



NATIVE PERENNIALS

LANDSCAPE · NURSERY · GARDEN CENTER

Native plants occur naturally and adapt over millennia to live successfully in a particular areas' soil and climatic conditions. Once established, native plants can be better equipped than non-native plants to handle stressful environmental conditions such as drought, floods and temperature extremes. Listed here are perennial plants and grasses that are indigenous (native) to Illinois, the Midwest and the eastern United States.

| NATIVE PERENNIALS | | | | |
|---|---------|----------|---|--------------------|
| Botanic and Common Name | H&W | Exposure | Description | Habitat |
| <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> Butterfly Weed | 24"x18" | ○ | Flat clusters of tiny orange or yellow flowers in bloom early to mid summer. Illinois | Dry Prairie |
| <i>Asclepias incarnata</i> Swamp Milkweed | 36"x24" | ○ | Clustered, umbel-like deep pink flowers rise above smooth green foliage June to August. Attracts butterflies. Prefers heavy, wet soils. Illinois | Wet Prairie |
| <i>Aster laevis</i> Smooth Aster | 36"x18" | ○ / ● | Average, well-drained soil. Profusion of blue-violet flowers in fall. Easy to grow. Illinois | Dry Prairie |
| <i>Aster novae-angliae</i> New England Aster | 18"x18" | ○ | Tolerates wet soil. Pink or purple daisy-like flowers in late summer. Mildew resistant. Illinois | Dry or Wet Prairie |
| <i>Baptisia australis</i> Wild Indigo | 36"x36" | ○ / ● | Slow growing. Clusters of deep blue sweet pea-like flowers in spring. Attractive black pods in the fall. Missouri and Eastern US | Dry Prairie |
| <i>Baptisia leucantha</i> White False Indigo | 48"x24" | ○ / ● | Attractive white spikes of pea-like flowers in late spring over whorls of blue-green foliage. Black seed pods in fall. Illinois | Dry Prairie |
| <i>Callirhoe involucrata</i> Winecups | 6"x18" | ○ / ● | Tolerates poor, dry soil. Wine-red cup-shaped flowers bloom late spring to summer. Missouri | Dry Prairie |
| <i>Ceanothus americanus</i> New Jersey Tea | 24"x36" | ○ | Attractive small shrub with clusters of soft white flowers over dark green foliage in June. Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds. Protect from rabbits the first year. Illinois and Wisconsin | Dry Prairie |
| <i>Chelone obliqua</i> Turtlehead | 24"x24" | ○ / ● | Deep pink flowers in late summer. Pinch back to promote fullness. Long blooming. Illinois | Dry or Wet Prairie |
| <i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i> Lanceleaf Tickseed | 24"x24" | ○ | Golden yellow blooms rise from wiry stems and basal cluster of bright green foliage. Illinois | Dry Prairie |
| <i>Coreopsis palmata</i> Stiff Tickseed | 18"x18" | ○ | Large yellow gold flowers bloom early summer on unbranched stems. Black seed heads in winter. Illinois | Dry Prairie |

Sun ○
6 hours direct sun

Part Sun ●
4 hours direct sun

NATIVE PERENNIALS (cont)

| Botanic and Common Name | H&W | Exposure | Description | Habitat |
|---|----------------|-----------------|--|--------------------|
| <i>Dalea purpurea</i> Purple Prairie Clover | 24"x18" | ○ / ● | Royal purple flowers in dense spikes bloom July to August on slender stems. Illinois | Dry Prairie |
| <i>Echinacea pallida</i> Prairie Purple Coneflower | 36"x24" | ○ | Downward drooping pale purple ray petals surrounding large purplish brown dome-shaped cones on stout stems early summer. Illinois | Dry Prairie |
| <i>Echinacea paradoxa</i> Yellow Coneflower | 28"x24" | ○ / ● | Similar to its purple cousin, yellow petals encircle a bristly brown center on sturdy stems. Missouri and Eastern US | Dry Prairie |
| <i>Echinacea purpurea</i> Purple Coneflower | 36"x24" | ○ | Rosy pink-purple ray petals surround bristly brown center cones on sturdy stems. Long blooming. Drought resistant. Attracts butterflies. Illinois | Dry Prairie |
| <i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i> Rattlesnake Master | 40"x24" | ○ | White flowers clustered as dense balls at the top of blue-green stems in summer. Stiff, sharply pointed, blue-green leaves with spines along the edge. Illinois | Dry Prairie |
| <i>Filipendula rubra</i> Queen of the Prairie | 72"x48" | ○ / ● | Large pink flower plumes make this the highlight of any summer garden. Very easy to grow. Illinois and Missouri | Dry Prairie |
| <i>Geranium maculatum</i> Wild Geranium | 18"x24" | ○ / ● | Pink, purple or white flowers in early summer over a dense mound of fragrant lobed foliage. Wisconsin | Dry Prairie |
| <i>Geum triflorum</i> Prairie Smoke | 12"x12" | ○ | Nodding rose pink flowers in early summer, followed by feathery magenta seed heads. Illinois | Dry Prairie |
| <i>Helenium autumnale</i> Dogtooth Daisy or Common Sneezeweed | 48"x18" | ○ | Red flowers bloom late summer to fall. Pinching in late spring promotes bushiness and reduces height. Illinois | Dry or Wet Prairie |
| <i>Liatis aspera</i> Rough Blazingstar | 24"x18" | ○ | Long pinkish purple flower spikes bloom mid-summer. Flowers attract butterflies. Seeds attract finches and other songbirds. Illinois | Dry Prairie |
| <i>Liatis pycnostachya</i> Prairie Blazingstar | 36"x18" | ○ | Slender, dense 18" spikes of tiny pinkish purple flowers mid to late summer. Illinois | Wet Prairie |
| <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> Cardinal Flower | 36"x12" | ○ / ● | Spikes of brilliant scarlet red flowers bloom in summer to early fall on purple-red stems. Glossy bright green foliage. Attracts hummingbirds. Illinois | Wet Prairie |
| <i>Lobelia siphilitica</i> Great Blue Lobelia | 36"x12" | ○ / ● | Spikes of long lasting, bright blue flowers in late summer to mid autumn. Erect stems with green lance-shaped foliage. Illinois | Wet Prairie |
| <i>Monarda fistulosa</i> Wild Bergamot | 36"x 36" | ○ / ● | Lavender-pink flowers bloom early summer. Good plant for wildlife. Illinois | Wet Prairie |
| <i>Parthenium integrifolium</i> Wild Quinine | 24"x18" | ○ | Small white flowers clustered together like little pearls mid-summer. Tolerates moist or dry soils. Illinois | Dry Prairie |
| <i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i> Slender Mountain Mint | 24"x36" | ○ | Many dense clusters of small white flowers in summer. Extremely fragrant gray-green foliage. Illinois | Dry Prairie |
| <i>Ratibida pinnata</i> Gray-headed Coneflower or Drooping Yellow Coneflower | 36"x24" | ○ | Golden yellow blooms rise from wiry stems and basal cluster of bright green foliage. Great for clay soils. Illinois | Dry Prairie |
| <i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i> Orange Coneflower | 24"x18" | ○ | Large gold daisy-like flowers with brown centers bloom mid to late summer on unbranched stems. Black seed heads in winter. Long blooming. Illinois | Dry Prairie |

| NATIVE PERENNIALS (cont) | | | | |
|--|----------|----------|---|--------------------|
| Botanic and Common Name | H&W | Exposure | Description | Habitat |
| <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> Black-eyed Susan | 18"x18" | ○ | Large yellow gold daisy-like flowers bloom late summer. Black seed heads in winter. Illinois | Dry Prairie |
| <i>Rudbeckia submentosa</i> Sweet Coneflower | 36"x24" | ○ / ● | Gold yellow horizontal ray petals on daisy-like flowers in August and September. May reach up to 5' tall. Illinois | Wet Prairie |
| <i>Ruellia humilis</i> Wild Petunia | 8"x12" | ○ | Lovely soft lavender petunia-like flowers bloom June to August. Illinois | Dry Prairie |
| <i>Silphium laciniatum</i> Compass Plant | 36"x18" | ○ | Large yellow daisy-like flowers bloom June to August on stiff hairy stems that can reach up to 10' tall. Deeply lobed leaves often orient themselves north-south, hence the name. Illinois | Dry or Wet Prairie |
| <i>Silphium perfoliatum</i> Cup Plant | 48"x 24" | ○ | Large yellow daisy-like flowers bloom July to October towering over dark green, cupped leaves on erect stems that can reach 9 feet. Illinois | Dry or Wet Prairie |
| <i>Solidago speciosa</i> Goldenrod | 24"x24" | ○ | Showy, golden yellow plume-like flowers bloom August to October. Does not cause hayfever. Great for late season color. Illinois | Dry Prairie |
| <i>Vernonia fasciculata</i> Ironweed | 72"x24" | ○ | Very ornamental violet flowers on highly branched stems bloom late summer to autumn. Illinois | Dry or Wet Prairie |
| <i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i> Culver's Root | 72"x18" | ○ | Spikes of tiny blue, pink or white tubular flowers bloom mid to late summer. Illinois | Dry or Wet Prairie |
| <i>Zizia aptera</i> Meadow Parsnip or Golden Alexanders | 18"x12" | ○ / ● | Airy, open umbels of bright yellow flowers in May and June over heart-shaped basal foliage. Illinois | Wet Prairie |
| NATIVE GRASSES | | | | |
| <i>Andropogon gerardii</i> Big Bluestem Grass or Turkey Foot Grass | 72"x24" | ○ | Densely tufted blue-green foliage turns bronze-red in the fall. Red-purple blooms resembling a turkey foot bloom early autumn. Illinois | Wet Prairie |
| <i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i> Sideoats Grama Grass | 18"x18" | ○ | Gray-green foliage with purple tinted June flowers. Grass turns attractive straw color in winter. Illinois | Dry Prairie |
| <i>Panicum virgatum</i> Switchgrass | 36"x18" | ○ | Blue-green, very upright grass bearing airy flowers on reddish stems late summer. Beautiful fall color. Illinois | Dry Prairie |
| <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> Little Bluestem | 36"x18" | ○ | Fragrant foliage and some of the brightest blue flowers in late summer to fall. Great bronze-orange fall color. Illinois | Dry Prairie |
| <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> Indian Grass | 36"x24" | ○ | Light green foliage turns orange in fall. Brownish bronze flowers bloom late summer. Drought tolerant. Illinois | Dry Prairie |
| <i>Spartina pectinata</i> Prairie Cord Grass | 60"x36" | ○ | Loose, spreading grass turns bright yellow in the fall. Compact pale green spikelets with purple anthers appear late summer to early fall. Illinois and Midwest | Dry or Wet Prairie |
| <i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i> Prairie Dropseed | 18"x24" | ○ / ● | Clump forming grass with aromatic foliage, turning golden yellow in fall. Bears airy pink, fragrant fluffy flowers late summer. Illinois | Dry Prairie |

Native Perennial Clay Busters

| Botanic Name | Common Name |
|---|------------------------|
| <i>Allium cernuum</i> | Nodding Pink Onion |
| <i>Andropogon gerardii</i> | Big Bluestem |
| <i>Aruncus dioicus</i> | Goatsbeard |
| <i>Aclepias incarnata</i> | Common Milkweed |
| <i>Aster novae-angliae</i> | New England Aster |
| <i>Baptisia australis</i> | Blue False Indigo |
| <i>Baptisia leucantha</i> | Wild White Indigo |
| <i>Echinacea pallida</i> | Pale Purple Coneflower |
| <i>Echinacea purpurea</i> | Purple Coneflower |
| <i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i> | Rattlesnake Master |
| <i>Eupatorium purpureum</i> | Joe Pye Weed |
| <i>Filipendula rubra</i> | Queen of the Prairie |
| <i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i> | Oxeye Sunflower |
| <i>Liatris pycnostachya</i> | Prairie Blazingstar |
| <i>Monarda fistulosa</i> | Wild Bergamot |
| <i>Panicum virgatum</i> | Switch Grass |
| <i>Parthenium integrifolium</i> | Wild Quinine |
| <i>Petalostemon purpurea</i> (<i>Dalea purp.</i>) | Purple Prairie Clover |
| <i>Physostegia virginiana</i> | Obedient Plant |
| <i>Ratibida pinnata</i> | Yellow Coneflower |
| <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> | Black-eyed Susan |
| <i>Rudbeckia submentosa</i> | Sweet Black-eyed Susan |
| <i>Silphium laciniatum</i> | Compass Plant |
| <i>Silphium perfoliatum</i> | Cupplant |
| <i>Solidago speciosa</i> | Showy Goldenrod |
| <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> | Indian Grass |
| <i>Vernonia fasciculata</i> | Ironweed |
| <i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i> | Culver's Root |

Native Perennials not Recommended for Clay Soils

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|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Amorpha canescens</i> | Lead Plant |
| <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> | Butterfly Weed |
| <i>Aster laevis</i> | Smooth Aster |
| <i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i> | Sideoats Grama Grass |
| <i>Ceanothus americanus</i> | New Jersey Tea |
| <i>Chasmanthium</i> | Northern Sea Oats Grass |
| <i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i> | Lanceleaf Tickseed |
| <i>Coreopsis palmata</i> | Stiff Tickseed |
| <i>Dodecatheon meadia</i> | Shooting Star |
| <i>Geum triflorum</i> | Prairie Smoke |
| <i>Liatris aspera</i> | Rough Blazingstar |
| <i>Ruellia humilis</i> | Wild Petunia |
| <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> | Little Bluestem |
| <i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i> | Prairie Dropseed Grass |
| <i>Zizia aptera</i> | Heartleaf Golden Alexanders |