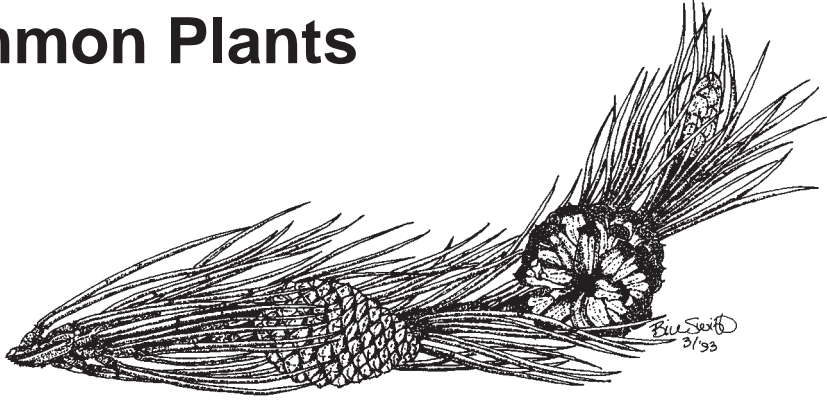


Grand Teton

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway

National Park
P.O. Drawer 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012
307 739—3300

Common Plants



Growing Zones

ALPINE (above 10,000 feet)

Above treeline, plants adapt to wind, snow, and lack of soil by growing close to the ground. Alpine plants take advantage of a brief growing season by flowering soon after the snow melts. Some species grow only in the alpine area; others grow tall at lower elevations but are dwarfed in the alpine.

CANYONS AND SUB-ALPINE (7,000 – 10,000 feet)

Between the crags of the Tetons, Ice Age glaciers have carved deep canyons. Today the canyons contain dense conifer forests and open meadows of wildflowers. As elevation increases, wildflowers abound while trees become stunted and eventually shrublike. "Krummholz" (German for "crooked wood") plants are dwarfed forms that are tree-like at lower elevations.

VALLEY (6,400 – 7,000 feet)

Porous valley soils support plants able to tolerate hot and dry conditions. In addition to abundant sagebrush, numerous wildflowers and grasses grow. During June and July, a profusion of color enlivens the valley: the yellow of balsamroot, the blue of lupine, and the red of gilia. During August, sunflowers replace balsamroot.

Common Trees

Most of the trees in the park are conifers because of the short growing season. Conifers retain their leaves (needles) throughout the year and can produce food (photosynthesize) on warm spring days. Deciduous trees shed their leaves in the fall and must grow new ones each spring before they can photosynthesize. Aspens and cottonwoods have chlorophyll in the bark and so can photosynthesize before producing leaves.

Reminder

Enjoy the wildflowers but please leave them for others to appreciate also. Picking wildflowers is prohibited within Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway. Edible berries, plants and mushrooms may be gathered by hand for personal daily consumption. Please be certain of plant identification before eating parts of any wild plants.

Lodgepole pine, the most obvious and abundant conifer in the park and parkway, grows on the lower slopes of the Tetons and on well-drained glacial soils throughout the valley. Needles are 2 – 3 inches long, clustered in bundles of two; cones are 1 – 2 inches long.

Douglas fir inhabits dry, south- and east-facing slopes, although dense stands of young trees grow on some north-facing slopes. Large diameter trees have coarse, furrowed bark.

Subalpine fir occurs on wetter north-facing valley sites and at higher elevations in the mountains. Smooth bark and spire-like growth form identify subalpine fir. Needles occur singly and feel soft. Cones grow upright on branches.

Engelmann spruce occurs with subalpine fir, especially along creeks in the canyons between Teton peaks. Rough bark and abundant cones hanging down from upper branches identify Engelmann spruce. Cones have papery scales and are 1 1/2 inches long.

Blue spruce lines rivers and creeks in the valley. Cones have papery scales and are twice as large as those found on Engelmann spruce. Spruce needles occur singly and are sharp to the touch.

Individual **limber pines** grow on open, dry valley sites. Needles grow in bundles of five. Cones are 4 – 8 inches long.

Whitebark pine grows above 8,000 feet in the mountains. Needles are in bundles of five. Cones are purple and shorter than those of limber pine.

Aspen grows in stands on level, moist sites and on dry slopes. Aspen bark is smooth and cream-colored. Reproduction is primarily from shoots sprouting from horizontal roots.

Wildflowers color the Tetons as the snow melts. Warm weather arrives first in the Jackson Hole valley. Snow level gradually retreats up the mountain canyons throughout the summer. Behind the melting snow come the wildflowers, brightening valley then canyon. Eventually snow leaves areas above treeline, allowing dwarf alpine plants their time to flower.

Cottonwoods, close relatives of aspens, grow along rivers and creeks in the valley and lower parts of mountain canyons. Bark on mature trees is heavily furrowed. The species that occur in the park—lanceleaf cottonwood, narrowleaf cottonwood and balsam poplar—hybridize freely, so identification of individual species may be difficult.

Common Shrubs

Big sagebrush thrives in dry habitats and carpets most of the valley floor. Plants are one to five feet tall; leaves are grayish green. Tiny yellow flowers bloom in August.

Antelope bitterbrush occurs with sagebrush in the southern half of Jackson Hole. Bitterbrush grows to three feet tall. Cream-colored flowers bloom in June.

Huckleberry grows two to four feet tall in lodgepole pine forests in the valley and mountain canyons. Purple berries are produced in August.

Serviceberry grows to ten feet tall. Showy white flowers bloom in spring, producing purple berries by late summer.

Chokecherry is a large shrub that grows to twenty feet tall. Cylindrical clusters of showy white flowers bloom in spring.

Utah honeysuckle grows in open lodgepole pine forests. Leaves are opposite. Paired cream-colored flowers bloom in early June, producing fused red unpalatable berries.

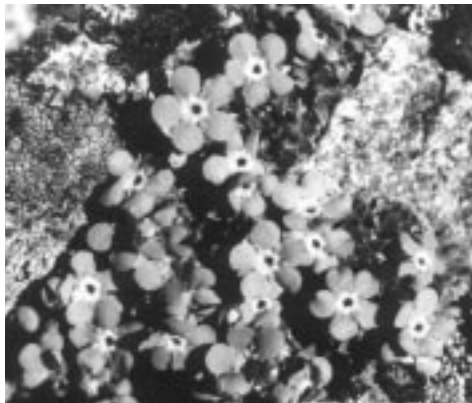
Mountain ash grows on the lower slopes of the Tetons. This tall shrub has compound leaves. Flat-topped clusters of white flowers bloom in June. In fall bright orange fruits complement vivid red leaves.

Willows occur in moist areas, especially along stream banks. Twenty species are found in the park and parkway.

Snowbrush ceanothus thrives in burned areas. Shiny, leathery green leaves are retained through winter. Clusters of aromatic white flowers bloom in June.

Books on Plants

For further information on wildflowers, consult *Plants of Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks* by Richard J. Shaw, *Vascular Plants of Grand Teton National Park and Teton County, An Annotated Checklist* by Richard J. Shaw and *A Field Guide to Rocky Mountain Wildflowers* by John J. Craighead, Frank C. Craighead, Jr., and Ray J. Davis.



Alpine Forget-me-not
official.park.flower

Flowering Times of Selected Flowers and Shrubs

	Valley	Canyons	Alpine
White Flowers			
Huckleberry	Jun	Jul	
Mountain Ash		Jul	
Birchleaf Spirea	Jul	Jul	
Chokecherry	Jun		
Woodlandstar	Jun		
Richardson Geranium	Jun – Aug	Jun – Aug	
Thimbleberry		Jun – Jul	
Green Gentian	Jun – Jul	Jul – mid Aug	
Snowbrush Ceanothus	Jun – Jul		
Cowparsnip	late Jun – mid Aug	Jul – Aug	
Serviceberry	Jun		
American Bistort	Jun	Jul	Aug
Ladies-tresses	Aug – mid Sep	Aug – Sep	
White Bog-Orchid	late Jun – mid Aug	Jul – Aug	
Manyflowered Phlox	Jun – mid Jul	mid Jun – Jul	
Colorado Columbine		late Jun – Aug	
Marsh Marigold		Jun – mid Jul	Jun – Jul
Yampah	Jul – mid Aug	mid Jul – Aug	
Engelmann Aster		Jul – Aug	
Yarrow	Jul – early Aug	mid Jul – late Aug	Aug

Yellow Flowers

Mules-ear Wyethia	mid Jun – Jul		
Hymenoxys			Jul – Aug
Sunflower	mid Jul – Aug		
Balsamroot	Jun – mid Jul		
Rabbitbrush	mid Aug – Sep		
Heartleaf Arnica	mid Jun – mid Jul	late Jun – late Jul	
Shrubby Cinquefoil	Jun – Sep		
Yellow Monkey-flower	Jun – mid Jul	mid Jun – mid Aug	
Lanceleaved Stonecrop	Jun – Aug		
Glacier Lily		Jun – Jul	Jul
Western Wallflower		Jun – Jul	
Subalpine Buttercup		Jul – Aug	
Deathcamas	Jun	mid Jun – early Aug	mid Jul – Aug
Oregongrape	May – Jun		
Sulfur Buckwheat	mid Jun – mid Aug		
Bracted Lousewort	late Jun – mid Jul	Jul	
Yellow Columbine	late Jun – Jul	Jul – late Aug	
Yellow Fritillary	mid May – mid Jun		
Butterweed Groundsel	late Jul – Sep		

Pink – Red Flowers

Springbeauty	May	Jun – mid Jul	
Sticky Geranium	Jun – Aug		
Parry's Primrose		Jul – Aug	Aug
Prairiesmoke	Jun – early Jul		
Globemallow	Jul – mid Aug	mid Jul – Aug	
Steershead	late May – mid Jun	late Jun – mid Jul	
Subalpine Spirea		mid Jul – Aug	
Shooting Star	Jun	late Jun – late Aug	
Ladysthumb Knotweed	Aug		
Lewis Monkeyflower		late Jun – Aug	
Mountain Snowberry	Jun – Jul	Jul	
Spreading Dogbane	Jul – Aug		
Mountainheather		Jul – Aug	Aug – Sep
Fireweed	mid Jul – Aug		
Moss Campion			Jul – mid Aug
Calypso Orchid	Jun		
Elephanthead	late Jun – Jul	mid Jul – Aug	
Indian Paintbrush	Jun – Jul	Jul – Aug	mid Jul – early Sep
Striped Coralroot	Jun – Jul		
Skyrocket Gilia	mid Jun – Jul		

Blue – Purple Flowers

Wild Blue Flax	July – Aug		
Rock Clematis	Jun	Jul	
Sky Pilot			July – Aug
Monkshood	late Jun – mid Jul	mid Jul – mid Aug	
Low Larkspur	mid May – Jun		
Mountain Bluebell		mid Jul – early Sep	
Fringed Gentian	late Jul – mid Aug	Aug – early Sep	
Harebell	mid Jun – early Sep		
Lupine	Jun – Jul		
Mountain Bog Gentian		late Jul – early Sep	
Silky Phacelia	late Jun – Jul	mid Jul – late Aug	late Jul – early Sep
Blue Camas	Jun		
Alpine Forget-me-not			Jul – early Aug