensylvanica.* #,** Widespread, shaded woods. SCP, Platte
Stinging nettle. *Urtica dioica.* #,** Widespread, moist woods, streambanks, skin irritant. SCP, Platte

**Vervain Family – VERBENACEAE** *(9 species in Nebraska)*
Fog-fruit. *Lippia (Phyla) lanceolata.* #+@ Eastern and southern, prairies, ditches, waste areas. 9-mile, Platte
Dakota vervain. *Verbena bipinnatifida.* #,## Widespread, dry plains and prairies.
Prostrate vervain. *Verbena bracteata.* ++*++ Widespread, waste sites, prairies. 9-mile, SCP, Platte
Blue vervain. *Verbena hastata.#,#@@++ Widespread, moist meadows, woods, seepage areas. 9-mile, Iowa, Platte
Hoary (woolly) vervain. *Verbena stricta.* #@@++++** Widespread, weedy. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte (Illustration 60)
White vervain. *Verbena urticifolia.* ##@@++ Widespread, upland disturbed areas. 9-mile, SCP, Platte

**Violet Family–VIOLACEAE** (17 species in Nebraska)
Canada violet. *Viola canadensis.* # Northern and eastern, shaded woods.
Nuttall’s violet. *Viola nuttallii.* @@ Western half, dry prairies, bluffs.
Prairie violet. *Viola pedatifida.* +#@@++** Eastern half, prairies, open woodlands. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP
Blue prairie violet. *Viola pratincola.* # Widespread, open woods, prairie hillsides. Iowa, SCP, Platte
Downy yellow violet. *Viola pubescens.* #** Widespread, woodlands. 9-mile
Downy blue violet. *Viola sororia.* ** Northern and eastern, woods, streamsides. 9-mile, SCP

**Caltrop Family** ZYGOPHYLLACEAE (1 species in Nebraska)
Puncture vine. *Tribilicus terrestris.* #+#++ Widespread, waste places, weedy. 9-mile, SCP

**Common Prairie Shrubs**
This list includes 24 typical shrubs of Nebraska’s prairies. Symbol meanings are as follows:
- # = mostly eastern species described and illustrated by Petrides (1958).
- * = mostly western species described and illustrated by Stubbendieck et al. (1997).
- @ = species described and illustrated by Stephens (1969).
- + = species illustrated and described by Johnson and Larson (1999).
- $ = species illustrated and described by Larson and Johnson (1999)

**Cashew Family – ANACARDIACEAE**
Aromatic sumac *Rhus aromatica.* #@@+$ Widespread.
Smooth sumac. *Rhus glabra.* #@+$ Widespread. 9-mile, SCP, Platte
Poison ivy. *Toxicodendron (Rhus) radicans.* & T. rydbergii. #@+$ Statewide. 9-mile, SCP, Platte

**Sunflower Family – ASTERACEAE** (= COMPOSITAE)
Sand sagebrush. *Artemisia filifolia.* @+ Western and northern Nebraska.
Cudweed (White) sagewort. *Artemisia ludoviciana.* ++ Statewide, 9-mile
Rabbitbrush. *Chrysothamnus naseosus.* @+$ Western half of state.

**Honeysuckle Family –CAPRIFOLIACEAE**
Western snowberry. *Symphoricarpos occidentalis.* #@@+$ Statewide. 9-mile, SCP, Platte (Illustration 49)
Buckbrush (Coralberry). *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus.* @@ Mostly southeastern. 9-mile, SCP

**Staff-tree Family – CELASTRACEAE**
Wahoo. *Euonymus atropurpureus.* @ Eastern half of state

**Dogwood Family – CORNACEAE**
Pale (Silky) dogwood. *Cornus amomum.* @@ Eastern third of state.
Rough-leaved dogwood. *Cornus drummondi.* @@ Eastern half of state, 9-mile, SCP

**Cypress Family – CUPRESSACEAE**
Eastern red cedar (Juniper). *Juniperus virginiana.* ## Eastern two-thirds of state. 9-mile, SCP, Platte

**Russian Olive Family– ELEAGINACEAE**
Buffaloberry. *Shepherdia argentea.* #+$ Widespread, Platte

**Bean Family – FABACEAE**
Leadplant. *Amorpha canescens.* #*$ Statewide in prairies. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte
False indigo. *Amorpha fruticosa.* #+$ Statewide. 9-mile, SCP, Platte
Shrubby (Bushy) cinquefoil. *Potentilla paradoxa.* Widespread.

**Currant Family – GROSSULARIACEAE**
Buffalo current. *Ribes odoratum.* #+$ Widespread.

**Buckthorn Family – RHAMNACEAE**
New Jersey tea. *Ceanothus americanus.* @@ Eastern third of state. 9-mile, SCP
Rose Family - ROSACEAE
Wild plum. *Prunus americana.* Entire state, 9-mile, SCP, Platte
Sand cherry *Prunus besseyi.* Widespread.
Eastern chokecherry. *Prunus virginiana.* Entire state. 9-mile, SCP, Platte
Prairie wild rose. *Rosa arkansana.* Widespread, woodland edges. 9-mile, Iowa, SCP, Platte
Multiflora rose. *Rosa multiflora.* Introduced, uplands. 9-mile, SCP.
Western wild rose. *Rosa woodsii.* Western two-thirds of state, Platte

Prairie Plant References
(Reprinted 1971 by Dover Publications, New York)
Nebraska Dept. of Agriculture and Inspection. 1947. *Nebraska Weeds.* State Capitol, Lincoln, NE.
Nebraska Dept. of Agriculture.

Prairie/Plains Resource Inst, Aurora, NE. (A very useful nature guide, now out of print).
(See literature section for additional plant references, and for details on relative coverage and organizations of the various field guides that might be helpful in identifying prairie plants)
### RELATIVE FREQUENCIES OF GRASSES, SPRING CREEK AND NINE-MILE PRAIRIES (BASED ON KOTTAS, 2000*)

(1 = Introduced species)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WARM-SEASON SPECIES (1 sq. m. subplots)</th>
<th>NINE-MILE PRAIRIE</th>
<th>AVE.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andropogon gerardii</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sorghastrum nutans</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schizachyrium scoparium</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bouteloua curtipendula</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sporobolus asper</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sporobolus heterolepis</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eragrostis spectabilis</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panicum virgatum</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paspalum setaceum</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aristida oligantha</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setaria faberi</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bouteloua hirsuta</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setaria glauca</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panicum capillare</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COOL-SEASON SPECIES (10 sq. m. plots)</th>
<th>NINE-MILE PRAIRIE</th>
<th>AVE.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dichanthelium oligosanthes</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bromus inermis (I)</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poa pratensis (I)</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bromus japonicus (I)</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dichanthelium acuminatum</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poa compressa (I)</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elymus canadensis</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stipa spartea</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TWENTY MOST ABUNDANT FALL FORBS IN ORDER OF ABUNDANCE, SPRING CREEK PRAIRIE AND NINE-MILE PRAIRIE (AFTER KOTTAS, 2000*)

(Species reported from both locations are shown in bold; I = introduced species; S = shrub.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPRING CREEK PRAIRIE</th>
<th>NINE-MILE PRAIRIE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ambrosia psilostachya</td>
<td>Ambrosia psilostachya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trifolium repens</td>
<td>Aster(Symphiotrichum)  ericoides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vernonia baldwinii</td>
<td>Artemisia ludoviciana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aster (Symphiotrichum)  ericoides</td>
<td>Helianthus rigidus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artemisia ludoviciana</td>
<td>Amorpha canescens (S)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achillea millefolium</td>
<td>Oxalis dillenii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physalis longifolia</td>
<td>Asclepias verticillata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cirsium floridana</td>
<td>Solidago missouriensis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trifolium pratense (I)</td>
<td>Viola pedatifida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conyza canadensis</td>
<td>Lespedeza capitata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solidago missouriensis</td>
<td>Solidago speciosa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antennaria neglecta</td>
<td>Kuhnia eupatorioides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuhnia eupatorioides</td>
<td>Monarda fistulosa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxalis dillenii</td>
<td>Physalis longifolia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euphorbia nutans</td>
<td>Rhus glabra (S)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convolvulus arvensis (I)</td>
<td>Callirhoe involucrata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicago lupulina (I)</td>
<td>Cirsium altissimum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amorpha canescens (S)</td>
<td>Solidago rigid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symphoricarpos orbiculatus (S)</td>
<td>Solidago canadensis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruellia humilis</td>
<td>Dalea candida</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Typical Shrubs, Forbs, Grasses and Sedges of Nebraska’s Tallgrass Prairies
(Based primarily on more than 200 species reported from Nine-mile Prairie and/or Spring Creek Prairie, exclusive of trees, aquatic species and some woods-adapted species. Organized alphabetically by descending taxa: family, genus, species).

Status: I = Introduced; N = Native
Habit: A = Annual, B = Biennial; P = Perennial
Habitat: D = Disturbed uplands, R = Ravine, U = Upland prairie; W = Wetlands
Flowering Time: Sp = Spring, Su = Summer; F = Fall; Sp/Su = Spring & Summer; Sp/F = Spring to Fall
Su/F = Summer & Fall

GRASSES AND SEDGES
Grass Family - POACEAE (ca. 200 species in Nebraska)
Western wheatgrass. *Agropyron smithii*. Widespread. NPUSu
Redtop bent. *Agrostis stolonifera*. Widespread introduced weed. IPWSu
Big bluestem *Andropogon gerardii*. Mostly eastern. NPWSu/F
Prairie threeawn. *Aristida oligantha*. Mostly eastern. NADSu/F
Red (Purple) threeawn *Aristida purpurea longiseta*. Widespread. NPDSu
Side-oats grama. *Bouteloua curtipendula*. Widespread. NPUSu/F
Blue grama. *Bouteloua gracilis*. Widespread. NPUSu/F
Hairy grama. *Bouteloua hirsuta*. Mostly western. NPUSu
Smooth brome. *Bromus inermis*. Widespread, introduced weed. IPUSp/Su
Japanese brome. *Bromus japonicus*. Widespread, introduced weed. IADSp/Su
Downy brome. *Bromus tectorum*. Widespread, introduced weed. IADSp
Buffalo grass. *Buchloe dactyloides*. Mostly western. NPUSu
Longspine sandbur. *Cenchrus longispinus*. Widespread, weedy. NPDSu/F
Tumble windmillgrass. *Chloris verticillata*. Mostly southern, weedy. NPDSu/F
Dichanthelium, *Dichanthelium acuminatum*. Upland disturbed areas. NPUSp/F
Leiberg’s dichanthelium. *Dichanthelium leibergii*. Upland prairie. NPUSp/Su
Scribner’s dichanthelium. *Dichanthelium oligosanthes scribnerianum*. Disturbed areas. NPUSp/F
Large crabgrass. *Digitaria sanguinalis*. Widespread, introduced weed. IADSu/F
Barnyardgrass. *Echinochloa crusgalli*. Widespread, introduced weed. IADsSu/F
Goosegrass. *Eleusine indica*. Southeastern, introduced weed. IADsSu/F
Canada wild rye. *Elymus canadensis*. Upland prairie. NPUSu/F
Stinkgrass. *Eragrostis cilianensis*. Weedy annual. IADsSu/F
Purple lovegrass. *Eragrostis spectabilis*. Upland disturbed areas. NPDSu/F
Sixweeks fescue. *Festuca (Vulpia) octoflora*. Widespread, weedy. NADSu/F
Fowl munnagrass. *Glyceria striata*. Widespread, moist soils. NPWSu/F
Foxtail barley. *Hordeum jubatum*. Widespread, weedy. NPRSp/Su
Little barley. *Hordeum pusillum*. Widespread, weedy. NADSp/Su
Fall witchgrass. *Leptoloma cognatum*. Upland prairie. NPUSu/F
Prairie junegrass. *Koeleria pyramidata*. Widespread. NPUSu
Plains muhly. *Muhlenbergia cuspidatum*. Upland prairie. NPUSu/F
Marsh muhly. *Muhlenbergia racemosa*. Widespread, weedy. NPUSu/F
Witchgrass. *Panicum capillare*. Widespread, weedy. NADF
Fall panicum. *Panicum dichotomiflorum*. Eastern half, weedy. NAWF
Switchgrass. *Panicum virgatum*. Widespread, tallgrass prairies. NPuF
Paspalum. *Paspalum setaceum*. Disturbed upland areas. NPUSp/F
Reed canarygrass. *Phalaris arundinacea.* Widespread, weedy NPWSu
Timothy *Phleum pratense.* Widespread. IPUSu
Canada bluegrass. *Poa compressa.* Widespread, introduced. IPUSp/F
Kentucky bluegrass. *Poa pratensis* Widespread, introduced weed. IPUSp/F
Tumblegrass. *Schedonardus paniculatus* Widespread, weedy. NPDSp/F
Little bluestem. *Schizachyrium (Andropogon) scoparium.* Widespread. NPUSu/F
Yellow foxtail. *Setaria glauca* Widespread, introduced weed. IADSu/F
Green foxtail. *Setaria viridis* Widespread, introduced weed. IADSu/F

**Sedge Family – CYPERACEAE** (126 species in Nebraska)
Fescue sedge. *Carex brevior.* Widespread. NPR/WSp
Sun sedge *Carex heliophila.* Widespread. NPUSp/Su
Meade’s sedge. *Carex meadii.* Upland prairie. NPUSp/Su
Sedge. *Carex molesta.* Upland prairies. NPUSp/Su
Fern flatsedge. *Cyperus lupulinus.* Upland prairies. NPUSu/F

**Broad-leaved Herbs (Wildflowers & Weeds)**

**Acanthus Family – ACANTHACEAE** (3 species in Nebraska)
Fringeleaf ruellia. *Ruellia humilis.* Dry prairies, rocky banks, open woods. NPUSu

**Pigweed Family – AMARANTHACEAE** (17 species in Nebraska)
Redroot pigweed. *Amaranthus retroflexus.* Widespread, weedy. NADSu/F
Common water hemp. *Amaranthus rudis.* Mostly eastern, weedy. NPWSu/F

**Cashew Family – ANACARDIACEAE** (5 species in Nebraska)
Poison ivy. *Toxicodendron (Rhus) spp.* Statewide; also a variably woody shrub or vine. PNUSu

**Parsley Family – APIACEAE (= Umbellifereae)** (31 species in Nebraska)
Spotted waterhemlock. *Cicuta maculata.* Widespread, near streams. IBRSu
Wild parsley (desert biscuitroot). *Lomatium foeniculaceum.* Eastern and Panhandle, dry prairies. NPUSp
Black snake-root. *Sanicula canadensis.* Widespread. NBRSu

**Dogbane Family – APOCYNACEAE** (4 species in Nebraska)
Hemp (Prairie) dogbane. *Apocynum cannabinum.* Widespread, prairies, open woods, weedy. NPWSu

**Milkweed Family – ASCLEPIADACEAE** (17 species in Nebraska)
Swamp milkweed. *Asclepias incarnata.* Widespread, wet prairies, moist banks. NPWSu
Narrow-leaved milkweed. *Asclepias subverticillata.* Widespread, sandy or rocky prairies. NPUSu
Common milkweed. *Asclepias syriaca.* Mostly eastern, banks, floodplains, waste areas. NPUSu
Butterfly milkweed. *Asclepias tuberosa.* Eastern half, sandy or rocky prairies. NPUSu
Whorled milkweed. *Asclepias verticillata.* Widespread, sandy or rocky prairies. NPUSu
Spider milkweed. *Asclepias viridissima.* Southeastern corner, sandy or rocky prairies. NPUSu
Green milkweed. *Asclepias viridiflora.* Widespread, sandy or rocky prairies. NPUSu

**Sunflower Family – ASTERACEAE (= COMPOSITAE)** (243 species in Nebraska)
Common yarrow. *Achillea millefolium.* Widespread, grasslands, open woods, weedy. NPUSu
Common ragweed. *Ambrosia artemisiifolia.* Mostly eastern, disturbed sites, weedy. NADSu/F
Western ragweed. *Ambrosia psilostachya.* Widespread, open prairie, waste sites. NAPUSu/F
Giant ragweed, *Ambrosia trifida.* Widespread, weedy. NADSu/F
Pussy-toes. *Antennaria neglecta.* Widespread, prairies, open woodlands, pastures.NPYU Sp/Su
Common burdock. *Arctium minus.* Eastern half, weedy. IBDSu/F
Silky wormwood. *Artemisia dracunculus.* Upland prairie. NPUSu/F
Cudweed (White) sagewort. *Artemisia ludoviciana.* Widespread, dry plains. NPSu/F
White (Heath) aster. *Aster (Symphyotrichum) ericoides.* Widespread, open, upland prairies. NPUF
Aromatic aster. *Aster (Symphyotrichum) oblongifolius.* Upland prairies. NPUF
Silky aster. *Aster (Symphyotrichum) sericeus.* Eastern third, dry, upland sites, open woods, NPUF
Panicled aster. *Aster simplex.* Widespread, NPIR
Nodding beggarticks. *Bidens cernua.* Widespread, muddy, disturbed sites, weedy. NAWF
Devils beggarticks. *Bidens frondosa.* Widespread, moist wooded sites. NAWF
Tall beggar-ticks. *Bidens vulgaris.* Widespread, weedy. NAWF
Tuberous Indian plantain. *Cacalia plantaginea.* Widespread, rocky prairies. NPUSu
Musk thistle. *Carduus nutans.* Widespread, pastures, prairies, weedy. IBDSu
Tall thistle. *Cirsium altissimum.* Mostly eastern, waste sites, weedy. NPUSu/F
Flodman's thistle. *Cirsium flodmanii.* Widespread, moist, open pastures, weedy. NPUSu
Wavyleaf thistle. *Cirsium undulatum.* Widespread. NPU/F
Horseweed. *Conyza canadensis.* Widespread, disturbed sites, weedy. NADSdF
Fetid marigold. *Dyssodia papposa.* Widespread, open fields, disturbed sites. NADSuIF
Daisy fleabane. *Erigeron strigosus.* Widespread in eastern half. NAUSuIF
White snakeroot. *Eupatorium rugosum.* Eastern half, open woods, disturbed sites. NPRSu/F
Viscid Euthamia. *Euthamia gymnospermoides.* Upland prairies. NPUSu
Nodding beggarticks. *Bidens cernua.* Widespread, muddy, disturbed sites, weedy. NAWF
Devils beggarticks. *Bidens frondosa.* Widespread, moist wooded sites. NAWF
Tall beggar-ticks. *Bidens vulgaris.* Widespread, weedy. NAWF
Tuberous Indian plantain. *Cacalia plantaginea.* Widespread, rocky prairies. NPUSu
Musk thistle. *Carduus nutans.* Widespread, pastures, prairies, weedy. IBDSu
Tall thistle. *Cirsium altissimum.* Mostly eastern, waste sites, weedy. NPUSu/F
Flodman's thistle. *Cirsium flodmanii.* Widespread, moist, open pastures, weedy. NPUSu
Wavyleaf thistle. *Cirsium undulatum.* Widespread. NPU/F
Horseweed. *Conyza canadensis.* Widespread, disturbed sites, weedy. NADSdF
Fetid marigold. *Dyssodia papposa.* Widespread, open fields, disturbed sites. NADSuIF
Daisy fleabane. *Erigeron strigosus.* Widespread in eastern half. NAUSuIF
White snakeroot. *Eupatorium rugosum.* Eastern half, open woods, disturbed sites. NPRSu/F
Viscid Euthamia. *Euthamia gymnospermoides.* Upland prairies. NPUSu
Nodding beggarticks. *Bidens cernua.* Widespread, muddy, disturbed sites, weedy. NAWF
Devils beggarticks. *Bidens frondosa.* Widespread, moist wooded sites. NAWF
Tall beggar-ticks. *Bidens vulgaris.* Widespread, weedy. NAWF
Tuberous Indian plantain. *Cacalia plantaginea.* Widespread, rocky prairies. NPUSu
Musk thistle. *Carduus nutans.* Widespread, pastures, prairies, weedy. IBDSu
Tall thistle. *Cirsium altissimum.* Mostly eastern, waste sites, weedy. NPUSu/F
Flodman's thistle. *Cirsium flodmanii.* Widespread, moist, open pastures, weedy. NPUSu
Wavyleaf thistle. *Cirsium undulatum.* Widespread. NPU/F
Horseweed. *Conyza canadensis.* Widespread, disturbed sites, weedy. NADSdF
Fetid marigold. *Dyssodia papposa.* Widespread, open fields, disturbed sites. NADSuIF
Hawkweed. *Hieracium longipilzim.* Upland prairie. NPU/F
Falseboneset. *Kuhnia eupatorioides.* Widespread, open prairies. NPUSu/F
Blue lettuce. *Lactuca oblongifolia.* Widespread, low, moist meadows. NPU/F
Prickly lettuce. *Lactuca serriola.* Widespread, disturbed sites, weedy. IBDSu/F
Rough gayfeather. *Liatris aspera.* Eastern half, open woods on sandy sites. NPSu/F
Dotted gayfeather. *Liatris punctata.* Widespread, dry, sandy upland prairies. NPSu/F
Skeletonweed. *Lygodesma juncea.* Upland prairies. NPUSu
False dandelion. *Microseris cuspidata.* Widespread, dry or drying open prairie. NPUSp
Prairie coneflower. *Ratibida columnifera.* Widespread, disturbed sites, weedy. NPUSu
Black-eyed susan. *Rudbeckia hirta.* Widespread, disturbed prairies, waste sites. NPUSu
Golden glow. *Rudbeckia laciniata.* Eastern half, moist places. NPRSu
Lamb's-tongue groundsel. *Senecio integerrimus.* Upland prairies. NPUSp
Prairie ragwort. *Senecio plattensis.* Widespread, open prairies. NPUSp
Rosinweed. *Silphium integrifolium.* Eastern third, open, disturbed sites. NPUSp
Cup plant. *Silphium perfoliatum.* Eastern third, moist, low ground. NPRSs
Canada goldenrod. *Solidago canadensis.* Widespread, dry or drying open sites. NPUSF
Prairie goldenrod. *Solidago missouriensis.* Widespread, open prairies, sparse woods. NPUSp
Gray goldenrod. *Solidago nemoralis.* Upland prairies. NPUSF
Rigid goldenrod. *Solidago rigida.* Widespread, sandy or rocky prairies, drying sites. NPUSF
Showy goldenrod. *Solidago speciosa.* Upland prairies. NPUSF
Common dandelion. *Taraxacum officinale*. Widespread introduced weed. IPD Sp/F

Goat’s beard (Western salsify). *Tragopogon dubius*. Widespread, disturbed sites, introduced weed. IBDSu

Meadow salsify. *Tragopogon pratensis*. Upland prairies. IBDSu/Su

Baldwin’s ironweed. *Vernonia baldwinii*. Southeastern, open, dry pastures. NPUSu

Cocklebur. *Xanthium strumarium*. Upland prairies. IAUSu/F

**Borage Family – BORAGINACEAE** (29 species in Nebraska)

Hoary puccoon. *Lithospermum canescens*. Upland prairies. NPUSp/Su

Narrow-leaved puccoon. *Lithospermum incisum*. Widespread, dry prairies, open woods. NPUSp/Su

False gumwell. *Osmodium molle*. Upland prairies. NPUSu

**Mustard Family – BRASSICACEAE** (74 species in Nebraska)

Hoary cress. *Cardaria draba*. Introduced weed, widespread. IPDSp

Whitlow grass. *Draba reptans*. Upland disturbed areas. NADSp

Pennycress. *Thlaspi arvense*. Widespread, waste sites, weedy. IADSp

**Caesalpinia Family – CAESALPINIACEAE** (6 species in Nebraska)

Partridge-pea. *Cassia chamaecrista*. Eastern half, rocky or sandy prairies. NADSu/F

**Bellflower Family – CAMPANULACEAE** (12 species in Nebraska)

Blue lobelia. *Lobelia siphilitica*. Widespread, moist soil, woods and meadows. NPWSu/F

Venus’ looking glass. *Triodanis perfoliata*. Widespread, sandy to gravelly prairies, disturbed sites. NADSu/Su

**Hemp Family – CANNABACEAE** (3 species in Nebraska)

Hemp. *Cannabis sativa*. Upland disturbed areas, IADSu/F

**Pink Family – CARYOPHYLLACEAE** (35 species in Nebraska)

Sleepy catchfly. *Silene antirrhina*. Upland disturbed areas. NADSu

**Goosefoot Family – CHENOPODIACEAE** (42 species in Nebraska)

Lamb’s quarters. *Chenopodium berlandieri*. Upland disturbed areas. NADSu/F

**Spiderwort Family – COMMELINACEAE** (5 species in Nebraska)

Long-bracted spiderwort. *Tradescantia bracteata*. Widespread, prairies, disturbed sites. NPUSu

**Morning-glory Family – CONVOLVULACEAE** (19 species in Nebraska)

Hedge bindweed. *Calystegia sepium*. Upland disturbed areas. NPRSu/F

Field bindweed. *Convolvulus arvensis*. Widespread, introduced weed. NPDSu/F

**Stonecrop Family – CRASSULACEAE** (2 species in Nebraska)

Virginia stonecrop. *Penthorum sedoides*. Mostly eastern, ditches, streambanks. NPWSu/F

**Cucumber Family – CUCURBITACEAE** (4 species in Nebraska)

Bur cucumber. *Sicyos angulatus*. Southeastern, damp river soils, waste sites. NARSu/F

**Horsetail Family – EQUISETACEAE** (6 species in Nebraska)

Field horsetail. *Equisetum arvense*. Widespread, disturbed sites. NPWSp

**Spurge Family – EUPHORBIACEAE** (28 species in Nebraska)

Flowing spurge. *Euphorbia corollata*. Upland prairies. NPYUSu/F

Toothed spurge. *Euphorbia dentata*. Widespread, prairies, waste sites. NDSu/F

Snow-on-the-mountain. *Euphorbia marginata*. Widespread, prairies, waste sites; poisonous. NADSu/F

Eyebane. *Euphorbia nutans*. Upland disturbed areas. NADSu/F

**Bean Family – FABACEAE (= LEGUMINACEAE)** (ca. 100 species in Nebraska)

Canada milk-vetch. *Astragalus canadensis*. Widespread, moist prairies, open woods. NPUSp

Ground-plum. *Astragalus crassicarpus*. Widespread, prairies, rocky soils. NPUSp

Platte River milk-vetch. *Astragalus plattensis*. Upland prairies. NPUSp/Su

Plains wild indigo. *Baptisia (leucophea) bracteata*. Southeastern, prairies, pastures. NPUSp

Canada tickclover. *Desmodium canadense*. Widespread, rocky or sandy prairies. NPUSu

Tick trefoil. *Desmodium illinoensis*. Widespread, prairie ravines, hillsides. NPUSu

Wild licorice. *Glycyrrhiza lepidota*. Widespread, prairie ravines, moist areas. NPUSu

Bush-clover. *Lespedeza capitata*. Upland prairie. NPUSu/F

Alfalfa. *Medicago sativa*. Introduced forage crop. IPOSu/F
Sweet-clover. *Melilotis albus*. Widespread, waste places, introduced weed and forage crop. IPDSp/F
White prairie-clover. *Petalostemon* (Dalea) *candida*. Widespread, waste sites, weedy. NPUSu
Purple prairie-clover. *Petalostemon* (Dalea) *purpurea*. Widespread, rocky prairies NPUSu
Silky prairie-clover. *Petalostemon* (Dalea) *villosa*. Widespread, sandy prairies, open woods. NPUSu
Silver-leaf scurf-pea. *Psoralea* (Pediomelum) *argophylla*. Widespread, prairies, open woods. NPUSu
Broad-leaf scurf-pea (Prairie-turnip). *Psoralea* (Pediomelum) *esculenta*. Widespread, prairies. NPUSu
Wild alfalfa. *Psoralea* (Pediomelum) *temriflora*. Widespread, prairies, roadsides. NPUSu
Clovers. *Trifolium* spp. Mostly introduced and cultivated forage plants. IPDSp/F
American vetch. *Vicia americana*. Widespread, mostly sandy soils. NPUSpISu

**Gentian Family** – GENTIANACEAE (6 species in Nebraska)
Downy gentian. *Gentiana puberulenta*. Upland prairies. NPUF

**Waterleaf Family** – HYDROPHYLLACEAE (4 species in Nebraska)
Waterpod. *Ellisia nyctelea*. Widespread, sandy prairies, open woods. NARSp

**Iris Family** – IRIDACEAE (7 species in Nebraska)
White-eyed grass. *Sisyrinchium campestre*. Eastern half, prairies, open woods. NPUSp

**Mint Family** – LAMIACEAE (= LABITAE) (49 species in Nebraska)
Rough false pennyroyal. *Hedeoma hispid~im*. Widespread, waste sites, open ground. NAUSp/Su
Field mint. *Mentha arvensis*. Widespread, moist sites. NPWSu/F
Wild bergamot. *Monarda fistulosa*. Widespread, prairies, open woods. NPUSu
Catnip. *Nepeta cataria*. Widespread, waste sites, introduced weed. IPWSu/F
Pitcher’s (Blue) sage. *Salvia azurea* (pitcheri) Southeastern, rocky to sandy prairies. NPUF
Leonard small scullcap. *Scutellaria parvula*. Eastern, upland prairies, open woods. NPUSu
American germander. *Teucrium canadense*. Widespread, streambanks, pastures. NPRSu

**Lily Family** – LILIACEAE (32 species in Nebraska)
Wild onion. *Allium canadense*. Widespread, prairies, open woods NPUSu
Asparagus. *Asparagus officinalis*. Upland prairie. IPUSp
Solomon’s seal. *Polygonatum bifloratum*. Widespread, moist deciduous woods. NPRSu

**Flax Family** – LINACEAE (8 species in Nebraska)
Grooved (prairie) flax. *Linum sulcatum*. Eastern half, prairies, open woods. NAUSu

**Mallow Family** – MALVACEAE (15 species in Nebraska)
Velvet leaf. *Abutilon theophrasti*. Upland disturbed areas. IADSu/F
Plains poppy-mallow. *Callirhoe alcaeoides*. Upland prairies. NPUSu
Purple poppy mallow. *Callirhoe ital~icrata*. Widespread, dry, sandy prairies. NPUSp/Su

**Four-O’Clock Family** – NYCTAGINACEAE (9 species in Nebraska)
Hairy four-o’clock. *Mirabilis hirsuta*. Upland prairies. NPUSu
Narrow-leaved four o’clock. *Mirabilis linearis*. Upland prairies. NPUSu
Wild four-o’clock. *Mirabilis nyctaginea*. Widespread, waste places, weedy. NPUSu

**Evening Primrose Family** – ONAGRACEAE (28 species in Nebraska)
Plains yellow evening primrose. *Calyphyus serr~ilatus*. Widespread, dry prairies, open woods. NPUSu
Fireweed. *Epilobium* spp. Widespread, disturbed sites, often appears following fire. NPWSu/F
Large-flowered gaura. *Gaura longiflora*. Southeastern, rocky prairies, open woods. NBDSu/F
Small-flowered gaura. *Gaura parviflora (= mollis)*. Upland disturbed areas, NBDSu/F
Yellow evening primrose. *Oenothera villosa*. Upland disturbed areas,

**Orchid Family** – ORCHIDACEAE (19 species in Nebraska)
Nodding lady’s-tresses. *Spiranthes cernua*. Eastern half, prairies, open woods. NPUF
Early ladies’ tresses. *Spiranthes vernalis*. Upland prairies. NPUSu

**Wood sorrel Family** – OXALIDACEAE (3 species in Nebraska)
Gray-green wood sorrel. *Oxalis dillenii*. Mostly eastern, open woods, waste sites, weedy. NPUSp/F
Yellow wood sorrel. *Oxalis stricta*. Mostly eastern, open woods, waste sites, weedy. NPUSu
Violet wood sorrel. *Oxalis violacea*. Mostly eastern, open woods, waste places, weedy. NPUSp

**Plantain Family** – PLANTAGINACEAE (10 species in Nebraska)
Woolly plantain (Indianwheat).  *Plantago patagonica*. Widespread. waste sites, weedy. NASDSu
Blackseed plantain.  *Plantago rugelii*. Mostly eastern, waste sites, shady places, weedy. NPDSu

**Phlox (Poilemonium) family** – **POLEMONIACEAE** (16 species in Nebraska)

- Slenderleaf collomia.  *Collomia linearis*. Mostly northern, native prairies. NAUSu
- Blue phlox.  *Phlox divaricata*. Eastern fourth, open woods, rocky slopes. NPUSp/Su
- Prairie phlox.  *Phlox pilosa*. Eastern fourth, open woods, meadows. NPUSu

**Milkwort Family** – **POLYGALACEAE** (4 species in Nebraska)

- Blackseed milkwort.  *Polygala verticillata*. Upland disturbed areas. NPUSu/F

**Buckwheat Family** – **POLYGONACEAE** (46 species in Nebraska)

- Common knotweed.  *Polygonum arenosum*. Widespread, waste sites, introduced weed. IADSu/F
- Pink smartweed.  *Polygonum bistorta*. Mostly eastern, wet sites. NADS/F
- Pennsylvania smartweed.  *Polygonum pensylvanicum*. Widespread, disturbed sites, weedy. NADSu/F
- Climbing false buckwheat.  *Polygonum scandens*. Widespread, waste sites, introduced weed. NPRSu/F
- Sheep sorrel.  *Rumex acetosella*. Upland prairie. IPUSp/Su

**Primrose Family** – **PRIMULACEAE** (10 species in Nebraska)

- Fringed loosestrife.  *Lysimachia ciliata*. Widespread, moist woods and wetter sites. NPWSu

**Buttercup Family** – **RANUNCULACEAE** (39 species in Nebraska)

- Meadow anemone.  *Anemone canadensis*. Mostly eastern, wet prairies, wet woods. NPWSu
- Candle anemone.  *Anemone cylindrica*. Northern and eastern, open prairies and pastures. NPUSu
- Prairie larkspur.  *Delphinium virens*. Widespread, prairies and pastures. NPUSu
- Purple meadow rue.  *Thalictrum dasycarpum*. Widespread, moist habitats. NPUSu

**Rose Family** – **ROSACEAE** (55 species in Nebraska)

- Wild strawberry.  *Fragaria virginiana*. Mostly eastern, moist soils, prairies, open woods. NPUSp
- Tall cinquefoil.  *Potentilla arguta*. Widespread, prairies, open woods. NPUSu
- Sulphur cinquefoil.  *Potentilla recta*. Mostly eastern, waste sites, prairies. NPUSSu/F

**Madder Family** – **RUBIACEAE** (10 species in Nebraska)

- Catchweed bedstraw.  *Galium aparine*. Widespread, woods, prairies, waste ground. NARSu
- Narrow-leafed bluets.  *Hedyotis nigricans*. Southeastern, rocky prairies, woods. NPUSu

**Figwort Family** – **SCROPHULARIACEAE** (54 species in Nebraska)

- Rough purple gerardia.  *Agalinis aspersa*. Widespread, dry prairie, open woods. NAUSu
- Common mullein.  *Verbascum thapsus*. Southeastern, open prairies, pastures, weedy. NPUSp
- Purslane speedwell,  *Veronica peregrina*. Upland disturbed areas. NADSp/Su

**Nightshade Family** – **SOLANACEAE** (19 species in Nebraska)

- Clammy ground-cherry.  *Physalis heterophylla*. Upland prairie. NPUSu
- Speaker ground-cherry.  *Physalis longifolia*. Upland disturbed areas. NPUSp
- Virginia ground-cherry.  *Physalis virginiana*. Upland disturbed areas. NPUSp
- Black nightshade.  *Solanum ptycanthus*. Upland disturbed areas. NAUS/F
- Buffalobur.  *Solanum rostratum*. Widespread, waste sites; poisonous. NADSu/F

**Nettle Family** – **URTICACEAE** (5 species in Nebraska)

- Pennsylvania pellitory.  *Parietaria pensylvanica*. Widespread, shaded woods. NARSu
- Stinging nettle.  *Urtica dioica*. Widespread, moist woods, streambanks, skin irritant. NPWSu

**Vervain Family** – **VERBENACEAE** (9 species in Nebraska)

- Prostrate vervain.  *Verbena bracteata*. Widespread, waste sites, prairies. NADSp/F
- Blue vervain.  *Verbena hastata*. Widespread, moist meadows, woods, seepage areas. NPUSu
- Hoary (woolly) vervain.  *Verbena stricta*. Widespread, pastures, prairies, waste sites. NPRSu
- White vervain.  *Verbena urticifolia*. Upland disturbed areas. NPUSu/F

**Violet Family** – **VIOLACEAE** (17 species in Nebraska)

- Prairie violet.  *Viola pedatifida*. Eastern half, prairies, open woodlands. NPUSp
- Blue prairie violet.  *Viola pratina*. Widespread, open woods, prairie hillsides. NPUSp
- Downy blue violet.  *Viola sororia*. Northern and eastern, woods, streamsides. NPUSp
Caltrop Family – ZYGOPHYLLACEAE (1 species in Nebraska)
Puncture vine. Tribulus terrestris. Widespread, waste places, weedy. IADSu/F

Shrubs and Woody Vines

Cashew Family – ANACARDIACEAE
Smooth sumac. Rhus glabra. Widespread.
Poison ivy. Toxicodendron (Rhus) radicans. Statewide (may grows as a woody vine or forb)

Sunflower Family – ASTERACEAE (= COMPOSITAE)
Cudweed sagebrush. Artemisia ludoviciana. Widespread.

Honeysuckle Family – CAPRIFOLIACEAE

Elderberry. Sambucus canadensis. Mainly eastern.
Western snowberry. Symphoricarpos occidentalis. Statewide.
Buckbrush (Coralberry). Symphoricarpos orbiculatus. Mostly southeastern.

Staff-tree Family - CELASTRACEAE
Climbing Bittersweet. Celastrus scandens. Mainly eastern (woody vine).

Dogwood Family - CORNACEAE
Rough-leaved dogwood. Cornus drummondi. Eastern half of state

Cypress Family - CUPRESSACEAE
Eastern red cedar (Eastern juniper). Juniperus virginiana. Eastern two-thirds of state. (May grow as a shrub or tree)

Bean Family - FABACEAE
Leadplant. Amorpha canescens. Statewide in prairies.

Currant Family - GROSSULARIACEAE
Missouri gooseberry. Ribes missouriensis. Widespread, moist woods.

Buckthorn Family - RHAMNACEAE

Rose Family - ROSACEAE
Wild plum. Prunus americana. Entire state,
Sand cherry Prunus besseyi. Widespread.
Prairie wild rose. Rosa arkansana. Widespread, woodland edges.
Black raspberry. Rubus occidentalis. Eastern Nebraska, riparian.

Willow Family - SALICACEAE
Peach-leaved willow Salix amygdaloides. Widespread. (May grow as a shrub or tree)
Sand-bar willow. Salix interior. Widespread in wetter sites

Grape Family - VITACEAE
River-bank grape Vitis riparia. Widespread (woody vine).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English: Latin Name Equivalents of 370 Tallgrass Prairie Plants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Based largely on Spring Creek Prairie list of Kay Kottas, 2000)</td>
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<tr>
<th>English Name</th>
<th>Latin Name</th>
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<td>Alfalfa</td>
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<td>Aster oblongifolius.</td>
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<td>Vicia villosa</td>
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<td>Elymus villosus</td>
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<td>Calystegia sepium</td>
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<td>Lamium amplexicaule</td>
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<td>Lithospermum canescens.</td>
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<td>Verbena stricta</td>
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<td>Conyza canadensis</td>
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<td>Desmodium illinoense</td>
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<td>Helianthus tuberosus</td>
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<td>Johnny-jump-up</td>
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<td>Lespedeza stipulacea</td>
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<td>Senecio integerrimus,</td>
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<td>Gaura longiflora</td>
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<td>Leafy spurge</td>
<td>Euphorbia esula</td>
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<td>Hordeum pusillum</td>
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<td>Cannabis sativa</td>
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<td>Plantago rugelii</td>
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<td>Cenchrus longispinus</td>
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<td>Sawbeak sedge</td>
<td>Carex stipata</td>
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<td>Dichanthelium oligosanthes</td>
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<td>Schweinitz’s sedge</td>
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<td>Shattercane</td>
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<td>Rumex acetosella</td>
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<td>Capsella bursa-pastoris</td>
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<td>Carex brevier</td>
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<tr>
<td>Showy goldenrod</td>
<td>Solidago speciosa.</td>
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Showy tick trefoil \textit{Desmodium canadense}
Siberian elm \textit{Ulmus pumila}
Sideoats grama \textit{Bouteloua curtipendula}
Silky aster \textit{Aster sericeus}
Silky wormwood \textit{Artemisia dracunculus}
Silky wormwood \textit{Artemisia dracunculus.}
Silver-leaf scurf-pea \textit{Psoralea argophylla}
Skeletonweed \textit{Lygodesma juncea.}
Sleepy catchfly \textit{Silene antirrhina}
Slender gerardia \textit{Agalinis tenuifolia}
Small duckweed \textit{Lemna minor}
Smallflower buttercup \textit{Ranunculus arbovitus}
Smartweed dodder \textit{Cuscuta polygonorum}
Smooth brome \textit{Bromus inermis}
Smooth scouring rush \textit{Equisetum laevigatum}
Smooth sumac \textit{Rhus glabra}
Snow-on-the-mountain \textit{Euphorbia marginata}
Soft-stem bulrush \textit{Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani}
Solomon's seal \textit{Polygonatum biflorum}
Spearleaf groundcherry \textit{Physalis longifolia}
Spider milkweed \textit{Asclepias viridis}
St. John's-wort \textit{Hypericum perforatum}
Stickseed \textit{Hackelia virginiana}
Stiff goldenrod \textit{Solidago rigida}
Stiff sunflower \textit{Helianthus rigidus}
Stinkgrass \textit{Eragrostis ciliaris}
Straw-colored flatsedge \textit{Cyperus strigosus}
Sulphur cinquefoil \textit{Potentilla recta}
Sun sedge \textit{Carex heliophila}
Swamp milkweed \textit{Asclepias incarnata}
Switchgrass \textit{ Panicum virgatum}
Tall dropseed \textit{Sporobolus asper}
Tall fescue \textit{ Festuca arundinacea}
Tall nettle \textit{Urtica dioica}
Tall thistle \textit{Cirsium altissimum}
Tansy mustard \textit{Descurainia pinnata}
Three-square bulrush \textit{ Schoenoplectus pungens}
Tick trefoil \textit{Desmodium illinoense}
Timothy \textit{ Phleum pratense}
Toothcup \textit{Ammannia robusita}
Toothed spurge \textit{Euphorbia dentata}
Tumblegrass \textit{Schedonardus paniculatus}
Velvet-leaf \textit{Abutilon theophrasti}
Velvety gaura \textit{ Gaura parviflora}
Venice mallow \textit{ Hibiscus trionum}

Venus' looking glass \textit{Triodanis perfoliata}
Violet wood sorrel \textit{Oxalis violacea}
Virginia creeper \textit{ Parthenocissus quinquefolia}
Virginia groundcherry \textit{Physalis virginiana}
Virginia wild rye \textit{Elymus virginicus}
Viscid Euthamia \textit{Euthamia gymnospermoide}
Water hemp \textit{Amaranthus rudis}
Water smartweed \textit{Polygonum punctatum}
Watermeal \textit{Wolffia columbiana}
Waterpod \textit{Ellisia nyctelea}
Wayleaf thistle \textit{Cirsium undulatum}
Western ironweed \textit{Vernonia baldwinii}
Western ragweed \textit{Ambrosia psilostachya}
Western rock jasmine \textit{Androsace occidentalis}
Western snowberry \textit{Symphoricarpus occidentalis}
Western wallflower \textit{Erysimum asperum}
Western wheatgrass \textit{Agropyron smithii}
White avens \textit{Geum canadense}
White clover \textit{Trifolium repens}
White lettuce \textit{Prenanthes aspera}
White mulberry \textit{Morus alba}
White prairie clover \textit{ Dalea candida}
White (Cudweed) sage \textit{Artemisia ludoviciana}
White snakeroot \textit{Eupatorium rugosum}
White sweet clover \textit{Melilotus albus}
White vervain \textit{Verbena urticifolia}
White whitlowort \textit{Draba reptans}
White-eyed grass \textit{Sisyrinchium campestre}
Whitegrass \textit{ Leersia virginica}
Whorled milkweed \textit{Asclepias verticillata}
Whorled milkwort \textit{ Polygala verticillata}
Wild alfalfa \textit{Psoralea tenuiflora}
Wild bean \textit{Strophostyles leiosperma}
Wild bergamot \textit{Monarda fistulosa}
Wild lettuce \textit{Lactuca canadensis}
Wild licorice \textit{Glycyrrhiza lepidota}
Wild onion \textit{Allium canadense}
Wild parsley \textit{Lomatium foeniculaceum}
Wild petunia \textit{Ruellia humilis}
Wild plum \textit{Prunus americana}
Wild strawberry \textit{Fragaria virginiana}
Willow-leaved lettuce \textit{Lactuca saligna}
Windmill grass \textit{Chloris arundinacea}
Winter cress \textit{Barbarea vulgaris}
Wirestem muhly \textit{Muhlenbergia frondosa}
Wood sedge \textit{Carex blanda}
Latin: English Name Equivalents of 370 Tallgrass Prairie Plants  
(Based largely on Spring Creek Prairie list of Kay Kottas, 2000)
Carex emoryi  Emory's sedge
Carex grvida  Heavy sedge
Carex grisea  Gray sedge
Carex heliophila  Sun sedge
Carex hysterica  Bottlebrush sedge
Carex meadii  Mead's sedge
Carex stipata  Sawbeak sedge
Carex vulpinoidea  Fox sedge
Cassia chamaecrista  Partridge pea
Catalpa speciosa  Northern catalpa
Ceanothus herbaceus  New Jersey tea
Celastrus scandens  American bittersweet
Cenchrus longispinus  Sandbur
Ceratophyllum demersum  Hornwort
Chenopodium berlandieri  Pitseed goosefoot
Chenopodium missouriense  Pitseed goosefoot
Chenopodium pratericola  Desert goosefoot
Chenopodium simplex  Maple-leaved goosefoot
Chenopodium standleyanum  Chenopodium
Chenopodium strictum  Chenopodium
Chichorium intybus  Chicory
Chloris verticillata  Windmill grass
Chorispora tenella  Blue mustard
Cirsium altissimum  Tall thistle
Cirsium flodmanii  Flodman's thistle
Cirsium undulatum  Wavyleaf thistle
Cirsium vulgare  Bull thistle
Comandra umbellata  False toadflax
Conium maculatum  Poison hemlock
Convolvulus arvensis  Field bindweed
Coryza canadensis  Horse-weed
Cornus drummondii  Rough-leaved dogwood
Cuscuta polygonorum  Smartweed dodder
Cyperus erythrorhizos  Red-root flat sedge
Cyperus lupinus  Fern flat sedge
Cyperus odoratus  Rusty flat sedge
Cyperus schweinitzii  Sedge
Cyperus strigosus  Straw-colored flat sedge
Dactylis glomerata  Orchardgrass
Dalea candida  White prairie clover
Dalea purpurea  Purple prairie clover
Datura stramonium  Jimson weed
Delphinium virescens  Prairie larkspur
Descurainia pinnata  Tansy mustard
Desmodium canadense  Showy tick trefoil
Desmodium illinoense  Illinois tickclover
Desmodium illinoense  Tick trefoil
Dianthus armeria  Deptford pink
Dichanthelium acuminatum  Dichanthelium
Dichanthelium leibergii  Leiberg's dichanthelium
Dichanthelium oligosanthes  Scribner dichanthelium
Digitaria sanguinalis  Hairy crabgrass
Dyssodia papposa  Fetid marigold
Echinacea angustifolia  Narrow-leaved coneflower
Echinochloa crusgalli  Barnyard grass
Eclipta prostrata  Yerba de tajo
Eleagnus angustifolia  Russian olive
Eleocharis erythropoda  Bald spikerush
Eleusine indica  Goosegrass
Ellisia nycetea  Waterpold
Elymus canadensis  Canada wild rye
Elymus villosus  Hairy wild rye
Epilobium coloratum  Purple leaved willow-herb
Equisetum arvense  Field horsetail
Equisetum laevigatum  Smooth scouring rush
Eragrostis cilianensis  Stinkgrass
Eragrostis spectabilis  Purple lovegrass
Erechtites hieracifolia  Fireweed
Erigeron philadelphicus  Philadelphia fleabane
Erigeron strigosus  Daisy fleabane
Erysimum asperum  Western wallflower
Erysimum repandum  Bushy wallflower
Eupatorium rugosum  White snakeroot
Euphorbia corollata  Flowering spurge
Euphorbia cyathophora  Fire-on-the-mountain
Euphorbia dentata  Toothed spurge
Euphorbia esula  Leafy spurge
Euphorbia marginata  Snow-on-the-mountain
Euphorbia nutans  Eyebane
Euthamia gymnospermoides.  Viscid euthamia
Festuca arundinacea  Tall fescue
Festuca obtusa  Nodding fescue
Fragaria virginiana  Wild strawberry
Fraxinus pennsylvanica  Green ash
Galium aparine  Catchweed bedstraw
Gaura longiflora  Large-flowered gaura
Gaura parviflora  Velvety gaura
Gentiana puberulenta  Downy gentian
Geum canadense  White avens
Glyceria striata  Fowl mannagrass
Glycyrrhiza lepidota  Wild licorice
Gnaphalium obtusifolium  Old-field balsam

37
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
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<tr>
<td><em>Grindelia squarrosa</em></td>
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<td><em>Hedyotis nigricans</em></td>
<td>Narrowleaf bluet</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Helianthus annuus</em></td>
<td>Common sunflower</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Helianthus grosseserratus</em></td>
<td>Sawtooth sunflower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Helianthus rigidus</em></td>
<td>Stiff sunflower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Helianthus tuberosus</em></td>
<td>Jerusalem artichoke</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Heliopsis helianthoides</em></td>
<td>False sunflower; ox-eye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Hibiscus trionum</em></td>
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<td><em>Hieracium longipilum</em></td>
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<td><em>Hordeum pusillum</em></td>
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<td><em>Hypericum perforatum</em></td>
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<td><em>Lactuca serriola</em></td>
<td>Prickly lettuce</td>
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<td><em>Lamium amplexicaule</em></td>
<td>Henbit</td>
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<td><em>Leersia oryzoides</em></td>
<td>Rice cutgrass</td>
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<td><em>Leersia virginica</em></td>
<td>White grass</td>
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<td><em>Lemna minor</em></td>
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<td><em>Leonurus cardiaca</em></td>
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<td><em>Lepidium densiflorum</em></td>
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<td><em>Leptoloma cognatum</em></td>
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<td><em>Lespedeza capitata</em></td>
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<td><em>Lespedeza stipulacea</em></td>
<td>Korean lespedeza</td>
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<td><em>Liatris aspera</em></td>
<td>Rough gayfeather</td>
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<td><em>Liatris punctata</em></td>
<td>Dotted gayfeather</td>
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<td><em>Linum sulcatum</em></td>
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<td><em>Lobelia siphilitica</em></td>
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<td><em>Lomatium foeniculaceum</em></td>
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<td><em>Lotus purshianus</em></td>
<td>Prairie trefoil</td>
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<td><em>Lycopus americana</em></td>
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<td><em>Lygodesmia juncea.</em></td>
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<td><em>Lysimachia ciliata</em></td>
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<td><em>Malva rotundifolia</em></td>
<td>Round-leaved mallow</td>
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<td><em>Matricaria matricarioides</em></td>
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<td><em>Medicago lupulina</em></td>
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<td><em>Medicago sativa</em></td>
<td>Alfalfa</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Melilotus albus</em></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
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<tr>
<td><em>Menispernum canadense</em></td>
<td>Moonseed</td>
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<td><em>Mentha arvensis</em></td>
<td>Field mint, wild mint</td>
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<td><em>Microseris cuspidata</em></td>
<td>False dandelion</td>
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<td><em>Mirabilis hirsuta</em></td>
<td>Hairy four-o’clock</td>
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<td><em>Mirabilis linearis</em></td>
<td>Narrow-leaved four-o’clock</td>
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<td><em>Mirabilis nyctaginea</em></td>
<td>Four o’clock</td>
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<td><em>Muhlenbergia racemosa</em></td>
<td>Marsh muhly</td>
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<td>Nimblewill</td>
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<td>Catnip</td>
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<td><em>Oenothera villosa</em></td>
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<td>False gromwell</td>
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<td><em>Oxalis dilleni</em></td>
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<td><em>Oxalis stricta</em></td>
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<td><em>Paspalum setaceum</em></td>
<td>Sand paspalum</td>
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<td><em>Pediomelum (=Psoralea)</em></td>
<td>Scurfpeas</td>
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<td><em>Penstemon cobaea</em></td>
<td>Cobaea penstemon</td>
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<td><em>Penstemon grandiflorus</em></td>
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<td><em>Penthorum sedoides</em></td>
<td>Ditch stonecrop</td>
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<td><em>Phalaris arundinacea</em></td>
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<td>Timothy</td>
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<td>Spearleaf groundcherry</td>
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<td><em>Plantago rugelii</em></td>
<td>Rugel's plantain</td>
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<td><em>Plantago virginica</em></td>
<td>Pale-seeded plantain</td>
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<td><em>Poa compressa</em></td>
<td>Canada bluegrass</td>
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<td><em>Poa pratensis</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Polygonatum biflorum</em></td>
<td>Solomon's seal</td>
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<td><em>Polygonum arenastrum</em></td>
<td>Common knotweed</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Polygonum bicornum</em></td>
<td>Pink smartweed</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Polygonum convolvulus  Climbing buckwheat
Polygonum pensylvanicum  Pennsylvania smartweed
Polygonum persicaria  Lady's thumb
Polygonum punctatum  Water smartweed
Polygonum scandens  False climbing buckwheat
Populus deltoides  Eastern Cottonwood
Potamogeton foliosus  Leafy pondweed
Potentilla norvegica  Norwegian cinquefoil
Potentilla recta  Sulphur cinquefoil
Prenanthes aspera  Silver-leaf scurf-pea
Psoralea argophylla  Silver-leaf scurf-pea
Psoralea esculenta  Prairie turnip
Psoralea tenuiflora  Wild alfalfa
Quercus macrocarpa  Bur oak
Ranunculus arborvitae  Smallflower buttercup
Ranunculus sceleratus  Cursed crowfoot
Ratibida columnifera  Coneflower
Ratibida pinnata  Tall Coneflower
Rhus glabra  Smooth sumac
Ribes missouriense  Missouri gooseberry
Robinia pseudo-acacia  Black locust
Rorippa palustris  Bog yellow cress
Rosa arkansana  Prairie wild rose
Rosa multiflora  Multiflora rose
Rubus occidentalis  Black raspberry
Rudbeckia hirta  Black-eyed susan
Rudbeckia laciniata  Golden glow
Ruellia humilis  Wild petunia
Rumex acetosella  Sheep sorrel
Rumex altissimus  Pale dock
Rumex crispus  Curly dock
Sagittaria calycina  Hooded arrowhead
Sagittaria latifolia  Common arrowhead
Salix amygdaloides  Peachleaf willow
Salix exigua  Sandbar willow
Salvia azurea  Pitcher sage
Sambucus canadensis  Elderberry
Sanicula canadensis  Black snakeroot
Schedonnardus paniculatus  Tumblegrass
Schizachyrium scoparium  Little bluestem
Schoenoplectus pungens  Three-square bulrush
Schoenoplectus tabernaemontii  Soft-stem bulrush
Scirpus atrovirens  Dark green rush
Sclerochloa dura  Hard grass
Scutellaria parvula  Leonard's small skullcap
Senecio interrimus  Lamb's-tongue groundsel
Senecio plattensis  Prairie ragwort
Setaria glauca  Yellow foxtail
Setaria viridis  Green foxtail
Sicyos angulatus  Bur cucumber
Silene antirrhina  Sleepy catchfly
Silphium integrifolium  Rosin-weed
Silphium laciniatum  Compass plant
Silphium perfoliatum  Cup plant
Sisymbrium loeselli  Tallhedge mustard
Sisyrinchium campestre  White-eyed grass
Smilax hispida  Bristly greenbriar
Solanum carolinense  Horsenettle
Solanum ptycanthum  Eastern black nightshade
Solanum rostratum  Buffalo bur
Solidago canadensis  Canada goldenrod
Solidago gigantea  Late goldenrod
Solidago missouriensis  Missouri goldenrod
Solidago nemoralis  Gray goldenrod
Solidago rigida  Stiff goldenrod
Solidago speciosa  Showy goldenrod
Sonchus asper  Common sow thistle
Sorghastrum nutans  Indian grass
Sorghum bicolor  Shattercane
Spartina pectinata  Prairie cordgrass
Sphenopholis obtusata  Prairie wedgegrass
Spiranthes magnicamporum  Great Plains ladies'-tresses
Spiranthes vernalis  Early ladies'-tresses
Spirodela polyrrhiza  Greater duckweed
Sporobolus asper  Tall dropseed
Sporobolus heterolepis  Prairie dropseed
Sporobolus vaginiflorus  Poverty grass
Stellaria pallica  Chickweed
Stipa spartea  Porcupine-grass
Strophostyles leiosperma  Wild bean
Symphoricarpos occidentalis  Western snowberry
Symphoricarpos orbiculatus  Coralberry, buckbrush
Symphyotrichum (=Aster) spp.  Asters
Taraxacum officinale  Dandelion
Teucrium canadense  American germander
Thalictrum dasycarpum  Purple meadow rue
Thlaspi arvense  Field pennycress
Toxicodendron radicans  Poison ivy
Tradescantia bracteata  Long-bracted spiderwort
Tragopogon dubius  Goat's beard
Thlaspi arvense Field pennycress
Toxicodendron radicans Poison ivy
Tradescantia bracteata Long-bracted spiderwort
Tragopogon dubius Goat's beard
Tribulus terrestris Puncture vine
Tridens flavus Redtop grass
Trifolium pratense Red clover
Trifolium repens White clover
Triodanis perfoliata Venus’ looking glass
Typha angustifolia Narrow-leaved cat-tail
Typha latifolia Broad-leaved cat-tail
Ulmus americana American bugleweed
Ulmus pumila Siberian elm
Ulmus rubra Red elm
Urtica dioica Tall nettle
Verbascum thapsus Common mullein
Verbena bracteata Prostrate vervain
Verbena hastata Hoary vervain
Verbena stricta Hoary vervain
Verbena urticifolia White vervain
Verbena urticifolia White whitlowort
Vernonia baldwinii Western ironweed
Veronica agrestis Field speedwell
Veronica arvensis Com speedwell
Vicia americana American vetch
Vicia villosa Hairy vetch
Viola pedatifida Prairie violet
Viola pratincola Blue prairie violet
Viola rafinesquii Johnny-jump-up
Viola sororia Downy blue violet
Vitis riparia River-bank grape
Wolfia columbiana Watermeal
Xanthium strumarium. Cocklebur

White (Cudweed) Sage (Artemisia ludoviciana).
Identification Keys to Some Common Nebraska Grassland Forbs
(Page references refer to descriptions in Farrar, 1990)

Key to Common Nebraska Goldenrods (Solidago & Euthamia)

A Flowers in a terminal, flat-topped cluster or tight group at end of central axis
  B. Leaves without glandular dots... Rigid goldenrod. S. rigid. (p. 121). Widespread
  BB. Leaves with tiny glandular dots... Grassleaf goldenrod, Euthamia graminifolia.
       (p. 119.) Widespread.

AA Flowers not in terminal cluster, often in cone-like panicles
  B Flowers in small clusters in leaf axils or a straight cylindrical cluster
    C. Leaf veins nearly parallel... Canada goldenrod. S. canadensis (p. 121). Widespread
    CC. Veins spreading from midrib... Showy-wand goldenrod... S. speciosa (p. 120).
        Eastern fourth of Nebraska.
    • BB. Flowers terminal, in racemes (short stalks off a main axis) or panicle (coming of a main branch), nodding, and with the heads mainly along one side
      C. Leaves mostly basal, the upper ones progressively reduced
      D. Stems smooth... Prairie goldenrod. S. missouriensis (p. 120). Widespread
         DD. Stem slightly hairy... Gray goldenrod. S. nemoralis. Widespread.
      CC. Leaves mostly on the stem, not progressively reduced.
      D. Leaves with a single main vein... Elm-leaved goldenrod. S. ulmifolia. Rare in southeastern Nebraska
      DD. Leaves with three prominent veins.
         E. Leaves and stem smooth 5-6 feet tall... Late goldenrod. S. gigantea.
            (p. 121.) Widespread.
      EE. Leaves rough or pubescent 1-4 feet tall
         F. From 2-4 ft. tall... Canada goldenrod. S. canadensis (p. 121).
            Widespread
         FF. From 12-20” tall... Soft goldenrod. S. mollis. Uncommon.

Key to Common Nebraska Gayfeathers (Liatris)

A. Heads 4-6 flowered, leaves linear, with tiny dots.... L. punctata (Dotted gayfeather). Statewide.
       (p. 176)
AA. Heads usually with 10 or more flowers, leaves variably punctate (dotted)
  B. Spikes with leafy supports longer than florets, to 2 ft tall, upper stem not hairy;
     flower bracts with short pointed tips ... L. squarosa = glabrata (Scaly gayfeather or Blazing star). Statewide, sandy grasslands. (p. 175)
BB. Spikes not with conspicuous leafy supports below flower clusters, often 3-5 ft tall
   C. Spikes interrupted, leaves with rough edges, bracts rounded, upper stem hairy... L. aspera (Rough gayfeather). Eastern half of Nebraska. (p. 177)
   CC. Spikes continuous, leaves not with rough edges, to 5 ft tall. Lower leaves much longer basally (to 20”), flower bracts spreading, long-pointed...
       pycnostachya (Prairie gayfeather). Eastern third of Nebraska (p. 176)
Key to Common Nebraska Milkweeds (Asclepias)

1a. Habitat: Upland fields, prairies, wasteland
   1. Flowers orange...Butterfly milkweed, (A. tuberosa) p. 127 (Southeastern Nebraska)
   2. Flowers flesh-colored, pink...Common milkweed, (A. syriaca) p. 163 (Widespread in eastern Nebraska)
   3. Flowers green and purple...Spider or Green-flowered milkweed (A. viridis), p. 16
      (Southeastern Nebraska)
   4. Flowers all green: Go to 5
      5a. Leaves small, linear, flowers terminal on unbranched stems...Whorled milkweed (A. verticilla) p. 46. (Widespread)
      5b Leaves narrow & long, flowers clustered on short stems...Narrow-leaved milkweed (A. stenophylla) (p. 17) (Widespread)
      5c. Leaves broad ovate, flowers terminal and in leaf axils...Green milkweed (A. viridiflora) (p. 17) (Widespread)

1b. Habitat: Moist, open bottomlands, floodplains
   Flowers pink, rarely white, leaves linear...Swamp milkweed (A. incarnata)
      (p. 165) (Widespread)

1c. Habitat: Low prairies
   Flowers pink, leaves oval, thick,...Smooth or Sullivant’s milkweed (A. sullivantii),
   (p. 162)(Eastern Nebraska)

Key to Common Nebraska Sunflowers (Helianthus & Heliopsis)

1a. Leaves with long petioles (leaf stems), petioles not winged
   2a. Leaves large, ovate to broad, with irregular large teeth, mostly alternate except uppermost, disk without white center...Common sunflower, H. annuus. Widespread. p. 125
   2b. Leaves ovate to lance-like, usually not notched and few teeth, all leaves alternate, disk with whitish center...Plains sunflower, H. petiolaris. Widespread, p. 122
   2c. Leaves opposite on long petioles, broadly ovate to triangular, large teeth, hairy...False sunflower or Oxeye, Heliopsis helianthoides. Eastern Nebraska. p. 116

1b. Leaves with winged (having flattened edges) petioles
   2d. Leaves lance-shaped, coarsely toothed, long, 3-veined, rough hairy above, downy below...Jerusalem artichoke H. tuberosus. Widespread in east. p. 124
   2e. Leaves long, coarsely toothed, petioles often with small wings, upper leaves closely spaced, alternate, lower ones usually opposite...Sawtooth sunflower, H. grosseserratus. Mostly eastern Nebraska. p. 124

1c. Leaves sessile or with very short petioles.
   2f. Leaves densely gray-green, broadly ovate, opposite, teeth inconspicuous...Ashy sunflower, H. mollis. Rare in southeastern Nebraska.
   2g. Leaves rough, arched and folded into a trough, toothless, with conspicuous middle veins...Maximilian’s sunflower, H. maximilian Widespread. p. 125
   2h. Leaves fairly uniformly lance-like, rough hairy, very short petioles, almost all opposite, 9-15 leaves below a few flowers, teeth small...Stiff sunflower, H. rigidus. Central & western Nebraska.
   2i. Leaves variable, broadly lance-like, rough, hairy, & toothless, with very short petioles...Hairy sunflower, H. hirsutus. Southeastern Nebraska.
Key to Common Nebraska Thistles (Cirsium spp. and Carduus nutans)

1. Flower head white or pale pink to pale purple; if colored then heads small, in dense clusters; plant to 4 ft. tall
   A. Leaves lighter below than above, nodding flower heads 1+ inch wide...Platte thistle (C. canescens). Mostly western.
   AA. Leaves whitish above and below, heads 1/2" wide & clustered...Canada thistle (C. arvense). Statewide, moist sites.(p. 156)

2. Flower heads pink to purple, not white and not densely clustered; variable height
   A. Stem with spiny wings below leaf bases, plant up to 6+ ft tall
      a. Flower head bracts reflexed down, nodding head, leaves not hairy above...Musk thistle (Carduus nutans). Eastern Nebraska, moist sites.(p. 159)
      aa. Flower head with erect bracts that are yellow-tipped, head erect, leaves hairy above...Bull thistle (C. vulgare). Statewide, disturbed sites.(p. 158)
   AA. Stem without spiny wings below leaf bases, plant up to 5 ft tall
      b. Leaves generally oval in shape, not so highly dissected and spiny
         1. Leaves not wavy-edged, head not sticky, to 5 ft tall...Tall thistle (C. altissimum). Mostly eastern Nebraska.
         2. Leaves wavy-edged, head sticky, to 3 ft tall ...Wavyleaf thistle (C. undulatum). Mostly western Nebraska.
      bb. Leaves not oval. very dissected & spiny. undersides very hairy
         1. Upper leaf surface smooth green, leaves large, to 5 ft tall...Field thistle (C. discolor) Rare in southeastern Nebraska.
         2. Upper leaf surface partly hairy, leaves small, to 2.5 ft. tall ...Flodman’s or Prairie thistle (C. flodmanii). Statewide, in moist soils.(p. 158)

Key to Common Nebraska Sages & Sageworts (Artemisia)

A Herbs, stem base not woody
   a. Leaf segments 2 mm. or more wide, or entire and over 2 mm wide, plant to 40” high,
      aa. Leaves with dense woolly & white pubescence, at least below...White or Cudweed sage (A. ludoviciana). Statewide.
      bb. Leaves green and glabrous, to 3” long, stems reddish...Green sagewort (A. dracunculus ). Widespread
   b. Leaf segments often less than 2 mm. wide
      aa, Receptacle hairy between flowers; leaf segments <1 mm. plant to 2 ft tall...Fringed sagewort (A. frigida) West and central Nebraska
      bb. Receptacle not hairy between flowers; leaf segments > 1 mm, to 3 ft tall..
         aaa. Leaves mostly entire, to 6 mm. wide, surface glabrous (shiny) green, heads numerous, in compound panicle...
         Green sagewort (A. dracunculus). Widespread,
         bbb. Leaves usually subdivided; if entire then tormentose (woolly) leaves to 1.5 cm. wide, heads numerous, in open panicle...
         Cudweed or White sage (A. ludoviciana). Statewide.
AA. Shrubs or subshrubs, the stem base woody

B: Leaves deeply divided, repeatedly dissected, to 1/2 m high... *A. frigida* (Fringed sagewort).
   West and central Nebraska

BB: Leaves entire or 3-cleft at tip, usually over 1/2 m high
   aa. Leaves simple or deeply 3-cleft into linear lobes, to 1 m high... *A. filifolia* (Sand sagebrush). West and southwestern Nebraska.
   bb. Leaves lanceolate or elliptic-lanceolate, to 1 m high... *A. cana* (Silver sagebrush).
   Northwestern panhandle.
   cc. Leaves shallowly 3-cleft at tip, to 4 m high... *A. tridentata* (Big sagebrush). Northwestern panhandle

Note:
Technical keys to all of the vascular plants of Nebraska can be found in *The Flora of Nebraska*, by R. Kaul, D. Sutherland and S. Rolfsmeier, 2006, Conservation & Survey Division, School of Natural Resources, U. of Nebraska-Lincoln. Lincoln, NE. 966 pp.

Fringed sagewort (*Artemisia frigida*)
Part 3: Animals of the Tallgrass Prairies

Drawing by P. Johnsgard: Greater Prairie-chicken
Greater Prairie-chickens and Native Prairies

The greater prairie-chicken has an English vernacular name that sadly understates both its beauty and its aesthetic values. Granted this name makes clear that the bird’s presence provides a reliable indication of native prairies, and it is somewhat “greater” in size than the lesser prairie-chicken, which was eliminated from western Nebraska more than 70 years ago. But the prairie-chickens are no more chickens than is a turkey from Turkey. Perhaps the prairie-chicken should have been called something like “soul-of-the-prairie,” or possibly “spirit-of-the-grasslands,” forcing anybody who wants to kill it to think twice about his motives. Those who have spent a spring sunrise with prairie-chickens will know exactly what is meant by these semantic intimations of the holy; there is a sense of the sublime when one is in the presence of displaying prairie-chickens. They are acting out the identical courtship routines that they inherited from distant ancestors, on grassland sites made sacred through their annual use by uncountable generations past. Additionally they are determining, by both battle and bluff, which individual males are most fit to transmit their genes to the next generation through differentially being able to attract the females that visit the lek when ready to lay their eggs. Darwin’s concept of survival and reproduction of the fittest is played out on a daily basis on these grassy hilltops every spring. Being able to witness these performances is an auspicious act in the original Latin sense; the actions of the birds provide a reliable augury relative to the future fortunes of the species.

We have far too few sacred natural sites in eastern Nebraska; most of the Pawnee, Omaha and Otoe holy sites have since been cleared and “developed,” or their exact locations have been long forgotten. But we must not forget the locations of prairie-chicken leks; they whisper to us of secret places where grama-grasses and blue stems grow thick on the ground, and where flint arrowheads are likely to lie buried beneath the thatch and loess. They tell us of meadowlark and dickcissel song-perches, and of traditional coyote hunting grounds. They are as much a connection to our past as are the ruts left in the Nebraska soil by Conestoga wagons, or the preserved costumes of Native Americans Plains cultures carefully stored in museums. But such eroding wagon trails and fading costumes are essentially static and retrospective icons; prairie-chickens are the vital essence of life itself, clinging to their brief moments in the sun with all the energies they can muster. They risk attack by both early-rising hawks and late-flying owls, simply to have a chance to reproduce before they are all too quickly cut down by predators, disease or a hunter’s gun. The feathers that they wear, and that are sometimes strewn over the ground when a predator has been successful, are the camouflage colors of dead grass, and their soft hypnotic voices are both exciting and yet at the same time soothing, like the mantras emanating from a Hindu temple. They comprise a New World symphony all by themselves, a harmony of sound, color and movement.

It is easy enough to save these wonderful sights and sounds for following generations. We only need recognize that both prairies and prairie-chickens need to be preserved, if for no other reason then to help us understand what Nebraskans such as Willa Cather meant when she wrote lovingly of our “shaggy grass land” or what John Weaver meant when he said that “civilized man is destroying a masterpiece of nature without recording for posterity that which he has destroyed.” We may well sometimes destroy the things we love out of ignorance; we should never do it purposefully.

To provide some sense of what is at stake, the eastern race of the greater prairie-chicken (the Pilgrim’s famous “heath hen”) is now extinct in all seven Atlantic Coast states where it once occurred. The Attwater’s race of the Gulf Coast has been extirpated from Louisiana and is critically endangered
in Texas. The species’ interior race has been extirpated from 11 states and provinces, and is marginally surviving in eight others. Only three states (Nebraska, Kansas and South Dakota) still allow for regular, virtually uncontrolled, prairie-chicken hunting, although in none of these states are agency biologists willing to even hazard a guess as to how many birds still exist there. The annual hunter kill in Kansas has dropped from a peak of 109,000 in the early ’80s to about 12,000 in 1999, paralleling a comparable 70-90 percent decline in Missouri’s population over the same time span. Although as recently as 1980 there may have been as many as a million greater prairie-chickens present in North America, by the late 1990s no more than 200,000-300,000 were believed to be present. Of the 55,000 birds estimated to have been shot legally by hunters in 1997, some 35,000 were killed in Nebraska.

Rather than permitting the killing of prairie-chickens, state game and parks agencies around the Midwest could better spend their efforts in preserving every last shred of prairie they can locate, thereby conserving not only prairie-chickens but also more than 200 species of native prairie plants, some 30-odd grassland-adapted birds that like the prairie-chicken are nearly all declining nationally, and countless other living things. They would also thus be preserving special places of spiritual renewal for human visitors who prefer seeing, enjoying and remembering the natural world, rather than providing hunters with opportunities for collecting a few soon-forgotten feathered trophies.

By comparison, a spring sunrise spent in the company of prairie-chickens can be as meaningful as witnessing a miraculous rebirth, for that is what is actually occurring. The odor of freshly greening grass is infinitely more memorable than the stringent smell of burnt gunpowder, and the harmonic cooing notes of a dozen male grouse calling simultaneously on a prairie hilltop in the half-light of dawn is as compellingly beautiful as a string ensemble playing a late Beethoven quartet. For those who know the current perilous status of prairie-chickens, the soft sounds might also bring to mind the ineffable sadness of the ending of Tchaikovsky’s last (Pathetique) Symphony, with its intimations of despair and forebodings of death. Perhaps it is not too late to alter this ending, or at least to add a final triumphant coda. We only need to save the prairies to accomplish this small miracle ourselves.

**Courtship Behavior of the Greater Prairie-chicken**

Within each male’s greater prairie-chicken’s territory, which is within the collective area used by all the males, called the lek, he spends his time performing a variety of postures, movements and calls that both serve to ward off potential competitors and tend to attract females. Much of the early display period is actually spent in establishing an adequate amount of space where he can posture and call without constant attacks from other males. Older, more experienced males are able to establish larger and more desirable territories than younger ones, namely those locations situated near the middle of the overall lekking area, which are the sites that females seek out when soliciting mating. Somehow females can rapidly recognize and are attracted to these most dominant males, or “alpha cocks,” perhaps by their interior position and probably also by their relative vigor and frequency of displays.

Much the most characteristic display of all greater prairie-chickens is the booming posture and call. In assuming the preliminary forward posture, the tail is cocked to at least the vertical, the ear-like feathers call pinnae are variably raised, and the primaries of both wings are lowered while still held within the flank feathers, rather than being spread laterally as in sharp-tailed grouse. The display sequence begins with a rapid foot-stamping that lasts up to two seconds, while the feet are alternately stamped at a rate of about 20 times per second, producing a sound audible up to 100 feet away. The tail is then quickly opened and shut twice, producing a seemingly single click audible only at close range, and the first of the three booming or tooting notes are uttered as the yellow air sacs rapidly inflate. The three-noted call varies little in loudness, or in fundamental sound frequency, but the third
and longest note (lasting about a second) has better developed harmonics, making its average pitch seem somewhat higher. The head is jerked down slightly during the first note, but nearly so conspicuously as in the lesser prairie-chicken. The air sacs also slightly vary in degree of inflation during the three notes, being most highly expanded during the final note. The call’s typical transcription, “Old-Mul-dooon,” describes the sound well, a noise much like that which is produced by blowing over the opening of a large bottle. The tail is progressively spread and again closed toward the end of the vocalization, and the beak finally opens as the air sacs deflate. The tail is progressively spread and again closed toward the end of the vocalization, and the beak finally opens as the air sacs deflate. No special direction is maintained during booming, over time the male is likely to face all directions. Booming occurs by each male at a usual rate of several times per minute, but is especially frequent and intense when females make their appearance on the lek.

Under favorable conditions this call can be heard well over a mile away, and rarely it may carry for several miles, normally making it well within the home ranges of many other prairie-chickens. In favorable habitats, leks are often spaced little more than a mile apart, so under such conditions female prairie-chicken are probably never out of the hearing range of males from at least the nearest lek, and perhaps they can hear several. The low frequency notes are especially well adapted for long-distance transmission over open habitats, in contrast to high-pitched sounds that tend to be easily absorbed by surrounding vegetation and wind.

The other most common call is a cackling note, sometimes called the “staccato cackle”, and usually uttered from an upright posture. This or a very similar cackle is sometime also uttered immediately after short, jumping flights, called “flutter-jumps,” which are usually initiated when a new bird arrives on the lek, regardless of its sex.

Although the cackles are largely oriented toward other males, one call is uttered only in the visual presence of females. It is a strange, whooping call, sometimes described as a “poik” note, lasting about a half-second. It has a fundamental frequency about twice that of the booming call but otherwise is somewhat similar to it acoustically. There is no associated obvious neck inflation, but at times sharp tail-clicks may precede it, as is the case with booming. It also carries relatively long distances, and can be more easily localized aurally as to the sound source than can booming.

Males also use one specific postural display directed only toward females, and only when the male is close to a specific female and in a precopulatory situation. This is a “bowing” or “prostrate” posture, with the breast lowered to the ground, the wings outstretched to the side, and the pinnate and tail fully cocked. The posture is silent, and may be held only for a few seconds. Often copulation immediately follows. The occurs in the usual manner of all gallinaceous birds such as chickens, pheasants and turkeys, with the female lying with her breast flat on the ground, and with her wings spread sufficiently far as to provide a stable platform for the male. Copulation is very brief, and if successful, the female shakes herself, preens for a time, and then leaves the lek rather promptly. A moderate percentage of the total copulation attempts are unsuccessful, often because of harassment and direct physical interference by nearby males or even by other females.

Aggressive encounters between males involve several different postures, such as confrontational crouching while facing one another and uttering cackling or whining notes. The birds may also walk parallel to a rival in an upright stance, often simultaneously booming. Fights are most common early in the lekking season, while territorial boundaries are still being actively contested. They involve alternate or simultaneous jumping into the air, attempting to strike the opponent with the feet or the wings, or pecking the other bird’s throat or breast. Often feathers are pulled out during these contests, and I have seen some bleeding scratches on the bare air sacs, but fatalities have never been reported.
Seasonal Checklist of Nebraska Tallgrass Ecoregion Birds (Gage County)
(Adapted by Paul Johnsgard from “The Birds of Gage County, Nebraska,” by Kent Fiala

Abundance Abbreviations:
A: Abundant
C: Common
U: Uncommon
O: Occasional
R: Rare or Local
Ac: Accidental
Seasonal Abbreviations:
PR: Permanent Resident
SR: Summer Resident (Breeding assumed)
SV: Summer Visitant (non-breeding)
M: Spring & Fall Migrant
SM: Spring Migrant
FM: Fall Migrant
WM: Wintering Migrant
V: Vagrant in Nebraska (varied seasons)

Anatidae: Swans, Geese, and Ducks
_ Greater White-fronted Goose, Anser albifrons OM
_ Snow Goose, Chen caerulescens UM
_ Ross’s Goose, Chen rossii UM
_ Cackling Goose, Branta hutchinsii CM
_ Canada Goose, Branta canadensis CMSR
_ Wood Duck, Aix sponsa OMSR
_ Gadwall, Anas strepera OM
_ Eurasian Wigeon, Anas penelope UM
_ American Wigeon, Anas americana
_ American Black Duck, Anas rubripes
_ Mallard, Anas platyrhynchos UMSR
_ Blue-winged Teal Anas discors UMSR
_ Cinnamon Teal Anas cyanoptera RM
_ Northern Shoveler, Anas clypeata IM
_ Northern Pintail, Anas acuta UM
_ Green-winged Teal Anas crecca UM
_ Canvasback, Aythya valisineria OM
_ Redhead, Aythya americana OM
_ Ring-necked Duck, Aythya collaris OM
_ Lesser Scaup, Aythya affinis UM
_ Long-tailed Duck, Clangula hyemalis RM
_ Bufflehead, Bucephala albeola OM
_ Common Goldeneye, Bucephala clangula RM
_ Hooded Merganser, Lophodytes cucullatus OM
_ Red-breasted Merganser, Mergus serrator RM
_ Common Merganser, Mergus merganser OM
_ Ruddy Duck, Oxyura jamaicensis OM
Phasianidae: Partridges, Grouse, etc
_ Ring-necked Pheasant, Phasianus colchicus CPR
_ Greater Prairie-Chicken, Tympanuchus cupido RPR?
_ Wild Turkey, Meleagris gallopavo Reintroduced PR
Odontophoridae: New World Quail
_ Northern Bobwhite, Colinus virginianus CPR
Gaviidae: Loons
_ Common Loon, Gavia immer RM
Podicipedidae: Grebes
_ Pied-billed Grebe, Podilymbus podiceps CM
_ Red-necked Grebe, Podiceps grisegena RM
_ Eared Grebe, Podiceps nigricollis OM
Pelecanidae: Pelicans
_ American White Pelican, Pelecanus erythrorhynchos OM
Phalacrocoracidae: Cormorants
_ Double-crested Cormorant, Phalacrocorax auritus OM
Ardeidae: Bitterns and Herons
_ Great Blue Heron, Ardea herodias UMSR
_ Little Blue Heron, Egretta caerulea OSV
___ Green Heron, Butorides virescens UMSR
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron, Nycticorax
   nycticorax OM
___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Nyctanassa
   violacea OMSV
**Cathartidae: American Vultures**
___ Turkey Vulture, Cathartes aura UMSR
**Accipitridae: Kites, Hawks, Eagles**
___ Osprey, Pandion haliaetus OM
___ Northern Harrier, Circus cyaneus UPR
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk, Accipiter striatus UVW
___ Cooper’s Hawk, Accipiter cooperii OWM
___ Northern Goshawk, Accipiter gentilis RWM
___ Red-shouldered Hawk, Buteo lineatus RWM
___ Broad-winged Hawk, Buteo platypterus RM
___ Swainson’s Hawk, Buteo swainsoni OM
___ Red-tailed Hawk, Buteo jamaicensis CPR
___ Ferruginous Hawk, Buteo regalis RM
___ Rough-legged Hawk, Buteo lagopus UWM
___ Golden Eagle, Aquila chrysaetos RWM
**Falconidae: Falcons**
___ American Kestrel, Falco sparverius UPR
___ Merlin, Falco columbarius RM
___ Prairie Falcon, Falco mexicanus RWM
___ Peregrine Falcon, Falco peregrinus RWM
**Rallidae: Rails, Gallinules, Coots**
___ American Coot, Fulica americana UM
**Gruidae: Cranes**
___ Sandhill Crane, Grus canadensis RM
___ Whooping Crane, Grus americana
   EXTINGUISHED
**Charadriidae: Plovers**
___ Semipalmated Plover, Charadrius semipalmatus OM
___ Killdeer, Charadrius vociferus CSR
**Recurvirostridae: Stilts and Avocets**
___ American Avocet, Recurvirostra americana OM
**Scolopacidae: Sandpipers, Phalaropes**
___ Greater Yellowlegs, Tringa melanoleuca UM
___ Lesser Yellowlegs, Tringa flavirostris UM
___ Solitary Sandpiper, Tringa solitaria OM
___ Willet, Catoptrophorus semipalmatus OM
___ Spotted Sandpiper, Actitis macularia UM
___ Upland Sandpiper, Bartramia longicauda RM
___ Long-billed Curlew, Numenius americanus OM
___ Hudsonian Godwit, Limosa haemastica OM
___ Sanderling, Calidris alba RM
___ Semipalmated Sandpiper, Calidris pusilla UM
___ Western Sandpiper, Calidris mauri OM
___ Least Sandpiper, Calidris minutilla OM
___ White-rumped Sandpiper, Calidris fuscicollis OM
___ Baird’s Sandpiper, Calidris bairdii OM
___ Pectoral Sandpiper, Calidris melanotos UM
___ Dunlin, Calidris alpina OM
___ Stilt Sandpiper, Calidris himantopus RM
___ Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Tryngites
   subruficollis RM
___ Long-billed Dowitcher, Limnodromus
   scolopaceus RM
___ Wilson’s Snipe, Gallinago delicata UM
___ American Woodcock, Scolopax minor RM
___ Wilson’s Phalarope, Phalaropus tricolor OM
**Laridae: Gulls and Terns**
___ Franklin’s Gull, Larus pipixcan UM
___ Ring-billed Gull, Larus delawarensis OM
___ California Gull, Larus californicus
___ Sabine’s Gull, Xema sibeni RM
___ Common Tern, Sterna hirundo RM
___ Forster’s Tern, Sterna forsteri OM
___ Least Tern, Sterna antillarum RM
___ Black Tern, Chlidonias niger RM
**Columbidae: Pigeons and Doves**
___ Rock Pigeon, Columba livia CPR
___ Mourning Dove, Zenaida macroura APR
**Cuculidae: Cuckoos and Anis**
___ Black-billed Cuckoo, Coccyzus erythropthalmus
   OSR
___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Coccyzus americanus
   USR
**Tytonidae: Barn Owls**
___ Barn Owl, Tyto alba RPR
**Strigidae: Typical Owls**
___ Eastern Screech-Owl, Otus asio UPR
___ Great Horned Owl, Bubo virginianus UPR
___ Snowy Owl, Nyctea scandiaca RWM
___ Long-eared Owl, Asio otus OPR
___ Short-eared Owl, Asio flammeus OWM
___ Northern Saw-whet Owl, Aegolius acadicus RWM
**Caprimulgidae: Goatsuckers**
___ Common Nighthawk, Chordeiles minor CSR
**Apodidae: Swifts**
___ Chimney Swift, Chaetura pelagica
___ White-throated Swift, Aeronauts saxatalis
**Trochilidae: Hummingbirds**
___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Archilochus
   colubris UM, RSR
**Alethinidae: Kingfishers**
___ Belted Kingfisher, Ceryle alcyon UPR
Picidae: Woodpeckers
- Lewis’s Woodpecker, Melanerpes lewis
- Red-headed Woodpecker, Melanerpes erythrocephalus CPR
- Red-bellied Woodpecker, Melanerpes carolinus CPR
- Willow’s Sapsucker, Sphyrapicus varius RWM
- Williamson’s Sapsucker, Sphyrapicus thyroideus
- Downy Woodpecker, Picoides pubescens CPR
- Hairy Woodpecker, Picoides villosus CPR
- Northern Flicker, Colaptes auratus CPR
- Pileated Woodpecker, Dryocopus pileatus

Tyrannidae: Tyrant Flycatchers
- Olive-sided Flycatcher, Contopus cooperi RM
- Eastern Wood-Pewee, Contopus virens CSR
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Empidonax flaviventris
- Least Flycatcher, Empidonax minimus UM
- Eastern Phoebe, Sayornis phoebe CSR
- Great Crested Flycatcher, Myiarchus crinitus CSR
- Western Kingbird, Tyrannus verticalis CSR
- Eastern Kingbird, Tyrannus tyrannus CSR
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Tyrannus forficatus OSR

Laniidae: Shrikes
- Loggerhead Shrike, Lanius ludovicianus UM

Vireonidae: Vireos
- White-eyed Vireo, Vireo griseus OM
- Bell’s Vireo, Vireo bellii USR
- Blue-headed Vireo, Vireo solitarius RM
- Yellow-throated Vireo, Vireo flavifrons RM
- Warbling Vireo, Vireo gilvus CSR
- Philadelphia Vireo, Vireo philadelphicus RM
- Red-eyed Vireo, Vireo olivaceus CSR

Corvidae: Jays, Magpies, and Crows
- Blue Jay, Cyanocitta cristata CPR
- Black-billed Magpie, Pica pica RWM
- American Crow, Corvus brachyrhynchos CPR

Alaudidae: Larks
- Horned Lark, Eremophila alpestris CPR

Hirundinidae: Swallows
- Purple Martin, Progne subis CSR
- Tree Swallow, Tachycineta bicolor USR
- N Rough-winged Swallow, Stelgidopteryx serripennis USR
- Bank Swallow, Riparia riparia USR
- Barn Swallow, Hirundo rustica CSR

Paridae: Titmice
- Black-capped Chickadee, Poecile atricapillus
- Tufted Titmouse, Baeolophus bicolor UPR

Sittidae: Nuthatches
- Red-breasted Nuthatch, Sitta canadensis UWM
- White-breasted Nuthatch, Sitta carolinensis CPR

Certhiidae: Creepers
- Brown Creeper, Certhia americana UWM

Troglodytidae: Wrens
- Carolina Wren, Thryothorus ludovicianus RPR
- House Wren, Troglodytes aedon CSR
- Winter Wren, Troglodytes troglodytes UWM
- Sedge Wren, Cistothorus platensis RM
- Marsh Wren, Cistothorus palustris RM

Regulidae: Kinglets
- Golden-crowned Kinglet, Regulus satrapa UWM
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Regulus calendula UM

Sylviidae: Gnatcatchers
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Polioptila caerulea RSR

Turdidae: Thrushes and Allies
- Eastern Bluebird, Sialia sialis UPR
- Townsend’s Solitaire, Myadestes townsendi OWM
- Veery, Catharus fuscescens RM
- Gray-cheeked Thrush, Catharus minimus UM
- Swainson’s Thrush, Catharus ustulatus CM
- Hermit Thrush, Catharus guttatus RM
- Wood Thrush, Hylocichla mustelina RSR
- American Robin, Turdus migratorius APR

Mimidae: Mockingbirds, Thrashers
- Gray Catbird, Dumetella carolinensis CSR
- Northern Mockingbird, Mimus polyglottos; USR
- Sage Thrasher, Oreoscoptes montanus
- Brown Thrasher, Toxostoma rufum CSR

Sturnidae: Starlings
- European Starling, Sturnus vulgaris APR

Motacillidae: Pipits
- American Pipit, Anthus rubescens OM
- Sprague’s Pipit, Anthus spragueii OM

Bombycillidae: Waxwings
- Bohemian Waxwing, Bombycilla garrulus OWM
- Cedar Waxwing, Bombycilla cedrorum UWM

Parulidae: Wood Warblers
- Blue-winged Warbler, Vermivora pinus
| Golden-winged Warbler, Vermivora chrysoptera | RM |
| Tennessee Warbler, Vermivora peregrina | CM |
| Orange-crowned Warbler, Vermivora celata | CM |
| Nashville Warbler, Vermivora ruficapilla | UM |
| Northern Parula, Parula americana | RM |
| Yellow Warbler, Dendroica petechia | CSR |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler, Dendroica pensylvanica | OM |
| Magnolia Warbler, Dendroica magnolia | RM |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler, Dendroica caerulescens | RM |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler, Dendroica coronata | CM |
| Black-throated Green Warbler, Dendroica virens | RM |
| Blackburnian Warbler, Dendroica fusca | UM |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler, Dendroica coronata | CM |
| Palm Warbler, Dendroica palmarum | RM |
| Bay-breasted Warbler, Dendroica castanea | OM |
| Blackpoll Warbler, Dendroica striata | UM |
| Black-and-white Warbler, Mniotilta varia | RM |
| American Redstart, Setophaga ruticilla | USR |
| Prothonotary Warbler, Protonotaria citrea | RSR |
| Ovenbird, Seiurus aurocapillus | USR |
| Northern Waterthrush, Seiurus noveboracensis | UM |
| Louisiana Waterthrush, Seiurus motacilla | OM |
| Kentucky Warbler, Oporornis formosus | RM |
| Mourning Warbler, Oporornis philadelphia | RM |
| MacGillivray’s Warbler, Oporornis tolmiei | RM |
| Common Yellowthroat, Geothlypis trichas | CSR |
| Hooded Warbler, Wilsonia citrina | RM |
| Yellow-breasted Chat, Icteria virens | OSR |

**Thraupidae: Tanagers**
- Summer Tanager, Piranga rubra | OM |
- Scarlet Tanager, Piranga olivacea | RSR |

**Emberizidae: Towhees & Sparrows**
- Eastern Towhee, Pipilo erythrophthalmus | UWM |
- Spotted Towhee, Pipilo maculatus | UWM |
- American Tree Sparrow, Spizella arborea | AWM |
- Chipping Sparrow, Spizella passerina | USR |
- Clay-colored Sparrow, Spizella pallida | CM |
- Field Sparrow, Spizella pusilla | USR |
- Vesper Sparrow, Poecetes gramineus | USR |
- Lark Sparrow, Chondestes grammacus | USR |
- Lark Bunting, Calamospiza melanorys | OSR |
- Savannah Sparrow, Passerculus sandwichensis | IM |
- Baird’s Sparrow, Ammodramus bairdii | RM |
- Grasshopper Sparrow, Ammodramus savannarum | CSR |
- Henslow’s Sparrow, Ammodramus henslowii | OM, SR |
- Fox Sparrow, Passerella iliaca | OM |
- Song Sparrow, Melospiza melodia | CWM |
- Lincoln’s Sparrow, Melospiza lincolnii | UM |
- Swamp Sparrow, Melospiza georgiana | RWM |
- White-throated Sparrow, Zonotrichia albicollis | CWM |
- Harris’s Sparrow, Zonotrichia querula | CWM |
- White-crowned Sparrow, Zonotrichia leucophrys | UWM |
- Dark-eyed Junco, Junco hyemalis | AWM |
- McCown’s Longspur, Calcarius mccownii | OWM |
- Lapland Longspur, Calcarius lapponicus | CWM |
- Chestnut-collared Longspur, Calcarius ornatus | OWM |

**Cardinalidae: Cardinals & Grosbeaks**
- Northern Cardinal, Cardinalis cardinalis | CPR |
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Pheucticus ludovicianus | CSR |
- Black-headed Grosbeak, Pheucticus melanocephalus | OSR |
- Blue Grosbeak, Pheucticus caeruleus | RSR |
- Lazuli Bunting, Passerina amoena | RM |
- Indigo Bunting, Passerina cyanea | CSR |
- Dickcissel, Spiza americana | ASR |

**Icteridae: Blackbirds, Orioles, etc**
- Bobolink, Dolichonyx oryzivorus | OM |
- Red-winged Blackbird, Agelaius phoeniceus | ASR |
- Eastern Meadowlark, Sturnella magna | CPR |
- Western Meadowlark, Sturnella neglecta | CPR |
- Yellow-headed Blackbird, Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus | UM |
- Rusty Blackbird, Euphagus carolinus | UWM |
- Brewer’s Blackbird, Euphagus cyanocephalus | OWM |
- Common Grackle, Quiscalus quiscula | ASR |
- Great-tailed Grackle, Quiscalus mexicanus | OSR |
- Brown-headed Cowbird, Molothrus ater | ASR |
- Orchard Oriole, Icterus spurius | CSR |
- Baltimore Oriole, Icterus galbula | CSR |
- Bullock’s Oriole, Icterus bullockii | OSR |
**Fringillidae: Finches**
- Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, Leucosticte tephrocotis AcWM
- Pine Grosbeak, Pinicola enucleator RWM
- Purple Finch, Carpodacus purpureus OWM
- Cassin’s Finch, Carpodacus cassini
- House Finch, Carpodacus mexicanus CPR
- Red Crossbill, Loxia curvirostra RWM

**Passeridae: Old World Sparrows**
- Common Redpoll, Carduelis flammea RWM
- Pine Siskin, Carduelis pinus UWM
- American Goldfinch, Carduelis tristis CPR
- Evening Grosbeak, Coccothraustes vespertinus OWM
- House Sparrow, Passer domesticus APR

**Lark Sparrow**

**Greater Prairie-chicken**
Tallgrass Prairie Landbirds of Spring Creek & Konza Prairies

This list of 178 species excludes all aquatic or water-dependent taxa. Species shown in **Bold** are probable or known breeders in one or both locations (abbreviations indicate which). Twenty-one (out of 33 total) species considered by Johnsgard to be grassland endemics (Prairie Birds, 2001, Univ. Press of Kansas) are present at one or both sites, and are shown in *italics*. Indicated habitat preferences are only general, and refer to the seasons during which the species occurs on the prairie. The Konza bird list is based on The Birds of Konza, J. L. Zimmerman, 1993, Univ. Press of Kansas. Compiled by Paul Johnsgard.

**Prairie Locations**

K = Reported from Konza Prairie, Riley & Geary counties, Kansas
S = Reported from Spring Creek Prairie, Lancaster County, Nebraska

**Habitat Preferences**

(De) = Species of Disturbed & Culturally Modified Habitats
(FE) = Forest-edge & Shrub-adapted Species
(G) = Grassland Species (endemics in *italics*)
(UGF) = Upland & Gallery Forest Species

**Phasianidae: Partridges, Grouse, etc**

RING-NECKED PHEASANT, Phasianus colchicus (G): S, K
GREATERT PRAIRIE-CHICKEN, Tympanuchus cupido (G): S, K
WILD TURKEY, Meleagris gallopavo (FE): S, K

**Odontophoridae: New World Quail**

NORTHERN BOBWHITE, Colinus virginianus (G): S, K

**Cathartidae: American Vultures**

TURKEY VULTURE, Cathartes aura (G): S, K

**Accipitridae: Kites, Hawks, Eagles**

MISSISSIPPI KITE, Ictinia mississippiensis (G): K
NORTHERN HARRIER, Circus cyaneus (G): S, K
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK, Accipiter striatus (UGF): S, K
COOPER'S HAWK, Accipiter cooperi (UGF): S, K
NORTHERN GOSHAWK, Accipiter gentilis (UGF): K
BROAD-WINGED HAWK, Buteo platypterus (UGF): S, K
SWAINSON'S HAWK, Buteo swainsoni (G): S, K
RED-TAILED HAWK, Buteo jamaicensis (UGF): S, K
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK, Buteo lagopus (G): K,

**Falconidae: Falcons**

AMERICAN KESTREL, Falco sparverius (G): S, K
MERLIN, Falco columbarius (G): K
PRAIRIE FALCON, Falco mexicanus (G): K
PEREGRINE FALCON, Falco peregrinus (G): S, K

**Gruidae: Cranes**

SANDHILL CRANE, Grus canadensis (G): S

**Charadriidae:**

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER, Pluvialis dominica (G): K
KILLDEER, Charadrius vociferus (G): S, K
Scolopacidae: Sandpipers, Snipes, Phalaropes, etc.
Upland Sandpiper, Bartramia longicauda (G): S, K
Marbled Godwit, Limosa fedoa (G): K
Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Tryngites subruficollis (G): S
American Woodcock, Scolopax minor (UGF): S, K

Laridae: Gulls and Terns
Franklin’s Gull, Larus pipixcan (G): S, K

Columbidae: Pigeons and Doves
Rock Pigeon, Columba livia (DC): S, K
Mourning Dove, Zenaida macroura (FE, G): S, K

Cuculidae: Cuckoos and Anis
Black-billed Cuckoo, Coccyzus erythropthalmus (UGF): S, K
Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Coccyzus americanus (UGF): S, K

Tytonidae: Barn Owls
Barn Owl, Tyto alba (G): K

Strigidae: Typical Owls
Eastern Screech-Owl, Otus asio (UGF): S, K
Great Horned Owl, Bubo virginianus (UGF): S, K
Burrowing Owl, Athene cunicularia (G): K
Barred Owl, Strix varia (UGF): S, K
Long-eared Owl, Asio otus (UGF): K
Short-eared Owl, Asio flammeus (G): S, K

Caprimulgidae: Goatsuckers
Common Nighthawk, Chordeiles minor (G): S, K
Common Poorwill, Phalaenoptilus nuttallii (G): K
Chuck-will’s-widow, Caprimulgus carolinensis (UGF): K
Whip-poor-will, Caprimulgus vociferus (UGF): K

Apodidae: Swifts
Chimney Swift, Chaetura pelagica (DC): S, K

Trochilidae: Hummingbirds
Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Archilochus colubris (FE): S, K

Picidae: Woodpeckers
Red-headed Woodpecker, Melanerpes erythrocephalus (UGF, FE): S, K
Red-bellied Woodpecker, Melanerpes carolinus (UGF, FE): S, K
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Sphyrapicus varius (UGF, FE): S, K
Downy Woodpecker, Picoides pubescens (UGF, FE): S, K
Hairy Woodpecker, Picoides villosus (UGF, FE): S, K
Northern Flicker, Colaptes auratus (UGF, FE): S, K

Tyrannidae: Tyrant Flycatchers
Olive-sided Flycatcher, Contopus cooperi (UGF, FE): S, K
Eastern Wood-Pewee, Contopus virens (UGF, FE): S, K
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Empidonax flaviventris (UGF, FE): S
Willow Flycatcher, Empidonax traillii (UGF, FE): S, K
Least Flycatcher, Empidonax minimus (UGF, FE): S, K
Eastern Phoebe, Sayornis phoebe (UGF, FE): S, K
Great Crested Flycatcher, Myiarchus crinitus (UGF, FE): S, K
Western Kingbird, Tyrannus verticalis (FE): S, K
Eastern Kingbird, Tyrannus tyrannus (FE): S, K
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Tyrannus forficatus (FE): K

**Laniidae: Shrikes**
Loggerhead Shrike, Lanius ludovicianus (G): S, K

**Vireonidae: Vireos**
White-eyed Vireo, Vireo griseus (UGF): K
Bell’s Vireo, Vireo bellii (FE): S, K
Blue-headed Vireo, Vireo solitarius (UGF): S, K
Warbling Vireo, Vireo gilvus (UGF): S, K
Red-eyed Vireo, Vireo olivaceus (UGF): S, K

**Corvidae: Jays, Magpies, and Crows**
Blue Jay, Cyanocitta cristata (UGF, FE): S, K
Black-billed Magpie, Pica pica (FE, G): S
American Crow, Corvus brachyrhynchos (UGF, FE): S, K

**Alaudidae: Larks**
Horned Lark, Eremophila alpestris (G): S, K

**Hirundinidae: Swallows**
Purple Martin, Progne subis (DC): S, K
Tree Swallow, Tachycineta bicolor (FE S, K
Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Stelgidopteryx serripennis (UGF, G): S, K
Bank Swallow, Riparia riparia (G): S
Barn Swallow, Hirundo rustica (DC): S, K
Cliff Swallow, Petrochelidon pyrrhonota (G): S, K

**Paridae: Titmice**
Black-capped Chickadee, Poecile atricapillus (UGF): S, K
Tufted Titmouse, Baeolophus bicolor (UGF): K

**Sittidae: Nuthatches**
Red-breasted Nuthatch, Sitta canadensis (UGF): S, K
White-breasted Nuthatch, Sitta carolinensis (UGF): S, K

**Certhiidae: Creepers**
Brown Creeper, Certhia americana (UGF): S, K

**Trogloidytdae: Wrens**
Carolina Wren, Thryothorus ludovicianus (UGF, FE): S, K
Bewick’s Wren, Thryomanes bewickii (FE): K
House Wren, Troglodytes aedon (UGF): S, K
Winter Wren, Troglodytes troglodytes (UGF): K
Sedge Wren, Cistothorus platensis (G): S, K

**Regulidae: Kinglets**
Golden-crowned Kinglet, Regulus satrapa (UGF): S, K
Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Regulus calendula (UGF): S, K

**Sylviidae: Gnatcatchers**
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Polioptila caerulea (UGF, FE): S, K
**Turdidæ: Thrushes and Allies**
Eastern Bluebird, Sialia sialis (FE, G): S, K
Mountain Bluebird, Sialia currucoides (FE, G): K
Veery, Catharus fuscens (UGF): K
Gray-cheeked Thrush, Catharus minimus (UGF): K
Swainson’s Thrush, Catharus ustulatus (UGF): S, K
Hermit Thrush, Catharus guttatus (UGF): K
Wood Thrush, Hylocichla mustelina (UGF): K
American Robin, Turdus migratorius (UGF, FE): S, K

**Mimidæ: Mockingbirds, Thrashers**
Gray Catbird, Dumetella carolinensis (FE): S, K
Northern Mockingbird, Mimus polyglottos (FE): S, K
Brown Thrasher, Toxostoma rufum (FE): S, K

**Sturnidæ: Starlings**
European Starling, Sturnus vulgaris (FE): S, K

**Motacillidæ: Pipits**
American Pipit, Anthus rubescens (G): S, K
Sprague’s Pipit, Anthus spragueii (G): S, K

**Bombycillidæ: Waxwings**
Cedar Waxwing, Bombycilla cedrorum (UGF, FE): S, K

**Parulidæ: Wood Warblers**
Tennessee Warbler, Vermivora peregrina (UGF, FE): S, K
Orange-crowned Warbler, Vermivora celata (UGF, FE): S, K
Nashville Warbler, Vermivora ruficapilla (UGF, FE): S, K
Northern Parula, Parula americana (UGF, FE): K,
Yellow Warbler, Dendroica petechia (UGF, FE): S, K
Chestnut-sided Warbler, Dendroica pensylvanica (UGF, FE): K
Magnolia Warbler, Dendroica magnolia (UGF, FE): S, K
Yellow-rumped Warbler, Dendroica coronata (UGF, FE): S, K
Black-throated Green-Warbler, Dendroica virens (UGF, FE): K
Blackburnian Warbler, Dendroica fusca (UGF, FE): K
Pine Warbler, Dendroica pinus (UGF, FE): K
Palm Warbler, Dendroica palmarum (UGF, FE): S, K
Bay-breasted Warbler, Dendroica castanea (UGF, FE): K
Blackpoll Warbler, Dendroica striata (UGF, FE): S, K
Black-and-white Warbler, Mniotilta varia (UGF, FE): S, K
American Redstart, Setophaga ruticilla (UGF, FE): S, K
Ovenbird, Seiurus aurocapillus (UGF): S, K
Northern Waterthrush, Seiurus noveboracensis (UGF): S
Louisiana Waterthrush, Seiurus motacilla (UGF): S, K
Kentucky Warbler, Oporornis formosus (UGF, FE): K
Mourning Warbler, Oporornis philadelphia (UGF, FE): K
Common Yellowthroat, Geothlypis trichas (G): S, K
Wilson’s Warbler, Wilsonia pusilla (UGF, FE): S, K
Yellow-breasted Chat, Icteria virens (FE): K

**Thraupidæ: Tanagers**
Summer Tanager, Piranga rubra (UGF): S, K
Scarlet Tanager, Piranga olivacea (UGF): K
Emberizidae: Towhees & Sparrows
Eastern Towhee, Pipilo erythrophthalmus (UGF, FE): S, K
Spotted Towhee, Pipilo maculatus (UGF, FE): S, K
American Tree Sparrow, Spizella arborea (FE, G): S, K
Chipping Sparrow, Spizella passerina (FE): S, K
Clay-colored Sparrow, Spizella pallida (G): S, K
Field Sparrow, Spizella pusilla (G): S
Vesper Sparrow, Poecetes gramineus (G): S, K
Lark Sparrow, Chondestes grammacus (G): S, K
Lark Bunting, Calamospiza melanocorys (G): K
Savannah Sparrow, Passerculus sandwichensis (G): S, K
Grasshopper Sparrow, Ammodramus savannarum (G): S, K
Henslow's Sparrow, Ammodramus henslowii (G): S
Le Conte's Sparrow, Ammodramus leconteii (G): S, K
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Ammodramus nelsonii (G): S
Fox Sparrow, Passerella iliaca (FE): S, K
Song Sparrow, Melospiza melodia (FE): S, K
Lincoln's Sparrow, Melospiza lincolnii (FE): S, K
Swamp Sparrow, Melospiza georgiana (G): S, K
White-throated Sparrow, Zonotrichia albicollis (FE): S, K
Harris's Sparrow, Zonotrichia querula (FE): S, K
White-crowned Sparrow, Zonotrichia leucophrys (FE): S, K
Dark-eyed Junco, Junco hyemalis (G): S, K
Lapland Longspur, Calcarius lapponicus (G): K
Smith's Longspur, Calcarius pictus (G): S, K
Chestnut-collared Longspur, Calcarius ornatus (G): K
Snow Bunting, Plectrophenax nivalis (G): K

Cardinalidae: Cardinals & Grosbeaks
Northern Cardinal, Cardinalis cardinalis (FE): S, K
Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Pheucticus ludovicianus (UGF): S, K
Black-headed Grosbeak, Pheucticus melanocephalus (UGF): S
Blue Grosbeak, Passerina caerulea (FE, G): K
Lazuli Bunting, Passerina amoena (FE): K
Indigo Bunting, Passerina cyanea (UGF): S, K
Dickcissel, Spizanerica (G): S, K

Icteridae: Blackbirds, Orioles, etc
Bobolink, Dolichonyx oryzivorus): S(K
Red-winged Blackbird, Agelaius phoeniceus (G): S, K
Eastern Meadowlark, Sturnella magna (G): S, K
Western Meadowlark, Sturnella neglecta (G): S,K
Rusty Blackbird, Euphagus carolinus (UGF): K
Brewer's Blackbird, Euphagus cyanocephalus (FE, G): S, K
Common Grackle, Quiscalus quiscula (FE, G): S, K
Great-tailed Grackle, Quiscalus mexicanus (FE, G): K
Brown-headed Cowbird, Molothrus ater (FE, G): S, K
Orchard Oriole, Icterus spurius (UGF): S, K
Baltimore Oriole, Icterus galbula (UGF): S, K

Fringillidae: Finches
Purple Finch, Carpodacus purpureus (UGF, FE): S, K
House Finch, Carpodacus mexicanus (FE, G): S, K
Pine Siskin, Carduelis pinus (FE): S, K
American Goldfinch, *Carduelis tristis* (G): S, K
Evening Grosbeak, *Coccothraustes vespertinus* (UGF): K

**Passeridae: Old World Sparrows**
House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus* (FC): S, K
Greater Prairie-chicken
Loggerhead Shrike
Eskimo Curlew
Mammals of Nebraska’s Eastern Prairies

Species reported from Lancaster County are underlined. Excludes some extirpated species and those of uncertain current status. Of the several available field guides, the one by Kays and Wilson (2002) is probably the best and most up-to-date taxonomically.

Family Didelphidae—New World Opossums

Virginia Opossum, *Didelphis virginiana*. Common (mainly in east); in woodland edges & suburbs

Family Soricidae—Shrews

Masked Shrew, *Sorex cinereus*. Diverse habitats, common.

Northern Short-tailed Shrew, *Blarina brevicauda*. Common in grasslands (east & central)

Southern Short-tailed Shrew, *Blarina carolinensis*. Common in grasslands (south)


Family Talpidae—Moles

Eastern Mole, *Scalopus aquaticus*. Widespread, mostly subterranean, loamy soils and taller grasses.

Family Vespertilionidae—Vespertilionid Bats


Big Brown Bat, *Eptesicus fuscus*. Widespread, diverse habitats, including woods; hibernator.


Hoary Bat, *Lasiurus cinereus*. Widespread, woodland edges; migratory.

Evening Bat, *Nycticeius humeralis*. Southeast (north to Butler Co.), deciduous woods; probably migratory.

Family Leporidae—Hares and Rabbits


Family Sciuridae—Squirrels


Franklin’s Ground Squirrel, *Spermophilus franklini*. East and central, tallgrass prairies.

Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel, *Spermophilus tridecemlineatus*. Widespread, especially mixed-grass prairies.

Black-tailed Prairie Dog, *Cynomys ludovicianus*. Drier grasslands (east to Fillmore Co.).

Family Geomyidae—Pocket Gophers

Plains Pocket Gopher, *Geomys bursarius*. Widespread, especially in taller grasslands.

Family Heteromyidae—Heteromyid Rodents

Plains Pocket Mouse, *Perognathus flavescens*. Widespread in drier or sandy prairie.

Hispid Pocket Mouse, *Perognathus hispidus*. Widespread, sandy grasslands.

Family Castoridae—Beavers

Beaver, *Castor canadensis*. Widespread in aquatic habitats, especially rivers.

Family Cricetidae—Native Rats and Mice
Western Harvest Mouse, *Reithrodontomys megalotis*. Widespread, taller grasslands.
Plains Harvest Mouse, *Reithrodontomys montanus*. Widespread, drier grasslands.
White-footed Mouse, *Peromyscus leucopus*. East and central, all habitats.
Deer Mouse, *Peromyscus maniculatus*. Widespread, all grassland habitats.
Northern Grasshopper Mouse, *Onychomys leucogaster*. Widespread, especially sandy grasslands.
Musk Rat, *Ondatra zibethicus*. Widespread in aquatic habitats.

Family Muridae—Old World Rats and Mice

House Mouse, *Mus musculus*. Introduced; statewide near human habitations.
Norway Rat, *Rattus norvegicus*. Introduced; statewide near human habitations.

Family Zapodidae—Jumping Mice

Meadow Jumping Mouse, *Zapus hudsonicus*. East and central, grassy or herbaceous habitats.

Family Canidae—Coyotes, Wolves and Foxes

Coyote, *Canis latrans*. Widespread, especially in grasslands.
Red Fox, *Vulpes vulpes*. Widespread, especially near woods, sometimes in city parks.
Gray Fox, *Urocyon cineroargenteus*. East only, deciduous woods and edges.

Family Felidae—Cats


Family Procyonidae—Raccoons and Allies


Family Mustelidae—Weasels, Badgers, Skunks and Otters

Mink, *Mustela vision*. Statewide, near rivers and marshes.
Badger, *Taxidea taxus*. Statewide, grasslands, especially drier grasslands.
Spotted Skunk, *Spilogale putorius*. Local, forest edges.

Family Cervidae—Deer, Elk and Moose

White-tailed Deer, *Odocoileus virginianus*. Widespread, forests and grasslands.

13-lined Ground Squirrel
Typical Reptiles and Amphibians of Nebraska’s Eastern Prairies
Species of uncertain or rare occurrence are excluded. Species reported from Lancaster County are underlined. Mainly based on Lynch (1985), but a current species listing, with photos, natural history information, identification aids and range maps, can be found at http://snrs.unl.edu/herpneb. Listed alphabetically by generic names.

Order Caudata—Salamanders
Tiger Salamander, *Ambystoma tigrinum*. Statewide; common in wetlands

Order Anura—Frogs and Toads
Northern Cricket Frog, *Acris crepitans*. East and central Nebraska; common in wetlands
Great Plains Toad, *Bufo cognatus*. Statewide, fairly common in dry grasslands
Rocky Mountain Toad, *Bufo woodhousei*. Statewide, common in dry grasslands
Western Gray Treefrog, *Hyla chrysocelis*. Eastern Nebraska, in wetlands near trees
Western Striped Chorus Frog, *Pseudacris triseriata*. Statewide, common in wetlands
Plains Leopard Frog, *Rana blairi*. Eastern Nebraska, in wetlands
Bull Frog, *Rana catesbiana*. Statewide & common in wetlands
Northern Leopard Frog, *Rana pipiens*. Widespread from Platte R. north, varied wetlands
Plains Spadefoot Toad, *Spea bombifrons*. Statewide & common in sandy soils

Order Chelonia—Turtles
Snapping Turtle, *Chelydra serpentina*. Statewide & common in wetlands
Painted Turtle, *Chrysemys picta*. Statewide & abundant in wetlands
Ornate Box Turtle, *Terrapena ornata*. Sandy soils, east to Gage County.

Order Lacertilia—Lizards
Six-lined Racerunner, *Cnemidophorus sexlineatus*. Statewide in sandy soils
Prairie Skink, *Eumeces septentrionalis*. Eastern Nebraska, in tallgrass prairies
Lesser Earless Lizard, *Holbrookia maculata*. Sandy soils, east to Cuming County
Northern Prairie Lizard, *Sceloporus undulatus*. Sandy soils, east to Cuming County

Order Serpentes—Snakes
Blue (Green) Racer, *Coluber constrictor*. Common in grasslands statewide.
Prairie Rattlesnake, *Crotalus viridis*. Rocky & eroded pastures, east to Knox County
Ringneck Snake, *Diadophis punctatus*. Eastern half of Nebraska, in wooded wetlands
Milk Snake, *Lampropeltis triangulum*. Common in grasslands statewide
Common (Northern) Watersnake, *Nerodia sipedon*. Statewide in wetlands
Buillsnake, *Pituophis catenifer*. Statewide, very common in grasslands
Massasauga Rattlesnake, *Sistrurus catenatus*. SE Nebraska (Pawnee Co.); very rare in grasslands
Plains Gartersnake, *Thamnophus radix*. Statewide, abundant in grasslands
Common (Red-sided) Gartersnake, *Thamnophis sirtalis*. Statewide, abundant in grasslands
Typical Butterflies of Eastern Nebraska

The following approximately 90 species are likely to be found in eastern Nebraska grasslands, although in total more than 200 species have been reported in the state. Page references in Roman type refer to Butterflies and Moths of Missouri, J. Richard & J. E. Heitzman, 1996, Mo. Dept. of Conservation. Page references in italics refer to Field Guide to Butterflies of South Dakota, G. M. Marrone, 2002, So. Dak. Dept. of Game, Fish & Parks. Underlined species have been reported from Lancaster County. About 40 Nebraska butterflies are shown in Insects in Kansas as well as about 140 moths (Salisbury & White, 2000). A recent Nebraska species list, with range maps and color photographs of all the state’s reported butterflies, can be found at: http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/distr/liped/bflyusa/ne/toc.htm

Family Hesperiidae - Skippers

Eparygyreus clarius. Silver-spotted Skipper. Widespread. P. 18
Achalarus lyciades. Hoary Edge. Southeastern records only. P. 21
Thorybes bathyllus. Southern Cloudywing. Mostly eastern records. P. 22
Thorybes pylades. Northern Cloudywing. Scattered records. P. 23, 350
Staphylus hayhurstii. Scalloped Cloudywing. Mostly eastern. P. 26, 352
Erynnis brizo. Sleepy Duskywing. Southeastern records only. P. 28, 356
Erynnis horatius. Horace’s Duskywing. Eastern records. P. 30, 360
Erynnis funerabilis Funerary Duskywing. Mostly eastern records. P. 32
Erynnis baptismae. Wild Indigo Duskywing. Scattered records. P. 33
Pholisora catullus. Common Sootywing. Widespread over state. P. 37, 372
Ancyloxypha numitor. Least Skipperling. Probably entire state. P. 40, 374
Hylephila phyleus. Fiery Skipper. Mostly eastern records. P. 42, 380
Hesperia uncas. Uncas Skipper. Scattered records across state. P. 382
Hesperia ottoe. Ottoe Skipper. Probably entire state. P. 44, 390
Hesperia leonardus pawnee. Pawnee Skipper Entire state. P. 45, 392
Polites peckius. Yellowpatch Skipper. Widespread. P. 405
Polites themistocles. Tawny-edged Skipper. Widespread. P. 49, 407
Polites origenes. Crossline Skipper. Probably entire state. P. 50, 409
Polites mystic. Long Dash. Scattered records across state. P. 52, 411
Wallengrenia egeremeti. Northern Broken Dash. Mostly eastern. P. 413
Pompeius verna. Little Glassywing. Mostly eastern records. P. 415
Atalopedes campestris. Sachem. Widespread across state. P. 54, 403
Atrytone arogos. Beard-grass (Aro~os) Skipper. Entire state. P. 55, 417
Atrytone logan. Delaware Skipper. Widespread entire state. P. 56, 419
Poanes hobomok. Hobomok Skipper. Probably entire state. P. 59, 425
Poanes zabulon. Zabulon Skipper. Only eastern records. P. 62, 427
Poanes viator. Broad-winged Skipper. Scattered records P. 63, 431
Euphyes dion. Sedge Skipper. Only eastern records. P. 65, 433
Euphyes bimacula. Two-spotted Skipper. Scattered records. P. 435
Euphyes vestris. Dun Skipper. Probably entire state. P. 437
Artytonopsis hiania. Dusted Skipper. Scattered records. P. 67, 439
Amblyscirtes vialis. Roadside Skipper. Probably entire state. P. 73, 445
Lerodea eufala. Eufala Skipper. Mostly eastern records. P. 75,

Family Papilionidae - Swallowtails


Battus philenor. **Pipevine (Blue) Swallowtail.** Mostly eastern. P. 78, 28
Eurytides marcellus. **Zebra Swallowtail.** Mostly eastern records. P. 81, 31
Papilio polyxenes asterius. **Eastern Black Swallowtail.** Widespread. P. 82, 33
Heraclides crepisontes, **Giant Swallowtail.** Mostly eastern. P. 88, 49
Pterourus glaucus. **Tiger Swallowtail.** Widespread across state. P. 89, 52
Pterourus palamedes. **Palamedes Swallowtail.** Mostly eastern. P. 91

Family Pieridae - Sulphurs, Orange-tips and Whites

*Pontia protodice.* **Checkered White.** Widespread. P. 85, 78
*Pieris rapae.* **Imported Cabbage White.** Widespread entire state. P. 86
*Euchloe olympia.* Olympia Marblewing. Probably entire state. P. 99, 93
*Colias philodice.* Common Sulfur. Widespread across state. P. 101, 97
*Colias eurytheme.* **Orange Sulphur.** Widespread. P. 102, 99
*Zerena cesonia.* **Dogface.** Probably extends across state. P. 107
*Phoebis sennae.* **Cloudless Giant Sulfur.** Mostly eastern records. P. 109
*Phoebis agarithe.* Orange Giant Sulfur. Mostly eastern records. P. 111
*Kricogonia lyside.* **Lyside.** Five southern records. P. 108
*Eurema mexicanum.* **Mexican Yellow.** Probably across state. P. 110, 115
*Eurema lisa.* **Little Yellow.** Mostly eastern records. P. 111, 117
*Eurema nicippe.* **Sleeve**-**Ora**-**Southern half of state.** P. 112, 119
*Nathalis iole.* **Dwarf Yellow.** (Dainty Sulfur). Widespread. P. 113, 121

Family Lycaenidae-Blues, Coppers and Hairstreaks

*Feniseca tarquinius.* **Harvester.** Southeastern records mainly. P. 15, 124
*Gaeides xanthoides.* **Great Gray Copper.** Widespread across state. P. 117
*Hyllolycaena hyllus.* **Bronze Copper.** Widespread across state. P. 118
*Epidemia helloides.* Purplish Copper. Probably entire state. P. 135
*Harkenclelus titus.* **Coral Hairstreak.** Probably entire state. P. 122, 137
*Satyrium acacidum.* **Acadian Hairstreak.** Probably entire state. P. 140
*Satyrium edwardsii.* **Edward's Hairstreak.** Scattered records. P. 123, 142
*Satyrium calanus.* **Banded Hairstreak.** Scattered records. P. 125, 144
*Satyrium liparops.* Striped Hairstreak. Probably entire state. P. 127, 146
*Mitoura siva.* Juniper Hairstreak. Scattered records. P. 148
*Mitoura grynea.* **Olive Hairstreak.** Mostly eastern records. P. 129, 148
*Incisalis henrici.* **Henry’s Elfin.** Southeastern records only. P. 130
*Strymon melinus.* **Gray Hairstreak.** Widespread P. 135, 158
*Leptotes marina.* **Marine Blue.** Probably entire state. P. 160
*Hemiargus isola.* **Reakirt’s Blue.** Widespread. P. 139, 162
*Everes comyntas.* **Eastern Tailed Blue.** Widespread. P. 140, 164
*Celastrina argiolus.* **Spring Azure.** Widespread. P. 141, 168
*Lycaenides melissa.* Melissa Blue. Probably entire state. P. 179
*Icaricia acmon.* Acmon Blue. Scattered records across state.

Family Libytheidae - Snout Butterflies

*Lybytheana bachmanii.* **Snout Butterfly.** Records in south. P. 147, 195

Family Nymphalidae - Brush-footed Butterflies

*Agraulis vanillae.* **Gulf Fritillary.** Scattered records. P. 149, 197
*Heliconius charitonius.* **Zebra Butterfly.** Scattered records. P. 150
Euptoieta claudia. Variegated Fritillary. Widespread P. 152, 199
Speyaria cybele. Great Spangled Fritillary. Widespread. P. 155, 202
Speyaria aphrodite. Aphrodite (Manitoba) Fritillary. Entire state. P. 205
Speyaria idalia. Regal Fritillary. Widespread. P. 156, 210
Clossinia (Boloria) selene. Silver-bordered Fritillary. Entire state. P. 158, 233
Clossinia bellona. Meadow Fritillary. Mostly eastern records. P. 158, 236
Phycoides tharos. Pearly Crescentspot. Widespread. P. 165, 246
Polygonia interogationis. Question Mark. Widespread. P. 167, 258
Polygonia comma. Comma (Hop Merchant). Widespread. P. 168, 261
Polygonia progne. Gray Comma. Probably entire state. P. 169, 270
Nymphalis antiopa. Mourning Cloak. Widespread. P. 170, 276
Aglais milberti. Milbert's Tortoiseshell. Probably entire state. P. 171, 280
Vanessa virginiana. American Lady. Widespread. P. 173, 284
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Basilarchia archippus. Eastern Viceroy. Widespread. P. 178, 304

Family Apaturidae - Goatweed & Hackberry Butterflies; Emperors
Asterocampa celtis. Hackberry Butterfly. Widespread. P. 184, 313
Asterocampa clyton. Tawny Emperor. Mostly eastern records. P. 185, 316

Family Satyridae - Ringlets, Satyrs and Wood Nymphs
Enodia anholida. Northern Pearly Eye. Mostly eastern. P. 188, 319
Satyrodes eurydice. Eyed Brown. Probably entire state. P. 190, 321
Megisto cymela. Little Wood Satyr. Widespread across state. P. 193, 323
Cercyonis pegala. Large Wood Nymph (Grayling). Widespread. P. 194, 329

Family Danaidae-Queens and Monarchs
Danaus plexippus. Monarch. Widespread across state. P. 198, 341
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BUTTERFLIES & COMMON MOTHS OF LANCASTER COUNTY


BUTTERFLIES

Fam. Papilionidae - Swallowtails
Pipevine Swallowtail. Eastern. P. 26, 78, 28*
Zebra Swallowtail. Eastern. P. 23, 81, 31*
Black Swallowtail. Widespread. P. 28, 82, 33*
Giant Swallowtail. Eastern. P. 38, 88, 49*
Tiger Swallowtail. Widespread. P. 20, 89, 52*
Palamedes Swallowtail. Eastern. P. 36, 91*

Fam. Pieridae - Sulphurs, Whites etc.
Checkered White. Widespread. P. 48, 85, 78*
Cabbage White. Widespread. P. 46, 97, 86*
Olympia Marblewing. Widespread. P. 58, 99, 93
Clouded Sulphur. Widespread. P. 60, 101, 97*
Orange Sulphur. Widespread. P. 66, 102, 99*
Dogface. Widespread. P. 68, 104, 107*
Cloudless Sulphur. Eastern. P. 74, 105, 109*
Dainty Sulphur. Widespread. P. 70, 108
Mexican Yellow. Widespread. P. 72, 110, 115
Little Yellow. Eastern. P. 79, 111, 117*
Sleepy Orange. Southern. P. 68, 112, 119*
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Fam. Lycaenidae - Blues, Coppers etc.
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Acadian Hairstreak. Widespread. P. 98, 140
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Spring Azure. Widespread. P. 130, 141, 168*
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Fam. Libytheidae - Snout Butterfly
Snout Butterfly. Southern. P. 222, 147, 195*

Fam. Nymphalidae - Brush-foots
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Regal Fritillary. Widespread. P. 158, 156, 210
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Question Mark. Widespread. P. 196, 167, 258*
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Fam. Apaturidae - Emperors etc.
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Fam. Satyridae - Satyrs & Wood Nymphs
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Fam. Danaidae - Queen and Monarch
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MOTHS

Family Sphingidae - Sphinx Moths

Subfamily Macroglossinae
Achemon sphinx Widespread Pl. 3
Ellio sphinx Only Lancaster Co. P. 3
Hummingbird clearwing Scattered records. Pl. 6
Nessus sphinx, Scattered records. Pl. 6
Obscure sphinx. 4 counties. Pl. 6
Pandorus sphinx, Scattered records. Pl. 3
Snowberry clearwing Widespread Pl. 6
Titan sphinx Scattered records. Pl. 5
Vine sphinx Only Lancaster Co. Pl. 3
Virginia creeper sphinx. Scattered records. Pl. 6
White-lined sphinx Widespread Pl. 3

Subfamily Sphinxinae
Blinded sphinx. Scattered records. Pl. 6
Carolina sphinx. Scattered records. Pl. 1, 3*
Catalpa sphinx Scattered records. Pl. 5
Elm sphinx.. Widespread Pl. 3
Five-spotted hawkmoth. Widespread Pl. 3
Great ash sphinx Widespread Pl. 4
Hagen's sphinx. 4 eastern counties. Pl. 4
Modest sphinx. Widespread Pl. 3
Pink-spotted hawkmoth. 3 counties. Pl. 3
Plebeian sphinx. 3 eastern counties. Pl. 5
Small-eyed sphinx. Scattered records. Pl. 6
Twin-spotted hawkmoth. Widespread Pl. 6
Vashio sphinx Widespread Pl. 4
Walnut sphinx. Scattered records. Pl. 6
Waved sphinx. Widespread Pl. 4
Wild cherry sphinx. Scattered records. Pl. 4

Family (Saturniidae - Silk Moths

Buck and Io Moths (Heliothinae)
Io moth. 4 counties. Pl. 1, 2, 10*
Polyphemus moth. Widespread Pl. 1, 2, 9*
Giant Silkworm Moths (Saturniinae)
Cecropia silkmoth. Widespread Pl. 1, 2, 10*
Luna moth. East & central. Pl. 1, 2, 9
Royal Moths (Citheroniinae)
Bicolored honey locust moth. 2 eastern counties. Pl. 8
Rosy maple moth. Eastern counties. Pl. 8*
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Family Arctiidae - Tiger & Lichen Moths

Lichen Moths (Lithosiinae)
Painted lichen moth. Scattered records. Pl. 12
Syntomine Moths (Syntominae)
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Arge tiger moth. 3 eastern counties. Pl. 14
Banded tussock moth or Pale tiger moth. 2 eastern counties. Pl. 12
Bela moth. 4 eastern counties. Pl. 15*
Colona moth. 2 eastern counties. Pl. 15
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Family Notodontidae - Prominent Moths

Black-etched prominent. 3 counties. Pl. 1, 44
Black-rimmed prominent. Scattered records. Pl. 42
Clostera apicalis (No common name). Only Lancaster Co.
Common Silkworm. Scattered records. Pl. 43
Double-lined prominent. 3 counties. Pl. 42
Double-toothed prominent. Scattered records. Pl. 43
Drab prominent. 4 counties. Pl. 44
Elegant prominent. 3 counties. Pl. 44
Georgian prominent. 4 counties. Pl. 42
Gray furcula. 3 counties. Pl. 44
Sigmod prominent. 3 counties. Pl. 42
Spotted datana. 3 counties. Pl. 42
Walnut caterpillar moth. Only Lancaster Co. Pl. 42
White-dotted prominent. 2 counties. Pl. 43

Date:
Weather:
Participants:
Notes:
CHECKLIST OF DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFIES (ODONATA) OF NEBRASKA

Based on USGS website http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/distr/insects/dfly/ne/toc.htm

Species known to occur in eastern Nebraska on the basis of available records are in *italics*. Species reported from Lancaster County are *underlined*. Plate (“Pl.”) references refer to photographs in *Dragonflies through Binoculars* (S. Dunkle, Oxford Univ. Press, 2000). Most of Nebraska’s Odonata are illustrated (“P.” indicates page number) in *Beginner’s Guide to Dragonflies* (Nikula, Sones, Stokes & Stokes, Little, Brown & Co., 2002).

**Dragonflies**

Aeshnidae - Darners

*Canada Darner (Aeshna canadensis).* Pl. 5, P. 86

*Lance-tipped Darner (Aeshna constricta).* Pl. 4

*Variable Darner (Aeshna interrupta)* Pl. 5, P. 87

*Blue-eyed Darner (Aeshna multicolor).* Pl. 5, P. 88

*Paddle-tailed Darner (Aeshna palmata),* Pl. 4.

*Shadow Darner (Aeshna umbrosa).* Pl. 4, P. 84

*Common Green Darner (Anax junius),* Pl. 1, P. 89

*Fawn Darner (Boyeria vinosa).* Pl. 3, P. 83

Gomphidae - Clubtails

*Horned Clubtail (Arigomphus cornutus).* Pl. 14

*Jade Clubtail (Arigomphus submedianus).* Pl. 14

*Plains Clubtail (Gomphus externus).* Pl. 11

*Cobra Clubtail (Gomphus vastus).* Pl. 10

*Pronghorn Clubtail (Gomphus gracilinellus).* Pl. 7

*Sulphur-tipped Clubtail (Gomphus militaris).* Pl. 7, P. 94

*Pale Snaketail (Ophiogomphus severus).* Pl. 16

*Common Sanddragon (Progomphus obscurus).* Pl. 15, P. 97

Riverine Clubtail (*Stylurus amnicola*). Pl. 13

*Brimstone Clubtail (*Stylurus intricatus*). Pl. 12

*Elusive Clubtail (*Stylurus notatus*). Pl. 13

Corduliidae – Emeralds & Basketails

*Prince Baskettail (Epitheca princeps).* Pl. 23, P. 110

*Stripe-winged Baskettail (Epitheca costalis).* Pl. 23

*Common Baskettail (Epitheca cynosura).* Pl. 23, P. 111

*Plains Emerald (Somatochlora ensigera).* Pl. 25

Libellulidae - Skimmers

*Calico Pennant (Celithemis elisa).* Pl. 44, P. 118

*Halloween Pennant (Celithemis eponina).* Pl. 44, P. 120

*Eastern Pondhawk (Erythemis simplicicollis).* Pl. 39

*Hudsonian Whiteface (Leucorrhinia hudsonica).* Pl. 43, P. 155

*Dot-tailed Whiteface (Leucorrhinia intacta).* Pl. 43, P. 152

*Widow Skimmer (Libellula luctuosa).* Pl. 28, P. 128

*Common Whitetail (Libellula lydia).* Pl. 28, P. 126

*Twelve-spotted Skimmer (Libellula pulchella).* Pl. 29, P. 124

*Four-spotted Skimmer (Libellula
quadrimaculata). Pl. 29. P. 129
Blue Dasher (Pachydiplax longipennis). Pl. 39. P. 136
Wandering Glider (Pantala flavescens). Pl. 40. P. 115
Spot-winged Glider (Pantala hymenaea). Pl. 40. P. 114
Eastern Amberwing (Perithemis tenera). Pl. 38. P. 116
Blue-faced Meadowhawk (Sympetrum ambiguum). Pl. 34.
Variegated Meadowhawk (Sympetrum corruptum). Pl. 35. P. 150
Saffron-winged Meadowhawk (Sympetrum costiferum). Pl. 35. P. 148
Cherry-faced Meadowhawk (Sympetrum internum). Pl. 36. P. 144, 149
White-faced Meadowhawk (Sympetrum obtrusum). Pl. 36. P. 144
Band-winged Meadowhawk (Sympetrum occidentale). Pl. 36. P. 149
Ruby Meadowhawk (Sympetrum rubicundulum). Pl. 36. P. 144
Yellow-legged Meadowhawk (Sympetrum vicinum) Pl. 35. P. 149
Black Saddlebags (Tramea lacerata). P1. 36. P. 114
Red Saddlebags (Tramea onusta). Pl. 41. P. 113

DAMSELFLIES

Calopterygidae - Jewelwings
River Jewelwing (Calopteryx aequabilis). P. 43
Ebony Jewelwing (Calopteryx maculata). P. 30, 42.
American Rubyspot (Hetaerina americana). P. 44

Lestidae - Spreadwings
Spotted Spreadwing (Lestes congener). P. 48
Common Spreadwing (Lestes disjunctus). P. 31, 46
Sweetflag Spreadwing (Lestes forcipatus). P. 46
Slender Spreadwing (Lestes rectangularis). P. 51
Lyre-tipped Spreadwing (Lestes unguiculatus). P. 46

Coenagrionidae - Bluets & Dancers
Paiute Dancer (Argia alberta)
Blue-fronted Dancer (Argia apicalis). P. 68
Emma's Dancer (Argia emma). P. 66
Variable Dancer (Argia fumipennis). P. 64
Powdered Dancer (Argia moesta)
Springwater Dancer (Argia plana)
Blue-ringed Dancer (Argia sedula). P. 67
Vivid Dancer (Argia vivida). P. 66
Taiga Bluet (Coenagrion resolutum). P. 61
River Bluet (Enallagma anna)
Rainbow Bluet (Enallagma antennatum)
Azure Bluet (Enallagma aspersum). P. 60
Double-striped Bluet (Enallagma basidens)
Tule Bluet (Enallagma carunculatum). P. 54
Familiar Bluet (Enallagma civile). P. 54
Alkali Bluet (Enallagma clausum)
Northern Bluet (Enallagma cyathigerum). P. 56
Stream Bluet (Enallagma exsulans), P. 58
Skimming Bluet (Enallagma geminatum). P. 59
Hagen's Bluet (Enallagma hageni). P. 57
Arroyo Bluet (Enallagma praevarum)
Orange Bluet (Enallagma signatum). P. 62
Plains Forktail (Ischnura damula). P. 73
Citrine Forktail (Ischnura hastata). P. 75
Western Forktail (Ischnura perparva). P. 70
Eastern Forktail (Ischnura verticalis), P. 70
Sedge Sprite (Nehalennia irene) P. 78
Identification Guide to Eastern Nebraska’s Common Dragonflies
Plate (Pl.) numbers refer to Dunkle, 2000; Page (P.) numbers refer to Nikula et al, 2002

A. Eyes widely separated on top of head, tip of abdomen laterally expanded; often perch horizontally, ca. 2” long. **Gomphidae (Clubtails, ca. 9 Nebr. spp.)**
   - A2. Common Sanddragon. Small brown spot at base of each wing. Abdomen black with small yellow spots. Sandy streams. Pl. 15, P. 97
   - A4. Pale Snaketail. Mostly pale yellow-brown. Mostly western Nebraska, Pl. 16
   - A5. Plains Clubtail. Rivers & streams. Abdomen uniformly patterned yellow (spots or stripes) & black. Pl. 11
   - A6. Pronghorn Clubtail. Ponds & slow streams. Very similar to Plains Clubtail  Pl. 8
   - A7. Riverine Clubtail. Larger rivers. Abdomen black except for large yellow spots at tip, front of thorax has 3-point star. Eastern. Pl. 13

AA. Eyes touching or broadly meeting dorsally, may perch horizontally or vertically.

B. Large (2.5-3.5”), abdomen long, slender, brown, black, blue or red; perch by hanging vertically, constant fliers. **Aeshnidiae (Darners, ca. 8 Nebr. spp.)**
   - B1. Blue-eyed Darner. Male has sky-blue eyes & forked cerci. Pl. 5
   - B3. Fawn Darner. Shady streams; 2 yellow spots on each side of brown thorax, otherwise dark brown; streams; summer/fall. Pl. 5, P. 83
   - B4 Lance-tipped Darner. Male much like Shadow Darner, but thoracic stripes notched. Pl. 4
   - B5. Shadow Darner. Mostly black, with two green/yellow) thorax stripes, outlined in black. Blue abdomen spots form mosaic; summer/fall. Pl 4, P. 84
   - B6. Variable Darner. Black with thin blue thoracic stripes (M), or brown, with blue/green/yellow stripes (F); marshy ponds & slow streams. Pl. 5, P. 87

C. Generally smaller species (mostly 1.2-2.5” long).

D. Slender & dark, body metallic-colored, usually with emerald-green eyes; fast erratic flight, rarely perch. **Cordulinae (Emeralds & Baskettails, ca. 5 Nebr. spp.)**
   - D1. Common Baskettail. Small (1.5-2”), hind wing usually with brown basal triangle, brown eyes. Pl. 23, P. 111
   - D2. Prince Baskettail. Large (3”), wings with 3 brown spots, green eyes, (brown in immatures). Pl. 23, P. 110

E. Never metallic-colored, often patterned wings, abdomen shorter than wing, wings often with white or dark makings. Sometimes glide while flying. Often near still water. Sexually dimorphic; eye color variable, sometimes green as in emeralds. **Libellulidae (Skimmers, ca. 30 Nebr. spp).** Skimmers are the most common Nebraska dragonflies.
E1. Banded wings, males with opaque white areas & white abdomen (1.7-2”)
E1a. Common Whitetail. Male with 2 brown wing bands, otherwise opaque white, & thick, white abdomen; female with 3 dark wing bands on each wing, no white. Diverse wetlands. Pl. 28, P. 126
E1b. Twelve-spotted Skimmer. Male with 3 alternating black & opaque white wing bands & white abdomen; female with 3 similar wing bands but abdomen yellow the broad black dorsal stripe. Diverse wetlands. Pl. 29, P. 124
E1c. Widow Skimmer. Abundant. Male with large basal black wing band and large opaque white tip, female with black wing base & clear tips, and yellow abdominal stripes on sides, black on top. Ponds & wetlands. Pl. 28, P. 128

E2. Banded-wing species lacking opaque white patches in males (1.2-2”)
E2b. Calico Pennant. Male black with red (yellow in females) dorsal triangles, wings with dark tips, midwing spots, & large brown basal spot on hindwing. Marshes. Pl. 44, P. 118

E3. Transparent-winged species (wings sometimes tinted) species (c. 2”)
E3a. Blue Dasher. Male with whitish abdomen, green eyes and brown-tinted wings. Still-water wetlands. Pl. 39,
E3b. Eastern Amberwing. Males with orange-tinted wings, black eyes; female brown-banded or spotted wings, brown eyes & abdomen. Permanent wetlands. Pl. 38, P. 116
E3d. Four-spotted Skimmer. Wings have small black nodal spots; male has small dark patch at base of hindwing; abdomen brassy gold. Pl. 29, P. 129
E3e. Spot-winged Glider, Small dark patch at base of hindwing, abdomen mottled gray-brown. Temporary wetlands. Pl. 40, P. 114
E3f. Wandering Glider. Male brown, with red eyes, clear wings, yellow tapered abdomen; female more yellow. Temporary wetlands. Pl. 40, P. 115

E4. Small red-bodied species, autumn season (1.3-2”)
E4a. Cherry-faced Meadowhawk. Face dark red, abdomen red with black lateral stripe, Still wetlands. Pl. 36, P. 144, P. 113
E4b. Red Saddlebags, Rear wing has pale red basal saddle, relatively large. Thorax & abdomen red, wings red-tinted. Diverse wetlands. Pl. 41, P. 113
E4c. Ruby Meadowhawk, Eastern, temporary wetlands. Like cherry-faced but face dark brown. Pl. 36, P. 144
E4e. Western (Band-winged) Meadowhawk. Shallow wetlands. Brown band at midwing, pale yellow basally. Pl. 36, P. 149
E4f. White-faced Meadowhawk, Abdomen red with black lateral stripe, face white. Diverse wetlands. Pl. 36, P. 144
Common Grasshoppers, Katydid, Mantids and Walkingsticks

GRASSHOPPERS (Family Acrididae). Grasshoppers have short antennae, hind legs adapted for jumping, and sound-stridulation by males is common. # = Species illustrated and described by Otte, 1981(#) or Otte, 1984(##), * = Species illustrated and described by Phadt (1994). @ = Species described and illustrated by Capinera et al. (2004), with text page numbers indicated. ** = species illustrated in *Insects in Kansas* (Salisbury & White, 2000).

**Slant-faced Grasshoppers** (face slants back from the vertical, short wings, most species stridulate)
- Big-headed Grasshopper. *Aulocara eliotti*. West & central, shortgrass prairies, common.*#@ 59
- Handsome Grasshopper. *Syrbula admirabilis*. Mainly eastern Nebraska, dry uplands.#@ 75
- Lively Mermiria Grasshopper. *Mermiria picta*. Widespread, in tall grasses.#@ 69
- Marsh Meadow Grasshopper. *Chorthippus curtipennis*. Widespread; in tall, moist grasses.##@ 63
- Obscure Grasshopper. *Opeia obscura*. Widespread across state, in shortgrass prairies.*#@ 69
- Pasture Grasshopper. *Orphulella speciosa*. Widespread, short to medium grassy areas.#@ 72
- Short-winged Green Grasshopper. *Dicromorpha viridis*. Widespread, in varied grassy areas.#@ 65
- Short-winged Toothpick Grasshopper. *Pseudopomela brachyptera*. Widespread, taller prairies.#@ 73
- Sprinkled Broad-winged Grasshopper, *Chloealtis conspersa*. Widespread, dry upland woods.##@ 62
- Spotted-wing Grasshopper. *Orphulella pelidna*. Widespread across state, many habitats.#@ 70
- Two-striped Mermeria Grasshopper. *Mermiria bivittata*. Widespread, in taller grasses.##@ 68
- Velvet-striped Grasshopper. *Eritetrix amplex*. Widespread, in all grassy areas.*@ 66

**Band-winged Grasshoppers** (hind wings are barred and often colorful, produce noise in flight)
- Autumn Yellow-winged Grasshopper. *Arphia xanthoptera*. Eastern, grassy fields, woodland edges.#@ 80 (wings yellow to orange with black band, large)
- Blue-legged Grasshopper. *Metator pardulinus*. Widespread, in many grassy habitats.@ *## 95
- (wings yellow to orange or rose. with black band, blue hind legs)
- Dusky Grasshopper. *Encoptolophus costalis*. Widespread, in prairies and open grassland.##@ 90
- (wings white with gray band. blue hind legs)
- Haldeman’s Grasshopper *Paradalophora haldemani*. Mainly western, weedy or sandy prairie.#@ 96
- (wings bright orange to rose, with black band)
- Kiowa Rangeland Grasshopper. *Trachyrhachys kiowa*. Widespread, on bare gravelly ground.##@ 102
- (wings yellow with dark gray band)
- Northern Green-striped Grasshopper. *Chortophaga viridifasciata*. Widespread, short grasses.#@ 82
- (wings white to yellow, with gray band, hind legs bluish)
- Northwestern Red-winged Grasshopper. *Arphia pseudonietana*. Widespread; tall grasses.#@ 79
- (wings red or bright orange. with black tip)
- Carolina Grasshopper. *Dissoteira carolina*. Widespread and common, on open roadsides.#@ 88
- (wings black with mottled yellow tip)
- Wrinkled Grasshopper. *Hippiscus oceolote*. Widespread, in pastures and weedy prairies.#@ 92
- (wings yellow to pink, with black band)

**Spur-throated Grasshoppers** (a spur is present between the front legs, no stridulation or noisy flight)
- Cudweed Grasshopper. *Hypochlora alba*. Widespread; mainly west & central, cudweed sage.*@ 114
- Dawson’s Spur-throated Grasshopper. *Melanoplus dawsoni*. Widespread, many habitats.@ 121
- Differential Grasshopper. *Melanoplus differentialis*. Widespread, common, lush vegetation*@ 122
Keeler's Spur-throated Grasshopper. *Melanoplus keeleri.* Widespread, pastures, woods.@ 128
Large-headed Grasshopper. *Phoetaliotes nebrascensis.* Widespread throughout, taller grasses.@ 141
Meadow Purple-striped Grasshopper. *Hesperotettix viridis.* West and central, grasslands.@ 113
Migratory Grasshopper. *Melanoplus sanguinipes.* Widespread throughout state, irruptive.@** 137
Narrow-winged Spur-throated Grasshopper. *Melanoplus augustipennis.* Widespread, in sand.@ 115
Little Pasture Spur-throated Grasshopper *Melanoplus confusus.* Widespread, many habitats.@ 119
Red-legged Grasshopper. *Melanoplus femurrubrum.* Widespread, common, thick vegetation.@** 124
Two-striped Grasshopper. *Melanoplus bivittatus.* Widespread and common, tall grasses.@** 117
Western Green-grass Grasshopper. *Hesperotettix speciosus.* Common, weedy areas.@ 113

**Lubber Grasshoppers** (heavy-bodied species with short wings; flightless, males may stridulate)
Plains Lubber. *Brachystola magna.* Mainly west and central Nebraska, drier grasslands.@ 148**

**KATYDIDS (Family Tettigonidae).** Katydid have very long antennae, the female’s ovipositor is
long & blade-like, and song-stridulation is highly developed. Species list based on Capinera *et al.*
(2004), and excludes a few marginal Nebraska species. Species illustrated by him are indicated by @
symbol, and text page. ** = species illustrated in *Insects in Kansas* (Salsbury & White, 2000).

**True Katydids** (forewings broad, ballooned out & leaf-like, antennae stiff)
Common True Katydid. *Pterophylla camelifolia.* Eastern Nebraska; arboreal, in tree crowns. @ 155

**False Katydids** (hindwings longer than forewings, wings variably leaf-like)
Fork-tailed Bush Katydid. *Scudderia furcata.* Throughout state, old field & roadsides. 163**
Oblong-winged Katydid. *Amblycorypha oblongifolia.* East & central, forest understory. @ 159
Texas Bush Katydid. *Scudderia texensis.* Throughout state, old field & roadsides. @ 163

**Cone-headed Katydids** (head lengthened into a cone shape, usually very long wings and antennae)
Nebraska Conehead. *Neoconocphalus nebrascensis.* Eastern Nebraska, wet grassy areas. @ 170
Robust Conehead. *Neoconocphalus robustus.* Throughout state, moist upland prairies. @ 170
Round-tipped Conehead. *Neoconocphalus retusus.* Southeastern, grassy or weedy areas. @ 170
Sword-bearing Conehead. *Neoconocphalus ensiger.* Throughout state, wet grassy areas. @ **170

**Meadow Katydids** (forewings narrow, not ballooned out as in true katydids, very long antennae)
Common Meadow Katydid. *Orchelimum vulgare.* Throughout, abundant in pastures & fields. @ 178**

Gladiator Meadow Katydid. *Orchelimum gladiator.* Throughout state, in meadows. 178**

Long-spurred Meadow Katydid. *Orchelimum silvaticum.* Throughout, in deciduous trees. @ 178
Slender Meadow Katydid. *Conocephalus fasciatus.* Throughout, common in many habitats. @ 181

**Sword-bearing Conehead. *Neoconocphalus ensiger.* Throughout state, wet grassy areas. @ **170

**Predaceous Katydids** (forewings reduced and hidden by dorsal shield, rather short antennae)
Haldeman’s Shieldback. *Pediodectes haldemanni.* Throughout state, in many habitats.@ 186
Mormon Cricket. *Anabrus simplex.* Throughout state, in scanty vegetation..@ 187**

**MANTIDS (Family Mantidae),** Mantids have a distinctive “praying” posture. ** = species
illustrated in *Insects in Kansas* (Salsbury & White, 2000).

Carolina Mantid. *Stagmomantis carolina.* Southeastern corner of state.**
WALKINGSTICKS (Family Phasmatidae). Walkingsticks all closely resemble twigs. ** = species illustrated in *Insects in Kansas* (Salsbury & White, 2000).

Northern Walkingstick. *Diapheromera femorata*. Eastern edge of state.**
Prairie Walkingstick. *Diapheromera velei*. Common and widespread.**

CRICKETS (Family Gryllidae). Crickets have long antennae, the female’s ovipositor is usually needle-like, and song-stridulation is highly developed. Species list based on Capinera *et al.* (2004). Species illustrated by him are indicated by @ symbol. ** = species illustrated in *Insects in Kansas* (Salsbury & White, 2000).

Field Crickets (typical crickets, including house crickets)
Fall Field Cricket. *Gryllus pennsylvanicus*. Throughout state, in grassy fields. @194**
House Cricket. *Acheta domesticus*. Throughout state, around humans. @196**
Spring Field Cricket. *Gryllus veletes*. Eastern Nebraska, grassy fields. @195

Ground Crickets (small species closely resembling field crickets, but less than 13 mm. long)
Allard's Ground Cricket. *Allonemobius allardi*. Throughout state, in grassy areas @200
Striped Ground Cricket. *Allonemobius fasciatus*. Throughout state, in grassy areas. @200

Tree Crickets (pale green & delicate-bodied crickets, semiarboreal or arboreal)
Broad-winged Tree Cricket. *Oecanthus latipennis*. Eastern Nebraska, forest edges and shrubs.@ 207
Four-spotted Tree Cricket. *Oecanthus quadripunctatus*. Throughout, on herbaceous plants.@ 208**
Narrow-winged Tree Cricket. *Oecanthus niveus*. Eastern Nebraska, in forest edges and shrubs. @205
Snowy Tree Cricket. *Oecanthus fultoni*. Throughout state, in forest edges and shrubs. @ 205**

Mole Crickets (forelegs modified for digging, heavy dorsal shield present)
Northern Mole Cricket. *Neocurtilla hexadactyla*. East and central, edges of wetlands. @ 212**
PART 4
Identification Illustrations of Grassland Plants
(Illustrations are from Hitchcock (1950), and U. S. Dept. of Agriculture (1970), with some leaf detail sketches added from The Identification of Certain Native and Naturalized Grasses by their Vegetative Characters, by S. S. Clark, J. A. Campbell & W. Shevkenek (1950), Canada Dept. of Agriculture Pub. 762. Taxa are listed in alphabetic order by generic and specific names)

Common Prairie Grasses—Poaceae (Including Weedy Species)

1. Quackgrass, *Agropyron repens*
2. Big bluestem, *Andropogon gerardii*
3. Little bluestem, *Schizachyrium (Andropogon) scoparium*
4. Prairie threeawn, *Aristida oligantha*
5. Wild oats, *Avena fatua*
6. Side-oats grama, *Bouteloua curtipendula*
7a. Blue grama, *Bouteloua gracilis* & hairy grama, *Bouteloua hirsuta*
8. Japanese brome, *Bromus japonica*
9. Buffalo grass, *Buchloe dactyloides*
10. Bluejoint, *Calamagrostis canadensis*
11. Prairie sandreed, *Calamovilfa longifolia*
12. Longspine sandbur, *Cenchrus longispinus*
13. Large crabgrass, *Digitaria sanguinalis*
14. Barnyardgrass, *Echinochloa crusgalli*
15. Goosegrass, *Eleusine indica*
16. Canada wildrye, *Elymus canadensis*
17. Stinkgrass, *Eragrostis ciliarisens*
18. Purple lovegrass, *Eragrostis spectabilis*
19. Fowl mannagrass, *Glyceria striata*
20. Foxtail barley, *Hordeum jubatum*
21. Little barley, *Hordeum pusillum*
22. Nimblewill, *Muhlenbergia schreiberi*
23. Witchgrass, *Panicum capillare*
24. Fall panicum, *Panicum dichotomiflorum*
25. Switchgrass, *Panicum virgatum*
26. Reed canarygrass, *Phalaris arundinacea*
27. Kentucky bluegrass, *Poa pratensis*
29. Indiangrass, *Sorghastrum nutans*
30. Johnsongrass, *Sorghum halepense*
31. Prairie cordgrass, *Spartina pectinata*
32. Tall dropseed, *Sporobolus asper* & prairie dropseed, *Sporobolus heterolepis*
33. Sand dropseed, *Sporobolus cryptandrus*
34. Porcupine grass, *Stipa spartea*

Some Common Grassland Wildflowers (all Variously Weedy Species)
Taxa are in the same sequence as in earlier lists. Illustrations are from Selected Weeds of the United States, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (1970), & Nebraska Weeds, Nebraska Dept. of Agriculture (1947).

35. Queen Ann’s lace (“Wild carrot”), *Daucus carota*
36. Common milkweed, *Asclepias syriaca*
37. Whorled milkweed, *Asclepias verticillata*
38. Common yarrow, *Achillea millefolium*
39. Oxeye daisy, *Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*
40. Bull thistle, *Cirsium vulgare*
41. Curly-top gumweed, *Grindelia squarrosa*
42. Common sunflower, *Helianthus annuus*
43. Prickly lettuce, *Lactuca serriola*
44. Canada goldenrod, *Solidago canadensis*
45. Field (Perennial) sow thistle, *Sonchus arvensis*
46. Goat’s beard, *Tragopogon dubius*
47. Baldwin (“Western”) ironweed, *Vernonia baldwinii*
48. Hoary cress, *Cardaria draba*
49. Western snowberry (“Buckbrush”) *Symphoricarpus occidentalis*
50. Catchfly, *Silene noctiflora*
51. Hedge bindweed, *Calystegia sepium*
52. Field bindweed, *Convolvulus arvensis*
53. Purple (Lambert) locoweed, *Oxytropis lambertii*
54. Common evening primrose, *Oenothera biennis*
55. Yellow wood sorrel, *Oxalis stricta*
56. Pennsylvania smartweed, *Polygonum pensylvanicum*
57. Sulphur cinquefoil, *Potentilla recta*
58. Wild rose, *Rosa arkansana*
59. Hoary vervain, *Verbena stricta*
60. Common mullein, *Verbascum thapsus*
*Agropyron repens* (L.) Beauv. Quackgrass. 

A, Habit $\times 0.5$; B, spikelet $\times 3$; C, ligule $\times 2.5$; D, florets $\times 3.25$. 
Andropogon scoparius. Plant, $\times \frac{1}{4}$; pair of spikelets, $\times 5$. (Amer. Gr. Natl. Herb. 268, D. C.)
Aristida oligantha. Plant, × ½; glumes and floret, × 2. (Fitspatrick 21, Iowa.)
Avena fatua L. Wild oat. A, Habit—× 0.5; B, spikelet—× 2; C, florets, 3 views—× 3.5.
Bouteloua curtipendula. Plant, × ½; spikelet and florets, × 5. (Chase 5408, Colo.)
Bouteloua gracilis. Plant, $\times \frac{1}{2}$; glumes and florets, $\times$ 5. (Amer. Gr. Natl. Herb. 384, Nev.)
Bromus japonicus Thumb. Japanese brome. A, Habit—x 0.5; B, spikelet—x 3; C, ligule—x 2; D, floret—x 5; E, caryopsis—x 5.
Buchloë dactyloides. Pistillate and staminate plants, × ½; pistillate spike and floret, × 5; staminate spikelet, × 5. (Rath 150, Tex.)
A, Calamagrostis canadensis. Plant, \( \times \frac{1}{4} \); glumes and floret, \( \times 10 \). (Chase 5077, Mont.)

B, "scabrida, \( \times \frac{1}{2} \). (Pringle, N. H.)

C, Var. macouniana, \( \times 10 \). (Pammel 891, Minn.)
Calamovilfa longifolia. Plant, × 3/4; spikelet and floret, × 5. (Babeck, Ill.)
Cenchrus longispinus (Hack.) Fern. Longspine sandbur. A, Habit—× 0.5; B, ligules—× 5; C, bur—× 4.
Digitaria sanguinalis (L.) Scop. Large crabgrass. A, Habit—× 0.5; B, florets, front and back views—× 5; C, caryopsis—× 6.
Echinochaia crus-galli (L.) Beauv. Barnyardgrass. A. Habit, forms longiseta (Trin.) Farw. × 2.5; B, spikelet—× 2.5; C, ligule—× 2.5; D, florets—× 4; E, caryopses—× 4; F, spike, var. mitis (Pursh) Po- term.—× 0.5; G, floret of awnless variety—× 4.
*Eleusine indica* (L.) Gaertn. Goosegrass. A, Habit—× 0.5; B, ligules—× 2.5; C, spikelet—× 3; D, caryopsis—× 12.5.
Eragrostis cilianensis. Plant, X 3; spikelet, X 5; floret, X 10. (Schuette 155.)
Eragrostis spectabilis. Plant, $\times \frac{1}{4}$; spikelet, $\times 5$; floret, $\times 10$. (Hitchcock 7849, Md.)
Olyceria striata. Plant, X \( \frac{3}{4} \); spikelet, X 5; floret, X 10. (V. H. Chase 60, Ill.)
Hordeum jubatum L. Foxtail barley. A, Habit—× 0.5; B, spikelets, side and face views—× 2.5; C, florets—× 2.5; D, ligules—× 2.5; E, caryopsis—× 5.
*Hordeum pusillum* Nutt. Little barley. A, Habit—x 0.5; B, spikelets—x 4; C, ligules—x 5.
Panicum capillare. Plant. $\times \frac{1}{4}$; two views of spikelet, and floret. $\times 10$. (V. H. Chase 774.)
Panicum dichotomiflorum Michx.  Fall panicum.  A. Habit—× 0.5; B, spikelet, showing the dichotomous florets—× 7.5; C, ligule—× 4; D, caryopses—× 7.5.
Panicum virgatum. Plant, $\times \frac{3}{4}$; two views of spikelet, and floret, $\times 10$. (V. H. Chase, Ill.)
Phalaris arundinacea L. Reed canarygrass. A, Habit—x 0.5; B, ligule—x 1.5; C, spikelet—x 5; D, florets—x 5; E, caryopsis—x 5.
Poa pratensis. Plant, × 3/4; spikelet, × 5; floret, × 10. (Williams, S. Dak.)
A. *Setaria faberi* Herrm. Giant foxtail. a, Habit—× 0.5; b, spikelet, showing subtending bristles—× 5; c, ligule—× 1.5; d, caryopses—× 5. B. *Setaria viridis* (L.) Beauv. Green foxtail. a, Habit—× 0.5; b, spikelet—× 5; c, ligule—× 1.5; d, caryopses—× 5. C. *Setaria glauca* (L.) Beauv. Yellow foxtail. a, Habit—× 1; b, spikelet—× 5; c, ligule—× 1.5; d, caryopses—× 5.
- *Sorghastrum nutans*. Plant, × ½; spikelet with pedicel and rachis joint, × 5. (Deam, Ind.)
Sorghum halepense (L.) Pers. Johnson grass. A, Habit—× 0.5; B, spikelet—× 4; C, ligule—× 1.5; D, florets—× 5; E, caryopses—× 5.
Spartina pectinata. Plant, × ½; spikelet and floret, × 5. (Worthern, Mass.)
Sporobolus cryptandrus. Plant, X 1/4; glumes and floret, X 10. (Shear 253, Nebr.)
*Stipa spartea.* Plant, × \(\frac{3}{4}\); glumes and floret, × 2. (McDonald 16, Ill.)
*Daucus carota* L. Wild carrot. A, Habit × 0.5; B, flowers × 5; C, schizocarp × 5; D, cross section of fruit, showing 2 mericarps × 3.
Asclepias syriaca L. Common milkweed. A, Habit—x 0.5; B, flower, upper view—x 3.5: side view—x 2; C, follicles—x 0.5; D, seeds with coma—x 3.
Asclepias verticillata L. Eastern whorled milkweed. A, Habit—× 0.5; B, enlarged leaves, showing revolute margins—× 1.5; C, flower—× 3.5; D, seed—× 4; d, seeds with coma—× 1.
Achillea millefolium L. Common yarrow.  

A, Habit—× 0.5;  
B, enlarged leaves and stem—× 5;  
C, flower head—× 4;  
D, female and male flowers—× 5;  
E, seeds—× 6.
Gh~santhemum leucanthemum L. var. prinnatifidum Lecoq & Lamotte. Field oxeye-daisy. A, Habit; B, ray flower—x 2.5; C, disk flower—x 2.5; D, achenes—x 7.5; E, involucral bracts—x 5.
Cirsium vulgare (Savi) Tenore. Bull thistle. A, Habit—× 0.5; B, flower—× 5; C, immature fruit—× 1.75; D, achenes—× 3.5.
Gumweed. Showing top of plant and root.
Helianthus annuus L. Sunflower. A, Habit—\( \times 0.5 \); B, ray flower—\( \times 2 \); C, disk flower—\( \times 2.5 \); D, achenes, 2 views—\( \times 1.5 \).
Lactuca serriola L. Prickly lettuce. A, Habit—× 0.5: a, upper part of plant—× 0.5: b, lobed lower leaves—× 0.5: c, linear upper leaves—× 1.5:d, root—× 1.5 B, flower heads—× 3; C, achenes—× 8.
Solidago canadensis L. Canada goldenrod. A. Habit—x 0.5; B, flower head—x 5; C, disk flower—x 12.5; D, ray flower—x 12.5; E, achene—x 12.5; F, leaves—x 1; a, upper surface; b, lower surface.
Sonchus arvensis L. Perennial sowthistle. A, Habit × 0.5; B, achene × 7.5.
Yellow goatsbeard. Showing root, stem, with a ripe and a flowered head, and enlarged flowers and seed.
Vernonia baldwinii Torr. Western ironweed. A, Habit—x 0.5; B, tomentose underside of leaf, enlarged; C, flower head—x 3; D, single flower—x 6; E, achenes—x 6.
Cardaria draba (L.) Desv. Hoary cress. A, Habit—× 0.5; B, flower—× 7.5; C, silicle—× 5; D, seeds—× 7.5.
Buckbrush. Showing root stem, enlarged flowers, berries, and seed.
Silene noctiflora L. Nightflowering catchfly. A, Habit of young plant—× 0.5; B, upper part of mature plant—× 1; C, capsule—× 1.5; D, seeds—× 7.5.
Convolvulus sepium L. Hedge bindweed. A, Habit—× 0.5; B, rootstock—× 0.5; C, diagram of flower, showing structure—× 0.25; D, seeds—× 2.5.
*Convolvulus arvensis* L. Field bindweed. *A*, Habit—× 0.5; *B*, rootstock—× 0.5; *C*, leaf variation < 0.5; *D*, flower, showing 5 stamens of unequal length—× 1; *E*, capsule—× 3; *F*, seeds—× 4.
Ozytropis lambertii Pursh. Lambert crazyweed. 

A, Habit—× 0.5; B, enlarged leaves—× 1; C, 
flower spike—× 0.5; D, flower—× 1; E, legumes—× 1; F, seeds—× 4.
Evening primrose. Showing top of plant, root system
Yellow Woodsorrel. Showing plant and enlarged seed capsule, flower and seeds.
Polygonum pensylvanicum L. Pennsylvania smartweed. A, Habit—× 0.5; B, spike—× 2.5; C, achenes—× 4.
Potentilla recta L. Sulfur cinquefoil. A, Habit \( \times 0.5 \); B, base of leaf showing stipules \( \times 2 \); C, flower and calyx \( \times 1.5 \); D, achenes \( \times 10 \).
Wild rose. Showing the plant, root, and enlarged seed.
Verbascum thapsus L. Common mullein. A, habit—× 0.5; B, flowers—× 2; C, capsules—× 2; D, seeds—× 12.5.
Hoary vervain. Showing stem, root, and enlarged flower head, flowers, and seed.
Part 5: Locations of Important Tallgrass Prairie Preserves

Drawing by P. Johnsgard: Western Prairie Fringed Orchid
Remnant Prairies in Nebraska and Adjacent States

Persons wanting to observe tallgrass prairie birds and native plants should consider visiting some of the following tallgrass prairies. Nearly all Nebraska prairies are mapped and described in “Tallgrass Prairies of Nebraska,” a leaflet produced in 2006 by the Nebraska Wildlife Federation (402/477-1008). Most are mapped and described in greater detail in my Nebraska Bird-finding Guide. Wildlife management areas (W.M.As) are Nebraska Game & Parks sites and are free-access. Lat./Long. coordinates are shown for these state-owned sites. Some sanctuaries charge entry fees, and state parks and state recreation areas require daily or annual park entry permits. Conservation Easement sites require permission from the owner to visit, as do some of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Prairie Plains Resource Institute (P.P.R.I) sites. Visitors should respect both the plant and animal life of these fragile sites, which often contain rare, threatened or endangered species.

Eastern Nebraska Prairies

Antelope County
Grove Lake W.M.A 2009 acres, mostly mixed-grass upland and Sandhills prairie and riparian hardwoods along East Verdigre Creek. A stand of tallgrass prairie on sand and gravel is located 100 yards NE of parking area. 402/370-32374. Lat./Long.: 42.347/ -98.09651

Boone County
Olson Nature Preserve. 112 acres. Olson Nature Preserve. 112 ac. of Sandhills prairie and oak woodlands. Located 8 miles NW of Albion on Hwy 14, then west 1 mile. For further information contact Prairie Plains Resource Institute, 402/694-5535, or www.prairieplains.org.

Buffalo County
Lillian Annette Rowe Sanctuary & Iain Nicolson Audubon Center. Located 2 miles south of Gibbon 1-80 exit and 2 miles west, on Elm Island Road (just S of Platte River bridge). Area ca. 1,250 ac. Six miles of river frontage, with 420 acres of native prairie and 220 acres of restored prairie. 308/468-5282.


Butler County
Don and Helen Horacek Tallgrass Prairie. 7.5 acres. Conservation Easement. Located 2 miles W and 1 mile N of Brainard (northeast corner of section 13, south side of road). For permission to visit call Donald Horacek, 402/545-2238.

Kevin and Donna Petrzilka Tallgrass Prairie. 22 acres. Conservation Easement. Located 1 mile N and 2 miles E of Loma (northeast corner of section 36, west side of road). For permission to visit, call Kevin Petrzilka, 402/545-2050.

Linwood Hill Cemetery Prairie. 21 acres. Conservation Easement. An upland prairie located 0.5 mile S of Linwood, directly E of Linwood Cemetery (section 1, south side of road). For permission to visit, call Alden Kment, 402/352-3548.

Cass County

Cedar County
Wiseman W.M.A. Virgin upland prairie on ridges and hilltops. Located 1 mile N and 5 miles E of Wynot. Located just south of the Missouri River, this 365-acre area includes steep wooded loess bluffs of bur oak, and grassy ridges. 402/370-3374. Lat./Long.: 42.75643/-97.09508
Colfax County
Clarence and Ruth Fertig Tallgrass Prairie. 43 ac. Conservation Easement. Located 3 miles E and 1 mile S of Richland, or 4 miles W and 3 miles S of Schuyler (section 26, west side of road). **For permission to visit**, call Ruth Fertig, 402-352-8467.
Frank L. and Lillian Pokorny Memorial Prairie. 40 acres. 20 acres of virgin tallgrass prairie and a 20-acre restoration. Located 2.5 miles W of Highway 15 at “P” Road (about 11 miles N of Schuyler). Information at Prairie Plains Resource Institute, [www.prairieplains.org](http://www.prairieplains.org) or 402/694-5535.

Dixon County
Buckskin Hills W.M.A. Located 2 miles W and 2 miles S of Newcastle. Some virgin prairie is present in 340 acres of grassland and woods and a 75-acre lake. 402/370-3374, Lat./Long.: 42.6261-96.92536
Ponca State Park (892 acres) & Elk Point Bend WMA. Located 3 mi. N. of Ponca. Small stands of virgin prairie are present on ridges and hilltops. Mostly forested with mature stands of bur oak, walnut, hackberry and elms. Park entry permit required. 402/755-2284, Lat./Long.: 42.60962/-96.71727

Douglas County
Allwine Prairie Preserve. 160 acres. Located 12 miles NW of Omaha. From I-680 in west Omaha drive W on W. Dodge Road to 144th St, turn N and go to State St, then W 0.5 mile to preserve entrance. **For permission to visit** call the Dept. of Biology, UNO, 402/554-2641.
Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge. 3,500 acres. Includes ca. 2,000 ac. of re-seeded prairie & riparian woods. Three mi. E of Ft. Calhoun on County Rd. 34, along the Missouri River. 712/642-4121.
Bauermeister Prairie. 40 acres. Owned by City of Omaha, and part of Zorinsky Park (738 acres). The east park entrance is on 156th St, midway between Q St. and W. Center Road. There are two marked entrances from 156th St. Go to the S entrance and follow the park road to some parking areas near its end. The prairie lies S and W, beyond an arm of Zorinsky Lake, via a walking trail. URL: [www.nwo.usace.army.mil/htlm/Lake-Proj/mssouririver/zorinsky.html](http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/htlm/Lake-Proj/mssouririver/zorinsky.html)
Jensen Prairie. 13 acres, about half virgin prairie, half restored. Located at 6720 Bennington Road, near the intersection of 72nd St. and Highway 36 (or 72nd & McKinley). **Obtain permission to visit** from the Audubon Society of Omaha (402/445-4138). URL: [www.audubon.org/jensen-prairie.htm](http://www.audubon.org/jensen-prairie.htm)
Stolley Prairie. 24 acres. Owned by City of Omaha (Northwest Park). Located along the E side of 168th St, midway between Blondo and Dodge St.

Fillmore County
Clyde and Thomas Gewache Tallgrass Prairie. 11.5 ac. Conservation Easement. Go 2.5 miles W of Ohiowa, then 0.5 mile N (section 2, west side of road). **For permission to visit** call Ray Nichols, 402/759-4052.

Gage County
Homestead Prairie. Located 4.5 miles W of Beatrice on Highway 4, Homestead National Monument. Ca. 100 ac. of restored prairie on a historic homestead site. Includes a 2.5 mile trail through riparian wooded habitats and restored prairie. A local plant list is available. 402/223-3514.
Wildcat Creek Tallgrass Prairie. 32 acres of low meadow. Located 5 miles S, 1 mile W, and 1 mile S of Virginia, then W 0.25 mile on dirt road. Or, drive 2 miles W and 5 miles N of Liberty, then 0.25 mile W (section 4, on north side of road). Owner: Wachiska Audubon, 402/488-9032.

Hall County
Platte River Whooping Crane Trust. About 1.5 mi. S. of I-80 Alda exit, on Whooping Crane Dr. About 6,400 acres of native and re-seeded wet meadows. **Permission to visit required;** 303/384-4633.
Hamilton County
Griffith Prairie and Farm. 390 acres of loess prairie and Platte River frontage. Drive 4 miles W of Hwy. 14 from Marquette corner, then 1 mile N. Owned by Prairie Plains Resource Institute, 402/694-5535, or www.prairieplains.org. Permission to visit needed.
Lincoln Creek Prairie and Hiking Trail. Located in Aurora; 16 acres of tallgrass prairie and prairie restorations. The trail goes through a prairie restoration site. Owned by Prairie Plains Resource Institute, 402/694-5535, or www.prairieplains.org.

Jefferson County
Rock Creek Station State Historical Park. 550 acres. Virgin tallgrass prairie on hilltops, and wooded ravines Six miles E of Fairbury, Park entry permit required. 402/729-5777. Lat./Long.: 40.11012/-97.05809
Rock Glen W.M.A. 706 ac. Nearly 500 ac. of virgin upland and restored prairie. Located 7 miles E and 2 miles S of Fairbury, or 4 miles NE of Endicott 402/749-7650. Lat./Long.: 40.09797/-97.06266
Rose Creek W.M.A. About 200 ac. of oak savanna, 8 mi. SW of Fairbury. 402/749-7650. Lat./Long.: 40.07596/-97.23064

Johnson County
Ivan A. and Ivan F. Lamb Tallgrass Prairie. 5 acres. Located 3 miles W and 2 miles S of Sterling (northeast corner of section 5, west side of road). Owner: Wachiska Audubon, 402/488-9032
Kendall and Lisa Shuster Prairie. 4.8 acres. Located 4 miles E and 0.5 mile S of Elk Creek (section 28, west side of road). For permission to visit, call Kendall Shuster, 402/335-7345.
Louis and Grace Bentzinger Tallgrass Prairie. 13.5 acres. Conservation Easement. Located 0.75 mile N of Cook, or 9 miles S of Syracuse, via Hwy 50 (northeast corner of section 4, west side of road). For permission to visit, call Louis D. Bentzinger, 402-864-7531.

Knox County
Bohemia Prairie W.M.A. Nearly 600 acres of virgin prairie, with some woods and two ponds. From Verdigre go 5 mi. W on Hwy 84, then 5 mi. N. 402/370-3374. Lat./Long.: 42.67611/-98.12892
Greenvale W.M.A. About 70 acres of virgin prairie among Middle Verdigre Creek. woodlands. Located 10 miles W and 3 miles S of Verdigre. 402/370-3374. Lat./Long.: 42.54032/-98.2204
Niobrara State Park. 1,632 acres. Grasslands and riparian woods, at W edge of Niobrara. State park entry permit required, ask at Park Office for prairie sites. 402/857-3373. 42.74998/-98.06724

Lancaster County (Cemeteries at Emerald, Firth and Roca have small areas of prairie that are also worth visiting.)
Audubon Spring Creek Prairie. 807 acres, with about 600 acres of prairie. Drive 3 miles S from the western edge of Denton; entrance gate on E side of road. Native tallgrass prairie uplands, some small wetlands, including a spring, and riparian woods, The plant list exceeds 300 species. Owner: Audubon Nebraska, 402/797-2301, or http://www.springcreekprairie.org/
Branched Oak S.R.A. About 200 acres of virgin prairie, plus re-seeded prairie. 13 miles NE of Lincoln, 4 miles W of Raymond. Some good prairie occurs south of the dam near the main south entrance. State park entry permit required, 402/783-3404. Lat./Long.: 40.97945/-96.87038
Capital Beach Saline Wetlands. About 30 acres. The site of a historic saline lake, the east edge of Capital Beach still supports a saline marsh habitat and associated low prairie. Enter Westgate Blvd from Sun Valley Blvd, then W on W Industrial Lake Drive to parking area. Owned by Lower Platte South N.R.D.: http://www.lpsnrd.org/docs/Recreation/Wetlands.htm#Lincoln
Henry Wulf Tallgrass Prairie. 5 acres. Conservation Easement, Wachiska Audubon. Located seven miles E of 84th and O St. in Lincoln, or two miles W of Eagle. On south side of Hwy 34. For permission to visit call W. S. Heavey, Sr, 402/333-6411
Henry Wulf Tallgrass Prairie. 5 acres. Conservation Easement, Wachiska Audubon. Located seven miles E of 84th and O St. in Lincoln, or two miles W of Eagle. On south side of Hwy 34. For permission to visit call W. S. Heavey, Sr., 402/333-6411

Highway 77 (Hike) Prairie. About 20 acres of upland prairie and woods. Located on the NE corner of Hwy 77 and Hickman Road junction, about 10 miles S of Lincoln city limits. Mostly on private property.

Little Salt Fork Marsh and Little Salt Creek W.M.A. 336 acres (combined acreage). From W. 1st St. in northwest Lincoln (near Exit 401 of I-80), go N 6 miles to Raymond Road. The preserve is at the NW corner of Raymond Road and W. 1st St. The state-owned WMA is 1/4 mile S on east side of W. 1st St. Saline wetlands and alkaline grasslands. For preserve information, contact The Nature Conservancy, 402/342-0282: http://nature.org/wherework/northamerica/states/nebraska/preserves/art280.html

Nine Mile Prairie. 240 acres. Drive 4 miles W on West O St. in Lincoln, then go N on Northwest 48th St. to W. Fletcher Road, and 1 mile W. Walk S from the parking area to the prairie. The total plant list exceeds 390 species URL: http://snrs.unl.edu/wedin/fieldsites/NineMile/nine-mile-prairie.htm

Pawnee Lake State Recreation Area. Several acres of native prairie on E. side, just south of Superior St. 2 miles N and 1/5 mi. W of Emerald. State park entry permit required, 402/783-3404.

Pioneer’s Park. 626 acres. A nature trail extends SW from the Chet Ager Nature Center into restored and native prairie.

The Prairie Center has restored prairie and a native plant garden. A third area of fine prairie is located E of the golf course (W of the parking area near the elk statue). Lincoln municipal park., located SW of West Van Dorn and Coddington Ave. 402/441-7895.

Wilderness Park. A 7-mile stretch of riparian woodland along Salt Creek, on SW side of Lincoln. Includes a small area of prairie on sandstone outcrops at the W. edge of park, 0.2 mi. S of Pioneers Blvd., and E. side of S. 1st St., Stands of mature bur oak and hickory, especially at the S end, and riparian forest, with about 20 miles of trails. Lincoln municipal park, 402/441-7895.

**Madison County**

Oak Valley W.M.A 640 acres. Mixed virgin prairie and bur oak draws. Hardwood forest along Battle Creek, and prairie uplands. Located 2.5 mi S., 1/2 mi. W. of Battle Creek. 402/675-4020. Lat./Long.: 41.95285/-97.62501

**Merrick County**

Bader Memorial Park. Located at the W end of the Chapman (Platte River) Bridge. Consists of prairie plus 0.75 mile of Wood River and 0.5 mile of Platte River frontage. Includes about 120 acres of grassland (some under restoration), as well as riparian forest and shrubland. Admission fee.

**Nance County**

Sunny Hollow W.M.A. 160 ac. of wet virgin prairie, plus two marshes and a “dugout” wetland. Located 5 miles S, 1 mile W. of Genoa, via country roads. Lat./Long.: 41.37685/-97.73845

Olson Nature Preserve. 112 ac. of sandhill and tallgrass prairie and oak woodlands, 9 mi. NW of Albion., & 1 mi. W. Property of Prairie Plains Resource Institute (402/386-5540 or 402/694-5535).

**Nemaha County**

Berg Prairie. Lorin, Leva and Laverne Berg. 8 acres of floodplain prairie. Located 7 miles N of Johnson (NW part of section 6, east side of road). For permission to visit call Lorin Berg, 402/264-3605.

**Otoe County**

Henry Dieken Tallgrass Prairie. 12.6 acres. From western end of Unadilla drive 1.5 miles S on Highway 2, then 0.75 mile W (section 15, south side of road). Owner: Wachiska Audubon, 402/488-9032.

**Pawnee County**

Burchard Lake W.M.A. About 400 acres of rolling prairie over limestone. Drive 3 miles E of Burchard, then 1 mile N; or go E 3 miles on Highway 4 from the junction of Hwys. 99 and 4 (junction at 3 miles N of Burchard), then 1.5 miles S. 402/471-0641. Lat./Long.: 40.16796/-96.30309
Clarence Wolters Tallgrass Prairie. 40 acres. Conservation Easement. Located 3 miles E and 3.5 miles N of Steinauer (section 3, east side of road, opposite a country church). **For permission to visit** call Leona Wolters, 402/335-2723 or 335-3420.

Elmer Klapka Farm. 35 acres of prairie in 400 acres of farmland and pasture. Located 2.5 miles S of eastern side of Table Rock, sections 9 & 16. The native prairie areas are scattered among brome-dominated pastures. Owner: Wachiska Audubon, 402/488-9032.

Pawnee Prairie W.M.A. 1,120 acres of prairie. Located 8 miles S of Burchard via Hwys 8 and 99, and 1 mile east. Also accessible by driving 10 miles S of Burchard and 1 mile E. The prairie is to the east of these access points. Lat./Long.: 40.03365/-96.32675

Verlyn Beethe Tallgrass Prairie. 24 acres. Conservation Easement. Located 8.5 miles S of Tecumseh, along Highway 50, or 1 mile S of Clarence Wolters Prairie (SE corner of section 10, east side of road). **For permission to visit** call Verlyn Beethe, 402/488-9032.

**Platte County**
Wilkinson W.M.A. About 80 ac. of wet virgin prairie, plus upland grassland and wetlands. Five miles W and 1 mile N of Columbus, off Highway 81. 402/370-3374. Lat./Long.: 41.50423/-97.49384

**Richmond County**
Fricke Cemetery Prairie. 5.2 acres. Located about 10 miles northeast of Falls City (go N on US 73 to westward turn about 6 miles N of town, then go E 3.5 miles and N 0.5 mile (section 7, west side of road). **For permission to visit** call Fred Thiges, 402/245-5371.

Indian Cave State Park. About 40 ac. of virgin prairie on hilltops and hay meadows in SE part of park, and also along Trail 10 from top of bluffs to the Adirondack shelter. Diverse wooded habitats and flora of southern affinities. The park is about 80 percent mature hardwood forest, with the rest grassland. Park entry free. 402/883-2575. 40.2641/-95.56964

Rulo Bluff Preserve. 445 acres. Ridgetop tallgrass prairie savanna and hardwood forest on high loess bluffs. Located about 1.5 mi S and 4 mi. E. of Rulo, Nebraska, along the southwest shore of the Missouri River. Very steep terrain; **for permission to visit** contact The Nature Conservancy (402/342-0282): http://nature.org/where/where to work/northamerica/states/nebraska/preserves/art280.html

**Saline County**
Dwight and Shirley Fictum Tallgrass Prairie. 18 acres. Conservation Easement. Located 4 miles W and 3.5 miles S of Wilber (NE corner of section 3, on west side of road). **For permission to visit** call Dwight Fictum, 402/821-2018.

Richard R. Kasl Tallgrass Prairie. 7.5 acres. Conservation Easement. Located 2 miles N and 2 miles W of Wilber, or about 8 miles S of Crete, on Hwy. 101, then 2.5 miles W (section 5, on north side of road). **For permission to visit** call R. R. Kasl, 402/821-2619.

**Saunders County**
Adrian Blatny Tallgrass Prairie, About 35 acres. Conservation Easement. Located on the east side of the Butler/Saunders county line. Reached by driving 1 mile E of Linwood along Linwood Road, turning N, and driving about 1 mile along the county line (section 18, east side of road). **For permission to visit** call Arian Blatny, 402/641-7944.

Madigan Prairie (23 acres), and Red Cedar Recreation Area (120 acres). Native and re-seeded grasslands. Located between Valparaiso & Weston. Red Cedar is 6 miles N., 2 miles W. of Valparaiso (402/476-2729) The Valparaiso cemetery has a small area of prairie that is worth visiting. Madigan is 1 mile E of the Butler Co. line, and 2 miles S of Rte 92. Lower Platte South N.R.D: http://snrs.unl.edu/webin/nefieldsites/Madigan%20Prairie/madigan_prairie.html.

Otoe Creek (Storm) Prairie. 21 acres. Located one mile N, one mile E, and 0.5 mile N (on dirt road) of Yutan (section 24, east side of road). Owner: Wachiska Audubon, 402/488-9032.

Phil & Anna Brey Tallgrass Prairie. 11 acres. Conservation Easement. Located 6 miles W and 1.5 miles N of Ceresco (section 21, east side of road.). **For permission to visit** call Philip Brey, 402/784-0215.
Bur Oak W.M.A. Mostly mature bur oak woods, with about 40 ac. of prairie in oak savanna. Located 5 miles E of Seward along US 84. 402/471-0641. 40.89722/-96.99995

Twin Lakes W.M.A. 1,300 acres, about 600 acres of grasslands, two lakes, marshes, wooded bottomlands and upland prairie. Located 0.5 mile N and 0.5 mile W of I-80 Pleasant Dale exit. The best prairie is SW of the smaller lake, on W side of WMA. 402/471-0641 Lat./Long.: 40.83408/-96.9534

Stanton County
Wood Duck W.M.A. Located about 2 miles S and 4 miles W of Stanton. Virgin prairie on sand-gravel soils, and restored prairie. Also riparian wooded habitats and oxbow lakes bordering the Elkhorn River, on 668 acres. 402/370-3374. Lat./Long.: 41.93084/-97.31538

Thayer County

Washington County
Cuming City Cemetery. 11 acres. From the intersection of US 30 and 75 in Blair go N 3.5 miles on Highway 75 to County Road 14. Turn left and go 600 ft. to cemetery entrance (on left). Downer, Dana College URL: http://www.panesu.org/subject/markers/Cuming-City-Cemetery-and-Nature-Preserve


Wayne County

Iowa Prairies (see Mutel, 1989, Adelman & Schwartz, 2001, and Winckler, 2004, for additional sites)

Des Moines County.
Caylor Prairie. 160 acres. Located southwest of Spirit Lake on County Rd. M28., wet and dry prairie. Contact DNR, 515/281-3891, or 515/281-3891.

Fremont County
Waubonsie State Park, 1,209 acres. Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources. Hilltop, ridge and bluff prairies and oak forests. Located of Iowa Hwy 2, 2 miles west of U.S. 275, and 5 miles east of I-29. Enter via Iowa Hwy 239.

Harrison County.
Murray Hill Scenic Area. Drive west from Pisgah 4.7 miles on County Road F-20 to a steep-east facing bluff, with a path leading through native prairie to the top of Murray Hill, and perhaps the best panoramic view of Loess Hills vegetation and the Missouri Valley.

Howard County.
Hayden Prairie. 240 acres. State preserve & National Natural Landmark. Located 4 miles west on Highway 9 from the junction of Hwy 9 and US 63, then north on County Rd. V26 for 4.5 miles. Contact Iowa DNR, 515/281-3891.

Jasper County
Neil Smith (Walnut Creek) National Wildlife Refuge. 8,654 acres of restored prairie near Prairie City, 20 miles east of Des Moines. Bison and other native species are being re-introduced. Contact USFWS, 515/994-2415.
Monona County
Loess Hills Wildlife Area and Sylvan Runkel State Preserve. 2,900 acres. Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources. Extensive prairies and woodlands. From Onawa take County Rd. L-12 north 6.8 miles (or 1.5 miles beyond junction with L-14); turn east (across Little Sioux R.) on Nutmeg Ave, and then south, following “Public Access” signs (via winding gravel road) for 2.5 miles to central parking lot. Sylvan Runkel State Preserve is across the road to the north. From Castana, drive State Hwy 175 3.5 miles to west. Ridgetop prairie and oak forest. 712/458-2428.

Preparation Canyon State Park, 346 acres. Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources. Located 5 miles southwest of Moorhead, via State Highway 183 and county road. Ridgetop prairie and oak forest, 712/458-2428.

Turin Loess Hills Nature Preserve. 220 acres. Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources. Bluff, hillside and ridgetop prairies plus woodlands. Located 1.5 miles north of Turin via Lapenteur Memorial Road. 515/281-3891.

Plymouth County
Five Ridge State Preserve. 790 acres, Plymouth Co. Conservation Board (712/947-4270). Ridgetop & hillside prairie, plus woodlands. From Stone State Park go north on Hwy 12 6 miles, then take County Road K-18 northeast for 3.5 miles, then west 1 mile on dirt road (260th Ave.) which is ca. 0.5 mile south of County Rd. C43. Walk in 0.8 mile.

Broken Kettle Grasslands. 3,000 acres, owned by The Nature Conservancy. Hillside prairie and oak woodlands. From I-29 in Sioux City take Hwy 12 (Exit 151) north about 10 miles to County Rd. K18, continue on Hwy 12 for 4 miles to Butcher Rd, then east about 1 mile. The office is on SR 12, 0.5 mile north of Butcher Road (712/568-2596).

Pottawattamie County
Hitchcock Nature Center. 1003 acres. Pottawattamie Co. Conservation Board. Dry prairie, bur oak savanna and oak forest. From Crescent go north on Old Lincoln Highway for 5 miles to Page Lane, then follow signs (712/545-3283).

Woodbury County
Sioux City Prairie. 157 acres, Woodbury Co. Conservation Board (712/258-0838). Hillside prairie. Located in northwestern Sioux City; access from, Brier Cliff College parking lot, at northwest border of prairie, or enter from Talbot Rd, on west side of prairie. Stone State Park (157 acres) and Mount Talbot State Preserve (90 acres, Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources) are nearby. Stone State Park is 4 miles north via Hwy 12 (I-29 Exit 151); Mt. Talbot is north of park on Rock River Rd. Both sites have some prairie.

Kansas
Butler County


Chase County
Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve (ca 11,000 acres) is located two miles north of Strong City in the heart of the Flint Hills. This preserve was created in 1996 in a partnership between the National Park Service and the National Park Trust. Contact information: Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, PO Box 585, Cottonwood Falls, KS 66845 (Ph. 316/273-6034). URL: http://www.nps.gov/taupr/home.htm

Geary County
Konza Prairie. 8,616 ac. Ph. 913/272-5115. A major tallgrass prairie preserve in the Flint Hills, located near Manhattan. A major research station (tallgrass and mixed-grass prairie), purchased by The Nature Conservancy and managed by Kansas State University’s Division of Biology. Fourteen miles of trails are open daily from dawn until dusk, conditions permitting. See Zimmerman (1993) and Reichman (1987).
Other Major Midwestern Tallgrass Prairie Preserves

South Dakota
Samuel H. Ordway Jr. Memorial Prairie Preserve (Owned by The Nature Conservancy). 7,800 ac., NE. Ph. 605/439-3475 or 701/222-8464. Located near Leola. Tallgrass prairies and wetlands, the largest tallgrass prairie in South Dakota.

North Dakota
Sheyenne National Grassland. 70,180 ac., SE. Ph. 701/683-4342. Sheyenne Ranger District, P.O. Box 946, 701 Main St., Lisbon, ND 58054. Located in Richland County, near Lisbon. Sandhills tallgrass prairie and riverine hardwoods on a sandy glacial-age delta of the Sheyenne River; the largest area of federally owned tallgrass prairie in the U.S.A. Chapman et al. (1998) described this and other Red River Valley prairie sites in North Dakota, Minnesota and Manitoba.

Some Tallgrass Prairie Locations in Southeastern Nebraska

Note: Prairie locations and sizes as shown here are not exact: many of these sites are conservation easements, and require permission from the landowner to visit.
Wildcat Creek Tallgrass Prairie - Gage County - 33 Acres

Owners: Wachiska Audubon Society

Location: From Virginia, 5 miles south, 1 mile west, 1 mile south, and 1/4 miles west
Saunders County

Kenneth Storm or Yutan Prairie
Owners: Wachiska Audubon Society, Lincoln NE.
Lowland prairie, approximately 21 acres
Approximately 1 mile north, 1 east and 1/2 north of Yutan NE.
Elmer Klapka Farm
Owner: Wachiska Audubon Society
Upland prairie and cropland, approx. 400 acres
Approximately 2 miles south of Table Rock, NE.
Henry Dieken Tallgrass Prairie

Owners: The Wachiska Audubon Society

Location: One and one half miles south of Highway 2 at Unadilla and 3/4 miles west.
Locations of Nine-mile, Pioneers Park and Spring Creek prairies
Distribution of relict prairies in Southeastern Nebraska, based on "Land Cover of Nebraska" map (2006), by Center for Advanced Information Technologies, U. of Nebraska-Lincoln
References


______,.1965. *Native Vegetation of Nebraska*. Univ. of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, NE.


Animals

Mammals


Birds


Reptiles and Amphibians


Butterflies

Dankert, N, H. Nagel and T. Nightengale. 1993 Butterfly distribution maps— Nebraska. Dept. of Biology, Univ. of Nebraska – Kearney, Kearney, NE. 34 pp. (These maps are now somewhat outdated)

Heitzman, J, and J. E. Heitzman. 1996. Butterflies and Moths of Missouri. Mo. Dept. of Conservation, Jefferson City, MO. (Photos & text covering nearly all Nebraska’s butterflies, and the only regional moth guide.)
Brock, J., & K. Kaufman (2003). Butterflies of North America. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, MA (Illustrates all of Nebraska species; probably the best and most easily used single field guide for the state.)
________, and A. M. Wright. 1999. Western Butterflies. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, MA. (Coverage extends east to east-central Nebraska (100th meridian. Illustrated by paintings; includes many larvae).

**Dragonflies**
Nikkula, B. J. Sones & D. L. Stokes. 2002. Beginners Guide to Dragonflies. Little Brown, Boston (Includes many of the state’s common dragonflies, and also some damselflies.)

**Grasshoppers**

**Plants (General)**

**Trees, Shrubs and Woody Vines**

**Forbs (Wildflowers and Weeds)**


Christiansen, P, and M. Muller. 1999. *An Illustrated Guide to Iowa Prairie Plants*. Univ. of Iowa Press, Iowa City, IA. Describes and illustrates (line drawings) nearly 300 species, including about 30 grasses. Organized taxonomically by plant families. With distribution maps showing Iowa county records, which allows for some extrapolation to eastern Nebraska.


Haddock, M. J. 2005. *Wildflowers and Grasses of Kansas*. Univ. Press of Kansas, Lawrence. Describes and illustrates (color photos) 323 species, including 41 grasses & 15 sedges or rushes. Organized first by flower color, secondly by plant families. Includes many Nebraska species. Probably the most useful in-print field guide to southeastern Nebraska’s prairie wildflowers, at least for people unfamiliar with plant classification (but see also following reference).


Van Bruggen, T. 1983. *Wildflowers, Grasses and Other Plants of the Northern Plains and Black Hills*. Badlands Natural History Assoc, Interior, SD. Describes and illustrates (color photos) 312 species, including 48 grasses, sedges & ferns. Organized by flower color. Includes some Nebraska tallgrass species, but most are associated with drier grasslands and the Black Hills.

**Grasses & Sedges**

