



MONTANA
OUTDOOR
SCIENCE
SCHOOL

Montana Outdoor Science School's Mini Field Guide for HyaliteFest 2020!

Thank you for joining the nature hike with MOSS! We hope you enjoy your explorations in Hyalite and continue to investigate and appreciate the natural world.

Flora commonly found in Hyalite

Fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*)



Photo from MOSS

Perennial herb, 3-5' tall, with pink to magenta flowers. Fireweed enjoys recently burned or disturbed areas that are moist and cool. Packed with vitamin C, it is a commonly favored food for bears and other wildlife. You can view its flowers from June to September in foothills to montane zones.

Scarlet Paintbrush (*Castilleja miniata*)



Photo from MOSS

Perennial herb, 8-24" tall, with bright red to scarlet flowers. These are often found in meadows and dry slopes and foothills to subalpine. You can enjoy its flowers from May to September.

Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*)



Photo from Wildflowers of Montana

<http://www.wildflowersofmontana.com/new-gallery-1/oxa848s63eca5fdtv48xsg7z11wnf7>

Perennial herb, 4-36" tall, with blue-violet bell-shaped flowers. You can find harebells in meadows and slopes, valleys to alpine, and with flowers from June to September.

Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)



Photo from Earth Within

<https://earthwithin.com/montana-wildflowers/>

Perennial herb, 8-40" tall, with white flowers and fern-like leaves. Yarrow flowers from May to September and enjoys plains, hills and slopes, valleys to montane. Since ancient times, yarrow has been used to halt bleeding, stimulate digestion, fight infection, protect skin, and increase circulation.

Fauna commonly found in Hyalite

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)



Photo from Montana Public Radio

<https://www.mtpr.org/post/fall-migration-brings-golden-eagles-montana>

Find this native raptor year-round in Montana from mountains to valleys. Identify adults by their overall brown color, with gold on their head and neck feathers and light brown bands on the tail. Juveniles have white patches on their wings and at the base of their tail feathers. Golden Eagles subsist on ground squirrels, jackrabbits, waterfowl, and other small rodents.

Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*)



Photo from the Billings Gazette

https://billingsgazette.com/outdoors/hunters-reminded-to-be-bear-aware-even-in-northeastern-montana/article_7a163f38-7227-5302-9b1a-985a052088d2.html

Black bears have black, brown, or blond coats and weigh 120 to 400 pounds. They have a slight shoulder hump, but the highest point of their body is above the hips. This omnivore subsists on berries, insects, grasses, rodents, and the occasional ungulate.

Rocky Mountain Elk (*Cervus canadensis nelson*)



Photo from the Missoulian

https://missoulian.com/news/state-and-regional/extended-elk-hunting-season-proposal-under-fire/article_f39c05c7-0605-5f32-96bc-e589747ef2b9.html

Rocky Mountain Elk weight between 500 to 700 pounds and stand about 5 feet tall. Their summer coat is a copper brown and then changes to a light tan from fall to spring. Elk enjoy a variety of habitats, some of which include alpine meadows, dry desert valleys, and thick forests. They mostly subsist on grasses, shrubs, tree bark, and twigs. Unlike deer, moose, and other ungulates, elk have ivorys where the canine teeth are located.

Yellow-bellied Marmot (*Marmota flaviventris*)



Photo from the Bozeman Daily Chronicle

https://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/outdoors/floraandfauna/yellow-bellied-marmot/article_e43c1064-07af-11e4-afa3-001a4bcf887a.html

Identify a Yellow-bellied Marmot by its reddish-brown coat, slight yellow underside, and bushy red-brown tail. These critters make their home in talus slopes and rock outcrops in meadows with plenty of grassy plants nearby. This omnivore enjoys grasses, flowers, seeds, bird eggs, and insects.