



Prairie crocus, *Pulsatilla nuttalliana*



WILDFLOWER NEWS

'Growing Nature's Garden'

APRIL 2022

From your editor:

Welcome to the Wildflower News for April. Well, it seems that spring is slowly but surely on its way. We've had reports of nodding onions and prairie crocuses beginning to poke their little shoots out in the warm spots of a local garden. They certainly won't be put off by a little snow! If any natives are popping up for you, why not post photos on the ENPS Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/408066590219>)? We'd love to see them!

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Something Different

NOTICE:

Thanks to Mary-Jo Gurba-Flanagan, the ENPS volunteer who supervises seed sales, our local native wildflower seeds are now sold at a number of local venues.

Approximately 12 varieties:

WILD BIRD GENERAL STORE 780-439-7333

4712 99 St NW,
Edmonton, AB T6E 5H5

WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED 587-521-2473

12204 107 Ave NW,
Edmonton, AB T5M 4A8

SALISBURY GREENHOUSE 780-467-5743

52337 Range Road 232
Sherwood Park, AB T8B 1B8

SALISBURY AT THE ENJOY CENTER. 780-419-6800

10 Riel Drive
St. Albert, Alberta, T8N 3X4

Approximately 24 varieties:

APACHE SEED 780-489-4245

10136 149 St NW
Edmonton, AB T5P 1L1

6 varieties:

EARTH'S GENERAL STORE 780-439-8725

9605 Whyte Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB., T6C 0Z9

EVENTS... *If you have events involving native plants that you would like posted, please email us at engedmonton@gmail.com*

Tuesday, April 5th - Alberta Native Plant Council - Native Plant webinar - Join a presentation to learn more about the ANPC Gardening Challenge and to hear two case studies on growing native plants. Free. To register: [Webinar](#).

Presenters include:

Coleen Mahoney (ANPC): *Native Plants and the Native Plant Pollinator Garden Challenge*

Elizabeth Murray (Earthmaster): *City of Calgary Roadside Vegetation Naturalization Pilot Project - Year 1*

Patrick Kyle: (ENPS) *Blooms and Bees from Gravel and Grass*

Both Elizabeth and Patrick will provide perspectives of large and smaller naturalization projects, species selection considerations, successes and failures. What's more, they will cover perspectives from both Calgary and Edmonton projects, providing insights into the species which work best in our different climatic zones.

Time: 12 noon to 1pm.

Tuesday, April 19 - ENPS presentation Does the May Flower count show evidence of climate change? With presenter Patrick Kyle. The presentation will focus on a lot of flower pictures taken at Elk Island National Park during the May flower count and summer hikes. A comparison between the flower count data collected over the past twenty years and climate data will be examined for evidence of climate change.

Patrick Kyle is an amateur nature photographer and retired climatologist and has participated in the annual May flower count at Elk Island for the past 16 years.

Time: 7:00 pm

Please register in advance: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlqcu2sqTkjHdbmXLBjaCrsPSH92LypImj3>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Saturday, April 23 - ENPS sales event in celebration of Earth Day (which is April 22). Seedlings, seeds and more. Presentations on soils and stratification to be held, times will be posted at the event.

Location: Edmonton Downtown Farmers Market, 2nd floor, 10305 97 Street.

Time: 9:00 am to 3:00pm

April 29 - May 2, 2022 - The City Nature Challenge (CNC)



An international citizen science event that uses the free iNaturalist app for phone or computer. This event is designed to document urban biodiversity through photographs and celebrate the diversity of nature around the world. Now in its seventh year, this global event will have more than 300 cities participating. Last year there were 23 Canadian cities including five areas within Alberta. The Edmonton Metro Region includes the municipalities of St. Albert, Ft. Saskatchewan, Sherwood Park, Ardrossan, Beaumont, Nisku, Leduc, Devon, Enoch, Spruce Grove, and Stony Plain.

The easiest way to participate is to take photos with your smartphone and share them to [iNaturalist.ca](https://www.inaturalist.ca). They will then automatically be included in the local CNC project with no further input required from the participant (as long as the location is indicated correctly).

You can also use this occasion for practise for the **Edmonton BiodiverCity Challenge**, planned for **June 9 - 12!**

For a map of "metro Edmonton" and further details of the CNC project go to

<https://inaturalist.ca/projects/city-nature-challenge-2022-metro-edmonton-area>.

Organizer for the event is Greg Pohl, well-known entomologist working for the Canadian Forest Service.

For more information: <https://citynaturechallenge.org> and <https://cwf-fcf.org/en/explore/inaturalist/cnc/?src=inat>

NEWS... *If you have a news item involving native plants that you would like posted, please email us at engedmonton@gmail.com*

Stewards of Alberta's Protected Areas Association (SAPAA) submitted by Hubert Taube, President, SAPAA

The Province of Alberta has had a Volunteer Stewardship Program for its Protected Areas (mostly Natural Areas, Ecological Reserves, Heritage Lands, Wilderness Areas, Wildland Provincial Parks; numbering for a total of around 200) since about 1989. Examples of Provincial Natural Areas in Edmonton's vicinity are: Wagner, Riverlot 56, Sherwood Park and Northwest of Bruderheim.

Initially, the Program was actively managed by the Government of Alberta. In 2000, in response to less government involvement, SAPAA was founded by appointed Volunteer Stewards to promote conservation efforts in these Areas.

Since the Government Program is in further decline (no new Stewards appointed since about 2011) SAPAA decided in early 2021 to reach out to the public in general to become involved in stewardship activities in our Protected Areas. In particular, new categories of membership were created: citizen stewards and general members.

If you wish to acquaint yourself with Alberta's Protected Areas, related conservation issues and SAPAA's activities you should consult SAPAA's renovated website at sapaastewards.com.

There you will also find links to SAPAA's newsletters which are now issued four times a year.

If you feel inclined to become a member of the organization, write an article for the quarterly newsletter or be involved in any stewardship activities, you could contact SAPAA at postmaster@SAPAAStewards.com.

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2022 ANPC Native Plant Pollinator Garden Challenge Convert a portion of your yard into a native plant pollinator garden.



Carole Dodd

The Challenge runs from **March 12th to November 30th, 2022** and is open to ANPC members only as a benefit of membership.

Current members can sign up for the challenge on the ANPC members only page.

Access the members page [here](#). From March 12, 2022, new (or renewing) members can register to join the challenge when they complete the membership form. Join ANPC [online](#) - mail-in cheque or money order directions given here as well.

Participants receive: a Toolkit with information on creating and maintaining a native plant pollinator garden; access to ANPC Members Only resources; access to a private Facebook group; opportunities to share and meet up virtually.

Tentative Schedule:

March 12th, 2022: Kickoff – Registration opens; March - May: Plan and Prepare; May Long Weekend: Start Planting; First of each Month: Share Your Yard; Sep-Nov: Collect Your Seeds/Seed Share Events/Plant more seeds; Winter Wrap Up: Stories/Share Events posted on social media

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Bunchberry Meadows Notice of Temporary Seasonal Closure, April 1 - May 23, 2022

A gate at the access to the property will be closed and locked. This is to allow the trails to rest during the wet/muddy season to protect from damage to the trails and the vegetation surrounding it. Also, the months of April and May are an important time for plants and wildlife on the property. Birds are migrating and nesting, and ungulates are calving, making them sensitive to disturbance.

Thank you for supporting conservation and respecting the closure. We look forward to welcoming you back on May 24, 2022.

- from the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

Sowing Outside in Spring by Cherry Dodd

Native wildflowers are perennials, but they are always more of a challenge to grow than garden perennials. One of the reasons is that most native seeds need a period of cold and damp for several weeks before they will germinate.

This process is called stratification. However, there are some native flower species that do not need stratification and will germinate without any pretreatment when planted in the spring. They can be planted outside at any time between mid-April and the beginning of June and they include some of our most colourful native flowers.

There are several ways to do this, so I will start with the worst way - sprinkling the seeds on the ground and letting them grow. With this method you will have to sow the seeds quite thickly as they have a low germination rate. This method works well for the "wildflower" mixes sold in big box stores because those seeds are often annuals, and they are chosen to shoot up from seed to flower in as little as six weeks.

Native wildflowers have a completely opposite way of growing. To begin with they have a slow germination rate. The average germination time is two to three weeks, but some seeds can take anywhere from one week to six weeks to emerge. Secondly, native plants are small the first year because they put all their energy into growing a strong root system before bothering with top growth. Because of this slow growth habit they very often get lost under the annual weeds in the garden and end up being weeded out.

So, if you choose this method, here are some tips for success. Plant your seeds somewhere close to a path or the house so that you can keep an eye on them. Remember to label them well so you can spot them as they come up. You could even cut off the rim of an ice cream bucket, or yogurt container, and bury it in the ground around the seeds to mark the spot.

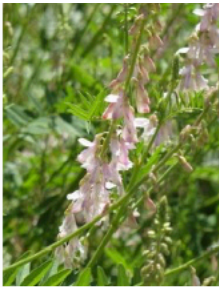
Method No. 2. Plant your seeds in a 15 cm diameter or larger pot with potting soil, and keep them in a shady spot until they germinate. Put the pot in a shallow container so that you can water from the bottom and keep the soil moist. The advantage of this method is that you know exactly where you planted the seeds, and there are no weeds to confuse you when the seedlings sprout. You will also get a higher germination rate.

Move the pot to a semi-shaded location as soon as germination occurs, and transplant the seedlings to individual pots of garden soil once they have a couple of sets of leaves. When the seedlings are large enough to handle they can be transplanted into the garden. Water them for the first week or two after transplanting.

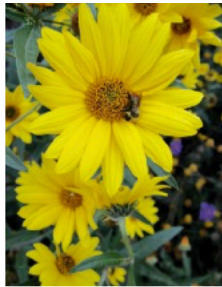
The method that I prefer is similar. I plant my seeds in a pot as above, and then bury the pot up to the rim in a semi-shaded spot in the garden. Burying the pot in the soil prevents the soil from drying out so quickly.

Here is the list of species that can be sown outdoors as soon as the soil is dry enough. Don't worry about a late spring snowfall. These seeds and seedlings are tough and snow won't bother them. The only exception is Gaillardia, which requires warmer soils to germinate and is not frost hardy. When it is a mature plant, it often doesn't emerge above ground until the end of May.

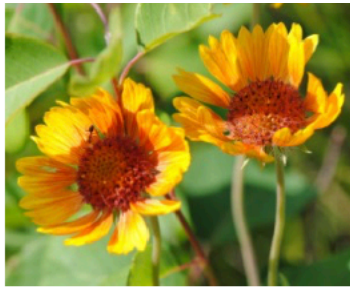
1. Alpine Hedysarum, *Hedysarum alpinum*. Soak the seeds of this species in hot water for 12 hours before planting.
2. Common Tall Sunflower, *Helianthus nuttallii*
3. Gaillardia, *Gaillardia aristata*
4. Giant Hyssop, *Agastache foeniculum*
5. Golden-aster, *Heterotheca villosa*
6. Meadow Blazingstar, *Liatris ligulistylis*
7. Nodding Onion, *Allium cernuum*
8. Smooth Fleabane, *Erigeron glabellus*
9. Wild Bergamot, *Monarda fistulosa*
10. Wild Blue Flax, *Linum lewisii*



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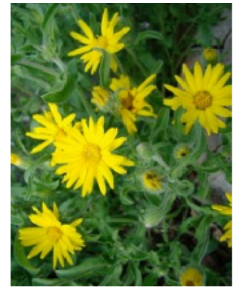
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A Plant For Every Reason, Part 5 - Photographed, researched and written by Wayne Oakes, Edmonton.

Today we'll explore a few more of our deciduous river valley trees.

Manitoba Maple or Box Elder, *Acer negundo*. This tree is often identified as being a non-native species. It is native to the southeastern parts of Alberta that has been introduced or spread beyond its traditional habitat over many decades. This is the only Maple with compound leaves each with 3 - 9 toothed leaves. Another very common compound-leafed tree is the Mountain Ash with its bunches of red berries.

This species of maple is both flood and drought tolerant. The flowers are 100% wind pollinated, producing a ton of seeds annually. They are fast growing and are frequently planted for shelterbelts. Some texts suggest their seeds are eaten by Squirrels and a variety of birds; however, none of the articles identify any particular species. I've only observed Evening Grosbeaks eating Manitoba Maple seeds. Seems that around here Red Squirrels don't eat these seeds. A single seed eaten by a horse can be fatal, wow!



Blossoms, May 12, 2021



New Leaves, May 26, 2018



New Leaf Growth Stages, May 25, 201



Leaves and Seeds, Aug 4, 2016.

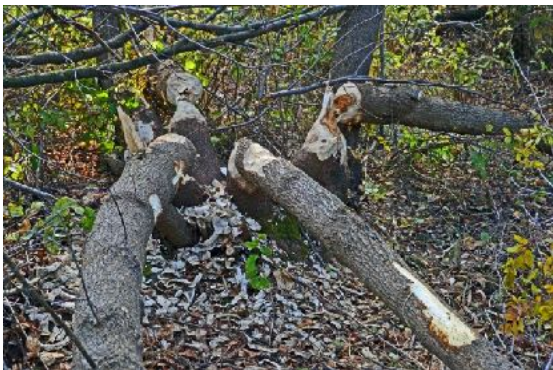


Last year's Seeds, May 12, 2021



Evening Grosbeak, male Nov 5, 2021

These trees are a favourite of Beavers for food and for both damming and bank-lodging material, second only to the Balsam Poplar. Depending on spring run-off levels their bank- lodges rarely last more than one or two years. Most often they are washed away.



Left: Several Maples Felled by Beavers Sep 28, 2016



Right: Lodge Construction Aug 17, 2020



Left: 2nd Year Bank-lodge, Sep 7, 2021



Right: 2nd Year Bank-lodge, Jul 4, 2019

Green Ash, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* are not native in our area; however, they too are native to southeastern Alberta, just like the Manitoba Maple. These are very hard to find within Whitemud North; they are not an overly common species seen around here, and those that are, are usually horticultural escapes .

Depending on the location, they can grow from 12 to 25 meters or 39 to 82 feet tall. In Edmonton these account for 25% of city planted trees. They too have compound leaves typically with 7 - 9 leaflets, occasionally ranging from 5 - 11 per leaf cluster.

It is somewhat amazing just how similar this species is as compared to the Manitoba Maple; where and how they grow, both have compound leaves, and both produce massive amounts of somewhat similar looking seeds. Over the years I have seen two bird species eating these ash seeds, House Finches and Pine Grosbeaks.

The Green Ash prefers the edges of moist woods, especially near creeks or streams. This is the exact environment that I've seen one rather healthy looking specimen growing in Whitemud North over the past six years.



Left: Leaves and Seeds, Aug 22, 2021

Right: Winter Time Seeds, Jan 6, 2022



Left: Pine Grosbeak, russet-morph female Nov 6, 2019

Right: House Finch, Male and Female Nov 6, 2021

Paper or White Birch, *Betula papyrifera* are beautiful trees regardless of the time of year. One noticeable feature for me is how the bark changes as they mature. If we look at the bark on various trees we'll see definite signs of ageing and toughening with many developing heavy rough and sometimes rather cracked textures. With this Birch the younger trees have a deep reddish colour that gradually gets lighter until one day, voila, it lives up to its name status of the White Birch. The bark continues to peel and flakes off throughout their life span. Their golden yellow fall leaves are a real treasure to see.



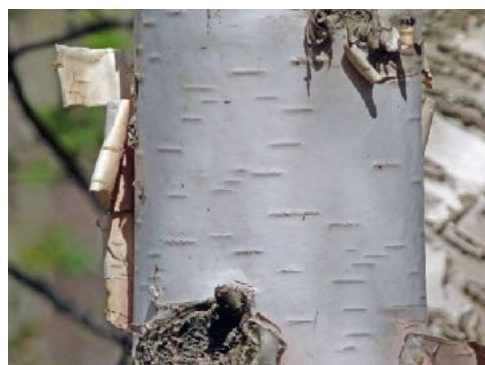
Freshly Leafed Out, May 27, 2017



Early Fall Colours, Sep 25, 2016.



Young White Birch, Feb 2, 2022



This is a deciduous tree with a nice shapely oval form. An average tree can grow up to 15 meters or 49 feet tall and up to 8 meters or 26 feet wide. Because of its fine, hard wood grain they are commonly used for furniture making and make superb firewood. Female seed catkins are wind fertilized by pollen produced by separate male catkins. Their tiny seeds that ripen by fall are a highly sought after source of food for several bird species including; Common and Hoary Redpolls, Evening Grosbeaks, House Finches, and Pine Siskins. And these are sometimes eaten by Red Squirrels.



Male Pollen Catkins, May 18, 2021



Female Seed Catkins, Jul 13, 2019



Hoary Redpoll, male, Nov 24, 2021

Evening Grosbeak, Female,
Nov 11, 2021

House Finch, Male, Oct 9, 2021



Pine siskin, Female, Feb 25, 2018

White Birch produce so much sap that at times it literally rains a fine sap mist. They are very susceptible to excessive leakage when cut or damaged. The heavy sap production makes them a good food source for Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, various early spring-time migratory bird arrivals, hummingbirds and several butterfly species. Even squirrels can be seen licking the sweet sap. Black-capped Chickadees, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Downy Woodpeckers and House Wrens use the dead tree trunks to drill nesting hole cavities. In subsequent years, Tree Swallows will re-use the old Woodpecker nests. Red-eyed Vireos use the flaking bark combined with twigs and grass to build free-hanging nests in birch and other nearby trees.

Left: Red Squirrel eating Seeds,
Dec 16, 2018Right: Red Squirrel Licking Sap,
May 4, 2017



Left: Black-capped Chickadee Feeding its Chick, May 28, 2017



Right: Red-breasted Nuthatch, Nesting, May 28, 2019



Left: House Wren, Nesting, Jul 5, 2019



Right: Red-eyed Vireo Nest, Jul 1, 2021



Left: Downy Woodpecker Nesting May 11, 2021



Right: Tree Swallows Nesting Jun 4, 2017

In addition to the dead tree trunks being utilised for prime nesting sites, once dead, the wood starts to break down as it becomes infested with various insect larvae. These larvae become food sources for Pileated, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers. All of these activities along with the actions of various fungi, lichens, and mosses contribute to the natural recycling process at a rather fast rate. Despite this being a rather hard wood the White Birch breaks down much faster than both Balsam Poplar and White Spruce. And Mother Nature is always on hand to ensure the process is efficient and complete.



Left: Pileated Woodpecker, female. Feeding on Insect Larvae, Jan 1, 2017



Right: Shelf Fungus, Lichens and Moss Nov 3, 2016



Left: Hoof Fungus, Nov 25, 2019



Right: Shelf Fungus, Dec 4, 2016

Some Grassland Species.

As might be expected, grasses that grow in grasslands are particularly diverse, so choosing species to describe is necessarily selective. In this article I will cover some species that occur in the moister, more fertile black earth and brown earth soils of open grasslands, and treat some typical species of sandy soils, badlands and saline areas separately. The problem with all the species treated today is that they come with relatives, by which I mean related species, so in order to recognize our target species we have to consider other species too. (Being discriminating is a good thing in taxonomy!) All the following species are summer-flowering grasses.

Plains rough fescue, *Festuca hallii*

This grass isn't that common now, but it is historically and ecologically important. It was the dominant grass of the northern Great Plains, and it fed the bison of Canada and the U.S. and then the cattle of the pioneering ranchers, but was lost as the plains were ploughed. It survives locally in a few prairie-parkland remnants such as at Nisku Prairie and in badlands as at Gibbons Prairie, often with a mixture of introduced species such as Kentucky bluegrass and smooth brome; its presence is a sign that the land has not been ploughed. Until recently, *F. hallii* was part of a complex of three species called collectively *Festuca scabrella*, a complex still recognized as the provincial grass emblem of Alberta. The other two species are the common *Festuca campestris*, foothills rough fescue, and northern rough fescue, *Festuca altaica*, a relatively rare species of tundra and mountain and boreal forests.

Plains rough fescue is a densely tufted perennial grass with flowering stems to 65 cm tall, often forming short rhizomes. The leaves are folded or inrolled, to about 1 mm wide, and rough; the leaf sheaths are persistent at the base, papery and sometimes pinkish. The panicle is about 6-16 cm long with stiffly spreading branches at flowering time, mostly ascending or erect at other times. The spikelets occur at the end of the branches and are 7-9.5 mm long with 2-3 florets. The papery glumes are about equal to or slightly longer than the upper florets, the larger upper glume being 6-8.5 mm. The lemmas are 5.5-8 mm, and somewhat papery. The anthers are 4-6 mm in length.

Plains rough fescue occurs from Alberta to western Ontario and south to Colorado. It is relatively easily separated from its two closest relatives on the basis of geography. It can co-occur with foothills rough fescue in the Rocky Mountain foothills, however, where it grows at the lower elevations. Foothills rough fescue is a somewhat more robust plant, with larger spikelets having 4-5 florets, glumes shorter than the upper florets and lemmas 7-8.5 mm long.

Of the 15 species of *Festuca* that occur in Alberta, two others are likely to be encountered locally: creeping red fescue, *Festuca rubra*, and Rocky Mountain fescue, *F. saximontana*. The former is rhizomatous and is commonly planted as a turf grass, especially in natural areas that require some rehabilitation, and is a component of lawn mixtures; the latter is uncommon on sandy soils in natural habitats but common in the mountains. Ornamental varieties of Rocky Mountain fescue are popularly planted.

Plains rough fescue is not a pioneering species and does not spontaneously regenerate after a prairie is destroyed. Attempts are now being made to cultivate it for restoration purposes. However, it does not flower every year, so seed collectors need to take advantage of a year of good harvest.



Plains rough fescue, *Festuca hallii*. Both photos were taken at Nisku Prairie in Leduc County. Photo dates have been lost but were likely early June.

The picture on the left shows the flowering panicles; on the right is the dense tussock formed by an individual plant.

Slender wildrye, slender wheatgrass, *Elymus trachycaulus*

Slender wildrye is our commonest species of wheatgrass (tribe Triticeae), occurring throughout the province on the more fertile soils of prairie, parkland and open woods. It exists locally as two subspecies, the typical subspecies, subsp. *trachycaulus*, slender wildrye, and subsp. *subsecundus*, bearded wheatgrass, easily distinguishable from subsp. *trachycaulus* by the long awns on its florets. Slender wildrye occurs all across Canada and has been introduced elsewhere. Bearded wheatgrass has a more restricted distribution but seems very common in our area.

The wildryes (genus *Elymus*) are characterized by having their spikelets arranged in a spike, without branches and without stalks. In slender wildrye they are attached alternately along the spike axis, with one spikelet at each node but usually overlapping each other. In settled areas it can be important to distinguish slender wildrye from the non-native quackgrass, *Elymus repens*. *E. trachycaulus* is a tufted grass, whereas *E. repens* is conspicuously rhizomatous and usually grows in anthropogenically disturbed areas; in the former anthers are short, 1-2.5 mm long, whereas in *E. repens* they are longer, at least 5 mm long, a distinction that is easy to make when the plants are in flower.

The leaves of slender wildrye tend to be concentrated towards the base of the plant, adding to its tufted appearance, and the blades are 2-5 mm wide, flat to inrolled. The flowering stems grow 30-150 cm tall, bearing two-sided spikes 4-25 cm long. The spikelets, 9-17 mm long, contain 3-9 florets. They may barely overlap one another on the spike or be more densely arranged. The lanceolate glumes are 5-17 mm long with transparent edges and 5-7 prominent veins that are smooth or rough with short stiff hairs; awns are lacking or quite short.

Bearded wheatgrass differs chiefly in having lemma awns 7-40 mm long and spikes that often appear one-sided.



Slender wildrye, *Elymus trachycaulus* subsp. *trachycaulus*.

L: specimen collected from Plateau Mountain, Kananaskis Country on 2021.07.27, showing growth form of the grass with rather stiff leaves concentrated towards the base, and flowering stems.

R: close-up of spikes showing spikelets alternating along the spike axis.

Spikes of bearded wheatgrass, *Elymus trachycaulus* subsp. *subsecundus*, Nisku Prairie, coll. 1994.07.09.

A related, similar species, blue wildrye, *Elymus glaucus*, may be encountered in our area although it is more common along the mountain cordillera. It has lax, broad leaves extending up the stem that may be blue-glaucous, and wider, more congested spikes that sometimes have two spikelets per node; lemmas usually have long awns and glumes short ones. It is separated from *E. trachycaulus* in the *Flora North America* key by a fine distinction in the width of the glumes and glume edges, these being narrower in *E. glaucus*. It is best to consult a key if you are in the mountains!

Besides slender wildrye there are two rather similar spiked grasses in our area, occurring mostly in badland prairies locally, although they are much more widespread in the grasslands of southern Alberta. They are thick-spike wildrye or thick-spike wheatgrass, *Elymus lanceolatus*, and western wheatgrass, *Pascopyrum smithii*. (In old flora manuals both were classified in the genus *Agropyron*, along with *Elymus trachycaulus*.) Both species are rhizomatous, are usually blue-glaucous in colour, and have anthers that are at least 1 mm longer than the longest anthers of slender wheatgrass. I will describe them more fully when I deal with badland grasses.

Timber oatgrass, *Danthonia intermedia*

Of the five *Danthonia* species that occur in Alberta, two are commonly found in parkland: timber oatgrass, *Danthonia intermedia* and poverty oatgrass, *D. spicata*. The latter seems to occur on drier soils than timber oatgrass and can often be spotted even in vegetative state by its clumps of very hairy leaves. In flower, a quick check of the lemmas will show that they are softly hairy all over the back whereas in timber oatgrass the long white hairs are confined to the margins of the lemmas.

Timber oatgrass is a tufted perennial sending up flowering stems 10-50 cm high. The leaf blades are flat or inrolled with a slight tendency to curl, 1-3.5 mm wide, with hairs at the junction of blade and sheath. The branches of the panicle are erect or ascending so the flower cluster appears like a raceme; they bear from 5 to 10 large (11-15 mm) spikelets, with the lower branches usually having 2-3 spikelets. Each spikelet has usually 3 large florets between broad, papery glumes; the lemma bodies are 3-6 mm long but with their long, pointed teeth can reach 1 cm. A twisted awn of 6.5-8 mm arises between the teeth from the back of the lemma. The backs of the lemmas are hairless except for a fringe of long white hairs along the edges and a tuft of hairs at the base.

The species is widely distributed in a variety of open habitats across Canada and the western U.S. (although *Flora of North America* and *Canadensys Vascan* differ in their distributional information). Nisku Prairie hosts a large population of timber oatgrass.



L: Timber oatgrass, *Danthonia intermedia*, Cadomin area, coll. 2013.08.18. Middle: close-up of spikelets of this same specimen. R: Timber oat grass (the pale spikes) growing in profusion in Nisku Prairie, 2011.07.16.

References

https://floranorthamerica.org/Festuca_hallii Flora of North America vol. 24, page 407

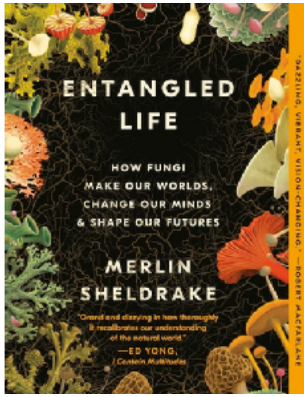
https://floranorthamerica.org/Elymus_trachycaulus Flora of North America vol.24, page 301

https://floranorthamerica.org/Danthonia_intermedia vol. 25, page 303

Kershaw, Linda and Lorna Allen, 2020. Vascular Flora of Alberta: An Illustrated Guide. Self-published. Kindle Direct Publishing.

Moss, E.H. 1983. Flora of Alberta. 2d ed. ed. by J.G. Packer. Toronto, [University of Toronto Press](https://www.utoronto.ca/utoronto).
Specimens in Cotterill herbarium.

RECOMMENDED READING:



Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds & Shape Our Futures by Merlin Sheldrake. 2020.

The Guardian book review - "A brilliant 'door opener' book. Eating rubbish and the interpenetration of life ... this entrancing study of fungi changes our view of the world"

Recommended by ENPS member M. Packer

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/aug/27/entangled-life-by-merlin-sheldrake-review-a-brilliant-door-opener-book>

WEBSITES OF THE MONTH:

SAPAA (Stewards of Alberta Protected Areas Association) is now on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/334320645328106> - and open to all Albertans who enjoy our parks and Protected Areas. The objectives are:

- Increase public awareness of Provincially Protected Areas; in particular, of Natural Areas, Ecological Reserves, Wilderness Areas and Heritage Rangelands.
- Highlight past and current activities of the Government's Volunteer Stewardship program and those of the separate SAPAA organization.
- Promote conservation and stewardship initiatives in these Protected Areas
- Spread information about SAPAA activities (website updates, field trips, etc.)
- Encourage more citizens to become volunteer stewards.

Postings of original content are welcome from any Natural Area, Crown Reservations, Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves, and Recreation Areas could include featured sites, featured stewards, plant or wildlife posts, events (field trips and other gatherings).

General guidelines: Photos should include location and date(s) of photo(s) and be taken within Alberta. Please ID species to include species name (if known).

Land Stewardship

Those of you with acreages may be interested in connecting with the Land Stewardship Centre. Here's their latest newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/50afdc8ebced/grassroots-news-inspiring-alberta-stewards-september-6193229?e=284d438ee2>

SOMETHING DIFFERENT:

NatureLynx to be ended

After 5 great years, the ABMI will be decommissioning the [NatureLynx](#) platform to focus on supporting Alberta's citizen scientists in other ways. As of April 1, they will begin phasing out the NatureLynx platform. To keep the positive momentum going, ABMI encourages you to continue sharing your citizen science observations using alternative apps like iNaturalist and eBird. For more information about what you can expect during this transition, you are encouraged to visit <https://abmi.ca/.../news/Sunsetting-NatureLynx.html>...

Save the Rosebud [https://www.savetherosebud.ca/?](https://www.savetherosebud.ca/?fbclid=IwAR2ZadT1tZomEMU_7TQNbS15ZI8mjcNM88wVFd_RB9SeJ2yXjgP6uTZDdz0)

[fbclid=IwAR2ZadT1tZomEMU_7TQNbS15ZI8mjcNM88wVFd_RB9SeJ2yXjgP6uTZDdz0](https://www.savetherosebud.ca/?fbclid=IwAR2ZadT1tZomEMU_7TQNbS15ZI8mjcNM88wVFd_RB9SeJ2yXjgP6uTZDdz0)

There are more holes in the so called "development" of the Badlands Motorsports Racetrack with a Kneehill County than there are in a dam made of Swiss cheese:

Hole #1 - Third party environmental assessments, limited by the developer's refusal to allow access to the site, were conducted by Dr. Geoff Holroyd, emeritus research scientist for the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), and by Linda Kershaw, MSc – Botanist and Author. Holroyd stated that the Biophysical Impact Assessment (BIA) commissioned by the developer is incomplete. The area contains 20 bird species listed as "sensitive" by the Alberta government, four of which are nationally threatened and three of Special Concern. Holroyd concluded that the proposed development will result in destruction of this ecological diverse and important area, and destruction of critical foraging habitat for listed species. In summary, this development is in the wrong place and cannot be mitigated. Lost habitat = lost population.

Kershaw found that there were major oversights in the developer's BIA, observing 140 plant species, only 50 of which were recorded in the BIA. This included one rare species: prairie cordgrass. She states "I suspect the wetland is much larger than the area outlined on the map." If the wetlands are indeed larger, the racetrack will further fragment them as it winds through. Join our fight - Next Environmental Appeal is May 16 - 18th.

Please see: <https://www.savetherosebud.ca/> for how you can easily help with your letters. Form letters available as well. [Nature Conservancy of Canada / Conservation de la nature Canada](#) [CPAWS Southern Alberta](#) [Nature Canada Alberta](#) [Wilderness Association](#) [Rosebud Theatre](#) [Rosebud School of the Arts](#) [Rosebud Art Collective](#) [Rosebud Chamber Music Festival](#) [The Rosebud Historical Society](#)

From *River Valley News*

The latest issue from the North Saskatchewan River Valley Conservation Society has articles on a variety of interesting topics, including: 'River Valley can't be everyone's outdoor playground' - a précis of Patsy Cotterill's opinion piece in The Edmonton Journal; and 'Rich dinosaur history in conservation lands' (Coates conservation land).

<https://mailchi.mp/63770966e23e/river-valley-news?e=b75f83fd28>

Aims of the Edmonton Native Plant Society:

- ❖ Promote knowledge of the Edmonton area native plants.
- ❖ Conserve our native plant species and their habitats.
- ❖ Preserve native plant species and habitat for the enjoyment of present and future generations.
- ❖ Educate individuals, business and local governments about native plants.

Lifetime ENPS Membership

You can now become an Edmonton Native Plant Society member for life. Memberships are \$20 and can be purchased by emailing EdmontonNPSociety@gmail.com or by visiting one of our booths at future plant events in your area.

Please send compliments, concerns and complaints to engedmonton@gmail.com.

To unsubscribe, or subscribe, email engedmonton@gmail.com

Cherry Dodd, editor

Judith Golub, publisher

www.edmontonnativeplantgroup.org



M. Parseyan

Spring is on the way! Pussy willow, *Salix discolor*, in bud.