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 7, 2016

• The garden today is awash with striking fall texture. The rubberbrush blooms are almost all going to seed, the milkweed stalks are golden and the snowberry shrubs are still holding onto green leaves. In flower are snowberry shrubs, blanket-flowers, harebells, rubberbrush, and flax.

September 9, 2016

• Last week we turned on the drip irrigation in the garden for a few hours to give the plants a bit of a boost. The seed pods on the milkweed have started to open and the Maximillian sunflower is now in bloom. The rose hips are ripening. Still flowering in the garden are the flax, blanket-flowers, snowberry and rabbitbrush shrubs, and harebells.
August 26, 2016

• In the garden today our campus pollinators are busy at the warm yellow blooms of the rabbitbrush and the little pink flowers on the snowberry shrubs. A few blossoms on the flax, blanket-flowers and harebells also bring color to the garden. Elderberry and snowberry berries continue to ripen.

August 3, 2016

• Hot, dry weather has dried out the garden a bit, but many plants are thriving. The rabbitbrush is now in bloom and popular with the campus dragonflies, and the sagebrush is looking beautiful. Still flowering are flax, snowberry shrubs, and blanket-flowers. The milkweed pods have emerged and blue berries now weigh down branches of the elderberry shrub.
July 19, 2016

• Blooming in the hot July sun are the snowberry shrubs, blanket-flowers, narrow-leaved purple coneflowers, and black-eyed Susans. The milkweed blossoms are fading, but the flax flowers are making a small comeback. The rose shrubs now sport hips.

Prairie Flax  
*Linum lewisii*  
Wood’s Rose  
*Rosa woodsii*

July 6, 2016

• A brief shower of hail this morning knocked most of the remaining blossoms off the yucca plants, but the rest of the garden weathered the storm well. The snowberry shrubs are now in flower, as are the blanket-flowers and narrow-leaved purple coneflowers. Milkweed continues to bloom, and the elderberry shrub now carries green berries in addition to fragrant white blossoms.

Great Blanket-flower  
*Gaillardia aristata*  
Narrow-leaved  
Purple Coneflower  
*Echinacea angustifolia*  
Common Snowberry  
*Symphoricarpos albus*  
Blue Elderberry  
*Sambucus cerulea*
June 22, 2016

- Two yucca, which we planted when we put in the garden four years ago, are now in bloom for the first time ever. The beautiful and striking white bloom stalks add new dimension to our garden plot. The milkweed is also flowering, and blossoms continue on the paintbrush, flax, Wood’s rose, and elderberry. The grasses are in seed and snowberry shrubs are thriving.

June 7, 2016

- Hot weather has arrived in Helena and plants in the garden are flourishing. We discovered a dense stand of blooming harebells this morning and the Wood’s rose also has blossoms today. Still flowering are the paintbrush, flax, cinquefoil, geraniums, pussytoes, and penstemons. Some of the June grass is in seed.
May 25, 2016

• To our surprise and delight a paintbrush plant is blooming in the garden. We think the paintbrush is either from seeds we planted a few years ago or a stowaway from one of the plants we acquired at a nursery. Also sporting blossoms today are the flax, cinquefoil, geraniums, pussytoes, penstemons and prairie smoke.

Paintbrush
Species to be determined

Little Flowered Penstemon
Penstemon procerus

Shrubby Cinquefoil
Potentilla fruticosa

May 12, 2016

• The garden is awash with beautiful blue flax blossoms today. Also blooming are the geraniums, pussytoes, penstemons and prairie smoke. Some of the prairie smoke flowers are going to seed. The snowberry, Wood's rose, and elderberry shrubs are thriving, and the milkweed plants are well out of the soil.

Sticky Geranium
Geranium viscossimum

Littleleaf Pussytoes
Antennaria microphylla

Prairie Smoke
Geum triflorum

Prairie Flax
Linum lewisii
April 29, 2016

• We are back in the garden with the coming of spring. Plants are thriving in the warm and wet weather and flax, pussytoes and prairie smoke are in bloom. Our resident lady bugs bring a flash of red to garden this afternoon.