

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

DALEA VILLOSA VAR *VILLOSA*
SILKY PRAIRIE-CLOVER
Family: Fabaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5T5 State: S1

WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral

Medium Wyoming Significance

Description: Silky prairie clover is a perennial herb with 1-several ascending or lax, branched stems 20-35 cm tall arising from red-orange roots and a branching caudex. The pinnately-compound leaves are densely-villous and 2-4 cm long, with 11-21 linear leaflets. The spike of flowers are dense to moderately lax, 3-12 cm long and 7-10 mm wide. The petals are rose-purple to nearly white. The bracts subtending the calyx are 1.5-5 mm long, linear lanceolate, and deciduous by full anthesis. The calyx tube is 2-2.7 mm long and densely hairy, with teeth to 1.4 mm long. The pods are 2.5-3 mm long and densely hairy (Great Plains Flora Association 1986, Dorn 2001).

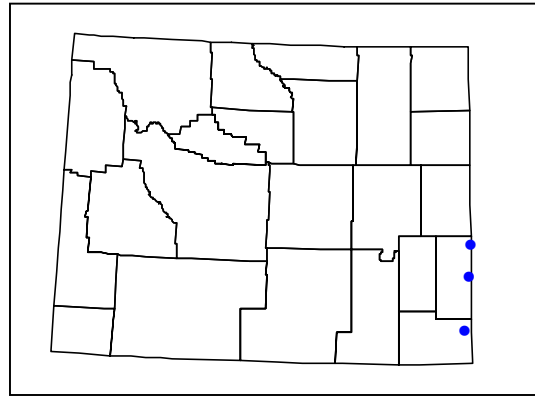
Similar Species: *Dalea purpurea* has 3-7 acute, linear leaflets and dense, cone-like spikes that are 1-7 cm long. *D. cylindriceps* has glabrous herbage and white to yellowish flowers.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Flowering in late June - early August.

Distribution: Silky prairie clover is a Great Plains species known from Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Wisconsin south to New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma. In Wyoming,

it is known from Goshen and Laramie counties.

Habitat: Sand dunes, sandy prairies, and sandy woodlands (Great Plains Flora Association 1986). In Wyoming, populations occur on sand hills in *Artemisia filifolia*/*Calamovilfa longifolia* communities and loose sand eroded out of sandstone outcrops at 4200-4800 feet.



Wyoming distribution of *Dalea villosa* var *villosa*

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from three recent occurrences in the Southeastern Plains.

Abundance: Not known.

Range: Peripheral; southeast Wyoming.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: No

Threats: Not known.

Managed Areas:

Occurs on lands managed by the BLM Casper Field Office.

References:

Dorn, R.D. 2001. Vascular Plants of Wyoming, third edition. Mountain West Publishing, Cheyenne, WY.

Great Plains Flora Association. 1986. Flora of
the Great Plains. Univ. Kansas Press,
Lawrence, KS.

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