

PLANT LIST
HERMOSA PARK RIDGE, LA PLATA COUNTY, COLORADO
1ST EDITION, JULY 2011

Location: Ridge east of Hermosa Park, East Fork of Hermosa Creek, northern La Plata County, Colorado; San Juan National Forest; USGS Engineer Mountain quadrangle. Visited sites are near FR 578. GPS coordinates for the center of the plant area are 37°38'1" N, 107°49'53" W.

Access: Turn west off US 550 and go under the arch at the Durango Ski Area. Go a short distance on a paved road, then turn right onto a dirt road, FR 578, with a sign "Hermosa Park". Continue on that winding road for 2.7 miles to a junction with FR 581. Park there and walk the "Nature Trail" leading south thru a fir/spruce forest. An open field is about 100 m. north of the junction, still on FR 578. An open meadow with surrounding forests is 0.4 miles farther along FR 578.

Elevations: From 2978 to 2990 m (9770 to 9810 ft), that is, a very little change in elevation.

Climate based on nearby stations: Av. temp. in January is -4° C (25° F); av. low is -13° C (7° F). Av. temp. in July is 14° C (57° F); av. high is 21° C (70° F). Precipitation is evenly divided over the year. Av. annual precipitation is 86 cm (34") with 51 cm (20") water equivalent in winter and 35 cm (14") in summer. Average snow melt-out is early May. The area has few strong winds or Chinooks; there are no signs of blow-downs. Also there are no signs of past fires or widespread disease kill.

Habitats: Dense fir/spruce forest with a few openings of meadows or dry open fields, either flat or facing west at a low angle. A few spots in the forests are damp or wet and an intermittent rivulet is in an open field. Moderately heavy grazing occurs in the fields, especially where they are damper and have more vegetation.

Geology: Colluvial and decomposed Pennsylvanian Hermosa Formation rock that has (in the cliffs to the east) multiple strata of sandy limestone and limey sandstone and a few thin layers of shale. A few small outcrops of the Hermosa Formation are in both the forests and fields.

Soils: The forests have a thin cryoboralf soil with a 2 cm thick surface layer of cemented organic needles. The lower brown O horizon is a mix of silt, fine sand and many fibers with scattered cobbles. Open fields have a thin pebbly cryopsamment soil without a surface layer of debris or organic matter and a lower reddish brown O horizon of silt and fine sand with few fibers. A few damp grassy areas with thicker vegetation have a thick black cryoborall soil.

Reference for scientific names: For most plants: W.A. Weber & R.C. Wittman, *Colorado Flora, Western Slope*. 3rd Edition, 2001.

Observation: Best time of year to visit is late June or early July depending on the weather in late spring. Bob Powell recorded the plants and prepared information for this introduction. A few plant species were added during a trip of the San Juan/Four Corners Native Plant Society on July 9, 2011.

Additional information: Photographs and descriptive details for most of the plants are on Al Schneider's southwestern Colorado flower web site, "swcoloradowildflowers.com". A photo of an open meadow above upper Hermosa Park is shown on Google Earth, near 37°38'19" N, 107°49'47" W.

SCIENTIFIC NAMES FAMILIES & SPECIES	COMMON NAMES FAMILIES & SPECIES	HABITATS, LOCATIONS AND COMMENTS
GYMNOSPERMS	-----	-----
CUPRESSACEAE	Cypress family	
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Juniper	Occasional in fields
PINACEAE	Pine family	
<i>Abies bifolia</i>	Subalpine Fir	Co-dominant in conifer forest
<i>Picea engelmannii</i>	Engelmann Spruce	Co-dominant in conifer forest
<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	Ponderosa Pine	A few in drier areas near the summit ridge
ANGIOSPERMS	MONOCOTS -----	-----
CONVALLARIACEAE	Mayflower family	
<i>Maianthemum amplexicaule</i>	False Solomon' Seal	Common in shady forest
<i>Maianthemum stellatum</i>	False Solomon' Seal	Common in open forest and some open sites
IRIDACEAE	Iris family	
<i>Iris missouriensis</i>	Missouri Iris	Common in fields, especially wet ones
MELANTHIACEAE	False Helebores family	
<i>Toxicoscordion venenosum</i>	Death Camas	Occasional in dense forest
<i>Veratrum tenuipetalum</i>	Corn Husk Lily	Occasional large patches in openings of forests
ORCHIDACEAE	Orchid family	
<i>Limnorchis hyperbora</i>	a Green Bog Orchid	A few in damp dense forest
POACEAE	Grass family	
<i>Anisantha tectorum</i>	Cheatgrass	Common in spring near parking places
<i>Bromopsis inermis</i>	Smooth Brome	Common along road
<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	Cheatgrass	Occasional by parking spots
<i>Festuca arizonica</i>	Arizonica Fescue	Occasional in fields
<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	Junegrass	Occasional in fields and meadows
<i>Poa fendleriana</i>	Muttongrass, Fendler's Blue	Common in fields
ANGIOSPERMS	EUDOCOTS -----	-----
ALSINACEAE	Chickweed family	
<i>Cerastium strictum</i>	Mouse-ear Chickweed	Abundant in open dry fields
APIACEAE	Parsley family	
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Cow Parsnip	Common in wet areas of forest
<i>Ligusticum porteri</i>	Porter's Lovage, Osha	Abundant in dense forest
<i>Osmorhiza depauperata</i>	Sweet Cicely	Common in dense forest
<i>Pseudocymopterus montanus</i>	Mountain Parsley	Abundant in forests and fields

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ANGIOSPERMS	EUDOCOTS -----	(Continued) -----
ASTERACEAE	Sunflower family	
<i>Achillea lanulosa</i>	Yarrow	Common in forests and fields
<i>Arnica cordifolia</i>	Heartleaf Arnica	Common in dense forest
<i>Arnica parryi</i>	Parry's Arnica	Occasional in fields and open forest
<i>Dugaldia hoopesii</i>	Orange Sneezeweed	Abundant in fields
<i>Erigeron flagellaris</i>	Whiplash Daisy	Abundant in dry fields
<i>Erigeron formosissimus</i>	Beautiful Daisy	Abundant in fields
<i>Erigeron speciosus</i>	Showy Daisy	Common in fields
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy	Common in upper fields and by roads
<i>Packera neomexicana</i>	New Mexico Packera	Common in fields
<i>Senecio triangularis</i>	Arrowleaf Senecio	Occasional in damp areas of dense forests
<i>Solidago simplex</i>	Goldenrod	Common in open fields
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Common Dandelion	Abundant along road, occasional in fields
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Salsify	Occasional in fields
BERBERIDACEAE	Barberry family	
<i>Mahonia repens</i>	Oregon-grape	A few next to boulders in fields
BORAGINACEAE	Borage family	
<i>Mertensia franciscana</i>	Bluebell	Common in damp forest
BRASSICACEAE	Mustard family	
<i>Boechea drummondii</i>	Rockcress	Common in seasonally wet soils
<i>Cardamine cordifolia</i>	Bittercress	Common in small rivulets and by creeks
CAMPANULACEAE	Bellflower family	
<i>Campula rotundifolia</i>	Bellflower	Common in open fields
CAPRIFOLIACEAE	Honeysuckle family	
<i>Distegia involucrata</i>	Twinberry	Common in forests
<i>Sambucus microbotys</i>	Elderberry	Abundant along road
<i>Symphoricarpos rotundifolius</i>	Snowberry	Occasional at edge or in openings of forests
CYPERACEAE	Sedge family	
<i>Carex aurea</i>	Golden Sedge	A few in seasonally wet areas
<i>Carex geeyeri</i>	Geyer's Sedge	A few in dry meadows
<i>Carex occidentalis</i>	Western Sedge	A few in dry meadows
ERICACEAE	Heath family	
<i>Vaccinium myrtilus</i>	Blueberry	Abundant ground cover in forests
FABACEAE	Pea family	
<i>Astragalus flexuosus</i>	Missouri Milkvetch	Several patches in open fields
<i>Lathyrus leucanthus</i>	White Peavine	Common in forests
<i>Lathyrus pauciflorus</i>	Purple Peavine	Common in forests
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medic	Common in disturbed fills by road
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	Occasional in fields
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	Dutch Clover	Common in disturbed fills by road

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ANGIOSPERMS	EUDOCOTS -----	(Continued) -----
GERANIACEAE	Geranium family	
<i>Geranium richardsonii</i>	Richardson's Geranium	Common in forests
GROSSULARIACEAE	Currant or Gooseberry	
<i>Ribes montigenum</i>	Red Prickly Currant	Common in fields and open forest
HELLEBORACEAE	Helebore family	
<i>Aquilegia coerulea</i>	Colorado Columbine	Common in partial shade, some in open fields
<i>Psychrophila leptosepala</i>	Marsh-marigold	Abundant in wet spots of forests
ONAGRACEAE	Evening Primrose family	
<i>Chamerion danielssii</i>	Common Firewood	Common along roads
POLEMONIACEAE	Phlox family	
<i>Ipomopsis aggregata</i>	Scarlet Gilia	Abundant in open fields slightly lower than this site
PYROLACEAE	Wintergreen family	
<i>Pyrola rotundifolia</i>	Pink Wintergreen	Common in moist forests
RANUNCULACEAE	Buttercup family	
<i>Coriflora hirsutissima</i>	Sugarbowl	Occasional in lower dry fields
<i>Ranunculus alismifolius</i>	Buttercup	Common by wet areas
<i>Ranunculus uncinatus</i>	Buttercup	Occasional in moist areas of forests
ROSACEAE	Rose family	
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	American Strawberry	Common in moist forests
<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	Virginia Strawberry	Common in fields and open forests
<i>Pentaphylloides floribunda</i>	Shrubby Potentilla	Common in open dry fields
<i>Potentilla hippiana</i>	a Potentilla	Abundant in open dry fields
SALICACEAE	Willow family	
<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Aspen	Occasional in conifer forest, abundant lower
<i>Salix drummondiana</i>	Drummond's or Blue Willow	A few in wet areas of fields and forests
<i>Salix planifolia</i>	Plainleaf Willow	Occasional in forests and fields
SAXIFRAGACEAE	Saxifrage family	
<i>Heuchera parviflora</i>	Common Alum-root	A few in rocky parts of dry fields
SCROPHULARIACEAE	Figwort family	
<i>Castilleja miniata</i>	Scarlet Paintbrush	Common in fields and open forests
<i>Castilleja sulphurea</i>	Yellow Paintbrush	A few patches at lower levels
<i>Mimulus guttatus</i>	Common Monkeyflower	Common in seasonally wet ground
<i>Pedicularis procera</i>	Fern-leaf Lousewort	Occasional in moist areas of forests
<i>Pedicularis racemosa</i>	Sickle-top Lousewort	Common in forests
<i>Penstemon strictus</i>	Rocky Mountain Penstemon	Abundant in fields slightly lower than this site

