

Native Yarrow

Achillea millefolium

- Soil: Any!
- Sun: Part Sun, Part Shade
- Bloom time: Summer
- Height: 12-18 inches

Garden uses and companion plants:

Purple coneflower, smooth blue aster, butterfly weed, zigzag goldenrod, prairie smoke, pasque flower, wild strawberry, June grass

Pasque Flower

Anemone patens

- Soil: Dry – Loess Hills Native
- Sun: Full
- Bloom time: early Spring (April, May)
- Height: 6 inches

Garden uses and companion plants:

Rock gardens, dry prairie gardens – mix with low growing flowers and grasses, Prairie Smoke, Yarrow, June Grass – shares a garden well with Purple coneflower, butterfly weed and little blue stem

Wild Columbine

Aquilegia Canadensis

- Soil: Avg to Dry – Loess Hills Native
- Sun: Full to Part Shade
- Bloom time: Spring (June, July)
- Height: 1-2 feet

Garden uses and companion plants:

Shade gardens or Full Sun – pasque flower, zigzag goldenrod, smooth blue aster, little bluestem

Swamp/Rose/Marsh Milkweed

Asclepias Incarnata

- Soil: Moist to Wet
- Sun: Full to Part Sun
- Bloom time: Summer (June, July, Aug)
- Height: 3-5 feet

Garden uses and companion plants:

Main attraction or small groupings in rain gardens, along ponds or near the down spout! Plant it with blue lobelia and other tall wild flowers.

Prairie Milkweed

Asclepias sullivanti

- Soil: Wet to medium wet
- Sun: Full Sun
- Bloom time: Summer
- Height: 3 feet, less aggressive than Common Milkweed

Garden uses and companion plants: purple coneflower, rose milkweed, little bluestem, prairie dropseed

Butterfly Weed

Asclepias tuberosa

- Soil: Dry to Medium – Loess Hills Native
- Sun: Full
- Bloom time: Summer (June, July, Aug)
- Height: 2-3 feet

Garden uses and companion plants:

Main attraction or small groupings, dry gardens – mix with short prairie grasses, including prairie dropseed or little bluestem. Purple coneflower, black eyed susan, Monarda species

Blue Wild Indigo

Baptisia australis

- Soil: Moist
- Sun: Full to Part
- Bloom time: Late Spring – takes a few growing seasons to bloom
- Height: 4 feet

Garden uses and companion plants: purple coneflower, little bluestem, butterfly weed, smooth blue aster, prairie dropseed

Tall Bellflower

Campanula americana

- Soil: Dry to medium/moist
- Sun: Part to full shade
- Bloom time: Fall
- Height: 5 feet

Garden uses and companion plants: shade gardens, woodland edge, wild columbine, zigzag goldenrod and phlox

Wild Senna

Cassia or senna hebecarpa

- Soil: Avg to Moist
- Sun: Full to Part
- Bloom time: Summer (July)
- Height: 3-5 feet

Garden uses and companion plants:

Can be a little aggressive, Great in bee gardens where it will attract a wide variety of pollinators, especially bees!

Coneflower, butterfly weed, prairie dropseed, smooth blue aster

Prairie/stiff Coreopsis

Coreopsis palmata

- Soil: Medium to Dry
- Sun: Full to Part
- Bloom time: June, July, Aug
- Height: 2 feet
- Color: Yellow

Garden uses and companion plants:

Use in bigger areas as it will spread by rhizomes to form a patch.

Attracts many pollinators, and beekeepers consider it a good honey source.

Little bluestem, butterfly weed, prairie dropseed, smooth blue aster

Pale Purple Coneflower

Echinacea pallida

- Soil: Dry to Medium – Loess hills native
- Sun: Full
- Bloom time: Early Summer (May, June, July)
- Height: 3-5 feet

Garden uses and companion plants

Butterfly gardens, informal borders, mix with wild quinine and prairie grasses

Purple Coneflower

Echinacea purpurea

- Soil: Avg to Dry, drought tolerant
- Sun: Full to part
- Bloom time: Mid to late summer
- Height: 3-4 feet
- Color: Purple
- Deer palatability: medium

Garden uses and companion plants

Little bluestem, prairie dropseed, black eyed susan, butterfly weed

Excellent in almost any garden!

Canada Wild Rye

Elymus canadensis

- Soil: Dry, medium, wet
- Sun: Full, part
- Bloom time: cool season grass
- Height: 5 feet

Garden uses and companion plants:

Purple coneflower, butterfly weed, little bluestem, smooth blue aster

Purple Love Grass

Eragrostis spectabilis

- Soil: Dry
- Sun: Full, part
- Bloom time: warm season grass
- Height: 2 feet

Garden uses and companion plants: little bluestem, butterfly weed, coreopsis, smooth blue aster and prairie dropseed

Wild Strawberry

Fragaria virginiana

Soil: Dry, wet, medium Sun: Full, part
Bloom time: Spring Height: 6 in, spreader

Garden uses and companion plants: wild columbine, prairie dropseed zigzag goldenrod, little bluestem

Prairie alumroot

Heuchera richardsonii

- Soil: Avg to Dry
- Sun: Part Sun, Part Shade
- Bloom time: Summer (June, July, Aug)
- Height: 2-3ft

Garden uses and companion plants:

Phlox, Pennsylvania sedge, heart-leaved golden alexander

Woodland gardens, plant in masses as a groundcover or decorative accent

Prairie Smoke

Geum Triflorum

Soil: Dry to Medium – IA native Sun: Full
Bloom time: Spring (May, June) Height: 1 ft

Garden uses and companion plants:

Rock gardens, dry gardens. Plant in foreground between later blooming flowers and grasses, goes well with pussy toes, nodding wild onion and golden alexander

June Grass

Koeleria cristata

- Soil: Dry – Loess Hills Native
- Sun: Full
- Bloom time: Summer (May, June, July)
- Cool season grass
- Height: 2-3 feet

Garden uses and companion plants:

Rock gardens, dry gardens. Mix with low growing dry prairie flowers like Prairie Smoke or Purple Prairie clover

Meadow Blazing Star

Liatris ligulistylis

- Soil: medium to moist
- Sun: Full
- Bloom time: Aug, Sept
- Height: 3-5 ft
- Color: purple
- Deer palatability: Low

Garden uses and companion plants:

Butterfly weed, little bluestem, smooth blue aster

butterfly gardens, or any garden! Effective in masses! Mix with grasses and flowers to help minimize weed growth

Flowers emit a pheromone that specifically attract monarch butterflies

Prairie Blazing Star

Liatris pycnostachya

- Soil: medium to moist
- Sun: Full to part
- Bloom time: Summer
- Height: 4 ft

Garden uses and companion plants: butterfly weed, little bluestem, smooth blue aster

Cardinal Flower

Lobelia cardinalis

- Soil: Moist to Wet
- Sun: Full to part shade
- Bloom time: July-Sept
- Height: 2-5 ft
- Color: red
- Deer palatability: medium

Garden uses and companion plants:

Shorter life span, use in annual beds, hummingbird gardens

Pair with great blue lobelia, Rose Milkweed

Great Blue Lobelia

Lobelia siphilitica

- Soil: Moist to Wet
- Sun: Full sun to medium shade
- Bloom time: July-Sept
- Height: 1-4 ft
- Color: Blue
- Deer palatability: Low

Garden uses and companion plants:

Rain garden, near the downspout

Pair with swamp milkweed, cardinal flower

Wild Lupine

Lupinus perennis

- Soil: Dry
- Sun: Full to Part
- Bloom time: late Spring
- Height: 1-2 ft

Garden uses and companion plants:

Plant in butterfly gardens in small groupings in informal dry sand gardens, host plant to endangered Karner Blue Butterfly, plant with butterfly weed, prairie smoke, little bluestem
Seed pods can explode and propel seeds up to 33 feet!

Bradbury's Monarda

Monarda bradburiana

- Soil: Dry to medium
- Sun: Full to Part
- Bloom time: June, July
- Height: 1-2 ft
- Color: pink, purple
- Deer palatability: resistant

Garden uses and companion plants:

Shorter than other Monarda species, great for home garden in landscaping
Little bluestem, butterfly weed, pale purple coneflower, prairie dropseed

Foxglove Beardtongue

Penstemon digitalis

- Soil: Medium
- Sun: Full to Part
- Bloom time: Summer
- Height: 4 ft

Garden uses and companion plants: little bluestem, butterfly weed, pale purple coneflower, prairie dropseed, monarda

Prairie Phlox

Phlox pilosa

- Soil: Dry to Moist
- Sun: Full to Part
- Bloom time: Spring (May, June, July)
- Height: 1-2 ft

Garden uses and companion plants:

Mass plantings (will require weeding) ground cover, border edges, informal gardens

Mountain Mint

Pycnanthemum virginianum

- Soil: Medium to Moist
- Sun: Full to Part
- Bloom time: Summer
- Height: 3 ft
- Deer palatability: Low

Garden uses and companion plants:

butterfly weed, pale purple coneflower, little bluestem, monarda, prairie dropseed

Showy Black-eyed Susan

Rudbeckia fulgida speciosa

- Soil: Medium to Moist
- Sun: Full to Part
- Bloom time: June-Sept
- Height: 4 ft
- Color: yellow
- Deer palatability: Low

Garden uses and companion plants:

Specimens or mass for effect, butterfly gardens, informal gardens or woodland edges

Purple coneflower, butterfly weed, smooth

Wild Petunia

Ruellia humilis

- Soil: Dry to Medium
- Sun: Full to Part
- Bloom time: June, July, Aug, Sept
- Height: 1-2ft

Garden uses and companion plants:

Prairie smoke, shooting star

Hummingbird garden, informal garden, prairie garden in the foreground

Little Blue Stem

Schizachyrium scoparium

- Soil: Dry to Medium (warm season grass)
- Sun: Full to Part
- Bloom time: July - Oct
- Height: 3ft
- Color: green/blue; copper in fall/winter

Garden uses and companion plants:

Purple coneflower, butterfly weed, smooth blue aster

Zig Zag Goldenrod

Solidago flexicaulis

- Soil: Avg to Dry, drought tolerant
- Sun: Part sun to full shade
- Bloom time: Fall
- Height: 1-3 Ft

Garden uses and companion plants:

Shade garden, plant with asters and other woodland plants, wild columbine, wild strawberry, prairie phlox, tall bellflower

Prairie Dropseed

Sporobolus heterolepis

- Soil: Dry to Moist
- Sun: Full
- Bloom time: Late Summer (Aug, Sept)
- Height: 2-4 ft

Garden uses and companion plants:

Front borders, transition from garden to lawn, informal gardens, prairie meadows

Smooth Blue Aster

Symphyotrichum laeve

- Soil: Avg
- Sun: Full to Part
- Bloom time: Fall
- Height: 3-5 feet

Garden uses and companion plants: butterfly weed, purple coneflower, little bluestem, goldenrod and prairie dropseed

Heart-leafed Golden Alexander

Zizia aptera

- Soil: Medium to Moist
- Sun: Full to Part
- Bloom time: May, June, July
- Height: 1-2 ft

Garden uses and companion plants:

Prairie smoke, pussy toes, hyacinth, little blue stem, side oats gramma
Foreground areas, informal gardens, prairie meadows