

## NATIVE PRAIRIE PLANTS

-Grasses-

Saskatchewan Watershed Authority - Native Prairie Activity Guide 2007



### Blue Grama Grass

- Seed head looks like eyelashes or eyebrows.
- Leaves are short and curly.
- Grows in clumps or bunches.
- Roots are short and stringy.
- Grows in dry areas.
- Sign of too many livestock feeding in the area.
- First Nations peoples used the Blue Grama grass to tell what the winter would be like. If there was only one seed spike, the winter would be mild. If there were two or more, the winter would be cold.

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### Foxtail Barley

- Heads look like a feathery fox's tail.
- Leaves are bluish-green.
- Roots are short.
- Seeds spread by catching on animal fur and on people's clothes.
- Grows up to 60 cm tall.
- Often seen growing along roadsides or along back lanes in the cities.
- Likes moist and saline (salty) areas.
- One of "nature's band-aids," it fills in bare earth.

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### Needle and Thread Grass

- Official provincial grass of Saskatchewan.
- Seed has a long, soft, curled beard which looks like a needle and thread.
- Roots are short and stringy.
- Grows in clumps or bunches.
- Grows in dry areas.
- Good food for livestock and wildlife.

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## NATIVE PRAIRIE PLANTS

-Wildflower-

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### Goldenbean

- Related to the pea plant.
- Flowers are bright, golden yellow.
- Blooms early in the spring.
- Leaves are covered by soft grey hairs.
- Seeds look like grey-brown beans.
- Grows up to 50 cm tall.
- Roots are shallow, spreading rhizomes.
- Roots store nitrogen in the soil.
- When eaten by cows, their milk has a strange taste and smell.

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## NATIVE PRAIRIE PLANTS

-Wildflower-

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### Prairie Coneflower

- Flowers are yellow and daisy-like.
- A long grey-brown cone is in the center of each flower.
- Petals look like they are hanging down around the cone.
- Grows up to 70 cm tall.
- Grows in dry areas all over the prairies.

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-Wildflower-

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### Smooth Aster

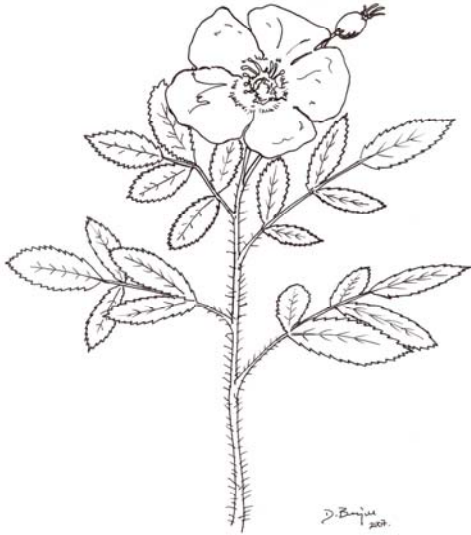
- Flowers are blue and daisy-like.
- Each blue flower has a yellow or brown center.
- Long leaves, wide at the bottom with a pointed tip.
- Stems are thin.
- Grows mainly in the Parkland.

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-Wildflower-

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### Prickly Rose

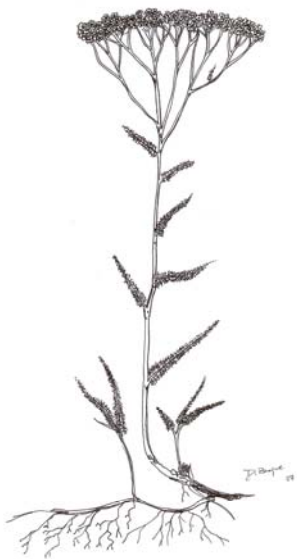
- Flowers are pink to pale white.
- Stem is prickly with tiny thorns.
- Leaves are made up of about 7 hairy, leaflets.
- Berry-like fruit is called a rose hip.
- Grows up to 1 metre tall.
- Grows in woodlands, in ditches and in valleys.
- Rose hips are very high in vitamin C.

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### Yarrow

- One of the most common white flowers of Saskatchewan.
- Many little, white flowers in flower head.
- Pale blue-green leaves are feathery looking.
- Stems look fuzzy.
- Grows up to 30 cm tall.
- Found in grasslands, pastures, along shorelines and stream edges.
- Used as a medicine plant.

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## NATIVE PRAIRIE PLANTS

-Shrub/Tree-

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### Chokecherry

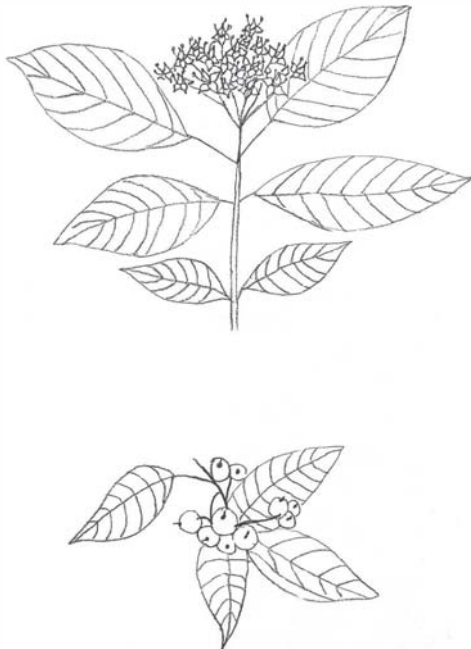
- Small white flowers grow in bunches.
- Each flower has 5 petals.
- Leaves are oval and dark green on top, light green on bottom, with a small saw-like edge.
- Grows up to 6 metres tall.
- Grows in moist areas.
- Berries are dark reddish purple.
- Wildlife and people eat the berries.
- Jam, jelly and syrup can be made from the berries.

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## NATIVE PRAIRIE PLANTS

-Woody Shrub-

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### Red-osier Dogwood

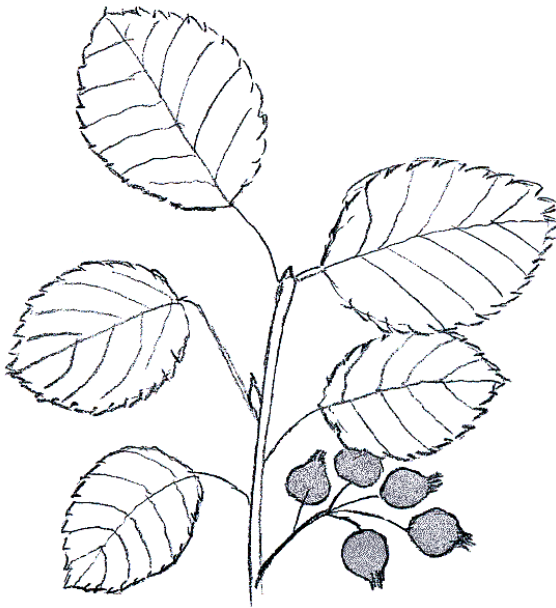
- Small white flowers grow in bunches.
- Woody stems are red.
- Leaves are green, round at the bottom with a point.
- Has white, waxy berries in the fall.
- Grows 1 to 2 metres tall.
- Grows in wet areas.
- Called *deer candy* because animals love to eat it.
- Used by First Nations people as a medicine plant.

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- Woody Shrub/Tree-

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### Saskatoon

- White flowers grow in small bunches.
- Leaves are roundish with a saw-like edge.
- Grows 2-3 metres tall.
- Grows in moist areas, often in valleys.
- Berries and leaves are food for livestock and wildlife.
- Jam, jelly and syrup can be made from the dark blue berries.
- Aboriginal people used these berries in making pemmican.

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-Woody Shrub-

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### Wolfwillow (silverwillow)

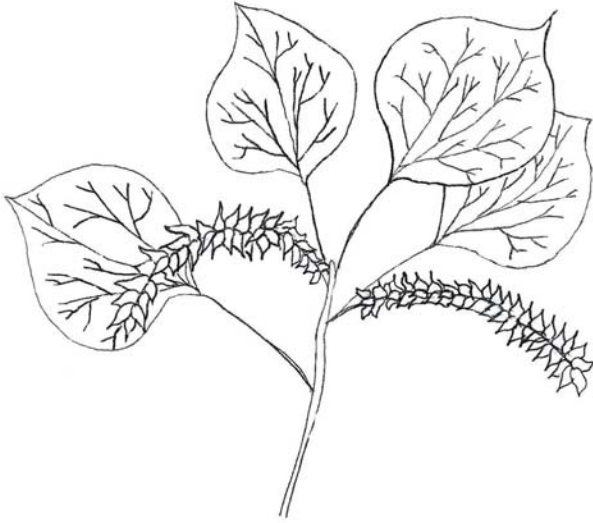
- Flowers are small and yellow, with a strong scent.
- Berries are grey with striped seeds.
- Leaves are silver grey and rough on both sides.
- Roots store nitrogen in the soil.
- Grows 2 to 5 metres tall.
- Grows in drier, sandy soils.
- It is spreading into the native prairie.

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## NATIVE PRAIRIE PLANTS

-Tree-

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### Trembling Aspen

- Bark is whitish-grey.
- Leaves are heart-shaped and shiny green.
- Leaves turn yellow in the fall.
- Leaves look like they are shaking all the time.
- Grows up to 30 metres tall.
- Grows in moist areas and in valleys.
- Many trees grow together in clumps.
- Beavers like to use Aspen to make their lodges (homes).