

Established in 1941, the Garden Guild of Winnetka is dedicated to stimulating the knowledge and love of gardening; to aid in the conservation of native trees, plants and wildlife; and to encourage civic projects.

LANDSCAPING WITH

NORTHERN ILLINOIS NATIVE PERENNIALS

A guide to ecological landscaping

Compiled by
Garden Guild of Winnetka





Asclepias incarnata—swamp milkweed



Viola pedata—birdsfoot violet



Lobelia siphilitica—great blue lobelia



Filipendula rubra—queen of the prairie



Sorghastrum nutans—Indian grass



Athyrium filix-femina—lady fern

References

- The American Horticultural Society's A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants. New York: D.K. Publishing, Inc., 2004.
- Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL "Plant Facts No. 19, Landscaping with Native Herbaceous Plants."
- The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL "Summer Prairie Plants of the Arboretum" and "Late Summer and Autumn Prairie Plants" fact sheets.
- The Natural Garden, St. Charles, IL www.thenaturalgardeninc.com
- Prairie Moon Nursery, Winona, MN www.prairiemoon.com
- The Prairie Garden, by J. Robert Smith and Beatrice S. Smith. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1980.

"A North American native plant is one that was growing in a particular site in North America under a given set of environmental conditions before European settlement."

C. Colston Burrell, Minnesota/Virginia landscape designer and author.

Incorporating native perennials within our suburban landscape makes both ecological and economical sense. Chicago natives are cold-hardy and drought-tolerant; they require less water, less maintenance, and little if any fertilizer; have fewer diseases; and are attractive to the pollinators (birds, butterflies, bees, ants, and other beneficial insects).

Garden Guild of Winnetka has prepared this pamphlet to aid local residents who wish to add indigenous perennials to their gardens. We have eliminated the most aggressive plants and grasses. Northern Illinois was originally host to not only short grass and tall grass prairies, but also savannas, wetlands and woodlands. These diverse ecosystems are represented in this pamphlet.

Indigenous Perennials

Botanical Name	Common Name	Light	Soil	Height	Color	Bloom Season	Comment
<i>Allium cernuum</i>	nodding onion	Sun	Average	1'-2'	White/Pale Pink	Mid-summer	Bulb
<i>Amorpha canescens</i>	leadplant	Sun/part shade	Dry	3'	Lavender	Early summer	Needs wide space
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	American columbine	Sun/part shade	Moist	3'	Red/Yellow	May/June	Allow to re-seed
<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	jack-in-the-pulpit	Part shade/shade	Moist	30"	Green	Spring	Red berries in fall
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	swamp milkweed	Sun/part shade	Moist/wet	2'-4'	Rose Red	Summer	Attracts Monarch butterflies
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	butterfly weed	Sun	Average	2'	Orange/Yellow/White	Summer	Butterflies
<i>Aster laevis</i>	smooth blue aster	Sun	Average/dry	3'	Lavender	Early fall	
<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	New England aster	Sun	Average/moist	2'-4'	Purple/Pink	Early fall	Pinch back twice before July 1st
<i>Aster sericeus</i>	silky aster	Sun	Average/dry	2'	Purple	Early fall	
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	lady fern	Part shade/shade	Moist	2'			
<i>Baptisia leucantha</i>	white wild indigo	Sun	Dry	3'-4'	White	June	Decorative seed pods
<i>Callirhoe involucrata</i>	wine cups	Sun	Dry	8"	Magenta	Summer	Ground cover/ dead-head to prolong bloom

Indigenous Non-aggressive Ornamental Grasses

Botanical Name	Common Name	Light	Soil	Height
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	big bluestem	Sun	Dry/moist	6'-8'
<i>Koeleria cristata</i>	junegrass	Sun	Dry	1'-2'
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	prairie switchgrass	Sun	Moist	3'-8'
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	little bluestem	Sun	Average	2'-4'
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Indian grass	Sun	Dry/moist	4'-6'
<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	prairie dropseed	Sun/part shade	Dry	1'-3'

Note: Cut back grasses in late winter/early spring, before new growth emerges at base.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Light	Soil	Height	Color	Bloom Season	Comment
<i>Silphium lacinateum</i>	compass plant	Sun/part shade	Average/moist	10'	Yellow	Late summer	May need staking
<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>	gray goldenrod	Sun	Dry	1'-3'	Yellow	Late summer	
<i>Solidago ohioensis</i>	Ohio goldenrod	Sun	Moist	3'-5'	Yellow	Late summer	
<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	showy goldenrod	Sun	Dry	2'-5'	Yellow gold	Late summer/fall	
<i>Tradescantia ohioensis</i>	Ohio spiderwort	Sun/part shade	Moist	2'-3'	Blue/White	Mid-summer	Goes dormant after bloom
<i>Trillium grandiflorum</i>	great white trillium	Shade	Moist	18"	White	April/May	Deer magnet
<i>Vernonia fasciculata</i>	ironweed	Sun/part shade	Average/moist	5'-8'	Reddish purple	Mid-late summer	Butterflies
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	Culver's root	Sun/part shade	Average/moist	3'-6'	White/Pink	Mid-summer	May need staking
<i>Viola pedata</i>	birdsfoot violet	Sun/part shade	Moist	2"-5"	Violet	May/June	Allow to re-seed
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	golden alexander	Sun	Moist	1'-3'	Yellow	May	

Botanical Name	Common Name	Light	Soil	Height	Color	Bloom Season	Comment
<i>Camassia scilloides</i>	wild hyacinth	Sun/part shade	Moist	1'	Lavender/White	May	bulb
<i>Cassia marilandica</i>	wild senna	Sun	Average	4'-8'	Yellow	Late summer	Needs a wide space
<i>Dodecatheon meadia</i>	shooting star	Sun/part shade	Moist	1'	White/Pale Pink	May	Goes dormant after flowering
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	purple coneflower	Sun/part shade	Average	2'-4'	Reddish purple	Mid-late summer	Allow to re-seed
<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	spotted Joe Pye weed	Sun	Average/moist	6'-8'	Pinkish purple	Late summer	May need staking
<i>Eupatorium purpureum</i>	purple Joe Pye weed	Sun/part shade	Average/moist	6'-8'	Pinkish purple	Late summer	May need staking
<i>Filipendula rubra</i>	queen of the prairie	Sun	Average/moist	3'-6'	Pink	Mid-summer	Spreads, but easy to dig up
<i>Gentiana andrewsii</i>	bottle gentian	Sun/part shade	Average/moist	1'-2'	Blue	Late summer/fall	
<i>Geum triflorum</i>	prairie smoke	Sun	Average/dry	8"-14"	Pink	Late spring	
<i>Helianthus occidentalis</i>	sunflower	Sun/part shade	Average/dry	1'-3'	Yellow	Late summer	
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	blue flag iris	Sun	Wet	1'-3'	Purple	May/June	
<i>Liatis aspera</i>	rough blazing star	Sun	Dry	2'-4'	Magenta	Late summer	Butterflies



Rudbeckia hirta—black-eyed Susan



Aquilegia canadensis – American columbine

Botanical Name	Common Name	Light	Soil	Height	Color	Bloom Season	Comment
<i>Liatris ligulistylus</i>	meadow blazing star	Sun	Dry	2'	Magenta	Mid-summer	Butterflies
<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>	Kansas gayfeather	Sun	Dry	2'-4'	Magenta	Mid-summer	Butterflies
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	cardinal flower	Part shade	Wet	2'-4'	Red	Late summer	Short-lived
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	great blue lobelia	Sun/part shade	Average/moist	2'-3'	Blue	Late summer	Allow to re-seed
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	wild bee balm	Sun/part shade	Average/moist	2'-3'	Lilac/Pink	Mid-summer	Needs air circulation to prevent mildew
<i>Oenothera biennis</i>	evening primrose	Sun	Average	1'-2'	Yellow	Summer	Flowers open in evening
<i>Parthenium integrifolium</i>	wild quinine	Sun	Average/dry	2'-3'	White	Mid-summer	
<i>Phlox pilosa</i>	prairie phlox	Sun/part shade	Average	1'-2'	Rose/White	May/Jue	
<i>Petalostemum candidum</i>	white prairie clover	Sun	Average/dry	2'	White	Mid-summer	
<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	yellow coneflower	Sun	Average/dry	3'-5'	Yellow	Mid-summer	May need staking
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	black-eyed Susan	Sun/part shade	Average/dry	2'-3'	Orange yellow	Late summer	Allow to re-seed
<i>Sanguisorba canadensis</i>	American burnet	Sun	Average	3'-5'	White/Maroon	Late summer	Pinch twice before July 1st