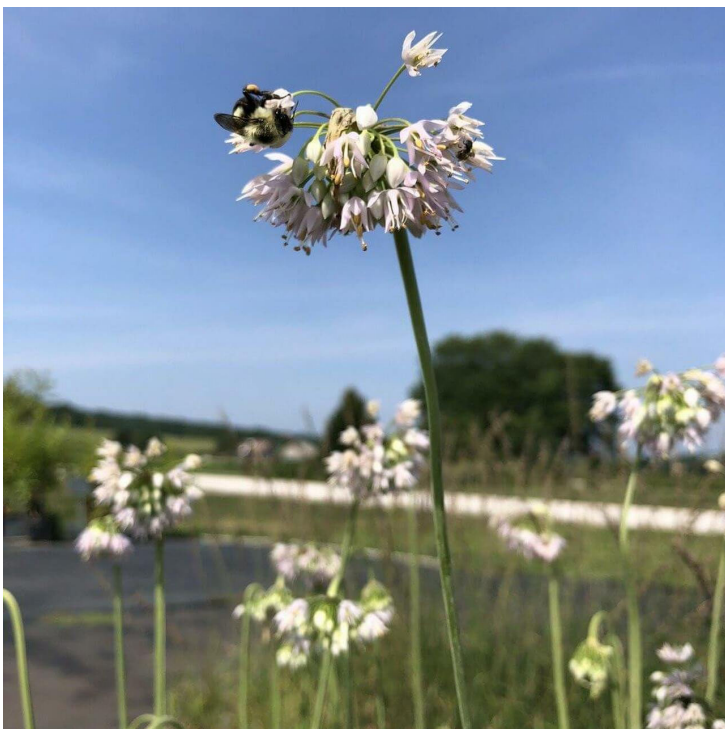


Nodding Pink Onion

Allium cernuum



Color: White, Light Lavender to Pink

Blooms: July

Mature Height: 1-2'

Sun Exposure: Full to Partial Sun

Soil Moisture: Mesic-Wet-Mesic

Planting Tips. The preference is full to partial sun, moist to mesic conditions, and soil containing black loam, sand, or rocky material. While this plant can survive hot dry summers, it does better with more moisture. Foliar disease is rarely a problem. This plant is easy to grow under cultivation, and it will spread gradually under suitable conditions. It is easier to establish plants by transplanting the bulbs of offsets, rather than by attempting to germinate the seeds. Both the bulb and foliage of this plant have a typical onion-like scent. Clonal offsets are produced, forming new bulbs underground. Mammalian herbivores usually avoid *Allium spp.*

Meadow Anemone

Anemone canadensis



Color: White

Blooms: May-June

Mature Height: 6"-2'

Sun Exposure: Full to Partial Sun

Soil Moisture: Mesic

Planting Tips: The dainty flowers are attractive, although relatively short-lived at only 4-6 weeks. This plant is usually planted in gardens for the interesting foliage. It works well when massed in a flower bed or naturalized in moist areas. It will spread via rhizomes to form sizable clumps.

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 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.

Columbine

Aquilegia canadensis



Color: Red

Blooms: May-June

Mature Height: 2-3'

Sun Exposure: Partial Sun-Shade

Soil Moisture: Dry - Moist-Mesic

Planting Tips: Prefers soil that is loamy, rocky, or slightly sandy. Mature plants can also tolerate full sun, although young plants require some shade from neighboring vegetation. Once it becomes established, this plant is easy to maintain. The prettiest blooms come from cross-pollinated plants, so you'll want to plant more than one. Eastern Columbine typically lives for a few years but it readily re-seeds. Bumblebees and the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird visit the flowers for nectar. Because the foliage is toxic, it is rarely bothered by deer.

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.

Turtle Head

Chelone glabra



Color: Cream

Blooms: Summer

Mature Height: 3-4'

Sun Exposure: Full-Partial Sun

Soil Moisture: Moist Mesic-Wet

Planting Tips: The interesting flowers of this species resemble the head of a turtle, hence the common name. This species is uncommon and usually occurs in damp wooded habitats. They are an excellent addition to rain gardens, as they tolerate temporary flooding well. The flowers are pollinated by nectar-seeking bumblebees; sometimes they also attract the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird. Deer resistant.

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.

Queen of the Prairie

Filipendula rubra



Color: Pink

Blooms: Summer

Mature Height: 3-5'

Sun Exposure: Full Sun

Soil Moisture: Moist Mesic-Wet

Planting Tips: This uncommon plant is listed as 'threatened' in Illinois, and is uncommon except along the Illinois River and in areas where it has been reintroduced. In prairies, the pink flowers rise above the surrounding vegetation and can be seen from a considerable distance. It grows well in moist areas along road-sides and driveways, where it can tolerate salt.

Prairie Smoke

Geum triflorum



Color: Pink

Blooms: Spring-Early Summer

Mature Height: 8-12"

Sun Exposure: Full-Partial Sun

Soil Moisture: Dry Mesic-Mesic

Planting Tips: Native to northern Illinois' sand prairies, the fruiting stage of Prairie Smoke wins admirers at first sight. Large stands of this short plant create an effect that resembles smoke hovering close to the ground. Prefers soil that is rocky, gravelly, or sandy. Young plants should be kept well-watered during hot summer weather as Prairie Smoke is adapted to a somewhat cool northern climate.

Swamp Rose Mallow

Hibiscus moscheutos



Color: White to Pink, usually with a darker center

Blooms: July-September

Mature Height: 3-7'

Mature Width: 2-4'

Sun Exposure: Full Sun to Light Shade

Soil Moisture: Mesic-Wet

Planting Tips: Swamp Rose Mallow has exotic oversized flowers that are very striking, particularly when they occur in a colony of plants. Best in moist, organically rich soils, but does surprisingly well in average garden soils. Regular deep watering is advisable in droughts. Tolerant of heat and humidity. Plant in locations protected from wind to minimize the risk of wind burn. Pinch back growing tips when they reach 8" and again at 12" if bushy plants are desired. Cut back stems to approximately 3-4 inches in late autumn. New growth shoots are slow to emerge in spring. However, once new growth begins, it proceeds quite rapidly.

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.

Rough/Tall Blazingstar

Liatris aspera



Color: Purple

Blooms: Late Summer-Early Fall

Mature Height: 2-3'

Sun Exposure: Full-Partial Sun

Soil Moisture: Dry-Mesic

Planting Tips: The flowers of Rough Blazingstar begin to bloom at the top of the flowering stalk, and gradually bloom downward as the season progresses. This plant is easy to grow under well-drained conditions but has a tendency to flop over while in flower if it is spoiled with rich soil or too much moisture. It isn't resistant to herbivores, so grows best in areas protected from grazing.

Marsh/Dense Blazingstar

Liatris spicata



Color: Purple

Blooms: Mid – Late Summer

Mature Height: 2-5'

Sun Exposure: Full Sun

Soil Moisture: Moist Mesic-Wet

Planting Tips: This member of the blazingstar family prefers damp soils with lots of organic material, but can readily adapt to other soil types in cultivation. It will spread through underground corms and develop a clustered colony after a few years. The attractive upright spike of flowers is very eye-catching, as well as being attractive to a variety of pollinators.

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.

Foxglove Beard Tongue

Penstemon digitalis



Color: White

Blooms: April - June

Mature Height: 3-5'

Sun Exposure: Full -Partial Sun

Soil Moisture: Dry-Mesic

Planting Tips: A tall plant with early and long-blooming period, this species is large enough to compete against many kinds of weeds. It adapts well to cultivation, is not bothered by disease, and is easy to grow. The tubular flowers attract long-tongued bees, as well as some butterflies and hummingbirds

Downy / Prairie Phlox

Phlox pilosa



Color: Pale Pink to Lavender Purple

Blooms: May-July

Mature Height: 1-1.5'

Mature Width: 1-1.5' (clump forming)

Sun Exposure: Full-Partial Sun

Soil Moisture: Mesic

Planting Tips: Butterflies love this flower! It grows best in dry, sunny locations but will tolerate some shade. Appreciates a summer mulch which helps keep the root zone cool. Spreads by rhizomes to form clumps.

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.

Compass Plant

Silphium laciniatum



Color: Yellow

Blooms: August

Mature Height: 5-8'

Sun Exposure: Full Sun

Soil Moisture: Dry – Mesic

Planting Tips: Deer Resistant. Compass Plant is an iconic prairie flower, named for its remarkably large basal leaves that often orient themselves in a north-south direction. Individual plants may grow slowly, but are very long-lived and have been known to live for nearly 100 years. Mature plants are impressive, and produce numerous large yellow flowers along the stem. Birds seek out the very nutritious seeds. A large central taproot can extend 15 ft. into the ground, helping with this specie's impressive drought resistance. Hard to transplant once established.

Prairie Dropseed

Sporobolus heterolepis



Color: Blueish green foliage turns gold-bronze in fall. Panicles are pinkish brown.

Mature Height: 2-3'

Mature Width: 2-3'

Sun Exposure: Full Sun

Soil Moisture: Dry to Mesic

Planting Tips: Create a well-defined and distinctive border with Prairie Dropseed by placing new transplants 18 to 24 inches apart. Snow does not flatten the plant, so it is visible even in winter. Because the seeds are difficult to germinate, it is easier to propagate this grass by dividing the dense tufts of leaves. Once it becomes established at a suitable site, Prairie Dropseed is long-lived.

Calico Aster

Symphotrichum lateriflorum



Color: White-Purple

Blooms: August - October

Mature Height: 2-3'

Sun Exposure: Partial sun

Soil Moisture: Mesic-wet mesic

Planting Tips: The species gets its common name from the variety of colors of its blossoms' central disks. Loose clusters of flowers are found on the widely arching branches of this member of the Aster family. Like most Asters, it attracts a variety of insects but it has shorter nectar tubes. This plant is primarily a woodland species, but it often strays into moist sunny areas nearby.