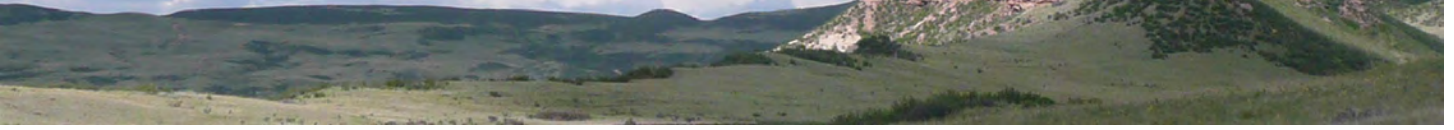


Soapstone Prairie Natural Area

Early August Plants



Prairie coneflower
Ratibida columnifera
(Sunflower family)
native

These are more often yellow than red, but this is stunning. Native Americans used coneflowers as a snakebite remedy and used the leaves and flowers for tea.



Blanket flower
Gaillardia aristata
(Sunflower family)
native

The season for these is about finished but those remaining are delightful

Prairie sunflower
Helianthus pumilus (Sunflower family) native

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



Purple prairie clover (*Dalea purpurea*)
(Pea family) native

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

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



**Dotted
gayfeather**

Liatriis punctata
(Sunflower family)
native

A bright purple note in
a symphony of yellow
flowers; pollinated by
bees and butterflies.



Annual sunflower

Helianthus annuus (Sunflower family) native

These are tall, stout plants. Look for them along the road
just to the south of the gatehouse. Native Americans
used fibers from the stems and made yellow dye from
flowers. The seeds now feed birds and yield oil for fuel
and cooking.



Sleepygrass

Achnatherum robustum
(Grass family) native

This tall (4-5 ft), stout
grass along the
Lindenmeier Trail has a
sedative affect on
horses, hence it's name.



Broomlike ragwort

Senecio spartioides (Sunflower family) native

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



Rubber rabbitbrush

Ericameria nauseosa (Sunflower family)
native

These rounded mounds of green
common along roads all over the West
look like they belong in an
Impressionist painting. They will soon
be covered with bright yellow flowers.

These sheets are also available online at : fcgov.com/natural_areas (then go to "native plants" and to "wildflowers in Natural Areas" -> [wildflower handouts for Soapstone Prairie](#))

