Asteraceae

Anthemideae Tribe
Gaillardia suavis

- Perennial
- Solitary flower on slender stalk
- Flowers in spring
- When ray flowers present, few, yellow to orange
- Basal leaves, deeply lobed
- Good forage
Coreopsis tinctoria
Cool season annual
Flowers in spring
Leaves filiform
Numerous flowers with yellow ray flowers and brown disk flowers
Good forage
Huisache Daisy

- Amblyolepis setigera
- Upright annual
- Flowers in spring
- Solitary flowers on leafless stalks
- Clasping leaves with silky hair
- Poor forage
Indian Blanket

- *Gaillardia pulchella*
- Upright annual
- Flowers in spring
- Flowers on long, slender stalks
- Poor forage
Cowpen daisy

- *Verbesina encelioides*
- Annual
- Grayish green
- Leaves with serrated edges
- Common around livestock facilities
- Unpalatable
Yarrow

- *Achillea millefolium*
- Perennial
- Cool season herb that flowers in spring
- White flowers in dense clusters
- Bipinnatifid leaves
Mexican sagewort

- *Artemisia ludovicinia*
- Perennial
- Native
- Upright forb
- Linear leaves
- Grayish color
- Poor forage
Asteraceae

Astereae Tribe
Amphiachyris dracunculoides

- Annual forb with a single woody stem
- Native
- Small linear leaves
- Numerous yellow flowers on top of plant
- Poor forage, seeds for quail use
Curlycup gumweed

- *Grindelia squarrosa*
- Throughout U.S.
- Perennial, native
- Leaf margins serrate
- Clammy or sticky
- Poor forage
Asteraceae

Eupatorieae Tribe
Dotted gayfeather

- *Liatris punctata*
- Sessile flowers
- Perennial, Native
- Bloom in late summer fall
- Throughout U.S.
- Linear leave
- Poor forage
Asteraceae
Helianteae Tribe
Western ragweed

- *Ambrosia psilostachya*
- Perennial, native
- Leaves pinnatified
- Flowers dense racemes
- Poor forage
- Quail consume seeds
Ragweed

- *Ambrosia* sp.
- Several different species in Texas
- Most perennials
- Deeply clefted leaves
- Flowers in small heads in rows on top of plant
- Poor forage
Engelmannia pinnatifida
Perennal, native
Spring and summer forage
Leaves and stems covered in short, stout hairs
Deeply clefted leaves
Showy flowers in cluster at top
Good forage
Maximilian Sunflower

- *Helianthus maximiliani*
- Perennial, native
- Warm season
- Long narrow leaves
- Large showy flowers in clusters all along stem
- Flowers in late summer or early fall
- Good forage?
Hymenoxys odorata
Cool season annual, native
Found mostly on disturbed sites in Edwards Plateau and Rolling Plains
Germinates early in fall and flowers in spring
Toxic to all classes of livestock, especially during winter when alternative forage is limited
Filiform leaves with numerous yellow flowers
Ratibida columnifera
Deeply clefted linear leaves
Perennial
Native
Flower resemble “Mexican hat”
Poor forage
Orange Zexmania

- *Zexmania hispida*
- Perennial
- Native
- Upright forb
- Disk and ray flowers
- Slender leaves
- Stems and leaves covered in short, stout hairs
- Good forage
Bush sunflower

- *Simsia calva*
- Perennial with woody base
- Native
- Warm season forage
- Clefted leaves
- Covered in dense hairs
- Yellow flowers
- Common in west central Texas, especially when protected from livestock
- Good Forage
Brassicaceae

Mustard Family
Tansy mustard

- *Descurainia pinnata*
- Cool season annual
- Matures in spring, early summer
- Mustard family with seeds attached to upper portion of stem
- Long slender leaves
- May cause photosensitization in livestock
Pepperweed

- *Lepidium* sp.
- Winter annual forb
- Rounded seeds on distal end of stems
- Mustard family
- Poor forage
Chenopodiaceae

Goosefoot Family
Kochia scoparia
Annual
Upright forb that grow 2-5 feet tall
Common on disturbed sites and old fields
Fair forage, but contains several toxic compounds in low levels that could cause health problems if enough is consumed.
Russian Thistle

- *Salsola iberica*
- Annual
- Common name is tumbleweed
- Slender leaves
- Dark purple strips on stems
- Common on disturbed sites
- Contains nitrates that interfere with oxygen transfer
Fabaceae

Legumes
Locoweed

- *Astragalus mollimus*
- Perennial
- Legume
- Common in western Texas and New Mexico
- Leaflets in rows, gray, and covered with short hairs
- Flowers in spring; flower purple in color
- Toxic agent is an alkaloid called Swainsonine, which damages brain, digestive organs, liver, and reproductive organs.
- Effects may be long-lasting, especially in horses
Nuttall peavine

- *Astragalus nuttallianus*
- Annual
- Native
- Throughout Texas in Spring
- Pinnately compound leaves on short petiole
- Procumbant growth
- Toxic
Illinois Bundleflower

- *Desmanthus illinoensis*
- Legume with pods arranged on round clusters
- Perennial warm season
- Bipinnate leaves
- Excellent forage
- Seeds for bird use
- Rarely seen when livestock grazing is present in western and central Texas
**Twin leaf senna**

- *Senna roemeriana*
- Perennial with distinctive paired linear leaves (twin leaflets)
- Yellow flowers in clusters
- Leaves and stems grayish color
- Poisonous to all classes of livestock. Most toxicity cases occur in the spring.
- Toxicity occurs infrequently, several years may pass between wide-spread cases of twin leaf senna toxicity
Two species in Texas
- *Lupinus subcarnosus*
- *Lupinus texensis*

Biennial or annual

Forms rosette in winter and blooms in spring with characteristics blue cluster of flowers

Other lupines known to cause birth defects if consumed during certain stages of pregnancy by livestock, but no reports of birth defects caused by bluebonnets

Fair forage for sheep and goats
Purple prairie coneflower

- *Dalea purpurea*
- Perennial
- Native
- Linear leaflets
- Central U.S. including northern Texas
- Good forage
Bur clover

- *Medicago polymorpha*
- Annual
- Native
- Most of U.S.
- Pods with short spines
- Procumbant growth
- Good forage
Alfalfa

- *Medicago sativa*
- Perennial
- Introduced
- Compound leaves with 3 leaflets
- Escaped cultivation
- Good forage
Sensitivebriar

- *Schrankia uncinata*
- Perennial
- Native
- Bipinnately compound leaves
- Recurved spines
- Leaves close when touched
- Good forage
White clover

- *Trifolium repens*
- Annual
- Introduced
- Palmately trifoliate leaves with white strip
- Common in yards
- Good forage
Ascepiadaceae

Milkweeds
**Asclepias latifolia**

- Perennial with broad, rounded leaves attached directly to stem
- Stems often red with milky sap
- Highly toxic with 0.15 to 1% of diet listed as toxic
- 2-4 g may kill most sheep
- Contain glycosides that disrupt respiration and heart function
- Common after overgrazing
- Also found commonly on rocky soils in Edwards Plateau
Antelope horn milkweed

- *Asclepias asperula*
- Perennial
- Lance-shaped leaves with white-showy flowers
- Stems contain white milky substance
- >1% of diet is toxic
- Contain glycosides that disrupt respiration and heart function
- Common on rocky soils in Rolling Plains region of Texas
Two species in Texas
- *Erodium texanum* (in picture)
- *Erodium cicutarium*

Annuals with seed forming distinctive “storks bill”

Prevalent during years of above average rainfall in fall and winter

Excellent forage
Lamiaceae

Mint family
Monarda citriodora
Member of mint family with distinctive square stem
Flowers in clusters surrounding stem
Long slender leaves
Poor forage
Malvaceae

Mallow family
Scarlet globemallow

- *Sphaeralcea coccinea*
- Perennial
- Native
- Deeply clefted leaves
- Pubescent stems
- Fair forage value
Copper Mallow

- *Sphaeralcea angustifolia*
- Upright perennial
- Star-shaped hairs resulting in plant appearing grey in color
- Flowers typically in clusters
- Leaves with serrated edges
- Poor forage
Wine Cup

- *Callirhoe involucrata*
- Trailing perennial
- Deeply segmented leaves
- Flowers in early to mid spring
- Good forage for wildlife
Plantaginaceae

Plantains
Wooly plantain

- *Plantago patagonica*
- Annual
- Native
- Basal leaves
- Pubescent
- Flowers in spike
- Throughout U.S.
- Fair forage
Redseed Plantain

- **Plantago rhodosperma**
- Annual
- Slender leaves all originating from the base
- Flowers arranged in a spike with seeds turning red at maturity
- Fair forage
- Seeds consumed by birds, particularly quail
Ranunculaceae

Larkspurs
Low larkspur

- Delphinium bicolor
- Perennial
- Native
- Flowers as racemes with spurs
- Leaves widely dissected
- Toxic
Larkspur

- *Delphinium* sp.
- Perennial
- Cool season
- Native
- Flowers with characteristic “spur”
- Highly toxic
Tall larkspur

- Delphinium occidentale
- Perennial
- Native
- Flowers as racemes with spurs
- Leaves palmately divided
- Rocky mtns/ high elevations
- Toxic
Solanaceae
Nightshade family
Silverleaf nightshade

- *Solanum elaeagnifolium*
- Perennial
- Gray linear leaves
- Small reddish prickles
- Pale blue flowers with yellow center
- Yellow fleshy fruit
- Toxic
Buffalobur

- *Solanum rostratum*
- Deeply clefted leaves
- Annual
- Numerous prickles
- Yellow flowers
- Seeds consumed by birds
- Disturbed sites
- Poor forage
Pigeon berry

- *Rivina humilis*
- Perennial
- Dark green leaves, rounded with pointed apex
- Flowers in racemes forming bright red fruit in clusters
- Good forage
OTHER COMMON FORBS
Croton/Doveweed

- *Croton* sp.
- Annuals, biennials, and perennials
- Grayish round leaves
- Fair forage
- Seeds for birds
Mountain pink

- *Centaurium beyrichii*
- Rocky soils
- Toxic
- Upper most leaves, thread-like
- Flowers with five lobes spreading flat
Snow on the mountain

- *Euphorbia marginata*
- Annual
- Spurge family
- Upright plant with egg-shaped leaves
- Flower centers are yellow-green surrounded by petals with white margins
- Toxin irritates mouth, and digestive tract.
- Seeds are readily consumed by birds
Amaranthus sp.
- Annual
- Flowers in dense clusters on distal end of stems
- Stems may have red venation
- May contain toxic levels of nitrates that interfere with hemoglobin’s ability to pick up oxygen
- Fair forage
Horehound

- *Marrubium vulgare*
- Mint family (square stems)
- Perennial
- Round rough leaves with pubescents
- Poor forage
- Disturbed sites
Dakota Verbena

- *Verbena bipinnatifida*
- Purple to blue flowers at top in clusters
- Perennial
- Deeply clefted leaves
- Poor forage
Texas Verbena

- *Verbena halei*
- Perennial with bluish to pinkish flowers attached directly to stem
- Serrated leaves
- Poor forage
Scarlet muskflower

- *Nycyaginia capitata*
- Spreading perennial
- Stems and leaves covered with sticky hairs
- Showy flower with petals
- Poor forage
**Cooperia pedunculata**
- Large bulb
- Conical stem
- Flowers after rain
- Linear leaves
Verbascum thapsus

Upright perennial

Leaves sessile

Covered in felt-like hairs

May grow up to 6 ft tall
Frog Fruit

- *Phyla incisa*
- Stems prostrate
- Flowers in dense clusters
- Leaves slightly pointed with serration on tip
- Spreading
- Often found near water
Lamb’s Quarter

- *Chenopodium album*
- Annual
- Pale-gree leaves
- Stems upright, branching at top
- Flowers in dense clusters
- Fair forage
Yellow Neptunia

- Neptunia lutea
- Perennial
- Bipinnate leaves
- Upright plant
- Yellow flowers
- Legume
- Good forage
Mouse ears

- *Cerastium vulgatum*
- Short-lived perennial
- Flat, basal growth
- Leaves grey and covered with short hairs
Prickly Poppy

- *Argemone albiflora*
- Extremely prickly annual or biennial
- Leaves bluish-green with serrated edges
- Poor forage
Texas Thistle

- *Cirsium texanum*
- Perennial or biennial
- Ray flowers absent
- Solitary flowers
- Spiny-toothed leaves
- Basal leaves forming rosette in winter
- Poor forage
Buffalogoard

- *Cucurbita foetidissima*
- Perennial
- Grayish-color
- Spreading vine
- Pungent odor
- Leaves triangular-ovate
- Fruit green pepo
Field bindweed

- *Convolvulus arvensis*
- Trailing perennial
- Roots creeping and forming a dense colony
- Solitary white to pink flowers
- Invades cropland
Ipomoea trichocarpa

- Spreading or low-climbing perennial
- Flowers pink to purple and funnel-shaped
- Flowers close at mid-day
- Heart-shaped leaves
Skeletonweed

- *Lygodesmia texana*
- Perennial
- Flower as solitary head
- Slender leaves and stems