

Wild Geranium



Color: Light Rose Pink to Pale Purple

Blooms: March-July

Mature Height: 1-3'

Plant Spacing: 10-12"

Sun Exposure: Very Flexible! Full Sun to Shade

Soil Moisture: Mesic (Medium) to Dry-Mesic

Planting Tips: Naturally found in wooded areas, this is a very adaptable forb. It can tolerate nearly any sun exposure; however in full sun leaves may show signs of stress. Works well planted with other late season forbs. It looks lovely planted in large patches, and will spread readily. When done blooming, the seed pods continue to add visual interest. Also attracts pollinators!

Prairie Coreopsis



Color: Yellow

Blooms: June - July

Mature Height: 1-3'

Plant Spacing: 12-18"

Sun Exposure: Full Sun to Part Shade

Soil Moisture: Mesic (Medium) to Dry

Planting Tips: The densely spaced, bright, showy yellow flowers of prairie coreopsis are a striking addition to any garden. Once established, this plant loves to be neglected! Excellent drought tolerance! The mostly upright plant will spread via rhizomes and seeds, and looks lovely when allowed to form clonal colonies. Excellent for pollinators, particularly bees. Plant with butterfly weed for a lovely mix of sunny bright colors!

Nodding Pink Onion



Color: Pink

Blooms: June - August

Mature Height: 1-3'

Plant Spacing: 6-12"

Sun Exposure: Full Sun

Soil Moisture: Moist to Mesic (Medium)

Planting Tips: This allium provides visual interest due to its unique drooping starburst-like ball of flowers. A favorite of bees and other pollinators, this lovely upright plant is also deer resistant! A slow spreader, this plant looks best when grown in masses with other, short prairie plants.

Butterfly Weed



Color: Bright Orange

Blooms: June - September

Mature Height: 18-36"

Plant Spacing: 12"

Sun Exposure: Full Sun

Soil Moisture: Dry to Mesic-Dry

Planting Tips: This bright orange species of the milkweed family is a host for monarch butterfly larvae! It's large, showy clusters of flowers stand out in the garden, and look best when planted with other medium-height plant. After flowering, its large seed pods provide visual interest through fall. When fully dry seeds can be collected for planting! Will spread gradually once established.

Pale Purple Coneflower



Color: Light Lavender Purple

Blooms: July

Mature Height: 2-3'

Plant Spacing: 10-18"

Sun Exposure: Full Sun to Part Shade

Soil Moisture: Mesic to Dry

Planting Tips: Pale Purple Coneflower doesn't like having its feet wet. It strongly prefers well-drained soils. A long tap-root helps make this a very drought tolerant plant once established. As a relatively early bloomer, planting in a naturalized bed with other forbs will provide color all season! Also looks lovely in mass plantings, and makes nice cut flowers. Will readily self-seed if seed pods are left in place.

Yellow Coneflower



Color: Yellow

Blooms: July - August

Mature Height: 3-5'

Plant Spacing: 18-24"

Sun Exposure: Full Sun to Part Shade

Soil Moisture: Mesic (Medium) to Dry-Mesic

Planting Tips: A relatively tall specimen, yellow coneflower works well in naturalized plantings with other wildflowers such as Wild Bergamot and with grasses such as Little Bluestem. It is drought tolerant, easy to grow, and easy to transplant. Bees are drawn to the flowers, and some birds such as gold-finches eat the seeds.

Wild Bergamot



Color: Lilac Purple

Blooms: July - August

Mature Height: 2-3'

Plant Spacing: 2-3'

Sun Exposure: Full Sun to Part Shade

Soil Moisture: Wet-Mesic to Dry

Planting Tips: A very adaptable plant, Wild Bergamot can grow nearly anywhere!

This flower is actually a member of the mint family, and has a pleasant herbal aroma. Also known as bee balm, it really does draw in the bees! The pale, lilac purple blooms are a lovely complement to yellow coneflowers in naturalized plantings. It also grows well in mass plantings.

Canada Milk Vetch



Color: Creamy Yellow

Blooms: July - August

Mature Height: 2-3'

Plant Spacing: 18-24"

Sun Exposure: Full Sun to Part Shade

Soil Moisture: Wet-Mesic to Dry-Mesic

Planting Tips: This relatively tall plant has distinct, pale or creamy yellow flowers. It tends to sprawl, and grows well with other plants nearby to provide some support and structure. As a member of the pea family, its foliage is unlike most other prairie forbs in our area. It is a source of nectar for some bee species, and can become food for mammalian herbivores such as deer, in areas where they are abundant. Keep it away from the cows, they'll munch on it too!

Marsh Milkweed



Color: Deep Pink to Mauve

Blooms: July - August

Mature Height: 3-4'

Plant Spacing: 12-18"

Sun Exposure: Full Sun to Part Shade

Soil Moisture: Wet-Mesic to Wet

Planting Tips: This member of the milkweed family prefers damp, loamy or clay soils with lots of decaying organic material. It'll tolerate wet areas and doesn't mind occasional standing water, as long as it's temporary. The flowers have a pleasant fragrance, almost like cinnamon. Attracts pollinators, deer resistant.

Cardinal Flower



Color: Red

Blooms: July - September

Mature Height: 2-4'

Plant Spacing: 12"

Sun Exposure: Full Sun to Part Shade

Soil Moisture: Wet-Mesic to Wet

Planting Tips: The large spikes of blooms on the Cardinal Flower are an impressive sight, particularly in mass plantings, borders, or naturalized in woodland gardens. They prefer moist soils, and a heavy mulching is helpful. Not truly perennial, but spread easily by seed and cuttings. Plant will often form its own offsets from the lowest leaves, resulting in a clumping growth pattern that “acts” perennial. Very attractive to hummingbirds!

Sweet Joe Pye Weed



Color: Pink

Blooms: July - September

Mature Height: 3-6'

Plant Spacing: 18-24"

Sun Exposure: Full Sun

Soil Moisture: Wet-Mesic to Wet

Planting Tips: A relatively tall plant, Joe Pye Weed (also known as Trumpet Weed) is a great addition when planted in mass at the back of your border beds. Thinning and frequent division will help to encourage vigorous growth, and transplants typically do well. Staking or support from other plants is helpful. Also great for attracting butterflies, particularly swallowtail butterflies.

Obedient Plant



Color: Pink

Blooms: August - September

Mature Height: 3-4'

Plant Spacing: 18-24"

Sun Exposure: Full Sun

Soil Moisture: Mesic

Planting Tips: Also known as False Dragonhead. This specimen has a nice upright, clumping growth pattern with strong stems. It typically doesn't require staking, and can help support other plants. Prefers moist, well-drained soil, but tolerates a variety of conditions. Lovely spikes of florets attract pollinators such as bees. A great addition to border beds.

Meadow Blazing Star



Color: Purple to Magenta

Blooms: August - September

Mature Height: 3-5'

Plant Spacing: 12-18"

Sun Exposure: Full Sun

Soil Moisture: Mesic (Medium) to Dry-Mesic

Planting Tips: Full height is achieved in good soils, but the plant can also tolerate less ideal conditions. Tolerates summer heat and humidity well! Makes a great vertical accent late in the season when planted in perennial beds and borders.

Purple color and form are attractive when planted with yellow coneflowers, which bloom slightly earlier. Nectar attracts a myriad of bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies... particularly monarchs.

Sky Blue Aster



Color: Bright Blue

Blooms: September - October

Mature Height: 2-3'

Plant Spacing: 12-18"

Sun Exposure: Full Sun to Part Shade

Soil Moisture: Mesic (Medium) to Dry

Planting Tips: This plant is highly drought tolerant, and is a great source of fall color with its myriad of small blue flowers. Works well for mass plantings and in the middle-height zones of border beds. Plant with other drought tolerate earlier blooming species like butterfly weed and yellow coneflower and have color in the flower bed all season long!

Little Bluestem



Color: Bluish-Green to Reddish-Gold

Blooms: N/A

Mature Height: 2-3'

Plant Spacing: 2-3'

Sun Exposure: Full Sun to Part Shade

Soil Moisture: Mesic (Medium) to Dry

Planting Tips: Little bluestem is a colorful and easy-care addition to gardens. It gets its name from the bluish tint of new growth, which matures to a lovely reddish-gold color that's maintained through winter. Fluffy silver-white plumes add interest in late summer and fall, and are a nice addition to cut arrangements. Plant in clumps as a medium-height accent plant. Also works well in naturalized areas. Provides shelter and food for small animals and birds.