

WPn53 Northern Wet Prairie Pollinator Resources

Grass-dominated but forb-rich herbaceous communities, often with a strong shrub component, on somewhat poorly drained to poorly drained loam soils formed in glaciolacustrine sediments, unsorted glacial till, or less frequently outwash deposits. Present primarily on level to very gently sloping sites. Flooded for brief periods at most; upper part of rooting zone is not saturated for most of growing season. Drought stress is infrequent, usually brief, and not severe. Fires were very frequent historically.

Examples of insect pollinators (and their associated host plants in parentheses) that use WPn53 include:

Bees:

Macropis nuda (*Lysimachia*)

Andrena ziziae (*Zizia*)

Heriades variolosus (Asteraceae)

Protandrena aestivalis (*Solidago*)

Butterflies:

Chlosyne gorgone (*Lysimachia quadriflora*)

Chlosyne nycteis (*Rudbeckia hirta*)

Nymphalis antiopa (*Salix discolor*)

Moths:

Aethes spartinana (*Spartina pectinate*)

Calyptra canadensis (*Thalictrum dasycarpum*)

Synchlora aerate (*Rudbeckia hirta*)



Andrena ziziae (golden-alexanders mining bee) uses *Zizia* (Alexanders) species as a host plant.

Photo: Heather Holm

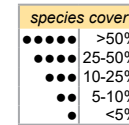


Chlosyne nycteis (silvery checkerspot) uses *Rudbeckia hirta* (black-eyed Susan) as a host plant. Photo: Bob Dunlap

WPn53 Northern Wet Prairie

Pollinator Resources Table

WPn53 Class Factsheet. Based on 167 plots. November 2024



Forbs	species frequency in NPC (%)	species cover (when present)	Compatibility	Longevity	Clonality	Principal Pollen Vector	Pollinator requirements	Pollination Index
Canada goldenrod (<i>Solidago canadensis</i>)	66	●●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Sawtooth or giant sunflower*	64	●●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Prairie loosestrife (<i>Lysimachia quadriflora</i>)	62	●●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Northern bedstraw (<i>Galium boreale</i>)	60	●●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Heath aster (<i>Aster ericoides</i>)	54	●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Tall meadow-rue (<i>Thalictrum dasycarpum</i>)	52	●	D	Perennial	Present	wind	Generalist	0
Eastern panicled aster (<i>Aster lanceolatus</i>)	51	●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Common strawberry (<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>)	50	●●	SC	Perennial	Present	insects	Early spring insect	3
Golden alexanders (<i>Zizia aurea</i>)	50	●	SC	Perennial	Absent	insects	Generalist	3
Spotted water hemlock (<i>Cicuta maculata</i>)	49	●	SC	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	2
Golden or false golden ragwort**	49	●	SI	Perennial	Varies	insects	Generalist	Varies
Grass-leaved goldenrod (<i>Euthamia graminifolia</i>)	48	●	A	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	2
Riddell's goldenrod (<i>Solidago riddellii</i>)	48	●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Marsh vetchling (<i>Lathyrus palustris</i>)	47	●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Somewhat specific insect	5
Clasping dogbane (<i>Apocynum sibiricum</i>)	46	●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Maximilian's sunflower (<i>Helianthus maximiliani</i>)	42	●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Heart-leaved alexanders (<i>Zizia aptera</i>)	40	●	SC	Perennial	Absent	insects	Generalist	3
Black-eyed Susan (<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>)	38	●	SI	Biennial or short-lived perennial	Absent	insects	Generalist	6
Northern plains blazing star (<i>Liatris ligulistylis</i>)	38	●	UNK	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	3
Stemless blue violets (<i>Viola sororia</i> or <i>V. nephrophylla</i>)	36	●	Varies	Perennial	Present	insects	Varies	Varies
Giant goldenrod (<i>Solidago gigantea</i>)	34	●	GM	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Virginia mountain mint (<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>)	33	●●	SC	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	2
Swamp lousewort (<i>Pedicularis lanceolata</i>)	31	●	UNK	Perennial	Present	insects	Buzz pollination	5
Flat-topped aster (<i>Aster umbellatus</i>)	30	●	UNK	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	3
Gray goldenrod (<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>)	29	●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Stiff goldenrod (<i>Solidago rigida</i>)	27	●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Purple prairie clover (<i>Dalea purpurea</i>)	26	●	SC	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	2
White camass (<i>Zigadenus elegans</i>)	26	●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Autumn sneezeweed (<i>Helenium autumnale</i>)	25	●	UNK	Perennial	Absent	insects	Generalist	4
Seaside arrowgrass (<i>Triglochin maritima</i>)	25	●	UNK	Perennial	Present	wind	Generalist	0
Cut-leaved bugleweed (<i>Lycopus americanus</i>)	23	●	SC	Perennial	Weakly	insects	Generalist	2
Silverweed (<i>Potentilla anserina</i>)	23	●●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Smooth scouring rush (<i>Equisetum laevigatum</i>)	22	●	SC	Perennial	Present	wind, water	Generalist	0
White aster-like goldenrod (<i>Solidago ptarmicoides</i>)	22	●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
New England aster (<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>)	21	●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Swamp thistle (<i>Cirsium muticum</i>)	21	●	GD	Biennial	Absent	insects	Generalist	6
Yellow stargrass (<i>Hypoxis hirsuta</i>)	20	●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4

Kalm's lobelia (<i>Lobelia kalmii</i>)	20	●	UNK	Perennial	Weakly	insects	Very specialized insect	5
Bastard toadflax (<i>Comandra umbellata</i>)	17	●	SC	Perennial	Present	insects	Early spring insect	3
Great blazing star (<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>)	16	●	UNK	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	3
Alkali plantain (<i>Plantago eriopoda</i>)	10	●●●	CH	Perennial	Absent	wind	Generalist	0
Grasses and Sedges								
Prairie cordgrass (<i>Spartina pectinata</i>)	84	●●●	UNK	Perennial	Present	wind	Generalist	0
Big bluestem (<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>)	78	●●●	SI	Perennial	Present	wind	Generalist	0
Mat muhly grass (<i>Muhlenbergia richardsonis</i>)	66	●●●	UNK	Perennial	Present	wind	Generalist	0
Tufted hair grass (<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>)	62	●●●	UNK	Perennial	Absent	wind	Generalist	0
Narrow reedgrass (<i>Calamagrostis stricta</i>)	50	●●	A	Perennial	Present	wind	Generalist	0
Baltic rush (<i>Juncus arcticus</i>)	48	●●	SC	Perennial	Present	wind	Generalist	0
Buxbaum's sedge (<i>Carex buxbaumii</i>)	46	●●●	UNK	Perennial	Present	wind	Generalist	0
Rigid sedge (<i>Carex tetanica</i>)	41	●	UNK	Perennial	Present	wind	Generalist	0
Prairie dropseed (<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>)	40	●●●	SC	Perennial	Absent	wind	Generalist	0
Slender wheatgrass (<i>Elymus trachycaulus</i>)	34	●	UNK	Perennial	Weakly	wind	Generalist	0
Clustered muhly grass (<i>Muhlenbergia glomerata</i>)	34	●	UNK	Perennial	Present	wind	Generalist	0
Flattened spikerush (<i>Eleocharis compressa</i>)	32	●●	SC	Perennial	Present	wind	Generalist	0
Sartwell's sedge (<i>Carex sartwellii</i>)	31	●●	UNK	Perennial	Present	wind	Generalist	0
Switchgrass (<i>Panicum virgatum</i>)	25	●●●	SC	Perennial	Present	wind	Generalist	0
Woolly sedge (<i>Carex pellita</i>)	24	●●	SI	Perennial	Present	wind	Generalist	0
Indian grass (<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>)	19	●●	SI	Perennial	Present	wind	Generalist	0
Little bluestem (<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>)	15	●●	UNK	Perennial	Present	wind	Generalist	0
Very slender sedge (<i>Carex praegracilis</i>)	14	●●	UNK	Perennial	Present	wind	Generalist	0
Salt grass (<i>Distichlis spicata</i>)	8	●●●	SI	Perennial	Present	wind	Generalist	0
Shrubs								
Slender willow (<i>Salix petiolaris</i>)	56	●●	D	Perennial	Present	insects	Early spring insect	5
Bebb's willow (<i>Salix bebbiana</i>)	47	●●	D	Perennial	Present	insects	Early spring insect	5
Bog birch (<i>Betula pumila</i>)	44	●●●	Di	Perennial	Present	wind	Generalist	0
Shrubby cinquefoil (<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>)	43	●●●	SC	Perennial	Absent	insects	Generalist	3
Pussy willow (<i>Salix discolor</i>)	43	●●	D	Perennial	Present	insects	Early spring insect	5
Red-osier dogwood (<i>Cornus sericea</i>)	20	●●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Wood's rose (<i>Rosa woodsii</i>)	15	●	SI	Perennial	Present	insects	Generalist	4
Tree Canopy								
Quaking aspen	-	-	D	Perennial	Present	wind	Generalist	0
Tree Understory								
Quaking aspen	18	●	D	Perennial	Present	wind	Generalist	0

* Sawtooth or giant sunflower (*Helianthus grosseserratus* or *H. giganteus*); ** Golden or false golden ragwort (*Senecio aureus* or *S. pseud aureus*); ***Linear-leaved, Marsh, or Downy willow-herb (*Epilobium leptophyllum*, *E. palustre*, or *E. strictum*)