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COMMON RANGE PLANTS

In Nebraska



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COMMON RANGE PLANTS in Nebraska

By

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Here is a master list of the common range plants found in Nebraska. It is divided into two sections, "Primary Range Plants" and "Secondary Range Plants."

The first section, "Primary Range Plants," includes those plants upon which management of Nebraska range lands should be based. Some of these plants are palatable and productive, others are unpalatable and unproductive. However, from the presence, absence, or abundance of plants in this group, it is possible to evaluate past use on a particular range, determine range condition, and measure effectiveness of grazing programs.

The second section, "Secondary Range Plants," also includes plants frequently seen on Nebraska range lands. However, they are less important indicators of management or are only of local importance.

Because practical management of range requires primarily a knowledge of the first group of plants, educational programs should emphasize recognition and evaluation of this group.

Some range plant species respond differently to grazing on different range sites or in different precipitation zones. For these plants, base grazing response on the range site and precipitation zone where the plant is found growing.

PRIMARY RANGE PLANTS

Plant Name	Kind of Plant ¹	Life span ²		Season of growth		Grazing response			Forage value ⁴		
		Annual	Perennial	Cool	Warm	Decreaser	Increaser	Invader	Good	Fair	Poor
Alkali sacaton (<u>Sporobolus airoides</u>)	G		P		X	X			X--X		
American licorice (<u>Glycyrrhiza lepidota</u>)	F		P				X				X
Annual eriogonum (<u>Eriogonum annuum</u>)	F	A					X				X
Annual sunflowers (<u>Helianthus</u> spp.)	F	A					X				X
Big bluestem (<u>Andropogon gerardi</u>)	G		P		X	X			X		
Blacksamson (<u>Echinacea angustifolia</u>)	F		P				X		X		
Blue grama (<u>Bouteloua gracilis</u>)	G		P		X	X			X		
Bristlegrasses (<u>Setaria</u> spp.)	G	A			X		X				X
Broom snakeweed (<u>Gutierrezia sarothrae</u>)	S		P				X				X
Buffalograss (<u>Buchloe dactyloides</u>)	G		P		X	X			X		
Bush morningglory (<u>Ipomoea leptophylla</u>)	F		P				X		X		
Canada wildrye (<u>Elymus canadensis</u>)	G		P	X		X					X
Crested wheatgrass (<u>Agropyron desertorum</u>)	G		P	X		X ³			X		
Cudweed sagewort (<u>Artemisia ludoviciana</u> var. <u>gnaphalodes</u>)	F		P				X				X
Curlycup gumweed (<u>Grindelia squarrosa</u>)	F		P				X				X
Daisy fleabane (<u>Erigeron strigosus</u>)	F	A					X				X
Downy brome (<u>Bromus tectorum</u>)	G	A		X			X				X
Foxtail barley (<u>Hordeum jubatum</u>)	G		P	X			X				X
Docks (<u>Rumex</u> spp.)	F		P				X				X
Fringed sagewort (<u>Artemisia frigida</u>)	S		P				X				X
Gayfeathers (<u>Liatris</u> spp.)	F		P				X				X
Goldenrods (<u>Solidago</u> spp.)	F		P				X				X
Green needlegrass (<u>Stipa viridula</u>)	G		P	X		X			X		
Green sageworts (<u>Artemisia</u> spp.)	F	P or Bi					X				X
Hairy goldaster (<u>Chrysopsis villosa</u>)	F		P				X				X

Plant Name	Kind of Plant ¹	Life span ²		Season of growth		Grazing response			Forage value ⁴		
		Annual	Perennial	Cool	Warm	Decreaser	Increaser	Invader	Good	Fair	Poor
Hairy grama (<u>Bouteloua hirsuta</u>)	G		P		X		X			X	
Heath aster (<u>Aster ericoides</u>)	F		P				X				X
Indiangrass (<u>Sorghastrum nutans</u>)	G		P		X		X			X	
Indian ricegrass (<u>Oryzopsis hymenoides</u>)	G		P	X			X-X			X	
Inland saltgrass (<u>Distichlis stricta</u>)	G		P		X		X			X	
Intermediate wheatgrass (<u>Agropyron intermedium</u>)	G		P	X			X ³			X	
Ironweeds (<u>Vernonia</u> spp.)	F		P					X			X
Japanese brome (<u>Bromus japonicus</u>)	G	A		X			X				X
Kentucky bluegrass (<u>Poa pratensis</u>)	G		P	X			X			X	
Leadplant (<u>Amorpha canescens</u>)	S		P				X			X	
Lemon scurfpea (<u>Psoralea lanceolata</u>)	F		P				X				X
Little barley (<u>Hordeum pusillum</u>)	G	A		X			X				X
Little bluestem (<u>Andropogon scoparius</u>)	G		P		X		X-X			X	
Milkweeds (<u>Asclepias</u> spp.)	F		P					X			X
Needleandthread (<u>Stipa comata</u>)	G		P	X			X-X			X	
Plains muhly (<u>Muhlenbergia cuspidata</u>)	G		P		X		X			X	
Porcupinegrass (<u>Stipa spartea</u>)	G		P	X			X			X	
Prairieconeflower (<u>Ratibida</u> spp.)	F		P				X				X
Prairie cordgrass (<u>Spartina pectinata</u>)	G		P		X		X			X	
Prairie junegrass (<u>Koeleria cristata</u>)	G		P	X			X			X	
Prairie sandreed (<u>Calamovilfa longifolia</u>)	G		P		X		X-X			X	
Prairie threeawn (<u>Aristida oligantha</u>)	G	A			X		X				X
Pricklypears (<u>Opuntia</u> spp.)	F		P					X			X
Pricklypoppy (<u>Argemone intermedia</u>)	F	A						X			X
Purple lovegrass (<u>Eragrostis spectabilis</u>)	G		P		X		X			X	

Plant Name	Kind of Plant ¹	Life span ²		Season of growth		Grazing response			Forage value ⁴		
		Annual	Perennial	Cool	Warm	Decreaser	Increased	Invader	Good	Fair	Poor
Purple prairieclover (<u>Petalostemum purpureum</u>)	F		P				X		X		
Red clover (<u>Trifolium pratense</u>)	F		P				X ₃		X		
Red threeawn (<u>Aristida longiseta</u>)	G		P		X		X				X
Reed canarygrass (<u>Phalaris arundinacea</u>)	G		P	X			X				X
Reedgrasses (<u>Calamagrostis</u> spp.)	G		P	X			X		X		
Rocky Mountain beeplant (<u>Cleome serrulata</u>)	F	A						X			X
Rose (<u>Rosa</u> spp.)	S		P					X			X
Rushes (<u>Juncus</u> spp.)	GL		P	X			X				X
Russian wildrye (<u>Elymus junceus</u>)	G		P	X			X ₃		X		
Sand bluestem (<u>Andropogon hallii</u>)	G		P		X		X		X		
Sandbur (<u>Cenchrus pauciflorus</u>)	G	A			X			X			X
Sand dropseed (<u>Sporobolus cryptandrus</u>)	G		P		X		X				X
Sandhill muhly (<u>Muhlenbergia pungens</u>)	G		P		X		X				X
Sand lovegrass (<u>Eragrostis trichodes</u>)	G		P		X		X		X		
Sand paspalum (<u>Paspalum stramineum</u>)	G		P		X		X				X
Sand sagebrush (<u>Artemisia filifolia</u>)	S		P					X			X
Scarlet globemallow (<u>Sphaeralcea coccinea</u>)	F		P					X	X		
Scribner panicum (<u>Panicum scribnerianum</u>)	G		P	X			X				X
Sedges (<u>Carex</u> spp., <u>Cyperus</u> spp.)	GL		P	X			X-X		X-X		
Serrateleaf evening primrose (<u>Oenothera serrulata</u>)	S		P					X	X		
Sideoats grama (<u>Bouteloua curtipendula</u>)	G		P		X		X-X		X		
Silky prairieclover (<u>Petalostemum villosum</u>)	F		P					X			X
Silverleaf scurfpea (<u>Psoralea argophylla</u>)	F		P					X			X
Six weeks fescue (<u>Festuca octoflora</u>)	G	A		X				X			X
Slender wheatgrass (<u>Agropyron trachycaulum</u>)	G		P	X			X		X		

Plant Name	Kind of Plant/ <u>1</u>	Life span/ <u>2</u>		Season of growth		Grazing response			Forage value/ <u>4</u>		
		Annual	Perennial	Cool	Warm	Decreaser	Increased	Invader	Good	Fair	Poor
Slimflower scurfpea (<i>Psoralea tenuiflora</i>)	F		P					X			X
Small soapweed (<i>Yucca glauca</i>)	S		P					X			X
Smooth brome (<i>Bromus inermis</i>)	G		P	X				X/3		X	
Snowberry (<i>Symphoricarpos</i> spp.)	S		P					X			X
Stiff sunflower (<i>Helianthus laetiflorus</i>)	F		P					X		X	
Switchgrass (<i>Panicum virgatum</i>)	G		P		X		X	X		X	
Tall dropseed (<i>Sporobolus asper</i>)	G		P		X		X	X		X	
Tall wheatgrass (<i>Agropyron elongatum</i>)	G		P	X				X/3		X	
Thistles (<i>Cirsium</i> spp.)	F		P					X			X
Threadleaf sedge (<i>Carex filifolia</i>)	GL		P	X				X		X	
Verbenas (<i>Verbena</i> spp.)	F	A						X			X
Western ragweed (<i>Ambrosia psilostachya</i>)	F		P					X			X
Western sandcherry (<i>Prunus besseyi</i>)	S		P					X		X	
Western wheatgrass (<i>Agropyron smithii</i>)	G		P	X				X-X		X-X	
Woolly indianwheat (<i>Plantago patagonica</i>)	F	A						X			X

1 Kind of plant: grass (G), grasslike (GL), forb (F), or shrub (S).

2 Life span: annual (A), biennial (Bi), or perennial (P).

3 Desirable, introduced grasses and legumes; grazing response after establishment on adapted sites.

4 Forage value based on observations of plant preference exhibited by cattle during the growing season.

SECONDARY RANGE PLANTS

Plant Name	Kind of Plant/1	Life span/2		Season of growth		Grazing response			Forage value/4		
		Annual	Perennial	Cool	Warm	Decreaser	Increased	Invader	Good	Fair	Poor
Alfalfa (<u>Medicago sativa</u>)/3	F		P					X			X
Alkali cordgrass (<u>Spartina gracilis</u>)	G		P		X			X			X
Alsike clover (<u>Trifolium hybridum</u>)	F		P					X/3			X
American deervetch (<u>Lotus purshianus</u>)	F	A									
American sloughgrass (<u>Bechmannia syzigachne</u>)	G	A			X			X			X
Arrowgrass (<u>Triglochin</u> spp.)	F		P					X			X
Asters (<u>Aster</u> spp.)	F		P					X			X
Barnyardgrass (<u>Echinochloa crusgalli</u>)	G	A			X			X			X
Beebalm (<u>Monarda</u> spp.)	F	A						X			X
Blackeyesusan (<u>Rudbeckia hirta</u>)	F		P					X			X
Black medic (<u>Medicago lupulina</u>)	F	A						X			X
Blowoutgrass (<u>Redfieldia flexuosa</u>)	G		P		X			X			X
Buffalobur (<u>Solanum rostratum</u>)	F	A						X			X
Canada bluegrass (<u>Poa compressa</u>)	G		P	X				X			X
Chokecherry (<u>Prunus</u> spp.)	S		P					X			X
Common ragweed (<u>Ambrosia artemisifolia</u>)	F	A						X			X
Common witchgrass (<u>Panicum capillare</u>)	G	A			X			X			X
Common winterfat (<u>Eurotia lanata</u>)	F		P					X			X
Daleas (<u>Dalea</u> spp.)	F		P					X			X
Dandelions (<u>Taraxacum</u> spp.)	F		P					X			X
Deathcamas (<u>Zygadenus</u> spp.)	F		P					X			X
Dogbanes (<u>Apocynum</u> spp.)	F		P					X			X
Falsebuffalograss (<u>Munroa squarrosa</u>)	G	A			X			X			X
Falseboneset (<u>Kuhnia eupatorioides</u>)	F		P					X			X
Flannel mullein (<u>Verbascum thapsus</u>)	F		Bi					X			X

Plant Name	Kind of Plant/ <u>1</u>	Life span/ <u>2</u>		Season of growth		Grazing response			Forage value/ <u>4</u>		
		Annual	Perennial	Cool	Warm	Decreaser	Increaser	Invader	Good	Fair	Poor
Green muhly (<u>Muhlenbergia racemosa</u>)	G		P		X		X			X	
Greenthreads (<u>Thelesperma</u> spp.)	F	A or P					X				X
Gromwells (<u>Lithospermum</u> spp.)	F		P				X				X
Groundcherry (<u>Physalis</u> spp.)	F		P				X				X
Hoary evening primrose (<u>Oenothera biennis</u> var. <u>canescens</u>)	F		Bi				X				X
Horsetails (<u>Equisetum</u> spp.)	F		P				X				X
Illinois bundleflower (<u>Desmanthus illinoensis</u>)	F		P				X		X		
Iron plant (<u>Haplopappus spinulosus</u>)	F		P				X				X
Kochia (<u>Kochia scoparia</u>)	F	A					X				X
Lambsquarter (<u>Chenopodium album</u>)	F	A					X			X-X	
Larkspurs (<u>Delphinium</u> spp.)	F		P				X				X
Leafy spurge (<u>Euphorbia esula</u>)	F		P				X				X
Locoweed or crazyweed (<u>Astragalus</u> spp., <u>Oxytropis</u> spp.)	F		P				X				X
Marestail (<u>Conyza canadensis</u>)	F	A					X				X
Musk thistle (<u>Carduus nutans</u>)	F		Bi				X				X
Penstemons (<u>Penstemon</u> spp.)	F		P				X				X
Pepperweed (<u>Lepidium densiflorum</u>)	F	A					X				X
Pigweeds (<u>Amaranthus</u> spp.)	F	A					X				X
Prairie dropseed (<u>Sporobolus heterolepis</u>)	G		P		X		X		X		
Pussytoes (<u>Antennaria</u> spp.)	F		P				X				X
Redtop (<u>Agrostis alba</u>)	G		P	X			X/ <u>3</u>		X-X		
Riddell groundsel (<u>Senecio riddellii</u>)	F		P				X				X
Roundhead lespedeza (<u>Lespedeza capitata</u>)	F		P				X			X	
Russianthistle (<u>Salsola kali</u> var. <u>tenuifolia</u>)	F	A					X				X
Sandberg bluegrass (<u>Poa secunda</u>)	G		P	X			X			X	

Plant Name	Kind of Plant/ <u>1</u>	Life span/ <u>2</u>		Season of growth		Grazing response			Forage value/ <u>4</u>		
		Annual	Perennial	Cool	Warm	Decreaser	Increaser	Invader	Good	Fair	Poor
Scarlet gaura (<u>Gaura coccinea</u>)	F		P				X				X
Shepherdspurse (<u>Capsella bursa-pastoris</u>)	F	A						X			X
Showy peavine (<u>Lathyrus polymorphus</u>)	F		P				X			X	
Skeletonplant (<u>Lygodesmia</u> spp.)	F		P					X			X
Skunkbush sumac (<u>Rhus trilobata</u>)	S		P					X			X
Smooth sumac (<u>Rhus glabra</u>)	S		P					X			X
Snake cotton (<u>Froelichia</u> spp.)	F	A					X				X
Snow-on-the-mountain (<u>Euphorbia marginata</u>)	F	A						X			X
Spiderworts (<u>Tradescantia</u> spp.)	F		P					X			X
Squirreltail (<u>Sitanion hystrix</u>)	G		P	X				X			X
Stinkgrass (<u>Eragrostis cilianensis</u>)	G	A			X			X			X
Sweetclover (<u>Mellilotus</u> spp.)	F		Bi				X-X/ <u>3</u>				X
Tenpetal mentzelia (<u>Mentzelia decapetala</u>)	F		P					X			X
Texas croton (<u>Croton texensis</u>)	F		P					X			X
Timothy (<u>Phleum pratense</u>)	G		P	X				X/ <u>3</u>			X
Trailing wildbean (<u>Strophostyles helvola</u>)	F	A						X			X
Tumblegrass (<u>Schedonnardus paniculatus</u>)	G	A			X			X			X
Virginia wildrye (<u>Elymus virginicus</u>)	G		P	X			X			X-X	
Waterhemlock (<u>Cicuta maculata</u>)	F		P					X			X
White clover (<u>Trifolium repens</u>)	F		P					X/ <u>3</u>			X
White prairieclover (<u>Petalostemum candidum</u>)	F		P					X			X
Wilcox panicum (<u>Panicum wilcoxianum</u>)	G		P	X				X			X
Windmillgrass (<u>Chloris verticillata</u>)	G		P		X			X			X
Woollywhite hymenopappus (<u>Hymenopappus tenuifolius</u>)	F		Bi					X			X
Yarrow (<u>Achillea</u> spp.)	F		P					X			X

1 Kind of plant: grass (G), grasslike (GL), forb (F), or shrub (S).

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