

More Saskatchewan Legumes

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PETALOSTEMON (Prairie-clover) genus.
3 species.

Low growing, often prostrate, perennial herbs, with odd pinnate, glandular dotted leaves. The flowers are borne in dense spikes at the ends of the stalks and the tiny flowers have 5 stamens united into one bundle.

1. Flowers white; calyx tube smooth.
(1) *P. candidus*.
Flowers rose or purple; calyx hairy. 2.
2. Leaflets nearly linear, usually 3 to 5 per leaf.
(2) *P. purpureus*.
Leaflets oblong, silky-hairy, 7 to 17 per leaf.
(3) *P. villosus*.

(1) *Petalostemon candidus* (Willd.) Michx.
WHITE PRAIRIE-CLOVER

A plant from 8 to 18 inches high, the leaves bearing from 7 to 9 linear-oblong leaflets from $\frac{3}{8}$ to 1 inch long. The white flowers are about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long and borne in compact terminal spikes. Quite common on dry prairie and eroded hillsides in the southern parts.

(2) *Petalostemon purpureus* (Vent.) Rydb.
PURPLE PRAIRIE-CLOVER

Similar to the preceding species but with shorter leaflets, 3 to 5 to a leaf. The flowers are red or purplish and the plant is very common on dry hillsides throughout the entire southern prairies.

(3) *Petalostemon villosus* (Nutt.)
HAIRY PRAIRIE-CLOVER

A densely hairy plant branching from the base, with 7 to 17 closely packed leaflets per leaf, each from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long. The flowers are pink or reddish-purple. Occasionally found in the southern sandhill areas.

PSORALEA (Bread-root) genus. 3 species.

Glandular dotted, perennial herbs with palmately compound leaves. The flowers are in spikes or racemes and the fruit are one-seeded pods. The roots of these plants were used as food by the Indians.

1. Plants with tuberous roots; the flowers in a short dense spike. (2) *P. esculenta*.
Plants without tuberous roots; flowers in racemes or short, interrupted spikes. 2.
2. Flowers blue in few-flowered, interrupted spikes; leaves silvery. (1) *P. argophylla*.
Flowers in dense short racemes and whitish.
(3) *P. lanceolata*.

(1) *Psoralea argophylla* Pursh.
SILVER-LEAF

A much-branched, silvery-haired plant from 1 to 2 feet high. The leaves bear from 3 to 5 obovate leaflets and the blue flowers are borne in clusters on interrupted spikes. Quite common throughout the southern parts, especially in slightly moist places.

(2) *Psoralea esculenta* Pursh.
INDIAN BREAD-ROOT.

A low, stout, short-stemmed plant growing from a large, tuberous, starchy root to a height of from 4 to 18 inches. The plant is loosely hairy and the leaves bear 5 leaflets. The flowers are blue but not much longer than the green sepals and are borne in a dense oblong

spike. Fairly common on sandy banks and hillsides in the south and the roots were made into flour by the Indians.

(3) *Psoralea lanceolata* Pursh.
LANCE-LEAVED PSORALEA

A semi-prostrate plant from 6 to 15 inches high with glandular-dotted yellowish-green stems and leaves. The tiny flowers are bluish-white and borne in short dense spikes and the lemon-shaped, one-seeded pod is about $\frac{3}{16}$ inch in diameter. The leaves bear 3 leaflets. This plant has very long, stringy roots and is a plant only of the sand-hills, where it is often the dominant species.

THERMOPSIS (Golden bean) genus. 1 species.

(1) *Thermopsis rhombifolia* (Nutt.) Richard.
GOLDEN BEAN

An early flowering perennial from 6 to 20 inches high, from running roots, usually growing in large patches. The leaves bear 3 obovate leaflets. The flowers are bright golden yellow, from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long in dense racemes and bear 10 separate stamens. The long curled fruiting pods are from 1 to 3 inches long and contain 10 to 13 seeds. Children have been badly poisoned by eating the fruit. This is a common spring flower of the southern parts of the province and of the sandy areas in the north.

VICIA (Vech) genus. 3 species.

The terminal leaflet in vetches is replaced by tendrils. They differ from *Lathyrus* in that the style is not flattened and has merely a tuft of hairs at the end instead of down one side.

1. Leaflets broad, elliptic or oblong; tall plants. (1) *V. americana*.
Leaflets linear or narrowly oblong; plants low. 2.
2. Leaves decidedly hairy, distinctly veined. (3) *V. trifida*.
Leaves not hairy or veined, plant prostrate. (2) *V. sparsifolia*.

(1) *Vicia americana* Muhl.
AMERICAN VETCH

A trailing or climbing plant from 2 to 3 feet long, with 8 to 14 ovate, veined leaflets from $\frac{5}{8}$ to $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches long per leaf. The flowers are bluish-purple, about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long and borne 3 to 9 in each raceme. Fairly common in bluffs and shady places across the province.

(2) *Vicia sparsifolia* Nutt.
NARROW-LEAVED VETCH

A prostrate, trailing plant with from 8 to 12 narrowly linear leaflets per leaf, varying from $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. The racemes bear from 2 to 6 bluish-purple flowers about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long. Very common on open prairie in the south and often persisting after cultivation as a weed.

(3) *Vicia trifida* Dietr.
PUBESCENT VETCH

A plant very similar to the preceding but the leaflets are slightly hairy, strongly veined and a little broader. It is found in similar localities, especially in the south-west, and is confused with the preceding species.