Knox County CISMA Native Plant Information Sheets

Knox County

Cooperative **I**nvasive
Species **M**anagement **A**rea

Knox County CISMA Native Plant Information Sheets

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This native plant information guide is designed to inform and educate customers and other interested parties about the native plant species available for purchase at the Knox County CISMA native plant sales. The species are arranged in alphabetical order by common name.

What are "native plants"?

Most scholars classify native plants as plants that were here prior to European settlement in North America.
Native plants are wonderful for many reasons, including:

- They have adapted to our climate, thus they usually require less maintenance.
- They are extremely beneficial to pollinators and other wildlife.
- They are not invasive (like some exotic plants sold in nurseries and used in land-scape), so they will not be detrimental to human health, environmental quality, and to the economy.

For more information about native plants and Knox County CISMA's plant sales , visit http://knoxcountyswcd.com/kccisma/native-plants/ or find us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/knoxcountycisma/

Two Monarch butterflies grabbing some nectar from a Royal Catchfly (*Silene regia*) plant.

American Beak Grass

Diarrhena americana

Description: American Beak Grass is a perennial, native, bunchgrass that can grow 2-3 feet tall, with a 2-3 feet spread. The insignificant flowers, which appear in summer, are held in 4-12 inch long panicles on stems above the foliage. The fertile flowers eventually turn into hard, brown seed heads. The seeds are tapered to a blunt beak, which is how the plant got its common name.

The bright green leaf blades of American Beak Grass are shiny and narrow, and erect to arching. They turn golden in the fall and then tan in the winter. The root system is fibrous with creeping rhizomes which can form dense colonies.

Cultivation: American Beak Grass is a tough grass and is easily grown in average soil with medium moisture in full to part shade. In rich soils it can form dense clumps. It has no serious pest or disease problems.

In the wild, American Beak Grass is found in rich, moist woods, along streams and moist ledges.

Companion Native Plants: Wild Bergamot, Sallow Sedge, Hairy Wood Mint.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Very little information is found on American Beak Grass and its effects on wildlife, but the seeds are a food source for turkeys, other upland game birds and small rodents. American Beak Grass makes a good ground cover in shady areas, and it can help to stabilize stream banks.

Edible/Medicinal Value: No information found.*

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Black-eyed Susan

Rudbeckia hirta

Description: Black-eyed Susan is a herbaceous biennial to short-lived perennial wildflower that grows 2-3 ft. tall with a 1-2 ft. spread. The stems and alternate leaves are quite hairy. In summer, a composite yellow flower forms at the top of each stalk. These flowers are made up of 8-20 yellow ray florets on the outside and many clustered, darkly colored disk florets in the center.
Black-eyed Susans have a taproot and reproduce by self-seeding alone.

Cultivation: Black-eyed Susans like full sun and moderately dry soils. They are easy to grow but are short-lived and can develop powdery mildew, if too wet.
In the wild, Black-eyed Susan is found in prairies, dry upland forests, savannas, and disturbed areas.

Companion Native Plants: Native Sunflowers, Illinois Bundleflower, Common Milkweed, Little Bluestem.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Black-eyed Susan attracts bees and flies in particular as well as butterflies, wasps, and beetles. There are a couple of mining bee species that prefer *Rudbeckia* species. Gold Finches occasionally eat the seeds.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Medicinal uses include a stimulant and diuretic. Dried leaves were used by settlers as a tea. Native Americans also used a root infusion to treat worms, the cold, and more.*

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Blue False Indigo

Baptisia australis

Description: Blue False Indigo is a perennial, native wildflower that can grow 3-4 feet tall with a spread of 3-4 feet. Its ¾ to 1 inch, pea-like, flowers bloom in late spring to early summer and range in various color shades of blue-purple. Fertilized flowers produce oblong, inflated, seed pods that are 2 ½ inches long by ¾ wide. The pods turn black when the seeds reach maturity.
The leaves of Blue False Indigo are divided into 3 leaflets, like many plants in the pea/bean family, and are grayish-green to blue-green. Blue False Indigo can be shrub-like in appearance and it has a deep and extensive root system.

Cultivation: Blue False Indigo grows best in full sun with medium to dry moisture conditions. It is slow to establish, but is long-lived. It grows best in rich soil, but tolerates poor soils and drought. It does not like to be transplanted. Blue False Indigo can be cut back after blooming, or in the spring before new growth starts. It has no serious insect or disease problems. In the wild, it is found in open woodlands, dry and gravel prairies, and along open stream banks.

Companion Native Plants: Butterfly Weed, Compass Plant, Stiff Goldenrod

Environmental/Wildlife Value: : Blue False Indigo is a food source for butterflies and many other insects. It is not desirable to mammalian herbivores because the foliage is toxic.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Was used by Native and Early Americans for dye.*

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Blue Flag Iris

Iris versicolor

Description: Blue Flag Iris is a flowering herbaceous perennial plant that grows 4—31 inches tall. It tends to form large clumps from thick, creeping rhizomes. The unwinged, erect stems generally have vassal leaves that are more than .5 inches wide. The leaves are folded on the midribs so that they form an overlapping flat fan. The well developed blue flower has 6 petals. The flowers are usually blue to light blue but purple and violet are not uncommon. The flower will begin blooming in May and finish around July.

Cultivation: Blue Flag Iris should be grown in medium to wet soils in full sun to part shade. This iris can be grown in up to 2—4 inches of standing water, or in moist shoreline soils. Propagation should be done after they bloom by diving the plant. It is susceptible to a number of insect pests like the iris borer, iris thrips and aphids. It is prone to various forms of rot, leaf spot, and leaf/blossom blight.

Companion Native Plants: Common Boneset, Swamp Milkweed, Swamp Rose Mallow.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: : Blue Flag Iris attracts several types of bees, which are effective pollinators, as well as butterflies and skippers. Mammals seldomly bother Blue Flag Iris because its leaves and roots are mildly toxic. Blue Flag Iris makes a great addition to a rain garden or bioswale area.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Parts of the Blue Flag Iris have been used to treat: constipation, fluid retention, live problems, vomiting, and skin rashes.*

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Blue Sage

Salvia azurea

Description: Blue Sage is a perennial, native wildflower that can grow from 3-6 feet tall and have a 2-4 feet spread. The irregular flowers of Blue Sage are 2-lipped and are ¾ to 1 inch long. They are arranged in whorls around square stems in terminal cluster spikes. A few flowers bloom at a time on the spikes beginning in mid to late summer and going into fall. The blooming period will last about 2 months.
The lance-shaped, grayish-green leaves have a sage scent and a sage taste. Blue Sage forms clumps with a taproot that produces several stems.

Cultivation: Blue Sage needs full sun, but will tolerate a wide range of soils, including dry, rocky soils. The preference is for medium to dry soil conditions. It will tolerate drought, but not wet or rich soils. To reduce its height Blue Sage can be cut back one half in late spring. Removing spent flower spikes, and providing adequate moisture can encourage reblooming. Blue Sage is not bothered by mammalian herbivores and has no serious insect or disease problems.
In the wild, Blue Sage is found in dry uplands, gravel prairies, glades, waste areas, and along roadsides.

Companion Native Plants: Compass Plant, Prairie Dock, Butterfly Weed.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: The nectar of Blue Sage attracts long-tongued bees, butterflies, and skippers. It is a host plant for the caterpillars of the Hermit Sphinx moth; they feed on the foliage.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Sages as a whole have been used over time for many medicinal and culinary uses, but no medicinal uses were found for Blue Sage.*

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Blue Star Amsonia

Amsonia tabernaemontana

Description: Blue Star Amsonia is a perennial, native wildflower that can grow 3 feet tall and 3 feet wide. When the plant is mature, it can have a shrub-like appearance. The steely, light-blue, star-shaped flowers bloom in mid to late spring in terminal clusters. The long, slender seedpods that develop turn brown when the seeds reach maturity. Blue Star Amsonia has alternate willow-shaped leaves that turn an attractive yellow in the fall.

Cultivation: Blue Star Amsonia grows easily in full sun to part shade, and prefers moderately dry to moist, well-drained soil conditions. It will tolerate a variety of soil types and once established it can tolerate drought. Blue Star Amsonia can also be grown in a container. In the wild, it is found in open woodlands and edges, roadsides, and moist, well-drained meadows. It is rarely affected by insects or disease, and it is not bothered by deer. The plant can be cut back ½ after flowering, or in the spring before new growth starts, but in general it requires very low maintenance.

Companion Native Plants: Wild Columbine, Golden Ragwort, Hairy Wood Mint

Environmental/Wildlife Value: The nectar of Blue Star Amsonia attracts Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and a variety of long-tongued insects which includes many butterflies.

Edible/Medicinal Value: No medicinal use for Blue Star Amsonia was found, but it has been used in dyes.*

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Blue Vervain

Verbena hastata

Description: Blue Vervain is a herbaceous perennial wildflower that grows 2-6 ft. tall with a 1-2.5 ft. spread. It has reddish, four-angled stems with short hairs. Blue Vervain has opposite, toothed leaves. The upper stalks produce spikes of purple-blue flowers.
Blue Vervain does have rhizomes and can produce small colonies over time.

Cultivation: Blue Vervain prefers full to partial sunlight, medium to wet soils, and fertile loamy or mucky soils. It will tolerate temporary flooding.
In the wild, Blue Vervain is found in wet prairies, flood-plain woodlands, riparian areas, pastures, and disturbed areas.

Companion Native Plants: Marsh Blazingstar, Swamp Milkweed, Common Boneset.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Bees are attracted to Blue Vervain's nectar in particular, but wasps, flies, butterflies, moths, and skippers as visit. Some insects feed on the foliage of Blue Vervain. Cottontail Rabbits will occasionally feed on young plants. Some songbirds will eat Blue Vervain's seeds.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Popular medicinal and food plant for the Native Americans; used as a diuretic, cold/cough remedy, for depression, and pain.*

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Bottlebrush Grass

Elymus hystrix

Description: Bottlebrush Grass is a medium sized bunchgrass growing 2-5 feet tall. It has multiple large "V" shaped spikelets spread fairly widely apart at the apex of the stem, giving it the appearance of a bottle brush. The spikelets always have space between them unlike other wild ryes (*Elymus species*).

Cultivation: Bottle-Brush grass prefers well drained soils and part shade.
In the wild, Bottlebrush Grass can be found in upland wooded areas and forest edges.

Companion Native Plants: Downy Skullcap, Southern Mountain Mint, American Beakgrass

Environmental/Wildlife Value: The larvae of the Northern Pearly Eye butterfly and several leaf mining moths feed on the foliage of this grass. Several small mammals also feed on the dropped seeds.

Edible/Medicinal Value: None known.*

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Brown-eyed Susan

Rudbeckia triloba

Description: Brown-eyed Susan is a biennial or short-lived perennial, native wildflower that can grow 2-5 feet tall with a spread of 12-18 inches. The branched panicles hold numerous flower heads of 1 ½ - 1 ¾ inch, yellow, sunflower-like flowers with a purplish-brown centers. The flowers bloom profusely in mid to late summer and the blooming period lasts for about 1-2 months.
This plant takes on a shrubby appearance at maturity.
The alternate, 4 inch by 2 inch, lance to oval-shaped leaves of Brown-eyed Susan are thin and rough on both sides. Some of the lower leaves on the plant have 3 lobes. The roots are fibrous and shallowly located. This plant will naturalize by self-seeding.

Cultivation: Brown-eyed Susan will grow in average, slightly dry to well-drained moist soil in full sun. It will tolerate a wide range of soils, including soils with some clay and gravel. It will also tolerate moderate drought, heat, and light shade. Deadhead to encourage blooming and/or to prevent self-seeding. This plant has no serious pest or disease problems, but it is susceptible to powdery mildew. The foliage is sometimes browsed by deer and other mammalian herbivores.
Brown-eyed Susan makes a long-lasting cut flower for arrangements.
In the wild, Brown-eyed Susan is found in open woodlands, along streams, on rocky slopes, prairies, thickets, savannas, meadows, and disturbed areas, but it is also found in high quality habitats.

Companion Native Plants: Spotted Bee Balm, Virginia Wild Rye, Blue Vervain.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Brown-eyed Susan is self-pollinated, but its nectar attracts many nectar and pollen-seeking insects to its flowers including bees, wasps, flower flies, butterflies, and a specialist pollinator bee of Brown-eyed Susans and Gray-headed Coneflowers. (The bee's larvae require the pollen of specific plants in order to develop properly.) It is also the host plant to several moth caterpillars and other insects.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Native Americans used Brown-eyed Susan for snake bites, colds, worms, and as a diuretic.*

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Butterfly Weed

Asclepias tuberosa

Description: Butterfly Weed is a perennial wildflower that can grow up to 2.5 ft. tall. Butterfly Weed has alternate, narrow leaves and clusters of small orange flowers. In the late summer, it develops smooth, slender seed pods (follicles) that hold hundreds of comose (hairy) seeds.

Cultivation: Butterfly Weed likes full sun and dry to medium soils. It is found occasionally in prairies, pastures, old fields, railway corridors, etc. Butterfly Weed is very drought tolerant once established.

Companion Native Plants: Little Bluestem, Prairie Dropseed, Blackeyed Susan

Environmental/Wildlife Value: The nectar of Butterfly Weed is of special value to many kinds of pollinators especially Native Bees, Honey Bees, some Wasps, and Butterflies. It is an important host plant for Monarch Butterfly caterpillars. Even though Butterfly Weed lacks the noxious latex that other Milkweeds have, mammals still do not eat it.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Known by early white settlers as a "heal-all," Butterfly Weed was used by Native Americans to treat many ailments, including lung diseases, spasms, and pleurisy. The fact that it was used to treat pleurisy lead to its alternate common name, Pleurisy Root. Caution is advised when consuming Butterfly Weed, as it can cause diarrhea and vomiting.*

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Buttonbush

Cephalanthus occidentalis

Description: Buttonbush is a large, spreading shrub that generally grows to 6 feet high and wide but can grow as large as 10-15 feet high and wide. Can form impenetrable walls in wetlands it inhabits. Leaves are generally opposite with sizes around 4 inches long and two inches wide, although they can be larger. Leaf shape is ovate or elongated with entire, wavy leaf margins. Flowers are round, white, fragrant balls that begin in June and continue into late fall. The white flowers mature into a reddish-brown head that contains nut like seeds. The heads shatter and spread in the winter when the bush is dormant.

Mature bark is gray and interlacing, resembling pignut hickory. Younger plant bark appears peeling. Newest growth is pinkish tan with white leaf scars.

Cultivation: Grows in Hardy to Zone 5 in all wetlands in the Midwest. Unlike most plants, Buttonbush can survive with submerged roots year-round. The shrub prefers full sun, but can survive in part shade, in lowland forests.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Many wetland birds including ducks, herons and kingbirds use buttonbush for cover in the fall, as the dense branches provide added protection from predators. Ducks commonly use the shrub as protection when nesting and raising young. The flowers from buttonbush often fall into standing water in the fall, and are valuable food for the ducks using them as cover. The flowers are also quite fragrant, and a common food for several types of butterflies and hummingbirds. They are not browsed by deer because of toxic qualities possessed by the leaves.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Native Americans used Buttonbush to treat a variety of ailments; however, Buttonbush is not used much in modern herbalism or medicine. A tea made from the bark was used as a general tonic and used to treat fevers among other ailments. The leaves, fruits, and roots were also occasionally used to treat various ailments. However, the leaves do contain glucosides, which can be toxic in large quantities.*

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Canada Wild Rye

Elymus canadensis

Description: Canada Wild Rye has a dense bushy, bristling spikelet structure at the top of a long stem that tends to nod. The spike (seedhead) of Canada Wild Rye is larger and with longer awns compared to other wild ryes (*Elymus* species). It can grow 2 ½ - 6 feet tall, usually in small clumps.

Cultivation: This perennial grass grows in full sun to part shade in dry or moist soil.

In the wild, Canada Wild Rye can be found in dunes, prairies, woodland edges, open riparian areas, and roadsides.

Companion Native Plants: Common Milkweed, Blackeyed Susans, Northern Wild Senna, Sideoats Grama

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Canada Wild Rye is often used as nesting material for prairie and song birds. Small mammals collect seeds. Herbivores will browse the foliage. It is also a larval host for the Zabulon skipper butterfly. Several leafhoppers feed on Canada Wild Rye as well.

Edible/Medicinal Value: The seeds can be ground into flour. Canada Wild Rye was used by the Native Americans of the Southwest US.*

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Cardinal Flower

Lobelia cardinalis

Description: This perennial herb grows to a height between 1.6—5 ft tall. It is usually unbranched. It has a tubular corolla, the part of the plant containing the petals. The petals are deeply two lipped. The petals are relatively small, only measuring out to 1—2 inches long. The petals of Cardinal Flower are a bright red color but they have also been observed to be pink or white in rare cases. The leaves are lance shaped but can also be oblong. The plant will bloom from July to October.

Cultivation: Cardinal Flower prefers to be planted in areas were it will get light shade to full sun. It also prefers wet to moist conditions. Cardinal Flower is able to adapt to a variety of soil types: loam, sandy loam, or gravelly soil. As long as the soil contains some organic matter to retain some moisture. It is important to keep the soil moist as this plant does not like to dry out. It has a reputation of being tempermental and short-lived. It is best to get this plant through transplanting as the seeds are rather small and the seedlings tend to be fragile.

Companion Native Plants: Crested Sedge, Great Blue Lobelia, Northern Sea Oats

Environmental/Wildlife Value: The nectar and pollen of the Cardinal Flower attract a bevy of pollinators. The Ruby Throated Hummingbird and Swallowtail butterflies are popular visitors. Some larger bees and flies have also been seen visiting the flowers.

Edible/Medicinal Value: The plant can be used to treat stomachaches and other ailments but it should be noted that Cardinal Flower has the potential to be toxic.*

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Common Bonset

Eupatorium perfoliatum

Description: Common Boneset is a perennial plant that is 2—4 ft tall and unbranched, other than the flowering side stems. It has a hairy central stem. It also exhibits opposite leaves that are a light to yellowish green color and are fairly long at 8 inches in length. Leaves appear smaller towards the flowering stems at the top than those found closer to the bottom of the plant. Common Boneset produces a few flowering stems that end in clusters of white flowers. The flowers typically bloom in late summer to early fall, and last for around 1—2 months throughout the colony of flowers. The flowers are also known to have a pleasant aroma. This plant can be found in many types of wetland environments and on the margins of the environments. It has even been observed in ditches along the roadside.

Cultivation: Common Boneset prefers to be planted in full or partial sun and wet to moist conditions. It should be planted in soil that has a high amount of organic material so that the plant retains any moisture. Common Boneset can withstand flooded conditions but only in short bursts. It has not been observed to be affected by pests or diseases. This plant would make a nice addition to a rain garden.

Companion Native Plants: Most sedges, Swamp Milkweed, Swamp Rose Mallow, or any other native plant that would go in a rain garden.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: The nectar and pollen of Common Boneset attract many insects like bees, butterflies, and beetles. Many unusual fly and wasp species have been seen sipping the nectar. Caterpillars of various moth species have also been seen feeding on the foliage, including the Clymene Moth, Lined Ruby Moth and the Geometrid Moth.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Native Americans used the extract of the plant to cure fevers and common colds. This is still under scientific study however, so caution should be used when using the plant. Consuming large amounts of the plant has been shown to cause diarrhea.*

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Common Hops

Humulus lupulus

Description: Common Hops is a perennial, native, twining vine that can grow 20-30 feet long with a spread of 3-6 feet. It is a dioecious plant, meaning the male and female flowers are on separate plants. The male flowers are yellowish to pale green and are held in drooping clusters. The petal-less, female flowers are a similar color but are held in funnel-shaped, compound flower heads. In late summer, both vines will produce flowers and bloom for about 2 weeks. The fertilized, female flowers produce pinecone-shaped fruits covered with over-lapping bracts. The fruit is pale green, but will turn tan with maturity. The leaves of Common Hops are up to 6 inches long and are palmate-shaped with 3 lobes. The vines of Common Hops die back to the ground each fall, but will put forth new growth, from woody rhizomes the next spring. Caution: Skin contact with any part of these vines may cause a rash to susceptible individuals.

Cultivation: Common Hops grows in full to part sun in average soil with moderate to slightly dry conditions. It prefers rich soil, but will tolerate poor soils and drought. Do not plant in poorly drained soils or areas prone to standing water. The vines of Common Hops need a support structure to grow on. The vines can be pruned back in the fall after frost occurs. Mulching will give the roots winter protection and will help with moisture retention in the summer. Common Hops has no serious pest or disease problems. It is known to spread aggressively.
In the wild, it is found in openings of upland and floodplain woodlands, woodland edges, thickets, fence rows, along railroads, and other disturbed areas.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: The pollen of Common Hops attracts floral flies and bees. In wetland areas, Canada geese and other waterfowl feed on its seeds. It also provides protection for birds and small mammals.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Common Hops has been used as a sleep aid and to flavor beer and aid in the fermentation process.*

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Common Milkweed

Asclepias syriaca

Description: Common Milkweed is a perennial, native wildflower that can grow 3-6 feet tall, with a spread of 12-18 inches. The very fragrant, purplish-rose to light purplish-pink flowers often with cream-colored tips, bloom in ball-like, slightly drooping clusters near the top of the plant. The blooming period can last a month or more from late spring to early summer. The fertilized flowers will produce large, warty seedpods in late summer. The seedpods will split open in September- October and the seeds, with feathery tufts of hairs, will be carried away by the wind.

The leaves of Common Milkweed are opposite, oblong and about 7 inches long and 3 ½ inches wide. A sticky, milky sap will ooze from the leaves and stems of the plant if they are cut or bruised. Common Milkweed has a root system of creeping rhizomes which can cause it to produce large colonies. The sap, leaves, and stems of Common Milkweed are toxic in large quantities. *

Cultivation: Common Milkweed grows in full sun, in a wide variety of soils, with dry to medium soil conditions, and once established will tolerate drought. Common Milkweed will self-seed and will also spread by its aggressive root system. This plant has no serious pest or disease problems, but it can get sooty mold in hot and humid weather. It is not bothered by mammalian herbivores due to the bitterness and toxicity of the leaves. It is probably best not to plant it in a normal garden setting, but in an area by itself where it will not interfere with other plants, because of its aggressive nature to spread.

Cutting back some of the stems of Common Milkweed in late spring will provide fresh new growth in late July and August where migrating Monarch Butterflies can lay their eggs.

In the wild, Common Milkweed is found in disturbed and natural areas: prairies, thickets, woodland edges, fields and pastures, along roadsides and railroads.

Companion Native Plants: Native Sunflowers, Illinois Bundleflower, Little Bluestem.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: The nectar of Common Milkweed is of special value to many kinds of pollinators especially Native Bees, Honey Bees, and Butterflies. It is an important host plant for Monarch and Queen Butterfly caterpillars. Because of Common Milkweed's toxic properties, mammals do not eat it.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Has been used in the past as a folk cancer remedy, as a laxative, and to produce temporary sterility. The sap was used to treat warts. All plant parts are toxic. *

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Compass Plant

Silphium laciniatum

Description: Compass Plant is a long-lived, native, prairie wildflower that can grow from 3 to 10 feet tall with a spread of 1 ½-3 feet. The branched clusters of yellow, sunflower-like flowers are 2 ½ to 4 inches wide and are held on erect sturdy stems. The flowers bloom in mid-summer with the blooming period lasting about 1 ½ months. The plant is bristly and densely covered with hairs.

The basal leaves of Compass Plant are stalked and deeply divided and are about 12-24 inches long and 6-12 inches wide. The stem leaves are alternate and slowly grow smaller and less divided as they ascend up the stem. The basal leaves of the plant usually grow in a north/south direction to reduce sun exposure and moisture loss. A resinous substance can be released by the upper stem when blooming occurs. Compass Plant can live for 100 years, but takes a few years for it to develop into a mature, flowering plant. Compass Plant grows from a large taproot that, with age, becomes large and deep (as much as 15 feet), which makes it resistant to drought.

Cultivation: Compass Plant likes full sun in average soil with medium, well-drained to slightly dry conditions. It is easy to maintain and will tolerate poor soils, drought, and occasional burning.

In the wild, Compass Plant is found on prairies, glades, and along roadsides. It has no serious insect or disease problems.

Companion Native Plants: Compass Plant, Rattlesnake Master, Purple Coneflower.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Native bees, butterflies, including Monarchs, visit Compass Plant for nectar, and birds and mammals favor the seeds. It is also a food source for several insects.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Native American children used the resin from Compass Plant for a teeth-cleaning, chewing gum.*

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Crested Sedge

Carex cristatella

Description: This perennial sedge is about 1.5—2.5 feet tall. Infertile shoots of this plant will produce a rosette-like clusters of arching leaves. The fertile shoots produce a stems with alternating leaves. These stems are a light green color. Leaves are roughly 14 inches long and .3 inches across. The fertile stems are terminated with spike balls consisting of 5—14 spikes. The stem directly underneath the spike heads is completely devoid of leaves for several inches down the stem. The spike balls are a light green color but will transition to brown with age.

Cultivation: The Crested Sedge prefers to be planted in wet to moist conditions. It can be planted in a variety of light conditions from full sun to light shade environments. The soil needs to contain loam or silt-loam with decaying organic material. The vegetative growth will mostly take place during the spring and summer. Flooding events can be tolerated if they aren't severe and regular.

Companion Native Plants: Gray's Sedge, Fox Sedge, Sallow Sedge, Frank Sedge

Environmental/Wildlife Value: The Crested Sedge attracts many species of butterfly, skipper, and moth larvae to feed on the foliage. The seeds of the sedge are also important for many species of wetland birds, including ducks, rails, and granivorous songbirds.

Edible/Medicinal Value: No known uses.*

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Cup Plant

Silphium perfoliatum

Description: Cup Plant is a tall, perennial, native wildflower that can grow 4-8 feet tall with a spread of 1-3 feet. The sunflower-like flower heads are 2-3 inches wide with yellow ray flowers and a center of yellow, disk flowers. The numerous flower heads are held in branched clusters above the leaves. The flowers begin blooming in early to mid-summer and the blooming period can last for about 1 ½ months. The opposite, triangular-shaped leaves of Cup Plant are rough and coarsely toothed. They are joined at their bases and form a cup around the stem in which rain water may collect. This is how it got its common name. The upper leaves are about 8 inches long and 5 inches wide, but the lower leaves can be as large as 14 inches long. Cup Plant can spread aggressively and form large colonies by self-seeding and its extensive root system which is made up of a tap root and shallow rhizomes. A gummy substance can ooze from the plant if it is cut or broken.

Cultivation: Cup Plant will grow in full sun with moderate to moist average soil. It will tolerate clay, wet soil, or drought once established. In some instances, it has been known to topple over in strong winds; some staking may be required. Because of its root system, Cup Plant does not transplant well except when very young. It has no serious pest or disease problems, but young leaves of the plant may be eaten by mammalian herbivores.
In the wild, Cup Plant is found in fertile prairies, moist meadows, low-lying woodland edges, thickets, seeps, fence rows, and along ditches near railroads.

Companion Native Plants: Common Milkweed, Side Oats Grama, Illinois Bundleflower.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Cup Plant attracts bees, butterflies, skippers, wasps, bee flies, flower flies, and hummingbirds searching for nectar and/or pollen. Birds, such as Gold Finches like the seeds of Cup Plant and drink water from the leafy cups. Dense colonies of this plant can provide shelter for birds and nesting materials. Bees also find protection with this plant .

Edible/Medicinal Value: Cup Plant was used by Native Americans for wounds, arthritis, and pulmonary ailments. It has also been used as a tonic, diuretic, and a diaphoretic .*

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Cutleaf Coneflower

Rudbeckia laciniata

Description: Cutleaf Coneflower is an herbaceous perennial plant that can reach a height of 3—8 ft tall. The stems are a light green color with alternating leaves. These leaves can grow to 12 inches long and 12 inches across. The leaves on the upper stems are not lobed and are much smaller. The upper stems also produce clusters of flowerheads on stalks that are 2 inches or more in length. The flowers have a daisy like appearance and are rough 2—3 inches in diameter. The petals of the flower are oblong in shape and droop slightly. The petals also display a bright yellow color, in contrast to the pale green color of the cone in the center.

Cultivation: Cutleaf Coneflowers prefer to be planted in fertile loam or silt-loam. They prefer moist conditions and partial sun. Too much sun can cause the leaves to droop excessively and wither away. It is important to control the plant as it is possible for it to spread aggressively through the use of rhizomes.

It is worth noting that some insects may become a problem for the plant. These insects include: the leaf beetle, Golden Glow Aphid, the larvae of the fruit fly, the larvae of the Marmara Moth and the Silvery Checkerspot.

Companion Native Plants: Brown Eyed Susan, Wild Senna, Cup Plant

Environmental/Wildlife Value: The pollen and nectar attract long-tongued bees, short-tongued bees, predatory wasps, butterflies, skippers, moths, and various kinds of flies.

Edible/Medicinal Value: The young leaves can be harvested in early spring to be added to salads or cooking. It is thought to remove toxins though there is little evidence to support this claim.*

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Downy Sunflower

Helianthus mollis

Description: The Downy Sunflower is a herbaceous perennial plant that is 2—4 ft tall. It is unbranched except for a few flowering stems near the top of the plant. The central stem is covered with fine hairs. The opposite leaves of the plant are able to grow to 4 inches in length and 2.5 inches across. The leaves exhibit a bluish green to greyish green. The margins of the leaves are smooth or have small blunt teeth. The flowers are composite flowers and a single flower extends from the upper stem. A composite flower consists of many yellow disk florets. The center of an individual flower begins as a green color but will transition to yellow as the plant ages. The petals are a brilliant yellow color that come into bloom from late summer to early fall. The plant tends to form in dense colonies as well.

Cultivation: Downy Sunflowers love the sun, therefore they should be planted in full sun environments. They also prefer to have more dry conditions with poor soil containing clay, sand, or rocky material. If this plant were to be planted in rich, loamy soil, it would become taller. It tolerates low pH. It is best not to water or fertilize this plant, even during drought conditions. This would lead to it becoming top heavy during the blooming period which would cause it to fall over. It has been known to spread aggressively, so be aware of that and take the necessary precautions. Downy Sunflowers are also mildly alleopathic. It is relatively easy to grow and is not subject to serious problems with foliar disease.

Companion Native Plants: Most grasses and prairie plants.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: The pollen and nectar attract mainly bees, but the larvae of other insects like butterflies and weevils feed on the foliage. Birds and squirrels will feed on seeds and other mammals like deer and gophers will eat the foliage.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Seeds and most other parts of the plant can be eaten.*

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Eastern Agave

Manfreda virginica

Description: Eastern Agave is an herbaceous perennial plant that forms a rosette of basal leaves spanning .75—2.5 ft across. The leaves tend to spread out laterally rather than vertically but they do extend upwards in some cases. The leaves measure between 4—18 inches long and .5 to 2.25 inches wide. The succulent leaves are pale green in color and are slightly stiff. At maturity, a flowering stalk will develop from the center of the rosette. This stalk grows from 2—6 ft in length. At the end of the stalk is a spike containing 10—60 flowers. The flowers are a whitish green or yellowish green. This agave is different from its relatives in that it can bloom multiple times in its lifespan.

Cultivation: Eastern Agave prefers partial to full sun and dry conditions. It should be planted in thin rocky soil or sandy soil where there is reduced competition from other plants growing on the ground. Because of this, it does well as an ornamental plant in rock gardens. The flowers are not particularly showy but the leaves are attractive. It is very similar to desert dwelling plants, like cacti, and thus it is very tolerant of drought conditions.

Companion Native Plants: Most drought tolerant plants can be planted around it, so long has the Eastern Agave has full sunlight and is not obscured.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: The Sphinx Moth, Noctuid Moth and bumblebees are all pollinators of the Eastern Agave. Although, the moths are more important pollinators. Other than the pollinators, little is known about the floral to faunal relationship of this species.

Edible/Medicinal Value: It has been used as a laxative and carminative.*

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False Sunflower

Heliopsis helianthoides

Description: False Sunflower is a herbaceous perennial wildflower that grows 3 to 6 ft. tall with a 2-4 ft. spread. False Sunflower has opposite, toothed leaves and 8 to 20 yellow ray florets. Unlike true sunflowers which only produce seed from their disk florets, False Sunflower produces seed from both its disk and ray florets.
False Sunflower has fibrous roots and spreads mainly by seed.

Cultivation: False Sunflower likes full sun (but can handle light shade) and dry to medium soil moisture. It prefers loamy soals but can rocky and clayey areas. It is easy to cultivate in a garden setting.
In the wild, False Sunflower is found frequently in prairies, open woodlands, woodland edges, etc.

Companion Native Plants: Sideoats Grama, Wingstem, Cup Plant, Virginia Wild Rye.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: The nectar of False Sunflower is consumed by many kinds of pollinators especially Native Bees, Honey Bees, some Wasps, and Butterflies. Birds and small mammals probably consume the seeds. Some mammals may browse the foliage.

Edible/Medicinal Value: No known medicinal uses for False Sunflower.*

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Field Thistle

Cirsium discolor

Description: Field Thistle, also known as Pasture Thistle, is a biennial or short-lived perennial plant. In the first year of development, this plant forms a low rosette of spiny leaves. The second year, the plant bolts and reaches a height of 2—8 ft tall. The stems of the plant are light green and have small white hairs and no spines. The spines are on the leaves. The leaves are the distinguishing feature of this plant from other thistles. The underside of the leaf is a silvery grey color, in contrast with the dark green top surface. The flowers are without scent and a pink/purple color. The flowers resemble a fuzzy ball. The blooming period for the Field Thistle is from late summer to fall, lasting around a month for each plant.

Cultivation: Field Thistle prefer to be planted in full sun. They also prefer soil containing loam or clay-loam and moderate amounts of moisture. During the summer months, especially during drought conditions, there is a tendency for the lower leaves to turn yellow or brown and fall off. The plant is easy to grow but becomes less attractive as the growing season progresses. It is biennial so it only lasts two years but it readily seeds itself. Care should be taken when dealing with this plant as the spines can cause some pain and discomfort.

Companion Native Plants: Can be planted with most prairie plants and grasses but reducing competition will yield taller plants.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: The Field Thistle is a host plant for the Painted Lady Butterfly. It also attracts many species of bees, wasps, butterflies, flies, beetles, and birds.

Edible/Medicinal Value: In the past, Field Thistle has been used to treat wounds, boils, hemorrhoids, stomachaches, diarrhea, dysentery, ulcers, and skin diseases.*

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Foxglove Beardtongue

P*enstemon digitalis*

Description: Foxglove Beardtongue, also know as Foxglove Penstemon, is a herbaceous perennial wildflower that grows 3-5 ft. tall with a 1.5-2 ft. spread. Before flowering, Foxglove Beardtongue starts as a cluster of basal rosette leaves. The flowering stalks start to emerge in spring. The opposite leaves that form on the flowering stalk are sessile and lanceolate. A cluster of white flowers bloom in late spring to early summer. The flowers are tubular with 2 lips.
Foxglove Beardtongue does have short rhizomes that can produce new plants close by.

Cultivation: Foxglove Beardtongue likes full to part sun, medium soil moisture, and loamy soils. It is easy to grow and not readily bothered by disease. However, leaves may yellow or wilt under severe drought conditions.
In the wild, Foxglove Beardtongue can be found in prairies, woodland openings/edges, savannas, pastures, etc.

Companion Native Plants: Butterfly Weed, Little Bluestem, Sideoats Grama

Environmental/Wildlife Value: The flowers of Foxglove Beardtongue attract long-tongued bees in particular for both pollen and nectar. Other bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and moths may use the flowers as a nectar source.

Edible/Medicinal Value: No recorded uses of Foxglove Beardtongue. However, other Penstemon species have been used for medicinal purposes in the past.*

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Golden Alexanders

Zizia aurea

Description: Golden Alexanders is a herbaceous perennial wildflower that grows up to 2.5 ft. tall. Golden Alexanders has compound leaves with 3 to 5 leaflets per leaf that alternate up the stem. It flowers in early Spring with compound umbels of yellow flowers.
Golden Alexanders has a fibrous root system and mostly produces new plants by seed.

Cultivation: Golden Alexanders likes full to part sun, medium soil moisture, and loamy soils. It is easy to grow and not readily bothered by disease.
In the wild, Golden Alexanders can be found in prairies, woodland openings/edges, savannas, pastures, etc.

Companion Native Plants: Butterfly Weed, Little Bluestem, Sideoats Grama, Foxglove Beardtongue

Environmental/Wildlife Value: The flowers of Golden Alexanders attract many types of insects including bees, flies, wasps, and beetles for both pollen and nectar. Golden Alexanders is also a larval host plant for the Black Swallowtail and Rigid Sunflower Borer Moth.

Edible/Medicinal Value: A tea made from the root has been used to treat fevers. The root is also thought to induce sleep and promote the healing wounds. The flowers, with the stem removed, can be consumed raw or cooked.*

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Gray's Sedge

Carex grayi

Description: Gray's Sedge is a native perennial sedge that grows in dense tufts. It can reach a height ranging from 2—3 ft. It grows 1 or 2 spiked seed heads that form close together that are about 1—1.5 inches thick. These spike heads are greenish yellow that turn to a brown color that develops as the spike head goes to seed. The fruits of the sedge remain on the plant throughout winter. The leaves are also semi-evergreen and are greenish in color.

The plant will spread 1—2 ft from the center.

Cultivation: Gray's Sedge prefers to be planted in moist, fertile soils with full sunlight. These plants will tolerate some shade but not full. It thrives in winter or near the winter season. Propagation will occur in the fall through seeding and division will happen in the spring. It is possible for this plant to self seed if given the proper conditions. Due to it's toleration for moist environments, Gray's Sedge is a wonderful addition to rain gardens or near ponds and pools.

This plant is not known for being prone to any diseases and is also deer resistant. It can handle mild foot traffic as well.

Companion Native Plants: Northern Sea Oats, Great Blue Lobelia, Cardinal Flower, Cinnamon Fern

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Gray's Sedge is important for wetland environments and is staple part of the diet of many wetland species.

Edible/Medicinal Value: No known medicinal value.*

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Great Blue Lobelia

Lobelia siphilitica

Description: Great Blue Lobelia, also known as Blue Lobelia, is a perennial plant that is 1—4 ft tall. The central stem is a light to medium green. The leaves are alternate and are 5 inches long and 2 inches wide. The flowers are a blue violet color and, in rare cases, white. The blooming period occurs from late summer into the fall, lasting around 2 months for the individual plant. The plant then spreads seeds by wind or water. The plant also has a central taproot that occasionally produces basal offshoots.

Cultivation: Great Blue Lobelia is best planted in wet to moist soil and areas where it gets partial sun. It will tolerate full sun, so long as the soil is consistently moist. Light shade is also tolerated. The soil it is planted in should be fertile and loamy. It can handle the occasional flooding event but if the flooding becomes overbearing it will cause the plant to take on a ragged appearance. The seeds require light to germinate. The height of Great Blue Lobelia is highly variable; it will change depending on the environmental conditions and the stage of development.

Companion Native Plants: Can be planted with other plants who tolerate wet environments, grasses and other wet prairie plants.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: The pollen and nectar primarily attract long-tongued bees like the bumblebee. Ruby Throated Hummingbirds also visit the flower but are less common.

Edible/Medicinal Value: The root can be used to treat dropsy, diarrhea, stomachaches, syphilis and dysentery. It should be noted that the plant is also poisonous, having similar effects on the body as nicotine.*

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Green Dragon

Arisaema dracontium

Description: Green Dragon is a monoecious perennial herb, meaning produces both male and female flowering parts on the same plant. This plant can grow to 1.5—2.5 ft tall. It consists of a single basal leaf and a single flowering stalk. The basal leaf is up to 2.5 ft long and 2 ft across. It divides into 5—13 leaflets that are parallel with the ground. Each leaflet is approximately 8 inches long and 2.5 inches across. The flowers of the plant are very inconspicuous and are a whitish yellow color. In later seasons this plant will develop bright red berries.

Cultivation: Green Dragon plant prefers dapped sunlight during the spring and light shade during the summer. The soil it is planted in should be moist and loamy with a layer of decaying leaves. Green Dragon is able to adapt to shady areas underneath trees. It is very important to keep this plant moist as it doesn't like to dry out. It is fairly tolerate of many diseases and insect pests.

Companion Native Plants: Gray's Sedge, anything that like shade and wet areas

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Green Dragon attract mainly simple flies, fungus gnats in particular enjoy the flowers. The berries of the plant are eaten by Wild Turkey, Wood Thrush, and possibly other woodland birds.

Edible/Medicinal Value: The plant is highly toxic. It contains a toxic agent known as calcium oxalate. If this agent were to be ingested it could cause a burning sensation in the mouth, gastrointestinal distress and possible kidney damage.*

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Hairy Woodmint

Blephilia hirsuta

Description: Hairy Woodmint is an herbaceous perennial wildflower that grows 1-2.5 ft. tall with a 0.75-1.5 ft. spread. It is quite distinct by having densely hairy stems and leaves. Its fragrant, minty-smelling leaves are opposite with a noticeable petiole and toothed edges. Like other mints, Hairy Woodmint has a square stem. In summer, it develops densely clustered whorls of white flowers in a pagoda-like structure.
Hairy Woodmint does have rhizomes and can create small colonies over time.

Cultivation: Hairy Woodmint prefers partial sun to light shade, medium soil moisture conditions, and rich soils. However, it can grow in rocky areas as well.
In the wild, Hairy Woodmint is found in wet woodlands, woodland openings, glades, and slightly disturbed areas.

Companion Native Plants: Nodding Fescue, Silky Wild Rye, Zigzag Spiderwort.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Hairy Woodmint attracts long-tongued bees, which are its primary pollinators. Other bees, flies, wasps, butterflies, and skippers visit Hairy Woodmint for nectar. Because of its fragrance and hairiness, Hairy Woodmint is probably avoided by herbivorous mammals.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Leaves edible and used in teas. Native Americans used a poultice from the leaves to treat headaches.*

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Hoary Vervain

Verbena stricta

Description: Hoary Vervain is a perennial plant that is 3.5 ft tall. The stem of the plant is a light green to dull reddish purple and is heavily covered with long white hairs. The leaves are arranged oppositely and are 4 inches long and 3 inches wide. The leaves are oval shaped with serrated edges. The leaves are covered in fine white hairs, especially on the underside, and are thus a whitish green color. The upper stems are terminated with a hairy floral spike. The spikes are 1—8inches long and produce small pink or lavender flowers. The blooming period is relatively short beginning in mid summer and ending in late summer. The plant can reseed itself and can produce multiple stems from the central taproot.

Cultivation: Hoary Vervain prefers full sun environments. It should be planted in dry conditions, though it can tolerate a moderate amount of moisture. It tends to flourish in poor soil containing clay, sand or gravel. In rich soil, it will grow well, but it has trouble competing with other flora. It can tolerate drought conditions fairly well, though some of the lower leaves may shrivel up and fall off the plant. Seeds need light to germinate.

Companion Native Plants: Eastern Prickly Pear, Eastern Agave, Little Bluestem

Environmental/Wildlife Value: The Hoary Vervain is a larval host plant for Fine-lined Sallow Moth and the Verbena Moth. The flowers attract many species of bee and butterfly as well.

Edible/Medicinal Value: It is possible to make a tea with the leaves to help with fevers and stomach pains.*

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Illinois Bundleflower

Desmanthus illinoensis

Description: Illinois Bundleflower, also known as Prairie Mimosa, is a herbaceous perennial wildflower that grow 2-3 ft. tall with a 2-3 ft. spread. It has delicate-looking compound leaves with tiny subleaflets. In summer, round clusters of white flowers develop from the leaf axils; these flowers have a noticeable mimosa resemblance. These flowers are replaced by interesting bundles of seed pods that split open on maturity. Illinois Bundleflower spreads primarily by reseeding.

Cultivation: Illinois Bundleflower prefers full to partial sun and medium soil moisture conditions. It tolerates a wide range of soil types but is happiest in fertile loams. Moderate droughts are tolerated as well, although some signs of stress may be visible.
In the wild, Illinois Bundleflower is found in prairies, meadows, woodland openings, and disturbed areas.

Companion Native Plants: Native Sunflowers, Common Milkweed, Little Bluestem.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Illinois Bundleflower is a nitrogen fixer, so it can improve soil fertility. Its flowers are visited by small bees and flies. Illinois Bundleflower's seeds are consumed by many upland birds. In addition, its leaves have high protein content, making them a favorite of herbivorous mammals.

Edible/Medicinal Value: The seed is edible, and leaves of the plant were used to treat itchy skin by brewing in a tea.*

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Indian Grass

Sorghastrum nutans

Description: Indian Grass is a member of the grass family. This grass is perennial. This grass is most notable for its tall height, reaching 2—9 ft. It has small twisted bristles on the flowers and is slightly fuzzy. The distinguishing feature of this grass is a "rifle-sight" where the leaf blade attaches to the sheath. During the flowering stage of development, this plant "opens" displaying is flowers. These flowers are golden brown in color and exhibit a shining hue. When the plant is not flowering, it holds the fruiting bodies close to the stem and thus it appears quite narrow. Blooming will take place in early fall.

Cultivation: Indian Grass is a dominant species of prairie grasses in the Eastern United States. This grass is a warm season perennial that prefers full sunlight. It is also worth nothing that this plant is intolerant to shade. It can grow in dry or moist conditions and has a high tolerance for drought. It prefers to live in nutrient rich soils as well. This plant is best planted en masse or in a wildflower meadow. To propagate this grass, sow unstratified seed in the fall or stratified seed in the spring. Seed can be collected in the fall.

This plant is tolerant to controlled fires and actually regrows with renewed vitality. If controlled fire is not an option, similar results can be achieved with using large herbivores (such as cows or bison) to control the population of Indian Grass through grazing.

Companion Native Plants: Cup Plant, Prairie Dock, Big Blue Stem, Compass Plant

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Indian Grass is an important nesting material for native bees. It is also a food source for adult Pepper and Salt Skipper butterflies.

Edible/Medicinal Value: No known medicinal value.*

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Jerusalem Artichoke

Helianthus tuberosus

Description: The Jerusalem Artichoke is an herbaceous perennial plant that grows from 2—8 ft tall. The stems are light green to reddish brown and are quite hairy. The leaves are both alternate and opposite. Opposite leaves can be found at the lower or middle portion of the stem. The alternate leaves can along the upper stem. Flowerheads of the plant span 2.5—3.5 inches across. Each flowerhead has 10—20 petals with a bright yellow color. The plant tends to form colonies, spreading from the rhizomes and tubers.

Cultivation: Jerusalem Artichoke prefers full to partial sun. It is best to plant it in fertile loamy soil with moist conditions. During drought conditions the leaves my wilt conspicuously or the lower leaves may fall off, but the plant will bounce back after significant rainfall. The plant is susceptible to powdery mildew in autumn but it is generally unaffected by other foliar diseases. While it is blooming, it is possible for the plant to topple in strong winds. If left unchecked and in open situations, the plant has a tendency to spread aggressively.

Companion Native Plants: Cup Plant, Northern Sea Oats, possibly Downy Sunflower in sunny sites.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: The Jerusalem Artichoke is a larval host plant for the Gorgone Checkerspot.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Jerusalem Artichoke's tubers can be consumed raw or cooked. They also can be roasted for a coffee substitute. Jerusalem Artichoke is reported to be an aperient, aphrodisiac, cholagogue, diuretic, spermatogenetic, stomachic, and tonic. It is also an old folk remedy for diabetes and rheumatism.*

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Late Boneset

Eupatorium serotinum

Description: Late Boneset is a perennial, native wildflower that can grow 3-6 feet tall with a spread of 2-3 feet. The flat-topped inflorescence of Late Boneset is made up of numerous compact florets composed of many, single, small, white, disk flowers. The plant branches from the upper stems and can be shrub-like in appearance when in bloom. Late Boneset blooms in late summer to early fall and can last about a month. Occasionally, the flowers can have a light floral scent.

The leaves are opposite, lance-shaped, coarsely toothed and are 6-7 inches in length. The root system of Late Boneset is fibrous with rhizomes. It self-seeds and can spread by their rhizomes, but it is not aggressive.

Cultivation: Late Boneset grows in full to part sun in average soil with moderate to slightly dry conditions. It is said to prefer moisture, but is very tolerant of drought. Late Boneset can be used as a cut flower or dried for arrangements. This plant has few problems, and it is not bothered by deer or other mammalian herbivores. In the wild, Late Boneset is often found in disturbed areas and near sources of water: moist prairies, moist meadows, swamps, and drainage ditches.

Companion Native Plants: Maryland Senna, Blue Vervain, Wild Bergamot

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Late Boneset is a significant source of late season nectar for many pollinating insects. Long-tongued bees, short-tongued bees, small to medium butterflies, skippers, moths, and beetles find the plant irresistible. It is also the host plant for several moth caterpillars and a source of food for seed-eating birds.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Late Boneset was used to treat pain by Native Americans.*

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Little Bluestem

Schizachyrium scoparium

Description: Little Bluestem is a perennial warm season grass that grows 2-4 ft. tall with a 1.5-2 ft. spread. Alternate leaves are present on the lower third of the plant. The plant stalk ends in an inflorescence of racemes of spikelets that bloom In late summer. The seeds that develop have hairs to aid in dispersal.
Little Bluestem has fibrous roots with short rhizomes.

Cultivation: Little Bluestem prefers full sun and medium to dry soil moisture. It competes with other plants better in poorer soils and is very drought tolerant.
In the wild, Little Bluestem is found in prairies, barrens, savannas, disturbed areas, and abandoned fields.

Companion Native Plants: Native Sunflowers, Illinois Bundleflower, Common Milkweed.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Little Bluestem is a host plant for several species of skippers. Grasshoppers and other insects will feed on the foliage as well. Songbirds will eat the seeds, especially during the winter. Cattle and bison will eat the foliage readily.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Used in some Native American ceremonies.*

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Lyre-Leaved Sage

Salvia lyrata

Description: Lyre-leaved Sage is a perennial in the mint family. This herb grows between 1—2 ft tall. It has blue or violet flowers that are double lipped. The leaves remain toward the bottom of the plant and grow both out and up. They have one large lobe on the terminal end and smaller lobes along the sides. It can be found in open bare places in oak or beech woods. It is noticeably different from other sages due its basal leaf arrangement and is thus fairly easy to identify in the field.

Cultivation: Lyre-leaved Sage prefers a variety of light conditions from full sun to light shade. It can grow in moist to dry conditions and prefers to be planted in soils containing sand, rocky material, or gravel. However, planting in ordinary garden soil containing loam or clay-loam is acceptable if competition from taller plants is eliminated or reduced. Northern ecotypes of this plant are more likely to be winter-hardy in colder regions.

Companion Native Plants: This plant does not like competition or taller plants so it is best to plant it in areas where it won't deal with those kinds of plants. Foxglove Beardtongue, Wild Columbine, Smooth Rock Cress

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Carpenter bees, leaf-cutting bees and mason bees have all been seen visiting the flowers of this plant. Mourning doves eat the seeds.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Old folklore says that Lyre-Leaved Sage is a cure for cancer. Other sources state that it can be used to cure warts.*

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Marsh Blazingstar

Liatris spicata

Description: Marsh Blazingstar is a clump-forming, perennial native wildflower that can grow 2-6 feet tall with a spread of 9-18 inches. The feathery, pink to purplish-pink, ½ inch wide flowers are held in densely-packed, stalkless, flower heads on 6-12 inch long, erect, terminal spikes. In mid-summer the flowers of Marsh Blazing Star start blooming from the top first and will continue blooming for about 3 weeks.
Marsh Blazing Star has grass-like basal and stem leaves. The basal leaves are about 10 inches long and the stem leaves, that appear whorled, get smaller gradually as they move up the stem. The root system of this plant is composed of corm-like structures and fibrous roots. Colonies are often formed with the production of new corms.

Cultivation: Marsh Blazing Star is easily grown in full sun in average soil that is moderate to moist, but well-drained. It does not tolerate wet soils in winter. Marsh Blazing Star presents few problems and has no serious pest or diseases problems, but it can be eaten by mammalian herbivores.
In the wild, it is found in lowlands, moist prairies, edges of marshes and bogs, and along railroads.

Companion Native Plants: Blue Vervain, Gray-headed Coneflower, Blue False Indigo.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Marsh Blazing Star attracts bees, butterflies, and moths to its nectar and some bees collect pollen for their larvae. It is also a host plant to the caterpillars of two prairie moths.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Marsh Blazing Star has been used to treat many ailments from urinary problems to snake bites by Native Americans.*

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Maryland Senna

Senna marilandica

Description: Maryland Senna is shrubby-like, perennial, native wildflower that can grow 3-6 feet tall, with a 2-3 feet spread. Its yellow, pea-like, flowers are held atop and along the usually unbranched, erect stems of the plant. The ½-1 inch flowers bloom from mid to late summer for about 3-4 weeks. Fertile flowers turn into green, drooping seedpods that turn dark brown when mature. The leaves are alternate and compound with 6-12 leaflets. The root system of Maryland Senna is a central taproot with rhizomes which can often form large colonies of plants. The foliage of Maryland Senna is toxic. *

Cultivation: Maryland Senna will grow in a wide range of soils, even some with clay, in full sun with moist, well-drained soil conditions. It will tolerate some shade, and once it is established it will also tolerate heat, humidity, and drought. Maryland Senna will be slow to develop the first couple years as the root system gets established, but after that it will grow vigorously. In cold winters, mulching will protect the roots. This plant has no serious pest or disease problems, and because of the toxicity of the leaves, it is not bothered by deer or other mammalian herbivores.
In the wild, Maryland Senna is found in open woods, moist prairies and meadows, thickets, savannas, riverbanks, and limestone glades.

Companion Native Plants: Foxglove Beardtongue, Sideoats Grama, Blue Sage.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Maryland Senna is of special value to bees, especially Bumble Bees and its floral nectaries will attract ants, flower flies, and other insects. Maryland Senna is the host plant for several butterfly and moth caterpillars, and is a winter source of food for wild turkeys and possibly other birds.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Maryland Senna has been used to treat intestinal and urinary problems.*

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New England Aster

Symphyotrichum novae-angliae

Description: The New England Aster is in the large Aster family, which includes sunflowers. It is a perennial plant with both fibrous roots and rhizomes. It reaches a height of 1—5ft tall. It can be found in wet to moderately wet prairies, fens and roadsides. The flowers are purple to reddish rays with a yellow center. The blooming period for this plant is from summer to late autumn. The flowering stems can be seen with glandular hairs covering the stem. The leaves narrow to sessile or clasping bases on the stem. The leaves are also softly pubescent beneath.

Cultivation: The New England Aster prefers partial to full sun. It likes moist to average conditions. The soil it is planted in can contain loam or clay. The plant can become stressed out by hot dry weather, often dropping its lower leaves in response, while the remaining leaves may turn yellow or brown. It requires supportive vegetation and when that is absent it is possible for the plant to fall over. In the fall is it usually afflicted with powdery mildew. It is possible for this plant to spread aggressively if left unchecked. The plant is easy to grow but hard to maintain.

Companion Native Plants: Tall Goldenrod, Stiff Goldenrod, and other prairie plants

Environmental/Wildlife Value: The flowers of the aster are primarily visited by long-tongued bees, bee flies, butterflies, and skippers. It is possible for this plant to bring turkey, deer and rabbits around but this is not a preferred food source.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Using the blossoms of the aster in steam inhalation can help with congestion. Poultices made with the plant are also said to help with skin conditions.*

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Nodding Fescue

Festuca subverticillata

Description: Nodding Fescue is a clump-forming, perennial, native grass whose leaves can grow 8-18 inches long and ½ inch wide. The flowering stems, which can reach 2-3 feet tall, hold terminal, drooping panicles of flowering spikelets that are up to 12 inches long. Nodding Fescue blooms in early spring.
The dark green, glossy leaves are vase-like in form. This plant often forms loose colonies. The root system is fibrous.

Cultivation: Nodding Fescue tolerates more shade than most grass species; it will grow in deep to bright shade, or with even a few hours of sunlight a day, in moist to slightly dry conditions. It tolerates average soils, but does well in rich soils as well. Nodding Fescue is not bothered by deer, and it can be a good alternative to lawn in a shady area.
In the wild, Nodding Fescue can be found in disturbed as well as high quality areas: woodlands, woodland openings and edges, along woodland paths, and woodland floodplains.

Companion Native Plants: Silky Wild Rye, Hairy Wood Mint.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: There is limited information on Nodding Fescue and its benefit to wildlife, but some birds and small animals may eat the seeds. It is known that the caterpillars of the Indian Skipper will feed on the foliage.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Nodding Fescue was used by Native Americans to treat heart disease.*

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Northern Sea Oats

Chasmanthium latifolium

Description: Northern Sea Oats, sometimes called River Oats, is a clump-forming, perennial, native grass that can grow from 1 ½- 4 feet tall with a 1-2 ½ foot spread. The tall and slender, arching stems of the inflorescence produce branched clusters of drooping, flat, oat-like florets. The florets start out green but mature to a reddish-bronze color in the fall. The stems of florets can be cut when green or mature and used in flower arrangements.
The bluish-green leaves of Northern Sea Oats emerge in early spring and can grow to 10 inches tall and 1 inch wide. The root system is fibrous with rhizomes.

Cultivation: Northern Sea Oats grows in full sun to part shade, and prefers a rich, well-drained soil with medium moisture conditions (especially in full sun), but it will tolerate poor and somewhat dry soils. It will readily re-seed but spreads slowly from rhizomes. Northern Sea Oats will tolerate being planted close to Black Walnut trees.
In the wild, it is found in woodlands and edges, and along streams and river banks.

Companion Native Plants: Wild Columbine, Wild Bergamot, Virginia Mountain Mint.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Northern Sea Oats is the larval host for several butterflies and moths. Northern Sea Oats seeds can be eaten by small animals, birds, and humans. It has no serious pest or disease problems and it is useful for stopping soil erosion.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Seeds have been used to make flour, bread, or a mush by the Mexican Native Americans.*

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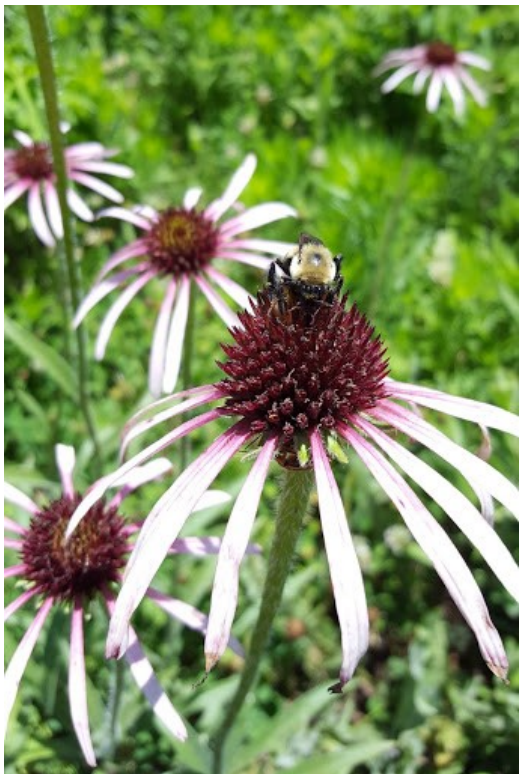
Pale Purple Coneflower

Echinacea pallida



Description: Pale Purple Coneflower is a perennial plant that has a taproot. It can be found in dry prairie environments growing 1—3 ft tall. The solitary flower heads of the plant can be seen atop long hairy stems. The plant has alternating leaves that are narrow and hairy. The Flower head is about 4 inches in diameter, with a central "cone" that is brown in color and covered in prickly scales. The flower's petals are pale to deep rose-purple in color and the disc florets are a red-brown color. The Pale Purple Coneflower can be seen blossoming in throughout the summer months.

Cultivation: Pale Purple Coneflower prefers to be planted in areas where it will get full sunlight exposure. It prefers dry conditions and can tolerate moderately wet conditions if properly drained. It should be planted in soil that contains sand, loam, or some clay. It is often used in prairie plantings, perennial gardens, or prairie restorations.

Companion Native Plants: Tall Goldenrod, New England Aster, Wild Senna, Common Milkweed, Butterfly Weed

Environmental/Wildlife Value: The flower attracts beetles, flies, wasps, moths and butterflies. The seeds can attract some birds. Bees are also attracted to the plant.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Recent studies have shown that there is some merit to the claims that the Pale Purple Coneflower is an effective treatment for some cancers, infectious diseases, viruses, and as a nonspecific stimulant to the immune defense system.*

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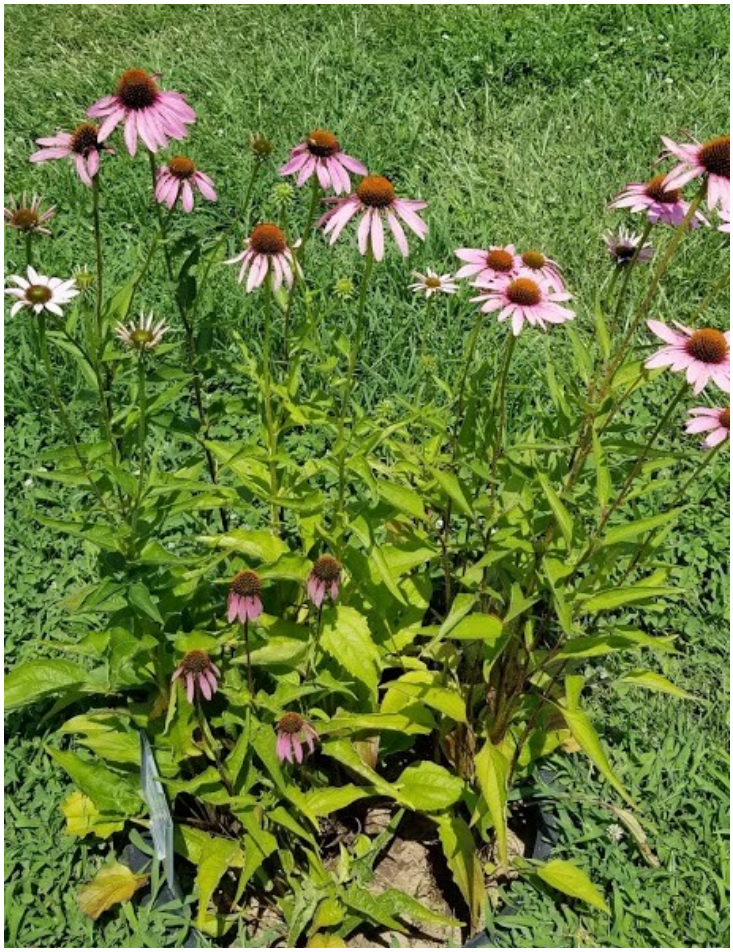
Purple Coneflower

Echinacea purpurea



Description: Purple Coneflower is a perennial wildflower that can grow from 2 to 4 ft. tall. Purple Coneflower has a 2 ½-4 inch flowering head with 7-30 reddish purple rays and a round prickly center. Its leaves are tear shaped with roughly toothed edges.

Purple Coneflower has fibrous roots with short rhizomes that can form small patches.

Cultivation: Purple Coneflower requires full sun to part shade and likes moist to slightly mesic soil conditions in Zones 4-9.

In the wild, Purple Coneflower typically grows in prairies, savanna, woodland edges and openings.

Companion Native Plants: Goldenrods, New England Aster, Wild Senna, Common Milkweed, Butterfly Weed

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Purple Coneflower attracts a wide variety butterflies and hummingbirds, but is especially beneficial for our native bees.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Extracts of Purple Coneflower may improve white blood cell count, and prevent certain bacteria from producing harmful enzymes. Echinacea supplements can be found in health food stores and superstores.*

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Prairie Dock

Silphium terebinthinaceum

Description: Prairie Dock is a long-lived, perennial, native wildflower. Its leafless, flower stalks, 3-10 feet tall, hold branches of 2-3 inch, yellow, sunflower-like flowers. The blooming season is from late summer to fall, and lasts about a month.

Prairie Dock has strikingly large, 24 inches long by 12 inches wide, basal leaves. The leaves are triangular in shape, and appear rough with age. The plant requires ample spacing, in a native plant garden, of at least 3 to 3 ½ feet. Prairie Dock will bring great interest to any garden or prairie.

Cultivation: Prairie Dock prefers full sun in moderate to dry soil. It has a large taproot, and will tolerate most soils, including rocky ones. It is slow to establish, but once it does, it will tolerate drought; it is a true prairie plant. Prairie Dock can spread by seed and by offshoots. It is rarely affected by insects or disease problems.

In the wild, Prairie Dock is found in prairies, savannas, glades, along highways and in prairie remnants along railroads.

Companion Native Plants: Compass Plant, Rattlesnake Master, Purple Coneflower.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Prairie Dock is a pollinator friendly plant to native bees, hummingbirds, and other insects. Large herbivores will eat the foliage and stems, but it is not bothered by rabbits. The seeds are a source of food for some birds, especially Goldfinches.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Teas made from the roots or leaves are used to treat a variety of ailments from cough to killing internal parasites. The resin was also used as a diuretic.*

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Rattlesnake Master

Eryngium yuccifolium

Description: Rattlesnake Master is a perennial, native wildflower that can reach 4-5 feet tall and 2-3 feet wide. It has a basal rosette of long, yucca-like leaves that are bluish to grayish-green in color. The 1 inch, globular flower heads, which appear on very stout, branched stems, are comprised of very small, greenish-white flowers surrounded by prickly bracts. Blooming period is from late spring through summer. This plant readily self-seeds.

Cultivation: Rattlesnake Master prefers full sun in well-drained moderate to dry soil. It will not tolerate moist soil. In the wild it is found in various prairies and dry savannas. Its tap root makes it difficult to transplant, but it is easy to grow and is seldom bothered by insects or diseases. It is a true prairie plant.

Companion Native Plants: Leadplant, Little Bluestem, Rough Blazing Star

Environmental/Wildlife Value: The nectar and pollen of Rattlesnake Master attracts many kinds of insects, including bees, moths, and butterflies.

Edible/Medicinal Value: There is some doubt whether Rattlesnake Master is useful for snake bites, but it was valued by Native Americans for treating urinary problems and for poisons other than rattlesnake venom. Plus it was used alone and in combination with other native plants to treat many other ailments.*

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Rough Blazingstar

Liatris aspera

Description: Rough Blazingstar is an upright 2-5 feet tall perennial with clusters of purple flowers in "buttons" toward the top of the plant. With Rough Blazingstar, the "buttons" are more widely spaced apart compared to other *Liatris* species. At the base of the plant are narrow, lance shaped leaves.

Rough Blazingstar produces a woody underground storage structure called a corm and can occasionally produce new plants through corm offsets.

Cultivation: Rough Blazingstar prefers full sun in dry to medium, well drained soils of Zones 3-8. It is more tolerant of poor soils and drought than many other native plants. It is low maintenance and will tend to droop when flowering if given too much water or fertilizer.

In the wild, Rough Blazingstar can be found in prairies, savanna, sand dunes, etc.

Companion Native Plants: Leadplant, Little Bluestem, Rattlesnake Master, Sideoats Grama

Environmental/Wildlife Value: The primary pollinators for this plant are long tongued bees like honeybees and bumblebees, and butterflies. Other bees collect pollen and are not good pollinators. The stems and foliage are also eaten by mammals like deer, groundhogs, livestock and rabbits. Some smaller rodents also eat the corms.

Edible/Medicinal Value: While other *Liatris* species have medicinal value, none were found specifically for Rough Blazingstar.*

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Royal Catchfly

Silene regia

Description: : Royal Catchfly is an uncommon, perennial, native wildflower that can grow from 1 to 3 feet tall with a spread of 1 ½-2 feet. The bright red, star-shaped flowers are held in erect, terminal clusters, and are 1 to 2 inches wide when fully open. The narrow petals of the flower are attached to a nectar-containing, tubular calyx that is sticky on the outside and can trap crawling insects. The oval lanceolate leaves of Royal Catchfly are opposite and clasp the stem. Royal Catchfly has a taproot and mature plants can form a crown with multiple stems.

Cultivation: Royal Catchfly grows well in full sun to sun with some light shade, in average soil that is medium to slightly dry and well-drained. In the wild, Royal Catchfly is found in prairies, open woodlands and edges, savannas, and rocky barrens. The seeds of Royal Catchfly can be planted as soon as they mature. Royal Catchfly is easy to grow, but can be slow to develop and may take several years to reach its potential. It has no serious insect or disease problems.

Companion Native Plants: Spotted Joe Pye Weed, Wild Bee Balm, Northern Sea Oats

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Royal Catchfly is visited by hummingbirds and butterflies for its nectar.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Other *Silene* species have edible or medicinal use, but no uses were found for Royal Catchfly specifically.*

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Sallow Sedge

Carex lurida

Description: Sallow Sedge is a perennial, native, wetland sedge that grows 1 ½ - 3 feet tall with a spread of 1-2 feet. Stiff culms or flowering stems rise above the foliage in late spring to early summer and bear several bur-like, yellowish, male spikelets and one female spikelet. The fertile spikelet turns brown after pollen has been shed.
The 12 inch, arching, grass-like leaves, have a fountain-like appearance. The root system is fibrous with rhizomes which can allow the plant to spread. Sallow Sedge remains attractive in summer and is not prone to going dormant.

Cultivation: Sallow Sedge grows best in wet to moist soil in full sun to part shade and in various kinds of soil. It needs watering during dry spells and tolerates temporary flooding. This plant is pest resistant and not bothered by deer or other herbivores.
In the wild, Sallow Sedge is found in and near varying qualities of wetlands: wet prairies, ponds, streams, marshes, springs, wet meadows, swamps, seeps, and ditches.

Companion Native Plants: Swamp Milkweed, Cardinal Flower, Soft Rush.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Like other Carex species, Sallow Sedge is valuable to a large number of fauna. It is the host plant for the Eyed-Brown Butterfly and several skippers, moths, and other insects. Sallow Sedge is valuable for soil retention and wetland restoration.

Edible/Medicinal Value: No specific information found.*

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Sawtooth Sunflower

Helianthus grosseserratus

Description: Sawtooth Sunflower is one of the tallest sunflower species and can reach heights of 12 feet tall, though it is generally around 5-6 ft. when in a dense planting. The flower heads are the typical sunflower yellow up to 4 ½ inches in diameter. Leaves are long and range from sharply serrated (saw toothed) to slightly toothed. Usually present in colonies as they reproduce through spreading roots called rhizomes.

Cultivation: Sawtooth Sunflower prefers growing in full sun and moist soil with high organic content in Zones 3-8.
In the wild, Sawtooth Sunflower can be found in prairies, old fields, roadsides, meadows, savannas.

Companion Native Plants: Tall Ironweed, Switchgrass, Indian Grass, Tall Coreopsis.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Sawtooth Sunflower is used by a variety of bees, especially long tongued bees like the bumble bee. It is used by several types of moths, butterflies and beetles, and is a host plant for several butterfly larvae, and seed eating moth larvae. Its seeds are consumed by a variety of upland game and song birds as well as small rodents.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Most sunflower species have some edible uses, but none were found specifically for Sawtooth Sunflower.*

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Sideoats Grama

Bouteloua curtipendula

Description: Sideoats Grama is a clump-forming, native, perennial grass with stems that can grow from 1 to 3 feet tall with a spread of 1 ½-2 feet. The fertile, orange to brownish-red stamens of Sideoats Grama's florets are showy. The purplish florets bloom in summer to early fall, on branched clusters that hang to one side of an arching stem. This plant mixes well with wildflowers because the leaf blades stay fairly short and the plant is very open and airy.
Sideoats Grama's leaf blades are bluish-green with a purple cast in the spring, but the entire plant becomes straw colored in the fall. The root system is fibrous with rhizomes and can form a dense sod.

Cultivation: Sideoats Grama prefers full sun in average soil with medium to dry moisture conditions. It is a clump forming grass with both fibrous and rhizome-like roots, and it can freely self-seed. Give Sideoats Grama room to spread its flowering stems and plant it where it will not be shaded by taller plants. It tolerates hot and dry locations, and has no serious pest or disease problems.
In the wild, it is found on various kinds of prairies, open woodlands, glades, and along railroads.

Companion Native Plants: Black-eyed Susan, Illinois Bundleflower, Rough Blazingstar.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Sideoats Grama is a food source for some birds, insects, and mammalian herbivores. It is highly valued for prairie restorations.

Edible/Medicinal Value: No known uses.*

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Silky Wild Rye

Elymus villosus

Description: Silky Wild Rye, also known as Downy or Hairy Wild Rye, is a perennial, woodland, native grass that can grow 2 ½ - 3 ½ feet tall with about the same spread. The flower spikelets are in held in nodding or arching, dense and bristly, terminal spikes at the ends of a culm, the hollow stem of the grass.
The leaves and leaf sheaths are green and hairy. Silky Wild Rye has a fibrous root system.

Cultivation: Silky Wild Rye grows best in part sun to light shade in moist to slightly dry, fertile soil. It is a vigorous grower that needs space. The graceful arching stems and inflorescences provide interest in the fall and winter.
In the wild, it is generally found in high quality wooded habitats: deciduous woodlands and edges, wooded slopes, savannas, and thickets.

Companion Native Plants: Spotted Bee Balm, Wild Bergamot, White Vervain.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Silky Wild Rye is the host plant for the False Wainscot Moth caterpillar and for several other insects. It makes a good groundcover for large areas in shady habitats.

Edible/Medicinal Value: No information found.*

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Silver Plume Grass

Saccharum alopecuroides

Description: Silver Plume Grass is an ornamental grass that known for its silver plumes, from which it gets its name. These plumes appear in late summer and will persist into the winter months. It has a bloom time from August to September. This plant can be found in dry, sandy soils in open woods and slopes. Silver Plume Grass typically forms in a dense clump of foliage that range in size from 3—6 ft, although some have been known to reach 10 ft. The foliage grows on a reedy stem with flat leaf blades.

Cultivation: Silver Plume Grass is best grown in well drained soils that are somewhat dry. It prefers to be grown in full sun. It can be grown in moist, fertile soils but plants grown in these conditions tend to require staking. For best results, cut the foliage to ground in late winter before new shoots appear. It can be used in place of Pampas Grass or Zebra Grass.

Companion Native Plants: Grows well en masse or with other tall plants like Cup Plant and Prairie Dock.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Silver Plume Grass is a food for terrestrial birds and serves as a minor source of cover.

Edible/Medicinal Value: No known medicinal value.*

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Slender Path Rush

Juncus tenuis

Description: Slender Path Rush is a native perennial that has many names including: slender rush, path rush, field rush, slender yard rush, poverty rush, and wiregrass. This rush is generally regarded as a weed and is sometimes sold by retailers as a household container plant. It is very short in stature, only reaching a forth of an inch to 2 ft tall. It usually grows in clumps with tough stems. The leaves of the plant all come from the base of the plant and are shorter than the stems. The stems are partly covered by sheaths and have clusters at the top. These clusters consist of branches that have small egg-shaped seed capsules at the end of them. The seeds split into three parts when they become ripe. The plant also spreads vie the use of the roots. It produces flowers with 3 scaly petals. The petals have a green color early on but will become tan as the flower matures. The plant spreads seeds by sticking them to any passersby who come in contact with the plant when it is wet.

Cultivation: Slender Path Rush is not commonly used in landscaping. It can handle a lot of foot traffic and prefers compact soil, so it would make a great addition to pathways and trails both in woodlands and fields. It can grow in all light conditions and it is not limited by moisture.

Companion Native Plants: Wild Ginger, Smooth Rock Cress or other competitive ground cover plants

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Miscellaneous insects feed on Slender Path Rush. It is possible that some gamebirds and songbirds feed on the seedheads as well.

Edible/Medicinal Value: An infusion of Slender Path Rush was used to prevent lameness in babies and used as a wash to strengthen them.*

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Smooth Rock Cress

Boechera laevigata

Description: Smooth Rock Cress is a native biennial herb in the mustard family. During its first year, it develops a basal rosette of toothed leaves around 6" in diameter. In its second year, Smooth Rock Cress can grow to around 1 ½ feet tall with narrow, lance shaped leaves that alternate up the stem, culminating in a raceme of white flowers. The flowers are replaced by long, slender seedpods called siliques that droop.

Smooth Rock Cress produces a taproot and spreads only by seed production.

Cultivation: Smooth Rock Cress prefers to grow in part shade with moist to slightly dry soils that are loamy or rocky.

In the wild, Smooth Rock Cress grows in mesic woodlands, rocky woodlands, rocky bluffs and cliffs. It is typically found in woods where deciduous trees are dominant.

Companion Native Plants: Wild Ginger, Silky Wild Rye, Downy Skullcap

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Smooth Rock Cress attracts many smaller bees including the native mason bee. It is also a host plant for several fly, beetle, and butterfly species including the White butterflies (*Pieris* species).

Edible/Medicinal Value: Some related rock cress species have edible uses, but none were found specifically for Smooth Rock Cress.*

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Sneezeweed

Helenium autumnale

Description: Sneezeweed is flowering perennial plant that can grow up to 5 ft. tall with a 3 ft. spread. In late summer to early fall, it produces attractive yellow flowerheads where both the disk and ray flowers are yellow. Sneezeweed has a green winged stem and 3 toothed leaves that alternate up the stem.

Sneezeweed has fibrous roots and produces new plants mainly by seed.

Cultivation: Sneezeweed prefers full sun to slight shade and moist to wet soils with loam or silt content.

In the wild, Sneezeweed is found in wet prairies, meadows, wet open woods, wetlands, poorly drained old fields, riparian areas, and other low, moist, open areas.

Companion Native Plants: Wild Senna, Sedge species, Spotted Joe Pye Weed.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Sneezeweed attracts a large variety of native bees. Sneezeweed also attracts wasps, flies, butterflies and beetles. Mammals rarely browse on the foliage because it is quite bitter and toxic.

Edible/Medicinal Value: The mature flowerheads were dried and crushed and used as a snuff to treat colds and headaches. The crushed, powderized leaves were used to promote sneezing and nasal discharges (hence the common name). Teas from the flowerheads and infusions of the leaves and stems were also used to treat a variety of ailments.*****

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Soft Rush

Juncus effusus

Description: Soft Rush is a clumping rush that may be found in a single clump, or a community of clumps up to 4 feet tall. As a true rush, the stems are pithy and cylindrical with no leaves. Each bract near the top of the stem clusters of green to brown florets, appearing on one side of the stem.

Soft Rush has short rhizomes and clumps can increase in diameter over time. Its tiny seeds are the primary mode of reproduction.

Cultivation: Soft Rush prefers full sun and wet, mucky soils, though mineral soils are tolerated. In the wild, this rush is commonly found in wetland areas and may have roots completely submerged or be on wetland edges above the water level.

Companion Native Plants: Swamp Rose Mallow, Swamp Milkweed, Sneezeweed

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Soft Rush provides nesting material for songbirds, and is a minor food for a variety of birds and insects. Muskrats use both the foliage and roots of Soft Rush as a food source.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Young shoots of Soft Rush can potentially eaten, although there is some concern about the foliage being toxic to mammals. The pith (center section) of the stem is used to treat a variety of ailments including sore throats, kidney stones, etc.*

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Spotted Bee Balm

Monarda punctata

Description: Spotted Bee Balm, sometimes called Horsemint, is a short-lived, perennial, native wildflower that grows from 1-3 feet tall with a spread of 9-12 inches. The yellow, purple spotted, irregular and tubular flowers are arranged in whorls around the leaf axils of erect stems, and are subtended by showy, white to lilac whorls of leaf-like bracts. Several of the ¾ to 1 inch flowers in a whorl will bloom at a time starting in mid-summer and continuing into early fall. Blooming period can last 1-2 months.
The 3 inch long leaves of Spotted Bee Balm are opposite, lance-shaped, and finely serrated. The leaves are said to have the fragrance of Greek oregano. The root system is fibrous with rhizomes that help the plant to form large clumps, but it is not overly aggressive.

Cultivation: Spotted Bee Balm thrives in moist sandy soil, but is easily grown in full sun to part shade in average soil with dry to medium, well-drained moisture conditions. It is somewhat drought tolerant, but summer watering can keep the plants fresh looking and prolongs the blooming period. Spotted Bee Balm can self-seed and it is easily grown from collected seed that is sown on the surface. Foliar diseases can be a problem if the soil is too dry or if Spotted Bee Balm is surrounded by taller plants which can cause poor air circulation. Mammalian herbivores rarely eat this plant because of the fragrant foliage.
In the wild, Spotted Bee Balm is found in prairies, meadows, savannas and moist sandy areas.

Companion Native Plants: Maryland Senna, Northern Sea Oats, Wild Bergamot.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: The nectar of Spotted Bee Balm attracts bees, butterflies (including the endangered Karner Blue Butterfly), moths, and hummingbirds. It is the host plant for several moth caterpillars and other insects.

Edible/Medicinal Value: In the past, Spotted Bee Balm has been used medicinally for stomach, urinary, and other disorders. It contains high levels of Thymol which was often used for wounds. The leaves can also be consumed fresh, cooked, or dried in salads or other dishes and to create a mint tea.*

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Spotted Joe-Pye Weed

Eutrochium maculatum

Description: Spotted Joe-Pye Weed is a perennial, native wildflower that grows from 3-5 feet tall with a 3 foot spread. It has erect, purple to purple spotted stems with branched stalks of flattened clusters of 1/3 inch long flowers. Each flower head hold 8-20 pink to purplish florets, which can be fragrant. The flowers bloom in mid to late summer and the blooming period lasts 3-4 weeks.

The leaves of Spotted Joe-Pye Weed are yellow-green to green and are arranged in whorls of 4-5 leaves. The 7 inch long and 2 ½ inch wide leaves are lanced-shaped and serrated. The root system is fibrous with rhizomes that can form small colonies.

Cultivation: Spotted Joe-Pye Weed prefers full to part sun (late afternoon shade) in soil with medium to moist soil conditions. It has a preference for mineral rich soils with silty or sandy loam, but is tolerant of average to clay soils.
In the wild, Spotted Joe-Pye Weed is found in high quality natural areas with rich moist soils, such as wet prairies and wet sand prairies, wet meadows, and swampy thickets. It will not tolerate dry soils, but it will tolerate being water-logged. It has no serious pest or disease problems.

Companion Native Plants: Leadplant, Little Bluestem, Rough Blazing Star

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Spotted Joe-Pye Weed's nectar attracts bees, butterflies, skippers, and moths. Some bees may also collect pollen, and it is the host plant for several moth caterpillars. It can be a food source for Swamp Sparrow, and may be browsed by mammalian herbivores.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Spotted Joe-Pye Weed has been used for urinary complaints, and orally and topically for arthritis.*

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Southern Mountainmint

Pycnanthemum pycnanthemoides

Description: This flowering perennial can grow up to 3 - 5 ft. with a pale pink, purple, white or white mottled with purple flowers. The opposite leaves are 1.5 cm wide and 4.5 cm long with the upper leaves have a whitish cast to them. The leaves have the characteristic slight mint scent similar to other *Pycnanthemum* species.
Southern Mountainmint has a fibrous root system and produces new plants mainly by seed.

Cultivation: Southern Mountainmint prefers growing in full sun to part shade and medium to dry soils in Zones 4 to 9.
In the wild, Southern Mountainmint grows in dry, open woods, fields, and thickets, meadows, and roadsides.

Companion Native Plants: American Beakgrass, Silky Wild Rye, Lyre-leaved Sage

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Southern Mountain-Mint is a good pollinator plant for bees and butterflies, and its seeds are collected by birds throughout the late Fall and into early Winter.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Most likely very similar to its close relative Hoary Mountain Mint (*Pycanthemum incanum*), whose leaves can be used dry or fresh to make a mint tea. The tea is also used to induce perspiration and reduce flatulence.*

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Stiff Goldenrod

Oligoneuron rigidum

Description: Stiff Goldenrod is a perennial flowering species that can grow to 2 - 5 feet tall with a flat, tight clusters of yellow flowers. The rough, pubescent leaves are around 10" long near the base and decrease in size as they near the top of the plant. The stem is also covered by light, stiff hairs, giving it a rough texture.
Stiff Goldenrod has deep fibrous roots that can increase the size of a clump over time, but it mostly spreads by seed.

Cultivation: Stiff Goldenrod prefers full sun and moist to slightly dry soils.
In the wild, Stiff Goldenrod grows in prairies, savannas, thickets, old fields, and roadsides.

Companion Native Plants: Butterflyweed, Sideoats Grama, Little Bluestem, Purple Coneflower

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Stiff Goldenrod is a good pollinator plant for bees and butterflies, especially long tongued bees and Monarchs. It also attracts wasps, flies, and beetles. Some birds occasionally consume its seeds. Mammals also occasionally browse on its early foliage.

Edible/Medicinal Value: The leaves, blossoms and roots of Stiff Goldenrod all have been used to treat various ailments. The leaves and blossoms in particular have been used as an antiseptic and astringent. The flowers can be ground into a lotion and used to treat bee stings.*

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Swamp Milkweed

Asclepias incarnata

Description: Swamp Milkweed is a perennial, native wildflower that can grow 2-6 feet tall, with a 2-3 feet spread. The fragrant, pink to rose-purple, ¼ inch flowers are held in rounded clusters at the ends of branched stems. The blooming period begins in summer and lasts for about 1 month. The fertilized flowers produce attractive seed pods which split open when mature and allow the seeds, aided by feathery tufts of hairs, to be carried away by the wind.
The opposite leaves of Swamp Milkweed are lanced-shaped and up to 6 inches long and 1 ½ inches wide. It has a deep taproot which makes it difficult to transplant once established. The leaves, stems, and sap of Swamp Milkweed are toxic. *

Cultivation: Swamp Milkweed grows in medium to wet soils in full to part sun, but is tolerant of average, well-drained, garden soil. Both clay soil and temporary flooding are also tolerated, but Swamp Milkweed does not like hot, dry conditions. This plant can be slow to emerge in the spring. It has no serious pest or disease problems, and Swamp Milkweed is not eaten by mammalian herbivores because of the bitterness and toxicity of the leaves. In the wild, Swamp Milkweed is found in high quality as well as degraded habitats: partially shaded floodplain forests, swamps, thickets, moist prairies, marshes and other areas near water.

Companion Native Plants: Marsh Blazingstar, Blue Vervain, Sallow Sedge, Spotted Joe-Pye Weed

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Bees, wasps, flower flies, butterflies, skippers, and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds all seek nectar from Swamp Milkweed. It is another host plant for Monarch Butterfly caterpillars and several other insects.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Has been used in the past for a purge and to treat worms. All plant parts are toxic. *

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Swamp Rose Mallow

Hibiscus moscheutos

Description: Swamp Rose Mallow is a perennial, showy, native wildflower that can grow 3-7 feet tall, with a 2-4 feet spread. Multiple stems from a single crown can give the plant a shrubby appearance and will produce terminal flowering stalks of white or pink flowers. The 4-6 inch, wide flowers have 5 petals, with (usually) a reddish purple throat at the base of where the petals connect. A tubular, whitish or yellowish, column of stamens protrudes from the base of the petals also. Individual flowers are short-lived, but several flowers bloom at a time and the blooming period, mid-summer to early fall, lasts about a month or more. A single leaf attends each flower on the stalk. The leaves are 3-8 inches long and 2-4 inches wide and gray-green in color. Oval seed capsules replace the fertile flowers in the fall. Swamp Rose Mallow can easily be grown from seed and will self-seed and produce colonies from rhizomes also. Clumps of Swamp Rose Mallow start to grow late in the season, but will grow quickly and flower over a long period of time. Japanese beetles and aphids can be a problem.

Cultivation: Swamp Rose Mallow will grow in average soil in full sun with wet to moist conditions. It tolerates wet soil, some light shade, but it does not like to dry out. Regular deep watering may be necessary during hot and dry spells. Swamp Rose Mallow will also benefit from good air circulation, and it can be grown in containers. This plant does not seem to be bothered by deer.
In the wild, Swamp Rose Mallow is found in floodplains, marshes, open swamps, low soggy areas along rivers and ponds.

Companion Native Plants: Swamp Milkweed, Sallow Sedge.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Swamp Rose Mallow's nectar attracts long-tongued bees, moths, and hummingbirds, and it is the host plant for several moth caterpillars. The Rose Mallow Bee is a specialized pollinator that gathers nectar and pollen from the Swamp Rose Mallow.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Swamp Rose Mallow was used by colonists for urinary and pulmonary ailments.*

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Tall Bellflower

Campanula americana

Description: Tall Bellflower is an annual to biennial flowering species that grows 3-4 feet tall with leafy stems lined with lavender-blue flowers. The five-petaled flowers are radially symmetrical singly or in clusters in axils of upper leaves, and form a spike like cluster at the top of the stem. Tall Bellflower blooms from June to August.
Like other biennial species, Tall Bellflower has a tap root and relies on seed production to maintain a population.

Cultivation: Tall Bellflower prefers part shade and moist soil conditions with loam or clay.
In the wild, Tall Bellflower is found along woodland paths and forest edges, and travels into the woodland understory.

Companion Native Plants: Downy Skullcap, Bottlebrush Grass, American Beakgrass, Wild Columbine

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Tall Bellflower is a valuable pollinator plant for hummingbirds and long tongued bees like the bumblebee, and butterflies. Deer occasionally browse the flowers and foliage.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Other *Campanula* species have edible or medicinal uses, but none were found for Tall Bellflower.*

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Trumpet Creeper

Campsis radicans

Description: Trumpet creeper is a woody vine producing large reddish orange flower that are present longer than any other native vine throughout the summer. In the wild, the vines can reach up to 50 feet into trees and can grow up to 4 inches in diameter. Leaves are opposite and compound with 7-13 toothed leaflets. Flowers, in clusters of 2-8, are trumpet shaped, and about 3 inches long, with 5 lobes at the opening. Flowers turn into pods that grow to 5 inches long. The pods contain many winged seeds that disperse over a large area.
Trumpet Creeper also can spread by new shoots from its woody taproot.

Cultivation: The vine will grow anywhere it can get enough light in any part of the Midwest, Hardy to Zone 4. Trumpet Creeper prefers to grow in partly sunny, well-drained sites, but it is tolerant of a wide variety of conditions. It is very aggressive and can also be seen creeping into fields in search of something to climb.
In the wild, Trumpet Creeper can be found in open woodlands, woodland edges, riparian areas, roadsides, old fields, thickets, etc.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Trumpet Creeper is especially valuable as a nectar source for hummingbirds, but is also a good nesting site for other birds due to its dense growth habit. While it can become a pest to humans if creating groundcover in fields, it provides cover for grouse and cottontails. Its foliage is toxic to mammals, so it is often left alone by deer. Some people develop a rash after touching its foliage.

Edible/Medicinal Value: The roots were used to induce perspiration and treat wounds.*

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Virginia Wild Rye

Elymus virginicus

Description: Virginia Wild Rye is a cool season, perennial, native, bunch grass that can grow to 2-4 feet tall with a 1-2 foot spread. It is considered a prairie grass, but it is also common to woodlands. In summer, the non-showy, greenish flowers bloom in spikelets on stiff, bristly, and densely-packed spikes at the terminal ends of culms, the hollow stems of the grass. The flower spikes gracefully nod and sway in the wind above the foliage. The leaves of Virginia Wild Rye are up to 12 inches long and up to 3/8 inch wide and can range in color from green, to bluish green, to silver blue. This plant will self-seed and spread by tillers or side shoots. The root system is fibrous.

Cultivation: Virginia Wild Rye will grow in full sun to part shade and will tolerate a variety of soils with moderate to moist conditions. It is seldom bothered by deer. It has no serious pest or disease problems.
In the wild, Virginia Wild Rye is found in river bottoms, bottomland forests, upland prairies, glades, stream banks, pastures, and disturbed areas.

Companion Native Plants: Illinois Bundleflower, Black-eyed Susan, Blue Sage.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Virginia Wild Rye attracts butterflies, and like most plants in the Grass Family it is an essential larval host for many Branded Skipper and Satyrs Butterflies. It provides seed and forage for birds and small animals and is important for wildlife habitat by providing denning and nesting materials.
Virginia Wild Rye is considered a superb plant for restoration and erosion control of hillsides and streambanks.

Edible/Medicinal Value: No information found.*

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Virgin's Bower

Clematis virginiana

Description: Virgin's Bower is a climbing herbaceous vine that can grow up to 20 ft. tall. Virgin's Bower has compound opposite leaves with 3-5 coarsely toothed leaflets. Flowers are quite attractive with 4 white petaloid sepals in occasional clusters along the stem and bloom in late Summer. The female flowers are replaced by attractive seed clusters with wispy, hairy styles. Virgin's Bower can readily reseed and spread that way, but it can also produce new shoots from root suckers.

Cultivation: Virgin's Bower prefers moist soil conditions in sun to part shade, but will also do well in slightly dry soils with considerable shade.
In the wild, Virgin's Bower grows in low moist woods and along river banks. The vine supports itself by twisting around shrubs and other vegetation and along fences.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Virgin's Bower is used by a variety of bees, wasps and files for nectar. It is also host plant for several moth species. The seed heads and foliage are also popular for nesting material for songbirds. The foliage is toxic to mammals and so is not browsed.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Virgin's Bower is a hallucinogen and has been used by different Native American groups for inducing strange dreams, for backache, stomach trouble, nerves, kidney trouble and venereal disease sores. However, all parts of the plants are poisonous, and these practices should not be attempted at home.*

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White Vervain

Verbena urticifolia

Description: White Vervain is an annual, biennial, or short-lived, perennial, native wildflower that can grow 1 ½ - 6 feet tall, with a spread of 1-3 feet. The tiny white flowers are sparsely arranged along the branches of a panicle of loosely spreading spikes. The panicles can be 2 feet long and 12 inches wide. Blooming period is from midsummer to early fall, with only a few of the 1/8 inch wide flowers opening at a time. Blooming will continue for 1-1 ½ months. The medium to dark green leaves are opposite, oval, and coarsely toothed. White Vervain will self-seed and spread by short rhizomes.

Cultivation: White Vervain prefers to grow in full to part sun in moist to slightly-dry, rich soils. It is rarely eaten by mammalian herbivores.
In the wild, White Vervain is found in disturbed woodlands and edges, thickets, along streams, and abandoned fields. It is most often associated with areas of disturbance.

Companion Native Plants: Spotted Joe-Pye Weed, Maryland Senna, White Vervain.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: The nectar and pollen of White Vervain attracts many native bees, wasps, and butterflies. It is a host plant for Verbena Moth caterpillars and several other insects. The seeds of White Vervain are eaten by songbirds.

Edible/Medicinal Value: White Vervain has a long history in folk medicine of being used medicinally, and spiritually. Its roots were prepared different ways to treat the flu, help with women's health, promote general health, among others.*

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Wild Bergamot

Monarda fistulosa

Description: Wild Bergamot is a clump-forming, perennial, native wildflower that grows 2 ½-4 feet tall with a spread of 2-3 feet. The 1 inch, irregular, lavender to pink flowers are held in clusters in dense, 3 inch wide heads on erect stems. Blooming starts in mid-summer beginning with the center flowers first and gradually moving to the outside. The blooming period will last a month or more.
The leaves of Wild Bergamot are opposite and have a scent like the herb oregano. The deep root system is strongly branched with shallow rhizomes, which send up multiple stems that give the plant a bushy appearance. Its rhizomes are not bothered by transplanting disturbances, and Wild Bergamot does not spread aggressively.

Cultivation: Wild Bergamot prefers full to part sun and will thrive in a wide range of soils, including dry, clay, or rocky, with dry to moderate, well-drained moisture conditions. Dead - heading of spent flowers will prolong blooming and will prevent self-seeding. Flowers and stems of Wild Bergamot can be dried for arranging.
In the wild, Wild Bergamot is found in prairies, savannas, woodland edges, thickets, and pastures. It is not bothered by mammalian herbivores, and has some resistance to powdery mildew and rust, but good air circulation can help.

Companion Native Plants: Black-eyed Susan, Compass Plant, Prairie Dock.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: The nectar of Wild Bergamot attracts bees, butterflies, skippers, moths, and hummingbirds. Some bees collect the pollen also. Wild Bergamot is the host plant for several moth caterpillars.

Edible/Medicinal Value: For many centuries, Wild Bergamot has been used topically and internally to treat many ailments. The leaves can also be consumed fresh, cooked, or dried in salads or other dishes and to create a mint tea.*

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Wild Ginger

Asarum canadense

Description: Wild Ginger is a low growing plant (4-8 inches high) with a unique looking purple-brown 3-lobed flower that grows at the base of the leaves. There are two hand-sized, heart shaped leaves. The root has a distinctive smell and taste of ginger. The blooms will appear around April.
Wild Ginger populations increase in size mostly through its rhizomes.

Cultivation: Wild Ginger prefers growing in part shade with moist to slightly dry soil conditions in Zones 3 - 7. It grows on moist woodland floors in Eastern North America. It can form a loose to crowded groundcover on the forest floor as it forms colonies.

Companion Native Plants: Smooth Rock Cress, Tall Bellflower, Downy Skullcap, Lyre-leaved Sage

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Wild Ginger's flowers attracts several types of flies and beetles. Ants will collect the ripened seed and take it underground where it is likely to develop into a new plant. The foliage is toxic and not browsed by mammals.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Native Americans and Early European Immigrants used Wild Ginger as a poultice on wounds. Studies have confirmed that the plant does have two antibiotic compounds. It can be used as a substitute for commercial ginger if cooked with sugar.*

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Wingstem

Verbesina alternifolia

Description: Wingstem, sometimes called Yellow Ironweed, is a herbaceous perennial wildflower that can grow 2-8 ft. tall with a 2-6 ft. spread. It gets its common name from the protrusions on the stems that look like wings. Wingstem has alternate, toothed leaves and a panicle of yellow flowerheads that bloom in late summer. The flowerheads have many yellow disk florets in the center as well as 2 to 10 yellow ray florets on the outside.
Wingstem readily reseeds and has long rhizomes that can create large colonies over time.

Cultivation: Wingstem prefers full sun to light shade and medium soil moisture conditions. It prefers to be grown in rich, fertile soils. Wingstem can be affected by drought by shedding its lower leaves. Powdery Mildew can also affect stressed plants.
In the wild, Wingstem is found in wet prairies, meadows, woodland openings/borders, floodplain forests, riparian areas, and wet disturbed areas.

Companion Native Plants: Sweetscented Joe Pye Weed, Silky Wild Rye, Hairy Woodmint

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Wingstem is primarily visited by long-tongued bees, but short-tongued bees, butterflies, and skippers will visit as well. Several caterpillars and moths feed on its foliage. Wingstem has bitter leaves, making it unpalatable to herbivorous mammals.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Wingstem may have been used as an antibacterial and for other purposes, but the records are not conclusive. However, other *Verbesina* species, like *V. virginica*, were used by Native Americans for a number of medicinal and ceremonial purposes.*

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Woolly Pipevine

Aristolochia tomentosa

Description: Woolly Pipevine, also called Dutchman's Pipe is a perennial, woody, native, twining vine that can grow to 20-30 feet long, with a spread of 5-10 feet. Its 1-2 inch, yellowish-green flowers, that resemble a Dutchman's pipe, bloom from mid to late spring.
The large, 4-8 inch, heart-shaped, dark green, deciduous leaves are alternate and overlap each other on the vine. The leaves, flowers, and young stems of this plant are covered with soft hairs. Fertilized flowers turn into 3 inch long, egg-shaped, tubular seed capsules which turn a grayish brown by fall. Woolly Pipevine can be an effective shade screen. It self-seeds and spreads by stolons (runners), and can be a rapid grower.

Cultivation: Woolly Pipevine is easily grown in average soil, in sun to part shade, with well-drained moderate moisture conditions. It does not like dry soils; added organic matter can help maintain soil moisture. Some watering may be necessary, especially in sunny locations. A vertical structure, such as a tree or trellis is needed to support the twining stems and large foliage. Prune the vine in winter to control growth and mulch the roots for winter protection.
In the wild, it is found in moist, rich woods and along streams. Woolly Pipevine has no serious pest or disease problems.

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Woolly Pipevine attracts bees, butterflies, birds, and pollinating flies and provides a habitat for beneficial insects. It is one of two host plants for the Pipevine Swallowtail Butterfly caterpillar.

Edible/Medicinal Value: In the past Woolly Pipevine has been used to treat pain and infections.*

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Yarrow

Achillea millefolium

Description: Yarrow is a perennial wildflower can grow to 3 feet tall. Leaves are finely divided, alternate up the stem, and are 3-5 inches long. Flowers can be white, pink or yellow with 4-6 rays that are 3 toothed arranged in large compound flowering heads. Yarrow will bloom from early to mid Summer.

Yarrow reproduces by rhizomes and by seeds and can form large patches.

Cultivation: Yarrow prefers growing in part to full sun and wet to dry soils and can tolerate clayey soils.

In the wild, Yarrow grows in prairies, old fields, hedgerows, and other disturbed areas.

Companion Native Plants: Butterflyweed, Blackeyed Susan, Sideoats Grama, Little Bluestem

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Yarrow is a highly attractive plant to native bees and to predatory insects and other animals that eat common insect pests. They require pollination from insects in order to reproduce and are often used by small sweat bees, small carpenter bees, leafcutter bees, mining bees, and cuckoo bees.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Yarrow has been used to break a fever by increasing perspiration and as a poultice for rashes. Native Americans created teas to cure stomach disorders. The leaves can also be consumed cooked or raw or brewed in teas. The leaves were also used as a hops substitute for beer.*

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Yellow Giant Hyssop

Agastache nepetoides

Description: Yellow Giant Hyssop is a perennial wildflower that grows 4-7 feet tall, developing pale green-yellow flowers 1/3 inches long in a whorled dense spike at the top of the plant. The flowering spike is about 4-16 inches tall and blooms in mid-summer to fall. Leaves are opposite and coarsely toothed in a long edged shape. The stem is 4 angled and strongly winged.
Yellow Giant Hyssop produces both by seed and through rhizomes.

Cultivation: Yellow Giant Hyssop prefers to grow in light shade to partial sun in mesic to medium soils in Zones 2-8.
In the wild, Yellow Giant Hyssop grows in thickets, meadows, woodlands, or forest edges. It often forms clonal colonies that can easily fill an area.

Companion Native Plants: Cutleaf Coneflower, Virginia Wildrye, Northern Sea Oats, Wingstem

Environmental/Wildlife Value: Yellow Giant Hyssop attracts bees, bee flies, and a variety of butterflies. Parasitic wasps, spiders and other predatory insects are also attracted to the plant. Deer avoid Yellow Giant Hyssop because of its bitter foliage.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Other *Agastache* species have edible or medicinal uses, but none were found for Yellow Giant Hyssop.*

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Yellow Coneflower

Ratibida pinnata

Description: Yellow Coneflower is an herbaceous perennial plant that can reach a height of 3 to 5 ft tall. The stems are long and slender with ridges and alternating leaves. These leaves can grow to 8 inches long and 5 inches across. The leaves on the upper stems are not as lobed and are much smaller. The upper stems also produce a composite flowerhead with up to 13 drooping yellow petals. The yellow petals contrast to thee pale green/gray color of the cone in the center, which later becomes dark brown.

Yellow Coneflowers increase in population via rhizomes and seed production.

Cultivation: Yellow Coneflowers prefer to be planted in fertile loam or clay loam. They prefer mesic conditions and full sun but will tolerate part shade and dry conditions.

In the wild, Yellow Coneflower can be found in prairies, tickets, woodland edges, glades, and right of ways.

Companion Native Plants: Sideoats Grama, Little Bluestem, Butterflyweed, Purple Coneflower

Environmental/Wildlife Value: The pollen and nectar attract primarily bees, but small butterflies, wasps, beetles, and flies. Several caterpillars feed on Yellow Coneflower. The seeds are occasionally consumed by Goldfinches, and the leaves are occasionally browsed by mammals.

Edible/Medicinal Value: Other *Ratibida* species have edible or medicinal uses, but none were found for Yellow Coneflower.*

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For more information on native plants and native landscaping, check out these links:

- Indiana Native Plant Society (INPS) - https://indiananativeplants.org/
- Indiana Grow Native Program— https://growindiananatives.org/
- Illinois Wildflowers— https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/
- Missouri Botanical Garden Plant Finder— http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfindersearch.aspx
- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Native Plant Finder—https://www.wildflower.org/plants/

Knox County CISMA is proud to be an Invasive-Free Grow Indiana Natives Member.