

Wild Ones: Illinois Prairie Chapter 2022 Native Plant Sale Planning Guide

Within each section plants are sorted alphabetically by scientific name.

Forbs for Shade and Partial Shade

Common Name Scientific Name	Bloom Color	Bloom Season	Width & Height	Moisture	Soil Type	Notes from Branhagen & Others
Columbine <i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	yellow & red	spring	1' 1'-3'	dry - medium	loamy, rocky, sandy	Short lived perennial, readily self sows under optimal growing conditions, good choice for container planting. (p. 311)
Jack in the Pulpit <i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	maroon, white, green	spring	6"-1' 1'-2'	medium - moist	humus rich loam	An integral part of any woodland garden. (p. 389)
Wild Ginger <i>Asarum canadense</i>	red-not showy	spring	1' 6"-1'	medium - dry	loamy, moderate rocky tolerated	Leaves stay green all season with adequate moisture. The heart shaped leaves look like "living taffeta". (p. 367)
Sweet Joe Pye Weed <i>Eutrochium purpureum</i>	pink	late summer	1.5' 4'-6'	medium	loam	Partial sun is optimal. A butterfly magnet. (p. 322)
Wild Geranium <i>Geranium maculatum</i>	pink	spring	1' 1'	moist - slightly dry	humus rich loam	Tolerates full sun with adequate moisture; may go dormant in dry conditions. Excellent for naturalizing at the edge of a woodland garden. (p. 323)
Sharp-lobed Hepatica <i>Hepatica acutiloba</i>	white, pink, blue	early spring	6" 6"	medium	loamy, moderate rocky tolerated	One of the first flowers to bloom in spring. A good container plant for shade. (p. 310)
Wild Blue Phlox <i>Phlox divaricata</i>	blue-pink	spring	1' 1'-1.5'	medium	humus rich loam	Also known as Sweet William. Protect from rabbits until your planting gets established. (p. 332)
Jacob's Ladder <i>Polemonium reptans</i>	blue	late spring	1' 1'-1.5'	medium	humus rich loam	Grows well in full sun with adequate moisture, fern like leaves.
True Solomon's seal <i>Polygonatum biflorum</i>	white, not showy	late spring	1' 2'-3.5'	medium	humus rich loam	A classic woodland plant that is susceptible to deer browse. Very attractive in fall when leaves turn golden and contrast with the dark blue seed capsules. (p. 333)
Bloodroot <i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	white	early spring	1' 6"-1"	medium	humus rich loam	One of the first flowers to bloom in spring. An important source of pollen for native bees. (p. 399)
Prairie Trillium <i>Trillium recurvatum</i>	maroon	spring	1' 6"-1'	moist - slightly dry	loam or clay-loam	One of the easiest Trilliums to grow and a good candidate for naturalizing in a woodland garden. (p. 402)
Bellwort <i>Uvularia grandiflora</i>	yellow	mid-spring	1' 1'-2'	medium	loam	Susceptible to deer browsing. Established clumps can be divided in the fall. Stays green all season with adequate moisture. (p. 340)

Ferns and Sedges for Shade and Partial Shade

Maidenhair Fern <i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	n/a	n/a	1' 2'	medium wet - dry	loose, humus rich	Partial sun okay. Should be protected from wind
Marginal Wood Fern <i>Dryopteris marginalis</i>	n/a	n/a	1' 1'-2'	medium	rocky soil	Partial sun okay. Should be protected from wind
Christmas Fern <i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	n/a	n/a	1' 1.5'-2.5'	medium - dry	loam, rocky loam	Partial sun okay-stays green all year. Should be protected from wind
Pennsylvania Sedge <i>Carex pensylvanica</i>	n/a	n/a	6" 6"-1'	medium - dry	loam, rocky loam	Tolerates full sun with adequate moisture. Grows best in partial shade. A good candidate to replace turf grass in partial, moist shade. (p. 368)
Curly-styled Wood Sedge <i>Carex rosea</i>	n/a	n/a	1' 1'	medium wet - dry	loam, rocky loam	Partial sun okay. Good choice for dry shade.
Long Beaked Sedge <i>Carex sprengelli</i>	n/a	n/a	1' 2'	medium	loam, rocky loam	Partial sun okay

Forbs for Partial Sun and Full Sun

Common Name Scientific Name	Bloom Color	Bloom Season	Width & Height	Moisture	Soil Type	Notes from Branhagen & others
Willow Leaf Bluestar <i>Amsonia tabernaemontana</i>	light blue	late spring - early summer	3' 3'	medium - med. wet	loam, clay loam, rocky, sandy	A good source of nectar for bees and butterflies. (p. 309)
Swamp milkweed <i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	pink	summer	1.5-3' 4'	wet - moist	loam, clay loam	Attracts many pollinators in addition to the Monarch butterfly. A short-lived perennial, but easy to grow from seeds or cuttings. (p.345)
Prairie/Sullivant's Milkweed <i>Asclepias sullivantii</i>	pink	summer	1-2' 3'	medium wet - med.	loam	Prefers full sun. Similar in appearance to common milkweed, but leaves are smooth and flowers are larger with fewer in a cluster. (p. 256)
Butterfly Weed <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	orange	summer	1-3' 2'	medium - dry	sandy, rocky, loam is ok	Very tolerant of hot dry weather, an excellent choice for a traditional perennial border. (p. 256)
White Wild Indigo <i>Baptisia alba</i>	white	summer	2.5-3' 4'	medium wet - dry	loam, clay loam, rocky loam	Branhagen writes that the wild indigos are as long lived and just as striking as non-native peonies. (p.258)
Cream Wild Indigo <i>Baptisia leucophaea</i>	cream-light yellow	late spring	2-3' 2'	medium - dry	loam, sandy loam	
Harebell <i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	blue	summer	6-8" 1'	medium dry - med.	rocky, loam	Grows well in rocky soil and crevices.
Turtlehead <i>Chelone glabra</i>	cream, white	summer	2-3' 5'	wet - medium wet	loam	Grows best along a stream or pond, or in a traditional perennial border if there is adequate moisture. (p. 348)
Lance leaved coreopsis <i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	yellow	summer	1' 2'	medium dry - dry	sandy, rocky	Prefers full sun, dead head to prolong the blooming season. An excellent selection for a "hell strip" planting. (p. 263)
Prairie Coreopsis <i>Coreopsis palmata</i>	yellow	early summer	1' 2'	medium-dry	loam, sandy or rocky	Spreads by rhizomes but not aggressively. Good nectar plant for insects and song birds eat the seeds. (p.263)
Purple Prairie Clover <i>Dalea purpurea</i>	purple	summer	1.5-2' 2'	medium - dry	loam, clay, sand, gravel	A good candidate for a "hell strip" planting. (p. 265)
Shooting Star <i>Dodocatheon meadia</i>	purple, pink, white	spring	6'-1' 1'	medium wet - med. dry	loam, rocky loam	Will go dormant by mid-summer
Pale Purple Coneflower <i>Echinacae pallida</i>	pink	summer	1-1.5' 3'	medium - dry	loam, clay, rocky	Thrives on poor dry soil. (p. 266)
Purple Coneflower <i>Echinacae purpurea</i>	pink	summer - late summer	2' 4'	medium wet - med. dry	loam, rocky loam	Fairly short lived but readily re-seeds. The native variety supports many pollinators. However, many of the cultivars of this plant do not produce nectar. (p. 267)
Rattlesnake Master <i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	white	summer - late summer	2' 4'	medium wet - med. dry	loam, rocky or sandy loam	Supports an array of pollinators. Will self-sow on open ground and looks good in a mass planting. (p. 268)
Flowering spurge <i>Euphorbia corollate</i>	white	summer	1' 3'	medium - dry	loam, clay, rocky or sandy loam	The native version of Baby's Breath, it looks best in a naturalized planting. (p.269)
Joe Pye Weed <i>Eutrochium maculatum</i>	pink	summer	3-4' 5'	wet - medium wet	loam	Butterflies love this plant.
Queen of the Prairie <i>Filipendula rubra</i>	pink	summer	2' 5'	wet - medium wet	loam, some sand ok	Prefers full sun.
Cream Gentian <i>Gentiana flavida</i>	cream	late summer	1-2' 3'	medium wet - dry	loam	A perennial that can be used successfully in either a naturalized or more traditional landscape. (p. 269)
Bottle Gentian <i>Gentiana andrewsii</i>	blue	late summer - fall	1-2' 2'	medium wet - med.	loam	Best grown with other plants due to its sprawling growth habit. Stunning blue flowers. (p. 270)
Sneezeweed <i>Helenium autumnale</i>	yellow	late summer - fall	2' 4'	wet - medium wet	loam	Beautiful yellow flowers, does not cause sneezing.
False/Ox Eye Sunflower <i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	yellow	late summer - fall	2' 5'	medium wet - med. dry	loam	Impervious to heat and drought, a good source of nutrition for pollinators. Birds eat the seeds. (p. 273)

Rose Mallow <i>Hibiscus laevis</i>	pink	late summer	2.5' 5'	wet - medium wet	rich loam	The plant has tropical looking blooms and supports many insects. (p. 351)
Rough/Button Blazing Star <i>Liatis aspera</i>	purple	late summer - fall	1' 3'	medium - dry	loam, sandy or rocky loam	Drought tolerant.
Meadow Blazing Star <i>Liatis ligulistylis</i>	purple	late summer	1-2' 5'	medium wet – med. dry	loam	Branhagen encourages letting the plants go to seed, since some species are short lived and some plants will be lost to voles. All species of Blazing star produce an abundance of nectar and the seeds are eaten by birds and other animals. (p. 275)
Prairie Blazing Star <i>Liatis pycnostachya</i>	purple	late summer	1' 3'	medium - dry	rich loam, clay loam, rocky loam	
Michigan Lily <i>Lilium michiganense</i>	orange	summer	1-1.5' 5'	wet - medium	loamy soil, sandy loam	Since this plant is a favorite food for deer, the non-cultivated population is dwindling. Spectacular blooms are succeeded by a showy capsule in winter. (p. 396)
Cardinal Flower <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	red	summer	1' 4'	wet - moist	loam, sandy loam, rocky loam	A favorite source of nectar for hummingbirds. Good addition to a rain garden or planted alongside a stream or pond. (p. 353)
Great Blue Lobelia <i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	blue	late summer - fall	1' 3'	wet - medium	loam, sandy loam, rocky loam	A short-lived perennial that should be divided or allowed to self-seed to maintain the planting. (p. 354)
Pale Spiked Lobelia <i>Lobelia spicata</i>	purple	early summer	1' 2'	medium wet - med. dry	loam, sandy loam	This shorter species of Lobelia can be inter-planted with somewhat taller species like Echinacea. It will bloom under and around the taller blooms.
Wild Bergamot <i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	purple	summer	2-3' 4'	medium wet - dry	loam, sandy loam	Also known as “bee balm”, this plant attracts many pollinators and other insects.
Stiff Goldenrod <i>Oligoneuron rigidum</i>	yellow	late summer - fall	1-2' 4'	medium wet - dry	loam, clay loam, gravelly	A very high value wildlife plant that grows well on poor soil. May become leggy and self-seed aggressively in an open planting with rich soil. (p.280)
Wild Quinine <i>Parthenium integrifolium</i>	white	summer	1-2' 4'	medium wet – med. dry	loam, gravelly	Prefers full sun. Long lasting attractive white flowers darken to black and hold their shape in winter, adding structural interest to a planting. (p. 282)
Smooth/Foxglove Beardtongue <i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	white	summer	1-1.5' 4'	medium - dry	loam, gravelly	Easy to grow in any well drained garden soil. (p.282)
Hairy Beardtongue <i>Penstemon hirsutus</i>	Lavender	summer	1' 1.5'	medium wet - dry	loam, gravelly	One of the larval host plants of the Chaldeon Checkerspot, the Baltimore Checkerspot and Edith's Checkerspot.
Prairie/Downy Phlox <i>Phlox pilosa</i>	pink	late spring - early summer	1' 1-2'	dry - moist	loam, clay loam, sandy loam	Hummingbird favorite.
Obedient Plant <i>Physostegia virginia</i>	pink	late summer - fall	1-2' 4'	medium - wet	loam	A very showy plant, it will form a thicket and is best used in a naturalized planting. (p.284)
Jacob's Ladder <i>Polemonium reptans</i>	blue	spring	.5-1' 1'	medium wet - med. dry	loam	Attractive fern-like foliage.
Mountain Mint <i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	white	summer	1' 3'	wet - medium dry	loam, can contain clay, sand, gravel	A must have for the gardener who plants for ecological value as it nourishes many different insects. Easy to grow. (p. 285)
Yellow/Grey-headed Coneflower <i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	yellow	late summer - fall	2' 5'	medium - med. dry	loam, clay loam	Best used in a naturalized garden as the plant re-seeds assertively, but competition from larger plants helps keep it in check. (p. 287)
Black-eyed Susan <i>Rubeckia hirta</i>	yellow	summer - fall	1' 2'	not particular	not particular	Biennial or short-lived perennial, best used where they can self sow. (p. 422)
Sweet Black-eyed Susan <i>Rubeckia subtomentosa</i>	yellow	summer - fall	1' 2'	medium wet - med. dry	not particular	The showy yellow flowers are followed by attractive seed heads that persist through winter.
Wild Petunia <i>Ruellia humilis</i>	purple	summer	1' 1'	medium - dry	not particular	Self-seeds readily on open ground.
Mad-Dog Skullcap <i>Scutellaria lateriflora</i>	blue	summer	1' 2'	medium wet - wet	not particular	A member of the mint family, but not an aggressive plant.
Royal Catchfly <i>Silene regia</i>	red	summer	1-2' 4'	medium - med. dry	loam, clay loam, rocky loam	Easy to grow and long lived. (p. 289)

Firepink <i>Silene virginia</i>	red-pink	summer	1' 2'	medium dry - dry	sandy or rocky	A short-lived perennial that will self-seed under the right conditions, prefers not to mingle with other plants. (p. 334)
Blue-eyed grass <i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>	blue	summer	.5' .5'	medium wet - med. dry	rich loam	Tolerates light shade but flowers best in sun. Branhagen credits this plant for spurring his interest in native plants. (p. 292)
Showy Goldenrod <i>Solidago speciosa</i>	yellow	fall	2-3' 5'	medium - dry	loam, clay loam, rocky loam	A beautiful plant that does not spread by rhizomes or readily self-sow, therefore it is suitable for a traditional planting scheme.
New England Aster <i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>	purple or pink	fall	2-3' 5'	wet - medium dry	loam, loamy clay	Best used at the back of a border where shorter plants hide its gangly legs. The plant can be cut back by half in mid summer to produce a shorter, denser plant.
Aromatic Aster <i>Symphotrichum oblongifolium</i>	purple	late summer - fall	1-1.5' 2'	medium dry - dry	poor rocky soil, loam	Prefers full sun, the leaves are aromatic when touched.
Sky Blue Aster <i>Symphotrichum oolentangiense</i>	blue	late summer - fall	1-2' 3'	medium - dry	not particular	Best used in a naturalized planting due to its open and irregular shape. (p. 297)
Ohio Spiderwort <i>Tradescantia ohioensis</i>	blue	early - mid summer	1-1.5' 3'	medium wet - dry	not particular	Best used in a naturalized setting since the plants will self-sow on open ground. (p. 299)
Hoary Vervain <i>Verbena stricta</i>	blue	summer	1' 2'	medium dry - dry	gravelly loam	The larval host of the Common Buckeye Butterfly.
Culver's Root <i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	white	summer	1'-1.5' 3'-5'	medium	loam, some sand or clay is ok	A long-lived perennial that can be used successfully in either a naturalized or more traditional landscape. (p. 300)
Prairie Violet <i>Viola pedatifida</i>	purple	spring	.5' .5'	medium- med. dry	rich loam	The main host plant of the regal fritillary butterfly. (p. 300)
Golden Alexanders <i>Zizia aurea</i>	yellow	spring	1-2' 3'	medium wet -med. dry	loam, some gravel okay	An important source of food for native bees in spring. Readily self seeds on open ground. (p. 301)

Grasses and Sedges for Partial Sun to Full Sun

Pennsylvania Sedge <i>Carex pensylvanica</i>			8" 6-10"	medium - dry	sandy loam, loose loam	Tolerates full sun with adequate moisture. Grows best in partial shade. A good candidate to replace turf grass in partial, moist shade. (p. 368)
Purple Love Grass <i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>			1-2' 2'	dry	rocky or sandy	A tough grass that does well in poor soils, tolerates road salt and can grow under Black Walnut.
Little Blue Stem <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>			2-3' 3'	medium - dry	loam, clay loam, rocky loam	Bumble bee queens nest in the crown of this bunch grass
Prairie dropseed <i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>			2-3' 2'	medium - wet to dry	loam, gravelly or rocky loam	This grass has a fountain like form and is striking when planted in mass. It rarely self seeds but can be propagated by division. (p. 295)

Sources:

Growing requirements and plant characteristics, except soil type and information listed in the "notes" column and were taken from the Prairie Moon Nursery's online store, <https://www.prairiemoon.com>. Soil requirements were taken from the website <http://illinoiswildflowers.info/>.

In the notes column, any information that has a page number listed was taken from Alan Branhagen's book, *Native Plants of the Midwest: a Comprehensive Guide to the Best 500 species for the Garden*, Timber Press, 2016.