

Weekly Wild Wednesday

November 29th, 2023

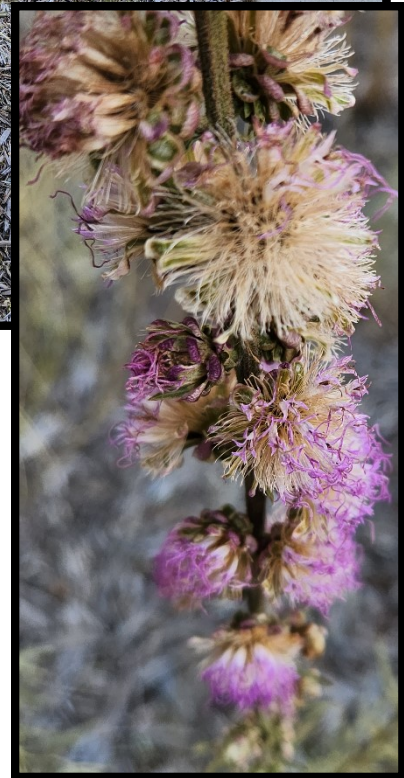
What a Week of "Winter Inspiration!"

We took a road trip to Prairie Woods Nature Center and their gardens were filled with Winter Interest! There were blossoms here and there, and drying seed heads SO full of beauty in the shelter of the building.



The Aster above was only ONE left that we saw in full glory! What a treat! Late Purple American Aster?

Below, this fallen tree is wrapped in a fluffy stole of snow, showcasing the next adventure of life this wood will support as Nature takes it's course.



The Partridge Pea had ONE struggling bit of color bravely hanging on, while shedding LOADS of seed all around the base!



The seed pods twist and explode when you barely brush against them!

IOWA PRAIRIE Plants

HOME ABOUT COUNTIES GLOSSARY

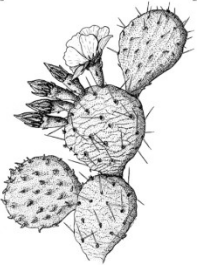
Browse by: Classification | Scientific Name | Common Name

Search: Angiosperms: Dicotyledons -> Cactaceae -> Opuntia

Angiosperms: Dicotyledons

Cactaceae
Cactus Family

Eastern prickly pear
Opuntia humifusa (Raf.) Raf
Opuntia compressa (Scribn.) J. P. Macbr



Stem: joints flattened into fleshy, oval segments about 4 1/2" long, dull green, with 1/2" (1") spines solitary or in pairs.

Inflorescence: few flowers attached to the upper, curving edge of terminal joints.


Flowers: many yellow petals, about 1" long, many stamens and a single style, every tapering petal attached at the top of the ovary (inferior ovary), with spines, flowering from mid-June to mid-July.

Fruit: red, columnar, 1" to 2" long.

Habitat: very infrequent, only on dry, rocky, or sandy prairies.

Bibliography from Biodiversity Heritage Library

Can be found in these counties:



Legend for counties found in these counties:

Appanoose	Black Hawk	Buchanan
Hardin	Lewis	Muscatine
Plymouth	Polk	Pottawattami
Woodbury		

2023 - Baldwin
Prickly - Pear
Cactus
fruits - seeds inside

near Creighton NE

How to Grow Prickly Pear Cactus from Seed



The fruit is full of small seeds to start from. [Source](#)



If vegetative propagation is too easy for you or you want to experiment more with prickly pear cacti, you can propagate through seeds. These seeds have a low germination rate, so it will take strategy and patience to coax them into growing prickly pear cactus. Prickly pears usually need to be a few years old before they'll produce fruit, but planted cactus grown from cuttings may produce faster.

Rod gifted us some Prickly Pear Seeds at the Seed Exchange, and we went down a rabbit hole to find out how to harvest and dry these seeds to share and grow! After watching countless YouTube Videos on harvesting and storing this seed, we went right to it! We gently scored the outside of the soft pods on ONE side, flipped the pod inside out, and wiped the seeds onto a paper towel, After carefully separating the seeds under Patch Kitty's Supervision, we set the seeds in a cool, dry, dark spot to finish drying! In a couple of weeks, we will package these for those who will be growing them! That includes US! THANK YOU, Rod, for continuing to inspire!

Here is the info for the "Twelve Nights of Christmas" at the RR Museum. It will run Dec 1-12 from **5:30-8 pm**. Saturday (**Dec 2 and 9**) will start at **noon** with Santa arriving on the train. Admission is free, although the museum will gladly accept any donations! Santa will be there in the evenings as well. Bring your family! Come and enjoy the holiday lights and create a new holiday tradition!

The Sioux City Railroad Mueum, who have installed **MANY Native Gardens-** and are planning a new one for next Spring- are hosting the **[12 NIGHTS of Christmas!](#)**

They will be decorating **EVERYTHING!**

Take a peek at the Resting and Root Forming Native Gardens while you are enjoying all their other festivities!

Thanks, La Vone! We can hardly wait to share in the FUN!

All the plants are brown and dried up. The flowers are all gone and nothing's moving around. The prairie in November is depressing and sad. Don't waste your time.



Lead plant leaf and frost. Lincoln Creek Prairie, Aurora, Nebraska. Canon [180mm macro lens](#). ISO [1000](#), f/9.5, 1/60 sec.



Carolina horse nettle fruits and frost. Lincoln Creek Prairie, Aurora, Nebraska. Canon [180mm macro lens](#). ISO [1000](#), f/9.5, 1/60 sec.

I don't know why anyone would want to venture out into a drab landscape full of plant skeletons and vague memories. Sure, maybe you'll get lucky and see an odd grasshopper hopping around. You might even spot



Minnesota DNR Prairie Pod
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Aug 29

To picture a prairie: Prairie inspires art and expression



We're talking about how our love of the prairie and its many forms inspires us and sparks our imaginations to energize us into action. Namely, the act of creating art.

← Minnesota Prairie Podcast had a wonderful list of guest artists who shared how the Prairie had inspired their Works of Art!

This is a good one to listen to while looking for YOUR inspiration!

Thanks Minnesota DNR!

← Click for link to the website- and look for Episode 56!

← Chris made us LAUGH out LOUD with this tongue-in-cheek blog 'Nothing to See in a November Prairie.'

Thanks, Chris, for making us look a LOT closer at all the beauty around us--if we just take the time to look--and use the Zoom Lense on our various cameras!

← Click photo for link to full (and funny to US) blog!



What is prairie planting? And how to make this naturalistic look work in your backyard

This organic style has its roots in the grasslands of the American Midwest but works beautifully in gardens too



Homes & Gardens is all in favor of making a Prairie Planting work in YOUR space!

We loved this article, and we are starting our preparation now for overseeding a small test area at "The Wild Mess in Progress!"

Wish us luck!

Wishing you a week filled with "Winter Inspiration!"

