A Key to Native and Introduced Legumes in Nebraska

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USDA, Soil Conservation Service

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The following key for identification of native legumes and tame or domesticated legumes that have escaped cultivation which occur in Nebraska is based upon the nomenclature of the following references:

A Botanical Synopsis of the Cultivated Clovers (Trifolium), by F. J. Hermann, October 1953, Agriculture Monograph No. 22, USDA.

An Analysis of the Flowering Plants of Nebraska, by John Mack Winter, 1936, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Flora of Nebraska, 3rd edition, by W. P. Petersen, 1923, Lincoln, Nebraska.


Flowering Plants of the Ross Natural History Reservation, Lyon and Chase Counties, Kansas, by James S. Wilson, June 1963, Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, Kansas.


Kansas Wild Flowers, by William Chase Stevens, 1948, University of Kansas Press, Lawrence, Kansas.

Keys to Sweet Clovers (Melilotus), by Duane Isely, Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science, Vol. 61, 1958, Department of Botany, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.


The reference to common and scientific names was Common and Scientific Names of a Selected List of Native and Introduced Plants in Nebraska, 1967, Nebraska Centennial Commission.

Peter M. Jensen
Range Conservationist
April 1, 1968
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TYPES OF INFLORESCENCE

- Raceme
- Spike
- Umbel

FLOWER PARTS

- Anther
- Filament
- Stigma
- Style
- Pistil
- Ovary
- Petal (corolla)
- Sepal (calyx)
- Receptacle

TYPES OF LEAVES

- Simple
- Trifoliolate
- Digitate
- Pinnate
- Bipinnate
GLOSSARY

Ascending - growing obliquely upward.

Axil - the upper angle formed by a leaf or branch with the stem.

Banner - the upper petal, usually larger petal, of the pea type flower.

Bract - a more or less modified leaf subtending a flower or inflorescence.

Calyx - the outer series of floral leaves, made up of sepals.

Corolla - the inner series of floral leaves, made up of petals.

Cylindrical - cylinder or round in cross section.

Decumbent - reclining on the ground, but summit or end ascending.

Dehiscent - legume pod splitting open along sutures to discharge the seeds.

Ellipsoid - a solid body, shaped more or less like a football.

Filament - the stalk of a stamen bearing the anther.

Head - a dense cluster of sessile or nearly sessile flowers on a very short axis.

Indehiscent - legume pod not splitting open to discharge seeds.

Inflorescence - the flowering parts of a plant.

Internode - the portion of a stem between two nodes.

Involucre - a whorl of bracts subtending a flower or clusters of flowers.

Irregular flower - one or more of the organs of the series are unlike the rest.

Keel - the two fused lower petals of the pea type flower.

Leaflet - one of the divisions of a compound leaf.

Legume - usually a dry dehiscent fruit of Leguminosae family: usually formed from one carpel with two lines of dehiscence.

Legume pod - any dry and dehiscent fruit.

Obcordate - inversely heart shaped, attached at the point.

Oblong - longer than wide and the sides parallel or nearly so.

Ovary - the part of the pistil that contain the ovules or seeds.
Ovoid - shaped like an egg.

Palinately compound - the leaflets attached at the base like the fingers of the hand.

Perfect flower - a flower having both stamens and pistils.

Petal - one of the parts or leaves of the corolla.

Pistil - the central organ of a flower consisting of the stigma, style, and ovary.

Raceme - an inflorescence with flowers pedicelled along a more or less elongated axis with the youngest flowers near the top.

Sagittate - shaped like an arrowhead with the lobes turned downward.

Sepals - one of the parts or leaves of the calyx, usually green.

Septum - the partition of a legume pod.

Sessile - without a stalk.

Spike - an inflorescence with the flowers borne sessile on a more or less elongated axis with the younger flowers at the top.

Stamen - the part of the flower that bears the pollen, includes anther and filament.

Stipel - an appendage like a stipule but subtending the leaflet.

Stipule - a leaf-like appendage at the base of the leaf stalk, often more or less united.

Style - the organ or part of the pistil connecting the stigma and ovary.

Suture - a line of splitting or opening; a line of dehiscence.

Tendril - a slender thread-shaped process used for climbing.

Umbel - a flat-topped inflorescence with the flowers arising from one point, the younger flowers in the center.

Wings - the lateral petals of the pea type flower.
LEGUMINOSAE (Legume) FAMILY

Annual or perennial herbaceous plants, shrubs or trees, with alternate, generally compound leaves with stipules, leaflets usually entire. Flowers mostly perfect, commonly irregular, calyx more or less united 4 to 5 sepals (2 lipped in Lupinus); corolla commonly of 5 dissimilar petals (upper petal called banner, 2 lateral petals called wings, and lower petals joined along edges to form boat shaped keel, which usually encloses the stamen and pistil); usually 10 variously united stamen (mostly 9, filaments united into a tube and the upper one separate); except Petalostemum which has 5; one called superior ovary; fruit a legume sometimes indehiscent, sometimes 2-celled by intrusion of one or both sutures.

KEY TO GENERA

1. Leaves simple (only one blade or leaf)
   2. Small tree, 10 separate stamen, flowers pinkish to purplish
      - 1. Cercis
   2. Herbaceous plant, 10 stamen united into 1 or 2 sets
      3. Annual, stamen united into a tube below the middle, flowers yellowish
         - 2. Crotalaria
      3. Perennial, stamen united into two sets, flowers purplish
         - 3. Astragalus

1. Leaves trifoliate (a compound leaf with three leaflets)
   2. Stamen not united
      3. Legume pod roundish or slightly cylindrical, flowers whitish, creamish, bluish, or yellowish
         - 4. Baptisia
      3. Legume pod flat and linear, flowers yellowish
         - 5. Thermopsis
   2. Stamen united by their filaments into a tube or into unequal sets.
   3. Leaflets toothed
      4. Leaves palmately compound, flowers in heads or very short spikelike racemes, legume pod straight, petiole branches of equal length
         - 6. Trifolium
      4. Leaves pinnately compound (terminal leaflet stalked), flowers in oblong or elongated racemes, petiole branches of unequal length
5. Legume pod strongly curved or coiled, leaflets one-third toothed, inflorescence head like or oblong and very dense, not over 5 cm. long, yellowish flowers if head like or purplish flowers if oblong  - 7. Medicago

5. Legume pod straight or nearly so, leaflets completely toothed, inflorescence a lax raceme over 5 cm. long, flowers whitish or yellowish  - 8. Melilotus

3. Leaflets entire, exceptionally simple

4. Herbaceous vines, twining or trailing

5. Annual, flowers all alike or perfect, corolla keel strongly curved up or coiled, style bearded  - 9. Strophostyles

5. Perennial, rootstock bearing small tubers, some flowers without petals, corolla keel not curved or coiled, style not bearded  - 10. Amphicarpa

4. Herbaceous plants not twining or trailing

5. Legume pod jointed, breaking apart into one-seeded parts

6. Legume pod with several internodes or joints, visibly constricted, leaflets with stipules and not stalked  - 11. Desmodium

6. Legume pod of a single fertile joint, leaflets without stipules and stalked  - 12. Lespedeza

5. Legume pod not jointed

6. Leaflets dotted with glands, flowers in racemes or spikes, filaments not enlarged at summit, flowers usually bluish  - 13. Psoralea

6. Leaflets not dotted with glands, flowers in umbels or solitary in axils, filaments all or alternately enlarged at summit, flowers pinkish, yellowish or brick red  - 14. Lotus

1. Leaves digitate (spreading apart like fingers of a hand)

2. Leaflets 3 to 5, dotted with glands  - 13. Psoralea

2. Leaflets 5 to 11, not dotted with glands  - 15. Lupinus

1. Leaves pinnate (compound leaf with leaflets arranged on each side of an elongated axis)

2. Shrub or tree
3. Shrub, leaflets without stipels, legume pod less than 3 inches long

4. Leaflets dotted with glands, flowers bluish to purplish, stamen united only at base - 16. Amorpha

4. Leaflets not dotted with glands, flowers yellowish, stamen united into two unequal sets - 17. Caragana

3. Tree, leaflets with stipels, legume pod over 3 inches long, flowers whitish - 18. Robinia

2. Herbaceous

3. Leaves even-pinnate

4. Flowers pea-like, whitish, somewhat viny with tendrils

5. Style slender with tuft of hair at summit (like bottlebrush) - 19. Vicia

5. Style flattened, bearded along one side towards the tip (like a toothbrush) - 20. Lathyrus


3. Leaves odd pinnate

4. Stems twining or trailing - 22. Apios

4. Stems not twining or trailing

5. Leaflets dotted with glands

6. Legume pod with hooked prickles - 23. Glycyrrhiza

6. Legume pod without hooked prickles

7. Flowers pea-like, 10 (or 9) stamen - 24. Dalea

7. Flowers not pea-like, 5 stamen - 25. Petalostemum

5. Leaflets not dotted with glands

6. Stamen distinct or not united - 26. Sorphora

6. Stamen united into one or two sets

7. Legume pod breaking up into one-seeded internodes, flowers rose colored - 27. Coronilla

7. Legume pod not breaking up into one-seeded internodes
8. Banner broad and reflexed
   - 28. Tephrosia

8. Banner narrow

9. Keel tip with point or hook, usually upright stems
   - 29. Oxytropis

9. Keel tip blunt or rounded, usually spreading or reclining stems
   - 3. Astragalus

1. Leaves bipinnate (twice pinnate, primary division once again pinnate)

2. Shrubs or trees

3. Legume pod flat, dark, and shiny; trunk and branches usually covered with large branched spines
   - 30. Gleditsia

3. Legume pod long, broad, and swollen; trunk and branches without spines
   - 31. Gymnocladus

2. Herbaceous

3. Stems and usually fruit have prickles, prostrate, flowers pinkish, leaflets sensitive to touch
   - 32. Schrankia

3. Stems and fruit without prickles, upright, flowers whitish, leaflets not sensitive to touch
   - 33. Desmanthus
KEY TO SPECIES

1. Cercis L.
   
   C. canadensis L. (Rebud)

2. Crotalaria L.
   
   C. sagittalis L. (Arrow crotalaria)

3. Astragalus L.

1. Legume pod 1-celled or partially 2-celled by the intrusion of the dorsal suture, the septum, if any, not united to the ventral suture.

2. Legume pod triangular, sagittate, or obcordate in cross section (median), not papery

3. Legume pod sessile, strictly 1-celled, the dorsal suture not intended but sometimes marked with longitudinal furrows, flowers yellowish-white to creamish
   A. lotiflorus Hook. (Low milkvetch)

3. Legume pod often has stipules, partially 2-celled by a slight or deep intrusion of the dorsal suture

4. Leaves conspicuously villous with spreading hairs, flowers creamish, leaflets 25-31, about 1 cm. long
   A. drummondii Dougl. (Drummond milkvetch)

4. Leaves appressed hairy and pointed in one direction or without hairs, flowers whitish, leaflets 15-31, 1.5-3 cm. long
   A. racemosus Pursh (Recemed milkvetch)

2. Legume pod rounded or variously flattened, but not triangular, sagittate, or obcordate in cross section unless papery

3. Legume pod papery, bladdery and inflated, 8-30 mm. wide, conspicuously mottled with splashes of orange or red, leaflets usually long linear or reduced to linear expanded bladeless petiole
   A. ceramicus Sheld. (Birdegg milkvetch)

3. Legume pod leathery or woody

4. Legume pod with two grooves running lengthwise on the upper (ventral) side, with stipe or stalk, 11-15 mm. long, flowers usually purplish, leaflets 1-2.5 cm. long
   A. bisulcatus (Hook.) A. Gray (Twogrooved milkvetch)
4. Legume pod not two grooved ventrally

5. Calyx cylindrical, low villous or ashy colored plants, decumbent stems, flowers 15-30 mm. long, legume pod horizontal

6. Legume pod shaggy villous or woolly with long hairs, 15-20 mm. long, flowers yellowish-white or creamish with purple tipped keel. 

7. Leaf hairs mostly or entirely pick-shaped, attached at or below the middle, leaflets 5-10 mm. long, legume pod nearly straight, 15-25 mm. long

8. Leaflets 9-23, 8-15 mm. long and thin, legume pod without hairs and with stalk, flowers yellowish-white and stalks arising from ground

9. Leaves simple or some rarely 3-5 foliate, 1-2 inches long, very narrow, legume pod hairy without stalk, plant leafy stemmed, flowers purplish

5. Calyx bell shaped, low or tall plants with smaller flowers if the plants are low and ashy colored

6. Legume pod thick in texture, sessile, ovoid to ellipsoid in outline somewhat dorsally flattened, flowers whitish to yellowish

7. Legume pod flattened laterally, both sutures prominent

8. Legume pod hard and woody, 5-8 mm. long, leaflets 7-17, flowers purplish
8. Legume pod papery to leathery, 15-20 mm. long, leaflets 15-25, flowers whitish
   A. flexuosus Dougl. (Flexile milkvetch)

1. Legume pod 2-celled, the septum complete and united to the ventral suture

2. Legume pod fleshy, plum-like, the walls at least 3 mm. thick, indehiscent or rarely dehiscent, not inflated

3. Legume pod with short soft hairs, egg shaped, and abruptly tapering to point, flowers purplish
   A. platensis Nutt. (Platte milkvetch)

3. Legume pod without hairs, almost round or broadly shaped like a football

4. Legume pod pointed, leaflets long and narrow, flowers purplish
   A. crassicarpus Nutt. (Groundplum milkvetch)

4. Legume pod rounded to blunt, leaflets broadly round, flowers yellowish-white with purple tipped keel
   A. mexicanus A.DC. (Mexican milkvetch)

2. Legume pod papery or woody, if fleshy the wall thinner, mostly dehiscent

3. Leaflets villous or silky, often densely, plants stemless or somewhat so, the internodes few and short
   A. mollissimus Torr. (Woolly loco)

3. Leaflets without hairs or closely appressed and pointed in one direction, plants with well developed leafy stems

4. Legume pod not grooved or only slightly on lower suture, round or nearly so in cross section, flowers yellowish-white or yellowish
   A. canadensis L. (Canada milkvetch)

4. Legume pod deeply grooved on lower suture, triangular or heart shaped in cross section, flowers purplish

5. Legume pod villous with long spreading hairs, about 10 mm. long, leaflets 15-21, 5-10 mm. long
   A. goniatus Rydb. (Nickleaf milkvetch)

5. Legume pod with appressed gray or black hairs, 8-20 mm. long, leaflets 9-19, 10-20 mm. long
   A. striatus Nutt. (Prairie milkvetch)
4. Baptisia

1. Numerous terminal small flowers, often hairy at base, flowers yellowish
   B. tinctoria (L.) R. Br.
   (Yellow wildindigo)

1. Few terminal flowers, larger, mostly opposite the leaves

2. Leaflets, ovaries, and legume pod without hairs

3. Flowers whitish, slender stipules and shorter than petioles
   B. leucantha T.&G.
   (Atlantic wildindigo)

3. Flowers indigo bluish, broad stipules and longer than petioles
   B. minor Lehm. (Blue wildindigo)

2. Leaflets, ovaries, and legume pod hairy, flowers creamish colored
   B. leucophaea Nutt.
   (Plains wildindigo)

5. Thermopsis R. Br.

   (Prairie goldenpea)

6. Trifolium L.

1. Plants annuals or biennials, flowers yellowish, legume pod distinctly stalked

2. Heads loosely 3-15 flowered, 5-8 mm. thick, banner scarcely marked
   with fine usually parallel lines, calyx without hairs
   T. dubium Sibth. (Small hop clover)

2. Heads densely 20-40 flowered, 0.8-1.5 cm. thick, banner conspicuously marked with fine usually parallel lines, calyx sparingly hairy
   T. procumbens L. (Large hop clover)

1. Plants rarely annuals, flowers whitish, yellowish-white, creamish, pinkish, rose or purplish

2. Heads of flowers without stalks, subtended by 1 or 2 short petioled leaves

3. Flower heads cylindrical, flowers scarlet to deep red, annual, slender roots
   T. incarnatum L. (Crimson clover)

3. Flower heads round to egg shaped, flowers purplish-red or purplish, perennial, woody vertical root stalks
   T. pratense L. (Red clover)

2. Heads of flowers with stalks, subtended if at all by highly modified bracts
3. Heads of flowers subtended by an involucre of bracts, often united at least at base, over 3 mm. long, calyx greatly enlarged and inflated after flowering

\[ T. \text{fragiferum} \text{ L.} \]  
(\text{Strawberry clover})

3. Heads of flowers without an involucre or inconspicuous one, bracts rarely over 3 mm. long, calyx not greatly enlarged or inflated, or only slightly so, after flowering

4. Flowers whitish or pinkish tinged, creeping stems, flower stalk arises from prostrate stems, often rooting at node, calyx 3.5-5 mm. long, red or purple spot in depression of teeth, leaflets usually with white spot

\[ T. \text{repens} \text{ L.} \] (\text{White clover})

4. Flowers pinkish or rose tinged, stems erect or ascending, not rooting, flower stalks not arising from prostrate stems, calyx 3-4 mm. long, no red or purple spot in depression of teeth, leaflets without white spot

\[ T. \text{hybrideum} \] (\text{Alsike clover})

7. \text{Medicago} \text{ L.}

1. Perennial, erect, flowers 6-10 mm. long

2. Legume pod spirally coiled, flowers violet or bluish

\[ M. \text{sativa} \text{ L.} \] (\text{Alfalfa})

2. Legume pod curved to nearly straight, flowers yellowish

\[ M. \text{falcata} \text{ L.} \] (\text{Yellow alfalfa})

1. Annual, prostrate, flowers 3 mm. long, flowers yellowish, legume pod merely curved

\[ M. \text{lupulina} \text{ L.} \] (\text{Black medic})

8. \text{Melilotus} \text{ Mill.}

1. Flowers yellowish, banner not longer than wings or only slightly so, legume wrinkled or creased surface

\[ M. \text{officinalis} \text{ (L.) Lam.} \] (\text{Yellow sweetclover})

1. Flowers whitish, banner considerably longer than wings, legume not wrinkled or creased surface

2. Biennial

\[ M. \text{alba} \text{ Desr.} \] (\text{White sweetclover})

2. Annual

\[ M. \text{alba var. annua} \text{ Desr.} \]  
(\text{Hubam sweetclover})

9. \text{Strophostyles} \text{ Ell.}

1. Leaflets at least twice as long as wide, flowers 5-8 mm. long, legume pod 2-3.5 cm. long, seeds 2-4 mm. long, lustrous black, leaves grayish

\[ S. \text{leiosperma} \text{ (T. & G.) Piper} \]  
(\text{Smoothseed wildbean})
Leaflets less than twice as long as wide, flowers 8-14 mm. long, legume pod 3.5-10 cm. long, seeds 3-12 mm. long, seeds scale-like, leaves greenish

S. helvola (L.) Ell.
(Trailing wildbean)

10. **Amphicarpa** Ell.

1. Leaflets only slightly hairy, thin, 2-6 cm. long, if legume pod hairy only on margin

A. bracteata (L.) Fern.
(Southern hogpeanut)

1. Leaflets coarsely hairy, firm, 5-10 cm. long, legume pod hairy throughout

A. bracteata var. comosa (L.) Fern. (Pitcher hogpeanut)

11. **Desmodium** Desv.

1. Stamen united in one set, legume pod long stalked, straight or nearly so on the upper suture, deeply constricted on the lower, dorsal suture not hairy

2. Flowers rose to purplish, flowering stem leafless, arising from base, stipules not persistent, legume pod stalk 10-22 mm. long

D. nudiflorum (L.) DC.
(Sarestem tickclover)

2. Flowers purplish to whitish, flowering stem arising from whorl of leaves, stipules persistent, legume pod stalk 4-10 mm. long

D. glutinosum (Muhl.) Wood
(Largeflower tickclover)

1. Stamen in two sets, legume pod constricted on both sutures, more deeply below, dorsal suture with hooked hairs

2. Legume pod internodes (seeds) notably longer than wide

3. Leaflets blunt, rough hairy, yellowish green, flowers pinkish-green

D. canescens (L.) DC.
(Hoary tickclover)

3. Leaflets long and tapering at end, soft hairy, flowers pinkish

D. cuspidatum var. longifolium
(T. & G.) Schub.
(Longleaf tickclover)

2. Legume pod internodes (seeds) scarcely longer than wide

3. Legume pod distinctly long stalked, somewhat 3 or 4 sided

4. Plants usually not hairy, flowers purplish

D. paniculatum (L.) DC.
(Panicle tickclover)

4. Plants hairy or rough to touch
5. Leaflets thick and leathery, velvety hairy on underside, flowers pinkish
   \( D. \) \textit{viridiflorum} (L.) DC.
   (Velvet tickclover)

5. Leaflets not thick and scarcely leathery, hairy somewhat flat on underside, flowers purplish
   \( D. \) \textit{dillenii} Darl.
   (Dillen tickclover)

3. Legume pod without stalk or nearly so, more or less oval

4. Leaflets somewhat leathery, net veined, large stipules, flowers whitish
   \( D. \) \textit{illinoense} Gray
   (Illinois tickclover)

4. Leaflets membraneous, not net veined, small stipules, flowers rose to bluish
   \( D. \) \textit{canadense} (L.) DC.
   (Canada tickclover)

12. \textit{Lespedeza} Michx.

1. Annual, stipules lance shaped and widest below the middle, persistent

2. Flowers borne along stem, 2 or 3 together in leaf axils, stem hairs appressed downward
   \( L. \) \textit{striata} (Thunb.) H. & A.
   (Common lespedeza)

2. Flowers borne in leaf axils towards end of stem, stem hairs appressed upwards
   \( L. \) \textit{stipulacea} Maxim.
   (Korean lespedeza)

1. Perennial, stipules awl shaped or bristle-like, not persistent

2. Flowers purplish, commonly numerous flowers without petals
   \( L. \) \textit{violacea} (L.) Pers.
   (Violet lespedeza)

2. Flowers creamy or whitish, few to none, flowers without petals

3. Flowers creamy-white, many flowered heads or racemes, borne at summits of stems and branches
   \( L. \) \textit{capitata} Michx.
   (Roundhead lespedeza)

3. Flowers whitish with purple veins, racemes of one to several flowers, borne in axils of most leaves up and down slender stems
   \( L. \) \textit{cuneata} (Dumont) G. Don
   (Sericea lespedeza)

13. \textit{Pscroales} L.

1. Leaflets commonly 3 (except \( P. \) \textit{digitata}), flowers not over 10 mm. long, flowering stems from creeping rootstalks

2. Plants silvery white from densely silky hairs, flowers without stalks or nearly so
3. Leaflets linear to lance shaped, usually 5, calyx lobes nearly equal
   P. *digitata* Nutt. (Finger scurfpea)

3. Leaflets oblong to somewhat egg shaped, usually 3, one calyx lobe much longer
   P. *argophylla* Pursh
   (Silverleaf scurfpea)

2. Plants without hairs or only a few short hairs, flowers with stalks, leaflets rarely over 3

3. Fruit tapering gradually to the beak, flowers in rather loose racemes, flower stalks 4-8 mm. long, leaflets narrowly linear
   P. *linearifolia* T. & C.
   (Narrowleaf scurfpea)

3. Fruit abruptly beaked, flowers in spikelike or narrow racemes, flower stalks not over 4 mm. long, leaflets narrowly linear to egg shaped, attached at the narrow end

4. Fruit nearly round, flowers whitish except tip of keel may be purplish
   P. *lanceolata* Pursh
   (Lemon scurfpea)

4. Fruit egg shaped, flowers purplish or bluish

5. Flowers few, scattered in slender elongated racemes
   P. *tenuiflora* Pursh
   (Slimflower scurfpea)

5. Flowers many, clustered or crowded in racemes
   P. *tenuiflora* var. *floribunda* (Nutt.) Rydb.
   (Manyflower scurfpea)

1. Leaflets 5-7, flowers 10 mm. or longer, flowering stems from thick tuberous, rounded or spindle shaped taproots

2. Stems 40-60 cm. tall, branched throughout and leafy
   P. *cuspidata* Pursh
   (Tallbread scurfpea)

2. Stems not over 30 cm. tall, simple and rather sparingly branched, usually basal leaves

3. Stems and petioles with moderately coarse stiff to long soft wavy spreading hairs, stems short and branched, legume pod without hairs
   P. *esculenta* Pursh
   (Common breadroot)

3. Stems and petioles with short close stiff hairs, stemless or nearly so, legume pod somewhat hairy
   P. *hypogaea* Nutt.
   (Little breadroot)

14. *Lotus* L.
1. Perennial, spreading many stemmed, flowers in compact umbels, yellowish, flower stalks 4-6 inches long, leaflets 5, stipules none
   \[L.\ corniculatus\ L.\] (Birdsfoot trefoil)

1. Annual, flowers solitary, whitish, flower stalks less than one inch long, leaves silky hairy, leaflets 3, stipules reduced to glands
   \[L.\ purshianus\ C.\ &\ C.\] (American deer vetch)

15. \textbf{Lupinus} L.

1. Annual, 4-8 inches tall, legume pod 2-seeded densely hairy, flowers bluish
   \[L.\ pusillus\ Pursh\] (Rusty lupine)

1. Perennial, 1-2 feet tall, legume pod 3-8 seeded

2. Flowers bluish, 12 mm. or longer, leaflets paddle shaped
   \[L.\ plattensis\ S.\ Wats.\] (Nebraska lupine)

2. Flowers light violet, rose or whitish, under 12 mm. long, leaflets narrow
   \[L.\ argenteus\ Pursh\] (Silver lupine)

16. \textbf{Amorpha} L.

1. Tall shrub, 5 feet or taller, leaflets about 1-2 inches long, legume pod 2-seeded
   \[A.\ fruticosa\ L.\] (Indigobush)

1. Low shrub, leaflets about 1/4-1/2 inches long, legume pod 1-seeded

2. Densely short hairy, leaves sessile, leaflets 21-51, flower spikes commonly clustered, legume pod curved
   \[A.\ canescens\ Pursh\] (Leadplant)

2. Hairless or nearly so, leaves short petioled, leaflets 13-19, flower spikes commonly single, legume pod straight
   \[A.\ nana\ Nutt.\] (Dwarf leadplant)

17. \textbf{Caragana} Lam.

1. \[C.\ arborescens\ Lam.\] (Siberian peashrub)

18. \textbf{Robinia} L.

1. \[R.\ pseudoacacia\ L.\] (Black locust)

19. \textbf{Vicia} L.

1. Flower stalks shorter than leaves or none, flowers 1 to 3, annual
   \[V.\ sativa\ L.\] (Common vetch)

1. Flower stalks nearly as long or longer than leaflets, flowers 3 to 40
2. Annual, leaflets mostly 12-24, not prominent veiny, flowers 1-1.5 cm. long, fully developed inflorescence equaling or overtopping subtending leaves  

\textit{V. villosa} Roth (Hairy vetch)

2. Perennial, leaflets mostly 8-18, prominent lateral veins beneath, flowers 1.5-2.0 cm. long, fully developed inflorescence shorter than subtending leaves

3. Plant usually tall, leaflets oval or elliptic, 1.5-3.5 cm. long, 0.6-1.4 cm. wide  

\textit{V. americana} Muhl. (American vetch)

3. Plant usually short, leaflets long and narrow to slightly wider, 1-4 mm. wide  

\textit{V. americana var. angustifolia} Nees (Stiffleaf vetch)

20. Lathyrus Nutt.

1. \textit{L. polymorphus} Nutt.  
(Showy peavine)

21. Cassia L.

1. Perennial, flowers yellowish, petals about equal in size and form, plant 3 to 6 feet tall, leaflets 8-16, not sensitive to touch  

\textit{C. marilandica} L. (Wild senna)

1. Annual, flowers yellowish, petals unequal in size, plant 1 to 1.5 feet tall, leaflets 18-30, sensitive to touch  

\textit{C. fasciculata} Michx.  
(Showy partridgepea)

22. Apios Medic.

1. \textit{A. americana} Medic.  
(American potatobean)

23. Glycyrrhiza Pursh

1. \textit{G. lepidota} Pursh  
(American licorice)

24. Dalea Willd.

1. Flower spikes long, loosely flowered, perennial

2. Leaves and stems densely short hairy, leaflets 7-13, egg shaped attached at narrow end, flowers purplish  

\textit{D. lanata} Spreng. (Woolly dalea)

2. Leaves and stems not hairy, leaflets 5-9, linear, flowers whitish  

\textit{D. enneandra} Nutt. (Slender dalea)

1. Flower spikes oblong, thick, densely flowered
2. Perennial, leaves and stems densely hairy, leaflets 3-9, flowers yellowish
   D. aurea Nutt. (Silktop dalea)

2. Annual, leaves and stems not hairy, leaflets 13-41, flowers pinkish to whitish
   D. alopecuroides Willd. (Foxtail dalea)

25. Petalostemum Michx.

1. Leaflets densely silky hairy, leaflets 9-17, flowers rose-purplish, rarely whitish
   P. villosum Nutt. (Silky prairieclover)

1. Leaflets not hairy, leaflets 3-9

2. Flowers purplish, leaflets mostly 3-5, calyx hairy
   P. purpureum (Vent.) Rydb. (Purple prairieclover)

2. Flowers whitish, leaflets 5-9

3. Flower spikes round or nearly so, very numerous, leaflets narrowly linear
   P. multiflorum Nutt. (Roundhead prairieclover)

3. Flower spikes oblong or cylindric, leaflets oblong or paddle shaped

4. Leaflets mostly 7-9, calyx and legume pod not hairy, flower spike 1-7 cm. long, not over 1 cm. thick
   P. candidum Michx. (White prairieclover)

4. Leaflets 5-7, calyx and legume pod hairy, flower spike 4-15 cm. long, over 1 cm. thick
   P. compactum (Spreng.) Swezey (Compact prairieclover)


1. S. sericea Nutt. (Silky sorphora)

27. Coronilla L.

1. C. varia L. (Crownvetch)


1. T. virginiana (L.) Pers. (Virginia tephrosia)

29. Oxytropis L.

1. Flower racemes 1-5 flowered, flowers purplish to pinkish, rarely white, calyx inflated, encloses fruit, leaflets 5-9, plants 2-10 cm. tall
   O. multiceps Nutt. (Manyhead crazyweed)
1. Flower racemes 6 to many flowered, flowers purplish or lavender to white, calyx not inflated, does not enclose fruit entirely, plants taller than 10 cm.

2. Flowers purplish or lavender, leaflets 7-17, 5-40 mm. long
   \[O. \textit{lambertii} \text{ Pursh}\]
   (Lambert crazyweed)

2. Flowers whitish, leaflets 11-21, 15-25 mm. long
   \[O. \textit{sericea} \text{ Nutt.}\] (Silky crazyweed)

30. \textit{Gleditsia} \text{L.}

1. \[G. \textit{triaxanthos}\]
   (Common honeylocust)

31. \textit{Gymnocladus} \text{Lam.}

1. \[G. \textit{dioica} \text{(L.) K. Koch}\]
   (Kentucky coffee tree)

32. \textit{Schrankia} \text{Willd.}

1. \[S. \textit{nuttallii} \text{(DC.) Standl.}\]
   (Catclaw sensitivebriar)

33. \textit{Desmanthus} \text{Willd.}

1. \[D. \textit{illinoensis} \text{(Michx.) MacMill.}\]
   (Illinois bundleflower)
LEGUMES
KEYS
NEBRASKA