

UPs23 Southern Mesic Prairie Pollinator Resources

Grass-dominated but forb-rich herbaceous communities on somewhat poorly drained to well-drained loam soils mainly formed in unsorted glacial till, sometimes in a thin loess layer over till, and locally in lacustrine sediments and outwash deposits. Communities in this class occur primarily on level to gently rolling sites. Drought stress is irregular in occurrence and usually not severe.

Examples of insect pollinators (and their associated host plants in parentheses) that use UPs23 include:

Bees:

Andrena vernalis (*Zizia*)

Colletes andrewsi (*Heuchera richardsonii*)

Xenoglossa albata (*Dalea purpurea*)

Andrena rudbeckiae (*Ratibida*, *Rudbeckia*)

Butterflies:

Anatrytone logan (*Andropogon gerardii*)

Danaus plexippus (*Asclepias*)

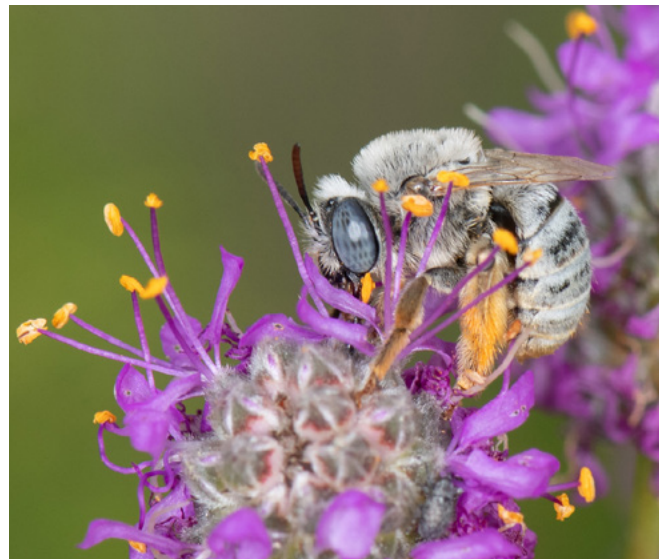
Polites origenes (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)

Moths:

Dichomeris flavocostella (*Solidago rigida*)

Papaipema rigida (*Heliopsis helianthoides*)

Chlorochlamys chloroleucaria (*Dalea candida*)



Xenoglossa albata uses *Dalea purpurea* (purple prairie clover) as a host plant. Photo: Heather Holm



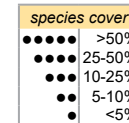
Polites origenes (crossline skipper) uses *Schizachyrium scoparium* (little bluestem) as a host plant.

Photo: Bob Dunlap

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Pollinator Resources Table

UPs23 Class Factsheet. Based on 102 plots. November 2024



Forbs	species frequency in NPC (%)	species cover (when present)	Compatibility	Longevity	Clonality	Principal Pollen Vector	Pollinator requirements	Pollination Index
Heart-leaved alexanders (<i>Zizia aptera</i>)	78	●	SC	Perennial	Absent	insects	Generalist	3
Heath aster (<i>Aster ericoides</i>)	77	●●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Stiff goldenrod (<i>Solidago rigida</i>)	74	●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Canada goldenrod (<i>Solidago canadensis</i>)	69	●●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Purple prairie clover (<i>Dalea purpurea</i>)	68	●	SC	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	2
Yarrow (<i>Achillea millefolium</i>)	65	●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Rough blazing star (<i>Liatris aspera</i>)	59	●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Prairie phlox (<i>Phlox pilosa</i>)	55	●	SI	Perennial	Absent	insects	Early spring insect, Somewhat specific insect	6
White prairie clover (<i>Dalea candida</i>)	55	●	UNK	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	3
Hoary puccoon (<i>Lithospermum canescens</i>)	53	●	H	Perennial	Absent	insects	Somewhat specific insect	6
Stiff sunflower (<i>Helianthus pauciflorus</i>)	50	●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Prairie wild onion (<i>Allium stellatum</i>)	49	●	SC	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	2
Missouri goldenrod (<i>Solidago missouriensis</i>)	47	●●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Long-headed thimbleweed (<i>Anemone cylindrica</i>)	46	●	SC	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	2
Bearded birdfoot violet (<i>Viola palmata</i>)	45	●	CL flowers	Perennial	Present	insects	Early spring insect	4
Flodman's thistle (<i>Cirsium flodmanii</i>)	45	●	GD	Perennial	Weakly	insects	Generalist	4
Tall meadow-rue (<i>Thalictrum dasycarpum</i>)	44	●	D	Perennial	Present	wind	Generalist	0
Daisy fleabane (<i>Erigeron strigosus</i>)	44	●	A	Annual, bi-	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Silverleaf scurfpea (<i>Pediomelum argophyllum</i>)	43	●	UNK	Perennial	Present	insects	Somewhat specific insect	4
White sage (<i>Artemisia ludoviciana</i>)	43	●	SC	Perennial	Present	wind	Generalist	0
Northern bedstraw (<i>Galium boreale</i>)	39	●●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Smooth blue aster (<i>Aster laevis</i>)	37	●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Gray-headed coneflower (<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>)	36	●●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Silky aster (<i>Aster sericeus</i>)	34	●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Maximilian's sunflower (<i>Helianthus maximiliani</i>)	31	●●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Gray goldenrod (<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>)	31	●●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Ox-eye (<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>)	31	●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Tall cinquefoil (<i>Potentilla arguta</i>)	31	●	A	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	2
Common milkweed (<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>)	31	●	SI/sc	Perennial	Present	insects	Somewhat specific insect	4
Bird's foot coreopsis (<i>Coreopsis palmata</i>)	30	●●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Narrow-leaved purple coneflower (<i>Echinacea pallida</i>)	30	●	SI	Perennial	Absent	insects	Generalist	5
Prairie turnip (<i>Pediomelum esculentum</i>)	30	●	UNK	Perennial	Present	insects	Somewhat specific insect	4
Alumroot (<i>Heuchera richardsonii</i>)	28	●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Great blazing star (<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>)	27	●●	UNK	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	3
White camass (<i>Zigadenus elegans</i>)	27	●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Common strawberry (<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>)	26	●	SC	Perennial	Present	insects	Early spring insect	3
Bastard toadflax (<i>Comandra umbellata</i>)	25	●	SC	Perennial	Present	insects	Early spring insect	3

Virginia mountain mint (<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>)	25	●	SC	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	2
Pale-spiked lobelia (<i>Lobelia spicata</i>)	25	●	SC	Perennial	Weakly	insects	Somewhat specific insect	3
American vetch (<i>Vicia americana</i>)	23	●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Somewhat specific insect	5
Ground plum (<i>Astragalus crassicaarpus</i>)	23	●	UNK	Perennial	Present	insects	Early spring insect, Somewhat specific insect	4
Canada anemone (<i>Anemone canadensis</i>)	22	●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Clasping dogbane (<i>Apocynum sibiricum</i>)	22	●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Virginia ground cherry (<i>Physalis virginiana</i>)	22	●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Buzz pollination	6
Toothed evening primrose (<i>Calylophus serrulatus</i>)	21	●	SC	Perennial	Absent	insects	Generalist	3
Wood betony (<i>Pedicularis canadensis</i>)	20	●	UNK	Perennial	Present	insects	Buzz pollination	5
Northern plains blazing star (<i>Liatris ligulistylis</i>)	20	●	UNK	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	3
Wild bergamot (<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>)	19	●	SC	Perennial	Present	insects	Somewhat specific insect	3
Skyblue aster (<i>Aster oolentangiensis</i>)	18	●●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Canada tick trefoil (<i>Desmodium canadense</i>)	17	●	A	Perennial	Absent	insects	Somewhat specific insect	4
Smooth rattlesnakeroot (<i>Prenanthes racemosa</i>)	15	●	UNK	Perennial	Absent	insects	Somewhat specific insect	5
Wood lily (<i>Lilium philadelphicum</i>)	13	●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Rattlesnake master (<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>)	12	●	SC	Perennial	Absent	insects	Generalist	3
Grasses and Sedges								
Big bluestem (<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>)	94	●●●●	SI	Perennial	Present	wind	Generalist	0
Indian grass (<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>)	80	●●●●	SI	Perennial	Present	wind	Generalist	0
Little bluestem (<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>)	67	●●●	UNK	Perennial	Present	wind	Generalist	0
Prairie dropseed (<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>)	66	●●●	SC	Perennial	Absent	wind	Generalist	0
Porcupine grass (<i>Stipa spartea</i>)	58	●●●	UNK	Perennial	Absent	wind	Generalist	0
Side-oats grama (<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>)	46	●●●	A	Perennial	Present	wind	Generalist	0
Switchgrass (<i>Panicum virgatum</i>)	44	●●	SC	Perennial	Present	wind	Generalist	0
Leiberg's panic grass (<i>Panicum leibergii</i>)	43	●●	UNK	Perennial	Present	wind	Generalist	0
Slender wheatgrass (<i>Elymus trachycaulus</i>)	32	●	UNK	Perennial	Weakly	wind	Generalist	0
Prairie cordgrass (<i>Spartina pectinata</i>)	30	●●	UNK	Perennial	Present	wind	Generalist	0
Half-Shrubs								
Leadplant (<i>Amorpha canescens</i>)	74	●●	SC	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	2
Prairie rose (<i>Rosa arkansana</i>)	70	●	SC	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	2
Shrubs								
Wolfberry (<i>Symphoricarpos occidentalis</i>)	17	●●	SC	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	2