

The “Other Garden” in Wascana Park

Native Plant Garden at the
Royal Saskatchewan Museum



Western Spiderwort

When its stem breaks, it secretes a sticky substance, that makes cobweb-like strands when hardened. A **federally protected species** under **Canada’s Species at Risk Act**.



Yellow Prairie Coneflower

Used in water-wise xeriscaping. **Tolerates drought and prairie heat!**



Native Harebell

The flowers have a bell shape and last a long time. They are an **important sources of nectar for bees in the fall!**



Wild Licorice

What is that reddish thing? Touch it. Does it stick to your clothes? This was the **inspiration for Velcro!**



Spiny Ironplant

This plant got its “**tough as nails**” name because it does well even when slightly neglected. Perfect for those with a black thumb!



Giant Hyssop

Can grow 3 feet tall! A good companion plant to cabbage because it will **deter the Cabbage White Butterfly** from eating cabbage.



Strawberry Blight

Named **because it looks like strawberries!** You can taste the berries, they taste “kind of seedy and sweet” according to a 12 year old taste tester!



Blazing Star

Symbolically the Blazing Star represents satisfaction, bliss, and happiness. Blooms until early fall. It is a **favourite target for bees, butterflies, and other pollinating insects!**



A **native plant** is one that grew somewhere before pioneers and settlers came to an area. These **plants and the animals and insects** that use them for food and shelter have **evolved together over thousands of years**. They are well adapted to living together in the region in which they grow!



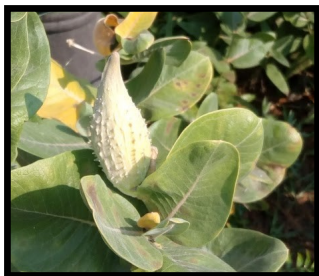
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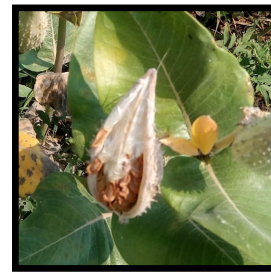
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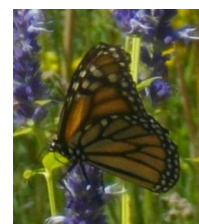


Milkweed is the host plant for the monarch butterfly. The monarch larva eats the milkweed leaves which contain cardiac glycosides that make monarchs toxic to predators.

Milkweed flowers produce **nectar that benefits all butterfly species and honey bees!**



The Royal Saskatchewan Museum created these new signs identifying each native plant! Nature Regina volunteers spend hundreds of hours in the garden every summer! A great partnership. **Come and check out a demonstration native plant garden in Wascana Centre!**



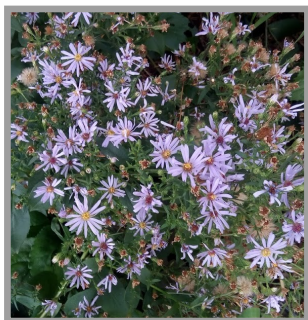
The native plant garden is a **Monarch Weigh Station** with www.monarchwatch.org/



Common Tall Sunflower

Here is a **fact for all of the mathies** out there...

"The florets in the head of a sunflower form a spiral, with each small flower oriented toward the next by an angle of 137.5 degrees (called the golden angle). This **orientation forms a pattern of spirals that interconnect**, with the number of right and left spirals being **consecutive Fibonacci numbers**. Typically, a sunflower has 34 spirals in one direction and 55 in the other" - www.therightflowers.com/sunflower-fun-facts/



Lindley's Aster

Attract pollinators such as butterflies, flies, and bees in late summer. The **larvae of some butterflies feed on the foliage while seeds are sometimes eaten by birds**. Drought tolerant.

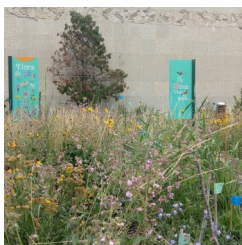


Why is there tall grass?
The **birds eat the seeds** at the top **in the winter**. The seeds are spread to feed the birds if they need to be trimmed!



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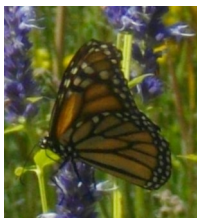
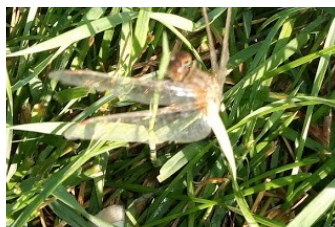


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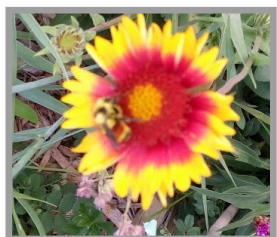
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Who else lives in the garden?



Bring a magnifying glass and
take a closer look at nature!

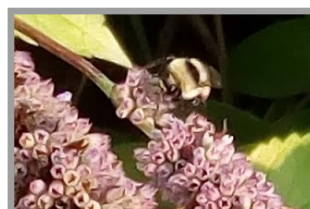


Cabbage
White
Moth



There are **350**
species of native
bees in
Saskatchewan!

Northern
Bedstraw
Caterpillar



Native bees — working away in the garden!

Hunt's Bumble Bee—
interested in pollen
not humans!



Can you see the ant?

Why Are Native Plants Important?

1) Perennials so they come back every year. **Protect the soil** because their roots go down deep to find water in the prairies.

2) Food and shelter for pollinators like bees and butterflies. Ever notice how well your garden grows if there are lots of native plants near by?

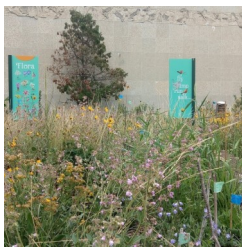
3) **Adapted to our climate!** Regina's annual precipitation is only 17 inches (rain and snow) and these plants have adapted over thousands of years to survive here.

4) **Provide food for wildlife and birds.** Check out how many **birds** visit the native plant garden.



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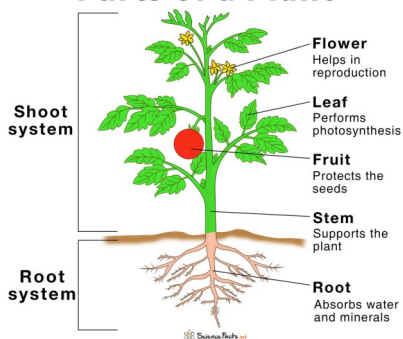


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Parts of a Plant



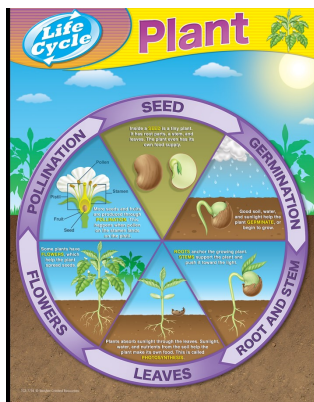
Every plant has a **root system** and a **shoot system**. The shoot system is made up of a flower, leaf, fruit and stem.



This is a purple prairie coneflower. **How do we know?** You can usually identify plants by their flower!

When the flower isn't there you can check out the leaves and stem. On this plant the leaves alternate with 3 to 5 leaflets. The stem is long and stiff. Once the flower dries out there is a hard pod or “fruit” left with seeds inside. Check out www.saskwildflower.ca for more info about leaves, stem patterns and flowers on plants.

From <https://www.sciencefacts.net/parts-of-a-plant.html>



Germination—A seed requires **water and warmth** to start the process. It is too cold in winter so they stay underground!

Roots and Stems – Stems emerge upward from the soil. The **roots** grow downwards looking for **water and minerals**. Native plants have deep roots.

Leaves— The plant uses the **sun for photosynthesis (captures energy)** and start to grow leaves.

Flowers & Pollination—The flower grows and produces pollen. The pollen needs to get onto another plant of the same species. **Bees and butterflies move the pollen** as well as the wind. The bright, colourful flowers attract the bees and butterflies.

Seed—Once pollinated the plant is able to produce seeds, fruit develops around the seed, protecting it and helping it to reach the ground. The **fruit is transported by wind, water, attaching to passing animals or being transported by animals that eat the fruit and later poop it out!**

From www.teachercreated.com/products/plant-life-cycles-chart-7714

Native plants have more nectar than hybrid flowers. They are a great food source for bees and butterflies because they have evolved over thousands of years along with the creatures that need them.



For a wild rose the fruit is called a rose hip



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