



Castilleja linariifolia

Castilleja

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Above: Western spiderwort (*Tradescantia occidentalis*) is a psammophile. By Robert and Jane Dorn

Sand Dunes of Wyoming

By Bonnie Heidel

Where are the Torrington Dunes?! There is no dune directory or dune-themed national park in Wyoming. A spurt of dune surveys were launched in Wyoming with discovery of Blowout penstemon (*Penstemon haydenii*) in the Ferris Dunes (Fertig 1999) to find out if this Endangered species might be present in other dunes of the state. Dunes initially surveyed included: Killpecker and Seminoe Dunes, a sandhill area northeast of Baggs and expanded surveys in the Ferris Dunes (Fertig 2001). I later surveyed Casper Dunes, coordinated more surveys in the Killpecker and Ferris Dunes, the Torrington Dunes and scattered sandplains (Heidel 2005, 2022) to conclude that Blowout penstemon is only in the Ferris Dunes.

Dunes are sand deposits reworked by the wind into choppy terrain. The largest dune systems in the state were subjects of remarkable geology dissertations (Killpecker Dunes – Ahlbrandt 1973; and Ferris Dunes – Gaylord 1984). They are Quaternary features, i.e., the youngest geological formations in the state. Just to confuse things, some areas mapped as sand dunes (Love and Christiansen 1985) are sand plains, i.e., rolling or level deposits but not reworked by wind.

Sand dunes and sand plains are home to sand-loving plants (psammophiles: psammo- is latin for sand, and phil- is latin for affinity). Western spiderwort (*Tradescantia occidentalis*) and Lemon

scurfpea (*Psoralea lanceolata*; syn. *Ladeania lanceolata*) are two of the more widespread sand-loving plants.

The Torrington Dunes are east of Torrington, a link between the Nebraska Sandhills and the far-flung dunes of Wyoming (Forman et al. 2001). They support many sand-loving plants. ...We will see spiderwort and other sand-lovers in the 2025 Annual Meeting this month!

A complete list of references is available on request.

In This Issue:

Sand Dunes of Wyoming	1
2025 WYNPS Annual Meeting Agenda	3
Announcements	4
2025 Annual Meeting Registration	5
Reviving the Sagebrush Steppe	6, 7
Ethnobotany – Wild Mint	7, 8
A Treatise on Tumbleweed	8
Additions to Wyoming Flora – Bermudagrass	9

WYNPS News

2025 Annual Meeting: Register *now* for our 2025 annual meeting, May 30-June 1, converging on Fort Laramie, WY. See the agenda and registration form in this issue. You can also register online at the WYNPS homepage -

<http://www.wynps.org/events/>. It helps planning if your registration arrives by 19 May.

Scholarship Winners Announced: Two scholarship winners were selected from many qualified 2025 applicants. Dan Coles, University of Wyoming, is pursuing his thesis on "A Flora of the Bighorn Mountains". Sierra Jaeger, University of South Carolina, is pursuing her dissertation on "Population demography of the last populations of Yellowstone sand verbenas". Look for articles on their work next year. *Thank you to all who have contributed to the scholarship fund!*

WYNPS Board – 2025

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Teton Plants: Amy Taylor, Treasurer; (tetonplants@gmail.com). Check the chapter homepage (<https://tetonplants.org/>) for events.

Facebook:

Instagram:

General questions: wynps@wynps.org

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of 1 Apr 2025: Scholarship=\$1,641; General=\$13,204; Total=\$14,845.

Contributors to this Issue: Anne Beeman, Joyce and Mike Evans, Bonnie Heidel, Kimberly Morrow, Meredith Taylor, Dorothy Tuthill.

New members: Please welcome the following new members to WYNPS: Debra Ikeda and Glenn Carpenter, Jackson; Zachary Ryals, Rock Springs; Barbara Sands, Encinitas, CA; and Joy Ufford, Bondurant.



Message from the Co-Presidents:

Calling all plant people from far and wide – hitch up your wagons! Dig out the hiking boots! WYNPS is very excited to have you join us for the Annual Meeting in Fort Laramie, Wyoming. The entire town of 200 people is poised to welcome you to our little slice of the High Plains and our huge helping of American history. We want to share with you our native plants - recently fueled by 5 inches of spring snow, our historic Fort – preserved, protected and interpreted by your National Park Service, *and* our amazing community.

You will meet in our Community Center, which is the old school. When school consolidation came, the people of Fort Laramie preserved this precious remaining WPA-built gym and auditorium and turned them into a community meeting place. A splash pad was added to the nearby park, a community green house was built, and a native plant garden was created. We can hardly wait to share it all with you! And we hope you, in turn, will share your love for native plants and stories from around Wyoming with us.

~Joyce & Mike Evans

Next Issue: Please send articles, ideas and announcements for the next issue by 15 Sept to:

Wyoming Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 2449
Laramie, WY 82073

2025 WYNPS Annual Meeting Agenda

Friday, May 30

3 pm: Check-in begins at Fort Laramie

Community Center. On-site camping (no hook-ups)

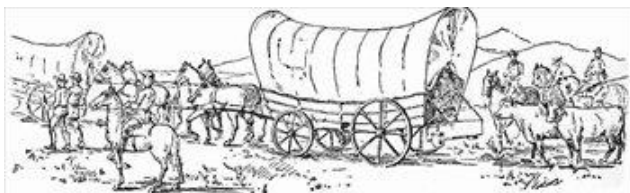
5 pm-6 pm: Workshops (two options)

1. Plant Identification—Ben Legler and colleagues will introduce the fundamentals of plant identification with examples from Wyoming's most commonly encountered plant families.
2. Nature Journaling Plants—Nature journaling is the quest to gather information for personal learning. Dorothy Tuthill will share her strategies for capturing plant traits in drawings and notes, to create a record of (some) plants she has met. Some drawing materials will be provided; bring your own journaling supplies if you have them. Also bring a hand lens and plant field guide/key, if available.

6 – 7 pm: Dinner on your own (Community Center facilities available). Bring plates and utensils. Hear guest speaker: Robert Melonuk, local expert on significance of Fort Laramie

7 pm: Depart Community Center for evening walk at Bedlam Ruts (app. 3 mi caravan)

Walk in the steps of settlers traveling the Oregon Trail at Bedlam Ruts on Friday evening (3 mi caravan from the Community Center). Bedlam Ruts is named for the distant view of the building, Old Bedlam, on the Fort Laramie grounds. There is a wide variety of plants that grow among the steep rim and rock formations of Arikaree Sandstone that overlook the North Platte River. The view to the south is not unlike it was 150 years ago. On quiet evenings it is not hard to imagine the sounds of wagons going west as their passengers leave the last vestiges of civilization behind and come to the realization that they will be entering the wilderness of the Rocky Mountains. Led by Bonnie Heidel.



Saturday, May 31

8 am- noon: Morning plant walks at Fort

Laramie National Historic Site. Meet at the Visitor Center parking lot at 8 am (maps provided). We will explore spring flowers and connect human

history to natural history. Led by Robert Dorn and Bonnie Heidel. There is a checklist posted at: <https://irma.nps.gov/NPSpecies/Search/SpeciesList>

Noon: Return to Community Center for lunch.

1 -5 pm: Afternoon plant walk at Torrington

Dunes (app. 15 mi caravan) Meet at Community Center for 1 pm departure to the easternmost sand dunes in Wyoming. It harbors some sand-loving plants found nowhere else in the state! Led by Robert Dorn and Bonnie Heidel.

6 pm: Catered Dinner at Community Center.

Our meal will be prepared by Crazy Tony's Grub+Pub (Ft. Laramie Bar & Grill) – see next page for menu. Bring plates and utensils. BYOB, if desired.

7 pm: Keynote speaker, Michael Amundson **“Wyoming Revisited: Rephotographing the** **Scenes of Joseph E. Stimson”**

Come see a century of Wyoming landscapes in the striking photography of Joseph Elam Stimson, who was employed by Union Pacific and the State of Wyoming. His historic Wyoming photographs were replicated TWICE by Dr. Amundson, a window into the past and future. Landscape illustrations by Wyoming artist, M.D. Houghton, contemporary of Stimson, will be included.

Sunday, June 1

7:30 – 8:30 am: WYNPS Annual Business

Meeting and Breakfast, followed by Community Center clean-up. The Sunday morning business meeting is open to all WYNPS members. Please come and share your thoughts and ideas with the Board and other members. *Breakfast will be provided - delicious pastries from Torrington's Bread Doctor Bakery, coffee, orange juice.*

9:30 am - 12: Morning walk at Sunrise Mine area

(app. 20 mi caravan). Meet at Community Center for 9:30 am departure for a glimpse of history and natural history in the Hartville Uplift, led by Mine staff and Mike Evans.

SEE REGISTRATION, P. 5

Books Sales

Books of Michael Amundson, our keynote speaker, will be on sale at the 2025 Annual Meeting.

-Wyoming Revisited; and

-The Art and Life of Merritt Dana Houghton in the Northern Rockies, 1878-1919 . They are posted at:

<https://upcolorado.com/our-books>)

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, May 13, 6-7 pm. Live (no zoom)
“Native Plant Gardening in Teton County” by Teton Plants Chapter, @ Teton County Library.
Gardening with native plants has many benefits and also challenges in Teton County, particularly important within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. This forum will start with Frances Clark, Teton Plants, explaining how we know what species are native. Morgan Graham, Teton Conservation District, will give results from a day-long round-table of growers and garden designers. He will also touch on TCD’s incentives to use native plants including Trout Friendly Lawns. Charlotte Cadow, Nature Conservancy, will address TNC propagation research to increase the supply of desirable plants.

Friday-Sunday, May 30-June 1. 2025 Annual Mtg!

Saturday, June 21. 9 am – 12 - Joint hike of WYNPS and Bighorn Native Plant Society, < 0.5 mi roundtrip. Visit South Piney Creek for a show of Mountain lady’s slipper (*Cypripedium montanum*). Meet: 9 am at South Piney Hiking Trail #626. [From I-90 take Exit 44 to WY-193, going toward Story. Go 6.3 mi on WY-193 to the Fish Hatchery Rd (WY-194). From this jct of WY 193 and Fish Hatchery Rd, to the trailhead past the Story Fish Hatchery and past the Thorne-Rider Road. Hike leaders: Ami Erickson, Beth Davidson

Friday-Sunday, June 27-29, 2025 Wyoming BioBlitz. Registration is now open for the 2025 Wyoming Bioblitz, held 2025 at the Seminoe State Park north of Rawlins, Wyoming. The agenda has yet to be posted but WYNPS is a collaborator and there will be a lichen workshop and sand dune plant hike.

Look for future hikes at: WYNPS and Teton Plants homepages, Facebook and Instagram

Support our Scholarship Fund with Silent Auction Donations!

We are looking for new items, preferably created by our members, suitable for auction. Last time we generated nearly \$700—enough to fund a field season of research! If you have an item that may be suitable, please email Dorothy (dtuthill@uwyo.edu) with a description, value, and starting bid. Items valued less than \$100 will probably be most successful. Items can be mailed to Dorothy, or better yet, delivered on arrival to the annual meeting.

Plants and Pollinators Poster Winners

Wyoming Native Plant Society is excited to announce winners of our poster contest celebrating April 2025 as Wyoming Native Plant Month. The contest, open to all Wyoming 6th-8th graders, invited students to create a poster around the theme: “Wyoming Native Plants and Pollinators: Better Together.” We are thrilled with the level of participation and the quality of the posters submitted by all the talented young artists which beautifully showcase the importance of native plants in our state and their vital role in supporting Wyoming’s indispensable pollinators.

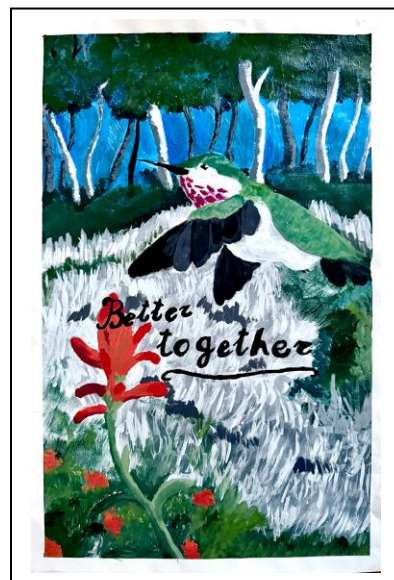
After reviewing many wonderful submissions from students across the state, four winners were selected:

- Evelyn Brown (8th gr) from Douglas Middle School, and her teacher, Emily Jensen
- Harper Davis (6th gr) from Worland Middle School, and her teacher, Jennifer Simmons
- Karen Eyre (7th gr) from Lyman Intermediate, and her teacher, Kenneth Relei
- Gloria Phillippi (6th gr) from Douglas Middle school, and her teacher, Emily Jensen

Each winning student and their respective teachers, received \$250 and the students will get their framed poster after it has been displayed in participating libraries in Wyoming.

Also, Honorable Mentions were awarded to five more talented students, reflecting high levels of creativity. They include:

- Yaseena Basitkhan (7th), and her teacher, Jennifer Weber
- Sara Brooks (7th), and her teacher, Sadie Payne
- TandiLyn Norcross (8th), and her teacher, Emily Jensen
- Lincoln Martinson (7th), and his teacher, Jennifer Simmons
- Sage Polk (7th), and her teacher, Kristi Hibbert



2025 WYNPS Annual Meeting Registration Form

May 30-June 1, Fort Laramie, WY

Please register online or by mail by May 24. Dinner orders must be received by May 19. On-site registration will be available after May 24 (excluding dinner). Registration fee for the weekend is \$30/person (children free). Saturday dinner is an additional \$16/person. Registration includes all activities, free camping at the Community Center, access to the Center's kitchen, and entrance fee to the Sunrise Mine on Sunday morning (usual cost is \$20/person).

Registration fee for the weekend is \$30/person. Children 12 and younger are free.

Name(s) _____

Email _____

Address _____

Number in party: Adults _____ Children 12 and under _____

Saturday evening dinner cost is \$16/person, including children under the age of 12

Saturday dinner will be catered by Crazy Tony's Grub+Pub (Ft. Laramie Bar & Grill), and includes: smoked beef brisket sandwich (served with provolone cheese, creamy horsey sauce, and homemade au jus), coleslaw, herbed asparagus, seasonal fruit salad, drinks, and dessert. The vegetarian option is cauliflower steak. Dairy-free, gluten-free and vegan options will be provided if requested.

____ Meat or ____ Vegetarian Other dietary restrictions? _____

Camping is available at the Ft. Laramie Community Center (102 Otis St.). Check the nights you plan to camp on site:

____ Friday ____ Saturday ____ Tent ____ Trailer/RV

FEES

Registration @ \$30/person Number of people _____ Total registration fee _____

Saturday Dinner @ \$16/person Number of people _____ Total meal cost _____

TOTAL FEES _____

Please check the events you plan to attend on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. If there are additional people in your party, indicate the number by each event.

Friday:

____ Plant Families workshop
____ Nature Journaling workshop
____ Evening walk (Bedlam Ruts)

Saturday hike:

____ Ft. Laramie NHS (am)
____ Torrington Dunes (pm)

Sunday hike:

____ Sunrise Mine

Please mail form and check to Wyoming Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 2449, Laramie, WY 82073.

You may also pay online via PayPal (www.wynpw.org). Send registration FOR RECEIPT BY MAY 19.

Reviving the Sagebrush Steppe:

Tailoring restoration strategies to support native shrub establishment and diverse community composition

By Anne M. Beeman

When asked to picture Grand Teton National Park, (GRTE), you probably envision towering granite peaks, crystalline lakes, and vast forests. But there's another vital, often overlooked ecosystem: the sagebrush steppe. Situated in the park's lower-elevation valleys, this habitat is critical for wildlife. Key shrubs, like sagebrush and bitterbrush, offer year-round forage for species such as moose, elk, mule deer, sage-grouse, and pronghorn. Historically, this biome spanned over 62 million hectares across the western United States and Canada (Davies et al., 2011; Pyke et al., 2015).

However, overgrazing, woody plant encroachment, annual grass invasion, wildfire, conversion to cropland, development, and climate change threaten the integrity of this ecosystem and have reduced its extent by approximately 45% from its historic range (Shinneman, 2020). Unfortunately, GRTE is not immune to this degradation. Early Euro-American settlers converted large swaths of sagebrush steppe within the park to smooth brome pastures for livestock, altering the ecosystem's natural functions.

In 2009, GRTE initiated a long-term project to restore 4,500 acres of nonnative grasslands back to native sagebrush steppe. However, monitoring of early restoration sites indicated that the sites are progressing in two general trajectories: some sites are moving toward increasing similarity to reference conditions, while other sites overshot their native grass cover targets by 3-fold (Wessel, 2022). In collaboration with Laura Jones and Erik Kramer at GRTE, the Laughlin Research Laboratory at the University of Wyoming aims to identify the most successful sagebrush steppe restoration management strategies. Our research focuses on optimizing seed mix composition and planting methods to identify the most effective strategies for future restoration. Planting method refers to the combined techniques of tilling treatment and sowing method.

Methods

We established forty 30x30-meter plots, each with a unique combination of treatments, across a restoration site. Following non-native grass removal, plots were either tilled or left untilled. Plots were seeded with a forb-heavy or grass-heavy native seed

mix, both containing 21 species but differing in grass-to-forb ratios (Fig. 2). Tilled plots were broadcast-seeded, while untilled plots were drill-seeded. After two years, we assessed species cover, native shrub presence, and shrub size.

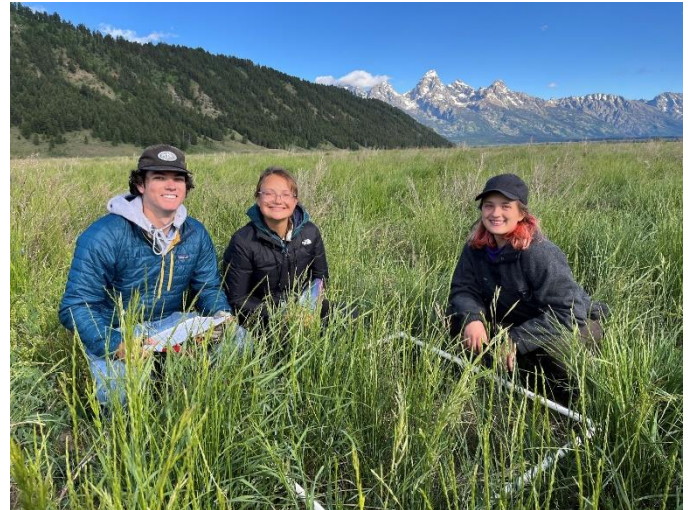


Figure 1. From left to right, Dillon Romero, Skyler Meinholz, and Anne Beeman sample a quadrat in a grass-heavy plot in Grand Teton National Park.

Results

Luckily for land managers, plant invasion risks and diversity metrics were similar across treatments, providing flexibility in management options. Seed mix design did influence plant functional type composition. Grass-heavy seed mixes with tillage and broadcast seeding reduced native forb cover the most, while forb-heavy mixes under the same conditions achieved the highest forb cover. Seed mix design ($P = 0.0749$) and planting method ($P = 0.00295$) also significantly impacted shrub establishment, with grass-heavy, no-till plots (continued on p. 7)

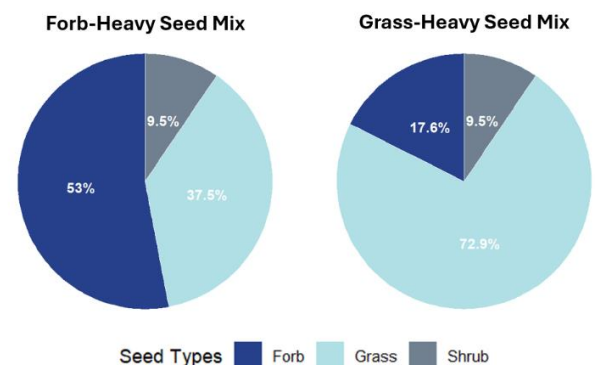


Figure 2. Proportions of the two seed mixes used in the study. The forb-heavy mix contains 53% forbs, 37.5% grasses, and 9.5% shrubs. The grass-heavy mix has 72.9% grasses, 17.6% forbs, and 9.5% shrubs.

Reviving the Sagebrush Steppe (Cont. from p. 6)

supporting the highest overall native shrub cover, outperforming all other treatment combinations. These findings highlight the importance of tailoring seed mix and planting method strategies to optimize functional type composition.

Additionally, our findings reveal a notable trade-off between bitterbrush and big sagebrush in response to planting method practices. Bitterbrush densities were higher in tilled, broadcast-seeded plots ($P = 0.0197$), whereas big sagebrush established best in no-till, drill-seeded plots ($P = 3.15e-10$).

Management Implications

The question remains: to till or not to till? The answer depends on which essential shrub or plant functional type managers decide to prioritize during restoration. These trade-offs suggest that management decisions must carefully weigh the restoration objectives. Our findings provide valuable guidance for GRTE's restoration efforts, helping identify the most effective strategies for shrub establishment. For instance, incorporating patches of tilling may introduce beneficial landscape heterogeneity, while forb-heavy seed mixes may be best suited for areas near greater sage-grouse lekking grounds. With this knowledge, GRTE can continue its mission to restore this important ecosystem, ensuring its health and resilience for future generations of both wildlife and visitors.

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Ethnobotany - Part 14.

Wild Mint (*Mentha arvensis*)

By Meredith Taylor,
Certified Wyoming Naturalist



Wild Mint (*Mentha arvensis*). By Ben Legler

Wild mint (*Mentha arvensis*) is found throughout North America from Canada to Mexico. *Mentha* is a dicotyledonous, dioecious perennial plant of the Mint family (Lamiaceae). It grows in marshy riparian wetlands to lush alpine areas. Wild mint is a popular pollinator herb with bees, butterflies and other insects, since the pinkish lavender flower can bloom most of summer.

The ovate leaves (1.5 - 5 cm) are opposite on the square stems (20-80 cm). Its pink flowers are in tight clusters. The serrate leaves are green in the spring and darker in the summer. Wild mint reproduces both sexually by seeds and asexually by rhizomatous suckering. Plants should be picked not pulled to protect the roots. If there is a lot of mint, the stems can be dried for later use. The author picks the wild mint leaves off the stem to use as tea or Tzatziki sauce.

Wild mint is a valuable edible and medicinal plant used by many as a tea (hot or cold) to aid digestion, relieve fever and nausea. The pleasant aromatic menthol peppermint flavor is popular to make mint jelly and various sweets. Mint is a healthy addition to the diet being high in Vitamins (Cont. p. 8)

Wild Mint (Cont. from p. 7)

A, C, B-Complex, iron and potassium.

Wild Mint has best flavor when collected before flowering, so this summer you can scout out mint patches for future reference. It sometimes grows with Bugleweed (*Lycopus* spp.), which is bitter, has white flowers and 2 stamens instead of 4.

(This article is for educational purposes and does not condone collecting of plants that readers can't identify with certainty. The ethics of wild plant collecting is to tread softly through the plant's habitat and only pick the occasional leaf or flower to protect plant sustainability. Check directly with the agency about their policy if you want to harvest native plants on public land.)

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A Treatise on Tumbleweed

Russian thistle

Aven Nelson had published the "First Flora of Wyoming" in an Extension Bulletin (Nelson 1896a) and later that year he released the first authoritative publications on "The Worst Weeds of Wyoming" (Nelson 1896b), addressing ten weed species in total, on the heels of Wyoming's first weed law in 1895 (H.B. 174 - "An Act to Provide for the Destruction of Russian, and Canadian Thistle and Kindred Pests"). A few excerpts from his treatment of Russian thistle as Wyoming's "most pernicious weed" are presented below as setting the scope and tone.

"As it is intended to consider the weeds of this list in the order of the danger they present to our agricultural interests, the Russian thistle is placed first, for the danger it threatens is both real and imminent. It has already inflicted untold injury upon the farmers of some of our neighboring States...Our climatic and soil conditions are just such as to make here [Wyoming] the ideal home of this dangerous tumbleweed..."

"Not until the fall of 1894 was an authentic specimen [of Russian thistle] communicated to this [Experiment] Station. This was received from Mr. F. J. Stanton, of

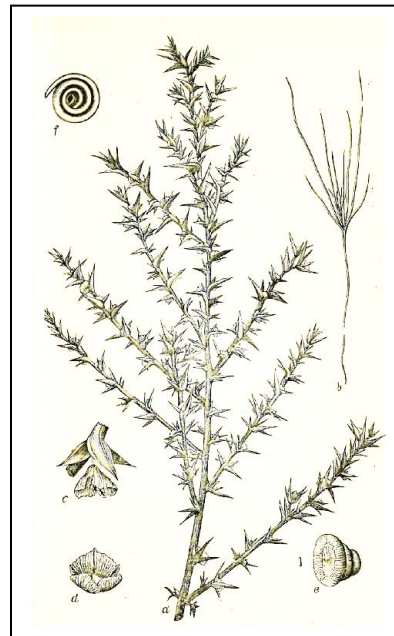
Cheyenne, who wrote that it was fairly well established at some points near the railroad. A press bulletin was at once issued sounding a note of warning, which received large publicity through the papers of the State..."

"The Russian thistle belongs to the class of weeds properly called Tumbleweeds. It is not a thistle at all and has been so called only on account of its spines. Tumbleweeds are plants which usually branch freely, assuming in the course of growth a somewhat spherical form. These plants are annuals, and when mature and dead the one comparatively slender root is easily snapped by the wind and the plant is set adrift, to be threshed over miles of prairie and plain by every storm. On treeless and fenceless areas ... the thousands [of seeds] that each plant bears may be distributed over scores of miles. This, while true of all tumbleweeds, is especially true of Russian thistle..."

"The Russian thistle has no good points worthy of consideration. Some claims have been made for it as a forage plant, but its value in that direction should have no weight whatsoever when it is understood that it has no advantage over many others with no noxious qualities. It cannot be eaten by stock on the range except during the summer months (June and July), when other palatable feed is abundant.

In cultivated grounds it is a weed first, last, and all the time, robbing the soil and crowding out the crops. This is especially its history in grain fields, where it not only greatly reduces or exterminates

the crop, but greatly impedes the process of harvesting, damages the machinery, and injures the horses' legs to such an extent as to form festering sores. The large, rigid plants greatly interfere with all farm operations, and the dry plants, when banked against fences, corrals and stock yards offer inviting pathways for chance fires."



Russian thistle – Plate II in Nelson 1896b. Reprinted in WY Bull., 31 from USDA Bull. 15.

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Additions to Wyoming's Flora:

Bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*)

Bermudagrass is considered the world's most widespread agricultural weed among members of the Grass Family, infesting at least 40 crops in over 80 countries (Holm et al. 1977, in Cornell 2025). The same versatility with which it survives between crop plantings has led to its development as a forage and turfgrass species *and* to its success as a weed (Mitich 1989).

In 2024, Bermudagrass was found for the first time in Wyoming, previously known from all other western states (Figure 1). Bermuda grass is native to tropical Africa or possibly southern Asia, but now occurs in most temperate latitudes, i.e., between 45° N and 45° S latitudes (Holm et al. 1977). It occurs throughout most of the U.S.A., but it is a serious weed primarily in the southern half of the country and more tropical latitudes (Cornell 2025).

Last July, I stopped on a sweltering day at Hot Springs State Park. I headed to shade near a backwater pool across from hot springs terraces where I saw an amazing latticework of stolons at the pool's edge. They were topped by a grass inflorescence resembling crabgrass (*Digitalis* spp.). I didn't recall any such grass on the working checklist of plants from Hot Springs State Park. So I collected it.

Back in Laramie, it keyed out to *Cynodon dactylon*; differing from crabgrass in having hairy inflorescences and rhizomes or stolons (Figure 2) rather than just rooting at the nodes. Both genera have digitate inflorescences, i.e., with spikes that radiate out from a central point. Bermudagrass is in horticultural trade as a turfgrass but there was nothing about the Hot Springs State Park setting to suggest it had been planted. Its production of rhizomes and stolons (Barkworth 2003) enables it to spread either above- or below-ground, depending on the hospitality or inhospitality of the ground.

Bermudagrass may have limited invasive potential in Wyoming, but a survey

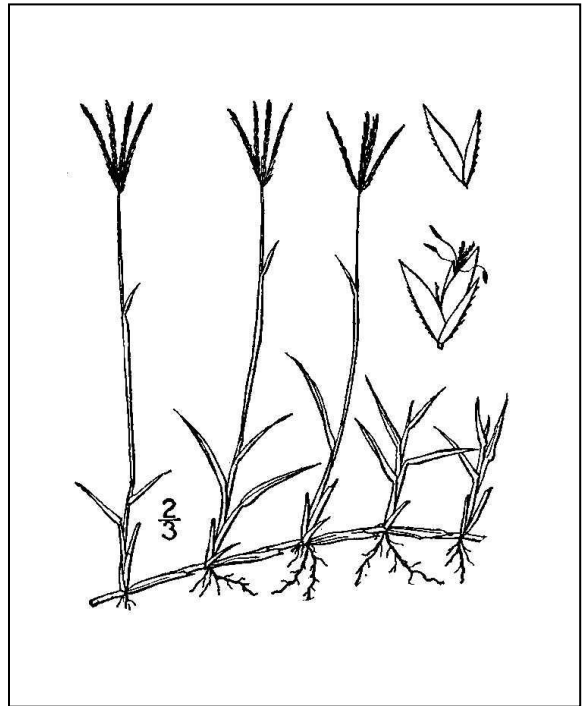


Fig. 2. *Cynodon dactylon*. From: Britton, N.L., and A. Brown, 1913, An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions. 3 vols. Provided by Kentucky Native Plant Society, New York.

throughout the Park might be appropriate to determine if it is expanding locally or could be eradicated. This article is also intended to discourage use of Bermudagrass in plantings that could potentially introduce new strains, risk interbreeding, and bolster the odds of it spreading more widely in the state. BH

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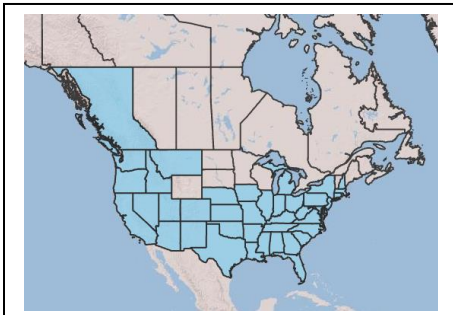


Fig. 1. *Cynodon dactylon* distribution in North America. From: Natural Resources Conservation Service. PLANTS Database. United States Department of Agriculture. Accessed Feb. 8, 2025,

New WYNPS Committee? **Comments invited!**

Should the Wyoming Native Plant Society establish a Conservation Committee? The purpose of the committee would be to represent the Society in Wyoming plant conservation issues and to inform the membership in an occasional newsletter column. WYNPS already submitted comments on the State Wildlife Action Plan process, as well as on the proposed delisting of Ute ladies'-tresses. Even though we are the only organization with a mission addressing plant species and vegetation statewide, we lack the official capacity that many other related societies possess. Also, the previous March issue presented a case that damages to federal botany staffing and programs are also fundamental conservation issues (*Castilleja* 44(1)). The WYNPS president is authorized by current By-Laws to form any committees beyond the mandatory Audit Committee and Nominating Committee, at the request of the membership. A request to form a Conservation Committee was submitted to current co-presidents by Bonnie Heidel. Please send your comments, and offers to serve, to our co-presidents Mike & Joyce Evans (wynps@wynps.org), and voice them at the Annual Meeting! The above-mentioned letters are also available for member viewing.

Wyoming Native Plant Society is a non-profit organization established in 1981 to encourage the appreciation and conservation of the native plants and plant communities of Wyoming. The Society promotes education and research through its newsletter, field trips, annual student scholarship and small grants awards. Membership is open to individuals, families, or organizations. To join or renew, please return this form to:

Wyoming Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 2449
Laramie, WY 82073

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email : _____

Check one: ☐ New member ☐ Renewing member

☐ Renewing members, check here if this is an address change.

☐ Check here if you prefer to receive the newsletter electronically

Membership

☐ WYNPS annual membership: \$10.00

☐ WYNPS annual membership + scholarship support: \$20.00
(\$10.00 for membership and \$10.00 for Scholarship fund)

☐ WYNPS Lifetime membership: \$300 (\$150 for membership and \$150 for Scholarship fund)

☐ Sublette Chapter annual membership: \$5.00

☐ Teton Plants Chapter annual membership: \$5.00

Total enclosed: _____ **THANK YOU!**

Wyoming Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 2449
Laramie, WY 82073