

Outdoor Hour Challenge

Wildflower Nature Study Set #3

Sample Challenge

Resource and Supplies List
Wildflower Study Planning Page
Instructions For Using This Ebook
Resource Chart Page 1
Resource Chart Page 2
Miscellaneous Wildflower Information
Wildflower Photo Hunt Activity
Wildflower Big Grid Nature Study Activity

Challenges

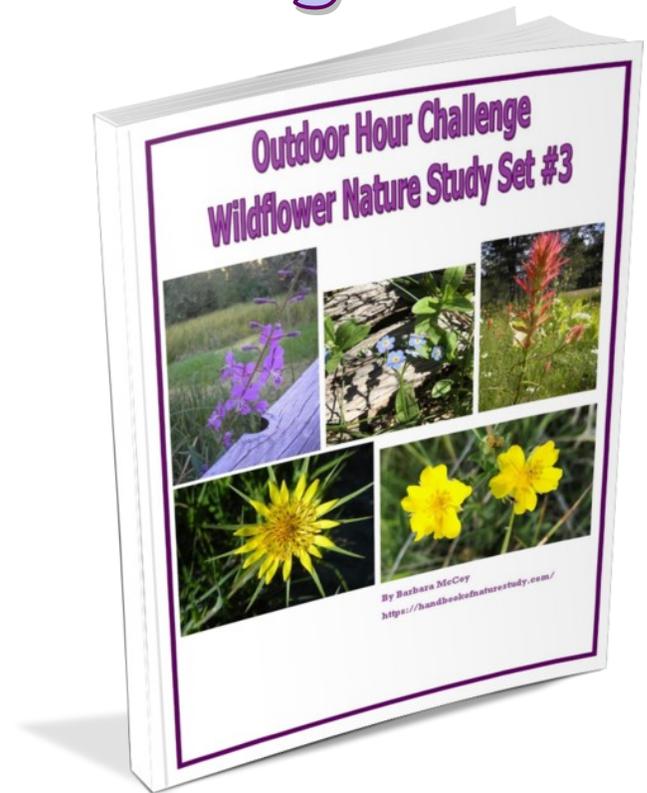
Fireweed
Salsify
Forget-Me-Not
Paintbrush
Common Silverweed

Notebook Pages– Regular and Advanced Versions

Fireweed
Salsify
Forget-Me-Not
Paintbrush
Common Silverweed

Coloring Pages

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Common Silverweed



Fireweed Nature Study

Onagraceae or Evening Primrose Family

Pronounced oh-nah-GRAH-see-ee

Patterns of the Evening Primrose Family: Flower parts usually in fours, including a four lobed stigma. They have four separate sepals and four separate petals. Flowers are usually radially symmetrical.

General information about the evening primrose family: Plants in this family are usually edible.

Inside Preparation:

Fireweed (*Chamerion angustifolium*) gets its name from its ability to quickly populate a recently burned out or disturbed area. It is hard to believe how this wildflower springs to life after a devastating wildfire, but it does so among the ashes!

- ◆ Look for pink spires of flowers on top of tall leafy stems with narrow willow-like leaves. See the images in this ebook and in the links below. Here is a nice Youtube video for you to watch : [Fireweed.](#)
- ◆ Look up the range map on [USDA: Fireweed Range.](#) Check to see if you have fireweed in your local area. Use the printable fact sheet from the USDA to learn all you can about this common wildflower: [Fireweed Plant Guide.](#)
- ◆ Use the chart on page 7 to look up fireweed in the suggested resources.

Outdoor Hour Time:

- ◆ Look for fireweed in open meadows, along streams, roadsides, and forest edges. It is found both in coniferous and mixed forests. This colorful, showy, aromatic plant will often be spotted alongside mountain hiking trails. It is often found in great numbers in a beautiful display of color. Remember it can be from 2-7 feet tall but it has very distinctive flowers and a pretty pink color. Normal blooming time is from June to September.
- ◆ Use the suggested observations found in this ebook to take a closer look at this wildflower.

Follow-Up Activity:

- ◆ Create a nature journal entry using the suggestions in the ebook challenge. There is a notebook page for you to use if you wish. There is also a coloring page in this ebook for fireweed.
- ◆ Start a [evening primrose family](#) notebook page and add any plants you observe in this family to the list over time.
- ◆ Advanced study: Research the practical and medicinal uses of fireweed. Record your findings on the back of the advanced notebook page.
- ◆ Advanced study: Fireweed reproduces using both seeds and rhizomes. [Research what a rhizome is](#) and record your findings on the back of the advanced notebook page.

Fireweed—Suggested Observations

Flower

- ◆ Observe the flower spike. Note that fireweed blooms from bottom to top. Look at several flower spikes to confirm this for yourself. Count the number of flowers on the flower spike.
- ◆ Observe the individual flower, noting four petals, four sepals, and four cleft stigmas. Which direction do the flowers face, up or down?
- ◆ What color are the flower's petals? Observe the color of the stamen (filament and anthers).
- ◆ Note the flower's fragrance.
- ◆ Note any insects visiting the flower. Fireweed is a favorite of bees, moths, and hummingbirds. Fireweed is also the host plant for the larvae of the [white lined sphinx moth](#).

Leaves and Stem

- ◆ Note the color of the stem and the leaf arrangement on the stem.
- ◆ Observe the long, narrow willow-like leaves (lanceolate). Note the color of the leaf. Note the smooth edge of the leaf. Measure the leaf length.
- ◆ Look closely at the veins on the leaf. Note the central lighter colored vein. In addition, observe the leaf veins and the way they loop at the leaf's edge.
- ◆ How tall is the stem? Make sure to bring along a long tape measure because fireweed can be up to 7 feet tall! (I've personally never seen fireweed this tall but all the field guides note this height.)

Seeds

- ◆ Locate a seed pod. Measure its length.
- ◆ If seeds are present, note the tufts of silky hairs on the end. Do the seeds look like fluffy parachutes?

Things to Draw

- Draw the flower spike.
- Draw a single flower.
- Draw a flower bud.
- Draw a leaf showing its veins.
- Draw a seedpod and a seed.

