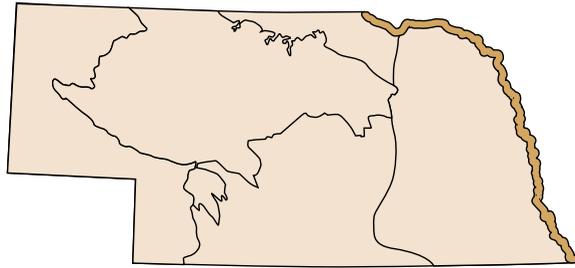


Missouri River Corridor



The Missouri River corridor includes the river channel, the associated floodplain, wetlands, and bluffs. This region consists of a mixture of riparian and upland deciduous forests, and tall- and mixedgrass prairies. The Missouri River runs approximately 2,320 miles from the headwaters in Montana to where it converges with the Mississippi River in St. Louis, Missouri. A 400-mile stretch of the Missouri River borders eastern Nebraska, running from the South Dakota border to the Kansas border, separating the state of Nebraska from Iowa.

The Missouri River has undergone many changes throughout the 20th century. Where the river once freely meandered across a vast floodplain, channelization, dams, conversion of wetlands, and development of structures and agriculture fields have transformed this region. Even so, the Missouri River corridor provides habitat not readily found throughout the rest of the state and allows for the success of some species in Nebraska whose geographic ranges are limited to this region.



Eastern Redbud

Cercis canadensis

Height: 15 - 30 ft.

Description: Short understory tree with heart-shaped leaves and early-blooming pink to rose-purple flowers followed by brown flat seedpods.

Habitat: Upland forests

Blooms: March - May

Viewing: Southeast



Chinkapin Oak

Quercus muehlenbergii

Height: 30 - 60 ft.

Description: Overstory tree with shiny, narrow and broadly serrated leaves. Acorns are small, oval, and have scaly caps. Bark becomes flakey gray-yellow as tree matures.

Habitat: Upland forests

Blooms: March - May

Viewing: Southeast



Burr Oak

Quercus macrocarpa

Height: 30 - 70+ ft.

Description: Perennial hardwood tree fiddle-like lobed leaves. Acorns with deep, fringed cup. Burr oaks can grow into tall, branched tree, or into shrubbier form found on bluffs or hillsides.

Habitat: Rocky, well-drained outcrops at elevations to 7,500 ft.

Blooms: March - May

Viewing: Eastern half



Cottonwood

Populus deltoides

Height: 50 - 80+ ft.

Description: Perennial deciduous tree with broad brown, dark-green glossy leaves with toothed edges, ridged dark-gray bark, seeds with fluffy hairs for a cotton-like appearance.

Habitat: Lowlands, near water

Blooms: March - April

Viewing: Statewide



Plant Viewing Tips

- 1. Go to where the habitat is** — visit state parks and other public spaces.
- 2. Do your homework** — learn what species grow in the area.
- 3. Think about timing** — check what is blooming in the area this time of year.
- 4. Consult an expert** — join in on a guided plant hike to learn where to find the best blooms.
- 5. Leave no trace** — leave wildlife in nature and nature the way you found it.



Plants of the Missouri River Corridor

Terms to Know

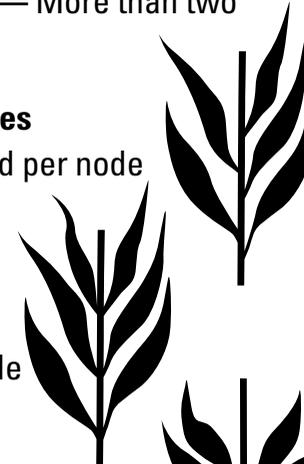
Annual Plant — One year lifecycle

Biennial Plant — Two-year lifecycle

Perennial Plant — More than two year lifecycle

Alternating Leaves

One leaf attached per node



Opposite Leaves

A pair of leaves attached per node



Whorled Leaves

Several leaves attached per node



Identification Guide

NEBRASKA
— GAME PARKS —

OutdoorNebraska.org



Jack-in-the-pulpit

Arisaema triphyllum

Height: 12 - 24 in.

Description: Perennial with thick flowering stalk, mottled green and purplish. Bloom has leaf-like hood.

Habitat: Moist, rich soils in woodlands

Blooms: April - June

Viewing: East, especially Missouri River valley

May-apple

Podophyllum peltatum

Height: 12 - 18 in.

Description: Perennial with thick, smooth stem and large umbrella-like toothed leaves. Single nodding flower is white and at base of leaves. Fruit is round and yellow-green with many seeds.

Habitat: Moist, rich soils in woodlands

Blooms: May

Viewing: Southeast Missouri River valley



Dutchman's Breeches

Dicentra cucullaria

Height: 4 - 12 in.

Description: Perennial with ridged fern-like leaves, reddish flower stalks with heart-shaped flower, white to pale pink in color.

Habitat: Moist, rich soils in woodlands

Blooms: April - May

Viewing: Eastern fourth



White Fawn Lily

Erythronium albidum

Height: 4 - 6 in.

Description: Perennial with elongated fleshy leaves, nodding white flowers, one per stalk.

Habitat: Moist, rich soils in woodlands

Blooms: April - May

Viewing: Missouri river corridor and extreme southeast



Bloodroot

Sanguinaria canaensis

Height: 6 - 12 in.

Description: Perennial with lobed leaves, orange-red latex sap, and flowers with white petals and yellow centers.

Habitat: Moist, rich soils in woodlands

Blooms: April - May

Viewing: Northeast, Missouri River valley

White Snakeroot

Ageratina altissima

Height: 24 - 36 in.

Description: Perennial with erect branching stem with opposite leaves. Domed clusters of 12 - 24 white flowers.

Habitat: Dry woodland soils

Blooms: August - September

Viewing: East



Virginia Waterleaf

Hydrophyllum virginianum

Height: 12 - 30 in.

Description: Perennial usually with single or occasionally branched stem with stiff hairs. Deeply lobed leaves, spherical flower head, white to violet-red bell-shaped flowers.

Habitat: Moist, rich soils in woodlands

Blooms: May - June

Viewing: East, especially Missouri River valley



Pale Jewelweed

Impatiens pallida

Height: 36 - 72 in.

Description: Annual with toothed leaves, green almost translucent stems, yellow tubular flowers sometimes with small red spots.

Habitat: Moist woodland soils

Blooms: July - September

Viewing: East



Large-flowered Tick-clover

Desmodium glutinosum

Height: 12 - 48 in.

Description: Perennial with tri-foliolate leaves with oval teardrop shape. Flower stalks with several light to rosy pink flowers.

Habitat: Moist woodland soils

Blooms: June - August

Viewing: Mainly east, but also northcentral

Swamp Milkweed

Asclepias incarnata

Height: 48 - 60 in.

Description: Perennial with single stem, opposite leaves, clusters of pink hourglass shaped flowers. Milky white sap.

Habitat: Shallow or moist-soiled wetlands

Blooms: June - August

Viewing: Statewide, most common east



Wild Columbine

Aquilegia canadensis

Height: 12 - 36 in.

Description: Perennial with slender stalks, alternate leaves and nodding reddish-pink and yellow tubular flowers with five pointed petals.

Habitat: Moist woodland soils

Blooms: April - June

Viewing: North and east, especially Missouri River and Niobrara river valleys



Blue Phlox

Phlox divaricata

Height: 9 - 15 in.

Description: Perennial with slender stems with opposite elongated leaves. Flower clusters atop stem with 9 - 25 blue-violet tubular flowers.

Habitat: Rich, moist woodland soils

Blooms: April - May

Viewing: East and southeast, especially Missouri River valley



Brittle Bladderfern

Cystopteris fragilis

Height: 6 - 12 in.

Description: Perennial green frilly fern with narrow pointed fronds that grows in low clumps.

Habitat: Moist woodland soils

Blooms: March - August

Viewing: East and north

Nodding Fescue

Festuca subverticillata

Height: 24 - 36 in.

Description: Perennial grass with flat alternate half-inch leaves and 12 inches long. Tufted culms often nodding, small flowers range from green to yellow to brown.

Habitat: Moist deciduous woodlands

Blooms: April - May

Viewing: Mainly east, but also north-central



Prairie Cordgrass

Spartina pectinata

Height: 36 - 84 in.

Description: Perennial bunch-grass with tough and coarse leaves, yellow-brown flowers.

Habitat: Wet, non-saline soils

Blooms: August - September

Viewing: Statewide



Davis' Sedge

Carex davisii

Height: 12 - 36 in.

Description: Perennial sedge with a red base and grass-like alternating leaves. Nondescript green blooms followed by overlapping football-shaped seeds.

Habitat: Moist lowland forests

Blooms: May - July

Viewing: Eastern fifth

