

THIS WEEK ON THE LLANO ESTACADO

FEBRUARY 8-12, 2010

EARLY SPRING WILDFLOWERS IN THE ALLEYS!



Filaree came to the United States with the sheep brought by Francisco Coronado in 1542. The seeds were in the fleece of the sheep. It has now spread over most of the United States.



Sow thistle came with the Pilgrims. Its seeds were mixed with seeds they brought for their vegetable gardens. It now grows world wide, everywhere that people live!



Henbit is another European plant that came with the Pilgrims. It is a member of the mint family, so it has square stems!



Alley mustard also came with the Pilgrims. Its tiny seeds can be ground up and used as mustard to put on a hot dog!

Out of the 660 species of plants found growing in Midland County without human help over a hundred of them are not native. Many of these plants are only found in town, but these four are also found out in the pastures of local ranchers.

Teacher and student challenge; Find other species of “wild” flowers growing along the alleys in town, and on the grounds of your school. Take a photograph and email it to bwilliams@sibleynaturecenter.org. You may find a species we have not discovered yet! (We find at least one new species every year!)