List of Wildflowers/plants seen on Horsetooth Falls Trail

June 2nd 2025

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- yellow, white sometimes purple

Purple Fleabane-(Erigeron – Sunflower family) daisy like flower- can be confused with daisy group- Fleabane is distinguished by having very narrow, numerous flower petals- underneath the flower the bracts are arranged in equal size. (compared to the daisy- bracts and layered)

Lamberts Locoweed-(Oxytropis sericea- Fabaceae or pea family) can also be light-to darker purple. There are also white varieties. This plant can be confused with Milk Vetch. For Locoweeds the keel (part of the flower petal) is pointed- Milkvetch is round. Locoweed concentrate selenium from the soil and is addictive and toxic to livestock causing them to go crazy- thus the name loco.

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. Buttercups have shiny petals.

Penstemon Virens( Frontrange Beard Tongue)- (Penstemon – Figwort Family) There are 42 different species of Penstemon in Colorado; 10 found in Larimer County. Penstemon are tube like flowers- always with 3 lobes on the bottom of the flower and 2 lobes on top.

Threeleaf Sumac, Skunkbrush- (Rhus aromatica-Sumac family) Shrub with distinct leaves of three 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.

Wavy-leaved Thistle-( Cirsium undulatum)- Colorado has 15 species of native thistles- This is one of them.

Skullcap; Scutellaria brittonii- (Mint- family)- look for square stem, purple flower with a “runway “ of lines to

attract pollinators.

Fringed Sage-Artemisia frigida- (Asteraceae family) leaves have sage smell- thread like leaves- silver-green color leaves- (unrelated to culinary sage- mint family)

White Sage- Artemesia ludoviciana-(Asteraceae family) thicker narrow leaves- (unrelated to culinary sage-mint family)

Purple Larkspur; Delphinium- short and tall-erect stems with blue/purple flowers,

Mouse-ear Chickweed or Field Chickweed- Cerastium strictum flower petals kind of resemble mouse ears.

Prairie Wild Onion- Allium textile- smells like onion- sometimes looks like Death Camus when not in flower

Death Camus; Toxicoscordion venenosum- All parts of this plant is poisonous-

Western Chokecherry- Padus virginiana- White flowers forming a long racemes- edible fruit – important for wildlife -although high acid

Wild Plum Prunus americana- Flowers appear before leaves-

Common Snowberry- Symphoricarpos albus-

Ponderosa Pine-Pinus ponderosa- Bundles of 3 needles.

Northern Bedstraw- Galium septentrionale- tiny white flower rough, clingy leaves and stems-

Gaura Gaura- Gaura coccinea- generally 12” or less- we saw mostly 4-5” stems-

Mountain Bladderpod- Lesquerella montana- basal,grey leaves;

Cowboy’s Delight-Scarlet Globemallow- Sphaeralcea coccinea – Orange flower color