Amorpha canescens Lead Plant



Sun:Height:Full, Partial3 feetBloom Time:Soil:

Jun - Aug Med, Med-Dry, Dry

Description: Lead Plant is one of the larval hosts of the Dog Face Sulphur, also known as Southern Dogface. It will also attract abundant bees, butterflies, moths, beetles and other beneficial insects. It is generally deerresistant once established, but rabbits, deer, and other grazing animals may browse on it during its establishment years, so it may need extra protection early on.

Asclepias sullivantii Prairie Milkweed



Sun:Height:Full3 feetBloom Time:Soil:Jun - AugMed-Wet, Wet

Description: Prairie Milkweed appears generally similar to Common Milkweed but is less aggressive, has slightly smaller flowers, and an overall smooth appearance on the stem, leaves and seed pods. Visited by hummingbirds and a wide variety of bees and butterflies (including, of course, Monarchs, who use the plant as a larval host), Prairie Milkweed is one of the plants favored by the larvae of the Milkweed Leaf-Miner fly, which bore holes in the leaves.

Baptisia australis Blue Wild Indigo



Sun:Height:Full, Partial4 feetBloom Time:Soil:May - JulyMed-Wet, Wet

Description: Like most of its genus, Baptisia australis spends its first few years developing mostly below ground. The branching foliage and blossoms become showier and more developed with each subsequent growing season. For potted seedlings, this means they may have shorter, possibly floppy stems for the first couple of years before taking on a shrubbier appearance.

Baptisia leucophaea Cream Wild Indigo



Sun:Height:Full, Partial2 feetBloom Time:Soil:

May - June Med, Med-Dry, Dry

Description: The Cream Wild Indigo is among the earliest prairie species to bloom. The cream to light yellow flowers are very showy and will turn into inconspicuous light green seed pods (see images) which then turn to blueblack in the fall. The attractive green-gray leaves have small white hairs and will turn almost black after a frost. Both the seed pods and the foliage will provide interest throughout the seasons. Cream Indigo thrives in well-drained soil in full sun or partial shade. The flowers of Cream Indigo are essential for queen bumblebees as they are one of the first to come out of hibernation in the spring.

Carex sprengelii Long-Beaked Sedge



Sun:Height:Partial, Shade2 feetBloom Time:Soil:

May - Jul Med-Wet, Med, Med-Dry

Description: Carex sprengelii is native to most of the northern half of the United States. This sedge can typically be found in the wild in rocky soil, but it can thrive in average soils and tolerate some drought, but soils on the moist side are preferred. Plant in the shade or partial shade to ensure it thrives. This is a great sedge for landscaping with a very ornamental seed head and clump-forming nature.

Ceanothus americanus New Jersey Tea

June - Aug



Sun:Height:Full, Partial3 feetBloom Time:Soil:

Description: A deciduous shrub that grows just 3' tall and is compact and rounded by nature. The dried leaves of New Jersey Tea make a flavorful tea that was popular during the Revolutionary War. Deep tree-like roots of this shrub make it drought-tolerant but difficult to move once established so choose your spot wisely. Light preference is full or part sun and medium-dry soil. Deer and rabbits do like this shrub, especially when it is young so protect new transplants in the early years.

Med, Med-Dry, Dry

Chasmanthium latifolium River Oats



Sun:
Partial
Bloom Time:
Jul - Sep

Height: 3 feet Soil:

Med-Wet, Med

Description: River Oats is a very ornamental grass that is easily identifiable from its drooping inflorescences and compressed spikelets. It is commonly used as a low-maintenance shade grass or used to prevent soil erosion. It readily self-seeds and can become a dense mat in a short amount of time. If River Oats become too aggressive, they are easily transplanted or removed. River Oats thrive in moist sand, loam, and clay.

Dalea candida White Prairie Clover



Sun:Height:Full, Partial2 feetBloom Time:Soil:Jun - SepMed, Med-Dry, Dry

Description: White Prairie Clover, often grows in patches of 8-10 plants and can get up to three feet tall. Bright, white flowers start growing at the base of a cylindrical cone, and continue to wrap upwards as the season progresses. This perennial thrives in full or partial sun and drier soils. White Prairie Clover's blooming season is June through September.

Dodecatheon meadia Midland Shooting Star



Sun:Height:Full, Partial12 inchesBloom Time:Soil:Apr - JunMed-Wet, Med, Med-

Description: The early spring plants tend to get the most attention because we so need to see flowers at that time of year. Shooting Stars deserve the acclaim. They are true spring ephemeral of the prairie; they are completely done with their season and go dormant by mid summer. They have beautiful mahogany colored seed pods that are often not noticed because other tall species have over-topped them by that time.

Echinacea pallida Pale Purple Coneflower



Sun:

Full, Partial

Bloom Time:

Jun - Jul

Height:

3 feet

Soil:

Med, Med-Dry, Dry

Description: Pale Purple Coneflower should be planted in well-drained soil in full to partial sunlight. Most native Coneflowers dislike soil that is kept excessively moist or has poor drainage and they will start to rot in these situations. Once the taproot is established it is extremely drought-tolerant and needs little care, but then also may be difficult to move. In the past all of the Purple Coneflowers were used as medicinal plants by the Native Americans.

Gentiana andrewsii Bottle Gentian



Sun:

Full, Partial

Bloom Time:

Aug - Oct

Height:

2 feet

Soil:

Med-Wet, Med

Description: Bottle Gentian are slow-growing but long-lived and require little care once established. Bumblebees are the main pollinators because they are the only insects strong enough to pry open the closed flowers. Bottle Gentian may wait until September or October to lend late-season color to mostly sunny sites in medium-wet to medium-dry soils. It is a great companion with other late bloomers.

Geranium maculatum Wild Geranium



Sun:

Full, Partial, Shade

Bloom Time:

Apr - Jul

Height:

12 inches

Soil:

Med, Med-Dry

Description: Wild Geranium is one species that you just can't pass up. Native to much of eastern North America, it never disappoints. It has lovely dissected leaves, beautiful pinkish-purple flowers, and it readily spreads, forming stunning patches that everything from bees to butterflies can't resist.

Geum triflorum Prairie Smoke



Sun:
Full, Partial
Bloom Time:
Apr - Jun

Height: 8 inches Soil:

Med-Wet, Med, Med-Dry

Description: The silky, flowing styles of the fruiting stage of Prairie Smoke never fail to win admirers at first sight. When setting seed, large stands of the plant create a gauzy effect that resembles smoke hovering close to the ground. Blooming in spring to early summer, Prairie Smoke will spread slowly from its roots in well-drained, dry to wet-mesic soils. It prefers full to partial sun and has a native range from the northern tier of the US through most of Canada.

*Iris virginica*Southern Blue Flag Iris



Sun:Height:Full, Partial3 feetBloom Time:Soil:

May - Jul Wet, Med-Wet, Med **Description:** Southern Blue Flag Iris, usually grows in large patches that

expand outward from rhizomes. It is 2'-3' high with the leaves on the flower stem growing slightly taller than the flower. Bloom time is from late spring to early summer. The bloom color is somewhat variable, but is most often a medium to pale blue violet.

Liatris ligulistylis Meadow Blazing Star



Sun:Height:Full, Partial5 feetBloom Time:Soil:Aug - SepMed-Wet, Med, Med-Dry

Description: The ultimate Monarch butterfly magnet! Seriously - plant it and they will come. The beautiful purple blossoms of this Liatris should be your first choice for attracting Monarch and other butterflies to sunny, medium-soil sites in late summer. It's not uncommon to see dozens of Monarchs nectaring on a stand of Meadow Blazing Star. It blooms primarily in August, just when the Monarchs are preparing for their long migration south; a synchronization that has evolved over hundreds of years, and a good example of how native plants and pollinators are deeply dependent on one another.

Lobelia siphilitica Great Blue Lobelia



Sun:

Full, Partial

Bloom Time:

Jul - Oct

Height:

3 feet

Soil:

Wet, Med-Wet, Med

Description: Great Blue Lobeliaoffers a deep-hued counterpoint to the yellows of late summer. This colony-forming, short-lived perennial grows well in medium to wet soils, especially with a little shade. In its native range, Great Blue Lobelia can be found in wet prairies, soggy meadows, pond and creek edges, marshland borders, and other moist areas.

Lupinus perennis Sundial Lupine



Sun:

Full, Partial

Bloom Time:

May - Jul

Height:

2 feet

Soil:

Med-Dry, Dry

Description: Sundial Lupine blooms profusely in racemes with pea-like blue & purple flowers. Palm-shaped leaves surround the plant as an added attraction, making it a popular choice for gardens or restorations with dry, sandy soils. Lupine requires well-drained soils but will adapt to most dry soil types; sand. loam, and gravel. You can find lupine in oak savannas, sand prairies, and pine barrens plant communities. Lupine foliage can look a little worn by the end of summer, so plan for late summer and fall bloomers nearby in the garden.

Schizachyrium scoparium
Little Bluestem



Sun:

Full, Partial

Bloom Time:

Jul - Oct

Height:

3 feet Soil:

Med, Med-Dry, Dry

Description: One of the most widely distributed species of grass in the US, Little Bluestem is very drought-tolerant, but it can do well in moist situations too. In a garden setting, Little Bluestem is valued for its blue-green color in the summer and, after the first frost, it turns beautiful shades of brown, copper, and crimson that will remain all winter. The grass gets fluffy white seed heads that also adds seasonal interest.

Silphium perfoliatum Cup Plant



Sun:Height:Full, Partial6 feetBloom Time:Soil:

Jul - Sep Med-Wet, Med

Description: Standing tall at around six feet (more in wetter soils, less in drier soils), Cup Plant's yellow blossoms can be seen starting in July when the butterflies visit them, and then later when the birds begin to feed on its seeds. Throughout the growing season, the water held in the leaf cups attract birds and other critters looking for a drink. Cup Plant establishes well in average garden soil or in heavier, wetter soils.

Solidago speciosa Showy Goldenrod



Sun:Height:Partial, Shade3 feetBloom Time:Soil:

Aug - Oct Soil:

Med-W

- Oct Med-Wet, Med, Med-Dry

Description: Showy Goldenrod tends to bloom a little later than most Goldenrods. It is indeed one of the showiest of the genus with a feathery plume comprised of a dense clump of pale yellow to deep yellow flowers atop an attractive red stem. This Goldenrod is not aggressive like some in the genus. Solidago speciosa has a fibrous root system, not a rhizomatous one like Canada Goldenrod. It will spread slowly to form clumps but will not overwhelm small areas.

Solidago flexicaulis Zig-Zag Goldenrod



Sep - Nov

Sun:Height:Full, Partial5 feetBloom Time:Soil:

Description: Zig Zag Goldenrod gets its name from the way that its stems "zig zag" from leaf to leaf. These leaves are bluntly toothed all along the stem with the middle leaves usually the largest at 6" long and 4" wide. The small flowers appear from late summer to early fall in a cluster near the top of the plant. Zig Zag Goldenrod can be aggressive and therefore may not be suitable for small woodland gardens.

Med, Med-Dry, Dry

Symphyotrichum oolentangienseSky Blue Aster



Sun: Full, Partial Bloom Time: Aug - Oct Height: 3 feet Soil:

Med, Med-Dry, Dry

Description: Sky Blue Aster has blue to blue-violet flowers. It is easy to grow and is drought tolerant. Blooming late summer to fall, like most Asters, it attracts butterflies and other beneficial insects such as small bees, flies, small to medium-sized butterflies, skippers, and wasps.

Zizia aurea Golden Alexanders



Sun:Height:Full, Partial3 feetBloom Time:Soil:Apr - JunMed-Weight:

Med-Wet, Med, Med-Dry

Description: Golden Alexanders is one of those natives that every garden should have. It is fairly easy to grow and, although short-lived, will self-seed and persist in many sun/soil situations. Zizia is an important plant to a number of short-tongued insects that are able to easily reach the nectar in the small yellow flowers. Black Swallowtail and Ozark Swallowtails caterpillars will feed on its leaves.