Prairie Plants: Natives for Sun to Part Sun

The Wilderness Center
Marsh Marigold

*Caltha palustris*

Height: 1-2 feet
Spread: 2-3 feet
Bloom time: March-June
Light: Full sun to partial shade
Soil: Moist to wet

Wildlife value: Native bees

Note: A beautiful addition to the garden pond area.
Wild Hyacinth
*Camassia scilloides*

Height: 1-2 feet
Spread: 6-12 inches
Bloom Time: May - June
Light: Full to partial sun
Soil: Medium to wet

Note: A great native alternative.
Bulbs will be available in July.
Shooting Star
*Dodecatheon meadia*

- Height: 12–24 inches
- Spread: 12 inches
- Bloom time: May – June
- Light: Full sun to partial shade
- Soil: Medium to wet

Wildlife value: Native bees.
Sweet Joe Pye Weed

*Eupatorium purpureum*

Height: 4–6 feet
Spread: 1–2 feet
Bloom time: August–September
Light: Shade to sun
Soil: Medium

Wildlife Value: Swallowtail butterflies and others love this plant when it is in nectar.

Note: Late to emerge in the spring, but grows quickly. Divide oversized clumps in the fall.
Dogtooth Daisy/Sneezeweed
*Helenium autumnale*

Height: 4–5 feet
Spread: 1–3 feet
Bloom time: August – September
Light: Full sun
Soil: medium to wet

Note: Tall strong stems support bright yellow flowers.

Wildlife Value: great for late season pollinators
Rough Blazing Star  
*Liatris aspera*

Height: 3-5 feet  
Spread: ~1.5 feet  
Bloom time: July to September  
Light: Full sun to partial shade  
Soil: Dry sandy soils.

Wildlife Value: Swallowtails and other butterflies. Goldfinches love the seeds!

Note: Flower clusters are larger and farther apart on stem compared to other Blazing Stars
Marsh (Dense) Blazing Star

*Liatris spicata*

Height: 3 - 5 feet
Spread: 2 feet
Bloom time: July - September
Light: Full sun to partial shade
Soil: Medium to wet soils with clay or loam.

Wildlife value: Butterflies, hummingbirds, songbirds, and beneficial insects

Note: Somewhat drought resistant once established. Makes an excellent cut flower.
Great Blue Lobelia
*Lobelia siphilitica*

Height: 1-4 feet
Spread: 1 foot
Bloom time: July-October
Light: Full sun to partial shade
Soil: Moist to wet soils with clay, loamy, or sandy soil

Wildlife Value: Butterflies, hummingbirds, songbirds, and beneficial insects.

Note: Excellent for damp clay soil. A beautiful fall bloomer.
Spotted Bee Balm
*Monarda punctata*

Height: 1-2 feet  
Spread: 8-12 inches  
Bloom Time: July-September  
Light: Full sun to partial shade.  
Soil: Dry to medium

Wildlife value: Bee and butterfly magnet. Great mint!

Also known as “Dotted Mint” or “Dotted Horsemint”
Bergamot ‘Claire Grace’
*Monarda fistulosa ‘Claire Grace’*

Height: 2–5 feet  
Spread: 2 feet  
Bloom Time: June–August  
Light: Full sun  
Soil: Dry to moist

Wildlife value: Hummingbird moths, butterflies, hummingbirds, and other beneficial insects.

This cultivar has more pink flower tones.
Foxglove Beardtongue
*Penstemon digitalis*

Height: 2–4 feet  
Spread: 1–2 feet  
Bloom time: May to July  
Light: Full sun to partial shade  
Soil: Medium, sandy or loamy and well-drained soil. Tolerates drought once established.

Wildlife value: Food for butterflies and native bees.
Brown-Eyed Susan
*Rudbeckia triloba*

Height: 2-5 feet  
Spread: 18 inches  
Bloom time: August - October  
Light: Full sun to partial shade  
Soil: Medium

Wildlife Value: Butterflies and bees love the nectar, songbirds eat the seeds.

Note: Easily reseeds so it may spread. Smaller flowers when compared to the Black-Eyed Susan.
Royal Catchfly
*Silene regia*

Height: 2–4 feet
Spread: 1–2 feet
Bloom time: July–August
Light: Full sun
Soil: Dry to medium

Wildlife Value. Bright red blooms attract butterflies.

Note: A major flowering herb of the Darby plains prairies near Columbus.
Iron Weed

*Vernonia fasciculata*

- Height: 4–6 feet
- Spread: 2–3 feet
- Bloom time: July – September
- Light: Full sun
- Soil: Medium to Wet

Wildlife Value: An important nectar source for butterflies.
Veronicastrum virginicum

Culver’s Root

Height: 3-6 feet
Spread: 1-2 feet
Bloom time: July-August
Light: Full to partial sun
Soil: Moist or wet soils with clay, loamy, sandy soil. Prefers organic soil types.

Wildlife Value: Butterflies, bees and beneficial insects

Note: A durable plant adds strong upright accent or backdrop in the garden.
Big Bluestem
Andropogon gerardii

Height: 4-8 feet
Spacing: 1-2 feet apart for borders.
Bloom time: July-September
Light: Full sun to partial shade.
Soil: Dry to moist well-drained soils with all soil types.

Wildlife value: Songbirds and small mammals eat the seeds. Goldfinches love it!

Note: Attractive reddish-bronze fall color. The distinctive three-parted seedheads resemble a turkey foot.
Indian Grass
*Sorghastrum nutans*

Height: 4–9 feet
Spacing: 1–2 foot apart
Bloom time: August – September
Light: Full sun
Soil: Moist to dry. Mature plants will tolerate drought.

Wildlife value: Refuge and forage. Sparrows and finches eat the seeds all winter.

Note: Beautiful golden flowers and seed heads. Yellow to orange fall leaf color.