

yellow flowers

Prairie Groundsel *Senecio plattensis* Aster family; perennial; May-June. Up to 10 flower heads cluster at top of stem, which is up to 18 inches tall. Some groundsel produce a toxin which causes liver damage.



Stemless Hymenoxys *Hymenoxys acaulis* Aster family; perennial; May-July. Deep yellow blossoms are 2 inches across. Plants are less than a foot tall and grow in dry places.



Yellow Sweetclover *Melilotus officinalis* Legume family; June-August. These flowers blanket hillsides and fields in a light yellow. The plants are 2-5 feet tall. Originally from Europe, the yellow sweetclover escaped cultivation. A good forage food, especially for mule deer.

Western Salsify *Tragopogon dubius* Aster family; perennial; May-August. Flowerheads over 2 inches across crown 1- to 3-foot stems. Cultivated in Europe and brought to North America by early colonists, it was quickly adopted by Native Americans as a food source. Cooked taproots taste like parsnips or oysters. Found on dry prairies and roadsides.



Missouri Goldenrod *Solidago missouriensis* Aster family; perennial; July-September. Grows 8 to 30 inches tall in a variety of habitats including dry prairie and other open places.

Stiff Goldenrod *Solidago rigid* Aster family; perennial; August. Stout, unbranched stems reach 3 feet in height and are capped by clusters of flowers. Found in upland prairies.



Black-eyed Susan *Rudbeckia hirta* Aster family; biennial or short-lived perennial; July-August. This showy flower is found in meadows and on disturbed ground. Flower heads are 2½ inches across and stems are 1 to 2 feet tall.



Upright Prairie Coneflower *Ratibida columnifera* Aster family; perennial; June-September. This common prairie flower grows to 3 feet in height. Prairie Native Americans used the flowering heads to make a tea-like beverage.



Curlycup Gumweed *Grindelia squarrosa* Aster family; biennial; June-November. Numerous sticky flower heads about 1 inch across grow on many-branched plants 6 to 30 inches tall. Used by Native Americans to treat colic, and by early pioneers to treat whooping cough. Still used in medicine as a sedative, an antispasmodic, an expectorant, and to treat poison ivy.

Common Sunflower *Helianthus annuus* Aster family; annual; late June-October. Large 2- to 6-inch flower heads top 1- to 10-foot stems. Seeds were a favorite food of the Plains Native Americans.



Common Mullein *Verbascum thaspus* Snapdragon family; biennial; July-September. A native of Europe, this plant grows on hillsides and overgrazed pastures. Pale yellow flowers an inch wide grow atop a thick stem up to 6 feet tall. Dead stems may stand for years, providing a winter food source for small birds.



beware of poison ivy!

Poison ivy does not have showy flowers, but it is illustrated here because it should be avoided. Many people develop a persistent, irritating rash after contacting this plant.



Poison Ivy *Rhus radicans* Cashew family; perennial; June-November. Leaflets 2-4 inches in length, often shiny and drooping, occur in threes atop 6- to 12-inch stems. In autumn, leaves vary in color from green to yellow to brilliant red. Grows in moist areas and rocky crevices, and is found along many of the Monument's surface trails.

Wildflowers

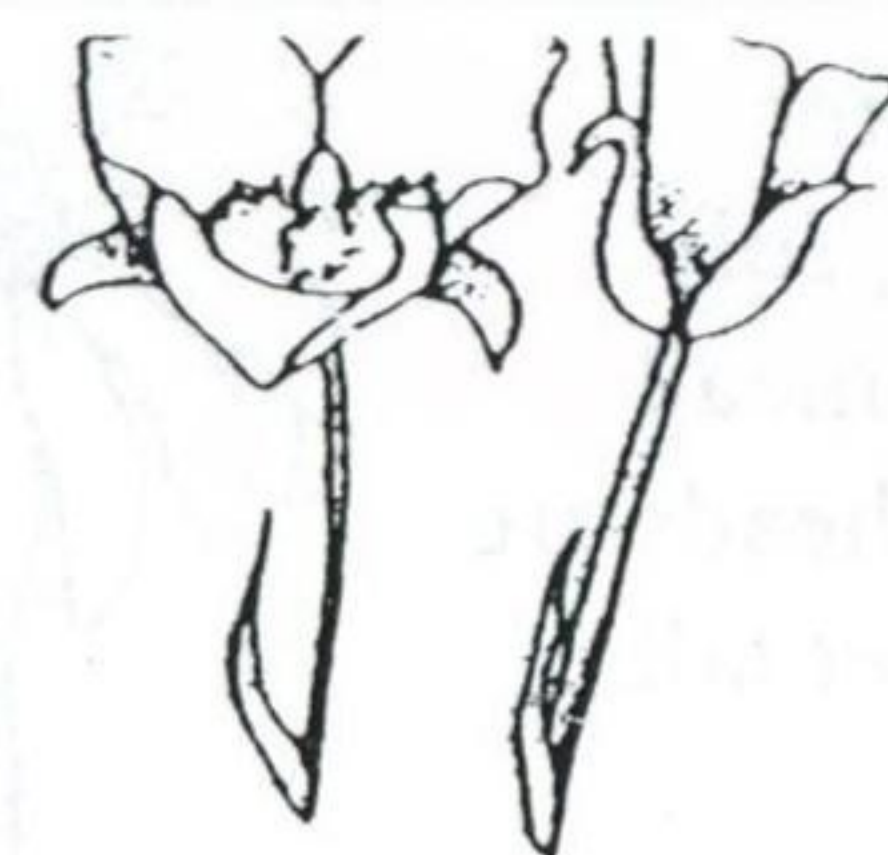
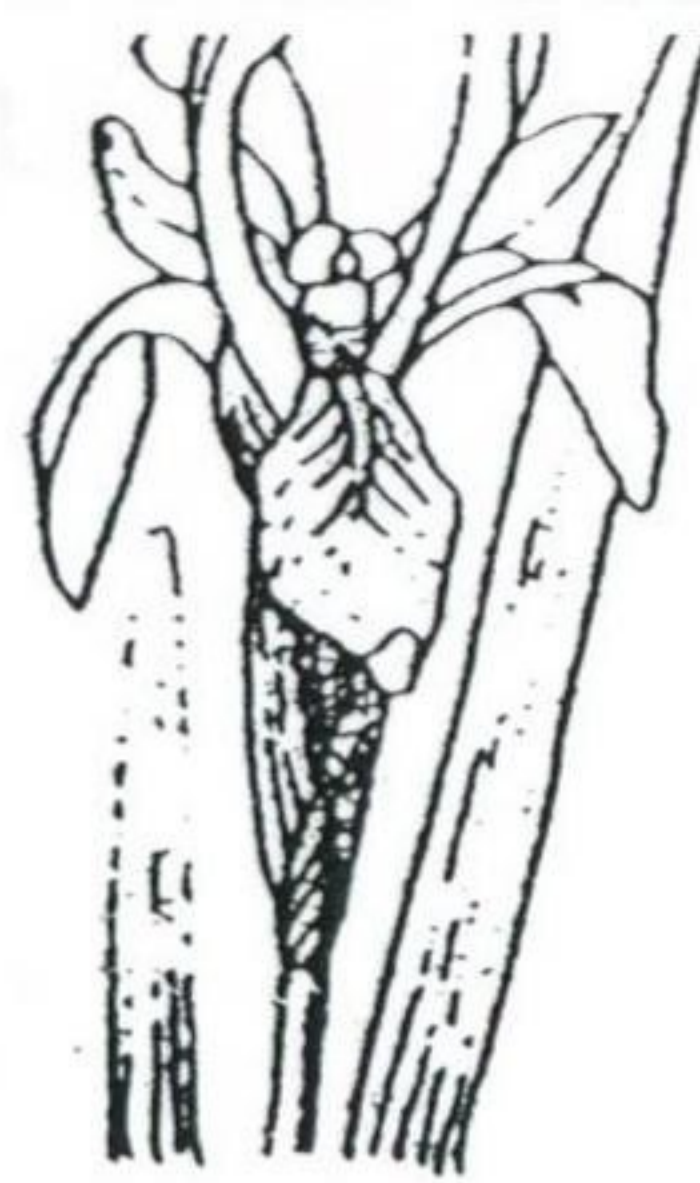


Dotted Gayfeather

This guide introduces a few of the 393 plants that occur at Jewel Cave National Monument. Wildflowers can be found at the Visitor Center, the Historic Area, and along all surface trails. *Enjoy the flowers*—look at them, smell them, compare them, sketch them, photograph them—but *please do not pick or otherwise disturb them!*

blue flowers

Rocky Mountain (Blueflag) Iris *Iris missouriensis* Iris family; perennial; May-June. Grows to 2 feet. Flowers are usually pale lavender, but may be much darker or lighter. Found in meadows and open woods. Rootstocks are poisonous.



Sego Lily *Calochortus gunnisonii* Lily family; perennial; June-July. Entire plant is edible. Native Americans favored the bulb, which tastes like a potato. Found on hillsides and dry, open areas. The name *sego* is of Shoshone origin.



Wavyleaf thistle *Cirsium Undulatum* Aster family; biennial; late June-September. Grows in patches on well-drained prairie. Flower heads are 2 to 2½ inches across.



American Vetch *Vicia americana* Legume family; perennial; May-June. Weak, straggling stems often grow to three feet. Common in thickets, moist meadows, and prairie grasslands. Valuable forage plant.

Common Yarrow *Achillea millefolium* Aster family; perennial; late May-August. Tiny white flowers and fragrant, fern-like leaves grow on a plant 1 to 3 feet tall. Favors waste places, overgrazed pastures, and roadsides. Leaves can be steeped for tea or chewed for toothache, as a stimulant, or as a tonic.



Horsemint/Wild Bergamot/Bee Balm *Monarda fistulosa* Mint family; perennial; June-August. Grows up to 3 feet tall. Lavender flower heads are 1 to 3 inches across. Minty odor is distinctive. Native Americans used leaves in vapor treatments for colds and bronchial disorders. Found in prairies and open woods.



Blue Flax *Linum perenne* Flax family; perennial; June-July. Sky-blue flower waves in the wind atop a 10-inch stem with narrow leaves. Found on hills and eroded banks. Some varieties are cultivated.



False Solomonseal/Starry Solomonplume/Wild Lily of the Valley *Smilacina stellata* Lily family; perennial; May-July. Six-rayed flowers grow on a 1- to 3-foot plant that frequents moist soils. Elk eat the green leaves and stems.



Field Chickweed *Cerastium arvense* Pink family; perennial; May-July. Flowers ¼-½ inch across have deeply notched petals. Grows in calcareous or salty soils.



Woolly Verbena/Woolly Vervain *Verbena stricta* Vervain family; perennial; late June-September. Flowers are less than ½ inch across. Clusters of stems grow 2 to 4 feet tall. Drought resistant; grows in fields and prairies. Grazing animals avoid it because of its bitter juice.



Common Blue-eyed Grass *Sisyrinchium montanum* Iris family; perennial; May-June. Plant is inconspicuous until the small, deep-blue flowers bloom atop 5- to 12-inch stems. Found in moist meadows.



Bluebell (of Scotland)/Harebell *Campanula rotundifolia* Bluebell family; perennial; July-August. Plant has rounded leaves at base of thin 12-inch stems and very narrow, linear leaves on the stems. Frequents meadows and woods.



Three-nerve Fleabane *Erigeron subtrinervis* Aster family; perennial; July-August. Named for three prominent nerves extending the length of each leaf. Pale purple flower heads top 1- to 2-foot stems. Favors open woods and shaded places.



red & purple flowers

Pale-purple Coneflower *Echinacea angustifolia* Aster family; perennial; June-July. Grows 1 to 2 feet tall. An important medicinal plant for Native Americans.



Dotted Gayfeather (illustrated on front cover) *Liatris punctata* Aster family; perennial; August-October. The ½-inch, pink to purple flower heads lie closely along the 1- to 2-foot stem. Leaves are "dotted" with minute scars. Found in dry or sandy prairie in the high plains.

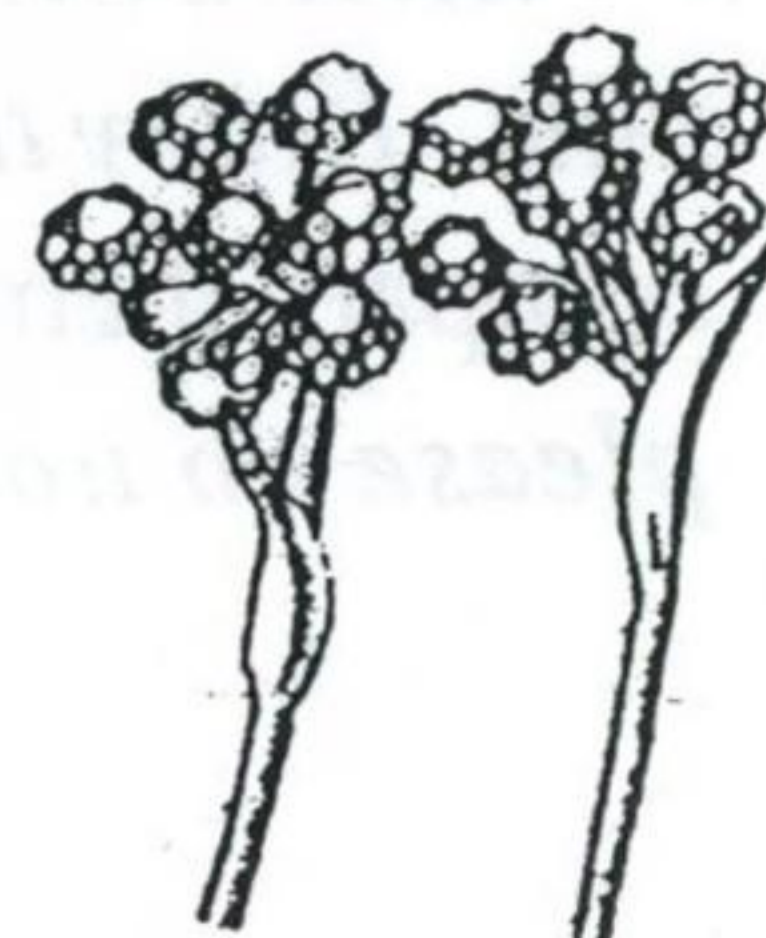
Purple Prairieclover *Petalostemum purpureum* Legume family; perennial; June-September. Magenta flowers ¼ inch long are fragrant when bruised. Prairie Native Americans prepared a tea with the dried leaves or chewed the roots to produce a binding effect on the bowels.



Scarlet Guara *Guara coccinea* Evening-primrose family; perennial; June-August. Delicate coral-pink flowers resemble honeysuckle blossoms. Stems grow to 18 inches in height. Found on dry plains. Native Americans sometimes ate the coarse, fibrous roots as a last resort.

white flowers

Red Pussytoes *Antennaria rosea* Aster family; perennial; May-June. Flowering stalks are 5 inches tall. White, fuzzy flowers are surrounded by pinkish bracts.



Pasqueflower *Anemone patens* Buttercup family; perennial; late March-May. "Blossoms" 1 to 1½ inches across consist of sepals rather than petals and vary from white to deep lavender. Stems are 2 to 16 inches tall. Found throughout the high plains. State flower of South Dakota.

Meadow (Wild) Rose *Rosa blanda* Rose family; perennial; May-June. Fragrant blossoms are usually mottled pink, but vary from white to deep red. Stems grow to 30 inches in height. Fruits, called *rose hips*, are a winter food for wildlife. Grows on prairie and prairie remnants.

