BLOOMING PERIODS OF SELECTED FORBS AND SHRUBS ON THE WEST CHICAGO PRAIRIE

Compiled by
The West Chicago Prairie Stewardship Group

The accompanying table summarizes data gathered during walks, field trips and workdays during 1983 through June, 1993. It is by no means an exhaustive listing, but generally represents the most frequently visited areas of the Prairie and the more obvious species. The listing includes the forbs and shrubs that both the casual and knowledgeable observer can expect to see from the trail system, as well as some which are easily missed unless their exact location is known. Trees, grasses and sedges are not included. The 28 periods of the year covered are days 1–7, 8–15, 16–23 and 24 –X for each month, April through October.

The symbols used in the table show the origin, the relative abundance in appropriate habitat, and general location for each species. Their meanings are summarized below:

Relative Abundance (R)
A = Abundant and widely distributed, can't miss.
C = Common, but widely scattered, can expect to see
L = Locally abundant, easily seen in appropriate area.
S = Scattered stands or plants, may miss.
U = Uncommon, few plants. Need to know where to look.

Origin (O)
n = Native species.
a = Alien species.
o = Native U.S. species, but out of range. Probably introduced from stockyards operation.

Location (L)
E = Most frequent on eastern portion of the Prairie.
W= Most frequent on western portion of the Prairie.
D = Most frequent in old field areas, along the Prairie Path and other disturbed areas.
T = Found throughout in appropriate habitat.
F = Generally found in wooded areas.

Most species show a well defined blooming period with few or no gaps in the data. These are usually the most abundant and/or most easily seen species. If the species blooms over four or more periods, the early and late dates are probably weather dependent and may not apply to any single year. Where only one or two periods for blooming are shown, the data probably represent limited observation because the species is not easily seen from the trail system, because some parts of the Prairie are less frequently visited, because some species do not bloom regularly, and/or because there are only a few plants or stands on the Prairie and they are easily missed. For a few species known to be present, our data are incomplete and either the location or the blooming period data are missing.

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