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.
Canada Anemone

*Anemone Canadensis*

Height: 1-2 feet  
Spread: 1 foot  
Bloom time: May-June  
Light: Full sun to part sun  
Soil: medium to wet  

Note: excellent spreader – can be divided
Bearberry
*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*

Height: 4–8 inches  
Spread: 6 inches  
Bloom time: April–May  
Light: Partial to full sun  
Soil: Dry to medium  

Wildlife Value: Berries are eaten by some birds and small mammals. Prefers sandy, rocky areas.

Note: Evergreen groundcover.
Swamp (Marsh) Milkweed  
*Asclepias incarnata*

Height: 2-5 feet  
Spread: 1-3 feet  
Bloom time: June-July  
Light: Full sun  
Soil: Best in continuously wet soil but drought tolerant.

Wildlife Value: Monarch butterfly caterpillars eat the leaves, adult butterflies drink the nectar.

Note: Perfect for the Rain Garden!
Swamp Milkweed ‘Ice Ballet’

Asclepias incarnata ‘Ice Ballet’

Height: 2-5 feet
Spread: 1-3 feet
Bloom time: June-August
Light: Full sun
Soil: Best in continuously wet soil but drought tolerant

Wildlife Value: Monarch butterfly caterpillars eat the leaves, adult butterflies drink the nectar.

Note: A beautiful white cultivar of the native.
Swamp Milkweed ‘Soul Mate’

*Asclepias incarnata ‘Soul Mate’*

Height: 2–3 feet
Spread: 1–3 feet
Bloom time: June–August
Light: Full sun
Soil: Best in continuously wet soil but drought tolerant

Wildlife Value: Monarch butterfly caterpillars eat the leaves, adult butterflies drink the nectar.

Note: A shorter, rose-pink cultivar of the native.
Sullivant’s Milkweed

*Asclepias sullivanti*

Height: 3-5 feet  
Spread: 1 foot  
Bloom Time: June-August  
Light: Full sun  
Soil: Medium

Note: Clasping leaves and darker purple flowers than other milkweeds

Wildlife Value: Monarch caterpillar food source
Common Milkweed

*Asclepias syriaca*

Height: 3–5 feet
Spread: 1 foot
Bloom Time: June–August
Light: Full sun
Soil: Medium to dry

Wildlife Value: Monarch caterpillar food source - also serves as host plant for many other species of insects.
Butterfly Weed

Asclepias tuberosa

Height: 1-3 feet
Spread: 18”
Bloom time: June-August
Light: Full sun
Soil: Dry, prefers sandy soil

Wildlife value: The best butterfly magnet! Food from nectar for butterflies and monarch caterpillars eat the leaves.

Note: Good drainage is essential. Roots will rot if soil stays wet all the time.
Whorled Milkweed

*Asclepias verticillata*

Height: 1-2 feet  
Spread: 18 inches  
Bloom time: July-August  
Light: Full sun to partial sun  
Soil: Dry soils  

Wildlife value: Butterflies and beneficial insects. Monarch caterpillars eat the leaves.

Note: Plant spreads by rhizomes to form colonies.
White False Indigo
*Baptisia lactea*

Height: 3–5 feet  
Spread: 2–4 feet  
Bloom: May–June  
Light: Full sun to light shade  
Soil: Medium

Note: Resembles an asparagus plant when it first comes out of the ground in late spring.
Blue False Indigo  
*Baptisia australis*

- **Height:** 2–4 feet
- **Spread:** 2–4 feet
- **Bloom time:** May–June
- **Light:** Full sun to light shade
- **Soil:** Dry to medium

Note: Clusters of deep blue flowers in late spring. Deep rooted and very long-lived. It forms a large “bush” at maturity.
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.
Fox Sedge
*Carex vulpinoidea*

Height: 1–3 feet
Spread: 1–2 feet
Bloom Time: May – June
Light: Full sun
Soil: Medium to wet

Note: Mound forming and great for around ponds or raingardens.
New Jersey Tea
*Ceanothus americanus*

Height: 2-3 feet
Spread: 2 feet
Bloom time: June-August
Light: Sun to partial shade
Soil: Dry to medium

Wildlife Value: Nectar source for butterflies and caterpillar food for Spring Azures.
Turtlehead
*Chelone glabra*

Height: 2–4 feet  
Spread: 1 foot  
Bloom time: August–September  
Light: Partial to full sun  
Soil: Moist to wet

Wildlife value: Baltimore Checkerspot caterpillars rely exclusively on this rare wetland plant for food.  
Note: Great for edging water features and rain gardens. Will tolerate brief dry spells.
Lance-leaved Coreopsis

*Coreopsis lanceolata*

- **Height:** 1-2 feet
- **Spread:** 12 inches
- **Bloom time:** May-August
- **Light:** Full sun
- **Soil:** Dry to medium

**Wildlife value:** Songbirds feed on the ripe seeds in late summer.

**Note:** Can bloom for weeks on end for early summer color.
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.
Purple Coneflower  
*Echinacea purpurea*

Height: 3–4 feet  
Spread: 18 inches  
Bloom Time: July–August  
Light: Full sun  
Soil: Dry to medium

Wildlife value: Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds with its nectar. Songbirds feed on the seeds.

Note: Leave dead plants standing for seeds for birds and winter interest.
Purple Coneflower ‘Pow Wow Wild Berry’

*Echinacea purpurea ‘Pow Wow Wild Berry’*

- Height: 18 - 24 inches
- Spread: 12 - 16 inches
- Bloom Time: June - July
- Light: Full sun
- Soil: Dry

Wildlife value: Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies with its nectar. Songbirds feed on the seeds.

Note: Deep rose flowers.
Purple Coneflower ‘Pow Wow White’

*Echinacea purpurea ‘Pow Wow White’*

Height: 1-2 feet
Spread: 12-18 inches
Bloom Time: June-July
Light: Full sun
Soil: Dry

Wildlife value: Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies with its nectar. Songbirds feed on the seeds.

Note: This variety is a shorter version of the native with white flowers.
Rattlesnake Master  
*Eryngium yuccifolium*

Height: 3-5 feet  
Spread: 2 feet  
Bloom Time: July-Sept.  
Light: Full sun  
Soil: Dry to medium

Wildlife value: Butterflies and native bees visit the green flowers in July when it is producing nectar.

Note: Striking plants add architectural interest to your garden, even in winter.
Boneset
*Eupatorium perfoliatum*

Height: 3-4 feet
Spread: 1-2 feet
Bloom time: August-September
Light: Partial to full sun
Soil: Medium to wet

Wildlife Value: Butterflies and bees love this plant when it is in nectar. Leaves clasp the stem.

Note: Late to emerge in the spring, but grows quickly.
Sweet Joe Pye Weed

_Eupatorium purpureum_

Height: 4–6 feet
Spread: 1–2 feet
Bloom time: August–September
Light: Partial to full 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.
Bottle Gentian

*Gentiana andrewsii*

Height: 1-3 feet  
Spread: 1 foot  
Bloom time: Aug-Oct  
Light: Full sun to partial shade  
Soil: Moist to wet

Note: The flowers stay closed and are pollinated by bumblebees only. Tolerates frost. Does well in part shade.
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. May need staking.

Wildlife Value: great for late season pollinators
Ox-eye Sunflower
_Heliopsis helianthoides_

Height: 3–6 feet
Spread: 1–2 feet
Bloom Time: June–September
Light: Full sun
Soil: Dry to moist

Wildlife value: Native bees and butterflies.

Note: Thrives in heavy clay soils and can self sow.
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.
Blazing Star ‘Alba’  
*Liatris scariosa ‘Alba’*

Height: 3 to 4 feet  
Spread: 1 to 1.5 feet  
Bloom time: July-September  
Light: Full sun to partial shade  
Soil: Dry sandy soils. Moist but well-drained.

Wildlife value: Butterflies use it as a nectar source and songbirds eat the seeds.

Note: Large white “button like” blooms. A white variety of the native.
Blazing Star ‘Kobold’

*Liatris spicata* ‘Kobold’

**Height:** 12-15 inches  
**Spread:** 12-16 inches  
**Bloom time:** July to September  
**Light:** Full sun to partial sun  
**Soil:** Moist to wet soils with clay or loamy soil types

**Wildlife value:** Butterflies, Hummingbirds, songbirds, and beneficial insects

**Note:** Dark, glossy foliage adds interest to this dwarf form of the native.
Cardinal Flower

*Lobelia cardinalis*

Height: 2–4 feet
Spread: 6–12 inches
Bloom time: July–September
Light: Full to partial sun
Soil: Moist to wet soils

Wildlife Value: A hummingbird favorite, but also loved by butterflies.

Note: Thrives in the edges of water gardens and bogs. Short-lived, it may require replanting every few years.
Cardinal Flower ‘Black Truffle’

*Lobelia cardinalis* 'Black Truffle’

- Height: 2–4 feet
- Spread: 6–12 inches
- Bloom time: July–September
- Light: Full to partial sun
- Soil: Moist to wet soils

Wildlife Value: A hummingbird favorite, but also loved by butterflies.

Note: Dark leaves keep their color throughout the growing season.
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.
**Bee Balm**  
*Monarda didyma*

- Height: 2–4 feet
- Spread: 1 foot
- Bloom Time: June–August
- Light: Full sun to shade
- Soil: Medium to moist

**Wildlife Value:** Great for hummingbirds and butterflies

**Note:** Leaves are used for tea. Also known as Oswego Tea.
Bee Balm ‘Jacob Cline’
Monarda didyma ‘Jacob Cline’

Height: 2–4 feet
Spread: 1 foot
Bloom Time: June–August
Light: Full sun to shade
Soil: Medium to moist

Wildlife Value: Great for hummingbirds and butterflies

Note: Mildew resistant variety of the native.
Wild Bergamot
*Monarda fistulosa*

Height: 2-5 feet
Spread: 2 feet
Bloom Time: July-September
Light: Full sun to partial shade.
Soil: Dry to moist

Wildlife value: A “must have” for butterfly gardens. The Clearwing Hummingbird Moth also visits often during the day.
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.
Prairie Sundrops
*Oenothera pilosella*

Height: 1-2 feet  
Spread: 18-24 inches  
Bloom Time: May to June  
Light: Full sun to partial shade  
Soil: Medium to moist  

Wildlife value: Native bees and insects.  

Note: A day flowering plant from the Evening Primrose Family.
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.
Beardtongue ‘Husker Red’

*Penstemon digitalis* ‘Husker Red’

- **Height**: 2–4 feet
- **Spread**: 1–2 feet
- **Bloom time**: May–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.

**Note**: Deep bronze, purple leaves add colorful interest to the spring garden.
Obedient Plant

*Physostegia virginiana*

Height: 1-2 feet
Spread: 1 foot
Bloom time: August-September
Light: Full sun
Soil: Medium to wet

Wildlife value: Large bumblebees love the nectar! Attracts hummingbirds too.

Note: Plant with Great Blue Lobelia for a great late summer color combination.
Narrow-leaved Mountain Mint

*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*

Height: 1 – 2 feet
Spread: 1-2 feet
Bloom Time: July – September
Light: Full sun to partial shade
Soil: Dry to moist

Wildlife Value: Valuable nectar source

Note: Wonderfully fragrant foliage.
Prairie Coneflower
*Ratibidia pinnata*

Height: 3–6 feet  
Spread: 1–2 feet  
Bloom time: July–September  
Light: Full sun  
Soil: Dry to medium

Wildlife value: Goldfinches eat the seeds.

Note: This is a classic prairie plant that can survive heat, drought and flooding!
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.
Wild Petunia
*Ruellia humilis*

Height: 12 inches
Spread: 12–18 inches
Bloom time: June–August
Light: Full sun
Soil: Medium to dry.

Wildlife Value: Butterflies and bees love the nectar.

Note: Not really a Petunia but a member of the Acanthaceae family. Hardy, so it can become aggressive.
Little Bluestem
*Schizachyrium scoparium*

Height: 2-4 feet  
Bloom time: August-September  
Light: Full sun  
Soil: Dry to medium. Tolerates poor soils and drought. Excels in dry sandy soils.  

Wildlife Value: Birds and small mammals  

Note: Warm season grass, slow to emerge in the spring. Nice golden to reddish brown fall color lasts all winter.
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.
Compass Plant
*Silphium laciniatum*

Height: 3-8 feet
Spread:
Bloom Time: July-September
Light: Full sun
Soil: Dry to medium

Note: Striking, deeply lobed foliage stands out even when plant is not in bloom.
Prairie Dock

Silphium terebinthinaceum

Height: 4-8 feet
Spread: 2-3 feet
Bloom time: July-September
Light: Full sun
Soil: Dry to medium


Note: Large leaves and tall flower spikes. This is an indicator prairie species. Drought tolerant.
Blue-eyed Grass ‘Lucerne’
*Sisyrinchium angustifolium ‘Lucerne’*

Height: 6-8 inches  
Spread: 4-6 inches  
Bloom Time: May-July  
Light: Full to partial sun  
Soil: Dry to medium  

Note: Not a true grass, but a member of the Iris family. Morning blooming, delicate blue flowers with a bright yellow center.
Ohio Goldenrod

*Solidago ohioensis*

- **Height**: 3-5 feet
- **Spread**: 1-2 feet
- **Bloom Time**: August-October
- **Light**: Sun to part sun
- **Soil**: Dry to medium

**Wildlife Value**: Late season nectar for butterflies and seeds for birds.

**Note**: Tallest of the goldenrods with lush basal leaves.
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.
**Steeplebush**

*Spirea tomentosa*

Height: 2–3 feet  
Spread: 2 feet  
Bloom time: August to September  
Light: Sun to partial sun  
Soil: Wet

Wildlife Value: Nectar source for insects. Good for raingardens or near water.

Note: Foliage turns gold in the fall.
New England Aster

*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*

Height: 3-6 feet  
Spread: 1-2 feet  
Bloom time: September-October  
Light: Full sun to partial sun  
Soil: Medium

Wildlife value: Late nectar source for butterflies and native bees.

Note: Avoid feeding with high nitrogen fertilizer as it will cause tall floppy plants.
New England Aster ‘Purple Dome’
*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae ‘Purple Dome’*

Height: 15–18 inches  
Spread: 16 inches  
Bloom: August–October  
Light: Full sun to partial shade  
Soil: Medium

Wildlife value: Late nectar source for butterflies and native bees.

Note: Purple daisies on shorter stems for smaller areas.  
Mildew and rust resistant.
Sky Blue Aster
*Symphyotrichum azureus*

Height: 2-3 feet  
Spread: 1 foot  
Bloom time: August-October  
Light: Full sun to part sun  
Soil: Average to rich, dry to medium.

Wildlife value: Late nectar source for butterflies and native bees.
Spiderwort
*Tradescantia ohiensis*

Height: 2–4 feet  
Spread: 1 ½ – 2 ½ feet  
Bloom time: May–July  
Light: Full sun to light shade  
Soil: Dry to medium moisture in average to poor soil.

Wildlife Value: Caterpillars, bees and other beneficial insects.

Note: Drought and heat tolerant. Excellent for naturalizing an area.
Western (Smooth) 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.
Culver’s Root
*Veronicastrum virginicum*

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.