

# Erigeron spp.

Scientific name: *Erigeron* L.

Common names: Daisy, Fleabane

There are several *Erigeron* species native to Uinta County and the neighboring Uinta Mountains. These annual, biennial or perennial forbs can grow in all habitat types from dry badlands to shrublands to alpine slopes and rocky ridges.

*Erigeron* is a genus in the Composite/Aster family. Most *Erigeron* species have both ray and disk flowers, however some species lack ray flowers. When present, the narrow ray flowers range from white to pink to purple. Disk flowers are usually yellow. These plants are rarely more than 40 cm tall. Their leaves vary from having an entire margin to being strongly divided. Species are often distinguished by only minute features.

In Greek the term 'eri' means early, and the word 'geron' means an old man. It is not certain whether the name was given as a reference to the early appearance of the seed heads or the white hairs that appear on the fruit which both resemble the head of an old man. It has also been suggested that it may refer to the worn-out appearance of some species, even when in flower. The common name given to some species is Fleabane, and although there is no evidence that any of these species repels fleas, the seeds of *Erigeron* species are nearly as small as fleas.

