



United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service Botany Program

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USDA Forest Service



Forest Service



Botany Program

- Rare Plants
- Vegetation Inventories
- Native Plant Materials
- Ethnobotany
- Pollinator



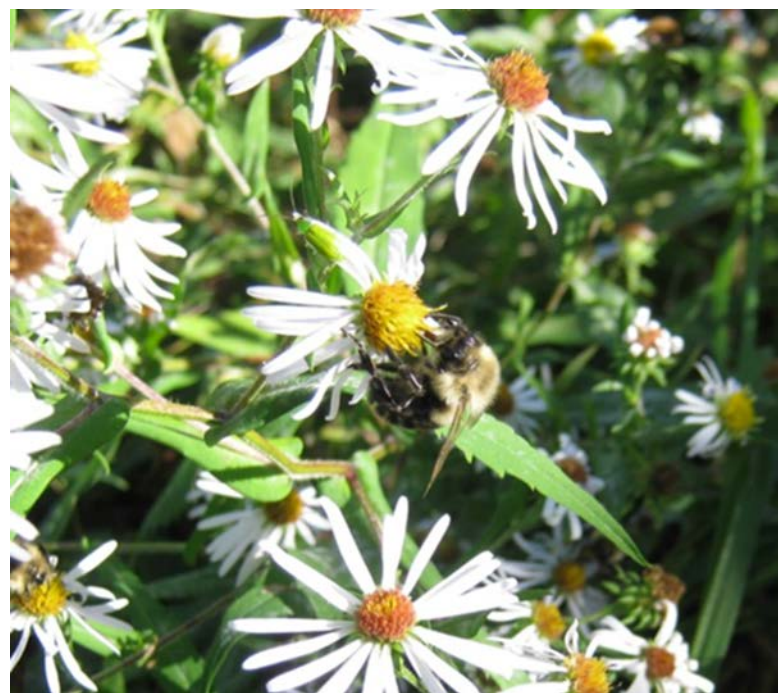
Rare Plants

- Conservation and management of rare plants.
 - Threatened, endangered, or proposed under ESA.
 - Regional Forester designated species



Rare Plants

- Botanists
 - Inventory and monitor rare plants and the plant communities they depend upon; and
 - Prepare conservation assessment, conservation strategies and biological assessments.



Vegetation Inventories

- Delineate, inventory, map, and monitor various types of vegetation.
- Manage and conserve rare plant communities such as fens and bogs, barrens, rock outcrop communities, and rare plant habitats



NATIVE PRAIRIE

MONTANA FOOTHILLS

Welcome to the Fire Science Laboratory's native prairie. Fire Lab staff planted this area in 2010. Perennial grasses and forbs like these once covered Montana's valleys and foothills. Bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, prairie Junegrass, and needle-and-thread grass dominate these prairies. Penstemons, arrowleaf balsamroot, and aspen fleabane add spring color. Montana's prairies provide habitat for elk, mule deer, coyotes, and mountain cottontails. Long-billed curlews, vesper sparrows, and western meadowlarks fill the prairies with song. Foothill prairies once provided corridors for grizzly bears traveling between mountain ranges. Wildfires were historically common in Montana's foothill prairies, with fires burning about every 10 years. Fire-return intervals ranged from 3 to 40 years.



Coyote

Ann Hough



Mule deer fawn

Tom Koerner



Mountain cottontail

Tom Koerner



Western meadowlark

Kathy Munsel



Elk cow with calf



Vesper sparrow and nest

Ryan Moehring

Kel Fleming

Learning your local flora

Can you find these native plants in

Fun Facts!



Elk calves know to avoid this plant since their mothers (cow elk) teach them not to graze it. (**Silky lupine** can be toxic if consumed in large quantities).



Did you know Montana has a state grass? Though fire consumes the leaves, **bluebunch wheatgrass** grows back from the root crown.



Does hide their fawns beneath the branches of **silver sagebrush**. This shrub sprouts and establishes from seed after fire.



Blanketflower may be resistant to burning. If it does burn, it grows back quickly. The showy blooms attract bees and butterflies.

Pamela Payek

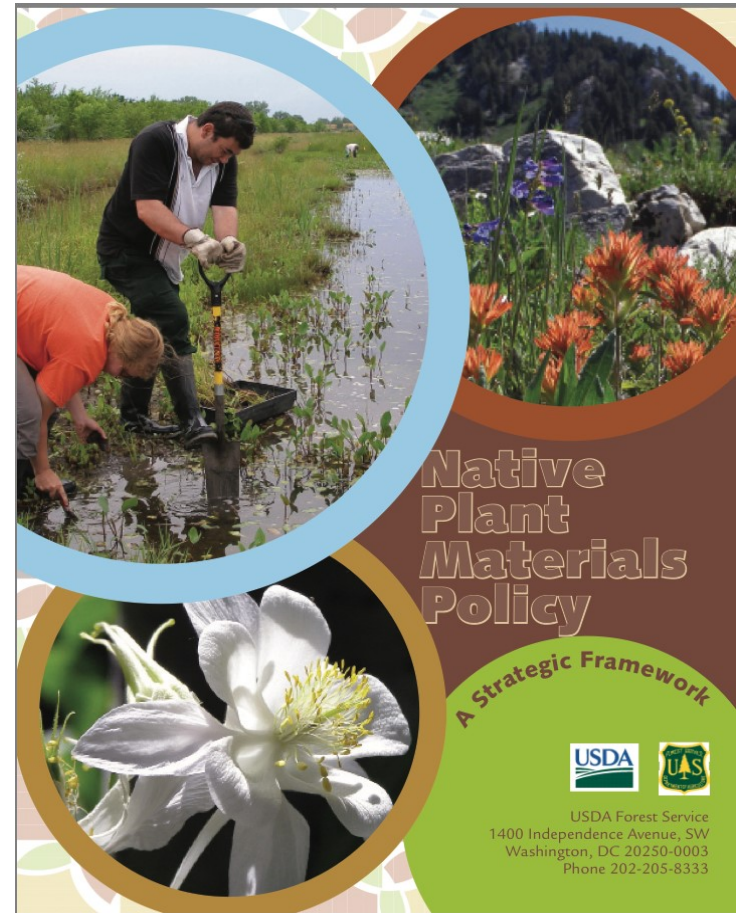
Native Plant Materials

- Needed for revegetation, rehabilitation, or restoration projects.
- Material includes seed, plugs, stem cuttings, trees and shrub seedlings.
- Plant geneticists and ecologists determine appropriate plant selection, collection, propagation, storage and planting techniques.



Native Plant Materials

- Native Plant Policy
 - Native plants are defined as all indigenous plant species that evolved naturally in a defined native ecosystem.
 - Native plant materials will be the first choice in revegetation for restoration and rehabilitation of native ecosystems.
 - Non-native, non-invasive plant species may be used.



Common Garden Studies

- Showy fleabane (*Erigeron speciosus*)
 - This project aims to ensure appropriate plant material is available and in the quantities needed to improve sage-grouse habitat following disturbance.
 - Seed collection, voucher specimens and written documentation.



Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie

- University of Illinois Heritage Garden Program
 - Technology transfer project.
 - Internship program to expose students to horticultural career.
 - Hands-on native seed processing.
 - Introduction to seed cleaning equipment.



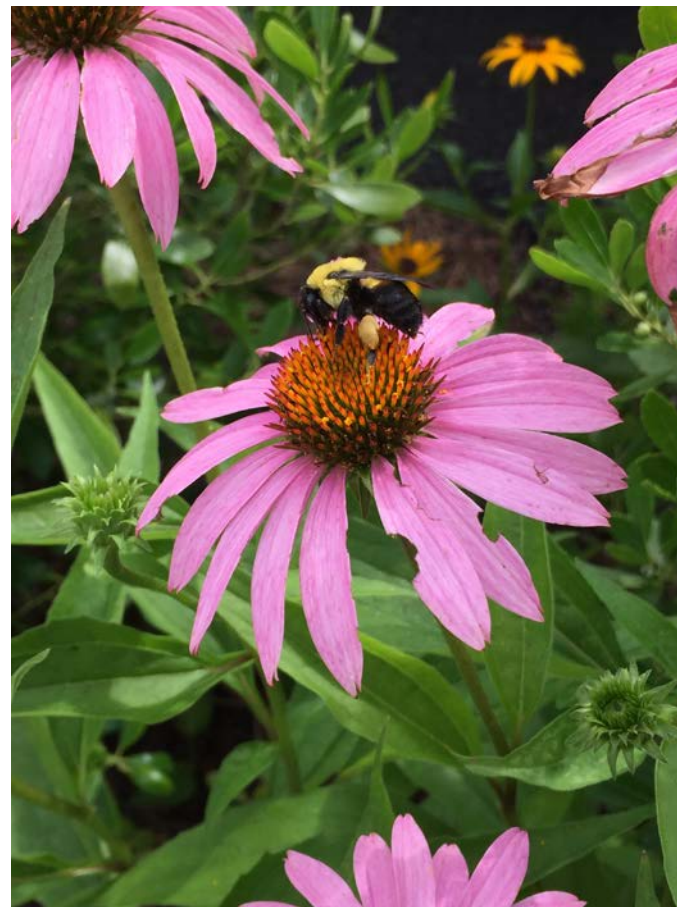
Ethnobotany

- Provide leadership in the conservation and management of ethnobotanical resources.
 - Plants that are important to people and society.
 - Examples include wild crop relatives, food plants, dye plants, medicinal plants, resins, and ornamentals.



Pollinator

- Many plants rely on animal pollination to complete their life cycle.
- Without the pollinator services provided by many animals, plants would become extinct.



Pollinator





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Thank you!

