Carroll Montana Native Plant Garden

On July 13, 2012, hard-working volunteers from across the campus, along with our fabulous Grounds crew, planted our native garden. Landscape designer and artist Kari Brittain was on hand to teach, direct, haul plants, and realize the planting scheme. Many thanks go out to both the Kelsey Chapter of the Montana Native Plant Society and the Last Chance Audubon Society for their generous support of this project.

The garden, located in front of the Corette Library, covers about 1,200 square feet and holds over 220 plants of 32 different species. A gravel path bisects the plot, giving garden aficionados access to the interior. Visit throughout the year to see how it grows. Check at the Corette Library main desk for a list of the forbs and shrubs growing in the garden. Our plant list is also included at the bottom of this page. Questions? Send us an email: green@carroll.edu.

Garden Notes 2013 and September 2012

All photos in the garden notes are taken in the garden on the day of the post, unless otherwise noted. We usually update the notes weekly June through October.

November 7, 2013

* As most of our fall flowers have faded, today we’ll focus the garden notes on what is green in the garden, rather than what is blooming. (The gayfeathers still sport blossoms.) Green and healthy-looking in the graden this morning are the penstemon, prairie smoke, yucca, sagebrush, stonecrop, and pussytoes. The curl-leaf mountain-mahogany, an evergreen shrub, features dark green leaves as usual. The snowberry leaves are turning. Except for the basin wildrye, the grasses feature green leaves, as in the photos of the Idaho fescue and prairie junegrass with the October 4 notes below.
October 30, 2013

• Many of last week’s blooms have faded in the face of this week’s wintery weather. The dotted gayfeather and the pussytoes are still sporting flowers, and the spent blossoms of the rubber rabbitbrush shrubs lend the garden some interesting texture.

October 22, 2013

• Again this week a few flowers are blooming in the garden on the blackeyed Susans, dotted gayfeathers, Maximilian sunflower, great blanket-flowers, prairie smoke, pussytoes, and snowberry and rabbitbrush shrubs. A harebell blossom is also hanging on today despite recent frosts.
October 16, 2013
• This week the blackeyed Susans, dotted gayfeathers, Maximilian sunflower, great blanket-flowers, prairie smoke, pussytoes, snowberry and rabbitbrush shrubs still sport a few flowers.

October 7, 2013
• Today in the garden we still have a few blooms on the blackeyed Susans, dotted gayfeathers, Maximilian sunflower, great blanket-flowers, harebells, prairie smoke, pussytoes, snowberry and rabbitbrush shrubs. Bees seem to be concentrating on the blanket-flowers this afternoon, the geranium leaves are turning red, and the flax is back with another single flower.
October 4, 2013

- The blackeyed Susans, dotted gayfeathers, great blanket-flowers, harebells, geraniums, prairie smoke, pussytoes, snowberry and rabbitbrush shrubs, and white prairie clover still have blossoms this week. Stonecrop plants have pushed up through the landscaping bark to make yet another appearance in the garden. The Maximilian sunflower, which has been in bloom since the last week of July, continues to flower.

September 26, 2013

- This week the the blackeyed Susans, dotted gayfeathers, great blanket-flowers, harebells, geraniums, snowberry and rabbitbrush shrubs, and white prairie clover continue to flower in the garden. The elderberry berries have ripened and more prairie smoke blossoms have opened. We also found a little pussytoes plant in bloom this morning.
September 19, 2013

- The blackeyed Susans continue to brighten the garden this morning, as do the dotted gayfeathers, great blanket-flowers, harebells, geraniums, snowberry shrubs, and white prairie clover. We also managed to find another single flax blossom. The elderberry fruits are finally turning from green to blue. More blooms on the rabbitbrush are fading, but enough flowers remain to keep the bees busy.

![Common Snowberry](image1)
![Blue Elderberry](image2)
![Rubber Rabbitbrush](image3)

September 9, 2013

- We found only a single flax flower in the garden this morning. The dotted gayfeathers, blackeyed Susans, prairie smoke, great blanket-flowers, harebells, geraniums, snowberry shrubs, and white prairie clover continue to bloom this week. Most flowers on the rabbitbrush shrubs are still going strong, but a few have started to turn a little brown.

![Dotted Gayfeather](image4)
![Sticky Geranium](image5)
![Blackeyed Susan](image6)
September 4, 2013

• The dotted gayfeather is in bloom, at last. The blackeyed Susans, prairie smoke, great blanket-flowers, flax, harebells, geraniums, snowberry and rabbitbrush shrubs, and white prairie clover continue to flower. Even as summer is winding down, the garden is filled with interesting and colorful plants. The bees are working steadily on our late-summer blossoms.

August 26, 2013

• Species blooming in the garden last week are still in flower today, and the dotted gayfeather buds have not yet opened. This morning in the garden we spotted a rabbit hiding under the rubber rabbitbrush.
August 19, 2013
• Today the blackeyed Susans, great blanket-flowers, flax, harebells, geraniums, snowberry and rabbitbrush shrubs, and white prairie clover are still in bloom. The rose hips are ripening, sagebrush plants are popping up in the garden path, and we are waiting with bated breath for the dotted gayfeather buds to open.

Wood's Rose  Rubber Rabbitbrush  Big Sagebrush

August 12, 2013
• The Maximillian sunflower is sporting a plethora of blossoms this week, and the blackeyed Susans, great blanket-flowers, flax, harebells, geraniums, snowberry and rabbitbrush shrubs, and white prairie clover are still in bloom. To our delight, the prairie smoke have started to flower again.

Prairie Smoke  Garden Overview
August 8, 2013

• This week the blackeyed Susans, great blanket-flowers, flax, harebells, geraniums, Maximilian sunflower, and rabbitbrush shrubs are still in bloom. The flowers on the narrow-leaved purple coneflowers are almost spent and milkweed blossoms are gone, but the white prairie clover is recovering and blooming after being eaten down a week or two ago. The snowberry shrubs have been in flower since the week of July 12 and are still going strong, and the elderberry now sports little green berries. Last week we laid new bark in the garden to cover a few drip irrigation lines and bare spots.

July 29, 2013

• A volunteer native plant, the Helianthus maximiliani or Maximilian sunflower, is blooming in the garden today. (We celebrate when a volunteer turns out to be a native plant instead of a weed.) Also in flower are the narrow-leaved purple coneflowers, blue elderberry, blackeyed Susans, great blanket-flowers, harebells, geraniums, and milkweed. A few rubber rabbitbrush flower buds are just opening. Our white prairie clover blooms have been eaten, but we are looking forward to other blossoms from this plant. The flowers on the flax seem to be making a bit of a comeback.
July 22, 2013

- This week a white prairie clover is just starting to bloom. Flowers on the narrow-leaved purple coneflowers, blue elderberry, blackeyed Susans, great blanket-flowers, and harebells are still open. The geraniums are recovering well from their time on the wildlife salad bar. The flax have mostly gone to seed and the penstemons and shrubby cinquefoils have faded. Our rose bushes are sporting hips and ladybugs. While some milkweeds bear blossoms old and withered, others feature new buds ready to open. Stop by the garden to see all the changes in person.

July 8, 2013

- The narrow-leaved purple coneflower is in flower this week, along with the blue elderberry. Flowers on the milkweed, stonecrop, blackeyed Susans, great blanket-flower, harebell, Wood’s rose, shrubby cinquefoil, flax, and penstemon are still open. The pussytoes are going to seed and the prairie smoke seems to be finished blooming. The grasses still have seed heads.
July 1, 2013

• Stop by the garden this month as all the mid-summer colors emerge. The milkweed, stonecrop, and blackeyed Susans are now blooming, joining the great blanket-flower, harebell, sticky geranium, pussytoes, Wood's rose, shrubby cinquefoil, flax, and penstemon. A couple prairie smoke flowers are still out; we missed listing those in the June 24 note below. The narrow-leaved purple coneflower and the blue elderberry are almost in flower. The Idaho fescue seed heads are well-turned from green to gold. The seed heads on the prairie junegrass are also golden now, with the exception of those on one bunch, shown in the photo below.
June 24, 2013

• This week the harebell, sticky geranium, pussytoes, Wood’s rose, shrubby cinquefoil, flax, and penstemon are still blooming. Petals are emerging on the great blanket-flowers, and we are keeping a close eye on the milkweed, which looks like it will blossom soon. The prairie junegrass, basin wildrye, and bluebunch wheatgrass are still in seed. As usual, our bees are busy.

[Images of Great Blanket-flower, Showy Milkweed, and Wood’s Rose]

June 17, 2013

• This week we have a harebell blooming, along with sticky geranium, Wood's rose, shrubby cinquefoil, flax, pussytoes, and penstemon. We also caught a bee in action today. (All photos in the Garden Notes are taken in the garden the day of the post, unless otherwise noted.)

[Images of Little Flowered Penstemon, Harebell, and Harebell]
June 10, 2013

• Flowers on the sticky geranium, Wood’s rose, and shrubby cinquefoil have opened, and flax, pussytoes, penstemon, and prairie smoke are still in bloom. Grasses are in seed and beautiful.

June 4, 2013

• Flax, pussytoes, penstemon, and prairie smoke are blooming in the garden today. The sticky geranium flower buds are about ready to open. A few kinnikinnick plants look like they had a hard winter, but they are coming back. Most plants are thriving, and we are looking forward to a summer of new growth and discovery. Stop by to explore the native garden in person.

September 2012

• Please join us for an open house at Carroll’s native plant garden on Friday, September 14, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Check out some of Montana’s beautiful native plants right here on campus. Members of the Carroll Green Team will answer your questions, give you a tour, and provide ice cream to the first 20 or so visitors. The National Weather Service says campus temps will reach 85 degrees tomorrow. The garden is located in front of the Corette Library.

• We replaced 24 plants this month, adding:
  Showy Milkweed, Asclepias speciosa
  Dotted Gayfeather, Liatris punctata
  Little Flowered Penstemon, Penstemon procerus
  Harebell, Campanula rotundifolia
  Sticky Geranium, Geranium viscissimum
  White Prairie Clover, Dalea candida

  and removing, because they are not native to Montana:
  Blazing Star, Liatris spicata
  Rocky Mountain Penstemon, Penstemon strictus