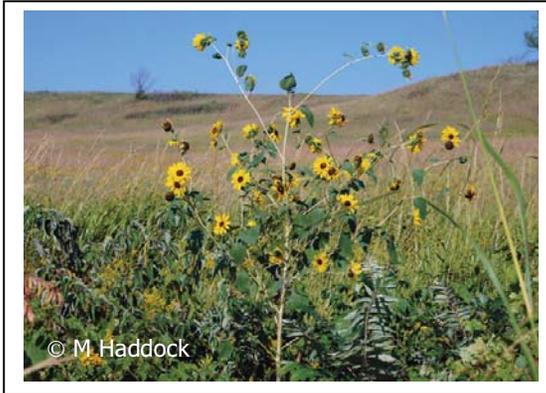


Sunflower - ***Helianthus annuus***



Cottonwood - ***Populus deltoides***



Little Bluestem - ***Schizachyrium scoparium***



Join Kansas Native Plant Society

- Established in 1978, Kansas Native Plant Society was originally called the Kansas Wildflower Society
- KNPS is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Dues are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.
- KNPS does not share our membership information with other organizations.
- Earnings from the Legacy Fund are used for long term support of the KNPS mission.
- Renewal memberships run January to December.
- New memberships are effective from the date of joining through December of the following year.
- Membership application may also be done online at www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org.

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| X | Select Membership Level | Amount |
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| | Student | \$10 |
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| | Organization | \$35 |
| | Contributing | \$100 |
| | Lifetime | \$500 |
| | Other | \$_____ |

Additional **Legacy Fund** donation \$ _____

Additional **General Funds** donation \$ _____

Please make checks payable to KNPS



Kansas Native Plant Society
 R.L. McGregor Herbarium, University of Kansas
 2045 Constant Avenue
 Lawrence, KS 66047-3729



**Kansas
 Native
 Plant
 Society**

**Plant Symbols of the
 State of Kansas**

Kansas State Flower
 Sunflower
Helianthus annuus

In 1903, the Kansas Legislature designated the native sunflower as the State Flower. It is widely assumed the legislation refers to *Helianthus annuus*, known as common sunflower, wild sunflower, and annual sunflower.

Kansas State Tree
 Cottonwood
Populus deltoides

In 1937, the Kansas Legislature designated Cottonwood as the State Tree, calling it the "pioneer tree of the prairie." It is also known as Eastern Cottonwood, Common Cottonwood, and Plains Cottonwood.

Kansas State Grass
 Little Bluestem
Schizachyrium scoparium

In 2010, the Kansas Legislature designated Little Bluestem, *Schizachyrium scoparium*, as the State Grass. Little Bluestem celebrates our prairie heritage.

www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org

Kansas State Flower **Sunflower** *Helianthus annuus*

The genus *Helianthus* comes from the Greek "helios" meaning "sun" and "anthos" meaning "flower." The species *annuus* means "annual."

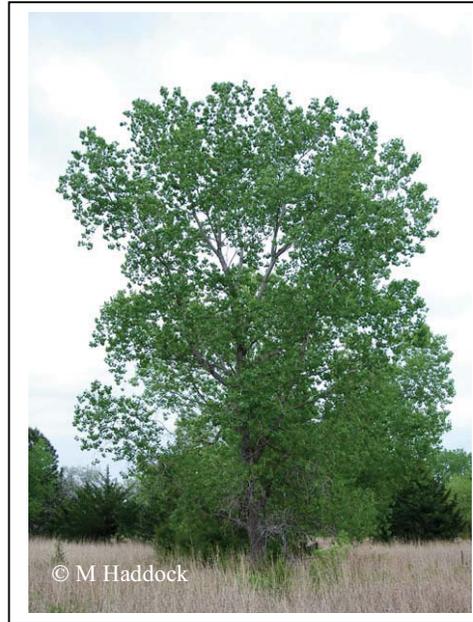
Growing in full sun, sunflowers have hairy stems towering 5 to 12 feet tall and large, coarse toothed leaves. The yellow flowers are 3 to 6 inches wide, and are actually an inflorescence, consisting of an outer circle of sterile ray petals and an inner disc of tiny florets, each producing an individual fruit. There are eleven species of native sunflowers found in Kansas.

Bees and butterflies eat the nectar as they pollinate the disc flowers. Mammals, birds and insects consume the foliage and flowers. The large seed heads serve the winter food needs of birds and many small mammals.

The sunflower represented the Sun God to many Native American tribes and remains an iconic symbol, used in advertising and company logos. Sunflowers have a wide variety of uses from food sources for humans and animals, to industrial and horticultural applications.



Kansas State Tree **Cottonwood** *Populus deltoides*



The genus *Populus* comes from the Latin "populous" meaning "the people." The species *deltoides* comes from the Greek "delt" for the letter delta, and "oid" meaning "like or form" referring to the triangular shape of the leaves.

Cottonwoods are native to every Kansas county, preferring the moist banks of lakes, rivers and streams. They grow fast and may reach over 80 feet tall in ideal conditions. Cottonwood trees are either male or female. The males produce the pollen but only the females produce the cottony seeds that float on the wind for miles.

Because of its soft wood, woodpeckers make their homes in cottonwoods. Secondary cavity nesting birds often inherit abandoned woodpecker holes. Over 360 species of butterfly and moth caterpillars feed on the leaves, and many songbirds feed on insects found on the trees.

Historically, Native Americans considered cottonwoods a "sacred tree of life." Early settlers constructed buildings and canoes by burning and hollowing out its large trunks.

Kansas State Grass **Little Bluestem** *Schizachyrium scoparium*

The scientific name is of Latin origin. The genus *Schizachyrium* comes from "schizein" meaning "to split" and "achyron" meaning "chaff." The species *scoparium* comes from "scopa" meaning "broom."

Little bluestem is a native perennial grass found in every county of Kansas. It is drought resistant having a root system reaching five to eight feet into the soil. It grows from two to five feet tall in deep, shallow or rocky soils. Early growth begins in April, but as a warm season grass, its growth rate increases as temperatures increase during the summer months. Small wind-pollinated flowers are formed in July to September, followed by its fuzzy, white seed heads that persist through the winter.

Little bluestem is important for wildlife habitat. It is nutritious for cattle and bison and is used to prevent soil erosion. Urban landscapes increasingly include this native grass. The state grass turns a beautiful coppery orange color in the fall.

