



RUDERAL GRASSLAND INDICATOR SPECIES

RUDERAL: A weedy plant species or ecological system that is the first to colonize and grow on disturbed landscapes, wasteland, and debris piles. Disturbance may include natural events that are not human related, such as landslides, flooding, bison wallows and heavily used paths. Ruderal plants and systems grow on heavily disturbed land that has been plowed, pastured, mined, fertilized, sprayed, and/or developed. Once established, ruderal systems may persist for hundreds of years before changing significantly to include a more diverse set of species.

Key Characteristics of Ruderal Grasslands

- ✓ *Low diversity (often fewer than 25 native species per 100m²)*
- ✓ *Composed of early successional, weedy species tolerant of disturbance*
- ✓ *Usually have a great abundance of non-native exotic species*
- ✓ *Hypothesized to persist and dominate on disturbed soils for centuries*

Common Ragweed
(*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*)

Broomsedge
(*Andropogon virginicus*)

Common milkweed
(*Asclepias syriaca*)

Horseweed
(*Erigeron canadensis*)

Dillenius' Tick-trefoil
(*Desmodium glabellum*)

American Burnweed
(*Erechtites hieraciifolius*)

Annual Fleabane
(*Erigeron annuus*)

Late Thoroughwort
(*Eupatorium serotinum*)

Nimblewill
(*Muhlenbergia schreberi*)

Common Pokeweed
(*Phytolacca americana*)

American Plantain
(*Plantago rugellii*)

Horse-nettle
(*Solanum carolinense*)

Tall Goldenrod
(*Solidago altissima*)

Frost Aster
(*Symphyotrichum pilosum*)

Purpletop Tridens
(*Tridens flavus*)

Wingstem
(*Verbesina alternifolia*)

Yellow Crownbeard
(*Verbesina occidentalis*)

Common Blue Violet
(*Viola sororia*)



REMNANT GRASSLAND INDICATOR SPECIES

REMNANT: A conservative, non-weedy native plant species or ecological system that persists on stable landscapes under consistent site conditions and natural disturbance regimes (including fire). Remnants may be leftovers of pre-colonial plant groupings that survive on unplowed soils and other stable ground surfaces, or may represent close approximations of pre-colonial groupings and associated site conditions. Where once they were widespread and common, they now only survive as a patchwork of small fragments.

Key Characteristics of Remnant Grasslands

- ✓ Very diverse (often 70-120 natives per 100m²),
- ✓ Rare and uncommon species are often present in large numbers
- ✓ Slow-to-assemble groups of plants that aren't tolerant of soil disturbance
- ✓ Usually very few non-native exotic species present
- ✓ Hypothesized to be left-over fragments of larger old-growth grasslands

Purple False Foxglove (<i>Agalinus purpurea</i>)	Smooth Small-leaf Tick-trefoil (<i>Desmodium marilandicum</i>)	Southern Mountain-mint (<i>Pycnanthemum pycnanthemoides</i>)
Big Bluestem (<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>)	Velvet Panic Grass (<i>Dichanthelium scoparium</i>)	Narrow-leaf Mountain-mint (<i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i>)
Elliot's Bluestem (<i>Andropogon gyrans</i>)	Pasture Thoroughwort (<i>Eupatorium saltuense</i>)	Orange Coneflower (<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i> var. <i>fulgida</i>)
Hairy Angelica (<i>Angelica venenosa</i>)	Purple-disc Sunflower (<i>Helianthus atrorubens</i>)	Little Bluestem (<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>)
Purple Three-awn Grass (<i>Aristida purpurascens</i>)	Slender Lespedeza (<i>Lespedeza virginica</i>)	Gray Goldenrod (<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>)
Clasping Milkweed (<i>Asclepias amplexicaulis</i>)	Grass-leaf Blazing Star (<i>Liatris pilosa</i>)	Showy Goldenrod (<i>Solidago speciosa</i>)
Whorled Milkweed (<i>Asclepias verticillata</i>)	Scaly Blazing Star (<i>Liatris squarrosa</i>)	Bushy Aster (<i>Symphyotrichum dumosum</i>)
Tall Coreopsis (<i>Coreopsis tripteris</i>)	Small's Ragwort (<i>Packera anomyma</i>)	Late Purple Aster (<i>Symphyotrichum patens</i>)
Poverty Oatgrass (<i>Danthonia spicata</i>)	Common Wild Quinine (<i>Parthenium integrifolium</i>)	Upland Ironweed (<i>Vernonia glauca</i>)