



Prairie- meadow species

If you have a spot in your yard that gets sunshine for 6 – 8 hours, you have a prime location for a native prairie or meadow garden that can attract pollinators and birds.

1.



Species habitat adaptation

Prairie – dry meadow

Full sun: Six or more hours of direct sunlight.

Dry-average: Drought tolerant. Water drains quickly. Soil feels dry between rains and water doesn't puddle. Soil may be sandy, gravelly or rocky.

Moist meadow-woodland edge

Sun/Part shade: Four to six hours of direct sunlight

Average-moist: Soil is cool and damp after rain but water drains quickly. Soil feels dry between rains and water doesn't puddle.

Dry or moist woodland

Part shade/Full shade: Zero to four hours of direct sunlight

Average-moist: moist in spring, dry in summer.

Moist-wet: Soil feels damp most of the year and drains slowly. Water puddles easily. This is common in low-lying sites.



SUN all-stars: Yellows



Blooming Boulevards | www.bloomingboulevards.org

Coreopsis lanceolata **Lanceleaf coreopsis /Tickseed**

Very drought-tolerant, Lanceleaf Coreopsis blooms continuously from June through July creating a fantastic summer display and it can tolerate some shade. Bees and butterflies are regular visitors and songbirds feast on the seeds in late summer. Under ideal conditions Coreopsis lanceolata will bloom its first year and its foliage makes an attractive ground cover. Self-seeds.

Blooms: Mid-Summer; **Height:** 1' - 2'

Light: Full Sun to Part Shade

Soil: Sand to Clay; **Moisture:** Dry to Medium

Rudbeckia hirta **Black Eyed Susan**

Plant in masses! Self-seeding biennial.

Bloom: Mid to Late Summer

Light: Full Sun to Part Shade; **Height:** 1' - 3'

Soil: Sand to Clay; Dry to Medium.

Ratibida pinnata **Grey-headed coneflower**

Grow in average, medium moisture, well-drained soil in full sun. Prefers clay or sandy soils.

Height: 3.00 to 5.00 feet

Bloom Time: June to August

Sun: Full sun; **Water:** Medium

Attracts: Bees, Butterflies; **Tolerate:** Drought, Clay Soil

Zizia aurea **Golden Alexander**

Airy umbels of acid yellow flowers. Long bloom time providing colour in late spring. Plants foliage attractive when not in bloom. Very few pests and disease. Cut flower lasts 3-5 days. Dark purple seed heads also ornamental & attract birds.

Hosts Black Swallowtail butterfly caterpillar; nectar for butterflies, short-tongued bees and beneficial insects.

Bloom June

Height 60 in; **Light** Sun to part shade

Soil Moist, well drained

BLOOMING BOULEVARDS: WILDFLOWER ALL-STARS FOR SUN

Presentation by Jeanne McRight

5. *Helenium autumnale* **Helen's flower**

With common names of sneezeweed (somewhat misleading since they do not cause allergies but got that name from the historic use of crushed dried leaves and flower heads in snuff intended to cause sneezing that was supposed to drive evil spirits from the body).

Easily grown in average, medium to wet soils in full sun. Prefers rich, moist soils. Intolerant of dry soils. Avoid over fertilization which may cause plants to grow too tall. Although not required, plants may be cut back in early June (at least six weeks before normal flowering) to reduce plant height and to encourage branching, thus leading to a more floriferous bloom, healthier foliage and less need for support. Remove spent flowers to encourage additional bloom. Cut back plants by 1/2 after flowering. Divide clumps as needed (every 3-4 years) to maintain vigor.

Height: 3.00 to 5.00 feet

Bloom Time: August to October

Sun: Full sun **Water:** Medium to wet

Attracts: Butterflies; **Tolerate:** Deer, Clay Soil, Wet Soil

6. *Oenothera biennis* **Evening Primrose**

Easily grown in average, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun. Tolerates some part afternoon shade and some drought. Grows well in gravelly or sandy soils. May spread in the landscape by self-seeding in a somewhat weedy fashion. Flowers open at dusk and close again in the morning when hit by sun, hence the common name of evening primrose. Flowers are fertilized by night-flying moths which are attracted by the mild lemon flower fragrance and by bees in the early morning before closure.

Height: 3.00 to 5.00 feet

Bloom Time: June to September

Sun: Full sun to part shade **Water:** Medium, drought tolerant

Soil: sand – clay, well-drained



7. *Silphium perfoliatum* **Compass plant**

Compass Plant is one of a group of tall, mostly prairie sunflowers, some with very large leaves. The common name refers to the plant's deeply incised leaves, which tend to be oriented in a north-south direction. The hardened sap of this plant can be chewed like gum.

Bloom Time: Jul , Aug , Sep

BLOOMING BOULEVARDS: WILDFLOWER ALL-STARS FOR SUN

Presentation by Jeanne McRight

Height: 3-6 ft.

Light Requirement: Sun

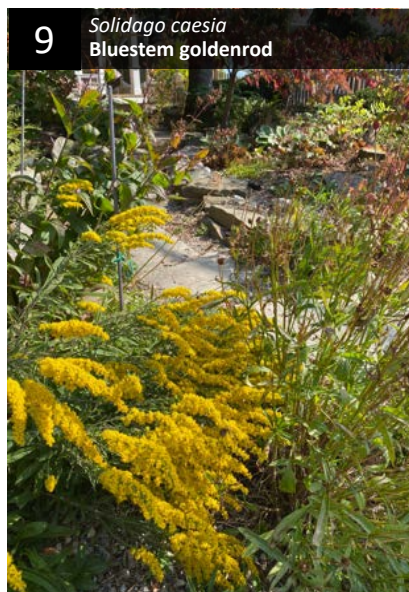
Soil Moisture: Dry

Drought Tolerance: High

Soil Description: Various well-drained soils.

Conditions Comments: Compass plant has a large, woody taproot that may reach down 15 ft. Slow-growing, long-lived,

Use Wildlife: Pollen & nectar attract pollinating insects; large seeds are favored birds and small mammals.



8. *Solidago speciosa* **Showy goldenrod**

Dramatic golden plumes are showiest of all Goldenrods. Keystone late season nectar source for butterflies, bees and other insects. Clump forming and extremely polite but can be aggressive in moist soil.

Great cut flower, both fresh and dry.

Light Sun; Moisture Dry to Medium

Height 1-1.5 ft (30-50cm); Bloom Time Aug-Sept

Looks great with New York Asters, Vervain, Hyssop and Ironweed

9. *Solidago caesia* **Bluestem goldenrod**

Arching golden wands in highly ornamental border plant. Clump-forming, graceful. Late-season forage for pollinators. Great cut flower fresh or dried.

Light: Sun/part shade; Moisture: Dry-moist; Soil Clay to Dry Sand

Height: 24' – 36"; Bloom Time August

Looks great with Mountain Mint, Penstemon and Smooth Aster

10. *Solidago rigida* **Stiff goldenrod**

Upright, bright green foliage. Signature plant of the late summer/early fall prairie. Important late-season nectar sources for butterflies, bees and other insects.

Great cut flower, both fresh and dry

Light Sun; Moisture Dry to Moist; Soil Clay to Dry Sand

Height 30-60; Bloom Time August

Looks great with New England Asters, Vervain, Hyssop and Ironweed

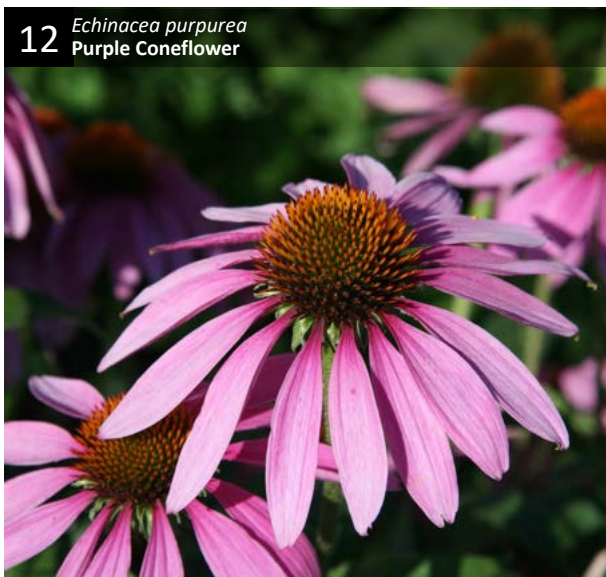
BLOOMING BOULEVARDS: WILDFLOWER ALL-STARS FOR SUN

Presentation by Jeanne McRight

11 *Echinacea pallida*
Pale Purple Coneflower



12 *Echinacea purpurea*
Purple Coneflower



11. *Echinacea pallida* Pale Purple Coneflower

Flower petals thin, curved down, may be deep rose-purple to pale pink. In a mass planting, the color shading is like a painting, with subtle variations in hue.

Light: full /part shade; Moisture: Dry-moist; Soil: Sand - clay

Height: 24" – 36" no staking needed; Blooms: June – July, earlier than purple coneflower. When deadheaded, a single plant may produce up to two dozen flowers over eight weeks.

Attracts pollinators, seedheads attract birds in winter.

12. *Echinacea purpurea* Purple Coneflower

Coneflowers are hardy, drought-tolerant and long-blooming. These bright and colourful perennials are daisy-like with raised centers. The seeds found in the dried flower heads attract birds and butterflies. Try a classic prairie planting of Purple Coneflowers, Rudbeckia, Liatris and Native Grasses such as Little & Big Bluestem and Switch Grass.

Light: Sun; Moisture: Dry, Tolerates drought

Height: 18" - 36"; Bloom: June and July

Attracts Bees, Butterflies, Hummingbirds and Gold Finches

Flower variety attracts pollinators

- Tubular flowers attract long-tongued bees
- Flat-topped inflorescences attract short-tongued bees and butterflies

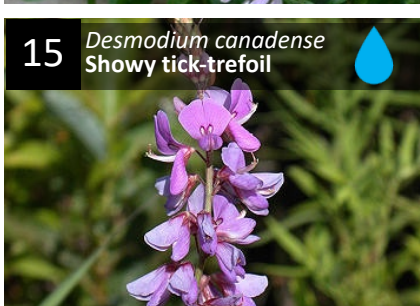
13 *Penstemon hirsutus*
Hairy beardtongue



14 *Aesclepius incarnata*
Swamp milkweed



15 *Desmodium canadense*
Showy tick-trefoil



16 *Eupatorium maculatum*
Joe Pye weed



BLOOMING BOULEVARDS: WILDFLOWER ALL-STARS FOR SUN

Presentation by Jeanne McRight

13. *Penstemon hirsutus* Hairy beardtongue

This short penstemon is distinguished by its downy stem but the common name actually refers to the tufted sterile stamen. well-drained dry woods, rocky fields, dry, grassy meadows and bluffs.

Sun: full sun to part-shade. Height: 1 – 2 ft.

14. *Aesclepius incarnata*. Swamp milkweed

By late July, swamp milkweed is in its glory and the cinnamon-scented pink flowers last a month or more. The flowers attract nectar-seeking bumblebees and honeybees, as well as several butterflies, including swallowtails, greater fritillaries, and skippers. A desirable, well-behaved plant, swamp milkweed favors wetland habitats, but will grow in any good garden soil. This perennial wildflower ranges from 2 to 6 feet tall depending on conditions. In dry sites, the plants tend to be shorter and more compact. Female monarch butterflies lay their eggs on the underside of the leaves.

Best planted in groups of at least 5 -7 so caterpillars won't run out of their shrinking food source. Also don't forget to plant Nectar flowers for the Monarch Butterflies. Once the caterpillars become butterflies – they need a wider array of flowers for food such as Asters, Joe Pye, Bee Balm, Coneflowers, Goldenrod, Sun Flowers, Liatris, Vervain, Hyssop.

15. *Desmodium canadense* Showy tick-trefoil

The effect is more attractive in colonies than isolated plants and tight plantings can help counter a tendency to sprawl. Like other tick trefoils (legume), *Desmodium canadense* adds soil nitrogen and has tiny hairs along its stems, leaves and seedpods, facilitating seed distribution by passing mammals and humans. The nectar, pollen, seeds and foliage of this species appeal to a number of insects, birds and mammals.

Sun Exposure Full, Partial Soil Moisture Medium-Wet, Medium, Medium-Dry Height 5 feet Bloom Time July, August

16. *Eupatorium maculatum* Joe Pye

Tall and stately with pink fluffy flowers adding great structure to your garden. One of the Top 10 Nectar Plants! Wonderful for your borders or as a background plant. Late to emerge in spring, Joe Pye will grow quickly once they are up. Dried fluffy seed heads last well into winter adding winter interest.

Rarely bothered by disease or pests but do not let dry out.



- Great naturalizing wildflower and a magnet for butterflies and hummingbirds
- *Monarda fistulosa* is more tolerant of drought and resistant to powdery mildew than *M. didyma*

17 *Monarda fistulosa* Bee Balm – Wild Bergamot

Bloom Time:

May	June	July	August	September

Exposure:



Pollinators:



Soil/Moisture Conditions: average

Native to south Mississauga

BLOOMING BOULEVARDS: WILDFLOWER ALL-STARS FOR SUN

Presentation by Jeanne McRight

17. *Monarda fistulosa* Bee Balm - Wild Bergamot

Wild Bergamot (Bee Balm) is a resilient, fragrant native plant loved by bees and butterflies. Leave the flower stocks standing until the following spring to provide seeds for birds. Form beautiful bushy upright clumps. Cut flowers last 4-6 days

Light Sun Moisture Dry to Moist

Height 25 – 35 “ (60 - 90 cm) Bloom July - Aug

Colour Pinky Mauve Low Maintenance They require little to no watering and are resistant to drought, insects and most diseases.

Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds Deer and rabbit resistant In late fall the seed will be sought out by chickadees and sparrows. The dried round seed heads are an attractive feature in the garden alongside prairie grasses that are turning their golden hues in the fall.



18. *Geum triflorum* Prairie Smoke

When setting seed, Prairie Smoke creates a gauzy effect that resembles smoke hovering close to the ground (hence the nick name). Groundcover with beautifully shaped leaves. One of the first perennials to emerge and starts blooming in early May.

Light Sun; Moisture Dry to Medium

Height 15-40 cm (6-15”) Bloom May to June Deer Resistant



BLOOMING BOULEVARDS: WILDFLOWER ALL-STARS FOR SUN

Presentation by Jeanne McRight

19. *Monarda punctata* Dotted Mint

Mint family. The “flowers” it displays are actually leaf bracts that surround the true flower. The dotted mint prefers sandy, dry soil. This is a highly functional plant for pollinators and hummingbirds. It is known for being a favorite food source for the endangered Karner Blue Butterfly.

Rabbit and deer-resistant.

Height : 1-2 feet (30-60cm)

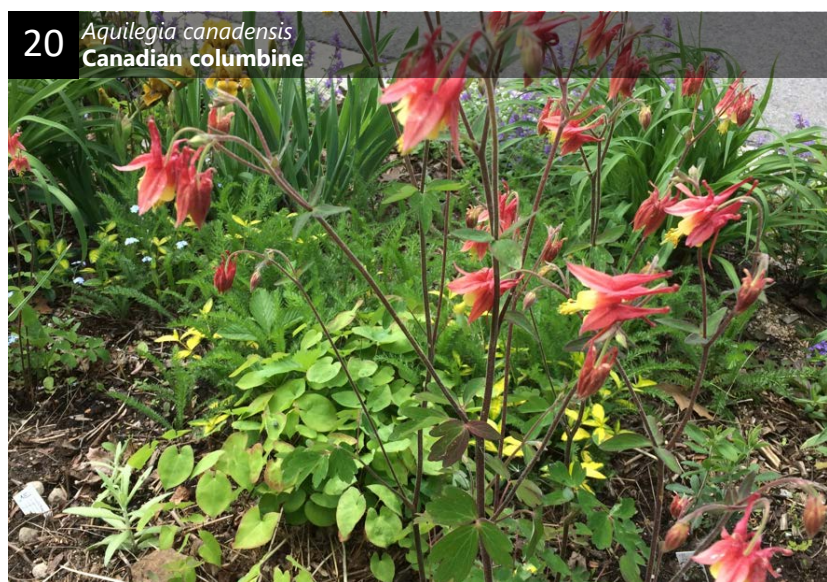
Blooming Period : June to August

Light : Full to Partial Sun Water : Dry to medium; Soil : Sand, loam

20. *Aquilegia canadensis* Canadian columbine

Aquilegia references the shape of those spurs that supposedly resemble the claws of an eagle. Flowers are a critical food source for returning ruby-throated hummingbirds in spring and are also visited by bumblebees and hawk moths for the nectar and other bees for the pollen. The nodding flowers are held on sturdy stems above the foliage, forming a cloud of blossoms on larger plants. Plants self-seed readily.

Grow eastern red columbine in light to moderate shade or in full sun as long as it has adequate



moisture. Although it does best in rich, moist soils, it tolerates a wide range of soils as long as they are well-drained. Columbines are relatively low maintenance plants. Once established they tolerate dry soil

It is sometimes attacked by leaf miners that leave serpentine trails in the leaves, but is much less susceptible than other columbine species and hybrids; typically leaf miners only cause minor cosmetic damage and almost never impact the health of the plant.

HEIGHT 1-3 feet (30-90cm)

BLOOMING PERIOD Mid Spring-Early Summer

LIGHT Full to Partial Sun

WATER Medium to Dry

SOILS Sand, loam, clay

DEER AND RABBIT RESISTANCE Yes



21. *Aesclepias tuberosa* Butterfly weed

sturdy tap root. Unlike other milkweeds, this one does not contain milky latex sap.

The leaves are bright green and lance shaped. Summer flowers are arranged in flat topped clusters and are composed of many small star shaped florets in shades of orange and scarlet.

This milkweed is a repeat bloomer that attracts butterflies, moths, bees and hummingbirds.

Young gray-green seed pods are covered in short silky hairs. The pods split when ripe and release brown seed with silken parachutes that drift away on the wind.

Plants grow 3' tall with 3' spread.

CULTURAL & MAINTENANCE NEEDS: *Asclepias tuberosa* is an easily cultivated sun loving plant for well drained or dry soils. Mistakes made in cultivation can usually be attributed to pampering the plant. Successful culture requires that the gardener duplicate the harshness of the natural ecosystems where this milkweed occurs.

Established plants are very drought tolerant but are difficult to transplant due to the taproot. They also tolerate harsh winds and controlled burns. not palatable to deer and other herbivores but all sorts of insects love it. In fact, it is almost impossible to grow milkweed without a throng of oleander aphids in residence. These tiny orange plant lice suck the plant's sap and exude sticky honeydew that is the perfect cultural medium for black sooty mold. If this is an issue, conventional pesticides should be avoided because they often kill the highly desirable Monarch Butterfly caterpillar.

Height: 1-3 ft

22. *Monarda didyma* **Bee Balm, Oswego tea**

fragrant blossoms attract bees, hummingbirds, butterflies, and other pollinating insects. *Monarda* also has a long history of medicinal uses by Native American tribes, American Eclectic physicians, the Shakers, and herbalist. high concentrations of thymol, which is a strong antiseptic that is common in mouthwashes. The Native Americans used poultices made from the leaves of the plant for skin infections and minor wounds. moist soil that is rich in organic matter.

BLOOMING BOULEVARDS: WILDFLOWER ALL-STARS FOR SUN

Presentation by Jeanne McRight



23. *Sisyrrinchium montanum* Strict blue-eyed grass

Grows readily from seed. Blue-eyed grass is not really a grass. It is an unusual member of the iris family because it is native to prairie grasslands, whereas most iris prefer wetlands.

Light Requirement: Sun , Part Shade , Shade

Soil Moisture: Dry , Moist

Soil Description: Sandy soils.

24. *Liatris spicata* Blazing star

These plants are an important food source for pollinators such as butterflies, bees and even hummingbirds. If you let the blooms go to seed you will be providing much needed food for birds such as goldfinches. Plus there is the added bonus of beauty in your fall to winter garden, *Liatris* looks great even when not in flower. Add some native grasses for a fantastic autumn show.

25. *Allium cernuum* Nodding onion

One of the rarer Carolinian species because of its restricted habitat.

It is principally found on Lake Erie islands, the southern most land in Canada. Attracts hairstreak butterfly. The city of Chicago gets it's name from the Algonquin Indian name for this plant, "chigagou". Humus-rich, neutral to alkaline soils. Nodding onion is most effectively planted in small groups. Plants benefit from being divided every third year or when 8-10 bulbs appear in the clump. *Allium cernuum* blooms in midsummer, and the flowers are pollinated by small short-tongued bees, such as Halictid bees. Nodding Onion, like all the *Allium* species, is deer-resistant.

Sun Exposure Full, Partial; Soil Moisture Medium-Wet, Medium, Medium-Dry

Height 18 inches; Bloom Time July, August

26. *Desmodium canadense* Purple prairie clover

This unusual native perennial grows to a height of 3 feet when planted in full sun. It's not fussy about soil conditions—purple prairie clover tolerates sand, clay, gravel, or loam. You won't need to fertilize, because the plant adds nitrogen to the soil. The showy purple flowers attract

BLOOMING BOULEVARDS: WILDFLOWER ALL-STARS FOR SUN

Presentation by Jeanne McRight

butterflies, honeybees, bumblebees, and several other pollinators from May through August. It's a good companion for daisy-shaped flowers, such as pale purple coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*) and *Rudbeckia*. It achieves full size in about 3 years. The deep taproot supports a long-lived plant that is virtually immune to heat and drought. Be patient in spring, Prairie Clover is a heat loving plant and is slow to emerge.

27. *Verbena hastata* Blue vervain

The showy blue-violet flowers on this native perennial attract many types of bees, small butterflies, and moths when it is in bloom for about six weeks in late summer. In full sun and dry to moist soil, it can reach 2 to 5 feet in height. It grows throughout Illinois and is found in river-bottom prairies, moist meadows, and floodplains. Because it tolerates standing water for short periods, it makes a nice addition to a rain garden.

28. *Agastache scrophulariifolia* Purple Giant hyssop

Grows up to 6' on rich moist soils, but in average or drier soil will reach 3-4' of height and 2' of width. Smaller flowers are pale purple, but from the distance look silvery, flowers continuously for long period of time from July to the end of September.

Adaptable and easy to grow plant, full sun, half shade up to light shade, loves rich moist soil, but will grow in average garden soil, or medium moist to medium dry soils too.

Hardy in zones 3 to 8, native wildflower for Midwest, Eastern part of USA and Canada, see the USDA distribution map.

Deer and rabbit resistant plant. Highly valuable plant for native bees, bumblebees and honeybees. Seed will feed small song birds.

Best for pollinator garden, honeybee gardens, naturalistic gardens, cottage gardens, woodland edges or naturalization. It is not very competitive plant, so may need some soil disturbance to selfseed.



Blooming Boulevards www.bloomingboulevards.org



- Tubular flowers in terminal spikes
- Considered one of the best plants for attracting wildlife in the gardens
- Member of the mint family, cousin of salvias

29

Agastache foeniculum

Blue Giant Hyssop or Anise Hyssop

Bloom Time:

May	June	July	August	September

Exposure:



Pollinators:



Soil/Moisture Conditions: average, well-drained

Native to south Mississauga

29. *Agastache foeniculum* Anise Hyssop

Anise Hyssop has very showy flowers, fragrant foliage and seems to be of little interest to deer. It self-seeds readily and often blooms the first year. New seedlings are hardy and can be transplanted easily. It's a bee, hummingbird, and butterfly magnet and makes an excellent addition to herb gardens, borders, perennial gardens, and prairies. When the leaves of the Anise Hyssop are crushed they smell like licorice and have been used to make tea and cold remedies. This wildflower is easy going and has a long flowering season lasting from mid-summer into autumn..This plant is a deterrent; Mammals dislike the smell, and it also may deter some leaf eating insects.

Light Sun

Moisture Medium to moist, Drought tolerant once established

Height 3 ft (90-100 cm) Bloom July to Sept

Attracts Bees and Butterflies, Goldfinches and other birds love the seeds (don't cut back in fall, leave seeds for birds)

30

Lobelia siphilitica
Blue lobelia



30. *Lobelia siphilitica* Blue lobelia

The cluster is typically densely packed at the top and a bit looser towards the bottom, with flowers blooming from the bottom up. The nectar and pollen of the flowers attract primarily bumblebees and other long-tongued bees. Most mammalian herbivores don't eat this plant because the foliage contains several toxic alkaloids. The preference is wet to moist soil and partial sun. Full sun is tolerated if the soil is consistently moist, and light shade is also acceptable. The soil should be fertile and loamy. Highly variable height.

BLOOMING BOULEVARDS: WILDFLOWER ALL-STARS FOR SUN

Presentation by Jeanne McRight



Meadow with heath asters

Photo ©2021 Common Sense Home
<https://commonsenseshome.com/heath-aster>

The value of asters

As a food source, asters are invaluable to birds, mammals, and insects alike. Nectar and pollen from these plants are an important fall food source for butterflies, moths, bees, and other beneficial insects, when most other flowers have already finished flowering. If the asters are left to go to seed, birds will also grace your garden in the fall and winter to enjoy the feast.



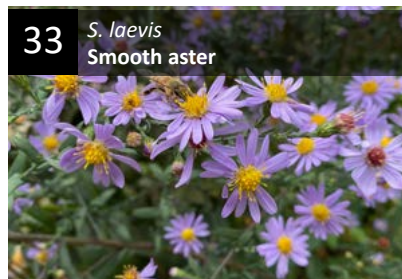
31

Symphyotrichum novae-angliae
New England aster



32

S. oolentangiense
Sky blue aster



33

S. laevis
Smooth aster

31. *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae* New England aster

This tall native adds a burst of colour to your fall garden. A great source of nectar for Monarch butterflies and pollinators in fall when other sources are less available. When New England Asters bloom the lower leaves begin to dry up; plant shorter flowers and grasses in front to hide this such as Purple Coneflowers, Bluestem Goldenrods or Dotted Mint.

Great cut flower (Fresh or Dry) lasting 3-5 days

Light Sun, Part Shade

Moisture Medium to Moist

Height 2.5-4' (75 – 120 cm)

Bloom August to Sept

Colour Purple with a punch of gold/yellow in centre

Maintenance Low

BLOOMING BOULEVARDS: WILDFLOWER ALL-STARS FOR SUN

Presentation by Jeanne McRight

Use Drought tolerant; suitable for xeriscaping, Cottage or Butterfly garden

One of the Top 10 Nectar Plants for Butterflies

Host plant for the pearl crescent butterfly

Important fall food source for bees and butterflies

Looks great with other Asters, Little Bluestem, Helenium, Native Sedges, Coreopsis, Golden Alexander, Mountain mint, Culver's Root, Goldenrods and Milkweeds.

32. *Symphyotrichum oolentangiense* Sky blue aster

33. *Symphyotrichum laevis* Smooth aster

Light Sun to Part Shade

Moisture Dry to Moist, Drought Tolerant once established

Height 2-4' (60-120 cm)

Bloom August to Sept

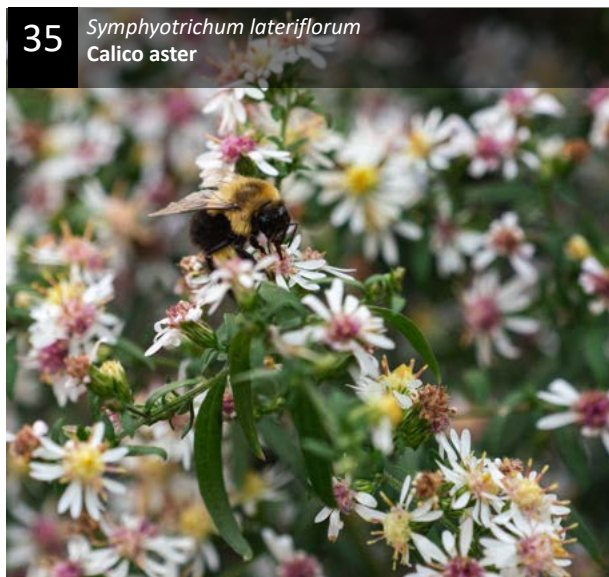
Colour Soft Violet

Maintenance Low, tough plant

Use Butterfly Garden, Fall Landscaped

Deer Resistant

All Asters are very important food sources for Bees!



Blooming Boulevards www.bloomingboulevards.org

Host for Pearl Crescent butterfly caterpillars

34. *Symphyotrichum ericoides* Heath aster

Up to 2' tall, branching occasionally to create a bushy appearance. , with closely crowded small flowers and small tightly packed heath-like leaves. The preference is full sun and average to dry conditions. The soil can contain significant amounts of loam, clay, or gravelly material; alkaline soil is tolerated. This plant withstands drought. It often spreads vegetatively to form colonies, especially in open disturbed areas. A wide variety of insects are attracted to the flowers.

BLOOMING BOULEVARDS: WILDFLOWER ALL-STARS FOR SUN

Presentation by Jeanne McRight

35. *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* Calico aster

The Calico Aster (*Symphyotrichum lateriflorum*) is a somewhat lanky plant with smaller flowerheads (about 1/3" or 8 mm. across) and fewer ray florets per flowerhead (about 10) than many similar asters (*Symphyotrichum* spp.). In this regard, it is similar to the Heath Aster, but the latter species is a more compact plant with leaves that are shorter and more narrow than those of the Calico Aster. While the Heath Aster is often found in open prairies, the Calico Aster usually doesn't stray far from woodland and semi-shaded wetland areas. Its common name refers to the diverse colors of the disk florets as they mature.



36. *Antennaria* **Pussytoes.**

Evergreen groundcover 6" high. Drought and salt tolerant. Attracts pollinators. forms wide clumps over time and colonizes quickly. The tiny gray-haired leaves are stacked up on top of each other on slender herbaceous stalks that grow no more than 6 inches tall. In spring, the charming downy flowers appear. Blooms are white to pink fuzzy clusters resembling cat feet. Pussy Toes is an underappreciated groundcover. It has clusters of soft white flower heads resemble tiny cat paws and is ideal for planting in cracks and crevices where it will trail over rock faces. It also tolerates compacted soils and could be used between stepping stones. Pussy Toes also makes an attractive ground cover for spring bulbs.

Use Pussy Toes on the edges of perennial plantings as it forms a nice mat but is not invasive.

Light Sun	Moisture Dry to Medium
Height 2-6 in (5-15 cm)	Bloom May

37. *Penstemon digitalis* **Foxglove beardtongue**

full or partial sun, average levels of moisture, and loamy soil. This plant matures quickly during the spring, and the flowering stalks often ascend above neighboring plants. It adapts well to cultivation, is not bothered by disease, and is easy to grow. Under severe drought conditions, however, the leaves may turn yellow and the plant will wilt. The tubular flowers of this plant attract long-tongued bees, including honeybees, bumblebees, Anthophorine bees, Miner bees, Mason bees, and large Leaf-Cutting bees. Extended bloom period is from late spring to early summer. Shiny leaves and beautiful russet foliage in fall.

BLOOMING BOULEVARDS: WILDFLOWER ALL-STARS FOR SUN

Presentation by Jeanne McRight

38. *Veronicastrum virginiana* **Culver's root**

Light Sun

Moisture Medium to Moist

Bloom Time July

Colour White

Height 3-4 ft (90-120 cm)

Use Cottage or Butterfly garden, White Moon Garden, Looks interesting even when not in bloom

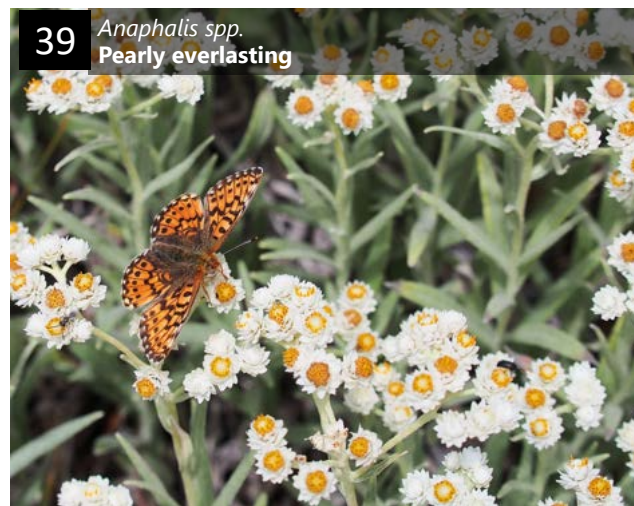
Deer and rabbit resistant

Attracts Butterflies and Bees

Looks great with Blazing Star, Asters, Wild Bergamot (Bee Balm), Joe Pye, Turtle Head, Ironweed, Milkweed, and tall native grasses.

Be sustainable

Silver- or narrow-leaved species
conserve water.



Blooming Boulevards | www.bloomingboulevards.org

39. *Anaphalis margaritacea* **Pearly Everlasting**

This tough native has soft white pearl shaped flowers with yellow centres. Leaves are long and narrow with a silvery hue, thanks to the fine hairs that cover its leaves and stems. Pearly Everlasting has a sweet honey fragrance and is attractive to the Red Admiral butterfly. Common in English gardens by the late 1600s. No serious disease or insect pests
When dried, these flowers are truly “everlasting”.

Use in Dried Flower Arrangements

Light Sun to Part Shade

Moisture Dry to Moist

Height 12-24” (30-60 cm)

Bloom July to Sept

Low maintenance, drought tolerant, tolerant of poor soils, disease and pest resistant.

Use Groundcover; spreads slowly,

Host plant for American Lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*) butterflies

Rabbit and Deer resistant

40

Pycnanthemum virginianum
Virginia mountain mint



40. *Pycnanthemum virginianum* Virginia mountain mint

Mountain mint is widely distributed throughout Illinois and is not usually found in mountainous habitats—so the common name is a bit misleading. Clusters of cheery white flowers cover plants that are 2 to 3 feet tall. Plant it in a spot that receives full to partial sun and has average to moist soil and it will flower from July into August. Pearl crescent butterflies and cuckoo bees are just a few of the many nectar-seeking insects that visit the blossoms. When crushed, the leaves emit a minty fragrance, which makes the plants unpalatable to many insects, deer, and rabbits.

41

Schizachyrium scoparium
Little Bluestem



Spring Appearance

Photo Credit:



Autumn Appearance

Photo Credit:



Winter Appearance

Photo Credit:

41. *Schizachyrium scoparium* Little Bluestem



42. Prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*) zones 3 - 9

- A fine-textured grass for the landscape with tall, slender stalks that display airy, remarkably fragrant, light brown, late summer panicles. Dense, mounded foliage turns deep copper-gold in fall. Attractive accent, or easy care groundcover, if planted en masse. Long-lived and trouble free. Rarely self-seeds.
- Mounding form, Slowly reaches 1 1/2 ft. tall, 2 to 3 ft. wide; 3 ft. tall in bloom, Bird Friendly, Deer Resistant, Easy Care, Fall Color, Prairie Native
Blooms: Summer to Fall Flower color: Brown, Fragrant
- Tolerates a range of soils, including heavy clay; prefers slightly dry, rocky soils. Water deeply, regularly during first growing season to establish an extensive root system; allow to dry slightly between intervals. Once established, reduce frequency; tolerates drought. Remove old, faded foliage before new leaves emerge.



• 43. *Bouteloua curtipendula* Side Oats Grama Grass