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A List of the Flora of the Eastern Part of Blue Earth County, Minnesota

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A List of the Flora of the Eastern Part of Blue Earth County, Minnesota

The purpose of this study was to classify the flora of a portion of eastern Blue Earth County, Minnesota. Blue Earth County, in the south central part of Minnesota, is primarily an agricultural community. The area is covered with glacial drift composed of a dark colored, medium and fine-textured soil.

The general situation of the land is relatively low in comparison with the rest of the state. In this study, it was classified into three general regions. The upland region contained over fifty percent of the species collected. The lowland area, such as a river valley, slough, or lake, accounted for 20 percent of the total species. The wooded areas with natural vegetation of trees and shrubs contained 29 percent of the species.

Blue Earth County has a continental climate because of its mid-continental location and its northern latitude. It is characterized by wide variations in temperature, scanty winter precipitation and ample rainfall in the summer, and a general tendency to extremes in all climatic features.

This investigation was started in the early spring and continued through the middle of July. Specimens of each plant were collected and photographed to preserve them for later study and reference.

In the classification of the flora, 61 different plant families were found. 143 genera were represented. A total of 201 different species were classified in this study.

LIST OF PLANTS

EQUISETACEAE

Equisetum arvense L.

Lowland. In river valley along the roadside.

Common Horsetail

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<i>Equisetum hyemale</i> L.	Scouring Rush
Lowland. Moist ditch along the edge of a river valley.	
<i>Equisetum sylvaticum</i> L.	Scouring Rush
Lowland. Waste land in river valley.	

OSMUNDACEAE

<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i> L.	Cinnamon-Fern
Lowland. Moist woods in river valley.	

POLYPODIACEAE

<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i> (L.) Roth.	Lady-Fern
Upland. Near a residence.	

GRAMINEAE

<i>Agropyron trachycaulum</i> (Link.) Malte.	Quack Grass
Upland. Roadsides and waste places.	
<i>Agrostis alba</i> L.	Redtop
Upland. Fields and roadsides.	
<i>Avena sativa</i> L.	Oats
Upland. Cultivated in fields.	
<i>Bromus inermis</i> L.	Hungarian Brome-Grass
Upland. Fields, roadsides, and pastures.	
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i> L.	Orchard-Grass
Lowland. Clearing in moist bottomlands.	
<i>Digitaria sanguinalis</i> (L.) Scop.	Finger Grass
Upland. Weed in lawns and waste places.	
<i>Elymus villosus</i> Muhl.	Wild Rye
Upland. Dry woods and banks.	
<i>Hordeum jubatum</i> L.	Squirrel-tail
Upland. Roadsides, fields and meadows.	Foxtail Barley
<i>Pheum pratense</i> L.	Timothy
Upland. Roadsides, fields, and pastures.	
<i>Poa compressa</i> L.	Canada Bluegrass
Upland. In dry soils, lawns and pastures.	
<i>Poa pratenses</i> , L.	Kentucky Bluegrass
Upland. Moist or dry soil. Roadsides and pastures.	
<i>Setaria faberii</i> Herrm.	Green Foxtail
Lowland. Fields, roadsides, and waste places.	
<i>Setaria glauca</i> (L.) Beauv.	Pigeon-Grass
Upland. Fields and roadsides.	Foxtail
<i>Setaria magna</i> Griseb.	Giant Foxtail
Upland. Roadsides and disturbed soils.	
<i>Setaria verticillata</i> (L.) Beauv.	Pigeon-Grass
Upland. Roadsides, fields and waste places.	
<i>Setaria viridis</i> (L.) Beauv.	Green Foxtail
Upland. Roadsides, fields and waste places.	
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.	Wheat
Upland. Cultivated in fields.	

ARACEAE

<i>Arisaema atrorubens</i> (Ait.) Blume.	Jack-in-the-pulpit
Wooded. Damp woods in river valley.	Indian-turnip
<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i> (L.) Schott.	Small Jack-in-the-pulpit
Wooded. Damp woods in river valley.	

COMMELINACEAE

- Tradescantia bracteata Small. Spiderwort
 Lowland. Moist ditch on prairie.
 Tradescantia virginiana L. Spiderwort
 Lowland. Thickets and roadsides.

LILIACEAE

- Allium canadense L. Wild Garlic
 Upland. Roadsides, meadows, and thickets.
 Allium schoenoprasum L. Chives
 Upland. Gravelly banks and shores, cultivated.
 Allium tricoccum Ait. Wild Leek
 Wooded. Rich woods and bottomlands.
 Asparagus officinalis L. Garden Asparagus
 Upland. Sandy fields and roadsides.
 Convallaria majalis L. Lily-of-the-valley
 Upland. Thickets and open woods, cultivated.
 Erythronium albidum Nutt. White Dog's-tooth-violet
 Wooded. Moist woods and thickets.
 Hemerocallis fulva L. Common Orange Day-lily
 Lowland. Moist soil, roadsides, borders of fields and thickets.
 Lilium michiganense Farw. Michigan Lily
 Lowlands. Meadows, low thickets, and wet woods.
 Smilacina stellata (L.) Desf. False Solomon's-seal
 Wooded. Moist, sandy, soil of woods and prairies.
 Trillium grandiflorum (Michx.) Salisb. Wakerobin
 Wooded. Rich moist woods.
 Uvularia grandiflora Sm. Bellwort
 Wooded. Rich woods and thickets.

IRIDACEAE

- Iris versicolor L. Blue Flag
 Lowland. Ditches, marshes and meadows. Poison Flag

SALICACEAE

- Populus deltoides Marsh. Cottonwood
 Wooded. River-banks, bottomlands and rich woods.
 Populus tremuloides Michx. Quaking Aspen
 Wooded. Dry and moist soil, cut-over land. Trembling Asp
 Quiver-leaf
 Salix pentandra L. Bay-leaved Willow
 Lowland. Low grounds, spreading from cultivation.

FAGACEAE

- Quercus alba L. White Oak
 Wooded. Dry Woods.
 Quercus borealis (Michx. F.) Farw. Red Oak
 Wooded. Fertile, moist or dry soil.

ULMACEAE

- Ulmus rubra Muhl. Slippery Elm
 Upland. Rich soil, cultivated. Red Elm

URTICACEAE

- Laportea canadensis (L.) Wedd. Wood-Nettle
 Wooded. Rich moist woods along banks and streams.
 Urtica procera Muhl. Nettle
 Upland. Thickets and roadsides.

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ARISTOLOCHIACEAE

- Asarum canadense* L. Wild Ginger
 Wooded. Rich woods and shaded areas.

POLYGONACEAE

- Rumex altissimus* Wood. Pale Dock
 Upland. Roadside ditches.
Rumex crispus L. Yellow Dock
 Lowland. Roadsides and waste grounds. Curly Dock
Rumex orbiculatus Gray. Water Dock
 Lowland. Wet meadows and roadsides.
Rumex verticillatus L. Swamp Dock
 Lowlands. Wet margins of streams and pools of water. Water Dock

CHENOPODIACEAE

- Chenopodium album* L. Pigweed
 Upland. Fields, gardens, and roadsides.

NYCTAGINACEAE

- Mirabilis nyctaginea* (Michx.) MacM. Umbrella-Wort
 Upland. Dry soil and waste land. Four-O'clock

CARYOPHYLLACEAE

- Cerastium arvense* L. Field Chickweed
 Upland. Rocky, gravelly, and sandy areas. Mouse-ear Chickweed

RANUNCULACEAE

- Actaea rubra* (Ait.) Willd. Red Baneberry
 Lowland. Woods and thickets.
Anemone quinquefolia L. Wood Anemone
 Wooded. Open woods, thickets and clearings.
Anemone virginiana L. Thimbleweed
 Wooded. Dry or open woods.
Aquilegia canadensis L. Wild Columbine
 Wooded. Dry woods and rocky ledges. Honeysuckle
Isopyrum bitematum (Raf.) T. and G. Kidneyleaf-Buttercup
 Wooded. Rich woods and thickets. Small-flowered Crowfoot
Ranunculus abortivus L. Early Buttercup
 Wooded. Low, moist or dry woods.
Ranunculus fascicularis Muhl. Bristly Crowfoot
 Wooded. Prairies and dry woods.
Ranunculus pensylvanicus L. f. Cursed Crowfoot
 Lowland. Banks of rivers and ditches.
Ranunculus scleratus L. Purple Meadow-Rue
 Lowland. Marshes and swampy meadows.
Thalictrum dasycarpum
 Upland. Wet meadow, thickets, and swamps.

MENISPERMACEAE

- Menispermum canadense* L. Yellow parilla
 Wooded. Moist woods and thickets.

PAPAVERACEAE

- Dicentra cucullaria* (L.) Bernh. Dutchman's-Breeches
 Wooded. Rich woods in valley.
Sanguinaria canadensis L. Red Puccoon
 Wooded. Rich, moist woods. Bloodroot

CRUCIFERAE

Barbarea vulgaris R. Br.	Common Winter-Crest
Upland. Moist fields and roadsides.	Yellow Rocket
Brassica nigra (L.) Koch.	Black Mustard
Upland. Fields and waste places.	
Capsella bursa-pastoris (L.) Medic.	Shepherd's Purse
Upland. Weed of lawns, gardens, and waste places.	Pickpocket
Descurainia pinnata (Walt.) Britt.	Tansy Mustard
Lowland. Dry or sandy soil.	
Erysimum cheiranthoides L.	Wormseed-Mustard
Upland. Wet soil, fields, and roadsides.	
Lepidium densiflorum Schrad.	Pepper Grass
Upland. Dry and moist soil, waste ground, and roadsides.	
Lepidium virginicum L.	Poor-Man's Pepper
Upland. Dry or moist soils, fields, roadsides, and waste places.	
Rorippa islandica (Oeder) Borbas	Mustard
Lowland. Wet soils of waste places.	
Sisymbrium altissimum L.	Tumble-Mustard
Upland. Weed in fields, roadsides and waste places.	
Thlaspi arvense L.	Frenchweed
Upland. Roadsides and waste places.	Fanweed
	Stinkweed

CRASSULACEAE

Penthorum sedoides L.	Ditch Stonecrop
Lowland. Marshes and muddy soil.	

SAXIFRAGACEAE

Philadelphus hirsutus Nutt.	Mock-orange
Upland. Cultivated near a residence.	
Ribes cynosbati L.	Prickly Gooseberry
Wooded. Open, loamy or rocky woods.	Dogberry
Ribes missouriense Nutt.	Missouri Gooseberry
Wooded. Moist or dry upland woods.	
Ribes odoratum Wendland f.	Missouri Currant
Upland. Cultivated near a residence.	Golden Currant

ROSACEAE

Agrimonia gryposepala Wallr.	Agrimony
Wooded. Moist or dry open woods.	
Crataegus mollis (T. and G.) Scheele.	Wild Hawthorn
Wooded. Low, moist area.	
Fragaria americana Porter.	Sow-teat Strawberry
Wooded. Rocky slope.	Wild Strawberry
Fragaria vesca L.	Woodland Strawberry
Wooded. Dry upland woods and prairies.	
Fragaria virginiana Duchesne.	Wild Strawberry
Wooded. Fields and borders of woods.	
Geum canadense Jacq.	Avens
Wooded. Dry or moist woods.	
Potentilla norvegica L.	Cinquefoil
Wooded. Thickets, clearings, and roadsides.	
Prunus hortulana Bailey.	Wild-Goose-Plum
Wooded. Moist woods and thickets.	
Prunus virginiana L.	Coke Cherry
Wooded. Thickets, shores and borders of woods.	

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<i>Pyrus malus</i> L.	Apple Tree
Upland. Cultivated near a residence.	
<i>Rosa blanda</i> Ait.	Rose
Wooded. Dry woods, hills, and prairies.	
<i>Rosa carolina</i> L.	Wild Rose
Upland. Upland woods, prairies, and roadsides.	
<i>Rosa hugonis</i> Conard.	Yellow Rose
Upland. Cultivated near a residence.	
<i>Rubus idaeus aculeatissimus</i> R. and T.	Raspberry
Wooded. Roadsides and thickets.	
<i>Rubus strigosus</i> Michx.	Red Raspberry
Wooded. Woods, fields, and prairies.	
<i>Spiraea japonica</i> L. f.	Japanese Spiraea
Upland. Cultivated near a residence.	
<i>Spiraea prunifolia</i> Conard.	Spiraea
Upland. Cultivated near a residence.	

LEGUMINOSAE

<i>Amorpha canescens</i> Pursh.	Lead Plant
Upland. Dry sandy prairies and hills.	
<i>Caragana arborescens</i> Conard.	Pea Tree
Upland. Cultivated near a residence.	
<i>Glycyrrhiza lepidota</i> (Nutt.) Pursh.	Wild Licorice
Upland. Moist prairies and roadsides.	
<i>Lathyrus venosus</i> Muhl.	Wild Pea
Upland. Moist prairies and roadsides.	
<i>Medicago sativa</i> L.	Alfalfa
Upland. Roadsides, fields, and waste lands.	
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i> (L.) Lam.	Yellow Sweet Clover
Upland. Cultivated or weed of moist places.	
<i>Melilotus alba</i> Desr.	White Sweet Clover
Upland. Cultivated or weed in rich soils and roadsides.	
<i>Trifolium hybridum</i> L.	Alsike Clover
Upland. Cultivated and escaped to roadsides.	
<i>Trifolium pratense</i> L.	Red Clover
Upland. Cultivated and escaped to roadsides, clearings and turf.	
<i>Trifolium procumbens</i>	Low Hop Clover
Upland. Roadsides, waste places, and old fields.	
<i>Trifolium repens</i> L.	White Clover
Upland. Lawns and roadsides.	
<i>Vicia americana</i> Muhl.	Vetch
Upland. Moist ditches and roadsides.	

OXALIDACEAE

<i>Oxalis europaea</i> Jord.	Wood-Sorrel
Upland. Fields, roadsides, and near dwellings.	
<i>Oxalis violacea</i> L.	Violet Wood-Sorrel
Wooded. Woods, shaded slopes, and gravelly banks.	

RUTACEAE

<i>Xanthoxylum americanum</i> Mill.	Prickly Ash
Wooded. Moist woods and thickets.	

POLYGALACEAE

<i>Polygala senega</i> L.	Seneca-Snakeroot
Upland. Dry or moist woods and prairies.	

	<i>EUPHORBIACEAE</i>	
Euphorbia cyparissias L.		Cypress Spurge
Upland. Roadsides and waste places.		
	<i>ANACARDIACEAE</i>	
Rhus glabra L.		Smooth Sumac
Wooded. Dry woods and openings.		
Rhus radicans L.		Poison Ivy
Wooded. Thickets and roadsides.		
	<i>ACERACEAE</i>	
Acer negundo L.		Boxelder
Upland. Moist, alluvial soil.		
Acer platanoides L.		Norway Maple
Upland. Cultivated near a residence.		
Acer saccharinum L.		Silver Maple
Upland. Cultivated near a residence.		
	<i>HIPPOCASTANACEAE</i>	
Aesculus glabra Willd.		Ohio Buckeye
Upland. Cultivated near a residence.		
	<i>BALSAMINACEAE</i>	
Impatiens biflora Willd.		Touch-me-not
Upland. Moist woods and ditches.		
	<i>VITACEAE</i>	
Vitis palmata Vahl.		Catbird Grape
Lowland. Swamps and low areas.		
Vitis riparia Michx.		River-bank Grape
Wooded. River-banks and rich thickets.		
	<i>TILIACEAE</i>	
Tilia americana L.		Basswood
Wooded. Rich woods and slopes.		
	<i>MALVACEAE</i>	
Malva neglecta Wallr.		Common Mallow
Upland. Weed in gardens and waste places.		
	<i>VIOLACEAE</i>	
Viola papilionacea Pursh.		Meadow Violet
Lowland. Moist fields and low, wet woods.		Common Blue Violet
Viola pennsylvanica Michx.		Smooth Yellow Violet
Wooded. Damp woods, cool shady slopes, and wooded bottoms.		Downy Yellow Violet
Viola pubescens Ait.		
Wooded. Rich deciduous woods.		
	<i>ELAEAGNACEAE</i>	
Elaeagnus angustifolia L.		Russian Olive
Upland. Cultivated near a residence.		
	<i>LYTHRACEAE</i>	
Lythrum alatum Pursh.		Loosestrife
Lowland. Moist, bog-like soil.		
	<i>ONAGRACEAE</i>	
Oenothera parviflora L.		Evening Primrose
Upland. Fields, roadsides, and waste soil.		

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UMBELLIFERAE

Anethum graveolens L.	Dill
Upland. Cultivated in gardens.	
Conium maculatum L.	Poison Hemlock
Upland. Waste places and roadsides.	
Cryptotaenia canadensis (L.) DC.	Honewort
Wooded. Rich woods and thickets.	
Heracleum lanatum Michx.	Cow parsnip
Lowland. Rich damp soil in river valley.	
Osmorhiza claytoni (Michx.) Clarke.	Sweet Cicely
Wooded. Moist upland woods.	
Pastinaca sativa L.	Parsnip
Upland. Waste places, fields, and roadsides.	
Zizia aurea (L.) Koch.	Golden Alexanders
Upland. Moist fields, meadows, and roadsides.	

CORNACEAE

Cornus alternifolia L. f.	Dogwood
Wooded. Rich woods and thickets.	

ERICACEAE

Ledum groenlandicum Oeder.	Labrador Tea
Upland. Ditches along roadsides.	

PRIMULACEAE

Lysimachia ciliata L.	Fringed Loosestrife
Upland. Low rich wood, thickets, and shores.	

OLEACEAE

Fraxinus pennsylvanica Marsh.	Green Ash
Wooded. Moist or wet woods.	
Syringa vulgaris L.	Lilac
Upland. Cultivated near a residence.	

ASCLEPIADACEAE

Asclepias amplexicaulis Sm.	Milkweed
Upland. Dry fields, prairies, and open woods.	
Asclepias incarnata L.	Swamp Milkweed
Lowland. Open ditches and wet prairies.	
Asclepias syriaca L.	Common Milkweed
Upland. Prairies, meadows, and roadsides.	
Asclepias tuberosa L.	Butterfly-weed
Upland. Moist prairies and roadsides.	
Asclepias verticillata L.	Horsetail Milkweed
Upland. Dry woods, roadsides, and sandy fields.	

CONVOLVULACEAE

Convolvulus sepium L.	Hedge Bindweed
Upland. Fields and roadsides.	

POLEMONIACEAE

Phlox divaricata, var. albiflora (L.) Farw.	Phlox
Upland. Along roadsides and edge of woods.	
Phlox divaricata, var. laphamii (L.) Wood.	Sweet William
Wooded. Rich moist woods.	

- Phlox pilosa, var. albiflora (L.) MacM. White Phlox
 Upland. Dry open woods, prairies, and roadsides.
 Phlox pilosa, var. virens (L.) Michx. Violet Phlox
 Upland. Dry open woods, prairies, and roadsides.

HYDROPHYLLACEAE

- Ellisia nyctelea L.
 Wooded. Moist alluvial woods.

BORAGINACEAE

- Cynaglossum boreale Fern. Wild Comfrey
 Wooded. Rich woods and thickets.
 Lithospermum canescens (Michx.) Lehm. Hoary puccoon
 Upland. Dry upland woods, sandy prairies, and ditches.

VERBENACEAE

- Verbena hastata L. Blue Verbena
 Upland. Moist fields, meadows, and prairies. Simpler's-Joy
 Verbena urticifolia L. White Vervain
 Upland. Thickets, moist fields, and waste places.

LABIATAE

- Leonurus cardiaca L. Motherwort
 Upland. Waste places, roadsides, and fields.
 Mentha arvensis, var. villosa (L.) Benth. Mint
 Lowland. Wet soils, marshes, and ditches.
 Monarda didyma L. Oswego-Tea
 Upland. Cultivated near a residence. Bee-Balm
 Monarda fistulosa L. Wild Bergamot
 Upland. Thickets and roadsides.
 Nepeta cataria L. Catnip
 Upland. Waste places and roadsides.
 Prunella vulgaris L. Carpenter-weed
 Lowland. Waste ground and pastures. Self-Heal
 Stachys tenuifolia, var. hispida (Wild.) Pursh. Mint
 Lowland. Waste ground is moist bottomlands.
 Stachys pulustris L. Hedge Nettle
 Lowland. Low ditches and damp ground.
 Teucrium canadense L. American Germander
 Lowland. Moist soil, thickets, and roadsides.

SCROPHULARIACEAE

- Linaria vulgaris Hill. Butter-and-Eggs
 Upland. Fields, roadsides, and waste places.
 Mimulus ringens L. Monkey Flower
 Lowland. Moist meadows and sloughs.

BIGNONIACEAE

- Catalpa speciosa Warder. Indian Bean
 Upland. Cultivated near a residence.

PHRYMACEAE

- Phryma leptostachya L. Lopseed
 Wooded. Moist woods.

PLANTAGINACEAE

- Plantago major L. Plantain
 Lowland. Roadsides and waste places.

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RUBIACEAE

Galium aparine L. Lowland. Shady damp ground.	Bedstraw
Galium boreale L. Wooded. Upland woods and prairies.	Northern Bedstraw
Galium concinnum T. and G. Wooded. Dry woods.	Bedstraw
Galium triflorum Michx. Wooded. Shady, moist woods.	Bedstraw

CAPRIFOLIASEAE

Lonicera bella Zabel. Upland. Cultivated near a residence.	Honeysuckle
Lonicera morrowi Gray. Upland. Cultivated near a residence.	Honeysuckle
Sambucus canadensis L. Wooded. Moist woods, fields, and roadsides.	Common Elder
Symphoricarpos orbiculatus Moench. Upland. Dry soils and margins of woods.	Coralberry Buck Brush
Viburnum acerifolium L. Wooded. Dry and rocky woods.	Arrow-wood
Viburnum lentago L. Lowland. Woods and moist sloughs.	Nannyberry

CUCURBITACEAE

Echinocystis lobata (Michx.) T. and G. Lowland. Moist grounds and thickets.	Wild Cucumber
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CAMPANULACEAE

Campanula americana L. Wooded. Moist woods.	Tall Bellflower
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COMPOSITAE

Achillea millefolium L. Upland. Fields and waste places.	Yarrow
Achillea millefolium, var. rosea (L.) Rand and Redf. Upland. Cultivated near a dwelling.	Yarrow
Ambrosia trifida L. Lowland. Rich openings and waste places.	Crest Ragweed Buffalo Weed
Antennaria neglecta Greene. Upland. Prairies with dry soil.	Everlasting
Anthemis cotula L. Upland. Fields and waste places.	Dog-fennel
Arctium minus (Hill.) Bernh. Upland. Roadsides and waste places.	Common Burdock
Cirsium arvense L. Lowland. Fields and waste places.	Canada Thistle
Cirsium vulgare (Savi) Airy-Shaw Lowland. Roadsides and clearings of river valley.	Bull Thistle
Erigeron philadelphicus L. Lowland. Roadsides and sloughs.	Fleabane
Heliopsis helianthoides (L.) Sweet. Upland. Dry woodlands, prairies, and waste places.	Ox-eye
Matricaria matricarioides (Less.) Porter Upland. Roadsides and old fields.	Pineapple Weed

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Ratibida pinnata (Vent.) Barnh. Upland. Prairies, dry woods, and roadsides.	Coneflower
Silphium laciniatum L. Upland. Moist. prairies and roadsides.	Rosin Weed
Sonchus asper (L.) Hill. Upland. Weed of fields and roadsides.	Sow Thistle
Taraxacum ambigens Fern. Upland. Meadows, lawns, and roadsides.	Dandelion

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