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 with over 200 plants of 32 different species. 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. 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 established wildflowers, grasses 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

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 30, 2015

• In the garden today most of the the dotted gayfeathers are going to seed, the elderberry and snowberry shrubs still hold berries, and a few flax blossoms are braving the chilly autumn nights. A few blooms also remain on the rubber rabbitbrush shrubs, and, while not up to summer standards, the blanket-flowers are thriving with new flowers emerging and existing flowers flourishing. Today, among the dried stalks of milkweed, we noticed a few blackeyed Susans that seem to have been in bloom for a while.
October 15, 2015

• The dotted gayfeathers, rabbitbrush and snowberry shrubs, blanket-flowers, and flax are still in bloom this week, and the snowberry and elderberry shrubs continue to sport berries. The colors and textures in the garden are beautiful and interesting this afternoon and the smattering of blooms and berries rewards garden explorers.

October 2, 2015

• Still in bloom this week in the garden are the dotted gayfeathers, rabbitbrush and snowberry shrubs, blanket-flowers, and flax. Fall colors are emerging as the milkweed leaves are turning yellow. A few berries remain on the elderberry shrub.
September 18, 2015

- Fall is a beautiful and interesting time in the garden. The dotted gayfeather are now in bloom (finally!), and the rabbitbrush and snowberry shrubs, blanket-flowers, and flax continue to adorn the garden with flowers. The milkweed pods continue their show of opening seed pods.

Dotted Gayfeather
_Liatris punctata_

Prairie Flax
_Linum lewisii_

Showy Milkweed
_Asclepias speciosa_

September 4, 2015

- September rain is bringing much-needed moisture to the garden today. In bloom, and a little soggy this afternoon, are the rabbitbrush and snowberry shrubs, blanket-flowers, and flax. The milkweed pods started to open a couple weeks ago and we are still enjoying the wispy white results.

Showy Milkweed
_Asclepias speciosa_

Great Blanket-flower
_Gaillardia aristata_
August 10, 2015

- On this beautiful August morning the rabbitbrush is beginning to flower and the snowberry shrubs, blanket-flowers, blackeyed Susans, and flax continue to bloom. Light green berries on the snowberry shrubs, blue berries on the elderberry, and pods on the milkweed also adorn the garden this week.

Rubber Rabbitbrush
*Ericameria nauseosa*

Common Snowberry
*Symphoricarpos albus*

Blue Elderberry
*Sambucus cerulea*

Showy Milkweed
*Asclepias speciosa*

July 31, 2015

- Continuing to flower in the garden are the snowberry shrubs, blanket-flowers, and blackeyed Susans. The flax blooms are making a small comeback, giving us a smattering of blue in the garden this afternoon.

Great Blanket-flower
Blossom
*Gaillardia aristata*

Great Blanket-flower
Seed Head
*Gaillardia aristata*

Great Blanket-flower
Gone to Seed
*Gaillardia aristata*
July 16, 2015

• The garden is a bit dry, but beautiful, today. Still flowering in the garden this week are the snowberry shrubs, blanket-flowers, blackeyed Susans, elderberry, and coneflowers.

July 9, 2015

• It is still dry in the garden this week, and the recently emerged petals on the coneflowers are fading fast. However, the snowberry shrubs are now sporting blossoms, as are the blackeyed Susans. The elderberry’s blossoms and green berries continue to adorn the garden, and some blooms remain on the blanket-flowers, although they have started to go to seed. The milkweed are looking rather dry and are starting to form seed pods. The sagebrush are thriving.
June 24, 2015

• No significant rain has fallen on the garden for a couple weeks, so our soil is getting a bit dry. A few flax flowers still adorn the garden, and the milkweed, blanket-flower, harebell, stonecrop, and rose blossoms are out. The elderberry shrub holds both fragrant white blooms and green berries today, and the coneflower petals are emerging.

Prairie Junegrass
* Koeleria macrantha

Narrow-leaved Purple Coneflower
* Echinacea angustifolia

Blue Elderberry
* Sambucus cerulea

June 18, 2015

• While the flax blossoms are fading this week, the milkweed flowers are flourishing. The elderberry shrub is festooned with fragrant white blossoms and a few blanket-flowers are fully out. The harebell, cinquefoil, rose, stonecrop, geranium and pussytoe plants continue to bloom. Our grasses are still in seed and lend a wonderful texture to the garden.

Great Blanket-flower
* Gaillardia aristata

Showy Milkweed
* Asclepias speciosa

Basin Wildrye
* Leymus cinereus
June 11, 2015

• Several new flowers have made an appearance this week. Rose, stonecrop, milkweed and elderberry blossoms are now open. The blanket-flower petals are just starting to emerge. Blooms remain on the harebell, cinquefoil, flax, penstemon, prairie smoke, geranium and pussytoe plants.

Wood's Rose  
*Rosa woodsii*

Stonecrop  
*Sedum stenopetalum*

Showy Milkweed  
*Asclepias speciosa*

Great Blanket-flower  
*Gaillardia aristata*

June 4, 2015

• Our grasses have begun to go to seed, starting a delicate show in the garden this week. The stonecrop buds are on the verge of opening and the harebell, cinquefoil, flax, penstemon, prairie smoke, geranium and pussytoe flowers continue to fill the garden with color. Some of the prairie smoke blooms are going to seed.

Prairie Junegrass  
*Koeleria macrantha*

Stonecrop  
*Sedum stenopetalum*

Indian Ricegrass  
*Oryzopsis hymenoides*
May 29, 2015

- With warm spring days and frequent rain, the garden is flourishing. New this week, the harebell and cinquefoil plants are sporting blooms. The flax are still filling the garden with flowers, along with the penstemon, prairie smoke, geraniums and pussytoes. The bees are hard at work as usual.

May 20, 2015

- The flax plants continue to bloom a sea of blue in the garden this week, and the penstemon, prairie smoke, geraniums and pussytoes also continue to flower.
May 15, 2015

• The geraniums are blooming this week, along with the penstemons, prairie smoke and pussytoes. Flax flowers continue to fill the garden with cool-blue beauty, and beginnings of the elderberry blossoms have emerged. This spring the wildlife is again choosing young blanket-flower leaves as a favorite treat.
May 5, 2015

- Prairie flax adorns the garden with beautiful blue blossoms today. The penstemon flowers are also out, along with the prairie smoke and pussytoes. Our grasses and shrubs are green and thriving and the milkweed shoots are pushing up through the soil.

Prairie Flax
*Linum lewisii*

Little Flowered Penstemon
*Penstemon procerus*

Littleleaf Pussytoes
*Antennaria microphylla*

April 17, 2015

- Winter is over in Helena and plants in the garden are sprouting leaves and even blossoms. As usual, our prairie smoke was the first to bloom, sporting flowers all the way back in March. We are looking forward to a summer of beauty and surprises.

Prairie Smoke
*Geum triflorum*

Little Flowered Penstemon
*Penstemon procerus*

Sticky Geranium
*Geranium viscossimum*