

Weekly Wild Wednesday

September 20th, 2023
What a Week of "Sprouts and Seeds"



O Canada!

This Rare to the area Rocky Mountain Maple was near Waterton, and WOW, what an appropriate leaf for our Canada Hiking Trip!
← Click photo for details of this gorgeous shrub!

And so many plentiful, bounteous plants are emerging from the large burned areas in the 2017 wildfires.

Fireweed was blooming and in seed everywhere in this newly recovering burn areas! Click for details! →



← Pearly Everlasting was covered in pollinators!
What a darling flower!



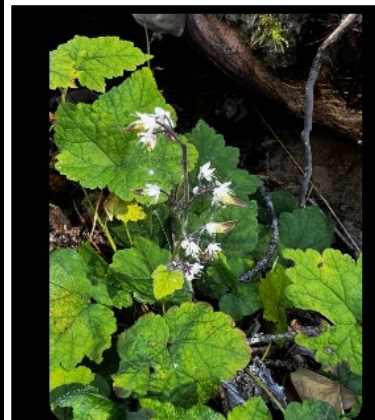
All photos from Dawn!
Click any photo for links!



Vaccinium membranaceum grows at higher elevations in **subalpine** and **alpine** environments. It occurs in both **pine** and **spruce** dominated forests and in open meadow ecosystems. In forests *V. membranaceum* often dominates the forest **understory** during early to mid stages of **succession**.^[5] *Vaccinium membranaceum* is fire adapted. The leaves and stems of the huckleberry are resistant to low-intensity fires, and if burned away they will resprout vigorously from rhizomes buried under the soil.^[5]



Purple clematis and mountain ash



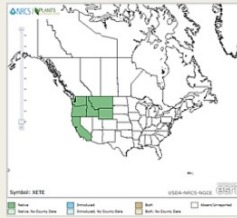
Three leaf Foamflower

Plant of the Week

Bear-grass (*Xerophyllum tenax*)

By Russ Holmes

Bear-grass is in the Liliaceae (lily family) which contains 478 species in North America and approximately 4,200 species worldwide distributed mostly in the tropics. It is a diverse plant family and includes numerous important ornamentals, a number of important agricultural crops and has been the source of valuable pharmacopoeia. Leaves of Bear-grass are collected from wild populations and



Xerophyllum tenax range map. USDA PLANTS Database.



Bear-grass (*Xerophyllum tenax*). Photo by Barbara Mumblo.

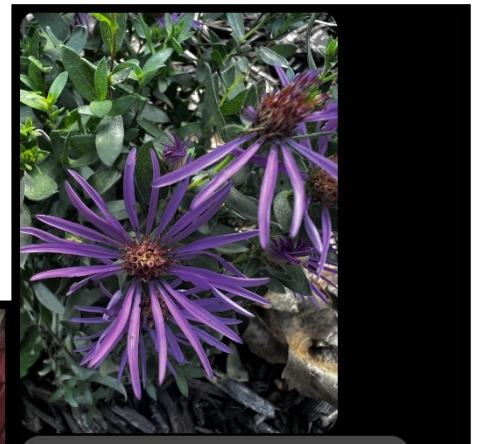
←The Star of the Show was Bear Grass! What a gorgeous plant! We thought it was a grass, then we thought it was a sedge...

Turns out it is in the Lilly family! Liliaceae!

Below, this downtown Prairie in the Sky with a weather station caught our eye! We saw a bee way up there in the concrete jungle! Grow Wild-- Anywhere!



And I saw my VERY FIRST wild Silky Aster in full bloom in the prairie at Zales second Feed and Seed this year! Yippeeooooooooooooo!
Below, Dawn's wildflower garden in her yard has a Silky in full bloom, too!



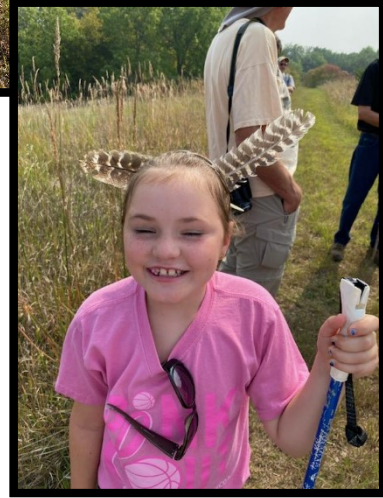
My silky aster blooming!

MMS 11:02 AM

Wooooooowwwww!!!!



Beargrass



We collected many buckets of seed and had SO much FUN!
The food was amazing!
Thanks, Dotty and Bill for your SECOND Seed and Feed of this year!



Next Opportunity-- Mark Your Calendars!
Prairie Hills Feed N Seed RSVP 712-540-0952
October 7th 2PM-5:30 PM

Upcoming Events

- **Members Only Seed Harvest at Flathers-Wetmore Prairie**
Oct 8th, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
- **Annual Meeting, Potluck, and Seed Share!**
Nov 12th, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
- **Hand's On Winter Sowing Plant and Take**
Jan 14th, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

We have SO many fun upcoming events!
← Click for website details!



American bumble bee (*Bombus pensylvanicus*) roosting on pitcher sage. Nikon [105mm macro lens](#). ISO 1000, f/16, 1/100 sec.

If I was a bird, I'd just patrol pitcher sage plants every morning and eat as many bumble bees as I felt like. Or, maybe the fuzz-to-food ratio is a little high on bumble bees? Maybe not, since it doesn't stop birds from eating moths and butterflies, which are both fuzzy-bodied and scaly-winged. It's probably good that I'm not a bird...

← Chris always makes us laugh! Click for his full blogpost!

And below, click for the link to the MANY opportunities YOU have to harvest seeds out in the prairies of the Loess Hills!
Thanks, Golden Hills!

LOESS HILLS PRAIRIE SEED HARVEST

AUG 31 6-8PM	HITCHCOCK NATURE CENTER
SEPT 10 6-8PM	MOUNT CRESCENT - CANCELED
SEPT 11 6-8PM	MURRAY HILL SCENIC OVERLOOK
SEPT 18 530-730PM	LOESS HILLS STATE FOREST
SEPT 19 530-730PM	WAUBONSIE STATE PARK
OCT 2 530-7PM	DOROTHY PECAUT NATURE CENTER
OCT 3 5-7PM	HITCHCOCK NATURE CENTER
OCT 4 5-7PM	ARMSTRONG FARM (PISGAH)
OCT 4 5-7PM	FIVE RIDGE PRAIRIE
OCT 11 430-630PM	SMOKEY HILLS (TURIN)
OCT 18 5-7PM	GREEN HILL WMA
OCT 23 5-7PM	HITCHCOCK NATURE CENTER

Volunteers needed! No experience necessary. Events may be rescheduled due to inclement weather, so check back the day of the event.

Details at goldenhillsrcd.org/prairieseed



Wishing you a week filled with "Seeds (and Seeds and Seeds)!"

