

# Field Pussytoes (Cat's Paws)

*Antennaria neglecta*



**Color:** White

**Blooms:** April-June

**Mature Height:** 4"

**Sun Exposure:** Full-Partial Sun

**Soil Moisture:** Mesic-Dry

**Planting Tips:** These are cute little plants! Planting in clumps yields the most attractive display in an ornamental setting, particularly while blooming during the spring. An excellent specimen for rock gardens, Field Pussytoes flourishes in soil that is rocky or contains clay; it will also grow readily in more fertile loam. They are mildly allelopathic and tend to reduce the height of neighboring grasses and forbs. A variety of small bees and flies visit the flowers, and the caterpillars of several species of butterflies feed on the foliage. Some species of birds, including quail, feed on the seeds. Deer have been observed munching on the leaves as well, so protection during establishment would be beneficial.

# Marsh (Rose) Milkweed

*Asclepias incarnata*



**Color:** Deep Pink to Mauve

**Blooms:** Summer

**Mature Height:** 3-4'

**Sun Exposure:** Full-Partial Sun

**Soil Moisture:** Moist Mesic-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. It has a bunch growth habit, and its rapid growth rate allows it to fill in quickly in the landscape. The flowers have a pleasant fragrance, almost like cinnamon. Attracts pollinators, deer resistant.



# Prairie Milkweed

*Asclepias sullivanti*



**Color:** Pink

**Blooms:** June-July

**Mature Height:** 2-3'

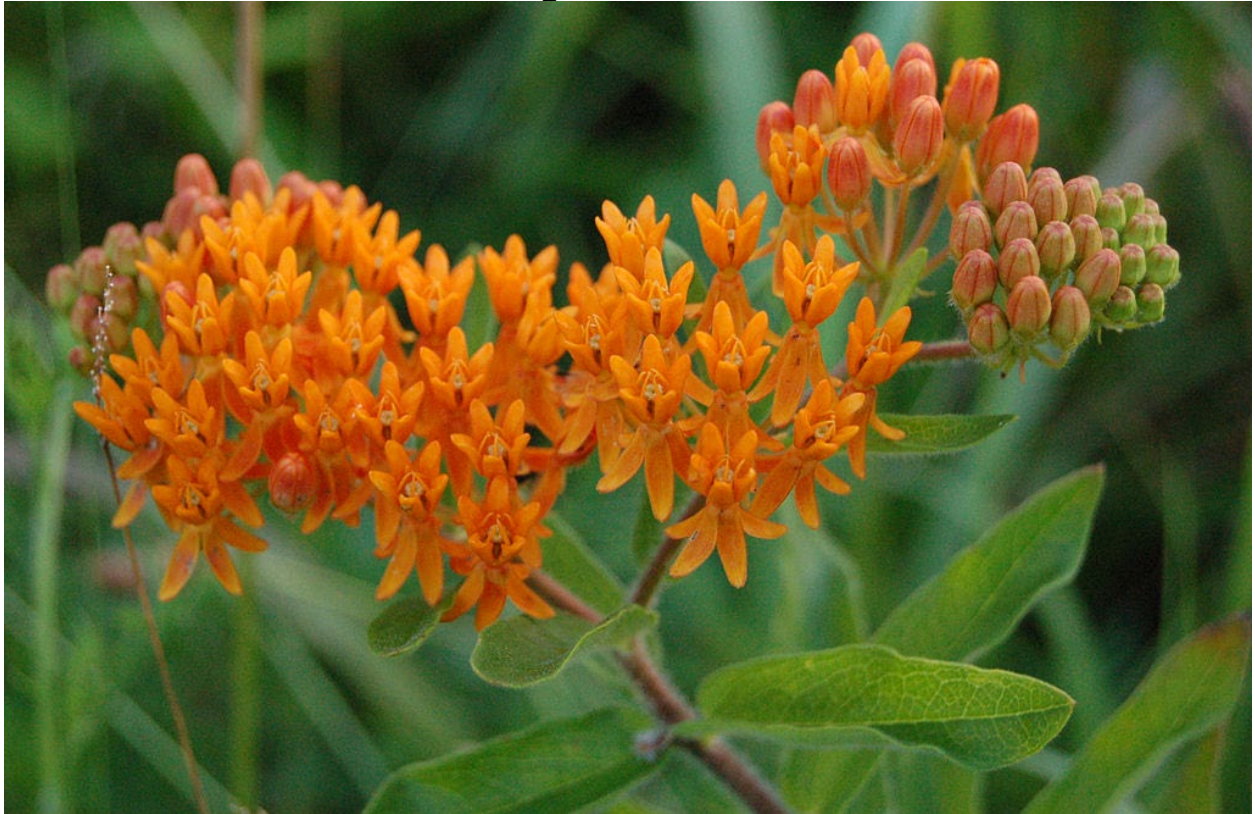
**Sun Exposure:** Full Sun

**Soil Moisture:** Mesic-Wet

**Planting Tips:** While it can spread by means of its rhizomes, this plant is far less aggressive than Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*). May self-seed in the landscape if seed pods are not removed prior to splitting open. Flowers are a nectar source for many insects and leaves are a food source for monarch butterfly larvae (caterpillars). Because the foliage of Prairie Milkweed contains a white latex that is bitter-tasting and toxic to mammals, deer and rabbits avoid it!

# Butterfly (Orange) Milkweed

*Asclepias tuberosa*



**Color:** Bright Orange

**Blooms:** June - September

**Mature Height:** 2-3'

**Sun Exposure:** Full-Partial Sun

**Soil Moisture:** Dry-Mesic

**Planting Tips:** This showy, 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.

# Marsh Marigold

*Caltha palustris*



**Color:** Yellow

**Blooms:** April-June

**Mature Height:** 1-1.5'

**Sun Exposure:** Full Sun – Part Shade

**Soil Moisture:** Wet

**Planting Tips:** This early bloomer is member of the buttercup family. It a great addition to rain gardens. Best flowering usually occurs in full sun, but plants appreciate some part shade in the heat of the summer. If they get too much sun and heat, they may go dormant over the summer. The nectar and pollen of the flowers attract primarily flies and bees. The foliage is relatively resistant to herbivores, although the seeds are sometimes eaten by small mammals.



# New Jersey Tea

*Ceanothus americanus*



**Color:** White

**Blooms:** June-July

**Mature Height:** 2-3'

**Sun Exposure:** Full-Partial Sun

**Soil Moisture:** Mesic-Slightly Dry

**Planting Tips:** This compact, herbaceous shrub is a good substitute for non-native hydrangeas. It isn't picky about soil as long as it's well-drained. Drought resistance is very good after establishment – under severe conditions, the leaves will become discolored and shrivel, but quickly revive when rainfall returns. Foliar disease is rarely a problem. Planted two to three feet apart it forms an attractive low-growing hedge. New Jersey Tea blooms on new wood, so it can be pruned back to the ground in early spring to encourage compact growth, or it can be left to grow naturally. The foliage and stems are occasionally eaten by deer and rabbits. Protection is helpful where there is an overpopulation of these species, particularly in the winter and early spring when other food sources are scarce.

# Prairie (Stiff) Coreopsis

*Coreopsis palmata*



**Color:** Yellow

**Blooms:** June - July

**Mature Height:** 2-5'

**Sun Exposure:** Full-Partial Sun

**Soil Moisture:** Mesic-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!



# Pale Purple Coneflower

*Echinacea pallida*



**Color:** Light Lavender Purple

**Blooms:** July

**Mature Height:** 2-3'

**Sun Exposure:** Full-Partial Sun

**Soil Moisture:** Mesic-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.



# Sweet (Purple) Joe Pyeweed

*Eupatorium purpureum*



**Color:** Pink

**Blooms:** July - September

**Mature Height:** 3-6'

**Mature Width:** 2-4' (clump forming)

**Sun Exposure:** Shade-Partial Sun

**Soil Moisture:** Mesic-Wet

**Planting Tips:** Sweet Joe-Pye Weed is normally found in open woodlands and along partially shaded woodland borders and streams, where it is one of the tallest wildflowers. It is a substantial plant which needs space, but when planted in groups or massed in a border it can provide spectacular flowering and architectural height. It makes a wonderfully well-behaved plant in the garden, with shallow fibrous roots that won't interfere with other garden perennials. Prefers moist, fertile, humusy soils which do not fully dry out. Great for partially shaded rain gardens! Cut plants to the ground in late winter. Flowers are very attractive to butterflies and give way to attractive seed heads which persist well into winter. The flowers smell faintly like vanilla.

# Blue Flag Iris

*Iris virginica shrevei*



**Color:** Blue-Violet

**Blooms:** June - September

**Mature Height:** 2-4'

**Sun Exposure:** Full-Partial Sun

**Soil Moisture:** Moist Mesic-Wet

**Planting Tips:** Like most iris species, this lovely native specimen tends to spread through rhizomes, forming a clumped colony over time. The blue flag iris prefers moist to wet soils, and naturally grows in wet prairies, soggy meadows along streams and rivers, and in low woodland areas. It prefers full sun, and may not flower if planted in shady areas. It makes a lovely addition in rain gardens and along pond or creek banks. Deer resistant.



# Cardinal Flower

*Lobelia cardinalis*



**Color:** Red

**Blooms:** July - September

**Mature Height:** 2-4'

**Sun Exposure:** Full-Partial Sun

**Soil Moisture:** Moist-Mesic-Wet

**Planting Tips:** The large spikes of blooms on the Cardinal Flower are an impressive sight, particularly in mass plantings, borders, rain gardens, 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!

# Allegheny Monkey Flower

*Mimulus ringens*



**Color:** Pale Blue-Violet (occasionally leaning towards pink or white)

**Blooms:** June-September

**Mature Height:** 2-3'

**Sun Exposure:** Full-Partial Sun

**Soil Moisture:** Mesic-Wet

**Planting Tips.** Although this plant can spread vegetatively, it isn't a strong colonizer. The preference is full or partial sun, rich loamy soil, and wet conditions. This plant will also grow in soil that is consistently moist, particularly in partially shaded situations. The size of a plant is strongly influenced by moisture conditions and soil fertility. In the wild, it typically occurs in areas that are prone to occasional flooding or standing water. The common name comes from the fancied resemblance of the flower to a monkey's face when it is squeezed by the fingers.



# Wild Bergamot

*Monarda fistulosa*



**Color:** Lilac Purple

**Blooms:** July - August

**Mature Height:** 2-4'

**Sun Exposure:** Full-Partial Sun

**Soil Moisture:** Dry-Moist Mesic

**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.

# Jacob's Ladder

*Polemonium reptans*



**Color:** Blue

**Blooms:** Spring

**Mature Height:** 10-24"

**Sun Exposure:** Partial Sun-Shade

**Soil Moisture:** Dry Mesic-Moist Mesic

**Planting Tips:** Naturally found in deciduous woodlands and shaded banks of streams and rivers, this plant is able to adapt to somewhat shady gardens that are located near deciduous trees. This is a rather floppy plant, although both the flowers and foliage are quite attractive. It is also an attractive plant to bees and butterflies!



# Black-Eyed Susan

*Rudbeckia hirta*



**Color:** Yellow

**Blooms:** June - August

**Mature Height:** 1-3'

**Sun Exposure:** Full Sun

**Soil Moisture:** Mesic-Dry

**Planting Tips:** This plant is fast to mature and easy to grow, although short-lived. It will bloom in its first year! A biennial or short-lived perennial, it'll usually remain in the garden though self-seeding. Deadhead spent flowers to encourage additional bloom and/or to prevent unwanted spreading. The composite flowers appeal to a wide range of insects, and the seeds are occasionally eaten by goldfinches. Watch for slugs and snails on young plants, but generally not browsed by deer.

# Three-Square Rush

*Schoenoplectus pungens*



**Color:** Green – Blueish Green

**Mature Height:** 1½–4'

**Sun Exposure:** Full – Partial Sun

**Soil Moisture:** Wet – Emergent Aquatic

**Planting Tips.** This plant can temporarily withstand flooded conditions with water up to 2' deep, and it can withstand periods of drought when the soil is merely moist, rather than wet. Because of its tough rhizomes and stout stems, a limited amount of wave action and gusts of wind are tolerated. It is often used in restorations of wetlands and ponds. Another common name is Chairmaker's Rush because its stems were used in the construction of seats for wooden chairs.



# Little Bluestem

*Schizachyrium scoparium*



**Color:** Bluish-Green to Reddish-Gold

**Mature Height:** 2-4'

**Plant Spacing:** 2'

**Sun Exposure:** Full-Partial Sun

**Soil Moisture:** Dry-Mesic

**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.



# White Heath (Frost) Aster

*Symphotrichum ericoides*



**Color:** White

**Blooms:** August-October

**Mature Height:** 1-3'

**Sun Exposure:** Full Sun

**Soil Moisture:** Dry-Mesic

**Planting Tips:** One of our longest-lived native asters, Heath Aster is impressively drought tolerant and adaptable to any reasonably well-drained soil. It spreads vegetatively via rhizomes to form colonies and can spread by self-seeding as well. It can spread aggressively given the opportunity to do so but works very well in mixed-species patches with other asters, providing late season pollen and nectar sources for insects as well as rich fall color. They occasionally cross-pollinate with other native asters to form hybrids. This aster is also a host plant for the Pearl Crescent butterfly and the Wavy-Lined Emerald moth. Deer and rabbits feed on the tender growth of young plants occasionally but are less likely to bother mature plants later in the year.

# Spiderwort

*Tradescantia ohiensis*



**Color:** Blue

**Blooms:** May-July

**Mature Height:** 2-3'

**Sun Exposure:** Full Sun-Part Shade

**Soil Moisture:** Dry -Mesic

**Planting Tips:** An interesting and long-blooming perennial for the border, naturalized area, meadow or open spaces of the woodland garden, Spiderwort is very tolerant of part shade, but bloom may be less profuse. Cut back to 6-12" in mid-summer to encourage new growth and a possible fall bloom. Clusters of blue, three-petaled flowers bloom from late May into early July. Each flower opens for only one day. This flower reseeds readily, as well as forming clumps.



# Hoary (Hairy) Vervain

*Verbena stricta*



**Color:** Dark Blue

**Blooms:** June-September

**Mature Height:** 2-3'

**Mature Width:**

**Sun Exposure:** Full Sun

**Soil Moisture:** Dry-Mesic

**Planting Tips:** Hoary Vervain's leaves are fuzzy on both sides and are host to the Common Buckeye Butterfly caterpillar. This drought-resistant, long-blooming species flourishes in poor soil. In rich loamy soil, it will grow well, but has difficulty competing with other plants. The seeds germinate readily in open areas where there is some exposure to sunlight, and it is not generally eaten by mammals such as deer or cattle, which occasionally makes this an unwelcome plant in over-grazed pastures.



# Prairie Violet

*Viola pedatifida*



**Color:** Violet blue

**Blooms:** Spring

**Mature Height:** 4-8"

**Sun Exposure:** Full-Partial Sun

**Soil Moisture:** Mesic-Dry

**Planting Tips:** This dainty, clump-forming wildflower is perfect for borders and rock gardens in full sun to part shade. An early bloomer, it is attractive to pollinators and butterflies early in the season.