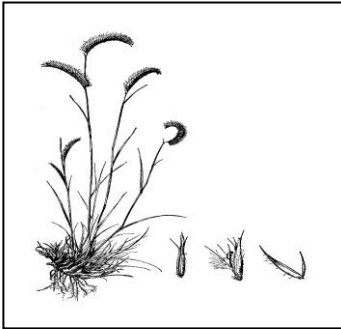


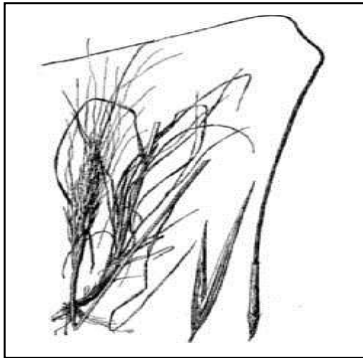
PLANT ID & ANATOMY TALKING POINTS  
Ecosystem Explorer

GRASS PLANT IDENTIFICATION



Blue grama - G, P, N, W, I

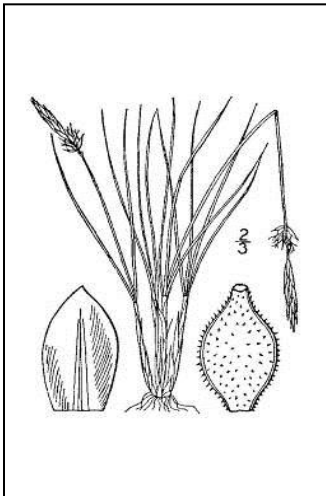
- Has a shallow, fibrous root system.
- This grass spreads by basal tillers and often forms large, circular "mats" on rangelands.
- Collar area is hairy.
- Has short, green-tapered leaves that change color (brown) and curl when dry.
- Seedhead is shaped like an eyebrow.



Needle and thread - G, P, N, C, I

- Medium sized bunchgrass
- Ligules are long and split into "rabbit-ears"
- Leaf blades are narrow and flat
- Panicle seedhead arrangement
- Each grass flower (floret) has a long, bending, twisting awn (thread) and a sharp callus or point (needle)

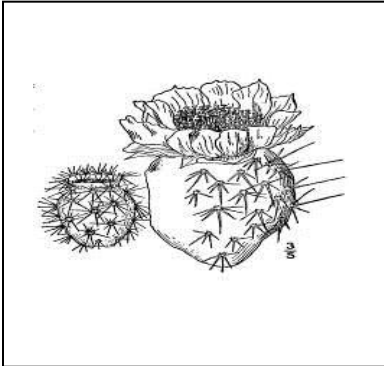
GRASS-LIKE PLANT IDENTIFICATION



Threadleaf sedge - GL, P, N, C, I

- Wiry, black roots.
- Dense bunch habit.
- Culms (stems) are triangle-shaped and solid. The stems are so small that you can not always see or feel the triangle shape.
- The bases of the leaves shred apart and are brownish-red in color.
- Only one spike per seedhead. Flowering "spike" is unique (female flowers on the bottom of spike and male flowers at the top).

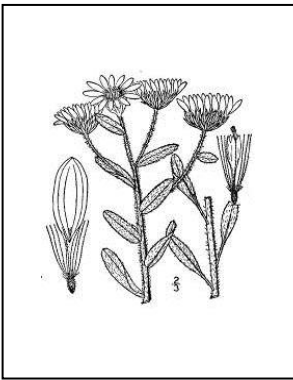
## CACTUS PLANT IDENTIFICATION



### Pricklypear - C, P, N, X, I

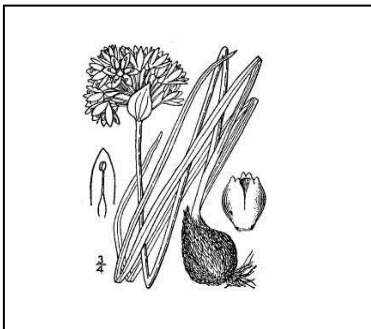
- *Knobby roots.*
- *Stems are flat, jointed, succulent (filled with water) and spiny.*
- *Cactus spines are modified leaves.*
- *Pricklypear reproduces by seed or by rooting stems.*
- *Flowers are yellow to red.*
- *Fruits are spiny.*

## FORB PLANT IDENTIFICATION



### Hairy goldenaster - F, P, N, W, I

- *Tap root*
- *Decumbent growth form.*
- *Stems are brown and hairy.*
- *Leaves are alternate and hairy.*
- *Flowers are golden and in heads. There are many flowers per plant.*



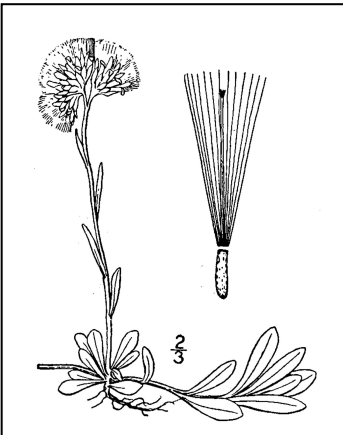
### Prairie onion - F, P, N, C, I

- *Stems are modified into edible bulbs*
- *The bulbs taste and smell like store-bought onions.*
- *Leaves are hollow and smell when crushed.*
- *Flower color varies from white to pink.*
- *Flowers are arranged in an umbel (umbrella shape) and often nod.*



### Silverleaf scurfpea - F, P, N, W, I

- Tap root with rhizomes.
- Stem are single and branch into a bushy top.
- Compound leaves are arranged alternate with 3-5 palmately arranged leaflets covered with white, silky hairs.
- Pea-type flowers are small and blue. They cluster from upper leaf axils.
- Seeds form in pods that are **not** edible.
- The stem breaks away and tumbles late in the summer. This releases the seeds.



### Small-leaf pussytoes - F, P, N, C, I

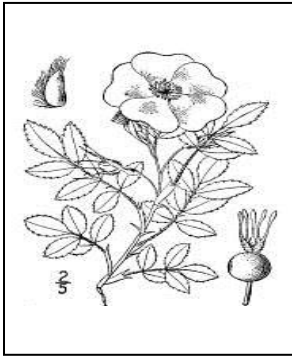
- This plant grows low to the ground and often forms mats.
- It is named "pussytoes", because the immature flower heads resemble kittens paws.
- Flowers are white or pinkish.
- The stems holding the flower heads do not elongate like other kinds of pussytoes.
- The leaves are very small and silver-haired.

## SHRUB PLANT IDENTIFICATION



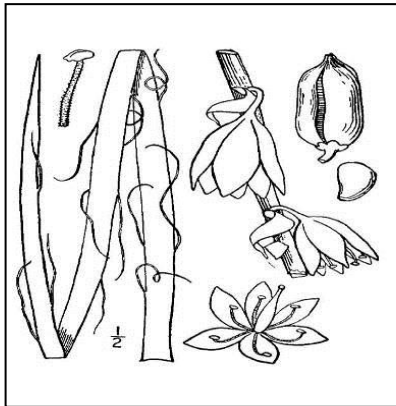
### Fringed sagewort - S, P, N, W, I

- Small half shrub.
- Leaf growth is primarily basal.
- Leaves are pointed, silvery-hairy and divided into small linear divisions (fringed).
- The stems grow up beyond the leaves and bear small, non-showy, nodding flowers.
- Smells like sage.



### Rose - S, P, N, C, I

- Tap rooted with rhizomes.
- Alternate leaves are compound. The compound leaf shape would be odd-pinnate.
- Leaflets are serrated.
- Flowers are large, fragrant, 5-petaled and pink.
- Modified skin cells form prickles on the



### Soapweed yucca - S, P, N, C, I

- Taproot that is very fibrous and can be used to make ropes or soap.
- Leaf are shaped like a "Spanish saber".
- Flowering stems are long and rise above the leaves.
- There are many white/green flowers with flower parts in threes.
- Seed are large, flat and black.