

Native Plants at Kerry Wood Nature Centre



Welcome Sign. W. Heinsen



A place for a stroll during the summer.



Red Deer Garden Club cares for the garden.

Overviews of the garden

In 2004, RDRN received several memorial donations. At the request of the donors, the Board directed that the funds, in cooperation with the Kerry Wood Nature Centre, be used to plant a Alberta native plants garden at the Nature Centre. Here are a few representatives of the plants that have been planted. We are grateful to the Red Deer Garden Club for their volunteer hours for selecting, planting and caring for the garden. We are also indebted to members of the Red Deer River Naturalists for collecting the rockery used in the garden.

The descriptions in this chart are courtesy of numerous books, pamphlets, and individuals. These descriptions are not meant to be diagnostic, but merely for general information. For more accurate descriptions and for field use, please consult any of the Alberta Plant books for sale at the Kerry Wood nature Centre.

When planting in your own garden, please do not dig up plants from natural areas. When purchasing plants which are on the Rare Plants list, please be sure they were not obtained from the wild, but from nursery stock.

For information on plants which attract butterflies, please consult the Ellis Bird Farm.



Long-leaved Chickweed
(*Stellaria longifolia*)

Flowers: white; small; 0.6 - 0.9 cm across; numerous at the end of the leafy stems; 5 sepals; 5 petals, deeply cleft; 10 stamens; 1 pistil with 3 styles

Fruit: a small, dry capsule

Leaves: many, opposite, simple narrow, 1.2 - 6.5 cm long

Height: 15 - 45 cm

Habitat: moist places and shady woodlands

Distribution: common

Bloom: May - July



Cut-leaved anemone
(*Anemone multifida*)

Flowers: white, yellow, blue, maroon; showy; 1 - 2 cm across, 5 - 8 petal-like sepals' no petals; numerous stamens and pistils

Fruit: rounded head of soft hairy achenes

Leaves: stem and basal leaves 3-parted, deeply and finely segmented

Height: 7.5 - 45 cm

Habitat: dry, open sandhills, native grasslands, dry thin woods, mountain valleys and slopes

Distribution: common and widely distributed throughout mountain, foothill and prairie regions.

Bloom: June - July



Wild blue flax
(*Linum lewisii*)

Flowers: pale blue; large, 1.9 - 3.8 cm across' several in a loose terminal cluster; 5 sepals, 5 petals, 5 stamens; 1 pistil with 5 styles

Fruit: dry, rounded capsule

Leaves: alternate, simple, numerous, narrow, 0.9 - 1.9 cm long

Height: 20 - 60 cm

Habitat: plains, mountain slopes and hillsides

Distribution: common

Bloom: June - July



Canada golden rod
(*Solidago canadensis*)

Flowers: ray-florets yellow, short, with pistil; disk-florets yellow, with stamens and pistil; involucral bracts narrow, over-lapping; flower-heads small, densely numerous in a long narrow cylindrical cluster

Fruit: small dry achene, with white pappus

Leaves: basal leaves spatula-shaped, wavy-margined, petioled, 2.5 - 10 cm long; stem leaves smaller, with smooth margins

Height: 10 - 40 cm

Habitat: prairie grassland, open woods and mountain slopes

Distribution: fairly common in Central and Western Alberta

Bloom: August - September



Gaillardia
(*Gaillardia aristata*)

Flowers: ray-florets yellow, streaked with purple, 10 - 18, with wedge-shaped 3-cleft rays; disk-florets purplish-brown, numerous with both stamens and pistil; involucral bracts hairy; flower-heads large, showy, solitary or few, long-stalked, 4.5 - 6.5 cm across

Fruit: dry hairy achene, with scaly pappus

Leaves: basal leaves oblong with lobed margins, long-petioled, 5 - 12 cm long; stem leaves hairy, smaller, not petioled

Height: 20 - 60 cm

Habitat: dry prairie plains and hillsides

Distribution: common in prairie grassland

Bloom: Jul - August



Purple wild onion
(*Allium schoenoprasum*)

Flowers: pink-lavender or white; small; lily-shaped; several in a loose cluster at the end of a slender stem each flower of 6 similar segments about 0.6 cm long; 6 stamens; 3-loculed ovary; 1 style

Fruit: small, dry, few-seeded capsule

Leaves: several; narrow and not hollow

Height: 12 - 50 cm

Habitat: open slopes, dry banks, rocky hillsides and thickets bordering open woods

Distribution: common in the parkland and prairie regions of Central and South-Central Alberta

Bloom: June - August



Small-leaved pussy toes
(*Antennaria microphylla*)

Flowers: ray-florets none; disk-florets whitish, with either stamens or pistil; involucre bracts whitish or pinkish; flower-heads several, in a compact cluster

Fruit: dry achene, with pappus

Leaves: basal leaves small, wedge-shaped, densely whitish woolly on both sides, 0.9 - 3 cm long; stem leaves narrow and smaller

Height: 5 - 15 cm

Habitat: dry open places

Distribution: common on the prairie and in the foothills

Bloom: June - July



Water smartweed
(*Polygonum amphibium*)

Flowers: pink-scarlet on a spike, 1-4 cm long. Flowers are 4 - 5 mm long; 4 - 6 sepals; 4 - 6 stamens; 3 - 9 pistils

Fruit: brownish-black achene, about 3 mm long.

Leaves: alternate, floating, oblong to oval; 5 - 15 cm long, margins smooth.

Height: 20 - 100 cm, hairless

Habitat: Shallow lakes and ponds.

Distribution: Throughout Alberta except in the drier prairie region.

Bloom: June - August



Smooth fleabane
(*Erigeron glabellus*)

Flowers: ray-florets blue, pink or white, 125 - 175, with pistil; disk-florets yellow, with stamens and pistil; involucre bracts hairy; flower-heads 1 - 3 on stem, 1.3 - 1.0 cm across

Fruit: dry achene, with bristly pappus

Leaves: basal leaves oblong to lance-shaped, sometimes toothed, usually hairy, 5 - 15 cm long stem leaves small

Height: 15 - 50 cm

Habitat: hillsides and grassy mountain slopes

Distribution: fairly common in Western Alberta

Bloom: July



Showy sunflower
(*Helianthus lenticularis*)

Flowers: Ray-florets yellow, large, without stamens or pistil' disk-florets brownish-purple, numerous, with both stamens and pistil; involucre bracts hairy' flower-heads solitary or several, 7.5 - 20 cm across

Fruit: dry smooth achene, without pappus

Leaves: mainly alternate, simple, oval with usually a heart-shaped base, petioled, coarsely toothed, 10 - 20 cm long

Height: 90 - 180 cm

Habitat: roadsides and waste places

Distribution: fairly common in Southern Alberta.

Bloom: July - August



Purple avens
(*Geum triflorum*)

Flowers: brownish-yellowish-purple conspicuous; about 1.9 cm across; few; nodding; 5 purple or yellowish sepals' 5 yellow, purple-streaked petals; numerous stamens and petals

Fruit: bur-like head of achenes

Leaves: basal leaves; petioled, lyre-shaped, compound of 3 coarsely toothed leaflets; stem leaves, small, variously divided

Height: 30 - 90 cm

Habitat: wet swampy ground

Distribution: occasional in boggy land throughout Alberta

Bloom: June - July



Wild strawberry
(*Fragaria virginiana*)

Flowers: white; about 2 cm across' several in a loose cluster, 5 sepals, 5 petals, many stamens and pistils

Fruit: red juicy edible berry with numerous small seed-like achenes

Leaves: basal from a short perennial rootstock, long-petioled, compound with 3 pale green, coarsely toothed leaflets

Height: 8 - 16 cm

Habitat: borders of moist woods and thickets, shady banks, trail sides, clearings and open fields

Distribution: common throughout Alberta.

Bloom: May - June



Common yarrow
(*Achillea millefolium*)

Flowers: ray-florets white or rarely pinkish, 5, with a pistil; disk-florets yellowish, 10 - 30, with both stamens and pistil; involucre bracts overlapping in 3 - 4 rows; flower-heads small, about 0.6 cm across, numerous in a flat-topped cluster, receptacle chaffy

Fruit: dry small flattened achene, no pappus

Leaves: alternate, very finely dissected, 3.8 - 15 cm long

Height: 15 - 60 cm

Habitat: roadsides, prairie and waste places

Distribution: common throughout Alberta.

Bloom: June - August



Prairie coneflower
(*Ratibida columnifera*)

Flowers: ray-florets yellow, with pistil; disk-florets yellow to purple-brown, with both stamens and pistil; involucre bracts leak-like; flower-heads several, on long stalks, cone-like disk, 1 - 4 cm high

Fruit: grey-black flattened achene, no pappus

Leaves: alternate, deeply divided into narrow segments with stiff hairs, 5 - 10 cm long

Height: 20 - 30 cm

Habitat: dry prairie and roadsides

Distribution: fairly common in Southern Alberta.

Bloom: July - August



Western Canada violet
(*Viola canadensis*)

Flowers: white to pinkish with purple veins and a yellow centre. 5 sepals, 5 petals, spur stout, 5 stamens, 1 pistil

Fruit: dry 3-valved many seeded capsule

Leaves: alternate, simple, long-petioled, oval or kidney-shaped, heart-shaped at base and sharply pointed, margins coarsely round-toothed, 5 - 10 cm broad

Height: 20 - 60 cm

Habitat: rich soil in shady woods and thickets

Distribution: common throughout wooded regions of Alberta.

Bloom: May - August



Columbine
(*Aquilegia sp.*)

Flowers: nodding; 2 cm long, 5 sepals, 5 petals, numerous stamens, most common form is blue

Fruit: follicle 15 - 25 mm long in clusters of 5

Leaves: basal 5 - 30 cm long; compound; stem leaves alternate

Height: 20 - 80 cm, often with hairs

Habitat: Open woods and rocky slopes

Distribution: Blue form common throughout Alberta except southern regions.

Bloom: June - July



Plains Prickly pear
(*Opuntia polyacantha*)

Flowers: Yellow, fading to bronze. 4 - 7 cm across; sepals, petals and stamens numerous; pistils 1.

Fruit: Berry about 3 cm long, fleshy, reddish green, covered with spines.

Height: 5 - 12 cm wide, 2 - 18 cm wide

Habitat: Prairie grasslands, eroded slopes and disturbed areas.

Distribution: Throughout SE Alberta

Blooms: July - August



Yellow lady slipper
(*Cypripedium calceolus*)

Flowers: yellow; 1 - 2; sepals yellowish or greenish, striped with purple, oval, lance-shaped; petals greenish-yellow to purplish-brown, spirally twisted; lip yellow, smooth, pouch-shaped, 1.5 - 4 cm long

Fruit: brown, dry, many-seeded capsule

Leaves: 3 - 4, oval to lance-shaped, prominently veined, 5 - 15 cm long

Height: 10 - 40 cm

Habitat: moist, rich woods and woodland bogs

Distribution: wooded regions of Alberta.

Bloom: June - July



Slender blue-beard's tongue
(*Pentstemon procerus*)

Flowers: Purple-blue, about 1 cm long, dense whorls on the upper part of the stem, calyx has 5-parts, corolla is tubular, 2-lipped; 5 stamens, 1 pistil with a long style

Fruit: A small dry many-seeded capsule

Leaves: Opposite, simple, lance-shaped or narrow, 5 - 10 cm long

Height: 10 - 50 cm

Habitat: Dry grassland, thin woodland and hillsides

Distribution: Fairly common in Southern Alberta

Bloom: June - August



Shrubby cinquefoil
(*Potentilla fruticosa*)

Flowers: Yellow, large, 1 - 2.5 cm. across, numerous in small clusters, 5 sepals, 5 petals, numerous stamens and pistils.

Fruit: Head of densely hairy achenes.

Leaves: Numerous, compound of 5 toothed, hairy leaflets, about 1.5 cm long

Height: 30 - 100 cm

Habitat: Moist meadows and dry slopes.

Distribution: Common throughout the prairies and foothill regions of Southern Alberta, grassy areas in the Rocky Mountain and boggy thickets of Northern Alberta.

Bloom: June - August



Marsh marigold
(*u palustris*)

Flowers: Bright yellow; large 2.5 - 3 cm across; several at the ends of smooth hollow stems; 5 - 9 yellow petal-like sepals; no petals; numerous stamens and pistils

Fruit: A dense head of small many-seeded pods.

Leaves: Mostly basal, large, kidney-shaped and heart-shaped at the base, margin round-toothed.

Height: 15 to 60 cm

Habitat: Marshy, wet ground, swampy fields, sides of streams, roadside ditches and wet, boggy woods.

Distribution: Common in the forested regions of Alberta

Bloom: April - May



Blue-eyed grass
(*Sisyrinchium montanum*)

Flowers: Blue-violet; produced one at a time in a small cluster; perianth of 6 nearly alike, spreading segments about 0.5 cm long; 3 stamens; 3-loculed ovary; 3-branched style.

Fruit: A small rounded capsule.

Leaves: mostly basal, grass-like.

Height: 5 - 50 cm

Habitat: Low, moist meadows and grassy margins of streams and ponds.

Distribution: Common in Alberta.

Bloom: June.



Seneca root
(*Polygala senega*)

Flowers: Greenish-white; small, about 0.3 cm across; many in a short terminal spike; 5 sepals, free, petal-like, winged; 3 petals; 8 stamens, 1 pistil.

Fruit: A small, 2 seeded capsule.

Leaves: Alternate, simple, numerous, narrowly lance-shaped, 2.5 - 5 cm long.

Height: 10 - 50 cm

Habitat: Open woods and moist parks.

Distribution: Fairly common throughout prairie-parkland region.

Bloom: June.



Fireweed
(*Epilobium angustifolium*)

Flowers: Exceed 15 in long clusters at stem tips; pink to purple; 1.5 - 3.5 cm across; 4 petals; bract below each flower

Fruit: Linear seed pods, green to red, split lengthwise to release 100s of seed with fluffy, white tufts of hair.

Leaves: Alternate, narrowly lance-shaped, 5 - 15 cm long.

Height: 30 cm to 2 m

Habitat: Open woods and burned over areas, waste ground and roadsides.

Distribution: Widespread and common.

Bloom: July.



Bergamot
(*Monarda fistulosa*)

Flowers: Raceme many-flowered, elongating as the fruits mature.

Fruit: Capsule 2.5 - 5 cm long.

Leaves: Alternate, compound with three leaflets; 2 - 7 cm long, 0.5 - 3 cm wide; lower leaves stalked, upper leaves stalkless.

Height: 30 - 80 cm

Habitat: Disturbed prairie and sandy roadsides.

Distribution: Widespread and common.

Bloom: June - July.