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.**
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Common Range Plants

Herbaceous Plants

Leaves linear with parallel veins

Leaves broad with net-like veins

(see Forbs pg. 21-37)

Stems hollow, jointed, and circular to flat

(see Grasses pg. 2-17)

Woody Plants

(see Shrubs pg. 38-49)

Leaves broad with net-like veins

(see Forbs pg. 21-37)

Stems solid, not jointed, and often triangular

(see Grass-like Plants pg. 18-20)
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 tflattned culm often with spreading base

Sheath flattened and keeled with purple-tinged base

Narrow panicle with short, ascending branches often in pairs

Flattened spikelets often purple-tinged; no (or sparse) crinkly hairs at lemma base

Ligule 0.5-2 mm

Auricles absent

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
- Slender culms 2-4 together

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**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
- Closed, prominently veined sheath; nodes and lower sheath may be hairy
- Sod-forming with long rhizomes
- Panicle open and later contracted with branches often drooping to one side
- Flattened spikelets purple to brown at maturity; papery lemmas may have hairy base, awnless or awn 3 mm long
- Yellow-green collar
- Ligule 0.5-1 mm
- Auricles absent

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Range Plants of Northern Saskatchewan  
Page 5
**Hairy Wildrye**
*Elymus innovatus*

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

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

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

Sheath distinctly veined, lower portion rough

Culms in small tufts

**Rough Hair Grass**
*Agrostis scabra*

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

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

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

Slender culm; pale sheath somewhat keeled

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

Sheath with distinct veins and often hairy

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

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

Yellow-green collar often hairy on margins

Ligule 0.2-1 mm

Auricles absent

Bunchgrass with fibrous roots

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**Green Needle Grass**
*Stipa viridula*

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

Dark green, mostly basal blades 2-5 mm wide and 10-25 cm long; prominently veined and rough on upper surface, prominent midrib below

Smooth sheath with distinct veins; hairy near collar and along margins

Dense bunchgrass with fibrous roots

Greenish, narrow, and compact panicle

Hairy lemmas dark brown when mature; lemma with delicate, twice bent awn 2-3 mm long

Yellowish-green collar with hairy margins

Ligule 0.5-2 mm

Auricles absent

K.F. Best
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

Bunchgrass with fibrous roots

Sheath distinctly veined

Ligule 0.5-1 mm

Auricles absent

Sheath veins distinct

Western Porcupine Grass
Stipa curtiseta

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

Dense bunchgrass with fibrous roots

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

Light green, leathery blades 5 mm wide and 5-30 cm long; upper surface ridged and rough, veins distinct below

Sheath veins distinct

Ligule 0.2-3.5 mm; often with depression in centre

Auricles absent

E.L. Muth

K.F. Best
Hooker’s Oat Grass  
*Helictotrichon hookeri*

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

![Hooker’s Oat Grass](image)

- 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
- Sheath compressed and keeled with distinct veins
- Dense bunchgrass with fibrous roots
- Narrow panicle with erect branches and shiny, brown spikelets
- Awn twisted and bent, from below middle of lemma, 10-15 mm long
- Ligule 2-5 mm
- Auricles absent

Timber Oat Grass  
*Danthonia intermedia*

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

![Timber Oat Grass](image)

- Narrow, purplish panicle with ascending branches
- 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
- 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

- Dark green blades
  2-6 mm wide and 2-20 cm tall; distinctly veined and often finely rough

- Sheath base purplish; closed but splitting when mature

- Sod-forming with short rhizomes

- Purple to bronze spikelets; hairs at lemma base 3 mm long; lemma awn slightly spreading, 10-15 mm long

- Open, few-flowered panicle, branches drooping to one side

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Marsh Reed Grass
*Calamagrostis canadensis*

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

- Rather limp blades
  6-10 mm wide and 7-40 cm long; ridged and rough above with prominent midrib

- Sheath distinctly veined, culms tufted

- 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

- Ligule 1-6 mm; often irregular and split

- Auricles absent

- Sod-forming with rhizomes

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K.F. Best
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

Stiff, narrow, and contracted panicle; purple-brown to green

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

Ligule 1-4 mm

Auricles absent

Sod-forming with slender rhizomes

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Northern Reed Grass
*Calamagrostis inexpansa*

- Culm 40-100 cm, panicle 5-15 cm
- Marshes, sloughs, and wet meadows
- Can hybridize with narrow reed grass

Panicle dense, narrow, and contracted with a lobed appearance; pale green to purple

Firm, green blades 2-4 mm wide and 10-30 cm long; ridged and very rough above

Sheath distinctly veined, culms tufted

Ligule 4-8 mm

Auricles absent

Sod-forming with slender rhizomes

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K.F. Best
Northern Rice Grass

Oryzopsis pungens

- Culm 20-50 cm, panicle 3-6 cm

Open woods and clearings; light soils

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
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

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

Collar purplish or dark brown

Auricles absent

Ligule 5-10 mm

Sod-forming with short rhizomes

K.F. Best
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

Pyramid-shaped, bronze panicle with slender, spreading branches

Prominently veined sheath; young shoots purplish at base

Glumes shiny; lemmas hairy and awnless

Ligule 1-3 mm

Auricles absent

Sod-forming with extensive rhizomes

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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

R.M.B.
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

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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 lie 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

K.F. Best
**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

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**Northern Wheatgrass**

- Light green, ascending blades 1-6 mm wide and 5-20 cm long; upper surface strongly veined and rough
- Spikelets loosely to closely overlapping; glumes and lemmas awnless or awn-tipped; glumes rough to hairy and lemmas hairy
- Papery accumulation at base; tufted shoots close together
- Sod-forming with slender rhizomes

**Western Wheatgrass / Bluejoint**

- Blue-green, stiff blades 3-6 mm wide and 5-25 cm long; upper surface strongly veined and rough; blade attached to stem at a 45 degree angle
- Spikelets closely overlapping; sharp-pointed, rigid glumes; lemmas usually not hairy, awnless or awn-tipped
- Shoots singly or in small tufts
- Sheath often purplish at base
- Sod-forming with long, slender rhizomes

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K.F. Best
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

Yellowish, hairy collar
Ligule 0.5-1 mm

Clawlike auricles 1-3 mm

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
Ligule 0.5-2 mm, lacerate and fringed with hair

Clasping, dark auricles 1.5-2 mm

Bunchgrass with fibrous roots
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)
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

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

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**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

Page 20  
Range Plants of Northern Saskatchewan
Leaf Morphology of Forbs and Shrubs

Leaf Parts

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

Fibrous roots, may have short rhizomes

Few, bluish-purple flowers with yellow centers, 15-30 mm wide in a open 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.

Often with long 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

**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

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Arrow-leaved Colt’s Foot  
*Petasites sagittatus*

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

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

**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

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Alternate, scaly bracts on flowering stem

Thick, creeping rhizomes
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

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

Terminal, forking tendril

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

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

Smooth, flat pods 2-4 cm long

Red-purple to bluish-purple flowers 15-20 mm long in loose, axillary racemes with 3-9 flowers

Plants in open grassland often have narrower leaflets and may be a separate species: *Vicia sparsifolia*

J.R. Maywood

A.C. Budd

A.C. Budd
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
- Climbing stem: slender and smooth with slight angles
- Terminal, branched tendril
- Flat pod 4 cm long with several seeds
- 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

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

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

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

Green berries with 6 black stripes

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

Two-leaved Solomon’s Seal
*Maianthemum canadense*

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

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

Pale red, speckled berries 3-5 mm wide

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

Slender, branching rhizomes; often in patches

Range Plants of Northern Saskatchewan
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

C. Romo

**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

Page 28 Range Plants of Northern Saskatchewan
**Western Canada Violet**

*Viola rugulosa*

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

![Diagram of Western Canada Violet](image)

- White, purple-veined flowers 12-25 mm long from axils of upper leaves; flower parts in 5’s with lowest petal a prominent spur
- Many brown seeds in an ovoid capsule covered with short spines
- 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

**Northern Bog Violet**

*Viola cucullata*

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

![Diagram of Northern Bog Violet](image)

- 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
- Many olive-brown seeds in an ovoid capsule
- 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
- Stemless with thick, fleshy rhizome
- Bract-like, linear stipules with smooth margins

**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

Smooth Sweet Cicely
Osmorhiza aristata

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

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

*Wild Sarsaparilla* produces dark purple berries 6-8 mm long. It is found in shady, moist woods and deep, wooded ravines. Its flowers are late spring, and it has a pleasant odor.

**Cow Parsnip**
*Heracleum lanatum*

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

*Cow Parsnip* is a coarse, hollow, ribbed, and hairystemmed plant that is 1-2.5 m tall. It is found in moist woods, clearings, and streambanks. Its flowers are unpleasantly odorous and appear in summer.
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.

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.

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

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Range Plants of Northern Saskatchewan
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

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

Stout rhizomes

Many seeds, each with a hooked spine, in a fruiting head 15 mm wide
Baneberry  
*Actaea rubra*

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

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

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

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

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Tall Meadow Rue  
*Thalictrum dasycarpum*

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

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

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

Ribbed, often hairy seeds 4-6 mm long

Smooth, purplish stems from yellow rhizomes

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**

![Canada Anemone diagram]

- 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
- Hairy, flat seeds 3-5 mm long in round heads
- 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 stem from a bulb-like taproot with short rhizomes

Bunchberry  
*Cornus canadensis*

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

![Bunchberry diagram]

- 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
- Extensive, slender rhizomes
- 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
**Tall Lungwort / Bluebell**  
*Mertensia paniculata*

- **30-70 cm tall**  
- **Moist woods and shady streambanks**  
- **Flowers early summer**

![Description of Tall Lungwort]

**Fireweed**  
*Epilobium angustifolium*

- **30-300 cm tall**  
- **Open woods, disturbed sites, and recently burnt areas**  
- **Flowers in summer**

![Description of Fireweed]
Spreading Dogbane
*Apocynum androsaemifolium*

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

Pink, bell-shaped flowers
6-8 mm long, often with dark pink streaks, in terminal and axillary clusters; 5 partly united petals with spreading and downward curved lobes

Opposite, bright green, ovate leaves 2-7 cm long; leaves drooping, lower surface paler and slightly hairy; turning yellow to red in autumn

Narrow, tubular pods in pairs 8-12 cm long with many tufted seeds

Forking stems with tough, fibrous bark; releasing milky sap when broken

Northern Bedstraw
*Galium boreale*

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

Many white, fragrant flowers 3 mm wide; 3-forked clusters in a dense, terminal, leafy panicle; flowers with 4 wheel-shaped petals and no sepals

A whorl of 4 linear, bright green leaves 2-6 cm long; leaves stalkless and 3-veined

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**

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

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

Numerous, gray-green, alternate leaves with short stalks and 5-7 leaflets; narrowly-ovate, silky hairy leaflets 12-25 mm long, pointed at both ends and margins often rolled; reddish-brown, papery stipules at stalk base

Pinkish-white, urn-shaped flowers 4-6 mm long; 3-10 drooping flowers in dense, terminal racemes with a thick, firm bract

Red berries 6-10 mm wide with 5 united nutlets

Creeping, reddish-brown stems forming large mats and rooting along length; shredding with age

**SHRUBS**

**Shrubby Cinquefoil**

*Potentilla fruticosa*

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

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

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

Numerous, gray-green, alternate leaves with short stalks and 5-7 leaflets; narrowly-ovate, silky hairy leaflets 12-25 mm long, pointed at both ends and margins often rolled; reddish-brown, papery stipules at stalk base

Pinkish-white, urn-shaped flowers 4-6 mm long; 3-10 drooping flowers in dense, terminal racemes with a thick, firm bract

Red berries 6-10 mm wide with 5 united nutlets

Creeping, reddish-brown stems forming large mats and rooting along length; shredding with age

A.C. Budd

**Page 38** Range Plants of Northern Saskatchewan
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 5 sepals 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

Stipules united to base of leaf stalk, with sparse glands

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

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

Bright red cherry 5-8 mm wide

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

Reddish-yellow glands on teeth and 2 on upper stalks

J.R. Maywood

Range Plants of Northern Saskatchewan Page 39
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

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

**Rhizomes, forming thickets**

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

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

**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

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

**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

**Extensive rhizomes forming thickets**

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

A.C. Budd

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Range Plants of Northern Saskatchewan
**Wild Red Raspberry**  
*Rubus idaeus*

- 1-2 m tall
- Moist woods, thickets, riverbanks, and shady, disturbed sites
- Flowers early summer
- Perennial with biennial stems

Alternate leaves with 5 leaflets (3 on flowering stems), the terminal one being 3-lobed; ovate, doubly-toothed leaflets 5-10 cm long; dark green above and white-woolly below

**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

Sheaths
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

Greenish-white, tubular flowers 3 mm long in 1-3 flowered axillary racemes; flowers with 5 parts with hairy bracts and stalks

Many gray branches with bristly internodes and often stout spines at nodes; yellow and hairy when young; erect to spreading

J.R. Janish

J.R. Maywood
**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, gray-green 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

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

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

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

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

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

**Twinflower**
*Linnaea borealis*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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
High-bush Cranberry
*Viburnum opulus*

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

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

Many flowers in flat-topped, terminal clusters 5-15 cm wide; 5-petaled, wheel-shaped flowers of two types: outer flowers white, sterile, and 10-15 mm wide; inner flowers fertile, creamy-white, and much smaller

Red to orange, round berries 6-10 mm wide in drooping clusters

Many smooth, reddish-gray branches

Slender stipules at stalk base; 2 leaf pairs on flowering stalk

Low-bush Cranberry
*Viburnum edule*

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

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

Many smooth, red-brown to gray branches

One leaf pair on flowering stalk; stipules absent

Axillary clusters 1-3 cm wide with 3-30 white flowers 4-7 mm wide; flowers wheel-shaped with 5 petals; all flowers similar and perfect

Light red, round berries 8-10 mm long in clusters; strongly scented

C. Romo

C. Romo
**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.

**Wolfwillow / Silverberry**  
*Elaeagnus commutata*

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

Extensive rhizomes forming colonies; may produce stolons.

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Range Plants of Northern Saskatchewan  
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Beaked Hazlenut
*Corylus cornuta*

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

Rhizomes

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

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

Stems much-branched with gray-brown, scaly bark; twigs reddish-brown and hairy

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

Red-OSier Dogwood
*Cor**nus stolonifera*

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

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

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

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
**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

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

**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

Nutlets with narrow wings

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

Erect to spreading

Similar species: Swamp Birch (*B. glanulifera*)
- 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
**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

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

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

**Balsam Poplar**  
*Populus balsamifera*

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

Drooping female catkins 4-10 cm long, appearing with leaves; seeds with tufts of white hairs in warty capsules 4-6 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
**Labrador Tea**  
*Ledum groenlandicum*

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

Finely hairy, ovate capsule 5-7 mm long with many seeds

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

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

Young twigs round with white hairs; older branches reddish-brown and nearly hairless

Finely hairy, ovate capsule 5-7 mm long with many seeds

Branching shrubs with woody rhizomes forming large thickets

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

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

**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  
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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).
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<td>Yellow Avens</td>
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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

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### Grass-like Plants

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