The pocket gopher lives primarily underground and has many adaptations for digging, including muscular shoulders and forearms.

CC: 2

CC: 6

CC: 2

CC: 2
ANIMALS

ANIMALS

ANIMALS

ANIMALS
Prairie voles live in upland grasslands, fallow fields, and fencerows and typically avoid wooded areas.

CC: 5

Franklin’s ground squirrel is rare and declining in Iowa because it cannot live in mowed areas, edges, or grazed spaces.

CC: 8
White-tailed Jackrabbit
*Lepus townsendii*

Jackrabbits can leap distances of up to 20 feet when they are running at their maximum speed, which can be 30-35 miles per hour.

**CC: 8**

Dickcissel
*Spiza americana*

They are considered a pest by farmers in some regions because flocks can consume large quantities of cultivated grains.

**CC: 6**

Spotted Skunk
*Spilogale putorius*

The spotted skunk is considered endangered, rare, and declining in Iowa.

**CC: 9**

Bobcat
*Lynx rufus*

The bobcat was declining in Iowa due to human settlement, but it is now relatively common in southern Iowa. Bobcats are top predators that eat many other prairie animals.

**CC: 6**
ANIMALS

ANIMALS

ANIMALS

ANIMALS
The bobcat was declining in Iowa due to human settlement, but it is now relatively common in southern Iowa. Bobcats are top predators that eat many other prairie animals.

Plains pocket mice prefer dry, sandy prairies. They use the sand for burrowing and grooming.
Gray foxes live in a wide variety of habitats, including woodland, brushland and shrubland. They are important carnivores.

CC: 4

Eastern meadowlarks perch on fence posts or telephone lines to sing their whistle-like songs.

CC: 5
ANIMALS

ANIMALS

ANIMALS

ANIMALS
Northern Harrier  
*Circus cyaneus*

Northern Harriers are found in open areas, like prairies, and mostly hunt small mammals.

**CC: 2**

Dickcissel  
*Spiza americana*

They are considered a pest by farmers in some regions because flocks can consume large quantities of cultivated grains.

**CC: 6**

Northern Grasshopper Mouse  
*Onychomys leucogaster*

This mouse is sometimes called a “killer mouse” because it is carnivorous.

**CC: 1**

Northern Grasshopper Mouse  
*Onychomys leucogaster*

This mouse is sometimes called a “killer mouse” because it is carnivorous.

**CC: 1**
Northern Harrier
*Circus cyaneus*

Northern Harriers are found in open areas, like prairies, and mostly hunt small mammals.

**CC: 2**

Whitetail Deer
*Odocoileus virginianus*

Whitetail deer can adapt to a wide variety of habitats, but particularly like the edges of forests.

**CC: 2**

Great Blue Heron
*Ardea herodias*

The Great Blue Heron can adapt to almost any wetland habitat in its range.

**CC: 1**
ANIMALS

ANIMALS

ANIMALS

ANIMALS
Indiana Bat
*Myotis sodalis*

The Indiana Bat is a rare and endangered species in Iowa. They eat a variety of insects.

**CC: 10**

Whitetail Deer
*Odocoileus virginianus*

Whitetail deer can adapt to a wide variety of habitats, but particularly like the edges of forests.

**CC: 2**
ANIMALS

ANIMALS

ANIMALS

ANIMALS
Greater Prairie Chicken
*Tympanuchus cupido*

This species was once abundant, but has become extremely rare over much of its range due to habitat loss. One of the most famous aspects of these creatures is the mating ritual called booming.

**CC: 10**

Grasshopper Sparrow
*Ammodramus savannarum*

These sparrows make their nests on the ground, hidden under vegetation. Their song resembles the sounds made by grasshoppers.

**CC: 8**

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*Ammodramus savannarum*

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**CC: 8**
ANIMALS

ANIMALS

ANIMALS

ANIMALS
Henslow’s Sparrow
*Ammodramus henslowii*

Henslow’s sparrow is a threatened species in Iowa. They mainly eat insects and seeds and breed in shrubby fields.

**CC: 10**

**Northern Harrier**
*Circus cyaneus*

Northern Harriers are found in open areas, like prairies, and mostly hunt small mammals.

**CC: 2**

**Blue-winged Warbler**
*Vermivora cyanoptera*

Blue-winged warblers nest in open scrubby areas and eat insects and spiders.

**CC: 5**

**Blue-winged Warbler**
*Vermivora cyanoptera*

Blue-winged warblers nest in open scrubby areas and eat insects and spiders.

**CC: 5**
Eastern Meadowlark
*Sturnella magna*

Eastern meadowlarks perch on fence posts or telephone lines to sing their whistle-like songs.

CC: 5

Swainson’s Hawk
*Buteo swainsoni*

Swainson’s hawk prefers prairie and grassland habitat to catch prey. It requires a 1-2 mile home range.

CC: 6
Field sparrows are common and can survive in a wide variety of habitats.

CC: 7

Field sparrows are common and can survive in a wide variety of habitats.

CC: 7

Field sparrows are common and can survive in a wide variety of habitats.

CC: 7

They are considered a pest by farmers in some regions because flocks can consume large quantities of cultivated grains.

CC: 6
ANIMALS

ANIMALS

ANIMALS

ANIMALS
Prairie Chicken
*Tympanuchus cupido*

This species was once abundant, but has become extremely rare over much of its range due to habitat loss. One of the most famous aspects of these creatures is the mating ritual called booming.

**CC: 10**

---

Black-crowned Night Heron
*Nycticorax nycticorax*

This heron is generally found near wetlands.

**CC: 6**

---

Great Blue Heron
*Ardea herodias*

The Great Blue Heron can adapt to almost any wetland habitat in its range.

**CC: 1**

---

Six-lined Racerunner
*Cnemidophorus sexlineatus*

These are Iowa's fastest lizard and have been known to run up to 18 miles per hour! They live in sandy prairies and bask on top of rocks or logs. The warmer they are, the faster they can run.

**CC: 6**
The Great Blue Heron can adapt to almost any wetland habitat in its range.

CC: 1

Recently, Canada goose populations in some areas have become pests for their droppings, noise, and aggressive behavior. This problem is partially due to the removal of natural predators.

CC: 1
Six-lined Racerunner  
*Cnemidophorus sexlineatus*

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**CC: 6**

Northern Prairie Skink  
*Eumeces septentrionalis*

These skinks can re-grow their tails if they are broken off while the skink escapes a predator. They eat small insects and often dig shallow burrows under rocks or logs.

**CC: 6**

Prairie Kingsnake  
*Lampropeltis calligaster*

These beautiful, non-venomous, snakes are found in a variety of habitats. They eat mammals, birds, frogs and reptile eggs and have even been known to eat venomous snakes! They sometimes live in barns and help control mice and other pests.

**CC: 5**

Smooth Greensnake  
*Opheodrys vernalis*

These non-venomous snakes are found in prairies and in forested areas. They eat only insects and are quickly losing their food sources as more and more pesticides are being used. They have been known to play dead when frightened.

**CC: 6**
Boreal Chorus Frog
*Pseudacris maculata*

These tiny frogs are often heard but rarely seen. Their “prrreep!” call, heard early in spring, sounds like someone running their fingers down the teeth of a fine-toothed comb.

**CC: 1**

Ornate Box Turtle
*Terrapene ornata*

These turtles are threatened in Iowa, mainly because of habitat loss. Wild box turtles live about 25 years and eat everything from fruits and flowers to insects and earthworms. They sometimes even eat carrion!

**CC: 8**

Blanding’s Turtle
*Emydidae blandingii*

These turtles are threatened in Iowa, mostly because we have drained so much of their marshy habitat to grow crops. They dig their nests in open sandy areas and seem to prefer eating crayfish.

**CC: 9**

Boreal Chorus Frog
*Pseudacris maculata*

These tiny frogs are often heard but rarely seen. Their “prrreep!” call, heard early in spring, sounds like someone running their fingers down the teeth of a fine-toothed comb.

**CC: 1**
ANIMALS

ANIMALS

ANIMALS

ANIMALS
Crawfish Frog
*Rana areolata*

Crawfish frogs are endangered in Iowa. They live in old crayfish burrows and breed in April. Their mating call sounds like a snorting hog, and a group of calling males sounds like a whole sty full of pigs!

CC: 10

**Boreal Chorus Frog**
*Pseudacris maculata*

These tiny frogs are often heard but rarely seen. Their “prrrrreeep!” call, heard early in spring, sounds like someone running their fingers down the teeth of a fine-toothed comb.

CC: 1

**Tiger Salamander**
*Ambystoma tigrinum*

Tiger salamanders breed in wetlands during early spring, often before the ice has even fully melted. They live in burrows underground and are voracious eaters. They will eat almost anything smaller than themselves.

CC: 3

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*Rana areolata*

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CC: 3
Goldenrod Crab Spider
*Misumena vatia*

These spiders are either yellow or white and sit on the same colored flower to disguise themselves so they can catch prey more easily.

CC: 3

Giant Water Bug
*Family: Belostomatidae*

These bugs are found in ponds and shallow margins of lakes with vegetation.

CC: 5

Tiger Salamander
*Ambystoma tigrinum*

Tiger salamanders breed in wetlands during early spring, often before the ice has even fully melted. They live in burrows underground and are voracious eaters. They will eat almost anything smaller than themselves.

CC: 3

Blue-spotted Salamander
*Ambystoma laterale*

These salamanders are endangered in Iowa. They live under rotting logs and leaf piles, mostly in forested areas. They breed in small wetlands in early spring and may wave their tails back and forth if they feel threatened.

CC: 9
ANIMALS

ANIMALS

ANIMALS

ANIMALS
**Tachinid Fly**  
*Family: Tachinidae*

This family of flies is very boring in color although a few can be brightly colored.

CC: 2

---

**Leaf-Footed Bug**  
*Family: Coreidae*

Males generally have thick thighs with spikes which are used to fight other males.

CC: 6

---

**Syrphid Fly**  
*Family: Syrphidae*

Syrphid flies are also called hoverflies or flower flies.

CC: 2

---

**White-lined Sphinx Moth**  
*Hyles lineata*

As a caterpillar, this moth has a green or orange speckled head and a yellow or orange horn.

CC: 4
ANIMALS

ANIMALS

ANIMALS

ANIMALS
American Dog Tick
*Dermacentor variabilis*

These ticks are also known as Wood Ticks. Even though they suck blood, these ticks have not been found to carry Lyme disease like their cousin the deer tick.

**CC: 4**

Praying Mantis
*Family: Mantidae*

Only two species of praying mantis are found in Iowa: the Carolina Mantis and the Chinese Mantis.

**CC: 5**

Differential Grasshopper
*Melanoplus differentialis*

When in large groups, this grasshopper can be a major agricultural problem by feeding on crops.

**CC: 1**

Stink Bug
*Family: Pentatomidae*

The name stink bug comes from the smelly substance secreted when the bug is disturbed or smashed.

**CC: 3**
Goldenrod Soldier Beetle
*Chauliognathus pensylvanicus*

Soldier Beetles resemble fireflies but do not have the light-producing organs.

Ladybug
*Family: Coccinellidae*

Ladybugs are called Ladybird beetles in England.

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CC: 2

Goldenrod Soldier Beetle
*Chauliognathus pensylvanicus*

Soldier Beetles resemble fireflies but do not have the light-producing organs.

CC: 1

Woolly Bear Caterpillar
*Pyrrharctia Isabella*

The Woolly Bear caterpillar is the larval stage for the Isabella Tiger Moth. People used to think that the brown band on the caterpillar’s back could predict how cold the next winter would be, but it is just a myth.

CC: 3

Katydid
*Family: Tettigoniidae*

The Katydid is named for the song it makes when mating: “Katy-did, she-did”.

CC: 4
ANIMALS

ANIMALS

ANIMALS

ANIMALS
Ants
Family: Formicidae

Ants are thought to be more closely related to bees than wasps.

CC: 3

Goldenrod Soldier Beetle
Chauliognathus pensylvanicus

Soldier Beetles resemble fireflies but do not contain the light-producing organs.

CC: 1

Ladybug
Family: Coccinellidae

Ladybugs are called Ladybird beetles in England.

CC: 2

Ants
Family: Formicidae

Most queens and the male ants (drones) have wings while the worker females do not.

CC: 3
The Woolly Bear caterpillar is the larval stage for the Isabella Tiger Moth. People used to think that the brown band on the caterpillar’s back could predict how cold the next winter would be, but it is just a myth.

Woolly Bear Caterpillar
*Pyrrharctia Isabella*

Native bees can range in color from the typical black and yellow to metallic green and blue.

Native Bees
*Order: Hymenoptera*

Bumblebees pollinate via buzz pollination where the bee vibrates to shake the pollen off of the plant.

Bumble Bees
*Bombus spp.*

Bees are considered very important pollinators for both wildflowers and crops.

Native Bees
*Order: Hymenoptera*
**Prairie Mole Cricket**
*Gryllotalpa major*

This is the largest mole cricket in North America reaching almost two inches in length.

**Hine’s Emerald Dragonfly**
*Somatotchola hineana*

This dragonfly spends 2-4 years as a larva in the water before emerging as an adult and living for only 2-6 weeks.

**Katydid**
*Family: Tettigoniidae*

The Katydid is named for the song it makes when mating: “Katy-did, she-did”.

**Moth**
*Order: Lepidoptera*

Moths navigate by knowing where the moon is.

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**Moth**
*Order: Lepidoptera*

Moths navigate by knowing where the moon is.
These turtles are threatened in Iowa, mainly because of habitat loss. Wild box turtles live about 25 years and eat everything from fruits and flowers to insects and earthworms. They sometimes even eat carrion!
Burrowing Owl
*Athene cunicularia*

Burrowing owls nest and roost in the ground, and sometimes use prairie dog burrows as nest sites. They are often active during the day.

CC: 9

---

Regal Fritillary
*Speyeria idalia*

This rare butterfly can lay up to 1,000 eggs at the bottom of violets in August and September.

CC: 9

---

Karner Blue Butterfly
*Lycaeides melissa samuelis*

This endangered butterfly does not travel far, staying within 300-600 feet from where it hatched.

CC: 10
**Drought**

You experience a drought for the year.

**Lose 3 plant species cards.**

**High School Students**

High school biology students visit to learn about the importance of quality habitat for birds and mammals.

**Pick 1 animal species card.**

---

**Drought**

You experience a drought and your wetlands dry up.

**Lose 1 animal species card.**

---
You experience a drought for the year.

Lose 3 plant species cards.

You experience a drought for the year.

Lose 3 plant species cards.

You experience a drought and your wetlands dry up.

Lose 1 animal species card.

You experience a drought and your wetlands dry up.

Lose 1 animal species card.
**Lightning Fire**

A lightning storm starts a fire burning most of your land.

Lose 1 rare animal species card.

**Flood**

Torrential rain causes your wetland area to flood. Reed Canary Grass takes over.

Lose a turn.

**Tornado**

A tornado runs straight through the middle of your land destroying everything in its path.

Lose 1 plant species card and 1 animal species card.

**Herbicides**

Congratulations! You have received funding to spray herbicides on your invasive plant species.

Discard all of your invasive species. You may keep this card until needed.
**Lightning Fire**

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Lose 1 rare animal species card.

---

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Torrential rain causes your wetland area to flood. Reed Canary Grass takes over.

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Discard all of your invasive species. You may keep this card until needed.
CHANCE

?

CHANCE

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CHANCE

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CHANCE

?
Grant Funding

Congratulations! Your grant proposal has been accepted and you will receive funding for the next year.

Roll again.

Wind Dispersal

Strong winds bring unknown seeds to germinate on your land.

Blindly pick 1 plant species card from another player.
Grant Funding

Congratulations! Your grant proposal has been accepted and you will receive funding for the next year.

Roll again.

Wind Dispersal

Strong winds bring unknown seeds to germinate on your land.

Blindly pick 1 plant species card from another player.

Wind Dispersal

Strong winds bring unknown seeds to germinate on your land.

Blindly pick 1 plant species card from another player.
Conversion

A neighboring farm wants to convert their land to prairie. You harvest seed and help your neighbor.

Roll again.

Habitat

Environmental conditions are excellent and animals breed like crazy.

Pick 1 animal species card.

Invasive Species

Your land has been invaded by unwanted plants.

Lose a turn.
CHANCE

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CHANCE

?  ?  ?  ?

CHANCE

?  ?  ?  ?

CHANCE

?  ?  ?  ?
Conversion

A neighboring farm wants to convert their land to prairie. You harvest seed and help your neighbor.

Roll again.

Invasive Species

Your land has been invaded by unwanted plants.

Lose a turn.

Habitat

Environmental conditions are excellent and animals breed like crazy.

Pick 1 animal species card.

Invasive Species

Your land has been invaded by unwanted plants.

Lose a turn.
**Weeds**

You decide to walk through your land and remove weeds.

**Discard your lowest CC valued plant card and pick 1 new plant species card.**

---

**Town Meeting**

At a town meeting you successfully convince other citizens of the importance of prairie habitat for animals.

**Pick 1 animal species card.**

---

**Plant ID Contest**

Congratulations! You win a plant identification contest.

**Pick 1 plant species cards.**

---

**Elementary School Students**

The elementary school gets involved in prairie restoration and plants diverse plots on your land.

**Pick 1 plant species card.**
You decide to walk through your land and remove weeds.

**Weeds**

Discard your lowest CC valued plant card and pick 1 new plant species card.

At a town meeting you successfully convince other citizens of the importance of prairie habitat for animals.

**Town Meeting**

Pick 1 animal species card.

Congratulations! You win a plant identification contest.

**Plant ID Contest**

Pick 1 plant species cards.

The elementary school gets involved in prairie restoration and plants diverse plots on your land.

**Elementary School Students**

Pick 1 plant species card.
**Lead Plant**  
*Amorpha canescens*

The entire plant is so hairy that it has a whitish appearance; in dense patches this whitish hue can appear lead-like in color.  

CC: 8

---

**Western Yarrow**  
*Achillea millefolium*

This flower can be planted to prevent soil erosion because it is so resistant to drought.  

CC: 0
Western Yarrow
*Achillea millefolium*

This flower can be planted to prevent soil erosion because it is so resistant to drought.

CC: 0

Wild Strawberry
*Fragaria virginiana*

Did you know that strawberries aren’t technically berries? But they are delicious! The strawberries we enjoy from stores and farmers markets today were developed from wild strawberries like these.

CC: 3
Did you know that strawberries aren’t technically berries? But they are delicious! The strawberries we enjoy from stores and farmers markets today were developed from wild strawberries like these.

New England Aster
Symphiotrichum novae-angliae

This species inhabits a wide variety of habitats and soil types, though it does not tolerate dense shade. Smoke from related plants was once used to revive a person who had fainted.
PLANTS

Sunflower

PLANTS

Sunflower

PLANTS

Sunflower

PLANTS

Sunflower
**New England Aster**  
*Symphiotrichum novae-angliae*

This species inhabits a wide variety of habitats and soil types, though it does not tolerate dense shade. Smoke from related plants was once used to revive a person who had fainted.

**Crown Vetch**  
*Securigera varia*

Crown vetch is toxic to horses. It can even cause paralysis or death if too much is eaten.

**INVASIVE!**  
**CC: -10**

**Black-eyed Susan**  
*Rudbeckia hirta*

Some consider this flower weedy because it grows in hayfields and pastures, but it is easily controlled and provides a touch of beauty to prairies, meadows, or roadsides.

**CC: 2**

**Black-eyed Susan**  
*Rudbeckia hirta*

Some consider this flower weedy because it grows in hayfields and pastures, but it is easily controlled and provides a touch of beauty to prairies, meadows, or roadsides.

**CC: 2**
Black-eyed Susan  
*Rudbeckia hirta*

Some consider this flower weedy because it grows in hayfields and pastures, but it is easily controlled and provides a touch of beauty to prairies, meadows, or roadsides.

**CC: 2**

Partridge Pea  
*Chamaecrista fasciculata*

The leaves and seeds of this plant are eaten by deer, bobwhite quail, prairie chickens, and kangaroo rats.

**CC: 1**
PLANTS

PLANTS

PLANTS

PLANTS
**Partridge Pea**  
*Chamaecrista fasciculata*

The leaves and seeds of this plant are eaten by deer, bobwhite quail, prairie chickens, and kangaroo rats.  

CC: 1

**Wild Bergamot**  
*Monarda fistulosa*

This sturdy plant has a square stem and can grow to be five feet tall.  

CC: 2
**Wild Bergamot**  
*Monarda fistulosa*

This sturdy plant has a square stem and can grow to be five feet tall.

**CC: 2**

---

**Ironweed**  
*Vernonia fasciculata*

This plant is so tough and bitter that very few animals eat it. However, it makes great nectar for bees!

**CC: 1**
PLANTS

PLANTS

PLANTS

PLANTS
Ironweed
*Vernonia fasciculata*

This plant is so tough and bitter that very few animals eat it. However, it makes great nectar for bees!

CC: 1

White Sage
*Artemisia ludoviciana*

American Indians once burned this plant as a mosquito repellent. Sage seasoning does not come from this plant.

CC: 2
PLANTS

PLANTS

PLANTS

PLANTS
White Sage  
*Artemisia ludoviciana*

American Indians once burned this plant as a mosquito repellent. Sage seasoning does not come from this plant.

**CC: 2**

Round-headed Bush Clover  
*Lespedeza capitata*

The seeds of this plant are eaten by quail, pheasant, grouse, and many kinds of songbirds and other wildlife.

**CC: 3**
PLANTS

[Sunflower illustrations]

PLANTS

[Sunflower illustrations]
Round-headed Bush Clover
*Lespedeza capitata*

The seeds of this plant are eaten by quail, pheasant, grouse, and many kinds of songbirds and other wildlife.

CC: 3

Western Ragweed
*Ambrosia psilostachya*

This is a common plant in many habitat types, including disturbed areas like roadsides.

CC: 2
PLANTS

PLANTS

PLANTS

PLANTS
**Western Ragweed**  
*Ambrosia psilostachya*

This is a common plant in many habitat types, including disturbed areas like roadsides.

**CC: 2**

---

**Giant Lobelia**  
*Lobelia siphilitica*

These short lived plants contain several compounds that are similar to nicotine. In dry times animals sometimes eat too much and become poisoned.

**CC: 3**

---

**Giant Lobelia**  
*Lobelia siphilitica*

These short lived plants contain several compounds that are similar to nicotine. In dry times animals sometimes eat too much and become poisoned.

**CC: 3**
The rough bristles have been used to scour or clean pots and as sandpaper.

CC: 1
**Flowering Spurge**  
*Euphorbia corollata*

The milky juice of the leaves is irritating, and may cause blistering if left on the skin. It is rarely eaten by livestock, but is an important food source for prairie chickens.

**CC: 3**

---

**Flowering Spurge**  
*Euphorbia corollata*

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**CC: 3**

---

**Hoary Vervain**  
*Verbena stricta*

The tops of this plant stay throughout the winter and are a good seed source for birds.

**CC: 1**
Hoary Vervain
*Verbena stricta*

The tops of this plant stay throughout the winter and are a good seed source for birds.

**CC: 1**

---

Buckthorn
*Rhamnus cathartica*

This thorny plant is a primary host of the soybean aphid, a major pest for soybean farmers across the US.

**INVASIVE!**

**CC: -10**
Buckthorn
*Rhamnus cathartica*

This thorny plant is a primary host of the soybean aphid, a major pest for soybean farmers across the US.

INVASIVE!
CC: -10

Crown Vetch
*Securigera varia*

Crown vetch is toxic to horses. It can even cause paralysis or death if too much is eaten.

INVASIVE!
CC: -10

Reed Canary Grass
*Phalaris arundinacea*

This grass often invades wetlands by crowding out native plants. It grows very tall and very thickly.

INVASIVE!
CC: -10

Crown Vetch
*Securigera varia*

Crown vetch is toxic to horses. It can even cause paralysis or death if too much is eaten.

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**CC: -10**
**Prairie Phlox**  
*Phlox pilosa*

This flower is often visited by hummingbirds and is occasionally eaten by deer.  

**CC: 7**

**Pasque Flower**  
*Pulsatilla patens*

This flower has a history of use by Native Americans and herbalists for medicinal treatments. It is one of the earliest spring bloomers on the prairie and is celebrated as a sign of spring.  

**CC: 8**

**Big Bluestem**  
*Andropogon gerardii*

Early settlers found that corn grew best where "big blue" grew.  

**CC: 4**

**Big Bluestem**  
*Andropogon gerardii*

This native prairie grass is also nicknamed “turkey foot”.

**CC: 4**
Golden Alexanders  
*Zizia aurea*

This perennial (multi-year) plant is known for its ability to survive dry summers, even though it prefers wet habitats.

**CC: 6**

Big Bluestem  
*Andropogon gerardii*

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**CC: 4**

Side Oats Grama  
*Bouteloua curtipendula*

This is a good foraging grass for livestock and is also good for erosion control. It has small reddish flowers.

**CC: 6**

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**CC: 6**
Pale Purple Coneflower
*Echinacea pallida*

Native Americans bathed burns in juice from the plant to relieve pain. The roots were also used to treat snakebites.

CC: 7

False Gromwell
*Onosmodium molle*

Some people say this plant smells like a wet dog or a donkey.

CC: 4

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Indian Grass
*Sorghastrum nutans*

It takes about 175,000 spikelets to make a pound of seed.

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Hairy Grama  
*Bouteloua hirsuta*

The flowers of this fun grass remind some people of fake eyelashes.  

**CC: 7**

Butterfly Milkweed  
*Asclepias tuberosa*

The bright colors of this flower attract many insects, especially butterflies.  

**CC: 6**
PLANTS

[Image of sunflower]

PLANTS

[Image of sunflower]

PLANTS

[Image of sunflower]

PLANTS

[Image of sunflower]
Canada Wild Rye
_Elymus canadensis_

This grass stays through the winter, so seed heads are a source of food for wildlife. Grains from a related plant, Virginia Wild Rye, used to be ground up to make Pinole flour.

**CC: 5**

Rattlesnake Master
_Eryngium yuccifolium_

Native Americans, pioneers, and even Ancient Greeks used related plants for medicinal purposes.

**CC: 5**

Gray Headed Coneflower
_Ratibida pinnata_

This flower grows readily and reproduces abundantly; it also survives neglect or disturbance.

**CC: 4**

Gray Headed Coneflower
_Ratibida pinnata_

This flower grows readily and reproduces abundantly; it also survives neglect or disturbance.

**CC: 4**
Ox Eye Sunflower  
*Heliopsis helianthoides*

This flower is commonly found in disturbed areas, dry woods, and dry to wet ground.  

**CC: 4**

Showy Tick Trefoil  
*Desmodium canadense*

This plant relies on insects, especially honey bees, for pollination. The seed pods are covered with tiny, hooked hairs that let them cling to clothing and fur.  

**CC: 6**

Prairie Cordgrass  
*Spartina pectinata*

This grass grows near wetlands and provides protection for wildlife. It was once used as thatch for roofs.  

**CC: 4**
PLANTS

PLANTS

PLANTS

PLANTS
Prairie Cordgrass
*Spartina pectinata*

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**CC: 4**

Purple Prairie Clover
*Dalea purpurea*

This nutritious plant is considered one of the most important legumes in native grasslands on the Great Plains.

**CC: 8**

Culver’s Root
*Veronicastrum virginicum*

These plants flower from mid-summer to early fall.

**CC: 5**

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*Veronicastrum virginicum*

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**CC: 5**
Mountain Mint
*Pycnanthemum virginianum*

The leaves of this plant smell very strongly when crushed and have been used as a seasoning for cooking. Early settlers thought that a poultice of the leaves put on a bite wound could prevent rabies.

CC: 4

Stiff Goldenrod
*Solidago rigida*

This plant is an invader that increases in grazed pastures because it is eaten only in the early stages of its growth.

CC: 4
**Prairie Dropseed**  
*Sporobolus heterolepis*

This grass grows in small clumps and is also called ‘bunchgrass.’ The seeds are an important food source for many species of birds. Native Americans ground the seeds into flour.

CC: 9

**Little Bluestem**  
*Schizachyrium scoparium*

The seeds and stem provide food for song birds, deer, antelope, and bison.

CC: 5

**Little Bluestem**  
*Schizachyrium scoparium*

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CC: 5

**Bottle Gentian**  
*Gentiana andrewsii*

The flowering of this species is one of the last colorful events on the prairie; it often persists during hard frosts. The petals never open, even in full bloom, which is what gives it the name ‘bottle’ or ‘closed’ gentian.

CC: 8
Prairie Blazingstar
*Liatris pycnostachya*

The roots of blazing star have been described as tasting carrot-like.

**CC: 6**

Switch Grass
*Panicum virgatum*

This plant is an important food source for many kinds of birds and browsing animals. It takes almost 400,000 seeds to make a pound, and the small spikes that surround them often stick in one’s socks uncomfortably.

**CC: 5**

Compass Plant
*Silphium laciniatum*

The leaves of this plant tend to be oriented in a general north-south direction which gave rise to its common name.

**CC: 7**
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*Silphium laciniatum*

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**CC: 7**

**Foxglove**
*Penstemon digitalis*

Another common name is beard-tongue because the stamen has a tuft of small hairs.

**CC: 4**

**Canada anemone**
*Anemone Canadensis*

Ancient legend holds that the anemone sprang up where teardrops of the mythological Venus struck the earth as she mourned the death of her beloved Adonis.

**CC: 2**

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**CC: 2**

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**Bonus Bloomers**

- Ohio Spiderwort
  *Tradescantia ohiensis*
  **CC: 4**

- Illinois Bundleflower
  *Desmanthus illinoensis*
  **CC: 4**

- Maximilian Sunflower
  *Helianthus maximiliani*
  **CC: 4**

**Total CC: 12**