

# Wildflower Checklist and Photo Guide of Government Canyon State Natural Area



*\*This is a sample of the diversity of wildflowers in the Natural Area; not a complete list.*

Compilation and photographs by Jessica Bergner



**Horsemint**  
*Monarda citriodora*  
**Flower:** 0.75"; two-lipped, in tiers of whorls  
**Plant:** 1-2.5'; citrus scent, forms colonies  
**Leaf:** 1-2.5"; narrow, folded on midrib  
**Blooms:** May– July



**Violet Wood Sorrel**  
*Oxalis violacea*  
**Flower:** 0.5-0.75"; 5 petals, 4-19 flowers at end of each stem, lavender to pinkish purple  
**Plant:** To 16"; erect, delicate  
**Leaf:** 3 leaflets; gray-green to bluish gray above and green to reddish purple below  
**Blooms:** March– May



**Blackfoot Daisy**  
*Melampodium leucanthum*  
**Flower:** In head 0.75-1.25"; on terminal stalk  
**Plant:** 6-18"; bushy  
**Leaf:** 0.75-1.75"; narrow  
**Blooms:** April– October



**Pink Evening Primrose**  
*Oenothera speciosa*  
**Flower:** 2-3.5"; pink to almost white  
**Plant:** 6-24"; often in colonies  
**Leaf:** 1.5-3"; wavy edges  
**Blooms:** March– July



**Small Palafoxia**  
*Palafoxia callosa*  
**Flower:** In head to 0.75"  
**Plant:** 1-2.5"; slender stems  
**Leaf:** 1-2"; very narrow  
**Blooms:** June– November



**Snow-on-the-Mountain**  
*Euphorbia marginata*  
**Flower:** Tiny, in 5-lobed cup; green and white bracts large, showy  
**Plant:** 1-3"; erect  
**Leaf:** 1-3"; oval, pointed  
**Blooms:** July– October



**Goldeneye Phlox**  
*Phlox roemeriana*  
**Flower:** 5 pink to purple petals; yellow eye bordered by white  
**Plant:** 3-5"  
**Leaf:** Alternating; narrow  
**Blooms:** March– May



**Blue Curls**  
*Phacelia congesta*  
**Flower:** 5 petals; blue to lavender  
**Plant:** To 30"; branched only at the flower heads  
**Leaf:** 2-7 blunt leaflets 2-4"; alternating  
**Blooms:** April– May



**Rain-Lily**  
*Cooperia pedunculata*  
**Flower:** 3-7" long, flaring 1.25-2.5"; turn reddish after a few days  
**Plant:** 6-12"  
**Leaf:** To 12", very narrow, from base  
**Blooms:** March– May



**Silverleaf Nightshade**  
*Solanum elaeagnifolium*  
**Flower:** 0.75-1"; violet to purple  
**Plant:** 1-2.5'; branched  
**Leaf:** 1.5-6"; gray-green, narrow  
**Blooms:** April– October; yellow berries



**Twisted-leaf Yucca**  
*Yucca rupicola*  
**Flower:** 2-3"; bell-shaped, creamy white tinged with purple  
**Plant:** 1-2'; to 5' w/ flower stalk  
**Blooms:** April-June



**White Prickly Poppy**  
*Argemone albiflora*  
**Flower:** 3-4"  
**Plant:** 3-4'; erect, spiny  
**Leaf:** 3-8"; blue-green, often mottled, deeply lobed, spiny  
**Blooms:** March– May



**Prairie Verbena**  
*Glandularia bipinnatifida*  
**Flower:** 0.25"; on glove w/ "bald spot"  
**Plant:** Stems to 2'; hairy  
**Leaf:** 1-2.5"; compound  
**Blooms:** March– October



**Prairie Fleabane**  
*Erigeron modestus*  
**Flower:** In head 0.5-0.75" at end of stalk; rays w/violet tinge  
**Plant:** 3-6"  
**Leaf:** 1-4"; somewhat narrow, lobed  
**Blooms:** February– May



**Texas Bindweed**  
*Convolvulus equitans*  
**Flower:** 0.75-1.5"; occasional pink tinge  
**Plant:** Twining low vine to 8' long  
**Leaf:** 1-3"; variably shaped w/several lobes  
**Blooms:** April– October



**Firewheel**  
*Gaillardia pulchella*

**Flower:** 1.25-2”  
**Plant:** 1-2’; hairy, often in colonies  
**Leaf:** 1-3.5”; narrow  
**Blooms:** April– June



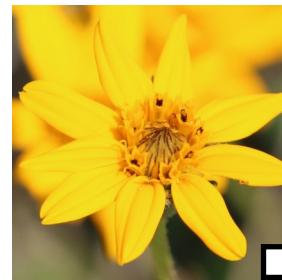
**Velvetleaf Mallow**  
*Allowissadula holosericea*

**Flower:** 0.75-1.5”  
**Plant:** To 5’; shrubby  
**Leaf:** To 7”; velvety, heart-shaped, pointed, toothed  
**Blooms:** May– October



**Greenthread**  
*Thelesperma filifolium*

**Flower:** In head 1.5-2”; green bracts below; buds nod  
**Plant:** 0.5-2’; in colonies  
**Leaf:** 2-4”; compound, threadlike segments  
**Blooms:** March– December



**Zexmenia**  
*Wedelia texana*

**Flower:** In 1” head at end of long stalk  
**Plant:** 1-2.5’; hairy  
**Leaf:** 1”; a narrow kite  
**Blooms:** May– September



**Mexican Hat**  
*Ratibida columnifera*

**Flower:** In head 1-3”; rays all yellow to mostly brown  
**Plant:** 1-4’; branched  
**Leaf:** 1-6”; compound, threadlike segments  
**Blooms:** April– July



**Coreopsis**  
*Coreopsis tinctoria*

**Flower:** In head 1-1.5”  
**Plant:** 8-18”; slender  
**Leaf:** 2-3”; compound, w/ threadlike segments  
**Blooms:** April– June



**Prickly Pear**  
*Opuntia engelmannii*

**Flower:** 2-3”; showy, w/waxy petals  
**Plant:** 2-6’; a mound of spiny pads  
**Blooms:** April– June; red fruits called tunas



**Texas Bluebonnet**  
*Lupinus texensis*

**Flower:** 0.375-0.625”; in group 1.5-4” long; fragrant  
**Plant:** 8-16”; erect  
**Leaf:** 5 leaflets each to 1.25”  
**Blooms:** March– May; fuzzy seed



**Standing Cypress**  
*Ipomopsis rubra*

**Flower:** 1-1.5”  
**Plant:** 2-5’; single stiff, erect stem  
**Leaf:** Compound w/ threadlike segments  
**Blooms:** May– June



**Common Sunflower**  
*Helianthus annuus*

**Flower:** In head 2-4”  
**Plant:** 1.5-8’; coarse, hairy; stem green w/purple  
**Leaf:** 3-10”; almost as wide, on stalk, hairy  
**Blooms:** May– October



**Two-leaved Senna**  
*Senna roemeriana*

**Flower:** 1” across; 5-petaled  
**Plant:** 1-1.5’; open fields  
**Leaf:** 2 leaflets each to 1.5”;  
compound  
**Blooms:** April– October



**Wild Petunia, *Ruellia nudiflora***

**Flower:** 1.5-2.5”; trumpet-shaped, occasionally white  
**Plant:** 1-2’; erect or ascending  
**Leaf:** 2-5”; oval w/pointy tip  
**Blooms:** April– October



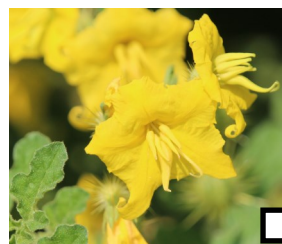
**Turk’s Cap**  
*Malvaviscus arboreus*

**Flower:** 1-3”; petals never fully open  
**Plant:** 2-4’; bushy, in shade, woods  
**Leaf:** 2-4”; broad  
**Blooms:** April– October



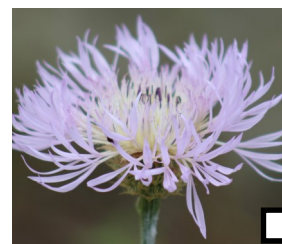
**Texas Star**  
*Lindheimera texana*

**Flower:** 1.25-1.625”; always 5 rays  
**Plant:** 4-12”  
**Leaf:** 0.5-3”; variously shaped  
**Blooms:** March– May; a convex tan “star” lasts after flowers



**Buffalo Bur**  
*Solanum rostratum*

**Flower:** To 1”  
**Plant:** 10-30”; in dry, disturbed ground; prickly  
**Leaf:** 2-6”; compound, deeply lobed  
**Blooms:** April– November; prickly seed capsules



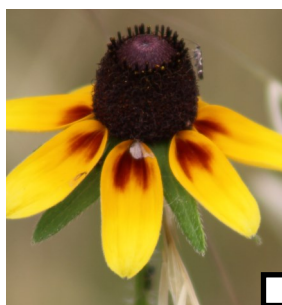
**Basket-Flower**  
*Centaurea americana*

**Flower:** In head 2-3.5”; begins as tan “basket”  
**Plant:** 2-5’; erect, no prickles, often in colonies  
**Leaf:** 1-2.5”; oval  
**Blooms:** May– June



**Indian Paintbrush**  
*Castilleja indivisa*

**Flower:** 0.5-1”; inconspicuous; large, showy red bracts  
**Plant:** 6-16”; hairy, forms colonies  
**Leaf:** 1-4”; narrow  
**Blooms:** March– May



**Brown-Eyed Susan**  
*Rudbeckia hirta*

**Flower:** In head 1.5-2.5”; amount of brown in rays varies  
**Plant:** 1-2.5’, hairy, forms colonies  
**Leaf:** To 4”; narrow, hairy  
**Blooms:** April– May



**Cowpen Daisy**  
*Verbena encelioides*

**Flower:** 1-1.5”; orange disk flowers and yellowish-orange ray flowers  
**Plant:** 3-4’; forms colonies  
**Leaf:** 2-3”; rough, greenish gray  
**Blooms:** April– October



**Texas Thistle**  
*Cirsium texanum*

**Flower:** On flattened sphere to 1.5”; violet to purple; fragrant  
**Plant:** 2-5’; erect, spiny  
**Leaf:** 4-12”; spiny lobes  
**Blooms:** April– July