Learn about the diversity of Kansas Native Plants

The Kansas Native Plant Society (KNPS) educates the public about the indigenous plants of Kansas found in our prairies, woodlands, wetlands, and gardens.

The great variety of plants to discover and enjoy in Kansas includes 1,700 native species and roughly 400 alien species that have naturalized.

Most people are drawn to the showy flowering plants -- the wildflowers. The purple gayfeathers, yellow sunflowers, and pink prairie wild roses offer a pleasing palate of color. These are but a few of the species that you may encounter in Kansas. When exploring the diverse prairies, the variety of grasses is incredible - from 2-inch Buffalo Grass (Buchloë dactyloides) in the west to 8-foot Big Bluestem (Andropogon gerardii) in the east. Grass-like sedges and rushes provide additional enjoyment. And don't forget the woody plants - huge trees such as Sycamore (Platanus occidentalis), shrubs like Buffalo Currant (Ribes odoratum), and many vines including Virginia Creeper (Parthenocissus quinquefolia). Furthermore, there are diminutive fens, mosses, liverworts, and hornworts, which reproduce by spores. All of these plants make up the Kansas flora.

Kansas Native Plant Society is your avenue to personal discovery of the flora.

To get an idea of the diverse regions of Kansas, see the physiographic map of Kansas. Each region has a unique geology, which in turn influences the vegetation. Precipitation also greatly affects the distribution of plants in Kansas. Shortgrass and sandsage prairies are found in the west, with mixed-grass prairies in the west and central part of the state, and tallgrass prairie in the east. We have deciduous forests in the east, as well as floodplain forests throughout the state. Each of these regions has a unique blend of native plants. A visit to any region, no matter the season, is sure to reward the visitor with some memorable discoveries.


Join Kansas Native Plant Society

- KNPS is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Dues are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.
- New memberships are effective from the date of joining through December of the following year.
- Renewal memberships run January to December.
- KNPS does not share our membership information with other organizations.
- Established in 1978, Kansas Native Plant Society was formerly named Kansas Wildflower Society.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Native Vegetation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ozark Plateau</td>
<td>Oak-hickory mixed forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherokee Lowlands</td>
<td>Tallgrass prairie and oak-hickory woodland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chautauqua Hills</td>
<td>Cross timbers savanna</td>
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<tr>
<td>Osage Cuestas</td>
<td>Mostly tallgrass prairie in the west to a combination of tallgrass prairie and oak-hickory woodland in the east.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glaciated</td>
<td>Tallgrass prairie, scattered oak-hickory forests, and floodplain forests.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flint Hills</td>
<td>Tallgrass prairie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellington-McPherson Lowlands</td>
<td>Tallgrass prairie and flood plain forests.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoky Hills</td>
<td>Transitional from tallgrass prairie in the East to mixed-grass prairie in the west. Some floodplain forests.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas River Lowlands</td>
<td>Sand prairie, sandsage prairie in the far west.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Hills</td>
<td>Mixed-grass prairie and sandsage prairie. Some floodplain forests.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Make checks payable to KNPS

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

X  Select Membership Class  Amount
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     Student                         $5   
     Individual                      $15  
     Family                          $25  
     Organization                    $30  
     Contributing                    $100  
     Lifetime                        $500  
     Other                           $___

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Tallgrass Prairie in Kansas

Approximately four percent of our nation’s original tallgrass prairie remains intact, and ninety-five percent of this prairie is in Kansas. Whether in vast acreages in the Flint Hills or small roadside remnants in the Glaciated Region, Kansans have an extraordinary opportunity as stewards of these vestiges of our natural heritage. Remnant prairies protect ecological diversity and provide habitat for increasingly rare species. They are also valuable blueprints for future prairie restoration efforts.

2008 Outings & Events Sponsored by KNPS

We recommend sturdy footwear, long pants, insect repellent, sunscreen, a hat and water!

Mar 30: Baldwin Woods Wild Plant & Mushroom Outing, Douglas Co, 11am. Bring a sack lunch and meet Ken Lassman, the author of Wild Douglas County. <seasonsandcycles@yahoo.com> (785) 843-0253

Apr 19: Papermaking Workshop at Karlyle Woods, Topeka, 12pm. Food & materials $25. Jeff Hansen, KNPS Past Pres. <email@KSNPS.org> (785) 806-6917

May 10: Barber County Wildflower Tour, Medicine Lodge, 8:30am. Co-sponsors: Barber Co. Conservation District & KNPS. Food & transport fee due May 5. (620) 886-3721, ext. 3

May 14: Tallgrass Prairie Evening Foray, Leavenworth Co, 6pm. <email@KSNPS.org> (785) 864-3453

May 17: Dr. Woody Holland’s Wildflower Tour, Neosho Co, 1pm. (620) 449-2028

May 31: Coffey County Wildflower Tour, 9:30am. Co-sponsors: Coffey Co. Conservation District & KNPS. RSVP by May 23; call (620) 364-2182 ext. 3.

Jun 1: Third Biennial Coblentz Prairie Foray, Douglas Co, 1pm. <email@ksnps.org> (785) 864-3453


Jun 7: Lake Wilson Wildflower & Rangeland Tour, Russell Co, 8:30am. Co-sponsors: Russell Co. NRCS & KNPS. <andy.phelps@ks.usda.gov> (785) 483-2826

Jun 8: Friends of Konza Prairie Wildflower Walk, 7pm. <keepkonza@ksu.edu> (785) 587-0381

June 14: Cowley County Wildflower Tour, Winfield, 8am. Co-sponsors: Cowley Co. NRCS & KNPS. RSVP by June 6; call (620) 221-1850 ext. 3.

Jun 14: Dr. Woody Holland’s Wildflower Tour, Neosho Co, 1pm. (620) 449-2028

Jun 25: 6th Annual Grant-Bradbury Prairie Jaunt, Topeka, 7pm. <email@ksnps.org> (785) 806-6917

Oct 3-5: KNPS Annual Wildflower Weekend. Hays. Visit mixed-grass prairies in & near Ellis County. <email@ksnps.org> (785) 864-3453

Nov 8: Papermaking Workshop at Karlyle Woods, Topeka, 12pm. Food & materials $25. Jeff Hansen, KNPS Past Pres. <email@KSNPS.org> (785) 806-6917

KNPS membership benefits

- Field Trips (enjoy plants in their natural habitats)
- Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW includes forays, programs, silent auction, photo contest, socializing)
- Free poster, Kansas Wildflowers: Gems of the Plains (poster may be picked-up at an outing, but not mailed)
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Extensive Website, www.ksnps.org
- Education (identification, ecology, landscaping)
- Information (natural areas, propagation, restoration)
- E-mail Listserv
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Mary A. Bancroft Memorial Scholarship

The mission of the Kansas Native Plant Society is to encourage awareness and appreciation of the native plants of Kansas in their habitats and in our landscapes by promoting education, stewardship, and scientific knowledge.

Kansas Native Plant Society
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