



Playground Plants

Plant name and location of picture	Information
Chickweed p. 26-28 (Barkley)	Some birds and caterpillars like to eat Chickweed. Some people put it in salads. They all exhibit a very interesting trait; (they sleep) termed the 'Sleep of Plants,' every night the leaves fold over the tender buds and the new shoots.
Purple Poppy Mallow p. 68-69 (Kindscher)	The root tastes like a sweet potato and is about the size of a carrot. The Osage tribe dug the roots up to eat during the winter. The early settlers used the leaves to thicken soup.
Shepherd's Purse p. 44 (Barkley)	Tiny, heart-shaped seed pods have a peppery taste that Native Americans and settlers enjoyed. Its name is derived from the appearance of the seed pods, which resemble small purses often carried by shepherds. It has little, white, cross-shaped flowers. During WWI, it was one of the standard herbals used to staunch blood flow of wounds.
White Clover p. 66 (Barkley)	This is the traditional Irish shamrock and is used by honeybees to make honey. Clover helps improve the soil by letting more air and water down inside the ground.
Puncture Vine p. 78 (Barkley)	We call them stickers. The plant has hard seeds with sharp points all around them. Animals and people carry Puncture Vine seeds from one place to another so it spreads easily. Native Americans sometimes used puncture vine plants as a medicine.
Oxalis p. 78 (Barkley)	Yellow flowers that look like little bananas when closed. The leaves look like tiny, green, folded paper hearts. People used to use the leaves in salads. Eating very much isn't very good for people, though, because it contains oxalic acid.
Carolina Cranesbill p. 79 (Barkley)	The seed pods on this plant look like the head of a crane with a long beak. It has small geranium shaped leaves.
Dandelion p. 126 (Barkley)	Each little "petal" on a dandelion bloom is actually a flower. Each tiny flower will produce a seed. The name is a corruption of the French <i>dent de lion</i> meaning lion's tooth, referring to the jagged leaves. Yellow or green dye colors can be obtained from the flowers. They are used by honeybees to get nectar.
Goat's Beard p. 126 (Barkley)	They look kind of like a very tall dandelion. This plant was brought over from Europe.
Brome Grass p. 133 (Barkley)	Some types of caterpillars use Brome as a food plant. It spreads easily. The flowers are tiny colorful things that hang from the pod.
Henbit p. 94 (Barkley)	Honeybees use this plant for pollen and nectar. The little purple flowers look like tiny rabbits. You can tell by the stem and leaf placement that it is in the mint family. http://ipm.ppws.vt.edu/scott/weed_id/lamam.htm
Red Robin or Herb Robert	The plant has little purple flowers and fern like leaves. It was in the past to help toothaches and nosebleeds. Some people say the odor of the leaves repels mosquitoes. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herb_Robert

Virginia Tech Weed Identification Guide <http://www.ppws.vt.edu/weedindex.htm>

Field Guide to Common Weeds of Kansas by Theodore Mitchel Barkley; Kansas State University, 1983
<http://www.kansaspress.ku.edu/barfie.html>

Medicinal Plants by Kelly Kindscher, University of Kansas <http://web.ku.edu/~kindscher/research/medicinal-plants>