Identification of Common Range Plants of NORTHERN Saskatchewan
Cover photo: Whitebeech Pasture north of Duck Mountain Provincial Park.

Photo credit: Todd Jorgenson, Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food.
FIELD GUIDE

Identification of Common Range Plants of NORTHERN Saskatchewan
Introduction

This field guide is intended for basic plant identification and reviews the common range plant species found throughout northern Saskatchewan. It is primarily designed for producers, land managers, and extension personnel. For a more complete listing of plants or more detailed identification, please refer to Budd’s Flora of the Canadian Prairie Provinces (see references).

There are four sections in this guide, corresponding to the main range plant groups:

- Grasses
- Grass-like Plants
- Forbs
- Shrubs

Vegetative and flower characteristics are used to describe plants in this guide, in conjunction with plant illustrations. The species habitat, distribution, and height are included. Growth form is listed if not erect (i.e. spreading). The perennial growth habit applies to all species unless otherwise noted (i.e. annual, biennial). The season of flowering for the forbs and shrubs is also included.

Some of the plant species in this field guide have a “Similar Species” box next to the illustration. These plants are closely related to the illustrated plant, but have distinguishing features. To differentiate between species, only these distinguishing features are listed.

With ongoing research in taxonomy, the grouping of plants is continually changing where individual species are placed in relation to others. With this reorganization, comes a change in the scientific name. New Latin names are listed in the index in brackets behind the commonly used Latin names.
To help in identifying common range plants in your area, first start in an ungrazed or lightly grazed location. Flowering heads and seeds will assist in the identification process. Then use the following steps to identify the species:

1. Determine the range plant group for the specimen using the key on page one (ie. Grasses, Grass-like Plants, Forbs, Shrubs).

2. Review the basic plant characteristics for each plant group on the introductory page of each section (ie. Grass Plant Parts, Sedge Plant Parts, Leaf Morphology for Forbs and Shrubs).

3. Identify the species by using the illustrations and identifying characteristics.

Three other guides exist in this series to identify plants in other areas or habitats of Saskatchewan. Please contact the Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC), as well as local Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food (SAF) or Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (AAFC-PFRA) district offices, for copies of this publication and the field guides listed below.

- **Field Guide: Identification of Common Range Plants of Southern Saskatchewan**

- **Field Guide: Identification of Common Riparian Plants of Saskatchewan**

- **Field Guide: Identification of Common Seeded Plants for Forage and Reclamation in Saskatchewan.**
Acknowledgements

This field guide was compiled by Alicia N. Hargrave of Walsh, Alberta. Field Guide: Identification of Common Range Plants of Northern Saskatchewan was funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s Greencover Canada Program and administered through the Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC). Acknowledgement is due to the authors and contributors of previous editions that this field guide was adapted from.

Illustrations in this field guide were copied and used with permission from a number of sources. Elaine L. Muth of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan produced five of the illustrations, as noted on page 63.

A big thank you to Janice Bruynooghe, Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC); Peggy Antonichuk, SFC; Barry Marquette, SFC; Elaine Moats, Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food (SAF); Michel Tremblay, SAF; Trevor Lennox, SAF; Todd Jorgenson, SAF; Al Foster, SAF; Chris Nykoluk, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration; Jeff Thorpe, Saskatchewan Research Council; Jim Romo, University of Saskatchewan (U of S); Jody Oliver, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (SWA); Krista Connick, SWA; Alan Iwaasa, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Semiarid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre; Chris Brooks, U of S; Kirsten Remarchuk, W.P. Fraser Herbarium; BJ Haubrich, Hazenmore, Saskatchewan; James Hargrave, Walsh, Alberta; and Rod Chometa, Pamela Nimegeers, Clayton Binning, Ryan Chaika at Orylix Media.
Table of Contents

Common Range Plants .............................................. 1

Grasses
The Grass Plant Parts ............................................. 2
Grass Flowering Heads ............................................. 3
Canada Bluegrass .................................................... 4
Kentucky Bluegrass .................................................. 4
Fringed Brome .......................................................... 5
Smooth Brome ........................................................... 5
Hairy Wildrye ............................................................ 6
Rough Hair Grass ......................................................... 6
June Grass ................................................................. 7
Green Needle Grass ....................................................... 7
Richardson’s Needle Grass ............................................. 8
Western Porcupine Grass ............................................. 8
Hooker’s Oat Grass ....................................................... 9
Timber Oat Grass ......................................................... 9
Purple Oat Grass ........................................................ 10
Marsh Reed Grass ....................................................... 10
Narrow Reed Grass ..................................................... 11
Northern Reed Grass .................................................. 11
Northern Rice Grass ................................................... 12
White-grained Mountain Rice Grass ................................ 12
Canadian Rice Grass ................................................... 13
Slender Wood Grass ..................................................... 13
Plains Rough Fescue .................................................... 14
Sweet Grass ............................................................... 14
Awned / Bearded Wheatgrass ....................................... 15
Slender Wheatgrass ..................................................... 15
Northern Wheatgrass .................................................. 16
Western Wheatgrass / Bluejoint ..................................... 16
Quackgrass ............................................................... 17
Canada Wildrye ........................................................ 17

Grass-like Plants
The Sedge Plant Parts ............................................... 18
Hay Sedge ................................................................. 19
Sprengel’s Sedge ........................................................ 19
Northern Bog Sedge .................................................... 20
Cotton Grass ............................................................. 20

Forbs
Leaf Morphology of Shrubs and Forbs ......................... 21
Lindley’s Aster .......................................................... 22
Smooth Aster ............................................................ 22
Canada Goldenrod ....................................................... 23
Arrow-leaved Colt’s Foot ............................................. 23
Philadelphia Fleabane ............................................... 24
American Vetch ........................................................ 24
Cream-coloured Vetchling ........................................... 25
Wild Pea-vine ............................................................ 25
Wild Licorice ............................................................. 26
American Hedysarum ............................................... 26
Star-flowered Solomon’s Seal ...................................... 27
Two-leaved Solomon’s Seal ........................................... 27
Fairybells ................................................................. 28
Blue-eyed Grass ......................................................... 28
Western Canada Violet .............................................. 29
Northern Bog Violet ............................................... 29
Snakeroot .............................................................. 30
Smooth Sweet Cicely .............................................. 30
Cow Parsnip .......................................................... 31
Wild Sarsaparilla ...................................................... 31
Three-toothed Cinquefoil ......................................... 32
Rough Cinquefoil ....................................................... 32
Wild Strawberry ....................................................... 33
Yellow Avens ........................................................... 33
Baneberry ............................................................... 34
Tall Meadow Rue ...................................................... 34
Canada Anemone ....................................................... 35
Bunchberry ............................................................. 35
Tall Lungwort / Bluebell ............................................. 36
Fireweed ................................................................. 36
Spreading Dogbane ................................................... 37
Northern Bedstraw ..................................................... 37

Shrubs

Shrubby Cinquefoil ..................................................... 38
Bearberry ................................................................. 38
Wood’s Rose .............................................................. 39
Pincherry ................................................................. 39
Saskatoon ................................................................. 40
Chokecherry ............................................................. 40
Wild Red Raspberry ..................................................... 41
Dewberry ................................................................. 41
Wild Black Currant ..................................................... 42
Northern Gooseberry ............................................... 42
Western Snowberry / Buckbrush ..................................... 43
Twinflower ............................................................... 43
High-bush Cranberry ................................................... 44
Low-bush Cranberry ................................................... 44
Canada Buffaloberry .................................................... 45
Wolfwillow / Silverberry ............................................. 45
Red-Osier Dogwood .................................................... 46
Beaked Hazelnut ........................................................ 46
Green Alder .............................................................. 47
Bog / Dwarf Birch ....................................................... 47
Trembling Aspen ........................................................ 48
Balsam Poplar .......................................................... 48
Labrador Tea ............................................................ 49
Canada Blueberry ....................................................... 49

Grazing Response and Forage Value ......................... 50
Glossary ................................................................. 53
Alphabetical Index by Common Name .................. 56
Alphabetical Index by Latin Name ...................... 58
References ............................................................. 60
Common Range Plants

Herbaceous Plants

Leaves linear with parallel veins

Leaves broad with net-like veins (see Forbs pg. 21-37)

Woody Plants (see Shrubs pg. 38-49)

Leaves broad with net-like veins

Stems solid, not jointed, and often triangular (see Grass-like Plants pg. 18-20)

Stems hollow, jointed, and circular to flat (see Grasses pg. 2-17)
The Grass Plant Parts

- Leaf blade
- Collar
- Leaf sheath
- Internode area
- Node
- Culm
- Crown
- Root

Spikelet

- Floret
- Glume

Floret

- Lemma awn
- Palea
- 2nd Glume
- 1st Glume
- Stalk (Rachilla)

Fibrous Roots

- Crown

Rhizomatous Roots

- Rhizome
- Crown
Grass Flowering Heads

A. Spike
Unbranched, terminal flowering head with spikelets attached directly to the central axis (Example: wheatgrass).

B. Comb-like Spike
Unbranched flowering head with spikelets attached directly to the central axis and arranged on one side like a comb; spikes may not be terminal.

C. Raceme
Unbranched flowering head with spikelets borne on stalks attached to the central axis.

D. Panicle
Branched flowering head with spikelets borne on stalks and lower branches longest and flowering first (Examples: bluegrasses, needle grasses, reed grasses).
Canada Bluegrass

*Poa compressa*

- *Culm* 15-50 cm, *panicle* 3-10 cm
- Introduced, invasive in natural areas
- Moist, well-drained, often poor soils

**Bluish-green blades**
- 2-5 mm wide and 2-15 cm long with boat-shaped tips; blades often folded

**Strongly flattened culm** often with spreading base

**Sheath flattened and keeled with purple-tinged base**

**K.F. Best**

---

Kentucky Bluegrass

*Poa pratensis*

- *Culm* 30-100 cm, *panicle* 5-15 cm
- Moist, fertile soils
- Common on moist, overgrazed sites
- Possibly introduced, invasive in natural areas
- Often confused with plains rough fescue (page 14)

**Dark green, mostly basal, linear blades**
- 2-5 mm wide and 5-40 cm long; distinctly veined with boat-shaped tips; blades often folded

**Slightly flattened sheath and culms; dark green sheath with distinct veins**

**Sod-forming with long rhizomes**

**Dense, pyramidal panicle with branches spreading at flowering; lower branches in whorls of 5**

**Flattened spikelets** green purple-tinged; lemma with dense, crinkly hairs at base

**Ligule on lower leaves** 0.2-0.6 mm, and upper leaves 1-3 mm

**Auricles absent**

**K.F. Best**
**Fringed Brome**  
*Bromus ciliatus*

- Culm 60-100 cm, panicle 10-20 cm
- Open woods and Fescue Prairie

Flat blades 4-10 mm wide and 8-20 cm long; prominent veins with whitish midrib, extending down sheath on lower surface

Open panicle with slender branches spreading to drooping

Greenish, flattened, drooping spikelets; papery lemma with hairy margins, awn 3-5 mm long

Ligule 0.5-1 mm  
Auricles absent

Bunchgrass with fibrous roots

---

**Smooth Brome**  
*Bromus inermis*

- Culm 50-100 cm, panicle 6-20 cm
- Introduced, invasive in natural areas
- Throughout area in moist prairie, open woods, and roadsides

Dark green, flat blades 5-12 mm wide and 15-40 cm long; mostly smooth both sides (rarely hairy or rough) with distinct veins below; 4-7 stem leaves often with ‘M’ constriction near middle

Panicle open and later contracted with branches often drooping to one side

Flattened spikelets purple to brown at maturity; papery lemma may have hairy base, awnless or awn 3 mm long

Yellow-green collar

Ligule 0.5-1 mm  
Auricles absent

K.F. Best
**Hairy Wildrye**  
*Elymus innovatus*

- Culm 50-80 cm, spike 5-12 cm
- Open woods and clearings

Light to blue-green, stiff blades 6-12 mm wide and 5-25 cm long; rough on both sides with distinct veins above

Dense, erect, and purplish spike with narrow, hairy glumes; densely hairy lemma with awn 1-4 mm long

Sheath distinctly veined, lower portion rough

Sod-forming with slender, scaly rhizomes

- Ligule 0.5-1 mm
- Clawlike auricles 2 mm

**Rough Hair Grass**  
*Agrostis scabra*

- Culm 30-70 cm, panicle 15-25 cm
- Meadows, moist prairie, open woods, and waste places

Mostly basal blades 1-3 mm wide and 2-8 cm long; ridged and rough upper surface; smooth and keeled lower surface; rolled and hair-like when dry

Diffuse, open panicle nearly as wide as long at maturity; fine, slender branches ascending to spreading with terminal spikelets

Slender culm; pale sheath somewhat keeled

Panicle easily breaks away from stem at maturity

- Ligule 2-5 mm
- Auricles absent

Dense bunchgrass with fibrous roots

K.F. Best
**June Grass**
*Koeleria macrantha*

- Culm 10-50 cm, panicle 3-10 cm
- Common throughout prairies

Bluish-green, mostly basal blades 1-4 mm wide and 5-12 cm long; upper surface uniformly ridged and rough, lower surface keeled; young blades often hairy

Yellow-green collar often hairy on margins

Spikelets flattened with hairs at base; lemmas shiny and often awn-tipped

**Green Needle Grass**
*Stipa viridula*

- Culm 50-100 cm, panicle 10-20 cm
- Moist to dry prairie; fertile soils

Dense, spike-like panicle 0.5-2 cm wide, open during flowering, closing at maturity; pale-green to purplish and shiny with widely spaced lower branches

Bunchgrass with fibrous roots

Dense, spike-like panicle 0.5-2 cm wide, open during flowering, closing at maturity; pale-green to purplish and shiny with widely spaced lower branches

Yellow-green collar often hairy on margins

Spikelets flattened with hairs at base; lemmas shiny and often awn-tipped

**June Grass**
*Koeleria macrantha*

- Culm 10-50 cm, panicle 3-10 cm
- Common throughout prairies

Dense, spike-like panicle 0.5-2 cm wide, open during flowering, closing at maturity; pale-green to purplish and shiny with widely spaced lower branches

Bunchgrass with fibrous roots

Dense, spike-like panicle 0.5-2 cm wide, open during flowering, closing at maturity; pale-green to purplish and shiny with widely spaced lower branches

Yellow-green collar often hairy on margins

Spikelets flattened with hairs at base; lemmas shiny and often awn-tipped

**Green Needle Grass**
*Stipa viridula*

- Culm 50-100 cm, panicle 10-20 cm
- Moist to dry prairie; fertile soils

Dense, spike-like panicle 0.5-2 cm wide, open during flowering, closing at maturity; pale-green to purplish and shiny with widely spaced lower branches

Bunchgrass with fibrous roots

Dense, spike-like panicle 0.5-2 cm wide, open during flowering, closing at maturity; pale-green to purplish and shiny with widely spaced lower branches

Yellow-green collar often hairy on margins

Spikelets flattened with hairs at base; lemmas shiny and often awn-tipped

**June Grass**
*Koeleria macrantha*

- Culm 10-50 cm, panicle 3-10 cm
- Common throughout prairies

Dense, spike-like panicle 0.5-2 cm wide, open during flowering, closing at maturity; pale-green to purplish and shiny with widely spaced lower branches

Bunchgrass with fibrous roots

Dense, spike-like panicle 0.5-2 cm wide, open during flowering, closing at maturity; pale-green to purplish and shiny with widely spaced lower branches

Yellow-green collar often hairy on margins

Spikelets flattened with hairs at base; lemmas shiny and often awn-tipped

**Green Needle Grass**
*Stipa viridula*

- Culm 50-100 cm, panicle 10-20 cm
- Moist to dry prairie; fertile soils

Dense, spike-like panicle 0.5-2 cm wide, open during flowering, closing at maturity; pale-green to purplish and shiny with widely spaced lower branches

Bunchgrass with fibrous roots

Dense, spike-like panicle 0.5-2 cm wide, open during flowering, closing at maturity; pale-green to purplish and shiny with widely spaced lower branches

Yellow-green collar often hairy on margins

Spikelets flattened with hairs at base; lemmas shiny and often awn-tipped
Richardson’s Needle Grass
*Stipa richardsonii*

- Culm 50-80 cm, panicle 10-20 cm
- Moist grasslands and open woods

- Hairy lemma brown when mature with weakly twice bent awn 18-35 mm long
- Open panicle with slender branches spreading or drooping with few spikelets
- Light green, mostly basal, rolled blades 1-3 mm wide and 5-25 cm long; inner surface with distinct veins
- Sheath distinctly veined
- Bunchgrass with fibrous roots
- Ligule 0.5-1 mm
- Auricles absent
- K.F. Best

Western Porcupine Grass
*Stipa curtiseta*

- Culm 40-60 cm, panicle 10-20 cm
- Throughout moist prairie

- Light green, leathery blades 5 mm wide and 5-30 cm long; upper surface ridged and rough, veins distinct below
- Few-branched panicle with glumes < 30 mm long; lemmas brown at maturity and often with brown hairs at base; twice bent awn 5-11 cm long
- Sheath veins distinct
- Dense bunchgrass with fibrous roots
- Ligule 0.2-3.5 mm; often with depression in centre
- Auricles absent
- E.L. Muth
Hooker’s Oat Grass
*Helictotrichon hookeri*

- Culm 20–40 cm, panicle 5–10 cm
- Moist prairie; seldom abundant

Blue-green, erect blades 2–5 mm wide and 2–12 cm long; blades smooth and mostly basal, with boat-shaped tips; thick, white nerve on margins and midrib

Awn twisted and bent, from below middle of lemma, 10–15 mm long

Ligule 2–5 mm

Auricles absent

Dense bunchgrass with fibrous roots

---

Timber Oat Grass
*Danthonia intermedia*

- Culm 10–50 cm, panicle 2–5 cm
- Fescue Prairie and open woods

Twisted and bent awn 5–15 mm long from middle of lemma

Light green blades 1–3 mm wide and 5–15 cm long; lower surface with long hairs; upper surface ridged with sparse, short hairs

Sheath distinctly veined with long, soft hairs

Narrow, purplish panicle with ascending branches

Yellowish-green collar surrounded by long hairs

Ligule a fringe of hairs 0.5–1 mm

Auricles absent

Bunchgrass with fibrous roots
**Purple Oat Grass**  
*Schizachne purpurascens*

- Culm 50-100 cm, panicle 6-15 cm  
- Open woods and clearings

- Open, few-flowered panicle, branches drooping to one side
- Purplish to bronze spikelets; hairs at lemma base 3 mm long; lemma awn slightly spreading, 10-15 mm long
- Sheath base purplish; closed but splitting when mature
- Slender, loosely tufted culms often with spreading base
- Ligule 0.5-1.5 mm
- Auricles absent

**Marsh Reed Grass**  
*Calamagrostis canadensis*

- Culm 60-150 cm, panicle 10-20 cm  
- Marshes, sloughs, lakeshores, and moist woods

- Nodding, dense to open panicle; straight awn, from below middle of lemma and not exceeding glumes
- White hairs at lemma base as long as lemma; hairs at seed base when mature
- Rather limp blades 6-10 mm wide and 7-40 cm long; ridged and rough above with prominent midrib
- Sheath distinctly veined, culms tufted
- Ligule 1-6 mm; often irregular and split
- Auricles absent
- Sod-forming with rhizomes
Narrow Reed Grass  
*Calamagrostis neglecta*
- Culm 30-100 cm, panicle 5-10 cm
- Moist areas, often with other reed grasses in wet, acid soils
- Can hybridize with northern reed grass

Gray-green blades 2-5 mm wide and 8-30 cm long; ridged and slightly rough above
Sheath distinctly veined; culms solitary or few together
Stiff, narrow, and contracted panicle; purple-brown to green
Ligule 1-4 mm
Auricles absent
Sod-forming with slender rhizomes

Northern Reed Grass  
*Calamagrostis inexpansa*
- Culm 40-100 cm, panicle 5-15 cm
- Marshes, sloughs, and wet meadows
- Can hybridize with narrow reed grass

Firm, green blades 2-4 mm wide and 10-30 cm long; ridged and very rough above
Sheath distinctly veined, culms tufted
Panicle dense, narrow, and contracted with a lobed appearance; pale green to purple
Ligule 4-8 mm
Auricles absent
Sod-forming with slender rhizomes

[Image of Narrow Reed Grass and Northern Reed Grass]
Northern Rice Grass  
*Oryzopsis pungens*

- Culm 20-50 cm, panicle 3-6 cm
- Open woods and clearings; light soils

**Appearance**
- Dark green, erect blades 1-3 mm wide and 10-20 cm long; prominently veined and rough

**Features**
- Narrow panicle with few spikelets on erect branches
- Glumes bronze; lemma densely hairy with straight awn 0.5-3 mm long
- Sheath distinctly veined; culms slender
- Dense bunchgrass with fibrous roots

White-grained Mountain Rice Grass  
*Oryzopsis asperifolia*

- Culm 20-70 cm, panicle 5-10 cm
- Wooded areas and slopes
- Two phases: first erect, later spreading

**Appearance**
- Dark green, erect blades 3-10 mm wide of 2 types: firm basal blades 20-40 cm long and reduced blades from sheath 1-5 cm long; upper surface distinctly veined and often rough below; tapering at each end

**Features**
- Few-flowered, narrow panicle with erect branches
- Lemma base densely hairy; awn 5-10 mm long
- Reduced sheath dark purple at base
- Ligule 0.5-1 mm
- Auricles absent
- Bunchgrass with fibrous roots
Canadian Rice Grass  
*Oryzopsis canadensis*

- Culm 30-60 cm, panicle 5-10 cm
- Open woods and clearings

Lemma dark and hairy; weakly twice bent awn 10-20 mm long

Open panicle with flexuous branches erect to spreading; spikelets on long, slender stalks

Blades 2-4 mm wide and 5-30 mm long; rough and prominently veined

Sheath rough; culms slender and erect

Bunchgrass with fibrous roots

---

Slender Wood Grass  
*Cinna latifolia*

- Culm 60-150 cm, panicle 15-30 cm
- Moist forests

Limp, flat blades 5-15 mm wide and 10-25 cm long; blades finely rough with a prominent midrib extending partway down sheath

Smooth, prominently veined sheath with purplish base

Slender, loosely tufted culms often with bulbous base

Sod-forming with short rhizomes

Lemma awn-tipped

Green to yellowish, loose panicle with slender, spreading or drooping branches

Collar purplish or dark brown

Ligule 5-10 mm

Auricles absent

---
Sweet Grass
*Hierochloe odorata*

- Culm 30-60 cm, panicle 10-15 cm
- Moist prairie and wet sites
- Sweet smelling

- Dark green blades 2-8 mm wide with distinct veins on both sides and white midrib below; fertile shoots with 2 or 3 stem leaves 2-5 cm long; sterile shoot leaves numerous, 2-20 cm long
- Prominently veined sheath; young shoots pubescent
- Pyramid-shaped, bronze panicle with slender, spreading branches
- Glumes shiny; lemmas hairy and awnless
- Ligule 1-3 mm
- Auricles absent
- Sod-forming with extensive rhizomes

Plains Rough Fescue
*Festuca hallii*

- Culm 20-60 cm, panicle 6-15 cm
- Fertile Dark Brown and Black soils, occasional on north-facing slopes in Brown soils
- Often confused with kentucky bluegrass (page 4)

- Erect, gray-green blades 1-1.5 mm wide and 30 cm long; tightly rolled and rough (evident when pulling fingers down blade)
- Sheath purplish at base with old sheaths persistent; junction between sheath and blade forms a distinct shoulder
- Compressed panicle with mostly ascending branches; spikelets often tinged with purple, glumes thin and shiny, lemmas firm and rough
- Ligule 0.1-0.5 mm: a fringe of fine hairs
- Weakly rhizomatous; culms tufted
- Auricles absent

Range Plants of Northern Saskatchewan
Awned / Bearded Wheatgrass  
*Agropyron subsecundum*

- Culm 50-100 cm, spike 5-20 cm, erect or slightly nodding
- Moist, well-drained, fertile soils

Blades 6-10 mm wide and 4-20 cm long; upper surface ridged and rough; hairy when young

Sheath hairy when young, prominently veined

Bunchgrass with fibrous roots

Spikelets overlapping and often crowded to one side of spike; glumes may have awns, lemmas with straight awn 10-30 mm long

Well-defined, light brown collar

Ligule 0.4-0.8 mm

Auricles absent or if present, often only one

---

Slender Wheatgrass  
*Agropyron trachycaulum*

- Culm 50-100 cm, spike 10-25 cm, erect or slightly nodding
- Moist soils, tolerates salinity

Blades 4-6 mm wide, and 5-25 cm long; upper surface ridged, both surfaces rough

Sheath smooth, often purplish at base

Culm bases may lay close to ground

Spikelets slightly overlapping to not at all, lowest spikelet well separated from upper ones; glumes and lemmas awnless or awn-tipped

Light green collar and auricles

Ligule 0.2-0.8 mm

Auricles absent or if present, often only one, 0.3-1 mm

Bunchgrass with fibrous roots
**Northern Wheatgrass**  
*Agropyron dasystachyum*

- Culm 40-70 cm, spike 6-15 cm  
  Most common wheatgrass on the prairies

**Western Wheatgrass / Bluejoint**  
*Agropyron smithii*

- Culm 30-60 cm, spike 7-15 cm  
  Most common in moist, saline, and heavy soils
Quackgrass
Agropyron repens

- Culm 50-100 cm, spike 5-15 cm
- Introduced, noxious weed
- Moist, fertile, often disturbed sites

Thin blades
6-10 mm wide and 6-20 cm long, twisted and often constricted near tip; sparsely hairy above and with fine white lines below; upper surface and margins rough; large variance in hair but more so in young plants

Spikelets loosely overlapping on spike; glumes awn-tipped, lemma awns 2-8 mm long

Lower sheaths usually hairy, especially young shoots

Yellowish, hairy collar
Ligule 0.5-1 mm
Clawlike auricles 1-3 mm

Culms loosely tufted or solitary; erect or spreading

Sod-forming with long, yellowish-white rhizomes

Canada Wildrye
Elymus canadensis

- Culm 100-150 cm, spike 10-25 cm
- Sandy areas, streambanks, and wooded areas

Dark green to bluish-green blades
10-20 mm wide and 5-40 cm long; distinct veins with prominent midrib below

Bristly, nodding spike 3-7 mm wide; narrow, rough glumes may be hairy with straight to curved awns 5-25 mm long; lemmas hairy with awns 15-40 mm long, curving outwards when mature

Sheath bluish-green and often purplish base; veins distinct

Broad, light green collar
Coarse ligule 0.5-2 mm, lacerate and fringed with hair
Clasping, dark auricles 1.5-2 mm

Bunchgrass with fibrous roots

Range Plants of Northern Saskatchewan
The Sedge Plant Parts

Distinguishing Characteristics of Sedges

- Stems solid, often triangular, and not jointed (no nodes)
- Leaves arise from 3 sides of stem
- Sheath usually closed
- Indistinct collar
- Auricles absent
- Flower whorls reduced to bristles and bracts; each true flower subtended by single bract (scale)

A solitary spike arrangement with male florets above female. Other possibilities include female above male or a mixture of both sexes.
Hay Sedge
_Carex siccata_

- Culm 20-60 cm, spike 2-4 cm
- Dry, open, sandy sites in Boreal

Inflorescence with 2-8 clustered spikes 0.5-1.5 cm long in an oblong head; terminal spike often with female portion above male, central spikes male, and lower spikes female and small, although spike with male portion above female can occur throughout; large variance in size and sex; obvious stigmas persisting; lowest spike bract with short, sharp point

Solitary stems usually 2-3 cm apart; sterile shoots with most of leaf area; few blades on fertile shoots and often with old leaves at base

Flat or rolled blades 1-3 mm wide; blades as long as stem on sterile shoots but shorter on fertile shoots

Smooth sheaths

Extensive, brown, tough rhizomes

Sprengel’s Sedge
_Carex sprengelli_

- Culm 60-100 cm, spike 10-20 cm
- Open woods, moist sites, and meadows

Inflorescence with 1-3 terminal male spikes 1-2 cm long; 2-4 lateral, widely separated, female spikes 2-4 cm long on slender, drooping stalks 2-7 cm long; green blade of lowest spike bract 10-15 cm long

Flat, soft blades 4-5 mm wide and 10-40 cm long; both basal and stem leaves present

Tufted stems with coarse, brown, shredded base; flowering occurs much before stems at full height

Pale, smooth, loose sheath

Extensive, fibrous rhizomes

E. L. Muth
Northern Bog Sedge
Carex gynocrates

- Culm 5-20 cm, spike 5-12 mm
- Bogs, marshes, and muskeg in Boreal

One spike 5-12 mm long, either male or female (rarely with male portion above female); obvious stigmas persisting; spike bracts usually lacking

• Mostly basal, rolled blades 0.5 mm wide; blades half the height to full height of culm
• Erect, slender, stiff stems solitary or in small tufts; mostly circular stems 0.5-0.8 mm wide
• Extensive, slender rhizomes forming mats
• Smooth sheath

Cotton Grass
Eriophorum species

- 20-80 cm tall
- Boggy woods, swamps, wet meadows; often in shallow water
- Flowers in summer

Terminal, clustered inflorescence with 1-10 spikelets 0.5-2 cm long; spirally arranged scales with flowers in axils; 6 bristles replacing petals and sepals, each bristle deeply cleft into numerous white, silky bristles 2-5 cm long; leaf-like spike bracts extending past spikelets

• Three-sided seeds with long, persistent bristles
• Linear blades 1-6 mm wide; mostly basal with some alternate stem leaves; leaves may be reduced to bladeless sheaths
• Solid stems round or triangular; solitary or tufted; smooth, closed sheaths
• Fibrous roots or stout rhizomes; often forming colonies

E.L. Muth
J.R. Maywood
Leaf Morphology of Forbs and Shrubs

Leaf Parts

- Blade
- Apex
- Midrib
- Margin
- Axil
- Stalk (Petiole)
- Stem

Leaf Arrangements

- Opposite
- Whorl
- Alternate

Examples of Simple Leaves

- Linear
- Narrowly-ovate
- Oblong
- Ovate
- Wedge-shaped
- Triangular
- Heart-shaped
- Kidney-shaped
- Circular

Examples of Divided Leaves

- Lobed
- Palmate
- Pinnate
- Compound Pinnate
- Trifoliate

A.C. Budd
Lindley’s Aster  
*Aster ciliolatus*

- 30-75 cm tall
- Open woodlands, clearings, and moist prairie
- Flowers late summer

Alternate, dark green, thick leaves 5-10 cm long of 2 types: basal and lower stem leaves ovate with long, winged stalks; upper leaves stalkless and narrowly-ovate; leaves toothed and often with slight hair on lower veins.

Stout, hairless stem

Few, bluish-purple flowers with yellow centers, 15-30 mm wide in a loose panicle; heads with ray and disc florets.

Smooth Aster  
*Aster laevis*

- 30-100 cm tall
- Moist prairie and open woodland
- Flowers late summer

Alternate, dark green to blue-green, ovate leaves 2-10 cm long; leaves thick, smooth, and often toothed; basal leaves narrowed into short, winged stalks, upper leaves stalkless and clasping.

Stout stems with widely separated leaves and often lines of hairs.

Stout, hairless stem

Fibrous roots, may have short rhizomes

Several violet-blue flowers with dark yellow centers, 20-30 mm wide in a loose panicle; heads with ray and disc florets, outer bracts with a white-papery base.

Similar species: Showy Aster (*A. conspicus*)
- rough, hairy stems, 40-100 cm tall
- rough, hairy, ovate leaves 6-18 cm long with coarse teeth and no stalks
- violet-blue flowers 40 mm wide, glands on bracts and flower stems
Canada Goldenrod  
*Solidago canadensis*

- 30-80 cm tall
- Moist grasslands, woodlands, and disturbed sites
- Flowers late summer

Dense, terminal, yellow panicle; flower stalks softly hairy and spreading, resembling a pyramid; 2-4 mm tall heads with ray and disc florets on one side of flowering stalk

Broad, terminal, yellow panicle; flower stalks softly hairy and spreading, resembling a pyramid; 2-4 mm tall heads with ray and disc florets on one side of flowering stalk

Robust rhizomes often forming large patches

Similar species: Velvety Goldenrod (*S. mollis*)
- stiff, 20-50 cm tall
- fine, velvety hairs on entire plant
- rigid, ovate leaves 2-7 cm long; upper leaves reduced in size and stalkless

Alternate, scaly bracts on flowering stem

A.C. Budd

*Forbs*

Arrow-leaved Colt’s Foot  
*Petasites sagittatus*

- 20-50 cm tall
- Wet meadows, sloughs, bogs, and woodlands
- Flowers in spring before leaves appear

Dense, terminal flower cluster of several cream to pink heads with ray and disc florets; mature fruiting heads 2-3.5 cm long, a downy mass of white hairs mid-summer; male and female flowers often on separate plants

Basal, triangular-ovate leaves 10-30 cm long and 10-20 cm wide; leaves gray-green above and densely white-woolly below with rounded teeth; long stalk attached to root crown

Alternate, scaly bracts on flowering stem

Thick, creeping rhizomes

Similar species: Palmate-leaved Colt’s Foot (*P. palmatus*)
- circular leaves with 5-7 deeply cleft, sharply-toothed lobes
- mature heads 1-2 cm long

Range Plants of Northern Saskatchewan

Page 23
Philadelphia Fleabane
*Erigeron philadelphicus*

- 30-60 cm tall
- Moist, open woods and disturbed areas
- Flowers in summer
- Biennial or short-lived perennial

Alternate, clasping leaves of 2 types: basal leaves 2-8 cm long, narrowly-ovate with short stalks, and rounded teeth; stem leaves reduced upwards in size, stalkless with variable teeth

One to many flower heads 12-25 mm wide in a terminal cluster; more than 150 narrow, purplish-pink to white ray florets; center with yellow disc florets

Slender, erect stem; leaves and stem often with spreading, white hairs

Fibrous roots from a simple crown

Similar species: Smooth Fleabane (*E. glabellus*)
- 15-40 cm tall, base often spreading
- leaves not clasping
- 1-10 heads 10-20 mm wide with purple rays

American Vetch
*Vicia americana*

- 40-80 cm long
- Moist prairie, open woods, and coulees
- Flowers in summer

Trailing or climbing stems from rhizomes; stems smooth, slender, and angled

Terminal, forking tendril

Smooth, flat pods 2-4 cm long

Alternate leaves with 8-14 thin, ovate leaflets 15-35 mm long; strongly veined with variable hairiness; arrow-shaped, sharply toothed stipules at stalk base

Plants in open grassland often have narrower leaflets and may be a separate species: *Vicia sparsifolia*
Cream-coloured Vetchling
*Lathyrus ochroleucus*

- **30-100 cm long**
- **Moist, open woods, clearings, and thickets**
- **Flowers late spring and summer**

Yellowish-white flowers 15 mm long in axillary racemes with 5-10 flowers

- Terminal, branched tendril
- Alternate leaves with 6-10 smooth, ovate leaflets 2-5 cm long; ovate stipules at stalk base half as long as leaflets and often toothed
- Flat pod 4 cm long with several seeds
- Climbing stem: slender and smooth with slight angles

Wild Peavine
*Lathyrus venosus*

- **50-100 cm long**
- **Moist woods, clearings, and thickets**
- **Flowers late spring and summer**

Purple flowers 10-18 mm long in dense, axillary racemes with 15-20 flowers

- Terminal, branched tendril
- Alternate leaves with 8-12 ovate leaflets 2-5 cm long; veiny and finely hairy below; narrow, hairy stipules at stalk base
- Veiny, flat pods 3-5 cm long with several seeds
- Climbing, stout stem with 4 distinct angles and often fine hairs

Rhizomes
Wild Licorice
Glycyrrhiza lepidota

- 30-100 cm tall
- Moist prairie, coulees, sloughs, riverbanks, and disturbed sites
- Flowers in summer

Several yellowish-white flowers
10-15 mm long in dense, erect racemes
2-6 cm long from leaf axils

Coarse, branching stems

Thick, woody rhizomes with a sweet, licorice taste

Bur-like, reddish-brown pods 10-15 mm long with 3-5 seeds and covered with hooked bristles

American Hedysarum
Hedysarum alpinum var. americanum

- 15-80 cm tall
- Moist, open woods, semi-open prairie, and gravelly banks
- Flowers in summer

Alternate leaves with 11-19 narrowly-ovate leaflets
20-35 mm long; dotted with glands and pointed at both ends; stipules at stalk base falling early

Several reflexed, pink to violet flowers 10-15 mm long in extended, narrow racemes from leaf axils

Flat pods with 3-5 segments 3.5-6 mm wide with variable hairiness

Several reddish-brown stems with tough, woody bases and slight hair

Brown, membranous stipules often united

Alternate leaves with 11-21 narrowly-ovate leaflets
10-30 mm long; veins prominent and slight hair below

Woody taproot and thick crown

K.F. Best

A.C. Budd
Star-flowered Solomon’s Seal
*Smilacina stellata*

- 15-50 cm tall
- Open woods, moist grasslands, and shores of marshes
- Flowers in spring

Green berries with 6 black stripes

Alternate, narrowly-ovate leaves 3-12 cm long and 1-5 cm wide; 6-12 parallel veined, stalkless leaves clasping the stem with fine hairs on lower surface; leaves folded at base but flattening with age

Erect, unbranched stem often zig-zag above

White flowers in a zig-zag raceme 1.5-5 cm long; 3 petals and 3 sepals alike, 3-5 mm long

Extensive, branching rhizomes; often forming large patches

Two-leaved Solomon’s Seal
*Maianthemum canadense*

- 5-15 cm tall
- Rich soil in moist woods
- Flowers in spring

Pale red, speckled berries 3-5 mm wide

Alternate, ovate leaves 2-8 cm long; long-stalked basal leaf and 1-3, short-stalked or stalkless stem leaves; parallel veined leaves with fine hairs on lower surface

Erect, unbranched stem

Many white flowers 4-6 mm wide in a dense raceme; 2 petals and 2 sepals alike

Slender, branching rhizomes; often in patches
Fairybells  
*Disporum trachycarpum*

- 30-60 cm tall
- Moist woods, ravines, and coulees
- Flowers in spring

Alternate, bright green, ovate leaves 3-8 cm long and 2-5 cm wide; parallel veined, stalkless leaves clasping the stem, with fine hairs when young

Orange to red, velvety berries 8-10 mm wide covered with minute wart-like bumps

One to three drooping, creamy-white flowers 8-14 mm long at branch ends; 3 sepals and 3 petals alike

Forked stem, leafy and finely hairy above

Prominent rhizomes

Blue-eyed Grass  
*Sisyrinchium montanum*

- 10-30 cm tall
- Moist, open areas
- Flowers late spring, early summer

Small cluster of bright blue flowers 10-20 mm wide from a pair of erect bracts; flowers with sharp tips and yellow centers, 3 petals and 3 sepals alike

Round capsule 3-6 mm long in 3 sections with black seeds

Stiff, flattened stem 1-4 mm wide with narrowly-winged edges

Grass-like, linear, and bright green leaves 1-3.5 mm wide from each side of plant base

Tufted with fibrous roots and short rhizomes; often forming large colonies
Western Canada Violet  
*Viola rugulosa*

- 20-60 cm tall
- Shady woodlands and moist meadows
- Flowers late spring and summer

**Features:**
- Many brown seeds in a ovoid capsule covered with short spines
- White, purple-veined flowers 12-25 mm long from axes of upper leaves; flower parts in 5’s with lowest petal a prominent spur
- Alternate leaves 5-10 cm wide (smaller near top of stems) with round teeth, pointed tips, and long stalks; leaves ovate to heart-shaped and often densely hairy below

**Description:**
- Bract-like, thin stipules with smooth margins
- Alternate leaves 5-10 cm wide (smaller near top of stems) with round teeth, pointed tips, and long stalks; leaves ovate to heart-shaped and often densely hairy below

**Illustration:**
- A.C. Budd

---

Northern Bog Violet  
*Viola cucullata*

- 5-10 cm tall
- Moist woods, streambanks, and bogs
- Flowers spring and early summer

**Features:**
- Many olive-brown seeds in a ovoid capsule
- Bluish-purple flowers 12-24 mm long from base of plant; flower parts in 5’s with lowest petal a prominent spur; spur and 2 side petals hairy
- Stemless with thick, fleshy rhizome

**Description:**
- Basal leaves 3-6 cm wide with wavy, round-toothed margins, blunt tips, and long stalks; early leaves round, later ones ovate with heart-shaped base
- Bract-like, linear stipules with smooth margins

**Illustration:**
- A.C. Budd

---

**Similar species:**
- *Early Blue Violet (V. adunca)*
  - 5-30 cm tall, moist prairie and woods
  - Ovate stem leaves 1-2 cm wide; bract-like, toothed stipules
  - Flowers 5-15 mm long, side petals bearded
**Snakeroot**  
*Sanicula marilandica*

- **30-100 cm tall**
- **Moist woods and streambanks**
- **Flowers early summer**

Greenish-white flowers in compound umbels with several round umbellets 6-15 mm wide

One long-stalked basal leaf and stalkless, alternate stem leaves with 5-7 palmate leaflets 4-20 cm long; ovate leaflets broadest near tip with sharp teeth; stalks sheathing stem

Egg-shaped fruit 6 mm long with fine, hooked bristles

**Smooth Sweet Cicely**  
*Osmorhiza aristata*

- **30-90 cm tall**
- **Moist, shady woods and deep ravines**
- **Flowers early summer**

White flowers in compound umbels of 3-6 umbellets; each umbellet with slender, widely spreading stalks and leafy bracts at base

Narrow fruit 15-25 mm long with bristly ribs and long stalk

Alternate leaves 2-3 times divided into 3 leaflets 2-7 cm long; ovate, pointed, thin leaflets with coarse teeth or lobes and variable hair; stalks sheathing stem

Thick, fleshy taproot with sweet scent

Smooth, hollow, leafy stems, branching near top

A.C. Budd
Wild Sarsaparilla
Aralia nudicaulis

- 15-60 cm tall
- Shady, moist woods and deep, wooded ravines
- Flowers late spring

Long-stalked, single leaf divided into 3 parts, each with 3-5 leaflets; ovate, pointed leaflets 5-15 cm long with fine teeth and darker green above

Greenish-white flowers in 2-7 (usually 3) umbels 2-5 cm wide; flower parts in 5’s with distinct, spreading styles

Dark purple berry 6-8 mm long

Flowering stalk shorter than single leaf, both growing from crown

Extensive rhizomes with short, thick crown; no main stem

A.C. Budd

Cow Parsnip
Heracleum lanatum

- 1-2.5 m tall
- Moist woods, clearings, and streambanks
- Flowers in summer
- Unpleasant odor

Alternate leaves 10-30 cm wide divided into 3 broad segments; leaves darker green above and very hairy below, with various lobes and coarse teeth; stalks sheathing stem

Pale, ovate, and flat fruit 8-12 mm long with very fine hairs and narrow ribs and wings

Hundred’s of white flowers in flat, compound umbels 15-30 cm wide; narrow bracts at base of umbel with 15-30 umbellets

Coarse, hollow, ribbed, and hairy stems

Stout taproot or fibrous roots

Extensive rhizomes with short, thick crown; no main stem
Three-toothed Cinquefoil

*Potentilla tridentata*

- 10-20 cm tall
- Open, sandy woods
- Flowers in summer

Alternate, short-stalked leaves with 3 narrow, wedge-shaped leaflets 12-25 mm long; leaflets with 3 teeth at tip, dark green and shiny above, finely hairy below

One to six white flowers 6-10 mm wide in a stiff, terminal cluster; 5 spreading petals and 5 hairy sepals with many yellow stamens

Many hairy seeds

Rough Cinquefoil

*Potentilla norvegica*

- 15-60 cm tall
- Moist meadows, disturbed sites, and roadsides
- Flowers in summer
- Annual, biennial, or short-lived perennial

Numerous alternate, bright green leaves with 3 ovate leaflets 2-10 cm long; leaflets with stiff hair and coarse teeth; long-stalked lower leaves and stalkless upper leaves with stipules

Several yellow flowers 6-12 mm wide in dense, leafy clusters; hairy sepals longer than petals with 5 parts each and many stamens

Many ridged seeds

Stems erect, branched, and often reddish with stiff, spreading hairs

Taproot

Similar species: Graceful Cinquefoil (*P. gracilis*)
- 30-60 cm tall, perennial, moist prairie and open woods
- basal leaves woolly hairy with long stalks and 5-7 leaflets, few stem leaves
- flowers 15-20 mm wide, petals longer than sepals

WOODY BASE WITH TUFTED LEAFY SHOOTS FROM EXTENSIVE RHIZOMES

Many hairy seeds

much-branched stems with silky hairs

Many ridged seeds

stems erect, branched, and often reddish with stiff, spreading hairs

taproot
Wild Strawberry
Fragaria virginiana

- 5-15 cm long
- Low areas in prairie, open woods, and moist sites
- Flowers spring to early summer

White flowers 15-20 mm wide in a loose cluster; 5 petals and 5 sepals with many yellow stamens; hairy flowering stem shorter than leaves

Basal, blue-green leaves on long stalks with 3 broadly ovate leaflets 2-7 cm long; leaflets with coarse, ascending teeth and often silky lower surface

Red, juicy, almost round berry 10-15 mm wide with sunken seeds

Hairy, reddish stolons rooting at tips; no main stem

Short, scaly rhizomes

Yellow Avens
Geum aleppicum

- 40-120 cm long
- Moist sites, meadows, and open woods
- Flowers early summer

Bright yellow flowers 10-25 mm wide in a widely branched cluster; 5 petals and 5 reflexed sepals

Alternate stem leaves reduced in size upwards with 3-5 leaflets; stalkless or short-stalked

Many seeds, each with a hooked spine, in a fruiting head 15 mm wide

Stout rhizomes

Canadian Forest Service

E.L. Muth
Baneberry  
*Actaea rubra*

- 30-100 cm tall
- Moist, shady woods and ravines
- Flowers early summer
- Poisonous (especially berries)

Shiny, red or white Berry 6-10 mm long, clustered in a raceme

Numerous white flowers 3 mm wide on slender stalks in dense, terminal clusters; 3-5 petal-like sepals and 4-10 petals falling early

Alternate, bright green leaves 3-9 cm long, 2-3 times divided into 3’s; ovate leaflets lobed and sharply toothed with hairy veins below

Robust, branched stems with sparse hairs from thick, fibrous roots

---

Tall Meadow Rue  
*Thalictrum dasycarpum*

- 50-150 cm tall
- Moist woods and meadows
- Flowers in summer

Many greenish-white flowers 2-4 mm long in an open panicle 30 cm long; 4-5 sepals and no petals; male flowers with many distinct, yellow stamens

Smooth, purplish stems from yellow rhizomes

Alternate, dark green leaves 2-3 times divided into 3’s with broadly ovate leaflets 2-3 cm long; stalked leaflets longer than wide with 3 pointed lobes; lower surface pale and prominently veined often with fine hairs; upper leaves stalkless

Ribbed, often hairy seeds 4-6 mm long

Similar species: Veiny Meadow Rue (*T. venulosum*)
- round, bluish-green leaflets 1-2 cm long, strongly veined with 3 toothed lobes
- green stems with a dense panicle
**Canada Anemone**
*Anemone canadensis*

- **20-60 cm tall**
- **Open woods, moist meadows and prairies**
- **Flowers in summer**

One to three white flowers 25-30 mm wide terminating simple flowering stems; a whorl of stalkless, deeply cleft leaves below flowers; 5 petal-like sepals and no petals

Several sharply toothed, deeply cleft basal leaves 6-12 cm wide with 3-7 parts; long-stalked leaves with distinct veins and fine hairs

Hairy, flat seeds 3-5 mm long in round heads

Hairy stem from a bulb-like taproot with short rhizomes

**Bunchberry**
*Cornus canadensis*

- **5-15 cm tall**
- **Moist, shady woods**
- **Flowers early summer**
- **Evergreen leaves**

Ovate, dark green leaves 2-8 cm long in a whorl of 4-6 near top of stem; leaves with short stalks and prominent veins

Pair of reduced leaves halfway down stem

Cluster of red berries 6-8 mm wide

Terminal flowers with four petal-like, white bracts 10-25 mm long surrounding a cluster of green flowers 1.5 mm long with flower parts in 4’s

Erect, partially woody stems often forming a dense mat

Extensive, slender rhizomes

Pair of reduced leaves halfway down stem

C. Romo

A.C. Budd
**Tall Lungwort / Bluebell**  
*Mertensia paniculata*  
- 30-70 cm tall  
- Moist woods and shady streambanks  
- Flowers early summer  

**Fireweed**  
*Epilobium angustifolium*  
- 30-300 cm tall  
- Open woods, disturbed sites, and recently burnt areas  
- Flowers in summer
**Spreading Dogbane**  
*Apocynum androsaemifolium*

- 30-150 cm tall  
- Woodlands, coulees, and light, sandy soil  
- Flowers early summer

**Northern Bedstraw**  
*Galium boreale*

- 20-50 cm tall  
- Moist prairie, roadsides, and open woods  
- Flowers in summer

**Similar species:** Sweet-scented Bedstraw (*G. triflorum*)
- trailing, slender stem, 30-100 cm long  
- whorl of 6 leaves, bristly tip, 1-veined  
- long-stalked flowers from leaf axils  
- fruit pairs with hooked bristles
**Bearberry**
*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*

- **50-100 cm long**
- **Sandy and eroded sites in moist to dry woods**
- **Flowers spring and early summer**
- **Evergreen**

**Description:**
- Alternate, dark green, shiny, leathery leaves 1-3 cm long; ovate leaves wider near the rounded tip and on short stalks; older leaves reddish-brown
- Red berries 6-10 mm wide with 5 united nutlets
- Pinkish-white, urn-shaped flowers 4-6 mm long; 3-10 drooping flowers in dense, terminal racemes with a thick, firm bract
- Creeping, reddish-brown stems forming large mats and rooting along length; shredding with age

**Range:**
- 15-150 cm tall
- Moist Fescue Prairie and open woods
- Flowers in summer

**Shrubby Cinquefoil**
*Potentilla fruticosa*

- **15-25 cm tall**
- **Moist Fescue Prairie and open woods**
- **Flowers spring and early summer**
- **Evergreen**

**Description:**
- Numerous, gray-green, alternate leaves with short stalks and 5-7 leaflets; narrowly-ovate, silky hair leaflets 12-25 mm long, pointed at both ends and margins often rolled; reddish-brown, papery stipules at stalk base
- Deep yellow flowers 15-25 mm wide, solitary or 3-7-clustered; 5 petals and 5 hairy sepals with many stamens; seeds with dense, coarse hair
- Stems much-branched; older branches red-brown or gray with shredding outer bark; young branches with silky hair
- Branching rhizomes

**Range:**
- 50-100 cm tall
- Sandy and eroded sites in moist to dry woods
- Flowers spring and early summer
- Evergreen
**Wood’s Rose**  
*Rosa woodsii*

- 50-200 cm tall  
- Thickets, open woods, sand hills, and prairie coulees  
- Flowers in summer

Pink to rose, saucer-shaped flowers 2-5 cm wide; flowers often in clusters with 5 petals and many yellow stamens

Bright red, round fruit 1 cm wide with many seeds; no constriction at neck

Alternate leaves with 5-9 ovate to round, finely toothed leaflets 12-35 mm long; variable hairs on leaflets and stalk

Branched stems with scattered bristles and broad, flat spines at leaf base; young stems purple-red

Stipules united to base of leaf stalk, with sparse glands

**Similar species:** Prickly Rose (*R. acicularis*)
- 30-120 cm; weak stem bristles
- 3-7 coarsely toothed leaflets 12-50 mm long
- solitary, pink flowers
- fruit constricted at neck

**Pincherry**  
*Prunus pensylvanica*

- 1-8 m tall  
- Open woods, clearings, ravines, and often sandy soil  
- Flowers late spring

White flowers 6-10 mm wide on long stalks in umbel-like clusters from axillary buds or branches; 5 petals and 5 sepals with many prominent stamens

Alternate, narrowly-ovate leaves 3-10 cm long with extended, pointed tips; leaves finely toothed and shiny above

Reddish-brown to black, shiny bark; stem lenticels noticeable

Reddish-yellow glands on teeth and 2 on upper stalks
Saskatoon
*Amelanchier alnifolia*

- 0.5-6 m tall
- Coulees, thickets, and open woods
- Flowers late spring

Alternate, ovate to round leaves 1-5 cm long with rounded ends; fine teeth towards the tip

- White flowers 8-12 mm wide in dense, terminal racemes of 4-20 flowers; 5 distinct petals, 5 sepals, and many stamens

Smooth stems, reddish-brown with fine hair when young, turning gray with age

- Red to purple, round berries 6-10 mm wide; sweet flavor with a powdery covering

Rhizomes, forming thickets

---

Chokecherry
*Prunus virginiana*

- 1-6 m tall
- Coulees, open woods, riverbanks, and sand hills
- Flowers late spring

Alternate, thin, ovate leaves 5-10 cm long with a short, sharp tip; leaves sharply toothed and may have slight hair below

- Numerous white flowers 12 mm wide in narrow, terminal racemes 5-15 cm long; 5 petals and 5 sepals with many stamens

- Dark red to black cherry 8-10 mm wide

Smooth, reddish-brown to gray stems, turning black with age; stem lenticels noticeable

A.C. Budd

- Extensive rhizomes forming thickets

- Two to four purple glands at junction of stalk and blade

---
**Dewberry**  
*Rubus pubescens*

- **10-100 cm long**  
- **Moist woods, thickets, and clearings**  
- **Flowers early summer**

White to pink flowers 8-12 mm wide in groups of 1-4; 5 petals and 5 reflexed sepals with many stamens

Alternate leaves with 3 (5) ovate leaflets 2-10 cm long; doubly-toothed leaflets pointed at both ends

Smooth, trailing stems rooting at tips and becoming semi-woody; erect flowering stems from crown or stolon nodes

Rhizomes

**Range Plants of Northern Saskatchewan**  
Page 41
**Wild Black Currant**  
*Ribes americanum*

- 1-2 m tall
- Moist woods, swamps, and thickets
- Flowers late spring

Alternate, bright green, round leaves 2-7 cm wide with 3-5 sharply toothed lobes; leaves hairy and gland-dotted below; stalks with fine hairs

Drooping racemes with 8-20 greenish-white to yellowish, tubular flowers 5 mm long; flowers with 5 parts

**Similar species; Northern Black Currant (R. hudsonianum)**
- leaves 2-10 cm wide, broader than long, evenly hairy and glandular below
- erect racemes with 6-12 cup-shaped, white flowers

---

**Northern Gooseberry**  
*Ribes oxyacanthoides*

- 30-100 cm tall
- Moist woods, thickets, and coulees
- Flowers late spring

Alternate, dark green leaves 1-4 cm wide with 3-5 toothed lobes; round to ovate leaves hairy and gland-dotted on lower surface and stalks

Reddish-purple, round berry 10-15 mm wide
**Western Snowberry / Buckbrush**  
*Symphoricarpos occidentalis*

- **50-100 cm tall**
- **Prairies, coulees, thickets, and open woods**
- **Extensive rhizomes forming colonies**
- **Flowers in summer**

Opposite, ovate to round leaves 2-6 cm long; leaves thick and leathery with a short stalk and soft hairs below; entire to wavy margins

Many round, white, waxy berries; often turning greenish-black

Hollow branches with green to reddish-brown bark, often with fine hairs; older branches gray and shredded

---

**Twinflower**  
*Linnaea borealis*

- **15-75 cm long, 3-10 cm tall**
- **Moist, shady woods; decaying tree trunks**
- **Flowers early summer**
- **Evergreen**

Fragrant, funnel-shaped, pinkish-white flowers 8-15 mm long with 5 lobes

Pairs of flowers hanging from forked flowering stems; leafy stems with glandular hairs

Opposite, ovate to round leaves 10-15 mm wide; leaves with sparse hair, short stalks, and slightly wavy margins; darker green above

Slender, reddish-brown, semi-woody stems trailing to form loose mats

Pink and white bell-shaped flowers 5-9 mm long in dense terminal and axillary spikes; flowers with 5 lobes and protruding reproductive parts

Ovate, hairy capsule with 1 seed

---

Range Plants of Northern Saskatchewan Page 43
High-bush Cranberry  
*Viburnum opulus*

- 1-4 m tall  
- Moist woods and thickets  
- Flowers late spring  

![High-bush Cranberry diagram](image)

Opposite, ovate leaves 5-10 cm wide and 6-12 cm long with 3 deep lobes; lobes long-pointed and spreading with coarse teeth; darker green above, turning red in autumn

Low-bush Cranberry  
*Viburnum edule*

- 0.5-2 m tall  
- Thick, moist woods  
- Flowers late spring  

![Low-bush Cranberry diagram](image)

Opposite, ovate to round leaves 4-10 cm wide and 6-10 cm long with 3 shallow, pointed lobes; leaves with coarse teeth and darker green above, turning red in autumn
Canada Buffaloberry  
*Shepherdia canadensis*

- 0.5-3 m tall
- Open woods, slopes, and riverbanks
- Nitrogen fixer
- Flowers early spring

Yellowish-brown flowers 4 mm wide in clusters at leaf axils; flowers with 4 spreading sepals and no petals; male and female flowers on separate plants.

Brown, spreading branches with small scales; older branches reddish-brown to gray.

Wolfwillow / Silverberry  
*Elaeagnus commutata*

- 1-5 m tall
- Grasslands, ravines, and gravelly or sandy soils
- Nitrogen fixer
- Flowers late spring and early summer

Funnel-shaped, hanging flowers 1-1.5 cm long in clusters of 2-3 in leaf axils; flowers silvery outside and yellow inside with 4 sepal lobes and no petals; strong fragrance; male and female flowers may be on separate plants.

Extensive rhizomes forming colonies; may produce stolons.

Alternate, ovate leaves 2-4 cm long with wavy margins; upper surface green and lower surface with brown scales and silver, star-shaped hairs.

Ovate, silvery berry 1 cm long.

Brown twigs with small scales; gray-brown with age.
Red-Osier Dogwood  
*Cornus stolonifera*

- 1-2 m tall
- Moist woods, coulees, streams, and riverbanks
- Flowers late spring

**Opposite, ovate leaves 2-8 cm long:**
leaves with pointed tips and prominent veins; dark green above and paler below with fine hairs; turn red or purple in autumn

**Stolons**

**Flat-topped, terminal clusters:**
2-5 cm wide with 8-12 white flowers 1 mm wide; flowers with 4 parts

**Round, waxy white berry 5-6 mm wide**

**Many red stems often finely hairy,**
older branches gray and hairless; lower branches spreading and often rooting along length

Beaked Hazlenut  
*Corylus cornuta*

- 1-3 m tall
- Moist woods and thickets
- Flowers in spring

**Alternate, ovate leaves 4-10 cm long:**
leaves with coarse, double-teeth and sharp tips; dull green and hairless above, hairy and paler below

**Rhizomes**

**Round nuts 1-2 cm wide within united, bristly bracts forming an extended beak 3 cm long**

**Stems**

**Catkins in leaf axils appearing before leaves:**
bud-like female catkins 3 mm long with red stigmas; drooping male catkins 1-7 cm long with 4 stamens

A.C. Budd

J.R. Maywood
Bog / Dwarf Birch
Betula glandulosa

- 30–200 cm tall
- Bog, marshes, and streams
- Flowers in spring

Catkin flowers with resinous scales, appearing with leaves; drooping male catkins 20 mm long; erect, cone-like, female catkins 10–15 mm long

Thin, gray-brown to blackish bark with horizontal, resinous lenticels; densely branched

Similar species: Swamp Birch (B. glauulifera)
- twigs with fine hair and yellow glands
- leaves 10–30 mm long with 10–15 teeth per side, paler and hairy below
- nutlets with distinct wing; female catkins 10–30 mm long

Range Plants of Northern Saskatchewan

Green Alder
Alnus crispa

- 1–3 m tall
- Sandy, open woods, bogs, streams, and sand hills
- Flowers in spring

Catkin flowers appearing with leaves; terminal, drooping, male catkins 7.5 cm long with sticky, red scales and yellow stamens

Erect, cone-like, female catkins 10–15 mm long, clustered at base of male flowers, with hard, dark brown bracts

Smooth, thin, gray-brown bark with horizontal lenticels; young branches hairy and sticky

Rhzomes

Alternate, shiny, dark yellowish-green leaves 2–8 cm long; ovate to round and short-pointed with sharp, irregular teeth and short stalks; young leaves often sticky below

Similar species: River Alder (A. tenuifolia)
- 2–8 m tall; streams, lakes, and rivers
- dull, dark green leaves with toothed, wavy-lobed margins; veins hairy below
- catkins appearing before leaves
- nutlets with narrow wings

Green Alder
Alnus crispa

- Alternate, circular, bright green leaves 5–20 mm long; leathery and shiny with 3–5 mm long stalks, resinous glands, and 6–10 teeth per side

Nutlets with broad, membranous wings

Canadian Forest Service

Canadian Forest Service

Range Plants of Northern Saskatchewan
**Trembling Aspen**  
*Populus tremuloides*

- **3-30 m tall**  
- **Moist sites and depressions in prairies; parkland and forest**  
- **Flowers in spring; male and female trees**

Drooping male catkins 2-6 cm long with 6-14 stamens, appearing before leaves

Drooping female catkins 4-10 cm long, appearing with leaves; seeds with tufts of white hairs in warty capsules 4-6 mm long

Alternate, broadly ovate to circular leaves 3-10 cm long; leaves finely toothed and darker green above with abruptly pointed tips; flat, slender stalks 3-5 cm long

Bud scale shiny but not sticky

Extensive rhizomes, forming large groves

**Balsam Poplar**  
*Populus balsamifera*

- **10-25 m tall**  
- **Riverbanks, lakes, coulees, and moist upland sites**  
- **Flowers in spring; male and female trees**

Drooping male catkins 2-4 cm long with 12-60 stamens; appearing before leaves and deep red before opening

Drooping female catkins 4-10 cm long, appearing with leaves; seeds with tufts of white hairs in capsules 6-10 mm long

Alternate, ovate, sticky leaves 5-15 cm long; leaves with fine teeth and pointed tips; dark green and shiny above, yellow-green to rusty below; round stalks 2-6 cm long

Bud scale sticky

Grayish-white bark, dark and furrowed with age; grayish-brown branches and light gray twigs with orange patches

Smooth, grayish-white bark, dark and furrowed with age; brown branches and yellow-green twigs

Extensive rhizomes, forming large groves

**SHRUBS**
Labrador Tea
Ledum groenlandicum

- 30-150 cm tall
- Muskegs, bogs, wet coniferous woods, and acidic, infertile soil
- Flowers early summer
- Evergreen

Branching shrub with rusty, woolly hairs; older branches gray and hairless; base may be spreading

White flowers 5-8 mm long in terminal, umbel-like clusters; flowers with 5 spreading petals and 5 toothed sepals

Canada Blueberry
Vaccinium myrtilloides

- 10-40 cm tall
- Dry, sandy woods, clearings, and bogs
- Flowers early summer

Many white to pink, bell-shaped flowers 3-5 mm long in short terminal clusters; flowers with 5 lobes and 5 triangular sepals

Alternate, narrowly-ovate, leathery leaves 1-5 cm long with short stalks; upper surface wrinkled and dark green, lower surface with dense white or rusty, woolly hairs; margins rolled inwards

Blue berry 4-7 mm wide with a powdery covering

Alternate, narrowly-ovate, dark green leaves 1-3 cm long; thin leaves with short, hairy stalks and pointed tips; covered with fine hair more so below

Similar species: Dry-ground Cranberry (V. vitis-idaea)
- 10-20 cm tall, mat-forming with trailing stems
- Evergreen leaves shiny above, paler below with black hairs, rolled margins
- Flowers 5-8 mm long, with 4 petal lobes
- Dark red, shiny berry 5-9 mm wide

Range Plants of Northern Saskatchewan
Page 49
Grazing Response and Forage Value

Grazing response is how various plant species react to grazing management. Plants are divided into three categories of response to grazing. Plants that decrease in abundance with improper grazing are Decreasers (D). Plants that increase in abundance under similar management are Increasers (I). Plants that invade sites or heavily increase on sites after improper grazing are Invaders (IV). Invaders that are not native to North America are termed Exotic Invaders (EIV). As the condition of the range site decreases, there are continually less Decreaser species and more Increaser and Invader species. Grazing response for a species may vary between soil and climate zone, as well as range site. The response to grazing for each species indicated on the next page is the generally accepted response on an average site. This usually pertains to upland sites with a loamy soil texture. Some species have a different response in a certain soil zone, as seen in brackets.

Forage value of a plant is determined by considering its palatability, nutritive quality, longevity, and area or primary distribution. Forage value varies, depending on the kind of livestock using the plants and the season of use. There are four classifications of this indicator. Plants that are palatable, nutritious, and therefore grazed readily have a Good forage value (G). Plants that have moderate palatability and nutrition have a Fair forage value (F). Plants that are either unpalatable, not nutritious, or low growing with reduced forage have a Poor forage value (P). Poisonous plants is the fourth forage value classification (POIS).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>GRAZING RESPONSE</th>
<th>FORAGE VALUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Hedysarum</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Vetch</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrow-leaved Colt’s Foot</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awned Wheatgrass</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balsam Poplar</td>
<td>I – IV</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baneberry</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaked Hazelnut</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bearberry</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue-eyed Grass</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bog Birch</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bunchberry</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada Anemone</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada Blueberry</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada Bluegrass</td>
<td>EIV</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada Buffaloberry</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada Goldenrod</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada Wild Rye</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian Rice Grass</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chokecherry</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>F – POIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton Grass</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cow Parsnip</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cream-coloured Vetchling</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dewberry</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Alder</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Needle Grass</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairybells</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fireweed</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fringed Brome</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hairy Wild Rye</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hay Sedge</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-bush Cranberry</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hooker’s Oat Grass</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June Grass</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky Bluegrass</td>
<td>EIV</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labrador Tea</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lindley’s Aster</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-bush Cranberry</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marsh Reed Grass</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narrow Reed Grass</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Bedstraw</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Bog Sedge</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Bog Violet</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Gooseberry</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Reed Grass</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Rice Grass</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Wheatgrass</td>
<td>D (I – black)</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPECIES</td>
<td>GRAZING RESPONSE</td>
<td>FORAGE VALUE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia Fleabane</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pincherry</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plains Rough Fescue</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple Oat Grass</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quackgrass</td>
<td>EIV</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-Osier Dogwood</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richardson’s Needle Grass</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough Cinquefoil</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough Hair Grass</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saskatoon</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrubby Cinquefoil</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slender Wheatgrass</td>
<td>D (I – black)</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smooth Aster</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smooth Brome</td>
<td>EIV</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smooth Sweet Cicely</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snakeroot</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spreading Dogbane</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sprengel’s Sedge</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Star-flower Solomon’s Seal</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet Grass</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tall Lungwort</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tall Meadow Rue</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three-toothed Cinquefoil</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timber Oat Grass</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trembling Aspen</td>
<td>I – IV</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twinflower</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-leaved Solomon’s Seal</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Canada Violet</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Porcupine Grass</td>
<td>D (I – black)</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Snowberry</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Wheatgrass</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-Grained Rice Grass</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Black Currant</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Licorice</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Pea-vine</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Red Raspberry</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Sarsaparilla</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Strawberry</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolfwillow</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood’s Rose</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Avens</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Glossary

**Alluvial**: lowland areas of clay, sand, and silt left by floodwaters.

**Annual**: a plant that germinates, flowers, and sets seed, in one year.

**Anther**: the pollen container of a stamen or the male reproductive organ.

**Auricles**: a pair of ear-shaped appendages or lobes, at the junction of the blade and sheath in many grasses and sedges.

**Awn**: a slender, often terminal, bristle.

**Axillary**: a flowering structure located in, or arising from an axil.

**Biennial**: a plant that completes its lifecycle in two years.

**Capsule**: a dry fruit with more than one chamber and opening at maturity.

**Catkin**: a scaly spike of flowers, often of one sex and without petals.

**Culm**: the stem of a grass or a sedge.

**Disc florets**: tubular, inner flowers of many Sunflower Family plants.

**Floret**: a single flower of a dense flowering unit.

**Glandular**: bearing glands (a spot on an organ surface or hair tip producing a sticky or greasy substance).

**Glume**: one of the two bracts at the base of the grass spikelet.

**Inflorescence**: a mode of arrangement of flowers in a flowering unit or structure.

**Internode**: the portion of a stem between two nodes (see node).

**Keeled**: a sharp or distinct ridge.

**Lacerate**: ligule margins irregularly cut or torn.

**Lemma**: the lower of the two bracts enclosing the single flowers (florets) in grass spikelets.
Lenticel: a small, slightly raised area on the bark in many shrubs and trees.

Ligule: the appendage on the inner side of the leaf, at the junction of the blade and sheath in many grasses and sedges; a membrane or fringe of hair.

Node: the place on a stem from which leaves or branches arise.

Palea: the upper of the two bracts enclosing the single flowers (florets) in grass spikelets.

Palmate: a leaf with the shape of a hand, with three or more leaflets, veins, or lobes from a common point.

Perennial: a plant that persists for more than two years.

Perigynium: a sac-like, papery sheath enclosing the fruit in sedges.

Petals: the second, or inner set of floral leaves, usually coloured or white.

Pinnate: a leaf with leaflets arranged on each side of the common axis.

Pistil: the female reproductive parts of a flower, including the stigma at the summit, the ovary at the base, and the style connecting the two.

Ray florets: strap-like, often outer flowers of many Sunflower Family plants.

Reflexed: bent sharply backward, or downward.

Rhizomes: an underground, creeping, root-like stem, often producing new plants at its nodes or tip.

Samara: a dry, winged fruit often with one seed and not splitting at maturity.

Sepals: the first, or outer set of floral leaves, usually green and leaf-like.

Sheath: the part of a leaf-base which encloses the stem.

Spikelet: a group of singular flowers in grasses and sedges (see floret).

Stamen: the male reproductive parts of a flower, with the pollen-bearing anther at the summit.
**Stigma:** the summit of the female reproductive parts, that receives the pollen.

**Stipules:** a pair of appendages at the base of a leaf or leaf stalk.

**Stolons:** a horizontal, creeping stem from the base of a plant, producing new plants at its nodes or tip.

**Style:** the structure in the female reproductive parts between the stigma and the ovary.

**Umbel:** a flower cluster where all flower stalks arise from the same point.

**Umbellet:** a secondary umbel.
### Grasses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Awned (Bearded) Wheatgrass</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada Bluegrass</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada Wildrye</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian Rice Grass</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fringed Brome</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Needle Grass</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hairy Wildrye</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hooker’s Oat Grass</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June Grass</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky Bluegrass</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marsh Reed Grass</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narrow Reed Grass</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Reed Grass</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Rice Grass</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Wheatgrass</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plains Rough Fescue</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple Oat Grass</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quackgrass</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richardson’s Needle Grass</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough Hair Grass</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slender Wheatgrass</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slender Wood Grass</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smooth Brome</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet Grass</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timber Oat Grass</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Porcupine Grass</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Wheatgrass (Bluejoint)</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-grained Mountain Rice Grass</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Grass-like Plants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cotton Grass</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hay Sedge</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Bog Sedge</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sprengel’s Sedge</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Forbs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Hedysarum</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Vetch</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrow-leaved Colt’s Foot</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banberry</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue-eyed Grass</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bunchberry</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada Anemone</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada Goldenrod</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cow Parsnip</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cream-coloured Vetchling</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairybells</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fireweed</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lindley’s Aster</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Bedstraw</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Bog Violet</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia Fleabane</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough Cinquefoil</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smooth Aster</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smooth Sweet Cicely</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Name</td>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snakeroot</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spreading Dogbane</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Star-flowered Solomon’s Seal</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tall Lungwort (Bluebell)</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tall Meadow Rue</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three-toothed Cinquefoil</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-leaved Solomon’s Seal</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Canada Violet</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Licorice</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Peavine</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Sarsaparilla</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Strawberry</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Avens</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shrubs</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balsam Poplar</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaked Hazelnut</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bearberry</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bog (Dwarf) Birch</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada Blueberry</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada Buffaloberry</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chokecherry</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dewberry</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Alder</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-bush Cranberry</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labrador Tea</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-bush Cranberry</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Gooseberry</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pincherry</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-Osier Dogwood</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saskatoon</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrubby Cinquefoil</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trembling Aspen</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twinflower</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Snowberry (Buckbrush)</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Black Currant</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Red Raspberry</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolfwillow (Silverberry)</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood’s Rose</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Alphabetical Index by Latin Name

Grasses
Agropyron dasystachyum (Elymus lanceolatus) .................. 16
Agropyron repens (Elymus repens) .......................... 17
Agropyron smithii (Pascopyrum smithii) ...................... 16
Agropyron subsecundum (Elymus trachycaulus ssp. subsecundus) ............................ 15
Agropyron trachycaulum (Elymus trachycaulus ssp. trachycaulus) .................... 15
Agrostis scabra .................................................. 6
Bromus ciliatus ...................................................... 5
Bromus inermis ................................................... 5
Calamagrostis canadensis ........................................... 10
Calamagrostis inexpansa
(Calamagrostis stricta ssp. inexpansa) .......................... 11
Calamagrostis neglecta
(Calamagrostis stricta ssp. stricta) .............................. 11
Cinna latifolia ....................................................... 13
Danthonia intermedia .................................................. 9
Elymus canadensis .................................................... 17
Elymus innovatus (Leymus innovatus) ............................. 6
Festuca hallii ........................................................ 14
Helictotrichon hookeri (Avenula hookeri) ....................... 9
Hierochloe odorata .................................................. 14
Koeleria macrantha ................................................... 7
Orzyopsis asperifolia .................................................. 12
Orzyopsis canadensis (Piptatherum canadense) ................ 13
Orzyopsis pungens (Piptatherum pungens) ...................... 12
Poa compressa ...................................................... 4
Poa pratensis ......................................................... 4
Schizachne purpurascens ........................................... 10
Stipa viridula (Nassella viridula) .................................. 7
Stipa curtiseta (Hesperostipa curtiseta) ............................. 8
Stipa richardsonii (Achnatherum richardsonii) ................ 8

Grass-like Plants
Carex gynocrates (Carex dioica ssp. gynocrates) ................ 20
Carex siccata (Carex aenea, Carex foenea) ..................... 19
Carex sprengelli .......................................................... 19
Eriophorum species .................................................... 20

Forbs
Actaea rubra .......................................................... 34
Anemone canadensis ................................................... 35
Apocynum androsaemifolium ....................................... 37
Aralia nudicaulis ........................................................ 31
Aster ciliolatus ......................................................... 22
Aster laevis ............................................................... 22
Cornus canadensis ..................................................... 35
Disporum trachycarpum (Prosartes trachycarpa) ................ 28
Epilobium angustifolium (Chamerion angustifolium ssp. angustifolium) ................ 36
Erigeron philadelphicus ............................................... 24
Fragaria virginiana .................................................... 33
Galium boreale ........................................................ 37
Geum aleppicum ........................................................ 33
Glycyrrhiza lepidota .................................................... 26
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hedysarum alpinum var. americanum</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heracleum lanatum (Heracleum maximum)</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lathyrus ochroleucus</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lathyrus venosus</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maianthemum canadense</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mertensia paniculata</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osmorhiza aristata</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petasites sagittatus (Petasites frigidus var. sagittatus)</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potentilla norvegica</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potentilla tridentata (Sibbaldiopsis tridentata)</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanicula marilandica</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sisyrinchium montanum</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smilicina stellata (Maianthemum stellatum)</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solidago canadensis</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thalictrum dasycarpum</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vicia americana</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viola cucullata (Viola nephrophylla)</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viola rugulosa (Viola canadensis var. rugulosa)</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Shrubs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alnus crispa (Alnus virdis ssp. crispa)</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amelanchier alnfolia</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arcostaphyos uva-ursi</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betula glandulosa (Betula nana var. exilis)</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornus stolonifera (Cornus sericea)</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corylus cornuta</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elaeagnus commutata</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ledum groenlandicum</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linnaea borealis</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Populus balsamifera</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Populus tremuloides</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potentilla fruticosa (Dasiphora fruticosa ssp. floribunda)</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prunus pensylvanica</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prunus virginiana</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ribes americanum</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ribes oxyacanthoides</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosa woodsii</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubus idaeus</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubus pubescens</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shepherdia canadensis</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symphoricarpos occidentalis</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccinium myrtillioides</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viburnum edule</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viburnum opulus</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
References


Ducks Unlimited Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration, Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture and Food, Grazing and Pasture Technology Program. Managing Saskatchewan Rangeland. Revised ed. 99 p.


**World Wide Web References**


Page 62  Range Plants of Northern Saskatchewan
Illustrations

The illustrations of hay sedge, northern bog sedge, sprengel’s sedge, western porcupine grass, and yellow avens were produced by Elaine L. Muth of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

The illustrations of Canada anemone, fairybells, high-bush cranberry, low-bush cranberry, and spreading dogbane used with permission from *Northern Range Plants*, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Home Study Program, Copyright 2000.

The illustrations of cotton grass, labrador tea, northern gooseberry, philadelphia fleabane, pincherry, red-osier dogwood, and twinflower used with permission from John Maywood, found in *Northern Range Plants*, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Home Study Program, Copyright 2000.

The illustrations of bog birch, Canada blueberry, green alder, lindley’s aster, tall lungwort, and wild strawberry are from *Field Guide to forest ecosystems of west-central Alberta* (1986) and were reproduced with permission of the Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada, 2005.


The illustrations on page 18 used with permission from *Carex in Saskatchewan*, University of Saskatchewan, Bison Publishing House.

The remaining illustrations used with permission from *Prairie Grasses Identified and Described by Vegetative Characters*, *Budd’s Flora of the Canadian Prairie Provinces*, and *111 Range and Forage Plants of the Canadian Prairies*; Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada © Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada, 2005.
Funding for this publication provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s Greencover Canada Program.

Project Partners

Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada

Canada

Government of Saskatchewan