

Generalized Physiographic Map of Kansas



Map courtesy of the Kansas Geological Survey

Region	Native Vegetation
Ozark Plateau	Oak-hickory mixed forest
Cherokee Lowlands	Tallgrass prairie and oak-hickory woodland.
Chautauqua Hills	Cross timbers savanna
Osage Cuestas	Mostly tallgrass prairie in the west to a combination of tallgrass prairie and oak-hickory woodland in the east.
Glaciated	Tallgrass prairie, scattered oak-hickory forests, and floodplain forests.
Flint Hills	Tallgrass prairie
Wellington-McPherson Lowlands	Tallgrass prairie and flood plain forests.
Smoky Hills	Transitional from tallgrass prairie in the East to mixed-grass prairie in the west. Some floodplain forests.
Arkansas River Lowlands	Sand prairie, sandsage prairie in the far west.
Red Hills	Mixed-grass prairie and sandsage prairie. Some floodplain forests.
High Plains	Mixed-grass prairie in the north. Sandsage prairie in the south in coarse textured soils. Shortgrass prairie in the south.

Reference: Chapman, S.S, et al., 2001. Ecoregions of Nebraska and Kansas (color poster with map, descriptive text, summary tables, and photographs) Reston, VA, U.S. Geological Survey.

Diversity of Kansas Native Plants

The great variety of plants to discover and enjoy in Kansas includes 1,700 native plant 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. But that is only a fragment of the flora 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*), various shrubs like Buffalo Currant (*Ribes odoratum*), and many vines including Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*). Furthermore, there are diminutive ferns, 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 flood plain forests throughout the state. Each of these regions has a unique blend of native plants. Any visit to any region, no matter the season, is sure to award the visitor with some memorable discoveries.



Argemone polyanthemus Plains Prickly-poppy © P Scherich

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The Kansas Native Plant Society is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization

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**Kansas
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Society**

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

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.



KNPS membership benefits

- Field Trips (enjoy plants in their natural habitats)
- Annual Autumn Event (forays, programs, 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

2007 Outings & Events Sponsored by KNPS

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

May 12: Barber County Wildflower Tour, Medicine Lodge, KS, 8:30am. Co-sponsors: Barber Co. Conservation District & KNPS. \$8 or 15 registration due May 7 includes transportation, and food. (620) 886-3721, ext. 3

May 12: Visit the Ft Leavenworth Woods Leavenworth, KS, 10am. Leader: Caleb Morse, please register. (785) 864-4493 <cmorse@ku.edu>

May 12: Dr. Woody Holland's Wildflower Tour of Neosho Co KS, 1pm. Leader: Carl Paulie, KNPS Board. (620) 449-2028

May 19: Comanche County Nature Tour, Coldwater, KS, 8:30am. Co-sponsors: Coldwater Chamber of Commerce & KNPS. Catered lunch offered for registration fee. Contact June Kliesen <jkliesen@havilandtelco.com> (620) 738-4340

Jun 2: Wilson County Wildflower Tour, Fredonia, KS, 8:30am. Co-sponsors: Wilson Co. Conservation District & KNPS. \$8 registration due May 28 includes transportation, and food. Contact Gina Thompson (620) 378-2866

Jun 9: Cowley County Wildflower Tour, 8am-noon. Co-sponsors: Cowley County Conservation District & KNPS. Reservations due June 5. (620) 221-1850, ext. 3.

Jun 9-10: Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve First Annual Wildflower Weekend, Chase County, KS. <tapr_interpretation@nps.gov> (620) 273-8494

Jun 9: Dr. Woody Holland's Wildflower Tour of Neosho Co KS, 1pm. Leader: Carl Paulie, KNPS Board. (620) 449-2028

Jun 10: Friends of Konza Prairie Wildflower Walk, 7pm. Leader: Valerie Wright, KNPS Past President (785) 587-0381 <keepkonza@ksu.edu>

Jun 13: Calhoun bluff prairie walk, Topeka, KS, 7pm. Leader: Jeff Hansen, KNPS President. (785) 478-1993 <email@ksnps.org>

Jun 20: Fifth Annual Grant-Bradbury Prairie Jaunt, Topeka, KS, 7pm. Leader: Jeff Hansen, KNPS President. (785) 864-3453 <email@ksnps.org>

Jun 23: Visit Snyder Prairie near Mayetta, KS, 9am. Leader: Frank Norman, KNPS Board. Co-sponsored by Grassland Heritage Foundation and KNPS (913) 262-3506 <email@grasslandheritage.org>

Sep 15: Forest Foray at Douglas State Fishing Lake, 10am. Leader: Caleb Morse. (785) 864-4493 <cmorse@ku.edu>

Sep 21-23: Annual KNPS Autumn Event, Hutchinson, KS. (785) 864-3453 <email@ksnps.org>



Kansas
Native
Plant
Society

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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