

# Asteraceae

Anthemideae Tribe

# Fragrant Gaillardia



- ▣ *Gaillardia suavis*
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Solitary flower on slender stalk
- ▣ Flowers in spring
- ▣ When ray flowers present, few, yellow to orange
- ▣ Basal leaves, deeply lobed
- ▣ Good forage



# Green Thread



- ▣ *Coreopsis tinctoria*
- ▣ Cool season annual
- ▣ Flowers in spring
- ▣ Leaves filiform
- ▣ Numerous flowers with yellow ray flowers and brown disk flowers
- ▣ Good forage

# Huisache Daisy



- ▣ *Amblyolepis setigera*
- ▣ Upright annual
- ▣ Flowers in spring
- ▣ Solitary flowers on leafless stalks
- ▣ Clasp-like leaves with silky hair
- ▣ Poor forage



# Indian Blanket



- ▣ *Gaillardia pulchella*
- ▣ Upright annual
- ▣ Flowers in spring
- ▣ Flowers on long, slender stalks
- ▣ Poor forage

# Cowpen daisy



- ▣ *Verbesina encelioides*
- ▣ Annual
- ▣ Grayish green
- ▣ Leaves with serrated edges
- ▣ Common around livestock facilities
- ▣ Unpalatable



# Yarrow



- ▣ *Achillea millefolium*
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Cool season herb that flowers in spring
- ▣ White flowers in dense clusters
- ▣ Bipinnatifid leaves

# Mexican sagewort



- ▣ *Artemisia ludovicinia*
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Native
- ▣ Upright forb
- ▣ Linear leaves
- ▣ Grayish color
- ▣ Poor forage



# Asteraceae

Astereae Tribe



## Common broomweed

- ▣ *Amphiachyris dracunculoides*
- ▣ Annual forb with a single woody stem
- ▣ Native
- ▣ Small linear leaves
- ▣ Numerous yellow flowers on top of plant
- ▣ Poor forage, seeds for quail use





# Curlycup gumweed

- ▣ *Grindelia squarrosa*
- ▣ Throughout U.S.
- ▣ Perennial, native
- ▣ Leaf margins serrate
- ▣ Clammy or sticky
- ▣ Poor forage



# Asteraceae

Eupatorieae Tribe



# Dotted gayfeather



- ▣ *Liatris punctata*
- ▣ Sessile flowers
- ▣ Perennial, Native
- ▣ Bloom in late summer fall
- ▣ Throughout U.S.
- ▣ Linear leave
- ▣ Poor forage

# Asteraceae

Heliantheae Tribe

# Western ragweed



- ▣ *Ambrosia psilostachya*
- ▣ Perennial, native
- ▣ Leaves pinnatifid
- ▣ Flowers dense racemes
- ▣ Poor forage
- ▣ Quail consume seeds



# Ragweed



- ▣ *Ambrosia* sp.
- ▣ Several different species in Texas
- ▣ Most perennials
- ▣ Deeply clefted leaves
- ▣ Flowers in small heads in rows on top of plant
- ▣ Poor forage

# Engelmann daisy



- ▣ *Engelmannia pinnatifida*
- ▣ Perennial, native
- ▣ Spring and summer forage
- ▣ Leaves and stems covered in short, stout hairs
- ▣ Deeply clefted leaves
- ▣ Showy flowers in cluster at top
- ▣ Good forage



# Maximilian Sunflower



- ▣ *Helianthus maximiliani*
- ▣ Perennial, native
- ▣ Warm season
- ▣ Long narrow leaves
- ▣ Large showy flowers in clusters all along stem
- ▣ Flowers in late summer or early fall
- ▣ Good forage?





# Bitterweed



- ▣ *Hymenoxys odorata*
- ▣ Cool season annual, native
- ▣ Found mostly on disturbed sites in Edwards Plateau and Rolling Plains
- ▣ Germinates early in fall and flowers in spring
- ▣ Toxic to all classes of livestock, especially during winter when alternative forage is limited
- ▣ Filiform leaves with numerous yellow flowers

# Upright Prairie Coneflower



- ▣ *Ratibida columnifera*
- ▣ Deeply clefted linear leaves
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Native
- ▣ Flower resemble “Mexican hat”
- ▣ Poor forage



# Orange Zexmania



- ▣ *Zexmania hispida*
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Native
- ▣ Upright forb
- ▣ Disk and ray flowers
- ▣ Slender leaves
- ▣ Stems and leaves covered in short, stout hairs
- ▣ Good forage



# Bush sunflower



- ▣ *Simsia calva*
- ▣ Perennial with woody base
- ▣ Native
- ▣ Warm season forage
- ▣ Clefted leaves
- ▣ Covered in dense hairs
- ▣ Yellow flowers
- ▣ Common in west central Texas, especially when protected from livestock
- ▣ Good Forage

# Brassicaceae

Mustard Family



# Tansy mustard



- ▣ *Descurainia pinnata*
- ▣ Cool season annual
- ▣ Matures in spring, early summer
- ▣ Mustard family with seeds attached to upper portion of stem
- ▣ Long slender leaves
- ▣ May cause photosensitization in livestock



# Pepperweed



- ▣ *Lepidium* sp.
- ▣ Winter annual forb
- ▣ Rounded seeds on distal end of stems
- ▣ Mustard family
- ▣ Poor forage

# Chenopodiaceae

Goosefoot Family



# Kocha



- ▣ *Kochia scoparia*
- ▣ Annual
- ▣ Upright forb that grow 2-5 feet tall
- ▣ Common on disturbed sites and old fields
- ▣ Fair forage, but contains several toxic compounds in low levels that could cause health problems if enough is consumed





# Russian Thistle



- ▣ *Salsola ibertica*
- ▣ Annual
- ▣ Common name is tumbleweed
- ▣ Slender leaves
- ▣ Dark purple strips on stems
- ▣ Common on disturbed sites
- ▣ Contains nitrates that interfere with oxygen transfer

# Fabaceae

Legumes



# Locoweed



- ▣ *Astragalus mollimus*
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Legume
- ▣ Common in western Texas and New Mexico
- ▣ Leaflets in rows, gray, and covered with short hairs
- ▣ Flowers in spring; flower purple in color
- ▣ Toxic agent is an alkaloid called Swainsonine, which damages brain, digestive organs, liver, and reproductive organs.
- ▣ Effects may be long-lasting, especially in horses





# Nuttall peavine



- ▣ *Astragalus nuttallianus*
- ▣ Annual
- ▣ Native
- ▣ Throughout Texas in Spring
- ▣ Pinnately compound leaves on short petiole
- ▣ Procumbant growth
- ▣ Toxic

# Illinois Bundleflower



- ▣ *Desmanthus illinoensis*
- ▣ Legume with pods arranged on round clusters
- ▣ Perennial warm season
- ▣ Bipinnate leaves
- ▣ Excellent forage
- ▣ Seeds for bird use
- ▣ Rarely seen when livestock grazing is present in western and central Texas





# Twin leaf senna



- ▣ *Senna roemeriana*
- ▣ Perennial with distinctive paired linear leaves (twin leaflets)
- ▣ Yellow flowers in clusters
- ▣ Leaves and stems grayish color
- ▣ Poisonous to all classes of livestock. Most toxicity cases occur in the spring.
- ▣ Toxicity occurs infrequently, several years may pass between wide-spread cases of twin leaf senna toxicity



# Bluebonnet



- Two species in Texas
  - *Lupinus subcarnosus*
  - *Lupinus texensis*
- Biennial or annual
- Forms rosette in winter and blooms in spring with characteristic blue cluster of flowers
- Other lupines known to cause birth defects if consumed during certain stages of pregnancy by livestock, but no reports of birth defects caused by bluebonnets
- Fair forage for sheep and goats

# Purple prairie coneflower



- ▣ *Dalea purpurea*
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Native
- ▣ Linear leaflets
- ▣ Central U.S.  
including northern  
Texas
- ▣ Good forage

# Bur clover



- ▣ *Medicago polymorpha*
- ▣ Annual
- ▣ Native
- ▣ Most of U.S.
- ▣ Pods with short spines
- ▣ Procumbant growth
- ▣ Good forage



# Alfalfa



- ▣ *Medicago sativa*
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Introduced
- ▣ Compound leaves with 3 leaflets
- ▣ Escaped cultivation
- ▣ Good forage

# Sensitivebriar



- ▣ *Sistrunkia uncinata*
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Native
- ▣ Bipinnately compound leaves
- ▣ Recurved spines
- ▣ Leaves close when touched
- ▣ Good forage

# White clover



- ▣ *Trifolium repens*
- ▣ Annual
- ▣ Introduced
- ▣ Palmately trifoliate leaves with white strip
- ▣ Common in yards
- ▣ Good forage



# Ascepiadaceae

Milkweeds



# Broadleaf milkweed



- ▣ *Asclepias latifolia*
- ▣ Perennial with broad, rounded leaves attached directly to stem
- ▣ Stems often red with milky sap
- ▣ Highly toxic with 0.15 to 1% of diet listed as toxic
- ▣ 2-4 g may kill most sheep
- ▣ Contain glycosides that disrupt respiration and heart function
- ▣ Common after overgrazing
- ▣ Also found commonly on rocky soils in Edwards Plateau





# Antelope horn milkweed



- ▣ *Asclepias asperula*
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Lance-shaped leaves with white-showy flowers
- ▣ Stems contain white milky substance
- ▣ >1% of diet is toxic
- ▣ Contain glycosides that disrupt respiration and heart function
- ▣ Common on rocky soils in Rolling Plains region of Texas



# Geraniaceae



# Filaree

- ▣ Two species in Texas
  - *Erodium texanum* (in picture)
  - *Erodium cicutarium*
- ▣ Annuals with seed forming distinctive “storks bill”
- ▣ Prevalent during years of above average rainfall in fall and winter
- ▣ Excellent forage

# Lamiaceae

Mint family



# Beebalm



- ▣ *Monarda citriodora*
- ▣ Member of mint family with distinctive square stem
- ▣ Flowers in clusters surrounding stem
- ▣ Long slender leaves
- ▣ Poor forage

# Malvaceae

Mallow family

# Scarlet globemallow



- ▣ *Sphaeralcea coccinea*
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Native
- ▣ Deeply clefted leaves
- ▣ Pubescent stems
- ▣ Fair forage value



# Copper Mallow



- ▣ *Sphaeralcea angustifolia*
- ▣ Upright perennial
- ▣ Star-shaped hairs resulting in plant appearing grey in color
- ▣ Flowers typically in clusters
- ▣ Leaves with serrated edges
- ▣ Poor forage

# Wine Cup



- ▣ *Callirhoe involucrata*
- ▣ Trailing perennial
- ▣ Deeply segmented leaves
- ▣ Flowers in early to mid spring
- ▣ Good forage for wildlife

# Plantaginaceae

Plantains



# Woolly plantain



- ▣ *Plantago patagonica*
- ▣ Annual
- ▣ Native
- ▣ Basal leaves
- ▣ Pubescent
- ▣ Flowers in spike
- ▣ Throughout U.S.
- ▣ Fair forage

# Redseed Plantain



- ▣ *Plantago rhodosperma*
- ▣ Annual
- ▣ Slender leaves all originating from the base
- ▣ Flowers arranged in a spike with seeds turning red at maturity
- ▣ Fair forage
- ▣ Seeds consumed by birds, particularly quail

# Ranunculaceae

Larkspurs





# Low larkspur



- ▣ *Delphinium bicolor*
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Native
- ▣ Flowers as racemes with spurs
- ▣ Leaves widely dissected
- ▣ Toxic



# Larkspur



- ▣ *Delphinium* sp.
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Cool season
- ▣ Native
- ▣ Flowers with characteristic “spur”
- ▣ Highly toxic



# Tall larkspur



- ▣ *Delphinium occidentale*
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Native
- ▣ Flowers as racemes with spurs
- ▣ Leaves palmately divided
- ▣ Rocky mtns/ high elevations
- ▣ Toxic



# Solanaceae

Nightshade family



# Silverleaf nightshade



- ▣ *Solanum elaeagnifolium*
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Gray linear leaves
- ▣ Small reddish prickles
- ▣ Pale blue flowers with yellow center
- ▣ Yellow fleshy fruit
- ▣ Toxic



# Buffalobur



- ▣ *Solanum rostratum*
- ▣ Deeply clefted leaves
- ▣ Annual
- ▣ Numerous prickles
- ▣ Yellow flowers
- ▣ Seeds consumed by birds
- ▣ Disturbed sites
- ▣ Poor forage



# Pigeon berry



- ▣ *Rivina humilis*
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Dark green leaves, rounded with pointed apex
- ▣ Flowers in racemes forming bright red fruit in clusters
- ▣ Good forage

# OTHER COMMON FORBS

# Croton / Doveweed



- ▣ *Croton* sp.
- ▣ Annuals, biennials, and perennials
- ▣ Grayish round leaves
- ▣ Fair forage
- ▣ Seeds for birds





# Mountain pink



- ▣ *Centaurium beyrichii*
- ▣ Rocky soils
- ▣ Toxic
- ▣ Upper most leaves, thread-like
- ▣ Flowers with five lobes spreading flat



# Snow on the mountain



- ❑ *Euphorbia marginata*
- ❑ Annual
- ❑ Spurge family
- ❑ Upright plant with egg-shaped leaves
- ❑ Flower centers are yellow-green surrounded by petals with white margins
- ❑ Toxin irritates mouth, and digestive tract.
- ❑ Seeds are readily consumed by birds





# Carlessweed / Pigweed



- ▣ *Amaranthus* sp.
- ▣ Annual
- ▣ Flowers in dense clusters on distal end of stems
- ▣ Stems may have red venation
- ▣ May contain toxic levels of nitrates that interfere with hemoglobin's ability to pick up oxygen
- ▣ Fair forage



# Horehound



- ▣ *Marrubium vulgare*
- ▣ Mint family (square stems)
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Round rough leaves with pubescents
- ▣ Poor forage
- ▣ Disturbed sites

# Dakota Verbena



- ▣ *Verbena bipinnatifida*
- ▣ Purple to blue flowers at top in clusters
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Deeply clefted leaves
- ▣ Poor forage



# Texas Verbena



- ▣ *Verbena halei*
- ▣ Perennial with bluish to pinkish flowers attached directly to stem
- ▣ Serrated leaves
- ▣ Poor forage



# Scarlet muskflower



- ▣ *Nycyaginia capitata*
- ▣ Spreading perennial
- ▣ Stems and leaves covered with sticky hairs
- ▣ Showy flower with petals
- ▣ Poor forage

# Rain Lilly



- ▣ *Cooperia pedunculata*
- ▣ Large bulb
- ▣ Conical stem
- ▣ Flowers after rain
- ▣ Linear leaves



# Mullein



- ▣ *Verbascum thapsus*
- ▣ Upright perennial
- ▣ Leaves sessile
- ▣ Covered in felt-like hairs
- ▣ May grow up to 6 ft tall



# Frog Fruit



- ▣ *Phyla incisa*
- ▣ Stems prostrate
- ▣ Flowers in dense clusters
- ▣ Leaves slightly pointed with serration on tip
- ▣ Spreading
- ▣ Often found near water

# Lamb's Quarter



- ▣ *Chenopodium album*
- ▣ Annual
- ▣ Pale-green leaves
- ▣ Stems upright, branching at top
- ▣ Flowers in dense clusters
- ▣ Fair forage





# Yellow Neptunia

- ▣ *Neptunia lutea*
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Bipinnate leaves
- ▣ Upright plant
- ▣ Yellow flowers
- ▣ Legume
- ▣ Good forage



# Mouse ears



- ▣ *Cerastium vulgatum*
- ▣ Short-lived perennial
- ▣ Flat, basal growth
- ▣ Leaves grey and covered with short hairs

# Prickly Poppy



- ▣ *Argemone albiflora*
- ▣ Extremely prickly  
annual or biennial
- ▣ Leaves bluish-green  
with serrated edges
- ▣ Poor forage



# Texas Thistle



- ▣ *Cirsium texanum*
- ▣ Perennial or biennial
- ▣ Ray flowers absent
- ▣ Solitary flowers
- ▣ Spiny-toothed leaves
- ▣ Basal leaves forming rosette in winter
- ▣ Poor forage



# Buffalogoard



- ▣ *Cucurbita foetidissima*
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Grayish-color
- ▣ Spreading vine
- ▣ Pungent odor
- ▣ Leaves triangular-ovate
- ▣ Fruit green pepo

# Field bindweed



- ▣ *Convolvulus arvensis*
- ▣ Trailing perennial
- ▣ Roots creeping and forming a dense colony
- ▣ Solitary white to pink flowers
- ▣ Invades cropland



# Morning glory



- ▣ *Ipomoea trichocarpa*
- ▣ Spreading or low-climbing perennial
- ▣ Flowers pink to purple and funnel-shaped
- ▣ Flowers close at mid-day
- ▣ Heart-shaped leaves



# Skeletonweed



- ▣ *Lygodesmia texana*
- ▣ Perennial
- ▣ Flower as solitary head
- ▣ Slender leaves and stems