

# Annotated Checklist of Flora at 3 Rivers Foundation Foard County, Texas



## *Christena Stephens and Becky Trammell*

This Annotated Checklist is of flora recorded at 3 Rivers Foundation from 2015 to mid-2022. Changes to taxonomic classification and range distributions for flora continually occur, and this checklist is an attempt to incorporate all published changes affecting flora from Texas, specifically the Rolling Plains area.

Taxa are arranged in phylogenetic sequence through genera, with species names listed alphabetically. Various references were cited to build this checklist. Abbreviated synonymy was taken from a variety of resources, including, Wildflower.org, Range Plants at Texas A&M University, Lone Star Wildflowers, additional book references for selected species, and personal experiences. The account of taxa listed includes a brief statement regarding habitat.

This list currently has 170 species, broken down by 120 forbs, five fungi/lichen, 21 woodies, and 24 grasses. Additional species will continue to be added to this list like the recent discovery of Stinging Serpent, *Cevallia sinuate* in July 2022.

It is intended this checklist be used as a reference for a variety of individuals including, 3RF board members and staff, volunteers, and visitors.

This annotated checklist is written with the assistance of Becky Trammell, Rolling Plains Chapter with Texas Parks and Wildlife Master Naturalists. Also, helping was Deanna Bullock with the Rolling Plains Chapter of Master Naturalists.

### **Authors**

*Christena Stephens*

*Wildlife Biologist and Director of Outdoor Education, 3 Rivers Foundation*

*Becky Trammell*

*Texas Master Naturalist, Rolling Plains Chapter and 3 Rivers Foundation Conservation Volunteer*

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# FORBS

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***Acalypha ostryifolia*, Hornbeam  
Copperleaf**

A member of the Spurge family, Hornbeam Copperleaf can be a “scourge” for soybean farmers and is found across most of the United States. A summer annual, Hornbeam can grow up to two and a half feet tall with distinctive serrated edged leaves. Having both male and female blooms (monoecious), the Hornbeam blooms June through November. The larger female flowers are positioned above the smaller male flowers and the plant is wind-pollinated. A three-seed pod follows the female flower. With a taproot, the Hornbeam survives in full sun and is drought tolerant.

***Allium spp*, Wild Onion**

Members of the Lily family, there are several varieties of Wild Onions in Texas. Growing from a bulb, these strongly scented plants produce long, narrow, green leaves of eighteen inches long. Depending on the variety, white, purple, or yellow clusters of flowers appear from March through May on an up to twenty-inch stem growing from the underground bulb. Found across most of the continental United States, the perennial plant spreads through bulb offsets. Cattle and horses find a chemical in the Wild Onion toxic.

***Allium drummondii*, Drummond's  
Onion**

Another wildflower named for 19th-century Scottish naturalist, Thomas Drummond, this perennial member of the Lily family can be found from New Mexico to South Dakota. Drummond's Onion, with its characteristic smell,

produces a cluster of white/pink blooms from May to June on a single six to 12-inch stem. It grows from bulb-lets with a basal of grass-like leaves. The Cheyenne used the plant for season and food.

***Ambrosia artemisiifolia*, Common  
Ragweed**

The least favorite plants of allergy sufferers, the Common Ragweed occurs across the United States. The plant produces elongated clusters of both male and female, green to brown flowers from June to August, arising from stems of one to three feet tall. Surprisingly, one ragweed can produce up to one billion pollen grains. The seeds from the plant are a favorite of many songbirds and ground rodents. This perennial plant reproduces through rhizomes and via seeds. Opportunistic in disturbed soil, ragweed is usually crowded out by other perennials.

***Ambrosia cumanensis*, Western  
Ragweed**

Adapted to many environments, the Western Ragweed can be found across most of the continental United States. This perennial member of the Sunflower family grows multi-branched stems up to seventy-two inches tall with grey-green leaves. From July through October, the plant produces a white to green bloom. The blooms give way to seeds, popular with quail but with no value for cattle. Reproducing through seeds and rhizomes, the Western Ragweed can produce a deep taproot and presents as an aggressive competitor with grasses.

***Amblyolepis setigera*, Huisache Daisy**

Huisache Daisy, called such because it is often found near huisache and other chapparal, frequently form a “blanket of gold” near roadways. The plant, six to fifteen inches tall, produces strongly scented, large, yellow flower heads on long, bare stems from March to June. This annual member of the Aster family generates lobed leaves from a taproot. Found across Texas to Mexico, the long-lasting flowers (bright yellow petals with an orange center) are a favorite of nectaring insects. Livestock finds the plant tasty, but because of the presence of a compound that slows blood clotting, the plant can be toxic.

***Androstephium coeruleum*, Blue Funnel Lily**

Blue Funnel Lily, a perennial member of the Lily family, can be found across Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas. Growing from a bulb, the plant grows up to 12 inches tall and produces lance-shaped grasses. The funnel-shaped, white to violet, blooms appear atop a leaf-less stalk from February to May. The blooms are followed by an egg-shaped seed pod. The early spring flower has a pleasant fragrance.

***Aphanostephus skirrhobasis*, Lazy Daisy**

The Lazy Daisy, a member of the Aster Family, gets its name from its flower’s habit of not opening until mid-morning. The plant grows up to two feet high with multiple stems with lower leaves serrated and upper leaves smooth. The flowers, appearing from March through August, are white to pink with one bloom

per stem. Lazy Daisy, an annual, is seen from Florida to New Mexico and is propagated by seeds.

***Artemisia ludoviciana ssp.*, Mexicana Mexican Sagewort**

Mexican Sagewort, an upright shrub with grey-green, irregularly toothed leaves, can be found from Mexico to Utah. The shrub can grow up to three feet tall and can develop roots nearly 30 inches deep. From August to December, Sagewort produces flower heads of white and yellow blooms. The plant reproduces through seeds and rhizomes from its vigorous root system, sometimes forming plant groups.

***Asclepias asperula*, Antelope-horn Milkweed**

The native, perennial milkweed, is called Antelope-horn because of its recognizable seed pod. The plant can grow up-right or sprawling up to three feet with clusters of white or green blooms from March through October. The plant contains cardiac glycoside, toxic to humans and animals. However, monarch butterflies lay their eggs on the plant and their caterpillars can eat only the milkweed. The cardiac glycoside makes the butterfly and the caterpillar taste bad to predators.

***Asclepias engelmanniana*, Engelmann's Milkweed**

Named for botanist and physician George Engelmann, this member of the milkweed family produces pale green flowers with a purplish tinge from July to September. The stout stems, if broken, exude a milky sap and grow up to three feet in height. At points along the

stems, flower clusters appear. The flower clusters give way to cone shaped seed pods, producing seeds with a silky “feather” allowing them to float on the wind. The milkweed is a favorite of pollinators and can be found in the south-central United States.

### ***Asclepias latifolia*, Broadleaf Milkweed**

This favorite of the monarch caterpillar grows three feet tall with a single stem studded with large leaves attached directly to the stem. When broken, the stem exudes a milky latex. The perennial broadleaf milkweed has a large, tuberous root system, allowing the plant to spread three to five feet per year. Before and after blooming yellow to green flowers clusters from July to October, the plant is poisonous to sheep, cattle, and goats. Broadleaf Milkweed can be found from California to Texas to South Dakota. Its seeds are spread by the wind via silky hairs.

### ***Asclepias viridiflora*, Green Comet Milkweed**

Named for the characteristic shape of the flower, the Green Comet Milkweed occurs across most of the United States, blooming green flowers from May through September. The plant appears singularly or in pairs with stems up to two feet tall. The flowers are green-tinged and present in clusters at the upper leaves of the plant. A producer of abundant nectar and nursery for Monarch butterflies, the sap of the plant is toxic to humans and most animals. The seed pods are smooth and filled with seeds dispersed on the wind by the attached fine fibers.

### ***Astragalus lindheimeri*, Lindheimer's Milkvetch**

Another plant named after the Father of Texas Botany, Ferdinand Jacob Lindheimer, this milkvetch displays the characteristic raceme, a flower cluster with separate flowers attached to a short stalk. This annual member of the Pea family, found across Texas and Oklahoma, produces purple and white flowers from March through May. Growing from a taproot, the plant produces small, compound leaves, hairy on both sides. Due to the accumulation of alkaloids and selenium in the plant, it is considered toxic.

### ***Berlandiera lyrata*, Chocolate Daisy**

The Chocolate Daisy, called such because of a chocolate odor from the plant, is native to the Southwestern United States. The daisy is a mounding perennial with grey-green leaves, producing multiple branches up to two feet tall. The branches are topped by flowers with yellow petals and a maroon center, blooming April through November and year-round in warmer climates. The plant is drought tolerant and can adapt to a variety of soils. After the petals fall, the remaining flower center is green, giving it one of its other names “green eyes.”

### ***Buglossoides arvensis*, Corn Gromwell**

This erect annual member of the borage family, Corn Gromwell grows up to two feet tall with lance-shaped leaves alternating along a hairy stem. The plant blooms from March to June with a white/purple/yellow, funnel shaped flower. Corn Gromwell reseeds itself

with the four-part nut lets that form from each flower and has a taproot.

### ***Calylophus berlandieri*, Western Primrose**

The Western Primrose, a member of the Evening Primrose family, is called “Sundrop” for bright yellow bloom, opening in the morning and blooming through the day. Found from Colorado to Louisiana, the perennial Western Primrose produces blooms from March through September. Growing from a basal rosette, the multiple, bushy stems can reach up to two feet tall with narrow, spiny leaves. The plant reproduces through seeds and cuttings. It is popular in rock gardens.

### ***Centaurea americana*, American Basketflower**

American Basketflower, a member of the Aster family, looks similar to the thistle but without the prickly leaves. The annual plant can be found from Wisconsin to South Texas and adapts to a variety of soils. The basketflower grows up to 4 feet tall and flowers between May and June. The bloom can measure 3 inches across with a creamy center surrounded by blue/purple petals. The bloom sits in a bract that appears to be a “basket” giving the flower its name.

### ***Cevallia sinuate*, Stinging Serpent**

At first glance from afar this plant looks like a big mound of dandelion heads that have gone to seed. Upon closer examination, you can see the tiniest of barbs on the lobed leaves. The “stinging” part of this plant comes from the barbed hairs containing a painful

stinging chemical covering the stem, leaves, and flowers known as formic acid. Stinging Serpent is rare native plant. It grows in Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma. It is seen quite often in the Big Bend area and far West Texas. It is drought resistant and so is loving all this dryness we have been experiencing, along with liking rocky soils. The blooms are a dining experience for bees, butterflies, and birds. It blooms from late summer to early fall. Since the flowers are nocturnal, it is more common to see them in bud than open during the day.

### ***Chaetopappa ericoides*, Rose Heath Aster**

A low growing perennial member of the Aster family, Rose Heath Aster is found across most of the southwestern United States. The small clumping plant grows up to four inches tall from rhizomes. Rose Heath produces multiple stems and from April to August, these stems are topped by white petaled flowers with a yellow center disc. These flowers produce a small single seeded pod covered with small white barbs.

### ***Corydalis aurea*, Scrambled Eggs**

Scrambled Eggs, called so because of their appearance, are one of the earliest bloomers in the spring. Found across most of the continental United States, this member of the Poppy family produces a bright yellow flower from February through September. Growing from a tap root, up to 20 inches long multiple stems sprawl as they age. Its leaves are deeply lobed, giving the plant a feather-like appearance. The flowers appear along a stalk at the top of the

stem. Its seeds develop in small capsules.

### ***Croton lindheimerianus*, Three-seed Croton**

Another of the many plants of Texas named for Ferdinand Lindheimer, the father of Texas Botany, Three-seed Croton, found from Arizona to Pennsylvania, is a member of the spurge family. Densely branched, the plant produces white blooms from March through November. Its leaves are pale green, deeply veined with smooth margins. This annual spurge gains its name from the three seeds produced from its flowers. It does have a taproot.

### ***Cucurbita foetidissima*, Buffalo Gourd**

A member of the Cucumber family, Buffalo Gourd, also called stink gourd and wild fetid pumpkin, produces showy yellow to orange flowers along its long horizontal stems with large triangular leaves. The plant produces both male and female flowers with female flowers followed by baseball sized, green with lighter green striped fruit. Though called poisonous, Buffalo Gourd was used extensively by Native Americans for both food and medicinal products. The root was alleged to possess mystical properties. The plant is spread through most of the southern and western United States.

### ***Cynanchum leave*, Climbing Milkweed**

The Climbing Milkweed is a welcoming home for monarch butterflies, providing nectar for the adult as well as other pollinators. The vigorous vine has a tap-

root, can grow up to 33 feet long and up to 3 feet per day. It is difficult to eradicate once established. The vine produces heart-shaped leaves with flower clusters appearing from the base of the leaves. The flowers are white and strongly scented, appearing from July to September. The flowers are followed by a tapering pod, filled with tiny seeds with silky "parachutes" that can spread through the air and on water. The plants can be found in the eastern and central United States.

### ***Dalea aurea*, Golden Dalea**

Found from Arizona to Wyoming, the Golden Dalea presents with several erect, sparsely-leaved, stems topped by cone-shaped, fuzzy, flower spikes. The flowers encircle the cone and bloom from April to June. The yellow flowers give way to tiny, yellow seeds. The perennial, a member of the pea family, has a woody tap-root, grows well in full sun, and dry soils.

### ***Dalea frutescens*, Black Prairie Clover**

Producing a three-foot tall mounding shrub with leaves divided into small, paired leaflets, Black Prairie Clover grows across New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma. This perennial member of the Pea family blooms July through October with a densely-packed flower spike with purple blooms at the end of the branch. The blooms generate seeds in small capsules.

### ***Dalea multiflora*, White Prairie Clover**

Named for English botanist Samuel Dale, White Prairie Clover can be found from Colorado to Missouri. This perennial member of the Bean family produces spreading erect stems up to three feet tall topped by clusters of small white flowers from June to August. The stems have broad, textured leaves. It reproduces through the spreading of seeds. Native Americans consumed the root of the plant and made tea from the leaves.

### ***Dalea purpurea*, Purple Prairie Clover**

With its ability to increase soil nitrogen levels, Purple Prairie Clover is frequently used in prairie restoration projects. With a thick, deep taproot, the perennial plant tolerates drought and grows well in full sun, and growing across east-central United States. From June to August, Purple Prairie Clover presents a wiry stem up to three feet tall topped by a cone-like flower head with tiny rose to purple flowers. The plant's base has long linear leaves with leaflets up the stem. The plant's Latin name pays tribute to 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> century English botanist, Samuel Dale.

### ***Daucus pusillus*, American Wild Carrot**

This member of the parsley family grows a single stem up to three feet tall with dark green fern-like leaves. The stem, up to three feet tall, is topped by white blooms from March to May. The flowers form in flat clusters. These clusters turn to seeds and cling to passing animals. The plants are distributed through southern US. The crushed root smells like carrot.

### ***Delphinium carolinianum*, Prairie Larkspur**

The Prairie Larkspur is a slim, erect perennial known for its showy white to pale blue, spur-shaped blooms appearing from April to July. The blooms space along a thin, downy stem with lobed leaves. Blooms produce seed pods and reseed themselves. The Prairie Larkspur can be found in the eastern and central United States and adapts to a variety of soils. Not especially heat tolerant, it may disappear during the heat of summer to reappear later in the season. Of special note, all parts of the Prairie Larkspur are toxic to humans and mammals.

### ***Diaperia prolifera*, Rabbit-tobacco**

*Diaperia prolifera*, called Rabbit-tobacco because of the belief the plant was a favorite rabbit food that use it as a "chaw," is an unusual member of sunflower family, sharing very few if any sunflower characteristics. The annual flowers in April through June, with disk-like clusters of gray-green blooms compared to a skull-like face. Small leaves circle its base. The plant, found from Alabama to Colorado to South Dakota, develops several short, fuzzy stems from its taproot with flower clusters at the end of the stem.

### ***Digitalis purpurea*, Foxglove**

A source of the medication digitalis used to treat heart disease; Foxglove is a member of the plantain family. A European biennial native in its first year produces a basal rosette of simple leaves. In the second year, an upright flower stem of three to four feet tall appears with flowers opening

progressively up the stem. The blooms, downward-facing, tubular (bell-shaped) pink, purple or white flowers, appear mainly in summer. The plant grows from a taproot and spreads through seeds. All parts of the plant are toxic if ingested and contact with the leaves can irritate sensitive skin.

### ***Dracopus amplexicaulis*, Claspng Coneflower**

The Claspng Coneflower, called such because the leaf's base encircles the stem, grows stems up to 2 feet tall topped by a single bloom. The bloom has yellow petals with purple base extending from an elongated cone. The blooms appear in late spring and early summer and are found in the southeastern United States. The plant reseeds itself and is frequently found along roadsides and prairies.

### ***Engelmannia peristenia*, Engelmann's Daisy**

A member of the Aster family named for botanist and physician, George Engelmann, this perennial is known for its showy yellow March through July flowers. The Daisy is a heat and drought tolerant plant growing from a base of deeply toothed leaves, producing several stout stems of up to two feet tall. The leaves stay green throughout the year, growing from a taproot. A favorite of bees and butterflies thanks to its long flowering period, the plant will fold inward during times of high heat.

### ***Erodium cicutrium*, Texas Stork's Bill**

Texas Stork's Bill, differentiated from the stork's bill by its oval leaves versus stork's bill fern-like leaves, can be found

from California to Oklahoma. This low sprawling member of the Geranium family grows from a basal rosette of up to 15 inches long producing stems topped by five-petaled lavender flowers from February through April. The flowers open in full sun and close in the morning. This annual/biennial produces seeds in a characteristic "stork bill" seed pod.

### ***Erigeron canadensis*, Horseweed**

Horseweed, an annual member of the Aster family, is found across most of the continental United States. Often confused with goldenrod, horseweed can grow up to seven feet tall with a central stem covered with white hairs. The leaves are narrowly lance-shaped with slight jagged edge. The plant grows from a fibrous tap-root. Flowers appear near the top of the stem from mid-summer through autumn. The flowers appear as small flower heads with small white ray flowers with yellow disks. The plant will readily reseed itself. Contact with the plant can cause skin irritation.

### ***Eriogonum longifolium*, Wild Buckwheat**

With a flower presentation described as "corymb" (think of a menorah), the perennial Wild Buckwheat can be found from New Mexico to Florida. The plant grows several long, slender stems measuring up to three feet tall from basal leaves seven inches long. Shorter leaves are scattered up the stem. Wild Buckwheat produces white/green flowers from June to September, forming at the top of each stem.

***Euphorbia marginata*, Snow-on-the-Mountain**

The “flowers” of this showy member of the spurge family, Snow-on-the-Mountain, are in reality modified leaves colored white, light-green or variegated. Growing erect up to four feet tall with multi-branched stems, small white flowers appear at the end of the stems from July through October, later giving way to oval seeds. The plant grows in various types of moist soils across the continental United States. It is toxic to humans and animals. Honey made from bees nectaring on this plant, that if consumed, causes burring and irritation.

***Gaillardia pulchella*, Indian Blanket**

An annual member of the Aster family, Indian Blanket presents a daisy-like flower with flower heads red at the base with yellow tips from May to August. Found across most of the United States, Indian Blanket grows up to three feet tall with leafy slender stems. Tolerant of dry and salty soils, full sun, and partial shade, the plant can blanket roadsides.

***Gaillardia suavis*, Fragrant Gaillardia**

The Fragrant Gaillardia, also called perfume-ball, is a member of the sunflower family found in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. Growing from a tap root, the plant produces clumped basal leaves from which multiple, slender flower stalks emerge. These stalks are leafless, topped from March to May by a solitary reddish-brown flower with few if any petals approximately 1 inch wide. The flower head produces numerous, small seeds. This perennial prefers dry, rocky sights.

***Glandularia bipinnatifida*, Prairie Verbena**

With several stems growing from a taproot base, the Prairie Verbena produces both upright and sprawling plants. The several stems are topped with clusters of purple to violet flowers from May through October. Found from Georgia to Maryland to New Mexico, the perennial Prairie Verbena has delicate, highly divided leaves and develops roots at nodes on the spreading stems.

***Glandularia pumila*, Dwarf Vervain**

Called one of Texas' most adapted plants, the Dwarf Vervain, member of the Verbena family, grows best in sunny, well-drained areas across Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. The plant has spreading stems and with fan-like leaves, all covered with fine “hair.” From February to April, Vervain produces pink to lavender flowers in clusters at the end of the stems. The flowers produce dark brown seed “nutlets.”

***Grindelia papposa*, Saw-leaf Daisy**

The Saw-leaf Daisy, an annual member of the Aster family, can grow up to five feet tall. Its waxy leaves, rimmed with spines, are larger near the base of the plant and decreasing in size as they ascend up the plant. The Daisy's bright yellow flowers appear in August and September, clustered near the top of the stem. The flowers give way to tan seeds with wispy attached fibers. The plant is found from California to Louisiana to Iowa. Of little value as forage, Saw-Leaf Daisy's seeds provide food for some birds and many pollinators visit the flowers.

***Grindelia squarrosa*, Curlycup Gumweed**

The Curlycup Gumweed grows from a taproot to over a foot tall with one inch across blooms. The blooms with yellow petals, appear from July through September and emerge from a cup-like structure. The leaves have slight serrated edges. The plants are opportunistic, abundant on the roadsides, and easily invade overgrazed range land. Late blooming makes them a favorite of pollinators and they are found across the United States. The flower heads produce a gummy resin and Native Americans used the plant medicinally.

***Gutierrezia sarothrae*, Broom Snakeweed**

A drought tolerant member of the Aster Family, Broom Snakeweed forms a shrub of eight to 28 inches in height. While it flowers from August to October, its many stems, with small leaves, are topped by small yellow flowers. Snakeweed occurs from Canada to South Texas. Its presence can signal overgrazed grasslands.

***Hedeoma drummondii*, Mock Pennyroyal**

Named for naturalist Thomas Drummond, who arrived in Texas from Scotland in 1833, this annual member of the Mint family produces an erect, hairy stem up to 17 inches tall. The leaves are oval, pointed, and produce a mint smell when crushed. From May through September, Mock Pennyroyal produces white to purple blooms from the base of the leaves. These blooms are followed

by nutlets. The plant is used extensively in Mexico for teas, medicines, and meat flavorings.

***Helenium microcephalum*, Smallhead Sneezeweed**

Alleged to have sprung from the tears of Helen of Troy and given its name by Linneaus, the annual Smallhead Sneezeweed, *Helenium microcephalum*, is a member of the Sunflower family. Blooming from March to December across Arizona, Texas, and Oklahoma, the plant is toxic during this life stage. Multi-stemmed, the blooms top each stem, with the stems upright up to 18 inches. Its leaves are pointed and oblong.

***Helianthus annuus*, Common Sunflower**

The annual Common Sunflower occurs across the United States, reseeding itself. A member of the Aster family, the plant grows up to eight feet tall with a hairy stem and leaves. The Common Sunflower branches in the upper half with several flower heads. The flowers, discs of brown or maroon surrounded by yellow petals, appear from July to August. The seeds provide forage for birds. Native Americans used the plant and its parts for a variety of purposes.

***Helianthus maximiliani*, Maximilian Sunflower**

Maximilian Sunflowers honor German Prince Maximilian who explored parts of the American West in the 1800s. These sunflowers can grow leafy stalks up to ten feet tall. During August through November, the stalks are studded with yellow to brown flowers. A cousin to the

sunflower, Maximilian is a perennial, reproducing through seeds and rhizomes, eventually forming plant colonies. Tolerant of a variety of soils, it is a favorite of birds, bees, and deer.

### ***Heterotheca canescens*, Gray Gold-Aster**

A member of the Sunflower family, Gray Gold-Aster can be found across Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. Growing bushy, with multiple branches, up to a foot tall with yellow blooms at the end of the stems from July to September, the Gray Gold-Aster produces a mat of grayish-green foliage. The plant, a perennial, is semi-evergreen and forms groups via spreading from rhizomes. The blooms give way to bristle-like scales, enclosing small seeds with hair-like bristles.

### ***Hoffmannseggia glauca*, Hog Potato**

*Hoffmannseggia glauca* or Hog Potato was named for 18th-century German botanist, entomologist, and ornithologist Johann Centurius Hoffmannsegg. The plant, a perennial member of the bean family, grows from California through Texas to Mexico. Hog Potato's short, unbranched stems grow six to twelve inches high with slender leaves. Bright orange-yellow flowers appear on short, slender spikes from May through September. The flowers are followed by flat seed pods. It produces tuber-like roots consumed by Native Americans.

### ***Hymenopappus scabiosaes*, Old Plainsmen**

Growing to a height of three feet, this biennial member of the Aster family can be found over most of the southeastern

United States. Called "Old Plainsmen" as a clue to its usual location in dry open prairies, the plant grows a stalk up to three feet tall. First season plant has basal leaves with short to long stems. Second season plant has basal leaves and grouped lance-like leaves along the stem. Also, during the second season, from May through July, Old Plainsmen produces a disc-like floret with cream-colored flowers.

### ***Ibervillea lindheimeri*, Balsam Gourd**

*Ibervillea lindheimeri*, named after the father of Texas Botany, Ferdinand Jacob Lindheimer, is found in New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma. This deciduous vine can climb by tendrils up to 12 feet. Small yellow flowers appear April through September and are followed by green-striped gourd-like fruit that turns bright red when ripe.

### ***Iva annua*, Seacoast Sumpweed**

Growing up to five feet tall, Seacoast Sumpweed produces long, lance-shaped leaves at its base with smaller leaves sparsely along its stem. The plant has a taproot and frequently reseeds itself, sometimes producing colonies of the plant. The crushed leaves emit a camphor-like odor. The stem terminates in a quite hairy, flower spike with blooms initially appearing yellow to green before turning to red or brown. The blooms appear from July through November and the plant is found across most of the contiguous United States. The wind-pollinated blooms produce seeds which were an important food source to indigenous populations before the introduction of corn and maize from Mexico.

### ***Krameria lanceolata*, Trailing Ratany**

Sometimes confused with the sandbur because of the bur-like covering on its seedpod, Trailing Ratany produces red-purple flowers from April to October. Found from Arizona to Florida, the perennial plant has trailing, hairy branches up to two feet long with a woody root. Its leaves, covered with silky hair, are nearly an inch long with smooth margins and pointed tips.

### ***Lamium amplexicaule*, Henbit**

Characterized by the square stem of the Mint family, Henbit is a low-growing, sprawling plant, usually a fast-growing, early spring annual. Produced from a shallow taproot, the plant grows from four to 15 inches tall with heart-shaped to round crinkly leaves with scalloped edges. From May to October, Henbit produces a purple to pink bloom at the top of the stem. The flowers give way to pod-like “nutlets” containing seeds from which the plant easily propagates. In some parts of the world, the leaves of Henbit are eaten either raw or cooked.

### ***Lesquerelia spp.*, Bladderpod**

Bladderpod, called such due to the shape of its seed pod, is an evergreen, rounded, shrub growing up to four feet tall. The plant emits an unpleasant odor with yellow blooms, appearing from December to June. The leaves appear gray-green. Some types of Bladderpod are on the threatened plant list.

### ***Liatris punctata*, Gayfeather**

This member of the Aster family can be found from Texas to Canada and with its long taproot, is one of the most drought

tolerant of the gayfeathers. The plant produces multiple stems of up to three feet tall covered with narrow, speckled leaves and tufts of pink/purple flowers from August through October. The flowers can spread through seeds or sprouts up from the plants’ rhizomes. With its late-blooming habit, gayfeather is a pollinator favorite.

### ***Lindheimera texana*, Texas Star**

Found across Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana, the Texas Star produces yellow pedaled flowers from March to May and readily reseeds itself. Named for the father of Texas botany, Ferdinand Lindheimer, this annual member of the Aster family leaves has a serrated edge. Texas Star grows with multiple branches up to two feet tall and produces clusters of flowers at the end of the stems. With a tap root, the plant is abundant in prairies with sandy, loamy soils.

### ***Linum lewisii*, Blueflax**

Called Prairie Flax or Lewis Flax, this drought tolerant, perennial can be found over most of western North America. Multiple stems of 18 to 20 inches tall grow from a central base. Narrow leaves are produced along the stem. The Flax blooms with five petal, pale blue flowers with darker blue veins from March to September. Seed pods follow the blooms.

### ***Lithospermum incisum*, Narrowleaf Puccoon**

Narrowleaf Puccoon, a perennial member of the Borage family, produces trumpet-shaped, ruffled petaled, yellow flowers from April to June. Growing up

to 16 inches tall, the plant has lance-like leaves with pointed tips. The flowers on the upper stems are mostly sterile with the less-showy lower blooms producing nut-like seeds. Narrowleaf Puccoon can be found over most of the western United States. The “puccoon” is a plant from which a dye can be obtained.

### ***Lygodesmia texana*, Skeleton Plant**

Called the Skeleton Plant because of its slender, bare stems of up to two feet tall, the plant has narrow gray green leaves around the base. The stems, if broken, produce a gum-like substance. Found across New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas, Skeleton Plant produces a pink-purple flower at the end of each stem from April through August. This perennial reproduces through rhizomes from its fleshy roots and by seeds.

### ***Melampodium leucanthum*, Blackfoot Daisy**

Blackfoot Daisy is a low-growing, perennial with narrow leaves and one inch wide, white, daisy-like flowers with a yellow center. The sweet-scented flowers appear from spring to frost. The mounding plant is six – 12 inches tall and up to 16 inches wide. It is heat and drought tolerant and can be found from in Kansas, Colorado, Texas to Arizona, and northern Mexico.

### ***Mentzelia nuda var. stricta*, Sandlily**

The Sandlily, found from Texas to Wyoming to Arizona, produces showy creamy-white blooms from July to September. The blooms, which appear on stems one to five feet tall, open late in the afternoon and close in the evening. The blooms give way to seed,

carried by the wind. This perennial has a strong taproot and presents with leaves, four inches long near the base, reduced in size as they go up the plant. The pointed leaves have coarsely toothed edges, giving the plant its nickname of “stickleaf.”

### ***Mentzelia oligosperma*, Orange Stickleaf**

Known for its characteristic feature of barb-like hairs, Orange Stickleaf produces orange/yellow, five-petal blooms from June through September with blooms opening in the morning and closing by afternoon. This perennial shrub with multiple stems and woody roots grows upright up to three feet with blade-shaped leaves. Orange Stickleaf is found through the central United States and reproduces through seeds.

### ***Mimosa nuttallii*, Catclaw Sensitive Briar**

Sensitive briar, a member of the Legume family, produces runners up to six feet long from a base. These runners have small thorns. This perennial produces multi-filament pink to lavender flowers with yellow tips from June to September followed by bean-like seeds. The plant is found in open prairies and is grazed by livestock and wildlife. Interestingly, the leaves (leaflets) are sensitive to contact and will fold together when touched. Sensitive briar can be found in the south-central United States.

### ***Mirabilis linearis*, Linear Leaf Four o'clock**

A native relative to the Common Four O'clock, Linear Leaf is recognized by its narrow, grey-green leaves and evening

opening funnel-shaped blooms. Found across most of the United States, this perennial produces stems up to four feet long with flowers at the end of the stems. The white to purple flowers appear from May through September and produce egg-shaped seeds.

### ***Monarda citriodora*, Horsemint**

Known by many names, a member of the mint family, Horsemint's leaves have a distinctive lemony scent when crushed. Growing up to two feet tall, several stems can grow from a single base with lance-shaped leaves, producing flower spikes. The spikes present a spiral of blue to white flowers from May to August. Once established the plant reseeds itself, producing large groups of similar plants. Found through Texas and New Mexico to Florida, Horsemint is a favorite nectar producer for bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.

### ***Nama hispida*, Sandbells**

An annual member of the Borage family, Sandbells are found from Maryland to California. In good rainfall years, these low-growing plants form mats with purple to blue flowers appearing at the end of the stems. The stems and their grey-green, slender leaves are covered with stiff hairs and when rubbed, the leaves release a pungent odor. Called Sandbells because the plant prefers sandy soils and the flowers have a bell-like form, the blooms give way to seed capsules filled with multiple tiny seeds.

### ***Nothoscordum bivalve*, Crow Poison**

Growing from a bulb, false garlic or Crow Poison grows across most of the continental United States. A perennial,

blooming from March through October with a white flower with six petals, the plant grows from a base of somewhat long leaves. The flower appears at the top of a leaf-less stem eight-16 inches tall. The plant resembles wild onion but lacks the onion/garlic smell. Crow Poison is suspected of toxicity to mammals.

### ***Oenothera glaucifolia*, False Gaura**

Reaching nearly six feet tall, False Gaura is a member of the evening primrose family. A perennial found from Wyoming to Arkansas to New Mexico, it produces white flowers from July to September. The flowers, usually with three petals, appear on a spike at the end of the stems. The flowers are a favorite of pollinators. With thin, lance-shaped leaves along its stem, the plant reproduces through seeds and rhizomes.

### ***Oenothera grandis*, Showy Evening Primrose**

The Showy Evening Primrose, with bright yellow flowers appearing from May to October, can be found from Florida to New Mexico to Maryland. Growing up to 30" tall with multiple greenish to white stems, the annual plant has lance-shaped, deeply lobed leaves both near the ground and along the stem. Flowers appear at the top of the stems. The yellow flowers produce capsules containing golden-brown seeds.

***Oenothera hartwegii*, Hartweg  
Sundrops**

Named for German Botanist, Karl Hartweg, this perennial member of the Evening Primrose family is found from Kansas through Texas and New Mexico. Blooming a bright yellow, four-petaled flower from March through July, the densely-leafed sprawling plant with lance-shaped leaves can grow up to 18 inches tall. The flowers, which open in the late afternoon, give way to a seed cylinder with seeds less than a one-tenth inch long.

***Oenothera lindheimeri*,  
Lindheimer's Beeblossom**

Named for Jacob Lindheimer, the father of Texas botany, Beeblossom flowers from May to August with evening opening, white to pink blooms with elongated stamens. Forming colonies, this perennial can grow upright and spread up to five feet. The colorful, lance-shaped leaves change from dark green in summer to purple in the fall. Drought tolerant with a tap root, Beeblossom thrives in direct sun and can be found from Louisiana through Texas. The flower's aroma compares to cat urine.

***Oenothera macrocapa*, Missouri  
Primrose**

A native to Missouri, Missouri Primrose will grow in poor soils and will freely reseed itself. The plant, a perennial, grows up to a foot tall and has narrow, gray-green foliage. It produces characteristic, four-petal yellow flowers that open in the late afternoon from May through August. The flowers are followed by unique, winged seed pods,

three – four inches long. It has a deep, taproot.

***Oenothera rhombipetala*, Four-Point  
Evening Primrose**

The Four-Point Evening Primrose, called this because of the yellow, four-petal flowers opening in the evening produced from May to September, grows from Texas to Minnesota. With only basal leaves appearing the first year, the flowers appear on spikes, one to three feet tall that grow during the second year of the plant's two-year life-cycle life. The flowers spiral around the top of the stem with narrow leaves below. Possessing a taproot, the Primrose flowers give way to seed pods also along the stem.

***Oenothera suffrutescens*, Scarlet  
Beeblossom**

A perennial member of the Evening Primrose family, Scarlet Beeblossom is found from Texas to Montana to California to Illinois. Growing from rhizomes, the plant forms colonies with multiple stems growing one to two feet tall. The grey-green leaves, up to one inch long, are crowded along the stem with stem and leaves covered with white hair. The honeysuckle-shaped flowers appear from May through August, blooming along a spike. The flowers, producing a pleasant fragrance, bloom white, fade to pink and then scarlet, all in the same day.

***Pediomelum cuspidatum*, Indian Turnip (Buffalo Pea)**

Also known as Indian Breadroot, Indian Turnip produces a tuber-like root consumed by Native Americans. A member of the legume family, Indian Turnip is a perennial, producing a flower spike with blue-purple flowers from May through July. The stems are usually upright but may sprawl up to two feet with the flower spike turning upward at the terminal end. Leaves, up to two inches long with a blunted point, appear along the stem. From the flower comes a seed pod with a single seed.

***Penstemon cobaea*, Cobaea Beardtongue**

Beardtongue, though also called “false foxglove” is not related to true Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*). This member of the Figwort family grows from a rhizome, producing two to four flower stalks with hairy, clasping leaves. The blooms are large, tubular flowers white with dark purple lines. Blooming from spring to summer in direct sunlight, the blooms are followed by seed pods containing several black seeds. Beardtongue with its woody rhizome is a perennial and survives in poor soils across Central United States.

***Phacelia congesta*, Blue Curls**

Found mostly in Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico, Blue Curls is usually an understory plant growing up to three feet tall. During March through May, this leafy annual or biennial displays purple to lavender flowers emerging from coiled clusters. The plants are frequently found in large colonies.

***Phyla nodiflora*, Frogfruit**

This member of the Verbenaceae family has a variety of names, such as Frogfruit, Turkey Tangle, and Texas Frogfruit, and flourishes across the southern half of the United States. Frogfruit spreads vigorously and makes an excellent groundcover, setting roots at leaf nodes near the ground. The plant has oval, toothed evergreen leaves in warm climates and produces verbenaceae-like white flowers on a long, thin stem from May to October.

***Physalis cinerascens*, Smallflower Groundcherry**

Distributed across the southern United States, the perennial Smallflower Groundcherry produces a plant about 18 inches tall, spreading up to three feet with lance-shaped, hairy leaves. From March through November, the plant blooms with its characteristic downward-facing yellow flower with a black-brown center. The flowers give way to a berry-like fruit surrounded by a papery “sack.” Ground cherry has been given the nickname “popweed” because the fruit will “pop” when stepped on. The fruit was used by Indigenous persons for a variety of uses.

***Physaria gordonii*, Gordon's Bladderpod**

Named for Scottish American botanist, Alexander Gordon, Gordon's Bladderpod is found from Arizona to Virginia. This hairy annual member of the Mustard family grows multi-branched stems up to 16 inches long with some plants erect and some lying along the ground. Bright yellow flowers appear from February to March and are

followed by spherical fruit pods. The plant is nicknamed “pop weed” for the sound made when the seed pod is crushed.

### ***Pinaropappus roseus*, Rock Lettuce**

With flowers resembling dandelions on slender stems up to a foot tall, Rock Lettuce is a hardy, drought tolerant perennial. The blooms, white with a pinkish undertone, appear from March through August. The blooms turn into brownish-puff balls, covered with slender seeds with attached fibers carried on the wind. The leaves at the base of the stem are lobed and narrow. The plant, found across Arizona, Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico, was used by Native Americans for numerous medicinal purposes.

### ***Plantago rhodosperma*, Redseed Plantain**

Redseed Plantain provides seeds and forages for birds, deer, and cattle. From a slim taproot, the annual plant produces gray-green basal leaves 13 inches long and a flower spike of up to one foot tall. The flower of the plant, formed of specialized leaves, appears from February through May. The flowers enclose the red to black seeds that can be harvested with a combine. Redseed Plantain, found from Alabama to Minnesota to New Mexico, has also been called “tallow weed” due to the fact it grows during winter months and will add fat “tallow” to livestock.

### ***Pluchea odorata*, Marsh Fleabane**

Marsh Fleabane, a member of the Aster family, grows best in moist soils. The plant develops a stalk sometimes over

two feet tall with leafy branches concentrated at the upper segment. From June through August, Fleabane produces multi-flowered heads of small pink to purple flowers. The flowers’ scent attracts bees and butterflies, but the plants’ foliage has a distinct camphor-like odor when crushed. Fleabane, found from Virginia to Arizona, reproduces through seeds spread by the wind and through rhizomes.

### ***Polanisia dodecandra*, Clammyweed**

This member of the caper family has long been used by Native Americans for food and, despite the plant’s unpleasant odor, as a deodorant. The plant is called Clammyweed because of the sticky residue from the plant and red whisker because of stamens that protrude from the cream to yellow colored flower. The flowers are followed by seed pods that stand erect from the plant. Clammyweed stems grow up to two feet tall. The stems produce leaves up to one and half inches long. The plant can be found across the United States.

### ***Polygala alba*, White Milkwort**

Called milkwort for the belief that consuming it stimulated milk flow, the perennial White Milkwort is found throughout the center continental United States. Growing from seeds, the plant produces multiple slender stems approximately 12 inches long with opposing leaves along the stem. From April to November, White Milkwort develops cone-shaped spikes with tiny white flowers. These flowers produce a two-seed pod.

***Polygonum pensylvanicum*, Pink Smartweed**

A member of the Buckwheat family, Pink Smartweed is found in moist soils across the continental United States. Growing up to six feet tall with six inch long, narrow blotchy leaves, the plant produces distinctive flower spikes from March through May. These spikes are covered with purple-pink “flowers” which are in fact modified leaves. The flowers are a favorite nectar provider and birds spread the plants’ black seeds.

***Proboscidea louisianica*, Devil's-Claw**

Thanks to its unique fruits, *Proboscidea louisianica* is called by colorful names such as Louisiana Devil's-claw, Devil's-claw, Ram's-horn, Unicorn Plant, and Proboscis Flower. A member of the sesame family, this low, spreading plant grows up to two feet tall with fleshy stems and has sticky hairs covering the plant, including its large lobed leaves. Occurring across the continental United States, the annual plant blooms May through September with a musky smelling flower with colors varying from white to pink to yellow to purple. The plants unique fruit, a forked seed pod, splits open when dried, leaving curved spines with sharp hooks that tangle in the fur of mammals, spreading seeds.

***Pyrrhopappus pauciflorus*, Desert Chicory**

Also called the Texas Dandelion, this annual member of the Aster family is found in dry clay or sandy loam soils across the southern United States. The plant grows a single stem eight to 20 inches from a base of long, jagged leaves. The plant has a tap root.

Orange/yellow flowers appear from February to June. The flower is up to two inches wide with no center disk with five teeth at the end of each layered petal. As the flower matures, the base or “cypsela” lengthens, producing seeds with a filament that allows it to spread on the wind.

***Quincula lobata*, Purple Groundcherry**

A very drought tolerant member of the Solanaceae (Potato) family, Purple Groundcherry forms a low growing (four - six inches tall) mat-like plant from spreading rhizomes. The flowers, blue to purple, appear from March to October with the plant found from Texas to California to Kansas. The leaves of this perennial are about an inch long, deeply lobed. The flowers produce a seed pod with a papery, lantern-shaped seedpod, causing the nickname “Plains Chinese lantern.” The berries are edible, but caution must be used as it resembles several poisonous *Solanum* species.

***Ratibida columnifera*, Prairie Coneflower**

Called Mexican Hat for its resemblance to a colorful sombrero, the perennial Prairie Coneflower is also called the Long-Headed Coneflower because the brown to purple center of the flower extends up to two inches above the drooping petals. The petals, ranging in color from dark red to yellow, blooms on long, leafless stalks from May to October. Prairie Coneflower, with multiple branches and leaves on its lower stalk, can grow up to three feet tall and spread two feet. If spread by seed, Prairie Coneflower blooms in its second

year. The plant can be found across most of the United States.

### ***Rhynchosida physocalyx*, Buffpetal**

Found in Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, and parts of Oklahoma, Buffpetal, a member of the Mallow family, is a small shrub growing one to three feet tall. The stems usually trail along the ground with hairy leaves. Buffpetal has a considerable taproot and produces yellow flowers from March to October followed by a blackish fruit.

### ***Rumex crispus*, Curly Dock**

Curly Dock has been called one of the most widely distributed weeds in the world, occurring across the United States. Tolerating most soil types, flower stalks grow one to five feet from a base of leaves about one foot across. At the end of each branch are concentric circles of brown to green-yellow flowers which appear during June and July. Producing 100's to 1000's of seeds, the curly dock can reproduce through seed movement or from sprouts growing from its taproot.

### ***Salvia farinacea*, Blue Sage**

Blue Sage, a member of the Mint family, usually forms a mound as wide as it is tall (up to two feet). The plant produces clusters of dark green leaves from which flower stems grow. The fragrant flowers, blue in color, can appear April through October. The drought-tolerant, perennial Blue Sage is native to Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas.

### ***Salvia reflexa*, Lanceleaf Sage**

Lanceleaf Sage, a member of the Mint family, can be found across the United States and into Canada. Growing up to two feet tall with a bush stature with narrow leaves, the plant produces white and purple flowers from June through October. Lanceleaf Sage is drought tolerant and able to grow in rocky soils. The flowers, appearing on a spike, are followed by "bean." Lanceleaf Sage has proved toxic to cattle, horses, and sheep, usually through eating the plant mixed in hay.

### ***Salvia azurea grandiflora*, Azure Blue Sage**

Azure Blue Sage grows up to five feet tall and forms clumps with grey-greenish leaves four inches long. The plant produces spirals of blue flowers on a spike from July to October and grows across the southern United States. Growing from a taproot, Azure Blue Sage tolerates a variety of soils and grows best in full sun. The seeds produced from the flower easily germinate and flower in the first year.

### ***Salvia texana*, Texas Sage**

Well adapted to the dry limestone areas of Texas and New Mexico, Texas Sage is often confused with Englemann's Sage. However, Texas Sage had a longer blooming time and smaller flowers. Growing up to 18 inches tall, the perennial Texas Sage blooms with purple/violet flowers from March through May. The slender, opposing leaves are slightly lobed covered with fibers. The plant sustains itself through a taproot.

### ***Senna roemeriana*, Two-Leaved Senna**

Recognizable by its “V for victory” leaf arrangement, Two-leaved Senna is named for German geologist Ferdinand Roemer. Found across New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas, the plant develops a mounded shape and grows up to two feet tall. Five petaled yellow flowers develop in clusters along the stem from May through October. A perennial member of the Pea family attracts nectaring insects with its flowers and birds with the seeds. Though toxic to animals, a tea made from the plant has been used as a laxative.

### ***Silybum marianum*, Milkthistle**

Milkthistle, called such as both leaves and stems exude a milky sap when crushed, is a biennial plant, blooming the second year after planting. Found across most of the United States, Milkthistle can grow up to five feet tall in poor soils. The plant presents with deeply veined, spiny leaves marbled green and white. From July through August, the plant produces a purple-pink, thistle-like flower followed by many small seeds, making the plant very invasive. The plant can be toxic to humans and animals due to high nitrate levels.

### ***Sisyrinchium bellum*, Blue-Eyed Grass**

This perennial member of the Iris family called Blue-Eyed Grass for its grass-like appearance grows from Texas to Wisconsin. Forming a clump of green leaves with blue to purple flowers on single stems, some with a yellow eye, blue-eyed grass blooms from May to

June. The plant spreads with small rhizomes and will re-seed itself.

### ***Solanum elaeagnifolium*, Silverleaf Nightshade**

Silverleaf Nightshade, a member of the potato family, is a perennial growing to three feet tall. The plant produces a showy star-shaped purple to blue bloom with a bright orange stamen from April through October with almost all parts of the plant being toxic. The leaves have a gray-green color, wavy edges, and are two to four inches long. It reproduces through seeds from a yellow to brown fruit and rhizomes from its roots. Nightshade is found across the southern and western United States and is considered invasive in many areas.

### ***Solanum rostratum*, Buffalo Bur**

Buffalo Bur or Buffalo Bur Nightshade is a member of the Potato family. The plant has no value as animal grazing because it contains glycoalkaloid solanine, toxic to animals. But the seeds of this plant are eaten by quail. The plant is covered in spines, can grow up to one foot tall, and produces a yellow flower from May to October. It is found through most of the United States and can be a sign of over-grazed prairies.

### ***Solidago*, Goldenrod**

A perennial member of the Aster family, Goldenrod should not be confused with ragweed, the scourge of allergy sufferers. Goldenrod produces a dense cluster of small yellow flowers atop a tall stem from July through September. Found through most of the United States, the slender plant, sometimes two feet tall, has thin, coarsely-toothed

lance-shaped leaves. Reproducing through wind spread seeds and rhizomes, Goldenrod is a favorite of pollinators.

### ***Sphaeralcea coccinea*, Scarlet Globemallow**

Known as the last plant specimen gathered by Lewis and Clark, the Scarlet Globemallow produces an upright or sprawling shrub with several stems growing up to one foot tall. The plant produces a grey-green stem and palm-shaped, lobed leaves, both covered densely with white hair. Growing into colonies from spreading rhizomes, the Scarlet Globemallow produces a red-orange five petal bloom from April through September. Seeds developing from the flowers are enclosed in a papery crown. This member of the Mallow family grows from Texas to Wyoming to Colorado. The plant is popular with livestock, wildlife, and pollinators. Native Americans found multiple uses for the plant.

### ***Stenaria nigricans*, Diamondflowers**

Common across the southern United States, this delicate, slender-stemmed, narrow-leafed perennial can grow upright up to 20 inches or can spread. At the end of the stiff branches, clumps of pink or white trumpet-shaped flowers appear from April through November. The Diamondflowers can tolerate full sun to part shade and grows best in moist soils. The flowers are followed by small burgundy seeds that dry black.

### ***Symphyotrichum drummondii*, Drummond's Aster**

Named for Thomas Drummond, a Scottish naturalist who gathered samples in Texas in the 1830s, this perennial produces one or more leafy stems from basal leaves. The leafy stems, up to three feet long, produce white to blue flowerheads from September through November. This aster spreads through seeds. The stems and basal leaves turn from green to purple as the temperature cools. The plants are found across the southwestern United States in dry, rocky areas.

### ***Symphyotrichum ericoides*, Heath Aster**

A hardy member of the Aster family, the Heath Aster plant has been compared to a "leggy tumbleweed" growing up to two feet tall with distinctive narrow leaves. An abundance of daisy-like flowers appears August to October, usually white with yellow center and sometimes pink, yellow, and blue. The tiny flowers form into larger "heads." Found across most of the United States, the plant forms colonies through rhizomes and spreads through tiny seeds blown by the wind. Drought tolerant, the Heath Aster can flourish in full sun and poor soils.

### ***Tetrameuris scaposa* var. *scaposa*, Four Nerve Daisy**

This perennial member of the Sunflower family can bloom year-round under the right conditions. The Four Nerve Daisy with the characteristic three notches on its petal tips can be found from Kansas to Illinois through Texas. The plant grows silver-green, wooly leaves from a

woody base upright to 12 inches tall. The flowers appear at the end of leafless stalks. Its name, Four Nerve, comes from the four veins in the flower petals.

***Teucrium laciniatum*, Cut-leaf  
Germander**

Appearing across Colorado to Kansas and through Texas, Cut-Leaf Germander grows in bushy clumps up to six inches tall, forming a dense ground cover in favorable conditions. Extremely drought-tolerant, this perennial member of the mint family produces small, white, funnel-shaped flowers at the top of the stem. Its leaves are narrow and deeply lobed. The blooms appear from May through September. The plant reproduces through seeds.

***Thelesperma filifolium*, Greenthread**

With its thread-like foliage, the Greenthread grows in colonies across Wyoming through Texas with multiple, thin stems up to three feet tall. Topping these stems are yellow, daisy-like flowers, blooming from May through September. The flowers stand erect on the stems when in full bloom. The taproot makes the Greenthread drought tolerant. Butterflies swarm the blooms with their abundant nectar.

***Tradescantia occidentalis*, Prairie  
Spiderwort**

With its long narrow, leaves, three petals, blue flowers, and an erect posture, the Prairie Spiderwort is easily recognized. The flowers, appearing during June and July, only last a few hours and cluster at the stem ends.

Spiderwort produces a seed pod with three to six seeds. This perennial, found from Minnesota to Louisiana and west to the Rockies, has a succulent root system and was consumed by Native Americans. The Latin name, *Tradescantia occidentalis*, comes from the gardener for Charles the First of England, John Tradescant.

***Triodanis perfoliate*, Claspng Venus  
Looking Glass**

Claspng Venus Looking Glass, called such due to the leaf encircling the stem, blooms lavender-colored flowers from May to June. The wheel-shaped flower appears along a light green stem up to 12" tall. The plants are found in the southern half of the United States and prefer sunny, dry areas. Interesting, the lower flowers on the stem are self-pollinating.

***Verbesina enceliodes*, Cowpen Daisy**

This annual member of the Aster family produces blooms up to two inches across with bright yellow petals distinguished by a three-toothed edge. The grey-green plant of up to three feet grows in groups, making beautiful displays along roadways from summer until first frost. The plant has a taproot and provides nectaring opportunities for late pollinators. The Cowpen Daisy can be found across the United States.

***Vernonia baldwinii*, Western  
Ironweed**

Named for English botanist William Vernon and American botanist/physician William Baldwin, Western Ironweed produces stout, hairy stems up to five feet long. The plant can appear singly or

in clumps. Its leaves are pointed, lance-shaped, and nearly five inches long. Pink to purple flower clusters develop at the end of the stems from July to November, providing nectar for traveling butterflies. The flower clusters give way to rust-colored seeds. Found from Arkansas to Minnesota, Western Ironweed reproduces through seeds and root rhizomes. It can spread aggressively once established.

***Vesper macrorhizus*, Bigroot  
Springparsley**

The Bigroot is a perennial member of the Carrot family and one of the earliest blooming wildflower (March through May). Found in Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico, it usually grows six to eight inches tall and emerges from a rounded tap-root. The leaves are grey-green and the cluster of blooms is white to pink.

***Xanthisma spinulosum*, Spiny  
Goldenweed**

With a variety of presentations depending on region, the Spiny Goldenweed, a member of the Aster family, is found from California to Texas to Utah. A perennial growing from a taproot, the plant produces multiple woody stems up to 30 inches tall. From May to November bright yellow flowers with narrow petals surrounding a yellow disc appear at the top of the stems. Grey-green blade-like leaves alternate along the stems. The leaves have small spines along their margins with a white tip. The seeds of the Spiny Goldenweed are spread by the wind from a “puff-ball.”

***Xanthium strumarium*, Cocklebur**

A member of the Daisy family found across most of North America, the Cocklebur served as inspiration for the development of Velcro. Notable for the hook-shaped spines found on its seed pods containing usually two seeds, the cocklebur is found across most of the United States. Producing a green-brown bloom from August through September, the plants grow up to four feet tall and are pollinated by the wind. When a new seedling, the annual Cocklebur exudes a chemical prohibiting the germination of nearby plants.

***Xanthisma texanum*, Sleepydaisy**

An annual member of the Aster family, the Sleepydaisy produces multiple lemon-yellow flowers over a wide, branching plant. With long glossy leaves, the plant has smooth stems up to three feet long. Known as the Sleepydaisy because the blooms do not open until the afternoon, the blooms appear from April to December and are found in Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma.

## **FUNGI and LICHEN**

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***Ascocoryne sarcoides*, Coryne sarcoides**

*Ascocoryne sarcoides* is a beautiful mushroom that looks like a jelly fungus or a cup fungus, depending on which stage of its life cycle it is in when you find it. In its asexual, "anamorphic" stage, it produces cloned conidia (asexual spores) and looks like purple globs of jelly. Found mainly on the trunks and branches of dead Beech trees, this colorful wood-rotting fungus can form large and conspicuous clusters. Purple lobes initially emerge out of wood, swell into the cup or disc-shaped ascocarps which typically coalesce to form a violet to purple to reddish-purple gelatinous, irregular mass.

***Auricularia auricula*, Wood-ear Fungi**

Reddish brown to grayish black it is rubbery and has an earlike or cup-shape. It is usually seen in groups on rotting wood. Fruiting body earlike or cup-shaped; upper surface reddish brown to grayish to blackish, smooth, wavy; underside often lighter than the upper surface; silky or finely hairy, irregularly veined; flesh thin and rubbery. Considered an edible and medicinal mushroom. The wood ear has been reported to positively affect blood coagulation and decrease blood cholesterol levels.

***Chlorophyllum molybdites*, False Parasol**

False Parasol is an off-white mushroom that has light brown scales on its cap. Typically grows in partial or complete "fairy rings." The distinguishing feature of this mushroom is the green-colored spore print setting it apart from other

mushrooms. Its nickname is "vomiter." This is not a mushroom that you want to be messing with because it is poisonous if ingested. It is the most commonly misidentified and accidentally ingested mushroom in North America.

***Schizophyllum commune*, Common Splitgill Mushroom**

Identifiable by the by "splitgills" on underside of the cap, Common Splitgill is one of the most widely found mushrooms. The mushrooms form in clusters of whitish-grey fan-shaped caps with a jagged edge. Found usually on dead branches, the caps emerge as part of the fungi reproductive cycle. In dry weather, the caps "curl" to protect the spore producing area and revive in wet weather.

***Teloschistes chrysophthalmus*, Golden-eye lichen**

This bright orange lichen is fruticose, meaning it grows in the form of a small branching shrub. It has numerous orange fruiting bodies (apothecia) that have small marginal hair-like structures (cilia). It adheres to surfaces, including branches and twigs of trees, through a central peg-like structure that is similar to an umbilical cord. They don't have roots and take all their nutrients directly from the air. Every time it has been found on our main campus; they are growing on hackberry trees. They are important indicators of air pollution. In many northern states and even into Canada the Golden-eyed lichen is threatened or endangered.

# GRASSES

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### ***Andropogon gerardii*, Big Bluestem**

Growing up to six feet tall, perennial Big Bluestem earns its colorful name from the blue-green color of its stems. Found across the United States, blue stem is one of the big four native grasses including Indiangrass, Switchgrass, and Little Bluestem. With a seed head resembling a turkey's foot, the plant can provide good forage for livestock. Bobwhite quail and other ground-nesting birds use this clump-forming grass for nesting. The plant presents red, blue, or brown blooms from August through November. Big bluestem can spread aggressively with a scaly rhizome.

### ***Bothriochloa ischarnum*, King Ranch Bluestem**

Found from Russia to Northern India, this perennial member of the grass family was intentionally created on the King Ranch Bluestem as foraging grass for grazing animals. This grass grows in tufts and spreads through rhizomes. If mown, the grass spreads horizontally. The leaves, thick near the base, are covered with silky hairs. The plant blooms with yellow flowers in the early summer. Stems are topped by a purplish seed head. One of the most resilient of the grasses, it can be found along the highway medians of Texas and Oklahoma.

### ***Bothriochloa laguroides*, Silver Bluestem**

Another of the clumping, perennial prairie grasses, Silver Bluestem can be found across the plains of Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas and west into New Mexico and Arizona. The flat-bladed leaves, up to ten inches long, are

produced from the base, with early season leaves useful for livestock grazing. The bloom heads, appearing from July to September, are borne on tall thin stems. The bloom has a silvery white color. The plant easily spreads through reseeding itself.

### ***Bouteloua curtipendula*, Sideoats Grama**

The state grass of Texas, Sideoats Grama is named for the oat-like appearance of its seed heads spikes. Found across most of the United States, this perennial member of the grass family produces wiry clumps with stems up to three feet tall and is the largest of the Grama Family. The leaves are flat, and blue/green when young turning a reddish-brown in the fall. Blooming red, orange, and yellow from June through November, Sideoats Grama is easily propagated from seed. The plant produces food and nesting material for birds and grazing for livestock.

### ***Bouteloua gracili*, Blue Grama**

Found from western North American from southern Canada, the perennial Blue Grama is one of the shorter members of the grass family. The plant grows in bunches with gray-green leaves are up to four inches long with seed heads extending up to two feet tall. The seed heads produce blue-green seed heads from July to October followed by small brown seeds. Resembling a human eyebrow, the mature seed heads are curved.

### ***Bouteloua hirsute*, Hairy Grama**

A perennial member of the grass family, Hairy Grama is distributed across the Central United States. The plant presents as dense clumps of erect, stems up to 12 inches tall from a leafy base. The plant produces minute blooms from March through May. These blooms are followed by oat-like seeds on a curved seed head. Its leaves are flat with white hairs along the top and underside, earning it the name “hairy.”

### ***Buchloe dactyloides*, Buffalograss**

Buffalograss, while an excellent grazing grass, has become a popular, drought-tolerant lawn grass. This perennial grass, spread by rhizomes, has fine gray-green or blue-green blades growing 3-12 inches. Buffalograss impedes erosion by forming a dense sod-like root system. Found through the central plains of the United States, the plant, if not mowed, produces a spike with yellow blooms from April to December.

### ***Chloris cucullate*, Hooded Windmillgrass**

A warm-season, perennial grass notable for its seed heads with seven to eighteen stout, purplish terminal spikes with abundant seeds along the spike. These seeds turn straw yellow or black when ripe. Found from Florida to New Mexico through Kansas, Hooded Windmillgrass grows up to two feet tall with blunted leaves. Preferring moist soil, the plant provides fair grazing for livestock with abundant seeds and nesting material for game birds.

### ***Chloris verticillate*, Tumble Windmill Grass**

Tumble Windmill Grass, not to be confused with tumbleweeds, get its name from the characteristic, two-level, horizontal, blue/green bloom/seed heads. The bunch grass blooms and develops seeds from May through September and can be found in the North central and Western United States. Though significantly smaller than the iconic tumbleweed of the southwest, the seed head can break off and roll. The plant grows multiple, up to 18 inches tall, stems from small tufts, and has leaves up to seven inches long. Tumble Windmill grass reproduces by seeds and roots developing at the nodes.

### ***Digitaria californica*, Arizona Cottontop**

Arizona Cottontop, a bunching, mounding grass, is a warm season perennial grass. Found across Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma, the plant is called cottontop because of the white to purple, silky hairs appearing on its seed heads. The plant produces white blooms from March through November. Growing up to four feet tall with bluish green leaves, 16 to 39 inches tall erect from a swollen, knotty base, the plant is drought tolerant and useful both as an ornamental and for improving rangeland.

***Elymus canadensis*, Canada Wildrye**

This perennial member of the grass family, Canada Wildrye, produces fast area coverage. Found across the United States except for Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina, the plant provides forage for livestock. The Canada Wildrye grows four to ten leaves up to 12 inches long and blooms on a single seed spike from March to June. Recognized by the heavy, whiskery, nodding seed heads produced in early fall, the plant prefers moist soil. Because of its creeping growth habit, Canada Wildrye is used for soil stabilization.

***Eragrostis cilianesis*, Stinkgrass**

Stinkgrass or Stinking Lovegrass comes by its name because when damp or crushed leaves release an unpleasant odor. This annual grass grows up to two feet tall and three inches wide from fibrous roots. Its leaves are up to six and a half inches long, narrow and hairless. The plant produces stems up to 12 inches long, topped with a purplish, lance-shaped seed head from July to October. The plant readily reseeds itself. Introduced from Asia, it is not grazed by livestock.

***Eragrostis intermedia*, Plains Lovegrass**

A perennial bunchgrass, Plains Lovegrass grows up to three feet tall with narrow leaves up to ten inches long. The tufted plant produces a tall stem topped by green to purple seed head with many, small spikelets. The blooms, pink and purple, appear from May to October. Found through the southeastern United States, it is a

favorite for meadow gardens or garden accents and an important early spring forage grass for livestock and wildlife.

***Eragrostis lehmanniana*, Lehmann Lovegrass**

A native to southern Africa introduced in the 1930s as cattle forage, Lehmann Lovegrass, has naturalized to the southwestern United States. The perennial bunch grass presents mostly erect stems growing up to 24 inches tall. Flowering from July to October on very short stems, this grass reproduces easily through wind-spread seeds and nodes on sprawling stems. Considered invasive because it grows fast, Lehmann Lovegrass tends to choke out native species.

***Eriochloa sericea*, Texas Cupgrass**

Name for the cup-like container for its seeds, Texas Cupgrass can be found across Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. This warm season, perennial member of the grass family does not spread by rhizomes, but by tangles of roots attached to individual stalks. Growing from large tufts, the stalks can be up to 48 inches tall and very stiff near the base. The plant produces a nearly invisible bloom from May to October. The seed head, topping the stems, is pale in color, with seeds attached by short, hairy stems. Texas Cupgrass can also be forage for livestock.

***Erioneuron pilosum*, Hairy Erioneuron**

Hairy Erioneuron or Hairy Woollygrass grows up to a foot tall from a basal cluster of leaves. The leaves are gray-green, narrow and flat with a pointed tip. Seed heads form on an erect stem with a loose cluster of brown “blooms.” The plant blooms from April to October. The perennial is found from Texas to Utah to California and is poor forage for livestock. Hairy Woollygrass is often found in ornamental gardens.

***Panicum obtusum*, Vine Mesquite**

Vine Mesquite, also called Mesquite Grass, can be found in the south-central United States, extending to Utah. Preferring wet soils, the perennial plant spreads through runners, and produces dense stands of up to two-and-a-half-foot tall grass. The grass, bluish-green in color, provides fair forage for wildlife and livestock. Following yellow blooms forming from June to August, narrow seedheads top the three-foot-tall stems. In early winter, the seeds are eaten by quail and dove.

***Panicum virgatum*, Switchgrass**

Found over most of the United States east of the Rocky Mountains, Switchgrass, or tall panic grass, grows up to five feet tall. This perennial spreads by rhizomes and grows in large clumps. The plant produces bright green leaves along its stem and, from August through November, the stem is topped by a reddish-purple seedhead. Switchgrass has been employed for soil conservation and forage for cattle. The plant self-seeds and is popular in ornamental gardens.

***Pleuraphis mutica*, Tobosa**

This perennial grass turns green after a rain and ashy-gray during drought and can be found across Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. Growing from rhizome, the stems, topped with spike-shaped seedheads, grow about two feet tall. The seedheads, bearded at the base and purple to white when ripe, follow a yellow bloom. It is good forage for livestock before the appearance of the seedheads.

***Poa arachnifera*, Texas Bluegrass**

A perennial, cool season member of the grass family, Texas Bluegrass produces dense cluster of two- or three-foot stems and narrow blue-green leaves. Rising from slender rhizomes, the plant has a tufted basal growth. Found across the south-central United States, the plant produces fluffy, silvery flowers from March through May. These dense silvery blooms at the top of the stems produce seeds for birds while leaves and stems make nesting material. It produces fair forage for livestock.

***Schizachyrium scoparium*, Little Bluestem Grass**

Popular in drought-tolerant landscapes, Little Bluestem Grass can be found across the United States. This perennial grass grows dense mounds of slender, foot-long leaves. From the mound grow blue-green stems up to three feet tall. The foliage, turning from blue-green to red in the fall makes it a favorite for the garden. Blooms appear on the stems from June to December, turning to shiny seed heads in the fall. The fuzzy white

seeds provide food for birds in the winter.

***Sorghum halepense*, Johnsongrass**

Introduced into South Carolina from Turkey in the early 1800s, Johnson grass has spread across the southern United States. This perennial grass is considered a weed with the potential to poison livestock under certain circumstances. Johnson grass can grow stems up to ten feet tall topped by a prominent seed head with shiny oval seeds. The bright green broad leaves, up to two feet long, develop a significant vein. The plants grow in dense groups and spread through rhizomes and seeds.

***Sporobolus airoides*, Alkali Sacaton**

Known as Alkali Dropseed, this warm season perennial, a member of the grass family, can be found across most of the United States. Growing up to three feet tall with grey-green leaves, the mounding plant produces yellow blooms from June through November. These blooms are followed by reddish spikelets. The plant produces forage for deer and livestock with birds and small mammals feeding on the seeds. Dropseed, both drought and saline tolerant, is often used to reduce soil erosion.

***Tridens muticus var. muticus*, Slim Tridens**

Found through much of the southwestern United States, the perennial grass, Slim Tridens, grows in 3–4-inch bunches, growing up to 30 inches tall. The plant reproduces through solons and seeds. This grass

produces a pale-purple bloom sometimes twice a year, from April to May and then again from September to October. From a base of narrow, needle-like leaves grows stems topped by seedheads. It provides limited grazing for livestock with seeds for birds.

**Woody**

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### ***Cissus incisa*, Ivy Treebine**

This semi-evergreen member of the grape family climbs by tendrils. Its thick leaves have an unpleasant odor when crushed. Contact with the plant can cause skin irritation in some people. The vine has small green flowers from November to May which are followed by blue-purple grapes. It is found through most of Texas and the southern United States, growing in salt marshes and open wood lands.

### ***Cissus trifoliata*, Sorrelvine (Cow-itch vine)**

Sorrelvine, a member of the grape family, is found across Texas and the southern part of the United States, is called “Cow-itch vine” because contact with the sap can cause skin irritation. The vine climbs by tendrils and has an odor when crushed. The vine can grow up to 20 feet and is woody at its base. From May through September, the vine has a greenish bloom that becomes a black berry that is eaten by birds that distribute the seeds. Once established, Sorrelvine is difficult to eradicate.

### ***Cylindropuntia leptocaulis*, Tasajillo**

This slender stemmed member of the cactus family can be found in desert areas of Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arizona. Called Christmas Cactus because of the red fruit it produces, the green stems turn scaly tan as it ages. It produces yellow blooms from April through August and can grow up to six feet tall. Christmas Cactus is an understory shrub, with the stems intertwining to form thickets. And it is a cactus, so beware of spines of up to one and half inches.

### ***Cylindropuntia tunicata*, Thistle Cholla**

This member of the cactus family, called Thistle Cholla, develops into a short shrub, covered with so many barbed white spines it appears as if in a cloud. Found in New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma, it spreads thanks to barbed spines on weak stems that break off easily and cling to anything passing by. The Thistle Cholla has yellowish-green flowers in spring to summer, followed by small yellowish fruit.

### ***Dalea frutescens*, Feather Dalea**

Called Black Prairie Clover, the perennial, low-growing shrub is deciduous, with a fine-fern like foliage. From July to October, flower spikes form at the end of the limbs with purple blooms. Distributed through Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico, Dalea prefers full sun and poor soil. A member of the Legume family, this thorn-less shrub has stems from gray to light brown.

### ***Echinocereus reichenbachii* ssp. *Perbellus*, Lace Hedgehog Cactus**

This barrel-shaped member of the cactus family is found across the southern United States. The body of the Hedgehog can be up to 12” across. It is called “lace” because of the density of the spine clusters on the body of the plant that give it a smooth look. During May and June, stems appear from the base plant topped with pink-purple blooms. The blooms give way to greenish, small fruit.

***Echinocactus texensis*, Horse  
Crippler Cactus**

This flat-growing (one to two inches tall) desert succulent has been called a “crippler” because of the curved central spines that extend two to three inches above the plant that can injure animals. The plant, which can be up to twelve inches across, is easily hidden other vegetation making it more dangerous. The cactus blooms from March to August with pink and yellow flowers. It occurs in Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico.

***Ephedra antispyhilitica*, Mormon-tea**

This member of the Ephedraceae family is allegedly called Mormon Tea because the steeped beverage made from the stems did not violate the rules of the Mormon Church. The stems of Mormon-tea are notable by the narrow pale orange to tan band around each node, and by the red, fleshy female cones. This shrub reproduces from spores resembling pine cones from February through April from green stems with no leaves. It ranges across Southwest Oklahoma, Texas, and Mexico, growing in a variety of soil types.

***Juniperus pinchotii*, Redberry  
Juniper**

This evergreen shrub, a member of the Cypress family, develops into a spreading bush without a central trunk. Sometimes called the Christmasberry Juniper because of its reddish-brown fruit and its bark is gray and scalelike. The leaves are dark green slender and develop in groups. The redberry is found across New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas, growing in a variety of soils.

***Mimosa aculeaticarpa var. biuncifera*,  
Catclaw Mimosa**

Catclaw Mimosa is a low growing, thicket-forming shrub found on dry hills and limestone mesas in Arizona, Texas, and New Mexico. The three-to-four-foot growing shrub has irregularly growing branches with short, curved thorns. From April through September, the deciduous plant has small clusters of flowers, followed by red-brownish seed pods.

***Mimosa nuttallii*, Catclaw Sensitive  
Briar**

Sensitive briar, a member of the Legume family, produces runners up to six feet long from a base. These runners have small thorns. This perennial produces multi-filament pink to lavender flowers with yellow tips from June to September followed by bean-like seeds. The plant is found in open prairies and is grazed by livestock and wildlife. Interestingly, the leaves (leaflets) are sensitive to contact and will fold together when touched. Sensitive briar can be found in the south-central United States.

***Optunia spp.*, Prickly Pear**

One of the most distinctive plants in the landscape, the Prickly Pear is known for its thick pads, thorns, and beautiful flowers followed by reddish-purple fruit. The plant forms into irregular mounds. This member of the cactus family reproduces through spread of its seeds by animals that feed on the “pear” and through new plants formed through rooting from pieces for the broken pad. The fruit and the pad can be used as food for humans and animals.

***Phoradendron tomentosum*,  
Mistletoe**

*Phoradendron* is derived from Greek for thief and tree, which well describes the mistletoe. The mistletoe is a parasitic plant that obtains moisture through the bark of broad leaf trees through a specialized root system. The plant is noted for its small, rounded thick leaves, pearl-like seeds, and small yellow flowers. The seeds are spread by birds and the plant can be found across Oklahoma, Texas, and Mexico. Mistletoe is frequently used for Christmas decorations.

***Prosopis glandulosa*, Honey  
Mesquite**

The Honey Mesquite, a member of the pea family, is the widely distributed across the southern United States. Noted for its feathery leaves, thorns, and deep tap-root, the mesquite is normally a shrub, but can grow up to 40 feet. It can easily adapt to non-boggy soil types. The tree forms blooms along a stem in spring and summer. The seed pods from these blooms are flat and darken as they dry. The seeds are consumed by wildlife and were used as a food source by Native Americans. Once established, mesquite requires extensive grubbing to remove.

***Prunus angustifolia*, Chickasaw Plum**

This deciduous Missouri native can tolerate a variety of soils and conditions. A member of the Rosaceae family, the typically low-growing shrub (average four feet) has scaly, nearly black bark and if left to grow, will form dense thickets. The crooked limbs are covered with small, white blooms in the spring.

The blooms turn to yellow to red small plums, tart with thin skin. The plums were preserved by Native Americans and are cultivated for jams and jellies.

***Rhus trilobata var. trilobata*,  
Skunkbush Sumac**

The Skunkbush Sumac got its odiferous name from the pungent scent from its crushed leaves. This native shrub with irregular branches has deep as well as shallower root system. New plants can spring from the shallow roots and from seeds. Skunkbush has yellow flowers in March and April and develops a small fruit with a citrus flavor. The Skunkbush can be found from Canada to Texas and in the west from California to Oregon.

***Salix nigra*, Black Willow**

The Black Willow can be found in moist, dense forests from Maine to Texas and Florida. The trees average 30 to 40 feet tall, some extending up to 120 feet. The leaves are lance-shaped and the bark is dark gray to black with deep cracks. The Black Willow's shallow, dense root system helps prevent erosion along creek and stream banks. The flower spike of the tree is a favorite of bees and butterflies. The wood is relatively soft and prone to breakage from wind. It is also highly susceptible to insect damage.

***Sapindus saponaria var. drummondii*,  
Western Soapberry**

The Western Soapberry can grow from 10 to 50 feet tall, depending on the depth and quality of the soil in which it is planted. It is found across the southern United States and Northern Mexico. The tree produces dark green leaves

that turn yellow-gold before they drop in autumn. Its blooms yellowish flower clusters from May to June. These blooms are followed by a yellow-orange, glossy fruit. The fruit though poisonous to humans, was used by Native Americans as soap.

***Sideeroxylon lanuginosum*, Gum bumelia**

Gum bumelia, also known as the wooly buckthorn, is a member of the *Sapotaceae* family. The tree can grow up to 45 feet with bark colored dark brown to gray. The waxy-green leaves remain until late fall, when they turn a yellow-green color. White clusters of flowers are followed by black, oblong berry. Limbs have short thorns. The deciduous tree is native from southeastern U.S. and northern Mexico north to Missouri. The wood produces a white, milky substance when cut.

***Tamarix spp.*, Salt-cedar**

Called noxious and invasive by New Mexico and Texas, the Salt-cedar was introduced into the United States in the 1800s as an ornamental plant. As a shrub or small tree, the cedar forms dense thickets with pink to white flowers on the ends of the limbs followed by seed pods. Salt-cedars have a deep root system, extending to the water table. The plant can tolerate highly saline content water thanks to a salt-secreting gland on the leaves, giving the leaves a scaly look. When the “salty” leaves drop, the salt level of the surrounding ground is increased, discouraging growth of other plants.

***Yucca spp.*, Yucca**

The Yucca is native to Mexico and the Southwest United States, growing mostly in desert areas. Yucca is a slow growing evergreen shrub with stiff, hard, or leathery leaves, with barbs, teeth, or spine on terminal end of leaf. It can develop a small tan to brown trunk (some multiple) and is tolerant of a variety of soils. Whitish, bell-shaped flowers develop on a “spike”, presenting early to mid-summer followed by light green seed pods. The plant is usually long lived.

