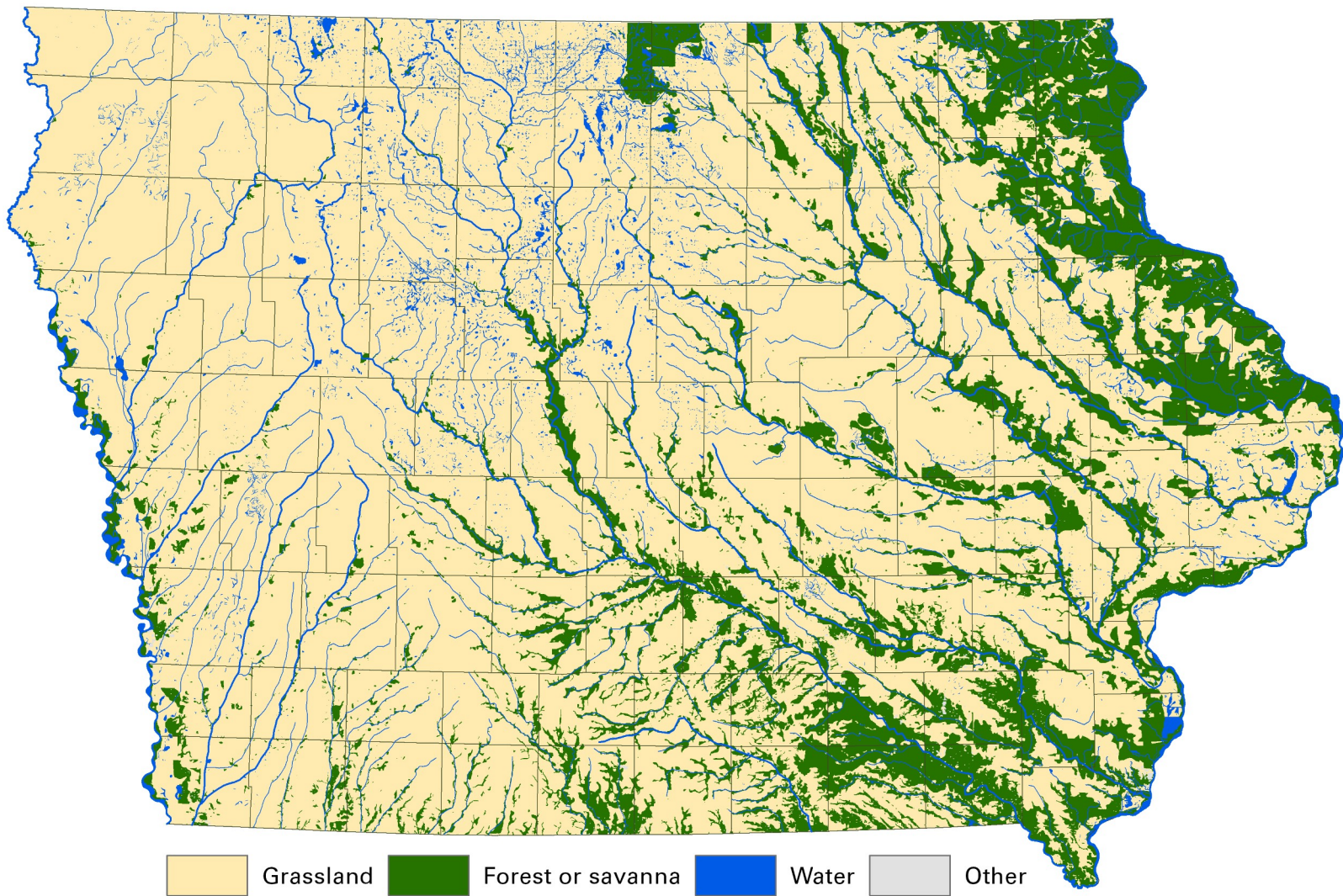


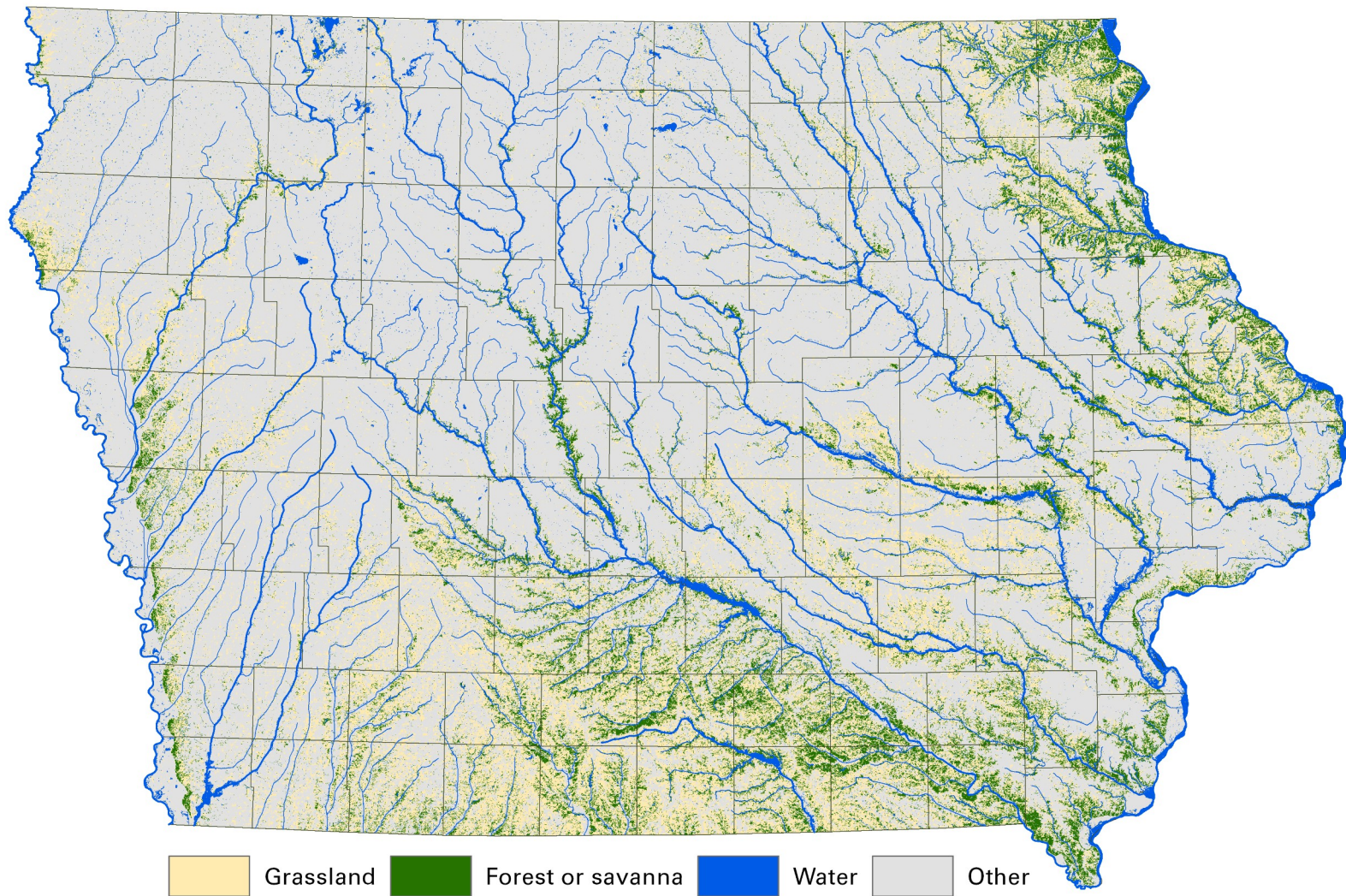
Prairie Plant Identification

What's Growing in Our Prairies?

What is a Prairie?

- Grassland with few to no trees present (1 tree per 5 acres)
 - Mostly perennial plants
- Can be short-grass, mixed-grass or tallgrass prairie
- Experience regular disturbances that control woody plant growth
 - Fire & heavy grazing by animals (bison)

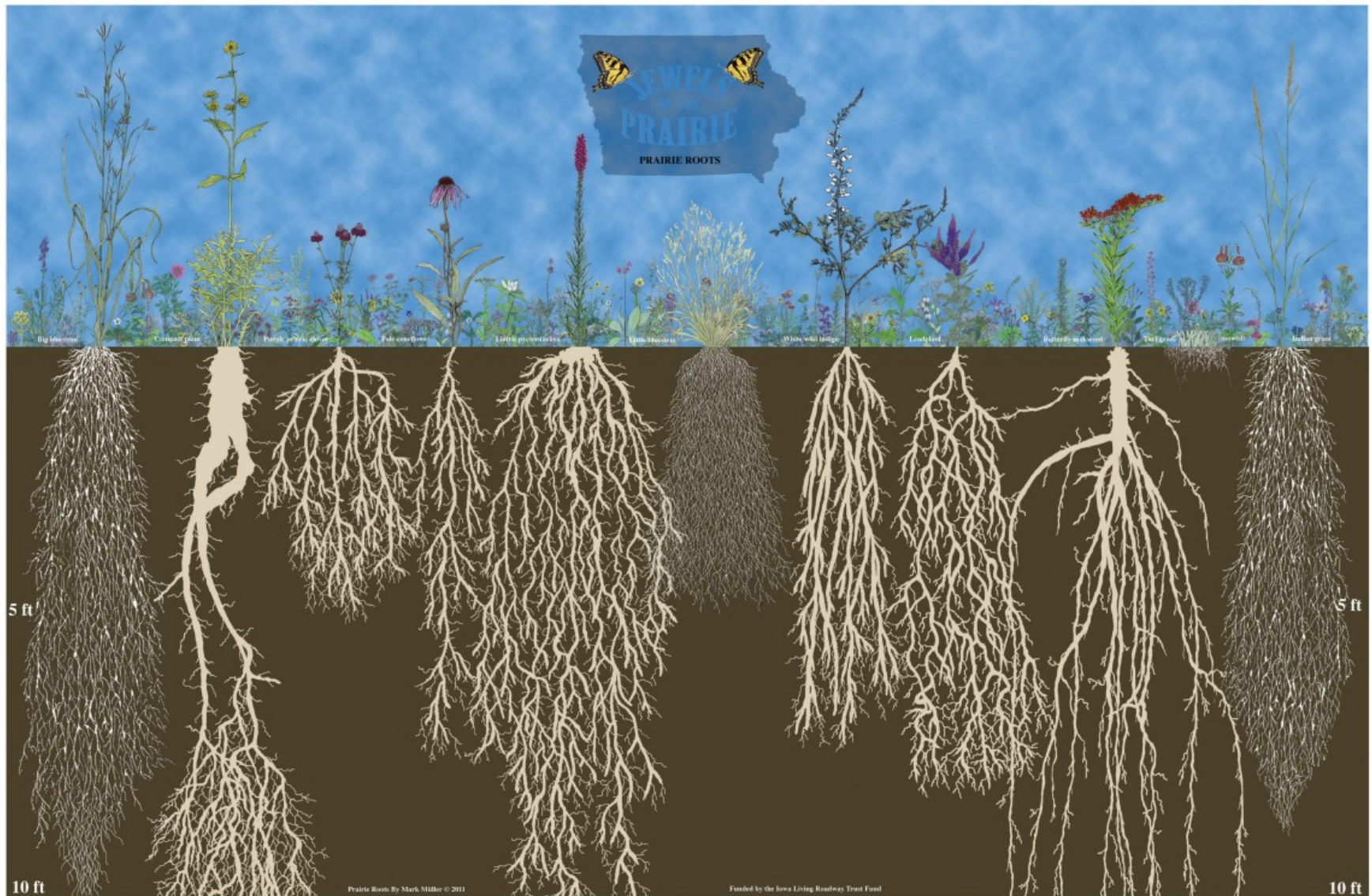




Iowa's Nature; National Land Cover Dataset (2011)

Tallgrass Prairies

- 60% Grasses, sedges & rushes
- 35% Forbs
- 5% Shrubs
- Majority of plant biomass is below ground

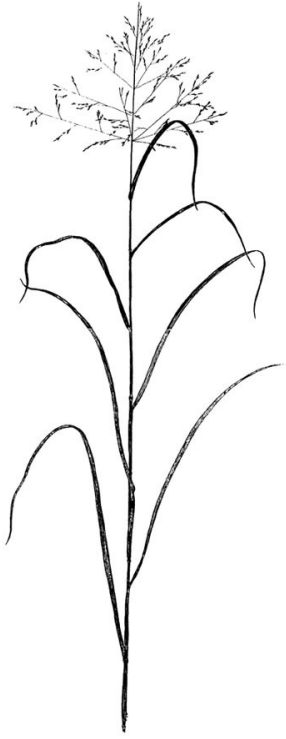


The Big 4 Grasses

- Big Bluestem
- Switchgrass
- Indiangrass
- Little Bluestem



Little bluestem, Maxwell Iowa



- Switchgrass



- Big Bluestem



- Indian Grass

Forbs

- Wildflowers!
- Lack Woody Structure



- Swamp Milkweed

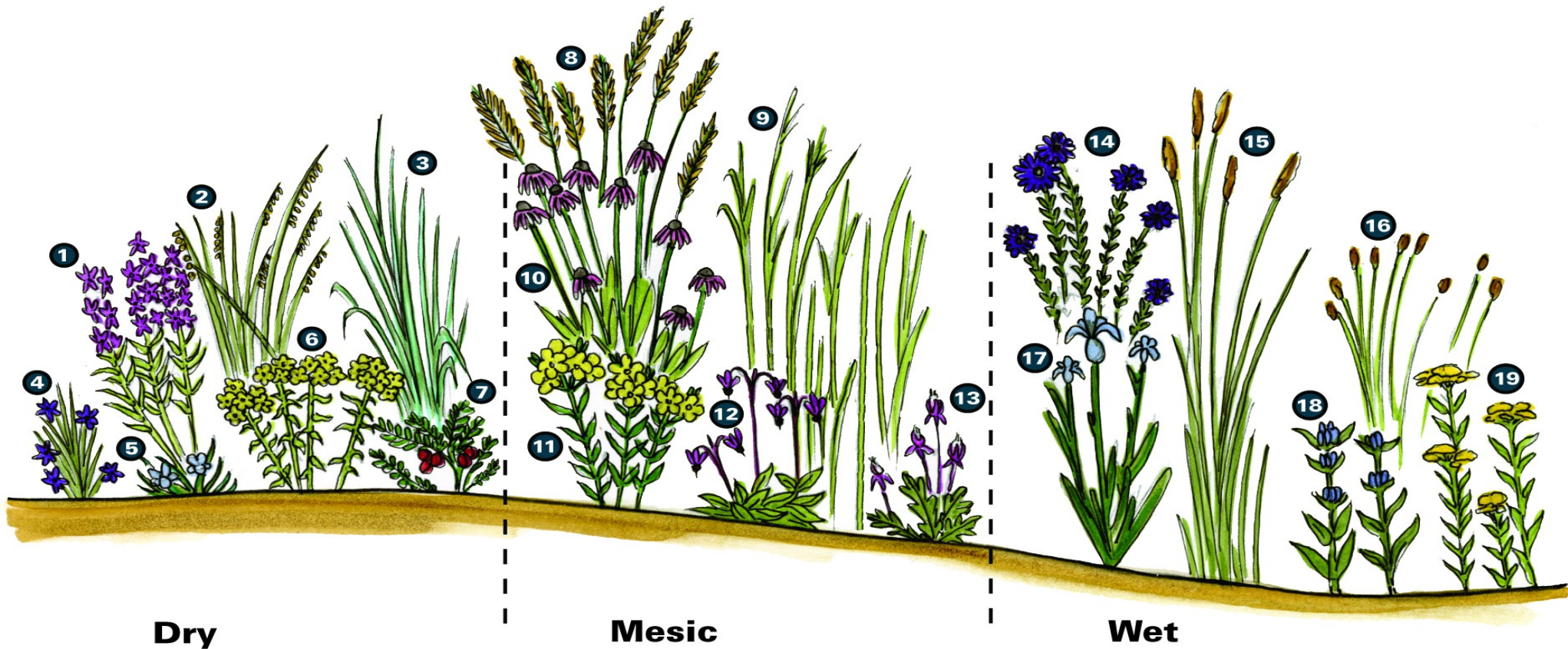


- Golden Alexander

Forbs Cont

- Ironweed
- Rattlesnake Master
- Bee Bald/Wild
Burgamont
- Black-eyed Susan
- Prairie
Mimosa/Illinois
Bundle Flower





1. Dotted blazing star
2. Sideoats grama
3. Little bluestem
4. Blue-eyed grass
5. Birdfoot violet
6. Hairy puccoon
7. Ground plum

8. Indian grass
9. Porcupine grass
10. Pale purple coneflower
11. Hoary puccoon
12. Shooting star
13. Prairie smoke

14. New England aster
15. Prairie cordgrass
16. Running sedge
17. Blue flag iris
18. Closed gentian
19. Riddell's goldenrod

Sedges & Rushes

- Sedges have edges
 - Triangular, less flowers and linear leaves
- Rushes are round
- Grass-like, grow in wetter prairies
- GV was seeded with fox sedge and prairie oval sedge



Shrubs

- Perennial
- Woody structure
- Lead Plant
- Prairie Rose
- Shrub Willow



What else is in the prairies?

- Noxious species
 - Queen Anne's Lace/Wild Carrot
 - Tree of Heaven
 - Wild Parsnip
 - Sap contains toxin
 - Poison Hemlock
 - Canada & Bull Thistle
 - All Cirsium are noxious in IA



Resources

- Links for resources can be found
 - <https://glynnvillageconservation.org/event/prairie-identification/>
- Other Dallas County Prairies you can visit:
 - Kuehn Conservation Area
 - Voas Nature Area
 - Wagner Prairie

