

Plants of the Kamloops Area

A scenic landscape view of the Kamloops area. The foreground is filled with tall, golden-brown grass. In the middle ground, there is a dense forest of evergreen trees. In the background, rolling hills and a river are visible under a clear sky.

Mike Ryan

Preface

This pdf is a preliminary attempt to photograph and describe in non-technical terms the common (and not so common) plants in the Kamloops area. Many botanical treatments and field guides often depend heavily on mature flowers to identify species. This frequently works but there are many times when flowers are absent or have already flowered and it becomes difficult for the field naturalist to know what species they are looking at in the absence of flowers. I have tried to photograph many species at different periods during the growing season to show features of the plant not only when they are in flower but also when they are in fruit or have died back for the remainder of the growing season. There is still a substantial amount of work to complete this task as some species only have photos portraying the species during the flowering period and sometimes when the fruiting period. At this point the amount of text is quite minimal and is only included to describe key features of the plant or its habitat and I have tried to keep the technical jargon to a minimum.

The plants are arranged in several broad groups: trees, shrubs, herbs, grasses and sedges, bryophytes and lichens. Within each group, the plants are arranged alphabetically, for the most part, by their generalized common name (e.g. rose, milk-vetch) which is printed along the bottom margin of the page. This is not necessarily the most satisfactory arrangement but believed it was a fair trade-off between using the common names which most people are more familiar with as opposed to the scientific names which have been in a state of flux over the past number of years and are subject to change.

trembling aspen

Populus tremuloides

Trembling aspen is a common species that forms large extensive clones along gullies and around ponds in open grasslands wherever moisture is available. Many sites are heavily used by cattle for shade during the hot summer months and stands are often in poor condition.

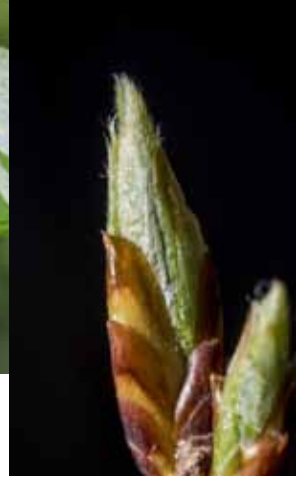
The stem of the small triangular leaves is flattened and causes the leaves to tremble in the slightest breeze, hence, the common name.

Aspen is a close relative of willows and, like willows, produces flowers in catkins in early spring. Tiny seeds are produced which are released in early summer.

Aspen usually reproduces through root sprouts and forms extensive clones. Sometimes the different clones can be distinguished from one another in the fall when the leaves turn colour



aspen



aspen

water birch

Betula occidentalis



Water birch is a common species of wet riparian areas where it provides important habitat for many birds and animals. It typically occurs as a multistemmed shrub or small tree with dark reddish-brown bark that does not peel like the closely related species, paper birch, a more common species in wetter climates. The leaves resemble those of most birches in having oval, sharply pointed leaves with doubly-toothed leaf margins. The leaves are usually several centimeters long and shiny above but pale on the underside of the leaf. Like other birches, the flowers occur in catkins that release small winged seeds later on in the season.

**birch**

black cottonwood

Populus balsamifera subsp. *trichocarpa*

Black cottonwood is a common species along the North and South Thompson Rivers. It occupies midbench floodplains that are subject to annual flooding which occurs in late spring and early summer. It is more tolerant of flooding than any other tree species. It also sometimes occurs in small creek channels where the roots remain in contact with water throughout the growing season.



It resembles tremblin aspen but the leaves of black cottonwood are larger, glossier with a longer sharper leaf tip. The bark of older trees is often rough and furrowed unlike the very smooth greenish tan bark you see on aspen trunks. Leaves are often covered in white random lines from leafminer insects.

Many floodplains in southern BC have been heavily altered over the past couple of hundred years through logging, clearing, dyking and conversion to other uses, particularly agricultural production. Hence, these floodplain forests are often considered significant as endangered or threatened ecosystems.

Cottonwood gets its name from the white tuft of hair attached to the small seeds that help it to float through the air.



cottonwood

Douglas-fir

Pseudotsuga menziesii

Douglas-fir is a very common species that occurs at low elevations throughout the dry southern interior. It occurs as scattered individuals in open grasslands, on rocky sites and forms extensive stands at higher elevations. Ponderosa pine is the only tree species that is more drought-tolerant than Douglas-fir.

The cones have distinctive three-pronged bracts not observed in other conifers. It superficially resembles spruce but the needles of Douglas-fir are less sharply pointed and so are softer to the touch. In addition, the shoot buds of Doug-





las-fir are pointed and reddish brown in colour whereas those of spruce are round and black in colour.



Siberian elm

Ulmus pumila



As the name suggests, Siberian elm is not a native species but comes from central Asia. It is a very hardy drought-tolerant, fast-growing tree that has spread throughout the Kamloops area and has become a dominant shrub and tree species along roadways and alleys.

Siberian elm produces copious amounts of seeds

elm



along the branches and stems in the spring soon after the leaves have emerged. Once mature, the seeds turn light brown and fall from the tree and are so plentiful, they form extensive drifts of light brown elm seeds along the gutters and sidewalks. Young saplings often emerge from between the cracks in the pavement and other inhospitable areas. Individual plants can grow almost 2 meters a year.

The dry fruit are similar to those of maple and the seed is enclosed in a winged samara that helps the seed fall far from the parent tree. The single leaves are sharply toothed and are not broadly lobed like those of maple species. Unlike other elm species which have uneven leaf bases, the leaf blades of Siberian elm join the leaf base equally unlike those of American elm.

Manitoba maple

Acer negundo



Manitoba maple, also called box elder, is a uncommon non-native maple species that has spread to riparian areas in the southern Interior. It is unusual in that it is the only maple species in Canada that has compound leaves composed of several individual leaflets rather than the characteristic simple lobed leaves that people associate with maples.

Like other maples, non-descript flowers are produced in early spring followed by aerodynamically winged seeds called samaras that are released in early summer.

Maples used to be in their own family, the Aceraceae, but are



now considered to be members of the Soapberry family Sapindaceae which also includes horse chestnuts.

maple

Ponderosa pine

Pinus ponderosa



Ponderosa pine is a common species that occurs in dry hot climates in the southern interior. The long needles occur in clusters of three whereas those of lodgepole pine are shorter and occur in clusters of two. These two species do not usually occur together because lodgepole pine is much less drought-tolerant than Ponderosa pine and



pine



grows in cooler and wetter climates at higher elevations such as that found near Logan Lake.

The pine beetle epidemic that destroyed mature lodgepole pine stands across much of the province also had a severe impact on Ponderosa pine in the Kamloops Area. Almost all of the mature trees were killed by a combination of mountain pine and western pine beetles.

Interestingly, the bark of mature trees smells like vanilla as it produces the same chemical that gives the vanilla bean its distinctive smell. The thick scaly bark of mature trees helps it survive all but the most intense wildfires. This tree species was likely much more common at higher elevations in Douglas-fir dominated forests but historical logging likely removed it from many areas.

choke cherry

Prunus virginiana



Choke cherry is a very common large shrub in the Kamloops area. It occurs along disturbed roadways, forested edges, and open grasslands in protected areas that often have some seepage.

The white flowers occur in a spike-like arrangement which are followed by a raceme of sour red fruit that are often dispersed by birds.

The leaves are broadly egg-shaped, finely-toothed with slightly uneven leaf bases.



cherry



white currant

Ribes cereum



There are about 40 species of currant in BC. White currant is a common species in dry open forests and on rocky slopes. The small kidney-shaped leaves are distinctive. The small urn-shaped white flowers produce small red berries in late summer. Another common currant, black gooseberry (*Ribes lacustre*) is very common at higher elevations in wetter sites. Many species of currant have spiny stems but those of white currant are smooth. In autumn, after the leaves have fallen, the stems and branches are lined with large green buds that will emerge the following spring.

currant



currant

red-osier dogwood

Cornus stolonifera

Red-osier dogwood is a common native forested shrub along creek channels and seepage sites that stay moist throughout the year. It is also a common nursery plant that is often sold with variegated leaves that are white and green in colour. The branches and stems are red and the leaves are arranged in opposite pairs. The oval-shaped leaves have a central nerve and many side veins that curve towards the edge of the leaf but never quite get there. This is a distinctive characteristic of dogwood species.

In the spring, clusters of small white flowers occur along the branches that are followed by clusters of white berries in late summer.

In the fall, the leaves turn a patchy red colour that matches the colour of the stems.



dogwood



dogwood

Red elderberry

Sambucus racemosa

Elderberry is a common shrub in BC particularly in the climatically wetter areas of the province. It is an uncommon species in the Kamloops area that occurs in moist shaded forested areas. The compound leaves are divided into five to seven large leaflets. The leaflets occur in pairs on opposite sides of the stem. In the spring, clusters of small white flowers occur on short branches that are replaced by red berries later in the summer. The red berries are popular with birds who also distribute the seeds but they are reported to be poisonous to humans.



elderberry



elderberry

horsebrush

Tetradymia canescens

Horsebrush is a large shrubby plant that resembles rabbitbrush in that it produces clusters of yellow flowers at the tips of shoots. The leaves are lance-shaped and are grayish in colour. This species is much less common than rabbitbrush but it does occur in open grasslands, often on rocky sites. Both species are members of the aster family. Horsebrush flowers in late spring and early summer unlike rabbitbrush which flowers in late summer. It is a fire-resistant species that will resprout or germinate from seed following fire.



horsebrush



horsebrush

common juniper

Juniperus communis

Common juniper is a widespread drought-tolerant species in British Columbia. It occupies a variety of habitats from dry open forests to open rocky slopes. It is not a common species of open grasslands but does occasionally occur in areas where the soils are well-drained and rocky such as rock outcrops, talus slopes and sometimes in gullies.

Plants are short in stature and are usually only a half-meter tall. The leaves are needle-like and prickly which helps to distinguish it from the closely-related species Rocky Mountain juniper which has scale-like leaves similar to that of a cedar tree. The leaves are green above and whitish below.

Plants produce female and male cones on separate plants. The female cones resemble bluish berries at maturity.





Rocky Mountain juniper

Juniperus scopulorum

Junipers are a type of conifer that produce bluish-gray “berries” that are really a female conifer cone. Three species of juniper occur in BC. Rocky Mountain juniper is distinguished from the other two species by the scale-like leaves similar to that of western redcedar rather than the needle-like leaves of common and horizontal junipers that are prickly to the touch. Rocky Mountain juniper usually grows as a tall shrub but it may also grow to form a small tree. It is sometimes present in slightly sheltered but rocky areas in the grasslands. It is also common in the understorey of open conifer forests.

Recently, a fourth species of juniper, seaside juniper, has been described. It occurs on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. These plants were once considered to be Rocky Mountain juniper.



juniper



juniper

Douglas maple

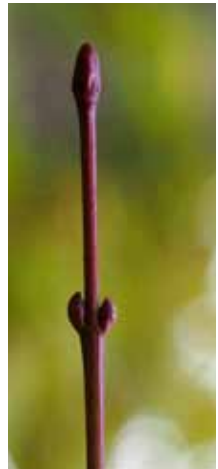
Acer glabrum

Douglas maple is the only species of maple native to the southern Interior unlike coastal BC where big-leaf maple and vine maple are common species. Douglas maple is a wide-ranging



maple

species that is common at low-elevations throughout the southern half of the province and can inhabit very dry to moist sites in shaded to open, sunny sites. Locally, it is confined to shaded protected sites such as shaded gullies and closed forests. Typically it is a multistemmed tall shrub with thin smooth bark. The leaves are divided into three main lobes. The flowers are small non-descript flowers that are followed by samara, seeds, joined in pairs, with broad papery wings. These seeds are typical of maples. The stems and buds are red in colour and occur in pairs along the stem.

**maple**

Russian olive

Elaeagnus angustifolia



Russian olive, as the name suggests, is an introduced species from Asia that has become very common in the Kamloops area along roadways and disturbed areas. It is particularly common along the South Thompson River on the eastern side of Kamloops.

It is a very drought-tolerant species that has few limitations and often outcompetes native vegetation. It is now considered a noxious weed in many parts of North America.



It is a thorny tall shrub or small tree that have distinctive narrow gray leaves that will serve to distinguish it from any other shrubs or small trees in the Kamloops area. The flowers are an

olive



unusual funnel-shaped four-lobed aromatic flower that smells like rotten bananas. The fruit is a small cherry-like fruit that is edible and sweet although they are dryish and mealy. Russian olive belongs to the family Elaeagnaceae, the same family that includes soopolallie.



tall Oregon-grape

Mahonia aquifolium

Tall Oregon-grape, contrary to the name, is usually a short (, 0.5 m) shrub that grows in the understory of dry open Douglas-fir stands, particularly in rocky areas. It also occasionally occurs in open grasslands on sheltered lower slopes where there is usually some subsurface seepage in the soil.

It somewhat resembles holly in that it has shiny, coarsely-toothed evergreen leaves. It produces clusters of yellow flowers in the spring that are followed by purplish blue berries in the summer. It is also a cultivated species in the nursery trade that, when provided with sufficient water and nutrients, can form a tall dense hedge.



Oregon-grape



Oregon-grape

common rabbit-brush

Ericameria nauseosa



Rabbit-brush is a very common shrubby plant in the grasslands. It is generally smaller than big sagebrush (about 0.5 m tall) and has small linear light green leaves unlike the grayish three-tipped leaves of big sagebrush. Sometimes it may be very abundant particularly in disturbed areas. It is an unusual plant in that it is one of the few species of grassland plants that flowers at the end of summer when growing conditions are harsh. The flowers occur in clusters of small yellow disk flowers. In late fall. These turn a tawny brown colour when the seeds, each attached to a small fluffy piece of down, mature in late fall.



rabbit-brush



rabbit-brush

prickly rose

Rosa acicularis

Prickly rose is a common species of dry open forests. The compound leaves are arranged along the spiny branches and stems that are covered in numerous thorns. The pink flowers are produced in the spring and are followed by rose hips in late summer. A second species, prairie rose, (*Rosa woodsi*) is also a common species that is somewhat less spiny but the two species can be difficult to distinguish from one another particularly when they are frequently heavily browsed almost to the ground.



rose



rose

big sagebrush

Artemisia tridentata subsp. *tridentata*



On a still, warm day, the air in the grasslands is filled with the distinctive aroma of big sagebrush. This is the dominant species of sage that you see throughout low-elevation grasslands in the Kamloops area. Unlike most species of sage (*Artemisia*) which are herbs, big sagebrush is a woody shrub that can live for many years. It is common in valley bottoms but has also readily spreads into upslope areas in the middle and upper grasslands where sites have been disturbance by grazing.

Despite being such a characteristic species of fire-prone grasslands, big sagebrush is easily killed by fires and there are extensive areas around Kamloops where recent fires have essentially eliminated big sagebrush. Barring further incidents of fire, these sites will eventually be recolonized by big sagebrush.

Two subspecies occur in BC: the more common big sagebrush that occurs at low elevations throughout the Thompson and Okanagan Valleys (subsp. *tridentata*) and mountain big sagebrush (subsp. *vaseyana*) which occurs at high elevation in montane and

sagebrush



subalpine grasslands. Locally, mountain sagebrush can be found at the top of Greenstone Mountain. The leaves of mountain sagebrush are shorter and broader than those of big sagebrush.



sagebrush

saskatoon

Amelanchier alnifolia

Saskatoon is a very common tall shrub in the southern interior. It is one of the first plants to flower in the spring and forms a colourful display in grassland gullies and on rocky talus slopes where the shrubs are covered in white flowers. The leaves are small and oval and are recognized by the small teeth that are restricted to the upper portion of the leaf margin. The flowers are followed by fruit by mid-summer that, at maturity, are dark bluish black in colour.



saskatoon



saskatoon

common snowberry

Symphoricarpos albus



Snowberry is a very common shrub in the Kamloops area. It occurs in dry forests, particularly on



rocky sites, and in open grasslands on sheltered areas, typically in gullies and toe slopes where some seepage is present. It is a member of the honeysuckle family. The oval-shaped leaves are



sometimes irregularly lobed and are arranged in pairs along the stems and branches. Small pink flowers are borne at the

snowberry



ends of stems in the spring. These usually develop into the distinctive white berries that appear in late summer and often persist over the winter after the leaves have fallen.



snowberry

soopolallie*Shepherdia canadensis*

Soopolallie is a common and distinctive shrub that is common in dry Douglas-fir and pine forests that is capable of fixing nitrogen. The stems and underside of the leaves are covered in gold- and rusty-coloured scales and whitish hairs. The indistinct yellowish flowers appear in the spring as the leaves begin to merge. Bright red berries follow in summer.

**soopolallie**



soopolallie

smooth sumac

Rhus glabra

Sumac is an uncommon shrub found in dry hot habitats. In the Kamloops area it occurs on very dry coarse-textured soils. It is often stunted (< 1 m tall). It has large compound leaves that somewhat resemble those of elderberry. A large cluster of small greenish-yellow flowers are produced in the spring that are followed by red berry-like fruit in the summer. The large compound leaves are similar to those of elderberry or mountain ash. In the fall, the foliage turns a distinctive scarlet colour.



sumac



sumac

alfalfa

Medicago sativa ssp. *sativa*

Alfalfa is a very common plant in fields and disturbed areas. It forms large bush-like plants with small spikes of purple pea-like flowers. Like clover, the leaves consist of three leaflets. The ripening pods that form following flower are tightly curled and each containing a number of seeds. There are two subspecies of which ssp. *sativa* is the more common of the two and has purple flowers.



alfalfa



alfalfa

round-leaved alumroot

Heuchera cylindrica

Round-leaved alumroot is a common species from dry rocky sites and grasslands to alpine areas. Locally, it is a common species on rocky sites and open grasslands and forests. It prefers cool aspects and so is typically found on north or east-facing slopes. The egg-shaped leaves are restricted to the base of the plant. The cream-coloured flowers are borne in a crowded spike at the top of leafless stems. After flowering, the flowers turn brown and the seeds are produced in tan-coloured capsules. The seeds are dark brown to black and appear somewhat spiny.



alumroot



alumroot

desert alyssum

Alyssum desertorum

Desert alyssum is an annual weedy species that is native to Europe and Asia but has spread to western North America. It is a member of the Mustard Family, and like many members of this family, has small yellow flowers consisting of 4 petals (most plants have 3 or 5 petals). It grows along disturbed paths where the soil is strongly compacted so there are few competitors. It is a small plant that only grows a few inches tall. The cluster of yellow flowers are followed by small disk-shaped pods that release four seeds each as the plants wither and die leaving behind dried up light brown stems and old seed pods.



alyssum

**alyssum**

cut-leaved anemone

Anemone multifida

Cut-leaf anemone is a widespread species found throughout most of North America. Locally, it is common in grasslands and open forests. The flowers are often borne singly at the tips of erect stems and are white to pinkish in colour. The leaves are divided into numerous segments, hence, the common name “cut-leaved anemone”. After flowering the seeds develop a small hairy plume giving the seed head a fuzzy appearance. Species of anemone are members of the Buttercup family.



anemone



anemone

twin arnica

Arnica sororia

Twin arnica has been treated as a variety of foothills arnica, *Arnica fulgens*. It is now considered to be a separate species called twin arnica. The main difference is that the axils of the leaves of foothill arnica often have brown hairs whereas twin arnica lacks them. Both arnicas are common species of open grasslands and very open forests whereas heart-leaved arnica tends to occur in shaded habitats. The flowers are similar to those of heart-leaved arnica and consist of a cluster of disk flowers surrounded by yellow ray flowers. The leaves are different - those of heart-leaved arnic are broad with a heart-shaped base whereas those of twin arnica are narrower and lack the heart-shaped base.



arnica



arnica

heart-leaved arnica

Arnica cordifolia

Heart-leaved arnica is a very common and widespread forested species in the Southern Interior. In the Kamloops area it is common in sheltered forested areas that are somewhat protected from intense solar radiation. There are a number of species of arnica in BC and heart-leaved arnica is distinguished by the heart-shaped leaves that occur at the base of the flowering stems. Arnicas are members of the Aster Family and typically consist of a cluster of small disk-shaped flowers surrounded by a number of strap-shaped ray flowers. In subalpine forests, heart-leaved arnica is a common understorey plant that is replaced by mountain arnica at higher elevations. The individual seeds are attached to a small hairy plume that helps in their dispersal by the wind.



arnica



arnica

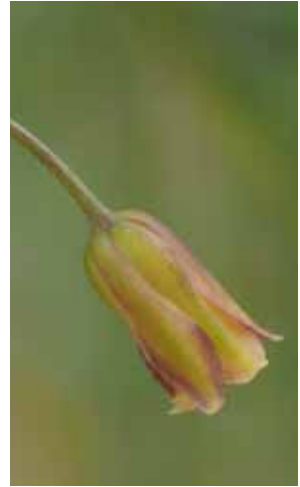
garden asparagus

Asparagus officinalis

Asparagus is a flowering perennial plant native to Europe, Asia and Africa. Most people recognize the young shoots that appear in the spring. It is fairly common in the Kamloops area particularly down along the Thompson River. As the young shoots mature, the flowering stalks elongate and bear small copper-coloured flowers at the end of short branches. These are followed in the fall by bright red berries that are poisonous. The foliage is a striking yellow colour in late fall and with the red berries, gives the plants a festive appearance. Asparagus was once considered part of the lily family but is now in its own family, the Asparagaceae.



asparagus



asparagus

meadow aster

Symphyotrichum campestre

Meadow aster is one of several aster species that occur in the Kamloops area. It occurs in open grasslands and forests. Plants are usually about 12 to 18 inches tall. The leaves are narrow and slightly clasp the stem. The flowers consist of slightly purple ray flowers surrounding a small group of yellow disk flowers. Fleabanes are very similar and also common in the Kamloops area but they tend to flower during the spring whereas asters tend to flower in the summer and fall.



aster



aster

showy aster

Eurybia conspicua - *Aster conspicuus*

Showy aster is a common species in the Southern Interior in dry Douglas-fir forests. It sometimes occurs at higher elevations in the Kamloops area in somewhat sheltered forested areas. The large oval, toothed leaves are distinctive and have a rough upper surface that feels like sandpaper. The plant can spread by underground rhizomes and often forms open clumps. The flowers consist of a tightly packed clump of yellow disk flowers surrounded by 10-40 purple strap-shaped ray flowers. Recently, taxonomists have reassigned showy aster to a new genus, *Eurybia*, which includes three other species which occur in British Columbia.



aster



aster

white heath aster

Symphyotrichum ericoides

White heath aster is most often occurs in slightly saline soils and is often occurs just upland from saline ponds in open grassland areas. Individual plants usually produce sprawling branches with dense clusters of daisy-like flowers consisting of small white ray flowers surrounding a small group of yellow disk flowers. Most other asters tend to produce pink or purplish ray flowers. The name refers to the small narrow leaves that resemble the leaves of heather.



aster



aster

arrowleaf balsamroot

Balsamorhiza sagittata

Balsamroot is a very common species in open grasslands and dry open forests in the southern interior. The large velvety arrow-shaped leaves and large yellow flowers are unlikely to be mistaken for anything else. Balsamroot generally becomes more abundant in areas that are heavily grazed by cattle.

Another species, deltoid balsamroot, is a rare species found on Vancouver Island.



balsamroot



balsamroot

northern bedstraw

Galium boreale

Northern bedstraw is a widespread species that occurs in North America, Europe and Asia. It is a common species in British Columbia and is a common species in and occurs in grasslands, rocky areas, and forests. The small white flowers are four-lobed with four stamens and two fused styles. The leaves occur in whorls of four of which two of the leaves are larger than the other pair. Individual plants spread by underground stems and can form quite large clones.

**bedstraw**

field bindweed

Convolvulus arvensis

Bindweed is a perennial weed introduced from Eurasia. It is a member of the morning glory family. It occurs on disturbed sites in the southern portion of the province. The trailing stems have alternating arrow-shaped leaves. The attractive funnel-shaped flowers are about an inch across and are produced on small erect stalks. A single plant can produce up to 500 seeds in a year and the seeds can remain viable in the soil for 20 years. This makes it a difficult species to eliminate once it has become established in an area.



bindweed



bindweed

European bittersweet

Solanum dulcamara

European bittersweet as the name suggests is a weedy species introduced from Europe. It is a member of the potato family and has flowers with reflexed purple or blue petals and a prominent cluster of yellow stamens in the centre. The leaves are unusual in that they are broadly egg-shaped and often have two basal lobes. Berries are produced that will turn bright red when mature. It is a semi-woody vine and scrambles over other plants. This species is more common in the South Okanagan and on the Lower Mainland but it does occasionally occur in the Kamloops area. It is also known as bitter nightshade - the berries are poisonous but are very bitter.



bittersweet



bittersweet

mountain blue-eyed-grass

Sisyrinchium montanum

Mountain blue-eyed-grass is not a grass but a member of the iris family. It is a relatively small family and the genus *Sisyrinchium* contains the most species and consists of five or six species.

Mountain blue-eyed-grass is fairly common in the grasslands and consists of several stems with mostly basal leaves that are long

and narrow like those of grass. The flowers emerge in small groups on small stalks. The sepals and petals are the same and so it appears as though each flower consist of six purple petals. Small egg-shaped capsules are produced following flowering and contain numerous seeds.

This species occupies slightly moist areas in meadows or along streambanks. It can be found in the upper grasslands of Lac du Bois.



blue-eyed-grass



blue-eyed-grass

small-flowered blue-eyed Mary

Collinsia parviflora

Small-flowered blue-eyed Mary is a very common small annual that is found in grasslands and rocky areas in the southern interior. It typically grows a few inches tall. The small distinct blue and white flowers occur in clusters in the axils of leaves. The small linear leaves occur in pairs along the stem. Several seeds are produced in small capsules. Even after the plants have withered and died back for the summer, the remains are still recognizable in the field.



blue-eyed Mary



blue-eyed Mary

clustered broomrape

Orobanche fasciculata

Clustered broomrape is an unusual plant - it lacks chlorophyll and is a parasite of other plants, usually species of sage (*Artemisia*). The flowers occur in clusters and arise from a thick tuberous root. The leaves are reduced to small bracts that occur on the lower stems. Numerous seeds are produced in capsules.



broomrape



broomrape

brown-eyed Susan

Gaillardia aristata



Brown-eyed Susan is a common spring-flowering plant in grasslands and open forests. The red disk-shaped flowers are surrounded by yellow bilobed strap-shaped flowers that are not likely to be confused with any other species. The strap-shaped petals soon fall off leaving a yellow ball of disk flowers that may cause some confusion as people may think it is a different spe-



brown-eyed Susan

cies of plant. Mature seeds form a silvery clump and the individual seeds are held within a spiny-looking set of bracts that are also covered in white hairs.



brown-eyed Susan

parsnip-flowered buckwheat

Eriogonum heracleoides

Parsnip-flowered buckwheat is a common species of open grasslands and open forests. Branching clusters of creamy flowers are produced at the top of single stems in the spring. The leaves are long and narrow and covered in hairs giving the plants a grayish appearance. Most leaves occur in basal whorls but a whorl of shorter leaves also occur mid-stem on the flowering stem. Once flowering has occurred, the flowers dry up and become orange in colour. A closely related species, sulphur buckwheat which also occurs in grasslands usually occurs at higher elevations, has short broad leaves that are not hairy on the upper surface and lack the single whorl of leaves that occur mid-stem.



buckwheat



buckwheat

common burdock

Arctium minus

Burdock is an introduced species from Europe. In the second year, burdock It is a big plant that can grow up to 1.5 m tall. Leaves are dark green above but grayish woolly underneath. It is a biennial species meaning that it lives for two years. The prickly purple flowers are produced in the second year. The flowers may be mistaken for a thistle but burdock have very large leaves up to 0.5 m in size unlike those of thistle. The outer prickly bracts that surround the flower behave like velcro and, following flowering, easily attach to humans and animals that will transport the seeds to new locations.



burdock



butter-and-eggs

Linaria vulgaris

Butter-and-eggs is closely related to Dalmatian toadflax but is somewhat smaller in size. The flowers are similar and resemble those of snapdragons but they are two-toned, orange and yellow, in colour. In addition, the leaves of butter-and-eggs are small linear leaves a few centimeters long unlike the thick broad fleshy leaves of toadflax. This is an introduced species from Eurasia.



butter-and-eggs



butter-and-eggs

hornseed buttercup

Ranunculus testiculatus

This introduced weedy species was uncommon in Kamloops but has since spread rapidly over the last decade. It is now a common species along paths and disturbed areas with compacted soil where it forms a distinct yellowish or whitish carpet where it is abundant. The small diminutive plants flower early like pasture sage buttercup but the flowers are smaller and more of a lemon-yellow rather than a golden-yellow colour and the leaves are hairy and finely divided. The rather rude scientific name is derived from the the shape of the pistil.

This species has been reported more recently in eastern Canada where it tends to show up most frequently in campgrounds and is believed to have been spread largely by campers (Oldham et al. 1982 (Canadian Field Naturalist). (We first noticed this species while camping in Lillooet where it was very abundant in a local campground).



buttercup



buttercup

sagebrush buttercup

Ranunculus glaberrimus

This species is one of the first signs of spring in the Kamloops area. It is common in moist sites where it may be very abundant. The small diminutive plants have somewhat fleshy blunt leaves with flowers borne singly on stalks. Like other primitive flowering plants the flowers have numerous petals, stamens and pistils.



buttercup



buttercup

brittle prickly-pear cactus

Opuntia fragilis

Brittle prickly-pear cactus is one of two species of cacti that occur in the southern interior. Both species have beautiful yellow flowers that last for about a day. Many-spined Grizzlybear prickly-pear (*Opuntia x columbiana*) may also be found in the area but differs in that the spines are longer. stems are larger and flatter than those of brittle prickly-pear.



cactus

Opuntia fragilis

brittle prickly-pear cactus



cactus

night-flowering catchfly

Silene noctiflora

Night-flowering catchfly is an introduced species found in disturbed areas along roads and in fields. The flowers are unusual in that the sepals are fused and form a large balloon-like structure from which the white-bilobed petals flare outwards at one end. The plants are covered in hairs of which some are glandular making the plant feel sticky to touch. The species name *noctiflora* refers to the flowers which open at night (nocturnal) and are pollinated by moths.



catchfly

**catchfly**

catnip*Nepeta cataria*

Catnip is a non-native garden escapee that is occasionally found in disturbed areas along paths and fields. It is a member of the mint family and like most members of the family have four-angled stems. The grayish-green leaves are heart-shaped and plants may be up to a meter or more in height.

**catnip**

**catnip**

common cattail

Typha latifolia

Common cattails are frequently found in open wetlands and disturbed wet areas where water accumulates. It frequently occurs in dense patches in shallow standing water associated with ponds but will also occur in ditches where a permanent source of moisture is available. The long strap-shaped leaves are about 1 inch wide. The brown cylindrical structures are densely packed flowers which disintegrate over time releasing small hairy seeds.



cattail

**cattail**

Oregon checker-mallow

Sidalcea oregana

Oregon checker-mallow is a big showy plant about 1 m tall with large palmate leaves and large 2-4 cm flowers. It occurs in open grasslands in moist swales. It is a red-listed species (BC Conservation Data Centre) that is most easily recognized by the large hollyhock-like flowers that appera in mid-July. It is quite similar to the much more common sticky geranium which also has pink flowers. However, the leaves of checker-mallow do not feel sticky like those of geranium and the stamens which surround the stigma form a narrow tube whereas those of sticky gernaium are free.



checker-mallow



checker-mallow

field chickweed

Cerastium arvense

Field chickweed is a common species of grasslands and forested areas in the Kamloops area. It is also a common species in the nursery trade and is a common garden plant. It tends to form clumps or mats and is a fairly strong competitor. The white flowers are numerous in the spring and consist of five bilobed petals surrounding 10 stamens. The leaves are thin and narrow and occur in pairs along the stems.



chickweed



chickweed

common chicory

Cichorium intybus

Chicory is a common roadside weed in the Kamloops area. It has tall and somewhat woody stems that bear distinct blue flowers. Unlike most flowering plants, the stamens are also a dark blue colour rather than the yellow colour most people associate with stamens and pollen.

The roots have been used as a substitute for coffee. The leaves are similar to those of dandelion but lack lobes seen in dandelion. The leaves can be used raw in salads. Belgian endive, grown in the absence of light and forms cluster creamcoloured folded leaves and radicchio, similar to endive but with red and white leaves are both varieties of common chicory.



chicory



chicory

sulphur cinquefoil

Potentilla recta

Sulphur cinquefoil is an introduced weedy species that frequently occurs in disturbed areas and overgrazed grasslands. There are about 30 species of cinquefoil in the province. Sulphur cinquefoil is recognized by the buttery yellow colour of the flowers which are typically more of an orange colour in other species. The flowers are produced at the top of branching stems in a somewhat flattened cluster. The leaves are palmately dissected with five to seven leaflets and are most abundant along the stems rather than at the base of the stems.



cinquefoil



cinquefoil

white clematis

Clematis ligusticifolia

White clematis is a spreading vine with clusters of small white flowers each with many stamens. It is a common species in open grasslands where it often grows over shrubs and small trees along gullies where the soils remain moist. The leaves are subdivided into several long-stemmed leaflets arranged on opposite sides of the main stem. The flowers are followed by a number of seeds each attached to a long feathery plume to aid in dispersal.



clematis

**clematis**

graceful cinquefoil

Potentilla gracilis

Graceful cinquefoil is a native species that is widespread throughout much of BC. It is one of about 30 species of cinquefoil that occur in BC. Somewhat similar to buttercups, cinquefoils are members of the Rose Family (*Rosaceae*). The compound leaves are divided into 5 to 7 leaflets that join at a central point (palmately compound) and are often covered in hairs. The flowers are borne on rather tall stems in clusters. Each flower consists of five yellow petals that are somewhat

notched at the tip. The seeds are produced in a capsule following flowering. There are other species of cinquefoil in the Kamloops area and include sulphur cinquefoil (*Potentilla recta*) an introduced weedy species that has differs in having butter-yellow coloured flowers unlike the orange-yellow flowers of most other cinquefoil species.



cinquefoil



cinquefoil

pale comandra

Comandra umbellata



Pale comandra is an unusual but common plant in the Kamloops area. It is a member of the sandalwood family (Santalaceae) of which there are only five species which occur in BC. Four of them are mistle species that are parasitic on conifers. The fifth species, false toad-flax, like pale comandra, has green leaves and is able to photosynthesize, but both species are also able to parasitize other plants. Pale comandra is known to parasitize over 200 species of plants. It is an important species because it is the alternate host by which comandra blister rust, a fungus that can infect and kill lodgepole pine, completes its life cycle.



comandra



Pale comandra typically grows to a foot in height and has flowers in a loose cluster at the top of the stem. The flowers lack petals but does have five white or reddish sepals. The leaves are often bluish-green and leathery in texture which is quite distinctive and serves as a good identifying characteristic when flowers are absent. The leaves are arranged alternately along the stems. The flowers are followed by a berry-like drupe that is blue to brown in colour.



Pale comandra is most frequently found in open grasslands and shrublands or in very open forests in the Kamloops area.

summer cypress

Kochia scoparia

Summer cypress is an introduced species that is very common along paths and other disturbed areas.

It is an annual shrubby plant with red stems and small narrow green leaves. The small greenish flowers are non-descript and occur along the stems. It is an annual and the plants die and turn brown in the fall but retain much of their original size and form.



cypress



cypress

oxeye daisy

Lecuanthemum vulgare

Oxeye daisy is a very common and widespread species introduced from Europe that is now found throughout North America. It is common in disturbed sites. It has typical daisy flowers that can produce up to 100 seeds. The flowers are arranged singly at the ends of branches near the top of stems. Most of the long spatula-shaped leaves are near the base of the stems.



daisy



showy daisy

Erigeron speciosus

Showy daisy is actually a fleabane, a closely related genus similar to asters. It is uncommon in the Kamloops area and generally occurs at upper elevations in somewhat sheltered sites. The leaves are larger and broader than other local species of fleabanes and are less hairy so are more green in colour than the grayish green colour of thread-leaved and shaggy fleabanes. The leaves are smaller and narrower than those of showy aster and lack the sandpaper-feel to the leaves. The plants wither and die back in late summer and fall.



daisy



daisy

common dandelion

Taraxacum officinale

Dandelions are easily identified by the bright yellow flowers and coarsely-toothed basal leaves. It is widespread in disturbed sites and is easily spread by the hair-like plumes attached to the seeds that can carry it long distances on wind currents.

In the southern interior, it is not likely to be confused with other species except maybe with hawksbeard.



dandelion



dandelion

meadow death-camas

Zygadenus venenosus

Meadow death-camas is a member of the lily family. It is a common species in grasslands and open forests. The leaves are grass-like and occur mostly at the base of the flowering stem which consists of a large cluster of greenish-yellow flowers. As the name suggests, this species is toxic and can be easily confused with other members of the lily family when it is not in flower.



death-camas



death-camas

fern-leaved desert-parsley

Lomatium dissectum

Fern-leaved desert-parsley may be similar to swale desert-parsley in that the former may also have clusters of yellow flowers (or sometimes purple). It also differs in that fern-leaved parsley has large fern-like leaves with many small linear leaves. The fruit appear in summer and resemble dill or carrot seeds.



desert-parsley



desert-parsley

large-fruited desert-parsley

Lomatium macrocarpum



This is a very common species of open grasslands and is readily seen flowering in April and May. The flowers are arranged in heads of small white flowers on naked stalks. The leaves are somewhat fern-like.

Desert-parsley is a member of the dill family all of which have distinctive seeds that resemble those of dill. There are several species of desert-parsley which occur in grasslands and dry open forests. Most other species have yellow rather than white flowers.



desert-parsley



desert-parsley

swale desert-parsley

Lomatium ambiguum

There are several species of desert-parsley in the Southern Interior. Swale desert-parsley is common and is particularly abundant and widespread in Kenna Cartwright Park. It occurs in open grasslands and rocky areas. Clusters of bright yellow flowers occur on branches at the top of the stem in the spring. The leaves are restricted to the base of the plant and consist of several dissected linear leaves. Desert-parsley is a member of the dill family so each flower produces two small dill- or carrot-like seeds.



desert-parsley



desert-parsley

clustered dodder

Cuscuta approximata

Clustered dodder is a very unusual plant. It lacks chlorophyll and parasitizes other plants by suckers that are borne on long stringy stems. It is an introduced species and is most often found on alfalfa, another introduced species. The wiry mass of yellow thread-like stems resemble a tangled mess of spaghetti smothering other plants. The flowers are borne in white fleshy clusters that produce capsules containing a number of seeds.



dodder

**dodder**

hemp dogbane

Apocynum cannabinum

Hemp dogbane is much less common in the Kamloops area than spreading dogbane. It is most often found in disturbed areas along roadways or train tracks. It is a taller (up to 1 m in height) plant and has longer, narrower leaves than those of spreading dogbane. The leaves are arranged in pairs along the stems. The flowers are white rather than pink. Both species are not only poisonous to dogs but also humans and livestock. The stems contain a milky sap that can cause skin blisters.



dogbane



dogbane

spreading dogbane

Apocynum androsaemifolium

Spreading dogbane is a large branching herb that grows up to 0.5 m in height. The leaves are arranged in opposite pairs along the arching stems. In the spring and early summer, clusters of small pink flowers appear at the tips of some stems.

This species is particularly common on rocky slopes with coarse soils and rapid drainage.



dogbane



dogbane

common draba

Draba verna

Common draba is a very small annual plant that is one of the earliest spring flowering plants. Several flowers are borne at the tips of naked stalks and each flower consists of four small white bilobed petals and six stamens surrounding a single pistil. The combination of four petals and six stamens is typical for draba and other species belonging to the mustard family. The leaves form a basal rosette and are covered in complex multibranched hairs which are used to distinguish among the many species of draba. There are over 400 species of draba in the world. Common draba is an introduced species in BC - most draba species occur in high-elevation montane to alpine areas.





draba

star-flowered false Solomon's-seal

Maianthemum stellatum

Star-flowered false Solomon's-seal probably has one of the longest common names of plants in BC. This is an uncommon forested species in the Kamloops area unlike cooler and wetter climates where it is a common species of moist forested habitats and sometimes low-elevation floodplains. It is a member of the lily family and so, like other monocot, the flower parts are in series of 3 rather than the typical series of five seen in many dicot species. The leaves are arranged in two rows along the stem which is often topped by a small group of white flowers. This species used to have the scientific name *Smilacina stellata*.



false Solomon's-seal



false Solomon's-seal

Okanogan fameflower

Phemeranthus sediformis

Okanogan fameflower used to be considered a very rare species in BC but has since been found at quite a few locations although it is still relatively uncommon. It occurs on very shallow soils on rdy rock ridges. It occurs on Mara Mountain just north of Kamloops. It is somewhat related and looks quite similar to the common garden plant, Portulaca. White flowers are porcued on slightly ascending stems in clusters of several flowers. Thick fleshy leaves occur along reddish stems.





fireweed

Chamerion angustifolium (*Epilobium angustifolium*)

Although fireweed is a widespread and abundant species throughout much of BC, it is relatively uncommon in the Kamloops area and occasionally occurs in the grasslands. It is a relatively tall plant, growing up to a meter or more in height from a single stem. The leaves are long and rather narrow. They are unusual in that the veins of the leaf do not end at the leaf edge but loop around and join adjacent veins and are a useful identifying characteristic when the plants are not in flower. Flowers are borne in a spike that open in sequence from the bottom to the top of the spike. The flowers are about an inch across and consist of four broad pink petals as well as four stamens. Following flowering, a long narrow capsule is produced that contains several hundred seeds, each with a tiny tuft of hairs that aid in wind dispersal.

Fireweed used to belong to the genus *Epilobium* for many years but has now been placed in a separate genus named *Chamerion*.



fireweed



littlepod flax

Camelina microcarpa

Littlepod flax is a small annual species in the mustard family so the flowers consist of four petals with six stamens. The yellow flowers are borne on the upper portion of erect stems. The distinctive feature of this plant are the small egg-shaped pods that form following flowering and are arranged almost perpendicular to the main stem. Each pod contains reddish brown seeds. The stems, leaves and pods turn brown in the fall but plants remain recognizable by the distinctive pods that often persist on the stems. This plant is also called false flax and should not be confused with true flax that is unrelated and belongs to the genus *Linum* and has blue flowers.



flax

**flax**

western blue flax*Linum lewisii*

Western blue flax is more frequently seen in disturbed areas along roadways but it does occur as scattered individual plants in grasslands and open dry forests.

The tall erect bluish-green stems and bright blue flowers are distinctive. After flowering, the small black seeds are produced in small capsules.

**flax**



cut-leaved daisy

Erigeron compositus

Cut-leaved daisy is not really a daisy but is a member of the genus *Erigeron* which are more commonly called fleabanes, a group of plants that resemble daisies but tend to flower early rather than later in the growing season. Cut-leaved daisy is a widespread species that typically occurs in arctic and alpine areas. However, it is also a common species of dry rocky sites in open grasslands in the Kamloops area. The plant gets its name from the distinctive leaves that are subdivided several times into three lobes. This is quite distinct and distinguished it from other daisies or fleabanes. Single daisy-like flowers consisting of yellow disk flowers and white ray flowers occur singly at the tips of stems. Sometimes, the white ray flowers are lacking. In late summer brown flower stalks persist but it is the unusual leaves that are the most useful feature in identifying this species.



fleabane

**fleabane**

linear-leaved daisy

Erigeron linearis

Like cut-leaved daisy, linear-leaved daisy is really a type of fleabane rather than a daisy. It also tends to occur on rocky sites in open grasslands where it forms rather dense clumps with numerous single-stemmed yellow flowers. The leaves, as suggested by the name, are long and narrow. Although the leaves are superficially similar to long-leaved fleabane, linear-leaved daisy is a smaller plant with much shorter leaves - most plants are only, at most, about eight inches tall whereas long-leaved daisies are usually at least 12 inches tall.



fleabane

Erigeron linearis

linear-leaved daisy



fleabane

long-leaved fleabane

Erigeron corymbosus

Long-leaved fleabane is aptly named because the long narrow basal leaves are a good identifying character for this species. The leaves are hairy and become smaller and smaller above the base of the plant. The flowers consist of yellow disk flowers and purple ray flowers. Unlike cut-leaved daisy, long-leaved fleabanes usually support several flowers per stem but the most distinctive feature are the long, narrow leaves that are largest at the base of the plant. This species usually occurs on somewhat sheltered sites in open grasslands so they would tend to occur on cool aspects that are partially shaded for part of the day.



fleabane

**fleabane**

thread-leaved fleabane

Erigeron filifolius

Flebanes are closely related to asters and can be difficult to distinguish from one another. Flebanes tend to flower in the spring whereas asters tend to flower in late summer and fall. Thread-leaved fleabane is a very common species of grasslands and is recognized by its needle-like leaves covered in grayish hairs that lay flattened against the stem. Shaggy fleabane, also common, is somewhat similar but the hairs on the stems and leaves are stiff and spreading. Trailing fleabane is also similar but it has leafy trailing stems that lie on the ground.



fleabane



fleabane

shaggy fleabane

Erigeron pumilus

Shaggy fleabane is aptly named because the most distinctive feature of this plant are the long stiff spreading hairs that cover the leaves and stems. Other flebanes may be hairy but this is the only common species in which the hairs stick out from rather than lay flat against the stems and leaves and are over 1 mm long. Plants are generally quite small. One to several untidy daisy-like flowers consisting of yellow disk flowers and white rays flowers are produced on individual stems. This is a common species of open grasslands and dry open forests.



fleabane

**fleabane**

blue forget-me-not

Myosotis stricta

Blue forget-me-not is a small annual species introduced from Europe. It typically only grows a few inches tall. The distinctive blue flowers consist of five fused petals that form a tube and flare out into five lobes. They are produced along the upper stem with younger flowers opening near the top of the stem with older flowers below. This is a member of the Borage family and like all other members, the flowers produce four nutlets. This is a common species of open grasslands in disturbed areas often along roadways and paths.



forget-me-not



forget-me-not

scarlet gaura

Gaura coccinea

Scarlet gaura is rare species only known from a few sites in British Columbia including the Lac du Bois grasslands. It is a member of the evening primrose family which also includes fireweed and somewhat resembles it. The flowers are borne in a long cluster on the upper portion of the stem. They have a distinctive pale salmon colour with prominent four-lobed pistils. Each flower consists of four petals unlike most other flowering plants that usually have five petals.



gaura



sticky geranium

Geranium viscosissimum

Sticky geranium as the name suggests is covered in numerous glandular hairs that are sticky to the touch. The large palmate leaves are partially divided and have five to seven lobes. Delicate large pink flowers are borne in clusters at the tips of shoots and consist of five sepals, five petals, ten stamens surrounding a single pistil. This is a common species of dry grasslands and open forests in the Southern Interior. It is easily confused with the very similar species Oregon checker-mallow which is only found locally in the Lac du Bois grasslands.



Checker-mallow lacks the sticky hairs of geranium and the stamens are fused and form a tube around the stigma.



geranium



geranium

golden-aster

Heterotheca villosa

Golden-aster is an attractive perennial that is common in the grasslands and dry open forests. It grows from a woody base and the stems and leaves are covered in long spreading hairs giving the plant a grayish appearance. The bright yellow flowers appear in the summer at the ends of stems.



golden-aster



golden-aster

Canada goldenrod

Spikelike goldenrod is a widespread species that often colonizes recently disturbed sites. It spreads by underground rhizomes from which tall stems, up to 2 meters in height emerge. The flowers occur in branching spikes in the upper part of the plant. Our other local common species of goldenrod are smaller and the flowers are often on a single stalk with reduced leaves,



goldenrod



spikelike goldenrod

Solidago simplex

Spikelike goldenrod is a common species in the Kamloops area and frequently occurs in open forests and grasslands. It is generally 30-40 cm tall. The flowers occur more or less in a spike on the upper part of the stem. The leaves are quite large at the base of the stems but become much smaller in size near the top of the stem.



goldenrod



goldenrod

yellow gromwell

Lithospermum incisum

Yellow gromwell is a close relative of the much more common plant, lemonweed. Both species belong to the family Boraginaceae and both are unusual in that the flowers are yellow rather than blue which is the colour of most species in this family.

This is an uncommon plant that is about half the size of lemonweed and often consists of straggly stems from a central rootstock. They occur most often on very sandy soil with rapid drainage so look for this species where sand has been deposited by the wind over time.



gromwell



curly-cup gumweed

Grindelia squarrosa

Curly-cup gumweed is a common species of disturbed sites in the Kamloops area. It is frequently found along trails and old roads where it is sometimes a dominant species. The bright yellow flowers are produced in late summer and it one of the last plants to flower during the growing season. The plants are subtended by overlapping resinous bracts with distinctive reflexed tips that bend downwards. Even after the plants have died back for the season, the bracts remain recognizable.



gumweed



gumweed

slender hawksbeard

Crepis atribarba



Slender hawksbeard is by far the most common hawksbeard species in grasslands and open forests. It produces clusters of small dandelion-like yellow flowers at the top of tall stems. This species is easily recognized by the very distinctive compound leaves with a very narrow rib bordered by narrow, linear lobes so even in the absence of flowers, this species should be easily recognized by the distinctive leaves.

After flowering, each flower produces a narrow black achene topped by a silvery tuft of hairs that aid in dispersal by wind.



hawksbeard



hawkweed

western hawksbeard

Crepis occidentalis

Western hawksbeard is a common species of dry grasslands that has broader leaves than the more distinctive and common species narrow hawksbeard. It resembles the rare species “low western hawksbeard” but western hawksbeard is typically a taller and more robust species. The bracts beneath the flowers are usually covered in black straggly hairs. These hairs are often gland-tipped (looks like a small droplet at the tip of each hair) in western hawksbeard whereas the hairs of western low hawksbeard lack glands. To confuse matters, there is a rare non-glandular subspecies of western hawksbeard.



hawksbeard



western low hawksbeard

Crepis modocensis ssp. *rostrata*

Western low hawksbeard is a rare species that is only known in BC from a few locations in the Kamloops, Cache Creek and Lillooet areas. Western low hawksbeard is shorter and more compact than the much more common slender hawksbeard. The leaf blades are broader and are arranged in a rosette around the short erect stems that bare a few yellow dandelion-like flowers. It is most often found on shallow soils often a few meters below rock outcrops that occur at the crest of hills. It superficially resembles western hawksbeard which is similar but generally taller and more robust. Both species have straggly black hairs on the bracts below the flowers but those of western hawksbeard are gland tipped whereas those of western low hawksbeard lack glands.



hawksbeard



hawkbeard

common horsetail

Equisetum arvense

Common horsetail is uncommon in the Kamloops area. It typically occurs in very wet forested areas where water is at or just beneath the soil surface. The plants are primitive non-flowering plants that bears whorls of jointed stems along a main axis that superficially resemble linear leaves. The actual leaves consist of a small ring of blackened sheathing scales that occur at intervals long the stem . The spores are produced in cone-like structures on separate shoots.



horsetail

**horsetail**

tall scouring-rush

Equisetum hyemale

Tall scouring-rush is another type of “horsetail” that frequently grows in very wet areas where there is standing water or moisture throughout the growing season. Unlike common horsetail, tall scouring-rush lacks the whorled groups of jointed stems along the main stem. Instead, tall scouring-rush has a single hollow stem up to a meter in height with a ring of reduced white and black scale-like leaves occurring at equal intervals along the main stem. The stems feel rough to the touch and are quite rigid from the deposits of silica in the stem.



horsetail

**horsetail**

showy Jacob's-ladder

Polemonium pulcherrimum

Showy Jacob's-ladder is an attractive plant that occasionally occurs in the Kamloops area but is typically more common at higher elevations in montane to alpine areas. Of the six species of Jacob's-ladder in the province, this is the most common species. Several branches arise from a central taproot. The leaves are subdivided into small leaflets arranged in two rows along the leaf stalk somewhat similar to a fern frond. The attractive blue and yellow flowers are produced in clusters at the top of long stalks that rise above the leaves. On top of Greenstone Mountain, to the southwest of Kamloops, the smaller more delicate, elegant Jacob's-ladder, occurs in open rocky areas.



Jacob's-ladder



Jacob's-ladder

kinnikinnick

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi

Kinnikinnick is a common and widespread species in BC. It occurs from dry open grasslands, forests and open rocky slopes to alpine areas. Technically, it is a small shrub and has woody stems but most people think of it as a herb. The leaves are evergreen and last up to three years. They are shiny and somewhat leathery and are arranged alternately along the stem which distinguishes it from twinflower that is similar in appearance but whose leaves are arranged in pairs along the stems. It is a member of the Heather family and has distinctive urn-shaped pink and white flowers near the ends of branches. These are followed by red berries. This species is also common in the nursery trade and is often used as a ground cover in gardens.



kinnikinnick



kinnikinnick

diffuse knapweed

Centaurea diffusa

Knapweeds are common weedy species in the Southern Interior. Diffuse knapweed is commonly found in disturbed dry areas. The cluster of whitish pink flowers are subtended by several rows of very spiny bracts that help to distinguish this species from the more common spotted knapweed which has less spiny bracts and flowers that are a deeper pink or purple colour.



knapweed

**knapweed**

spotted knapweed

Centaurea stoebe

Spotted knapweed is a widespread and common weed in the Kamloops area. It is common in disturbed areas in open grasslands and forests. The pinkish purple flowers are abundant and are subtended by fringed scales. These distinct scales are less spiny than those of the less common diffuse knapweed that also has pale flowers. In the winter, the characteristic bracts associated with the flowers persist even when the plants have withered and died back making it possible to recognize this species throughout the year.



knapweed



knapweed

Douglas's knotweed

Polygonum douglasii

Knotweeds are a large genus of over 200 species and occupy a variety of habitats from ponds and wetlands to alpine areas.

Douglas's knotweed is a small annual that is very common on rock outcrops. It also occurs on coarse sandy soil in the grasslands. The plants are typically small with wiry branches and narrow linear leaves. The small pinkish flowers are produced on the upper branches. Knotweeds are members of the buckwheat family and many of them have small sheaths at the base of leaves.



knotweed



knotweed

upland larkspur

Delphinium nuttallianum

Upland larkspur is a common beautiful spring flowering plant in the Kamloops area. It is a close relative of the more robust delphinium that people often grow in the garden.

Upland larkspur is a common species of open grasslands and forests and is easily recognized when in flower by the dark blue spurred flowers. The leaves are palmately subdivided into several linear leaflets. The seeds are produced in papery beaked follicles that occur in groups of three.

Interestingly, larkspurs are members of the buttercup family despite having flowers that have little in common with those of buttercups.



larkspur



larkspur

lemonweed

Lithospermum ruderale

Lemonweed is most often found in open disturbed habitats. The tall hairy plants are characterized by clusters of pale yellow flowers near the shoot tips.

Lemonweed is a member of the forget-me-not family and is somewhat atypical in that it has yellow flowers rather than blue flowers which is much more characteristic of the family. However, like other family members, each flower produces four nutlets which in the case of lemonweed are usually cream-coloured and shiny like polished stones.



lemonweed

**lemonweed**

sagebrush mariposa lily

Calochortus macrocarpus

Sagebrush mariposa lily is one of the most beautiful flowers in the Kamloops area. It is a common plant of open grasslands. Plants emerge in spring and flowers appear in mid-summer when the leaves begin to wither and turn brown. One or two flowers are borne at the end of long delicate stems. Most flowers produce a long narrow capsule that splits open in late summer to release transparent greenish seeds.



lily



lily

field locoweed

Oxytropis campestris

Field locoweed is a member of the pea family and so the flowers resemble those of a sweet pea and the seeds are produced in narrow pea pod-like capsules. Superficially, this species resembles vetches (*Astragalus*) another common member of the pea family found in grasslands. However, locoweed bear their flowers in clusters at the tips of leafless stems unlike those of vetches.



locoweed



locoweed

yellow lucerne

Medicago sativa ssp. *falcata*

Yellow lucerne is a subspecies of alfalfa in which the flowers are yellow rather than purple and has smaller leaves and less tightly-curved seed pods. Like alfalfa, it is an introduced species that occurs in disturbed areas. This subspecies is much less common than its purple counterpart, alfalfa.



lucerne

**lucerne**

black medic

Medicago lupulina

Black medic is a common weedy species found in fields, disturbed areas and lawns. It is in the pea family and is similar to clovers and shares many of the same characteristics including clusters of small pea-like flowers at the tips of shoots and leaves divided into three leaflets. It also forms a rambling branching mat. The flowers are smaller than those of clover and are bright yellow in colour. The fruit is a small curled pod that contains a single seed.



medic



medic

field milk-vetch

Astragalus agrestis

Field milk-vetch is one of several common species of milk-vetch that occur in the Kamloops area. They are members of the Pea Family and have pea-like flowers and long narrow pods containing seeds. The leaves are subdivided into leaflets and can be distinguished from closely related vetches (*Vicia* species) in which the terminal leaflet is replaced by a tendrill. Field milk-vetch is a mat-forming species that hugs the ground. The pink or purple flowers occur in small clusters on erect stems. The pods are about 1 cm long. This species tends to occur on cooler, moister sites than other species of milk-vetch.



milk-vetch

**milk-vetch**

rattle milk-vetch

Astragalus collinus

Rattle milk-vetch is very common in the Kamloops area. It can be abundant in open grasslands. It is larger and more robust than Weiser's milk-vetch which also has yellow flowers. It also differs in that the resulting pods of rattle milk-vetch are narrower and flattened. The seeds are black or tan-coloured. Worldwide, there are about 3000 species of *Astragalus*.



milk-vetch



milk-vetch

timber milk-vetch

Astragalus miser

Of the milk-vetch species in the Kamloops area, timber milk-vetch is the most common and widespread species. It is a common component of grasslands and dry open forests. It is more delicate than other local milk-vetch species with fine, narrow leaflets. The small pea-like flowers are usually purple or pink but may also be white. clusters at the tops of dead stems. The pods are thin and narrow and often turn reddish brown as they mature.



milk-vetch



milk-vetch

Weiser milk-vetch

Astragalus beckwithii

Weiser milk-vetch is a common species in the Kamloops area. It has yellow pea-like flowers in clusters at the end of branches. The pods, which develop following flowering, are distinctly inflated and consist of papery green pods with red veins. The pods and leaves eventually turn brown. The small thick seeds are yellowish green in colour. This is a common widespread species in the grasslands. It is sometimes confused with rattle milk-vetch which also has yellow flowers but the latter species is larger with more upright stems with flower petals that are less wide-spreading than those of Weiser milk-vetch.



milk-vetch

**milk-vetch**

wooly pod milk-vetch

Astragalus purshii

Wooly pod milk-vetch is aptly named. It is a low growing compact vetch that produces very distinct densely wooly pods that distinguish it from all other milk-vetches. It is a prostrate plant with sprawling stems. The small purple pea-like flowers occur in small clusters at the end of stems. This is a common species of grasslands in the Kamloops area.



milk-vetch



milk-vetch

showy milkweed

Asclepia speciosa

Showy milkweed is common native species that along roadsides, ditches and other disturbed areas in southern BC. Plants grow up to about 0.5 m in height. It has broad, fleshy leaves that are somewhat arrow-shaped and are arranged in pairs along the stem. The stems contain a milky sap, hence, the name. The pink flowers occur in large hemispherical clusters. The flowers form large pods that release seeds with a tuft of white hairs that aid in dispersal by wind.



milkweed



milkweed

great mullein

Verbascum thapsus

Great mullein is a common and widespread introduced species. It is a biennial species that lives for two years. In the first year, the seeds germinate and produce a cluster of large woolly leaves. In the second year, the plant produces a tall erect stem over a meter in height. The yellow flowers are produced in a dense cylinder at the top of the stem. Following flowering, the plants will die back and the dead standing stalks will persist well into the following year.



mullein

**mullein**

blue mustard

Chorispora tenella



More of a purple colour, blue mustard is an introduced annual that is common in the Kamloops area. It appears in spring along disturbed areas and, in some years depending on climate conditions, may form colourful dense patches of purple in open disturbed areas.

It is a member of the mustard family which are all distinguished from most other flowering plants by having four petals, rather than the 3 petals in monocots and five petals in most dicots. It also has six stamens, rather than the more typical five or ten stamens seen in most other dicot plants.



old man's whiskers

Geum triflorum

Old man's whiskers is a common species of open grasslands. It is most common on cool aspects so tends to occur mostly on north-facing and east-facing slopes. The plants have a number of basal feathery leaves that somewhat resemble yarrow but are not as finely dissected. Relatively large nodding greenish non-descript flowers are produced at the tops of stems. Following flowering, the individual seeds have long plume-like hairs that give the plant its common name.



old man's whiskers



old man's whiskers

nodding onion

Allium cernuum

Nodding onion is a common species in open dry forests and grasslands. It usually occurs on warm rocky slopes as scattered individual plants. It is easily recognized when in flower by the large cluster of nodding light to dark pink flowers. The leaves are grass-like and occur in a cluster at the base of the naked flower stem. The leaves have a pungent onion-smell when crushed. This is the only common species of onion in southern BC. Once flower-

ing has completed the developing capsules turn upwards and release a number of black seeds when conditions are windy.



onion



Thompson's paintbrush

Castilleja thompsonii

Thompson's paintbrush is a very common species in the Kamloops area. It occurs in open grasslands and is easily recognized by the yellowish-green bracts that surround the indistinct flowers. Despite having green stems and leaves, paintbrushes parasitize other plants. Once flowering is completed, the flower stalks wither and turn brown. The seeds have a beautiful net-like surface. Scarlet paintbrush may also be found in the Kamloops area but it occurs in forested areas at higher elevations and the bracts are red rather than hellowish green.



paintbrush



paintbrush

shrubby penstemon

Penstemon fruticosus

Shrubby penstemon is a very common on rock outcrops, talus slopes, cliff faces and other sites throughout the southern BC where soils are very rocky and shallow. It flowers in the spring and is readily apparent by the brightly-coloured flowers that somewhat resemble those of a snapdragon. The base of the plants are somewhat woody and the leaves are narrow and toothed along the edges.



penstemon



small-flowered penstemon*Penstemon procerus*

Small-flowered penstemon is a common throughout the interior of BC where it occurs in grasslands, open forests, and gravelly sites. Flowers occur in clusters at the top of stems. The flowers are tubular and about 1 cm long. very common on rock outcrops, talus slopes, cliff faces and other sites throughout the southern BC where soils are very rocky and shallow. The plants and flowers are smaller than those of shrubby penstemon.

**penstemon**



penstemon

silverleaf phacelia

Phacelia hastata

Silverleaf phacelia is a distinctive species most often found on dry rocky slopes where it occurs as scattered individuals. The leaves and stems are covered in hairs giving the plant a silvery look. Flowers occur in clusters at the ends of trailing or semi-erect stems. The white flowers are distinctive in that stamens occur on stalks that are about twice the length of the petals. This is a common species from British Columbia south to California.



phacelia



phacelia

thread-leaved phacelia

Phacelia linearis

Eight species of *Phacelia* occur in BC. Thread-leaved phacelia is quite distinct - it is an annual that has a single or branching stem with a few narrow and lobed leaves along the stem. Attractive papery lavender and white flowers are produced in a cluster at the shoot tip. It is a common species of grasslands and shrublands, particularly in the Okanagan but it also occurs in the Kamloops area.



phacelia



pineapple weed

Matricaria discoidea

This is a very common weed of disturbed areas throughout BC. The flowers consist of a clump of small yellow disk flowers - they lack the ray flowers that are common in many other plants in the Aster family. Although the clusters of flowers sort of resemble a pineapple, the name refers to the smell of the flowers. It is related to chamomile.



pineapple weed



pineapple weed

Common plantain

Plantago major

Common plantain is a widespread weedy species found throughout much of BC. It is very common on pathways, gardens and road edges. The greenish tiny flowers are produced on tall stalks that rise above the broad basal leaves. Each flower produces numerous tiny seeds.



plantain



plantain

woolly plantain*Plantago patagonica*

Woolly plantain is much smaller than common plantain. It is common in grasslands, particularly in the South Okanagan. Plants are generally a few inches tall. Like other plantains, the leaves are restricted to the base of the plant and the flowers are produced in tight spikes on elevated stalks. The spikes are densely hairy and give the plant an attractive grayish appearance.

**plantain**



plantain

poison ivy*Toxicodendron rydbergii*

Fortunately, poison ivy is not very common. It most often occurs in riparian areas on coarse soils. The most distinctive feature are the long-stalked leaves that are divided into three leaflets. The indistinct flowers are produced in the axils of leaves and are followed by white berries in the fall.

**poison ivy**



poison ivy

low pussytoes

Antennaria dimorpha

There are a number of different species of pussytoes that occur in the grasslands and open forests. Almost all species have flowers on stalks several inches above the basal leaves. Low pussytoes is easily recognized by the very short flower stalks that barely exceed the mat-forming leaves. This species is most common and abundant in disturbed sites and is a good indicator species of heavy grazing.



pussytoes



pussytoes

Nuttall's pussytoes

Antennaria parvifolia

Nuttall's pussytoes is very similar to several other species of pussytoes including umber pussytoes. Most species have small fuzzy gray leaves and grow in mats. The flowers of Nuttall's pussytoes are similar to those of most other pussytoes but are generally taller and wider giving the flowers a more robust appearance compared to those of closely related species like umber pussytoes.



pussytoes



pussytoes

rosy pussytoes

Antennaria rosea

Rosy pussytoes is another species of mat-forming pussytoes that resembles Nuttall's, umber and white pussytoes in that the leaves are fuzzy and gray and the flowers are borne in clusters at the tips of erect stems. It is easily recognized when in flower by the pink bracts that surround the white flowers. At one time, rosy and white pussytoes were considered to be the same species but are now considered to be different from one another. Locally, this is a common species of dry open forests but it may also be found all the way up to alpine areas. It occurs throughout almost all of BC.



pussytoes

Antennaria rosea

rosy pussytoes



pussytoes

white pussytoes

Antennaria microphylla

White pussytoes is similar to umber and Nuttall's pussytoes. All three species are mat-forming plants with gray and fuzzy leaves with white flowers in clusters at the tips of tall stalks. The flowers of umber and white pussytoes are smaller than those of Nuttall's pussytoes and umber pussytoes have bronze-coloured bracts surrounding each cluster of flowers whereas those of white pussytoes are white.





pussytoes

umber pussytoes

Antennaria umbrinella

Umbur pussytoes is a widespread and abundant species of dry open forests in the Kamloops area. Like several other species of pussytoes, umbur pussytoes is a mat-forming species consisting of felt-covered leaves and stems giving the plant a gray appearance. The non-descript flowers are grouped in clusters at the tips of stems. Like most pussytoes, the cluster of flowers is surrounded by several papery bracts. The colour of these bracts are a useful aid in distinguishing among several species of pussytoes. Those of umbur pussytoes are bronze-coloured.





pussytoes

northern wormwood

Artemisia campestris

Northern wormwood is one of many species of sage found in BC. It is a common species from grasslands to alpine areas. It tends to be a mat-forming species with dissected gray leaves from which the small greenish yellow flowers occur on erect stems. It is shorter and less shrubby than the more common and closely-related species, pasture sage. Big sagebrush which is a very common shrub in the Kamloops area is a close relative that belongs to the same genus as northern wormwood. There are about 20 species of *Artemisia* in BC.



sagebrush

Artemisia campestris

northern wormwood



sagebrush

pasture sage

Artemisia frigida

Pasture sage is a beautiful semi-shrubby species of sage that is very common in grasslands and open low-elevation forests. The leaves are finely dissected and covered in silvery hairs which is typical of most species of sage. It is a very common species of open grasslands in the Kam-loops area. It differs from big sagebrush in it's smaller size and the leaves of big sagebrush have three-lobed tips and not dissected like those of pasture sage.



sagebrush



sagebrush

tarragon

Artemisia dracunculus

Tarragon is a distinctive type of sagebrush that is common in the Kamloops area. Unlike most species of *Artemisia*, tarragon is grass-green in colour rather than the typical greyish colour. The leaves are long and narrow and the plants are up to 1.5 m tall. The indistinct greenish flowers appear in summer, often abundantly among the upper stems and branches. In the fall, the leaves and flowers turn brown. This is a common species along trails and roadsides and in open grasslands. A variety of tarragon (var. *sativa*) is used as a culinary herb.



sagebrush



sagebrush

Michaux's artemisia

Artemisia michauxiana

Michaux's artemisia is a perennial herb that like tarragon has green foliage rather than the gray foliage associated with most species of sagebrush. The leaves of tarragon are long and narrow whereas those of Michaux's artemisia are pinnately dissected and have a lemon scent. The plants usually grow about 0.5 m tall and grow on open rocky slopes. The non-descript flowers occur on the upper stems in spikes.



sagebrush



sagebrush

common sainfoin*Onobrychis vicifolia*

Common sainfoin is a very attractive introduced species that is a member of the pea family. The bright pink flowers are arranged in terminal spikes above the pea-like leaves that consist of numerous leaflets arranged in two rows. It is an agronomic species that also frequently occurs in fields and waste areas and is known to fix nitrogen.

**sainfoin**



sainfoin

yellow salsify

Tragopogon dubium

Yellow salsify is a widespread and common species that typically flowers in June. The butter-yellow flowers consist of clusters of strap-shaped ray flowers. The stem that supports the flower appears swollen and is quite distinctive even when the plants have died back for the year. The seeds form a large tawny-coloured dandelion-like seed head several inches in diameter following flowering. Meadow salsify is another salsify that becomes abundant near Cache Creek and northwards that has more orangy-yellow flowers that lack the wollen flower base.



salsify

**salsify**

peak saxifrage*Saxifraga nidifica*

Peak saxifrage is a locally common species of open forests and grasslands. It produces a few basal leathery leaves that are often covered in rusty hairs. The flowers occur in clusters in the upper part of a single tall naked stem. The flowers are indistinct with small whitish or yellowish petals. The seeds are borne within pairs of follicles.

**saxifrage**



saxifrage

few-flowered shootingstar

Dodecatheon pulchellum

Few-flowered shooting star is a common grassland species that flowers during the spring. The unusual flowers have pink backwards pointing sepals with sharp-pointed stamens thrust forwards. The flowers tends to point downwards when they first appear whereas the developing capsules turn upwards and produce a distinct cluster of capsules at the top of a stem that is readily recognized long after the flowers have finished and the leaves have dried up. It usually grows in somewhat sheltered areas that receive some shading during the day in open grasslands on well-drained soils.



shootingstar



shootingstar

common silverweed

Potentilla anserina

Silverweed is a member of the cinquefoil genus (*Potentilla*) of which numerous species occur in BC. Silverweed is a distinctive species in that the individual flowera are produced on short single stems. All of the leaves are confined to the base of the plant and consist of long pinnately dissected leaves covered in long gray hairs that give the leaves a silvery appearance. This is a common species of disturbed meadow areas in open grasslands and forests.



silverweed



perennial sow-thistle

Sonchus arvensis

Perennial sow-thistle resembles a cross between a dandelion and a true thistle. Plants have leaves that have soft bristles along the undersides of the leaves. The dandelion-like flowers are produced in a large open leafless cluster at the top of long stems. It is an introduced species from Europe. It closely resembles prickly sow-thistle, an introduced annual species, which has smaller flowers that are more butter-yellow in colour and flowers a little later than perennial sow-thistle.



sow-thistle



sow-thistle

prickly sow-thistle

Sonchus asper

Prickly sow-thistle is an annual species that has dandelion-like leaves with soft prickles. The small butter-yellow flowers are less than an inch wide and are produced in a large open cluster at the top of a single stem. The seeds are attached to small tufts of white hairs that help in dispersal. This species resembles perennial sow-thistle but the flowers of perennial sow-thistle are larger and more orange in colour.



sow-thistle



sow-thistle

western springbeauty

Claytonia lanceolata

Springbeauty emerges in early spring from an underground corm. It is common in slightly moist areas at higher elevations in the grasslands and flowers soon after sagebrush buttercup which often occur in the same habitat. Each stem has a pair of leaves that are opposite one another. The top of the stem has a loose spike of flowers. Each flower is white or pinkish and about a centimeter long. It has five pink stamens that circle a three-lobed stigma. The seeds are produced in small capsules following flowering.



springbeauty



springbeauty

leafy spurge

Euphorbia esula

Leafy spurge is a common weedy species found in the Kamloops area often in open disturbed habitats such as those along roadways and clearings. Plants can grow almost to a meter in height. The numerous narrow green leaves occur along the pale green stems. The flowers are inconspicuous but are surrounded by showy greenish yellow heart-shaped bracts. The stems and leaves produce a milky sap that can irritate the skin.



spurge

**spurge**

narrow-leaved stephanomeria

Stephanomeria tenuifolia

Narrow-leaved stephanomeria is a common plant in the grasslands. It is a wiry multibranched herb with small linear leaves. The stems exude a milky white sap when broken like some other members of the Aster family such as common dandelion. The flowers consist of several pinkish strap-shaped flowers that occur among the upper branches. The seeds are somewhat similar to those of dandelion in that a tuft of fine hairs are attached to the top of each seed that aid in dispersal by wind. By the end of summer, the plants have died back and turned brown but the wiry branches persist into the fall.



stephanomeria



stephanomeria

western stickseed

Lappula occidentalis

Western stickseed is a small native annual that is locally common and occurs in grasslands and disturbed areas. The small pale blue or white flowers are produced in the axiles of leaves on upper stems. The seeds consist of four very prickly nutlets that easily attach to clothing or fur which aids in their dispersal.



stickseed

**stickseed**

wild strawberry

Fragaria virginiana

Wild strawberry is perhaps the most widespread and common herb in the Southern Interior. The compound leaves consisting of three leaflets, the white flowers, and small red fruit are distinctive features. Wild strawberry spreads from runners, creeping stems that root and produce a new plant. The closely related species, wood strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*), is more yellow-green in colour with more strongly grooved leaf veins whereas the leaves of wild strawberry are bluish-green with faint veins on the leaves.



strawberry



strawberry

dangling suncrest

Boechera retrofracta

Dangling suncrest is a member of the mustard family and, like most mustard species, the flower consist of four petals and six stamens unlike most other dicot plants that usually have five petals and five or ten stamens. This species used to be considered a variety of Holboell's rockcress but is now considered a separate and distinct species. It is a widespread species of grasslands and open rocky areas in the Kamloops area. Small white to purple flowers are borne along the upper stem. The fruit consists of a long narrow dangling pod-like structure called a sili-cle which is good identifying feature of this species. This species is often infected by a rust, a type of fungus, that causes the upper leaves to turn bright yellow and resemble a yellow flower.



suncrest



suncress

white sweet-clover

Melilotus alba

White sweet-clover is a close relative of clover but differs in that the white flowers are arranged in spikes and plants are usually up to a meter or more in height. This is a common agrinomic species that occurs along roadsides and other waste places. Like other members of the pea family, the flowers of sweet-clover resemble those of other members of the pea family. The fruits consist of egg-shaped pods and contain 1 or 2 seeds.



sweet-clover



sweet-clover

yellow sweet-clover

Melilotus officinalis

Yellow sweet-clover is a close relative of white-sweet clover. It forms large bushy plants with multiple branches of yellow flowers arranged in spikes. It can be over a meter in height. Like white sweet-clover, the leaves consist of three leaflets similar to those of clover. This is a common agronomic species that occurs along roadsides and other waste places. Like other members of the pea family, the flowers of sweet-clover resemble those of other members of the pea family. The fruits consist of egg-shaped pods and contain 1 or 2 seeds.



sweet-clover



sweet-clover

common tansy

Tanacetum vulgare

Common tansy is an introduced weedy species from Europe that often occurs in disturbed areas along railway tracks and roadsides. It has daisy-like flowers that consist solely of dense cluster of disk flowers that lack strap-shaped ray flowers. The leaves are quite distinctive and consist of a pinnately-dissected leaflets that resembles a fern frond. Individual plants can be over a meter in height.



tansy

**tansy**

western tansy mustard

Descurainia pinnata

Western tansy mustard is a widespread and common annual species of grasslands and disturbed areas in the Kamloops area. Flowers are produced on short side-branches at the top of stems. These are followed by erect narrow capsules called “siliques” which contain two rows of seeds that are eventually released as the capsule dries out. These plants are members of the mustard family and so the flowers consist of four sepals and four petals and six stamens.



tansy mustard



tansy mustard

Canada thistle

Cirsium arvense

The name, Canada thistle, is misleading as this species is non-native and is introduced from Europe and Asia. It is one of the most common thistles. Unlike most other thistles, the leaves and stems lack hairs and so are bright green in colour rather than the dark greyish green colour that is more typical of thistles. The leaves are rigid and spiny and clasp the stems. The flowers are pink to purple in colour and occur in dense clumps of about 100 florets (individual flowers). The seeds have a tuft of feathery hairs attached that help the seeds to disperse on gentle breezes.

This species readily produces new shoots from underground roots and is somewhat allelopathic in that it produces chemicals that often inhibit the growth of other plant species.



thistle

**thistle**

wavy-leaved thistle

Cirsium undulatum

Wavy-leaved thistle is a native species of thistle that is common in western North America. Locally, it is frequently found in open grasslands. The spiny leaves with regular deeply wavy-lobed margins are distinct and help to identify this species because it does not frequently produce flowers but often occurs as a simple cluster of leaves on the ground. Unlike Canada thistle the leaves of wavy-leaved thistle are densely hairy and often appear gray in colour.

When it does flower, it produces rather large pink flower heads that are often two inches tall, and like other thistles, have numerous overlapping bracts at the base of the flower head.



thistle



thistle

Dalmatian toadflax

Linaria genistifolia

Dalmatian toadflax is an attractive introduced species that is widespread in the southern Interior and is particularly abundant on disturbed sites where it may be the dominant species. It has stems that may be over a meter in height with fleshy bluish-green leaves. It produces numerous yellow flowers in a long spike that resemble snapdragons. Egg-shaped capsules are produced following flowering that contain numerous small seeds.



toadflax

**toadflax**

tall tumble-mustard

Sisymbrium altissimum

There are two common species of tumble-mustard in the Kamloops area. Both are introduced from Eurasia and both are large multibranched herbs that can grow over a meter in height and have lobed leaves like those of dandelion. Both have yellow flowers that consist of four petals and six stamens, typical of plants that belong to the mustard family. Tall tumble-mustard is less common than Loesel's tumble-mustard in the Kamloops area. The former has paler flowers than the latter and has long slender fruiting structures called siliques that are 3-10 cm long as opposed to those of Loesel's tumble-mustard which are generally less than 3 cm long.



tumble-mustard



tumble-mustard

Loesel's tumble-mustard

Sisymbrium loesellii

Loesel's tumble-mustard is much more common than tall tumble-mustard in the Kamloops area. It is very common and abundant along paths, roadways and other disturbed areas. Like most members of the mustard family, the flowers are yellow and consist of four petals and six stamens. Loesel's flowers are a brighter yellow than those of tall

tumble-mustard. The tan coloured seeds are produced in long narrow pod-like structures called siliques. In the fall, the plants die but persist and the numerous remains of the open siliques are distinctive.



tumble-mustard



pink twink

Microsteris gracilis

This small annual plant is common in the grasslands and flowers in the spring. It is native to western North America and is a member of the Phlox family and is sometimes called slender phlox. It has small tubular pink flowers that flare outwards at the top as it extends outwards from the green sepals which form a fused tube. The simple leaves are somewhat elliptical and are often hairy and glandular. Three seeds are produced in each capsule.



twink



Wallace's clubmoss

Selaginella wallacei

Clubmoss is often mistaken for a type of moss but is actually a primitive vascular plant. It is very common on rock outcrops and sometimes dominates shallow soil in open grasslands. The plant produces tall club-shaped stems that are four-angled and contain small orange spore-bearing structures in the axils of upper-leaves.

There is some confusion over the identification of club mosses in the southern interior - most specimens had been identified as compact selaginella but recent revisions to the classification indicate this species does not occur in the Kamloops area.



clubmoss



small-flowered woodland star

Lithophragma parviflorum

Woodland star is a small perennial plant that flowers in the spring. The flower petals are three lobed with a large central lobe and two smaller side lobes. Flowers are produced in the upper part of the stem. The palmately-lobed leaves occur mostly at the base of the stems. This species occurs in open forests and grasslands.



woodland star



woodland star

bulbous woodland star

Lithophragma glabrum

Bulbous woodland star is very similar to small-flowered woodland star but the individual petals are less dissected (less deeply lobed) and are divided into three-lobes rather than the five lobes seen in bulbous woodland star. Bulbous woodland star often has individual flowers replaced by small reproductive structures called bulblets that can produce a new plant.



woodland star



woodland star

yarrow*Achillea millefolium*

Yarrow is one of the most common and widespread species in the Southern Interior and ranges from the dry bunchgrass area around Kamloops to cold alpine areas. It is a distinctive species that can readily be identified, even without flowers, by the feathery, dissected leaves. Young plants may only consist of two or three leaves whereas older plants have distinct stems. The flowers occur in flat-topped clusters at the tops of shoots. In the fall, the flowers dry out, turn brown and persist as flat-topped clusters at the tops of dead stems.

**yarrow**



yarrow

yellow bell

Fritillaria pudica

Yellow bell is one of the earliest flowering plants in the Kamloops area. This small member of the lily family flowers in March and sets seed in April. The single dainty yellow flower is replaced by a distinctive oblong capsule that splits open in summer to release small, papery, orange seeds. It occurs in open grasslands in the Kamloops area. Here, it is at its most northern range - it is more widespread in the United States.

This plant is a close relative of the more widespread chocolate lily and northern rice-root, both of which are distinguished by their dark brown



yellow bell



yellow bell

bulbous bluegrass

Poa bulbosa

Blubous bluegrass is a introduced weed that is common in disturbed habitats where it persists and outcompetes most other species. It is probably the most easily recognized bluegrass species because the spikelets are typically replaced by bulbils, small asexual structures that can grow into a new plant. These bulbils are surrounded by several leaf-like structures that give the plant the appearance that the bulbils are forming new plants even before they have fallen off the parent plant.





bluegrass

Kentucky bluegrass

Poa pratensis

This is probably the most common and widespread bluegrass species in BC. It spreads by underground stems and can form dense sods that are about 50 cm tall. It often replaces bunchgrasses in the middle and upper grasslands in heavily grazed areas but is also widespread and common in open forests.

Bluegrasses are a difficult group to identify individual species. Features that help identify Kentucky bluegrass include the purplish-tinged spikelets with cobwebby hairs at the base of individual spikelets and the tendency for the spikelets and branches to bend towards one side of the stem.



bluegrass



bluegrass

Sandberg's bluegrass

Poa secunda ssp *ssecunda* (*Poa sandbergii*)

Sandberg's bluegrass is a common species of grasslands, particularly at lower elevations. It becomes more common and abundant with increased grazing pressure as larger bunchgrasses are eliminated from the site.

The plants are usually 15-30 cm in height and the spikelets are in a somewhat narrow inflorescence. Like other bluegrasses, the leaves are recognized by having folded leaf tips that look like the bow of a boat. The spikelets also have a purplish tinge to them and some species have cobwebby hairs at the base of the developing seeds although these hairs are lacking in Sandberg's bluegrass.

Other common species of bluegrass are generally bigger and more robust than Sandberg's bluegrass.



bluegrass



bluegrass

smooth brome*Bromus inermis*

Smooth brome is a widely planted grass species and is very common along roadways, fields, dry grassy slopes and disturbed areas. It is a tall plant that may grow up to 1.5 m tall and persists for many years. It forms relatively dense sods that spread by underground rhizomes. Spikelets are produced in narrow branching clusters in late spring that are somewhat distinct by their shiny tan, sometimes purplish colour.

**brome**



brome

hard-stemmed bulrush

Schoenoplectus acutus

Hard-stemmed bulrush is a common species of lakes and ponds where it grows in shallow water. It consists of tall naked stems over a meter in height with several spikes borne at the tips of the stems. It is easily confused with soft-stemmed bulrush which is also common which generally has softer stems that are more easily crushed between the fingers.



bulrush



Nevada bulrush

Amphiscirpus nevadensis

This is an uncommon bulrush that is found along the shorelines of saline ponds where it occurs in extensive patches consisting of single stems with several basal leaves arising from underground stems. It is most common east of Kamloops in the Barnhartvale area.

The flowers occur in several small spikes at the top of single unstalked stems.

This species is distantly related to the more common soft-stemmed bulrush which often grows in shallow standing water but the former is substantially shorter and is less than 50 cm tall.





bulrush

seacoast bulrush

Bolboschoenus maritimus

Bulrushes are common species found growing in shallow water. Seacoast bulrush is a distinct species that occurs in alkaline ponds in the Kamloops area. It is a tall grassy-like plant (up to 1.5 m tall) with clumps of brown spikelets near the tips of stems that are subtended by three leafy bracts. Another distinctive feature that helps in the identification of this plant is the large bulbous-like base that is not observed in similar-looking species.



bulrush



bulrush

cheatgrass

Bromus tectorum

Cheatgrass is an introduced annual grass that has probably done more to alter the grasslands in southern BC more than any other introduced species. It is usually small in size (less than 20 cm tall) and quickly grows and sets seed in the spring when moist conditions are prevalent. The seeds have very long awns that are characteristic of this species. In heavily grazed and disturbed areas, cheatgrass is often a dominant species.



cheatgrass



cheatgrass

foxtail barley*Hordeum jubatum*

Foxtail barley is a common species of saline ponds in the Kamloops area where it may form an extensive carpet across the perimeter of ponds as the water dries up over the summer. Occasionally, it also occurs in disturbed habitats along roads and disturbed fields.

It is an attractive grass that produces a distinctive silver, feathery spike up to 10 cm long. It is unlikely to be confused with any other grasses in our local area.

**barley**



rough fescue

Festuca campestris

Rough fescue is a large grass that is a dominant species in climax grassland communities. However, it is a strongly preferred species by cattle and so is absent in over-grazed areas. It forms large dense clumps like bluebunch wheatgrass but the spikelets are arranged in an open branching panicle rather than in a single dense spike. This species prefers slightly moister or cooler sites than bluebunch wheatgrass so it will be more common on north-facing slopes at lower elevations. It increases in abundance with elevation so it replaces bluebunch wheatgrass from all but the warmest and driest sites.

Idaho fescue is also a common grassland fescue but it does not occur in the Kamloops area. It is finer and slightly smaller but with longer awns than rough fescue. Although not completely reliable, rough fescue is usually red at the base of stems whereas Idaho fescue is not.



fescue



fescue

blue gramma

Bouteloua gracilis

Blue gramma is a rare red-listed species that is known from a few locations in BC including a few sites from the Kamloops area. It is a distinct grass in that the tightly grouped purplish spikelets are arranged all along one side of the stem. The plants form non-descript dense mats that would likely be overlooked if the distinctive spikes are absent. This species is far more common in the United States.



gramma



gramma

Indian ricegrass

Achnatherum hymenoides

Indian ricegrass is an attractive, delicate-looking grass. The single seeds are produced in an open panicle of wide-spreading branching spikelets.

This species is not very common. It frequently occurs on sandy soils that have often been deposited by wind and so the soils are typically unstable and are easily subject to disturbance.



ricegrass



ricegrass

junegrass*Koeleria macrantha*

Junegrass is a common grass of middle and upper grasslands where it forms small clumps. The flowering spikes are distinctive because they look quite different depending on the maturity of the spike. When young or old, the spikelets are folded up into relatively dense spikes. However, when the spikelets are mature and open, the small spikelets are borne almost at right-angles to the flowering stems giving the spike a distinctly feathery look. Individual plants form small clumps and do not form extensive turfs or large clumps observed in other grass species.

**junegrass**



junegrass

needle-and-thread grass*Hesperostipa comata (Stipa comata)*

Needle-and-thread grass is a very common in moderately- to heavily-grazed grasslands on dry coarse soils where bluebunch wheatgrass would be expected to occur in climax communities. This is a tall grass with seeds that have very long awns that become twisted and contorted as the seeds dry and become easily attached to passing animals or clothing. It is distinguished from the much rarer porcupine grass by being smaller plants with shorter awns and white, rather than brown, hairs at the base of the grain.

**needle-and-thread grass**



needle-and-thread grass

pinegrass*Calamagrostis rubescens*

Pinegrass is one of the most common native grass species in BC. It is more common at higher elevations where it replaces rough fescue and bluebunch wheatgrass as the dominant grass species. It is more shade-tolerant and is more often found in sheltered shaded areas than bunch-grasses.

Pinegrass rarely flowers in undisturbed sites and spreads primarily by underground stems. The easiest identification feature is to look for fine hairs on the backside of leaves at the base where they join the stem. The leaves are somewhat shiny and sometimes tinged with red.

**pinegrass**



pinegrass

porcupinegrass*Hesperostipa spartea* (*Stipa spartea*)

This is a rare grass in British Columbia. It is known from a few locations in the Southern Interior including sites near Clearwater, Adams River and Barnhartvale. It should not be confused with short-awned porcupinegrass (*Hesperostipa curtisea*) which is abundant to the north in the Cariboo Region.

It closely resembles needle-and-thread grass but is a larger coarser plant with much longer awns and brown hairs at the base of the grain.

**porcupinegrass**



porcupinegrass

red three-awn grass

Aristida purpureus

This grass is uncommon in the Kamloops area. It occurs on coarse-textured soils on the driest and sunniest microsites. In the spring, the plants have a fine, feathery look with the upper half of the plant appearing red in colour. The seeds of the grass are very distinct - each seed has three long, divergent awns that are bent at right-angles. The seeds are produced in open loose spikes at the top of stems.



red three-awn



red three-awn

seashore saltgrass

Distichlis spicata

Seashore saltgrass is a tough wiry greenish yellow grass that occurs in saline areas usually as a narrow band around ponds. The shoots arise from thick scaly underground rhizomes. The spikelets are yellowish and look like overlapping scales. This is one of the few grass species that is dioecious where male and female flowers are on separate plants.



saltgrass



saltgrass

field sedge*Carex prigracilis*

Field sedge is a common species that forms extensive patches on the shore of saline ponds. The shoots arise from creeping underground stems. Spikelets are borne in clusters at the tips of stems that are sharply triangular in cross-section. Several long sheathing grass-like leaves at the base of the stem. There are many species of sedges in BC and many are difficult to identify - the habitat of this species eliminates most other species with which it may be confused.

**sedge**



sedge

Ross's sedge

Carex rossii

This is a common sedge of dry grasslands and open forests. It forms small tufts about 15 cm tall. Like other sedges, small spikelets are produced at the tips of stems. Ross's sedge has only a few individual spikelets. Unlike most sedges, Ross's sedge will also bare several spikelets on short stalks at the base of the stem.



sedge



sedge

bluebunch wheatgrass

Pseudoroegneria spicata

Bluebunch wheatgrass is the most common dominant grass in ungrazed grasslands. Unlike turf grasses, this species of grass forms “bunches”. It is very common in grasslands and dry open forests. The seeds are arranged on alternating sides of the spike. These spikes are distinctive, even after the seeds have been dispersed. Rough fescue, another bunchgrass, has seeds located at the ends of branches.



wheatgrass



wheatgrass

crested wheatgrass

Agropyron cristatum

Crested wheatgrass is an introduced species that is very common in southern BC. It is commonly planted along road edges and other disturbed areas. Unlike most other weedy species, it does not tend to spread but it will persist wherever it has been seeded. It produces seeds in two rows at the head of the spike. This is quite distinctive and is unlikely to be confused with anything other grass species.



wheatgrass



wheatgrass

giant wildrye *Leymus cinereus* (*Elymus cinereus*)

Giant wildrye is a distinctive large grass that frequently occurs in shallow depressions in the grasslands often on somewhat saline soils.. Much of the habitat in which this species occurs has been heavily disturbed or destroyed by development and so most plants are often seen in disturbed habitats where water may collect for short periods of time such as the banks of roadside ditches. It is a big grass, often over a meter in height, and the broad strap-shaped bluish-green leaves are distinctive as are the long cylindrical spikes that appear in late spring.



wildrye



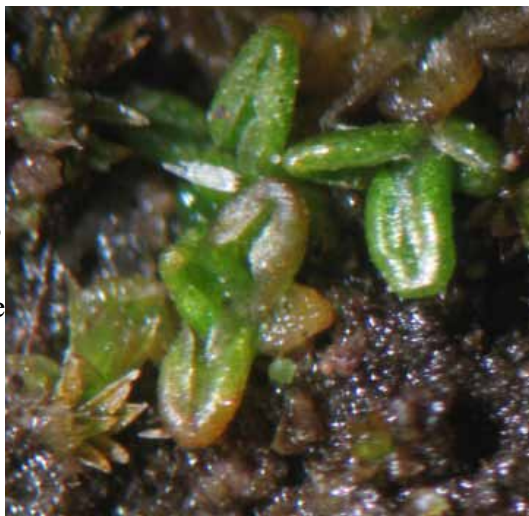
wildrye

rigid aloe-moss

Aloina rigida

Rigid aloe-moss is a characteristic species of grasslands. It has many of the characteristics of moss species adapted to harsh, dry environments. The small fleshy leaves are covered in loose columns of green cells on the upper leaf surface that increase the surface area of the leaf that is photosynthetically active. However, the leaf margins are longitudinally folded over the upper surface of the leaf that help prevent water loss so that the leaf is somewhat structured like a miniature greenhouse.

This is a very small species that occurs as small scattered patches on mineral soil.



aloe-moss



aloe-moss

yellow awn candle snuffer moss

Encalpta raptocarpa

This is probably the most common species of candle snuffer moss in the Kamloops area. All species belonging to this genus have these large coverings over the developing capsules that resemble a candle snuffer. This is a distinct character for those species belonging to this genus. The leaves are tipped by small clear awns. This species is common in open grasslands but often occurs on sheltered microsites growing on alkaline soils.



candle snuffer moss



candle snuffer moss

electrified cat's-tail moss*Rhytidiadelphus triquetrus*

Electrified cat's-tail moss gets its fanciful name from the messily arranged wide-spreading leaves on the stems that resemble the tail of a cat that has been electrocuted. This is a common plant on the forest floor usually on steep north-facing slopes where sunlight is reduced and air temperatures are somewhat cooler. This helps the moss to remain photosynthetically active for extended periods of time. Like most mosses and unlike most plants, electrified cat's-tail moss can dry out completely for months at a time but can quickly revive once it is remoistened by water.



cat's-tail moss

fire-moss*Ceratodon purpureus*

Fire-moss is the dandelion of the moss world. It is found in almost any kind of habitat that has been disturbed. The most distinctive feature of this species is the burgundy colour of the mature capsules and stalks. The leafy stems are non-descript and can easily be confused with other species.

**fire-moss**



fire-moss

golden curl-moss

Homalothecium aeneum

Golden curl-moss is a fairly common moss of dry forested areas. It produces branching shoots with long narrow pointed leaves that are closely overlapping along the stem. The leaves are a glossy yellowish green colour that is quite distinctive. Other common branching mosses are not as shiny as this genus. Likewise the leaves are sharply triangular in outline and have straight leaf margins rather than curved margins commonly observed in other genera. The name “curl” refers to the stems and branches that often form tight curls when the moss is dry.

A number of *Homalothecium* species occur in British Columbia of which *H. aeneum* is likely to be the most common species in the Southern Interior.





curl-moss

awned haircap moss

Polytrichum piliferum

Awned haircap moss is a wide-ranging species from open grasslands to alpine rock outcrops. It is very common on rock outcrops in open grasslands and dry forested areas. It belongs to a group of species collectively known as haircap mosses that are quite distinct from other species in that they have thick leaves (more than 1 cell-layer thick) and capsules that are covered by a hairy covering. Awned haircap moss is distinguished from other species by having long clear awns from the tips of the leaves.



haircap moss



haircap moss

lawn moss

Brachythecium albicans

Lawn moss belongs to the genus *Brachythecium* a large and difficult group of species that are hard to identify. Fortunately there are only a few *Brachythecium* species in the Kamloops area. Lawn moss is most often found in shaded sites on soil but may also occur in open areas on rock outcrops. It sometimes occur with curl-moss which is also yellowish-green in colour but lawn moss does not have tightly curled stems and branches and the leaf margins are curved rather than straight and the leaf tip extends as a long and narrow point.



lawn moss



lawn moss

steppe mouse-moss

Coscinodon calyptratus

Steppe mouse-moss is a common moss on boulders and rock outcrops in open grasslands where it forms dense, greenish black cushions with silver highlights. The leaves have long, clear awns that give the plants the silvery appearance. It is a common species but may be confused with several other species of mosses. The key feature that separates it from other species are the large straw-coloured striated coverings that almost completely enclose the developing capsules.



mouse-moss



mouse-moss

toothed phascum moss*Phascum cuspidatum*

This is a tiny moss that occurs on mineral soil in open grasslands usually in sunny locations. It is a common species. The plants consist of a few yellowish-green leaves that surround the developing capsule that, once mature, remains immersed within the leaves. By summer, this species has all but disappeared as the soil dries out. However, it is a perennial species that resprouts from buds at the base of living plants.

**phascum moss**



phascum moss

ovate pterygoneurum moss

Pterygoneurum ovatum

Ovate pterygoneurum moss is a common tiny moss that occurs in open grasslands often on calcareous soils. The small cluster of leaves are no more than 2 mm long and end in a silvery awn. The upper surface of the leaves have a columns of photosynthetic cells like that of aloe-moss but they are fewer in number in pterygoneurum. Unlike phascum moss, mature capsules are exserted above the leaves. The capsule has a lid shaped like a beak which eventually falls off allowing the spores to be dispersed into passing air currents. It is one of the most common species of open grasslands.



pterygoneurum moss



pterygoneurum moss

woolly caterpillar moss

Pterygoneurum subsessile

Woolly caterpillar moss is closely related to, and belongs to the same genus as ovate pterygoneurum moss. It is also a very small moss with leaves about 2 mm long that end in a long silvery awn. It also has several columns of photosynthetic cells on the upper leaf surface. It is distinguished from ovate pterygoneurum moss by having capsules on much shorter stalks that barely emerge from the surrounding leaves. It also has a distinctive beaked lid that eventually falls off to release spores to passing air currents. This species is less common than ovate pterygoneurum moss.



pterygoneurum moss

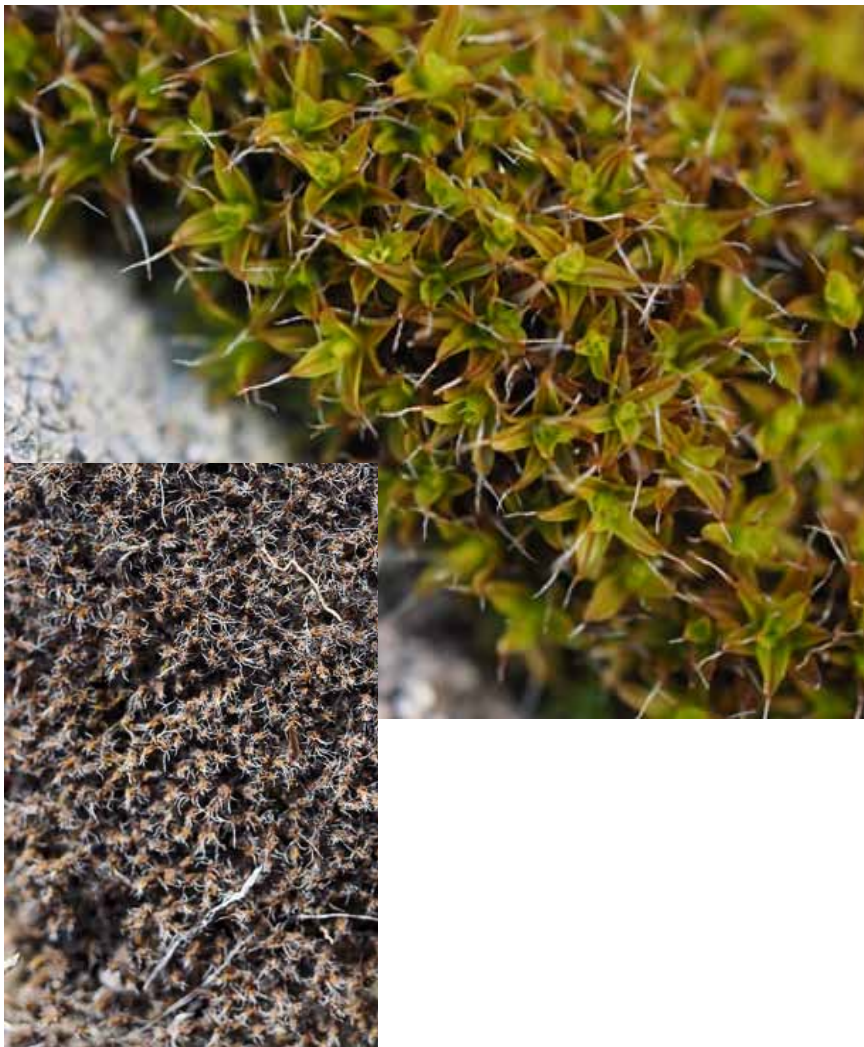


pterygoneurum moss

sidewalk screw moss

Tortula ruralis

Sidewalk screw moss is probably the most common and obvious species of moss in dry open forests and grasslands. Like many other mosses that occur in open grasslands, the tips of the leaves have a clear hair point consisting of clear dead leaf cells. This species is sometimes confused with haircap mosses but the latter group of species lack a distinct leaf midrib that is easily visible in sidewalk moss with a hand lens.



screw moss



screw moss

silver-moss*Bryum argenteum*

Silver-moss is a common species of open grasslands and disturbed areas. When moist, it has a whitish green colour but when it is dry, it has a whitish, often silvery colour. This colour comes from the lack of chlorophyll in the upper half of most leaves. It is often quite abundant in early spring in open grasslands as soon as the snow melts but largely disappears by summer as drought conditions and higher temperatures prevail.

**silver-moss**



silver-moss

step moss

Hylocomium splendens

Step moss is an attractive moss that occurs in forested areas, typically on slopes with cool aspects or sheltered areas where exposure to the sun is reduced. It gets its name from the series of fronds that appear step-wise in which a new frond emerges from the center of the previous year's frond. Like most mosses, step moss produces capsules on small erect stalks that release spores to passing air currents.



step moss



step moss

ectomorphic reindeer lichen

Cladina mitis

Species of *Cladina* are often present on rock outcrops in open forested areas. They are similar to clad lichens (*Cladonia* species) but lack cup-like structures and lack a hard outer surface so that the surface of the lichen looks slightly fuzzy in comparison to most clad lichens when viewed with a hand lens. The upper portion of reindeer lichens branch and those of ectomorphic reindeer lichen tend to branch in threes and fours.



reindeer lichen



reindeer lichen

cowpie lichen

Diploschistes muscorum

Cowpie lichen is a very common crustose lichen of open grasslands. It forms white to tan-coloured crusts on mineral soil. The fruiting structures consist of small black pie-shaped disks that occur over the upper surface of the thallus. This, like many lichen species, are fragile so that their abundance often indicates an area that has not been subject to recent over-grazing. This species is wide-ranging and also occurs on soil in alpine areas.



cowpie lichen



cowpie lichen

foot-step firedot

Caloplaca tominii

Foot-step firedot lichen is a common species on soil in open grasslands. It is quite distinct and appears as bright orange and yellow powder on the soil. This is a type of crustose lichen that is part of a large and diverse genus. The powdery soredia is a form of asexual reproduction where each granule consists of a few fungal hyphae and algal cells that can be carried on air currents and deposited elsewhere to colonize new areas.





black-bellied pelt lichen

Peltigera rufescens

Pelt lichens are a common and diverse group of species. One of the most common pelt lichens is black-bellied pelt a common species of open grasslands and other very dry and sunny sites. This is a gray to brown species often characterized by having upturned margins unlike the common dog pelt lichen (*Peltigera canina*) which tends to occur in more sheltered areas. Most pelt lichens are fuzzy on the lower surface and often have distinct veins. Black-bellied pelt lichen is also fuzzy on the upper surface near the tips of lobes. The fruiting bodies are common and form dark brown patches on upright lobes.





pelt lichen

common toes

Toninia sedifolia

Common toes is a common and widespread lichen species that occurs on soil and rock, usually in calcareous substrates, in alpine areas as well as grasslands.





timber wolf lichen

Letharia vulpina

Timber wolf lichen is one of the most easily recognizable species of lichens in the southern interior. The bright yellow branching lichen is common on Douglas-fir and Ponderosa pine trunks and branches, particularly in exposed areas.



wolf lichen



wolf lichen

