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

As snow is flying on a regular basis, garden updates are on hold and will return in the spring. (All photos in the garden notes are taken in the garden on the day of the post, unless otherwise noted. We update the notes every couple weeks April through October.)

October 22, 2014

• Blossoms in the garden are scarce, but the blanket-flower, blackeyed Susan, and flax still carry a few flowers. Berries on the snowberry and elderberry shrubs brighten the garden as usual this fall, and resident bees are hard at work.

![Great Blanket-flower](Gaillardia aristata)
![Prairie Flax](Linum lewisii)
![Common Snowberry](Symphoricarpos albus)
October 10, 2014

• The blanket-flower, blackeyed Susan, harebell, cinquefoil, and flax are still in bloom this week. One of the rose bushes is showing fall colors and the bees are still busy among the blanket-flowers. While we have no yucca blossoms to report as of yet, the plants seem healthy (and sharp). In a repeat of last fall’s drama, we are waiting with baited breath for the dotted gayfeather plants to flower.

Harebell
*Campanula rotundifolia*

Great Blanket-flower
*Gaillardia aristata*

Dotted Gayfeather
*Liatris punctata*

Small Soapweed Yucca
*Yucca glauca*
September 19, 2014

• Today the Indian ricegrass sports seed heads, a distinct and pretty addition to the garden. In bloom are the blanket-flower, rabbitbrush, blackeyed Susan, harebell, snowberry, Maximillian sunflower, cinquefoil, and flax. The milkweed seed pods are still opening and light-green berries are making an appearance on the snowberry shrubs.

September 11, 2014

• The blanket-flower, rabbitbrush, blackeyed Susan, harebell, snowberry, Maximillian sunflower, cinquefoil, and flax are in flower this afternoon. The milkweed seed pods have opened and fulfilled our high expectations for drama. The rose hips have matured and the elderberry is sporting loads of ripe and ripening berries. Fall is beautiful and interesting in the garden; stop by to see the changes for yourself.
August 26, 2014

• This week in the garden the blanket-flower, rabbitbrush, blackeyed Susan, harebell, snowberry, geranium, Maximillian sunflower and flax plants are blooming. Cinquefoil blossoms have returned and the milkweed pods are not yet open.

August 11, 2014

• A few blanket-flower blossoms, having been passed over by our blanket-flower-munching deer, are finally emerging. Also in bloom are the rabbitbrush, blackeyed Susans, white prairie clover, harebell, snowberry, geranium, Maximillian sunflower and flax. The elderberry berries are ripening to a frosty blue.
August 1, 2014

• This week the rabbitbrush, blackeyed Susan, white prairie clover, harebell, elderberry and flax are still flowering and geranium blossoms have returned. The Maximillian sunflower also continues to bloom and little snowberry flowers are opening. Our milkweed seed pods are forming and we are looking forward to cracking one open when the pods mature.

July 25, 2014

• The rabbitbrush flowers are emerging and the narrow-leaved purple coneflower petals are fading fast. The blackeyed Susan, white prairie clover, harebell, and flax are still in bloom. The elderberry now sports not only blossoms but also green berries. Last Friday we settled seven Indian ricegrass plants into the garden.
July 15, 2014

- After a long dry spell, the garden plants are soaking up rain that fell last night. This week blackeyed Susans, white prairie clovers, and narrow-leaved purple coneflowers are blooming, along with milkweed, elderberry, harebell, stonecrop, and flax. The geranium and blanket-flower plants have been eaten down a bit by campus wildlife and are not carrying blossoms.

July 2, 2014

- As we enter the hot days of July, the milkweed, elderberry, rose, stonecrop, harebell, cinquefoil, flax, pussytoes, and penstemon continue to flower. We are still waiting for the blackeyed Susan and narrow-leaved purple coneflower petals to emerge. Grasses are in seed.
June 23, 2014

• The milkweed are flowering this morning and provided a warm welcome to a group of middle-schoolers who were exploring the garden. The blue elderberry, rose, stonecrop, harebell, cinquefoil, flax, pussytoes, and penstemon continue to bloom. The black-eyed Susan and narrow-leaved purple coneflower blossoms are starting to emerge.

June 19, 2014

• The blue elderberry blossoms are open and pleasantly fragrant, and flowers on the rose, stonecrop, harebell, cinquefoil, flax, pussytoes, and penstemon continue to bring beautiful color to the garden. The geraniums have been eaten recently but are already sporting new leaves, and, as usual, we are happy to see ladybugs in residence.
June 11, 2014

• The rose, stonecrop, and harebell flowers have emerged and the cinquefoil, geranium, flax, pussytoes, and penstemon continue to blossom. The prairie smoke have started to go to seed, as have our beautiful native grasses.

June 2, 2014

• This week cinquefoil shrubs and a geranium are blooming in the garden, along with the flax, pussytoes, penstemon, and prairie smoke.
May 22, 2014

• The garden is beautiful this morning. The flax, pussytoes, penstemon, and prairie smoke are blooming in the warm May sunshine. This week we added a birdbath, a charming piece created by Carroll fine arts professor Ralph Esposito. Swing by the garden this month to check out our new water feature and our ever-changing native plants.

May 15, 2014

• This week in the garden the shrubs are green and leafy. The pussytoes are blooming and the penstemon flower buds are emerging. Plus, ladybugs are crawling around on our sagebrush. Yeah!
May 2, 2014

• The Wood’s rose, snowberry, and cinquefoil are leafing out, and the beginnings of blanket-flowers are pushing up through the soil. Plus, flower buds are emerging on the pussytoes.

April 17, 2014

• The prairie smoke has been on the wildlife salad bar since last week, but we expect it to bounce back soon. New green growth continues in the garden, including new leaves on the rubber rabbitbrush.

April 11, 2014

• Spring is finally here and plants are starting to come up in the native plant garden. Flowers buds are already out on the prairie smoke, and the penstemon, flax, stonecrop, sticky geranium, and harebell plants are growing. The blue elderberry is sporting new growth from the base and leaves are sprouting on its branches.