List of Wildflowers/plants seen on Horsetooth Falls Trail

Wednesday May 29th, 2024

Salsify- (Tragopogon dubius- Sunflower family) resembles a tall dandelion- leaves close to the ground.

Yellow Toad Flax- (Linaria Vulgaris-Figwort family)- invasive species can be toxic

Mustard- varies often grows in disturbed areas- 4 small flower pedals

White Fleabane-(Erigeron – Sunflower family) small daisy, numerous, narrow white petals-pink/red color when folded

Lamberts Locoweed-(Oxytropis sericea- Fabaceae or pea family) can also be light-to darker purple. It also looks like Milkvetch- the difference- the keel part of the flower is more pointed- Milkvetch is rounder. Locoweed concentrates selenium from the soil and is addictive and toxic to livestock causing them to go crazy- thus the name loco.

Milkvetch- (Astragalus, Fabaceae family)-looks like a locoweed- Flowers purple or white with rounded keel.

Groundsel, Ragwort Group- (Senecio- Sunflower family)- Basil leaves, close to the ground with groups of yellow flowers at the end of a long stem-yellow mini sunflowers.

Mountain Mahogany-(Cercocarpus montanus- Rose family) we found many woody shrub with small tooth leaves- it’s the plant that has a spiral seed head (which we didn’t see)

Scorpian weed- (Silver leaf Phacelia)-The whitish hairy flowers-

Cinquefoil Group- (Drymocallis -aka Potentilla-Rose Family) Flower looks like Buttercup- leaves toothed.

Penstemon- (Penstemon – Figwort Family) I think we saw the Penstemon Beardtongue. The flowers are tube like petals: 2 lobes at the top 3 lobes at the bottom of the flower. We saw purple/bluish variety -other species may be blue, pink, white, red, maroon flower colors.

Threeleaf Sumac, Skunkbrush- (Rhus aromatica-Sumac family) Shrub with three distinct leaves and aromatic- yellow flowers appear before the leaves in Spring- red berries later in the season.

Wax Current-(Ribes cereum-Gooseberry family)- Shrub with small rounded, waxy leaves

Boulder Raspberry-(Oreobatus deliciosus-Rose family) Large white flowers, rounded, lobed leaves- with a sprawling nature. Does fruit later in the season-looks like a Raspberry.

Wild Geranium-(Geranium caespitosum) Pink flowers with rounded leaves blooms into summer

Common Lupin-(Lupinus argeneus, Fabaceae, Pea family) Purple flowers (also can be blue or white) – spiked and up to 3’ tall.

Sulphur Flowers-(Eriogonum umbellatum, Buckwheat family) basil, small oblong leaves-The flowers a dense round umbel shape-numerous small flowers.

Pussy toes- (Antennaria-Sunflower family)- small light green, basil leaves- short flower spikes above looking like pussy toe

Pearly Everlasting-(Anaphalis margariacea-Sunflower family) taller plant with disk flowers above basal leaves in clusters.

Sugarbowl or Leatherflower-(Coriflora hirsutissima-Buttercup family) Dark purple-nodding flower-looks like a hat or bowl.