

# Protected plants in Kansas

## Mead's Milkweed (*Asclepias meadii*)

**Plant life form and height:** Perennial; 8-20 inches  
**Color and bloom time:** Flowers are greenish-cream, tinged with purple, and bloom from May to June.  
**Range in Kansas:** Eastern fifth of the state  
**Habitat:** Tallgrass prairies  
**General description:** Slender, erect perennial herb with a usually solitary stem arising from an unbranched, slightly thickened base. Leaves are opposite, lance-shaped and mostly smooth.  
**Similar species:** Distinguished from other milkweeds by its smooth, tapered leaves and its single, nodding inflorescence located at the end of the stem.  
**Federal status:** Threatened; **Kansas status:** None



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## Running Buffalo Clover (*Trifolium stoloniferum*)

**Plant life form and height:** Perennial; 4-20 inches  
**Color and bloom time:** White flowers sometimes tinged with purple; blooms from April to June.  
**Range in Kansas:** Formerly known only from Miami County. Likely extirpated.  
**Habitat:** Open woodlands, savannas, grasslands, stream-banks and floodplains.  
**General description:** Hairless stem and leaves divided into three leaflets. Stolons (horizontal stems) at base take root. Two opposite leaves below flower head, larger than those on stem.  
**Similar species:** Distinguished from other clovers in Kansas by the presence of leaf-like bracts at the top of the flowering stems and long stolons above-ground runners.  
**Federal status:** Endangered; **Kansas status:** None.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## Western Prairie Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera praeclara*)

**Plant life form and height:** Perennial; 15-45 inches  
**Color and bloom time:** Multiple 1-inch white, three-lobed flowers, with fringes on the margins, that bloom from June to July.  
**Habitat:** Mesic to wet tallgrass prairies  
**General description:** Long-lived, erect, stout perennial with an open raceme of up to two dozen white flowers. Each flower has three petals, the lowest one much larger than the others and divided into three fringed lobes. Leaves and stem are thick and hairless.  
**Similar species:** Very similar to the Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid, which occurs mostly east of the Mississippi River.  
**Federal status:** Threatened; **Kansas status:** None



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