

~Prairie Fire Garden~ Village Green



Little Bluestem - *Schizachyrium scoparium*

Soil: Sand, Loam **Moisture:** Dry
Blooms: Aug, Sep, Oct **Color:** Brown-Bronze, Red

The blue-green foliage provides a great backdrop for prairie flowers in summer, and then turns a striking crimson in fall. Growing in neat clumps it excels in dry sandy soils.



Big Bluestem - *Andropogon gerardii*

Soil: Sand, Loam, Clay **Moisture:** Dry, Medium, Moist
Blooms: Aug, Sep, Oct **Color:** Brown-Bronze

The tall grass Big Bluestem was largely responsible for the formation of the famous prairie sod. The three-parted seedheads resemble a turkey foot. Lush green leaves and stems change with the first frost to an attractive red-bronze color that provides landscape interest well into the winter.



Sideoats Grama - *Bouteloua curtipendula*

Soil: Sand, Loam **Moisture:** Dry, Medium
Blooms: Aug, Sep **Color:** Straw-Gold

The bright purple and orange flowers of this short grass make it among the most attractive of all grasses. When in seed the small oat-like seeds are suspended on one side of the stalk. Sideoats Grama is a larval host plant for the Green Skipper and Dotted Skipper butterflies.



Prairie Dropseed - *Sporobolus heterolepis*

Soil: Sand, Loam **Moisture:** Dry, Medium
Blooms: Aug, Sep **Color:** Straw-Gold

Prairie Dropseed's magnificent fountain of fine textured, emerald-green leaves adds a touch of elegance to any planting. Considered by many to be the most handsome of the prairie grasses. Plains Indians ground the seed to make a tasty flour.



Indiangrass - *Sorghastrum nutans*

Soil: Sand, Loam, Clay **Moisture:** Dry, Medium, Moist
Blooms: Aug, Sep **Color:** Straw-Gold

This tall clumping grass makes a great companion for a wide range of prairie flowers as an excellent choice to replace ornamental cultivars. It is a drought resistant meadow grass and native component in most eastern North American grasslands. Attractive to both wildlife and pollinators.



Stiff Coreopsis - *Coreopsis palmata*

Soil: Sand, Loam **Moisture:** Dry, Medium
Blooms: Jun, Jul, Aug **Color:** Yellow

Stiff Coreopsis sports bright yellow flowers during the dog days of mid-summer. The underground rhizomes spread and form a dense mat, making it excellent for stabilizing dry, sunny slopes and even sand dunes! Other common names include Tickseed, Prairie Coreopsis and Stiff Tickseed.



Stiff Goldenrod - *Solidago rigida*

Soil: Sand, Loam, Clay **Moisture:** Dry, Medium
Blooms: Aug, Sep **Color:** Yellow

A Monarch Favorite, Stiff Goldenrod, *Solidago rigida*, is widely adaptable and thrives in even the most inhospitable soils, from clay to dry sand. The stems serve as perches for songbirds, and the seeds are an important late season bird food. The dried heads are lovely in arrangements.



Golden Alexanders - *Zizia aurea*

Soil: Sand, Loam, Clay **Moisture:** Medium, Moist, Wet
Blooms: May, Jun, Jul **Color:** Yellow

Brilliant golden flowers decorate this late-spring bloomer that grows one to two feet tall. The leaves serve as an important food source for Black Swallowtail Butterfly Caterpillars.



Prairie Blazingstar - *Liatris pycnostachya*

Soil: Sand, Loam, Clay **Moisture:** Medium, Moist
Blooms: Jul, Aug **Color:** Pink, Purple

The name pycnostachya is from the Greek for "crowded" - an apt description of the densely crowded flowers which begin blooming at the top and work their way down the single stem. Butterflies, bees, hummingbirds and moths all visit this plant, including the rare Glorious Flower Moth.



Green Headed Coneflower - *Rudbeckia laciniata*

Soil: Sand, Loam, Clay **Moisture:** Moist, Wet
Blooms: Sep **Color:** Yellow

This plant is crowned with unusual green-centered flowers surrounded by bright yellow petals, on tall stems. Easy to grow from seed, it often blooms in the first year when grown in cultivation.



Purple Coneflower - *Echinacea purpurea*

Soil: Sand, Loam, Clay **Moisture:** Dry, Medium
Blooms: Jul, Aug, Sep **Color:** Purple

Purple Coneflower blooms profusely for up to two months in mid to late summer and sometimes will re-bloom in the fall. The flowers are a favorite nectar source for butterflies, bees and other pollinators, including hummingbirds. Later in summer the seedheads attract goldfinches and other birds.



New England Aster - *Aster novae-angliae*

Soil: Sand, Loam, Clay **Moisture:** Medium, Moist
Blooms: Aug, Sep, Oct **Color:** Pink, Purple, Blue

The magnificent blooms range in color from blue-purple to lavender-pink, with yellow-orange centers. Like most asters it blooms late in the season and provides a critical fall nectar source for pollinators, especially Monarchs as they stock up for their fall migration to Mexico.



Purple Prairie Clover - *Dalea purpurea*

Soil: Sand, Loam, Clay **Moisture:** Dry, Medium
Blooms: Jul, Aug **Color:** Purple

This member of the legume family has it all: gorgeous purple flowers with golden flecks, and elegant foliage on multiple upright stems all combine to give it great garden form. The deep taproot supports a long-lived plant that is virtually impervious to heat and drought.



Ohio Spiderwort - *Tradescantia ohiensis*

Soil: Sand, Loam, Clay **Moisture:** Dry, Medium, Moist
Blooms: Jun, Jul **Color:** Lavender, Blue

The deep blue flowers of Ohio Spiderwort bloom for an extended period in late spring and early summer. Spiderworts go dormant in summer, so plant them with other later-blooming prairie flowers and grasses.



Sky Blue Aster - *Aster azureus*

Soil: Sand, Loam **Moisture:** Dry, Medium
Blooms: Aug, Sep, Oct **Color:** Blue

Aster azureus is bright and showy from late August into October when it is covered with brilliant blue blooms. Combine Sky Blue Aster with Showy Goldenrod for a fabulous fall show! Thrives in almost any soil, from dry sand to moist loam, in full sun to light shade.



Obedient Plant - *Physostegia virginiana*

Soil: Sand, Loam, Clay **Moisture:** Medium, Moist
Blooms: Aug, Sep **Color:** Pink

This showy member of the mint family thrives in moist soil and creeps rapidly by rhizomes to keep weeds at bay. An excellent groundcover for wet areas that are difficult to mow, plant it with Great Blue Lobelia for a great late summer color combination.



Wild Petunia - *Ruellia humilis*

Soil: Sand, Loam **Moisture:** Dry, Medium
Blooms: Jun, Jul, Aug **Color:** Lavender

Wild Petunia's claim to fame is its lovely violet flower trumpets, a hummingbird favorite! Wild Petunia self seeds with seeds that explode, making it able to hold its own with larger, aggressive plants.



Rose Mallow - *Hibiscus moscheutos*

Soil: Sand, Loam, Clay **Moisture:** Moist, Wet
Blooms: Jul, Aug, Sep **Color:** Pink

This native relative of the Hollyhock boasts huge pink flowers up to half a foot in diameter. Rose Mallows a real show off, preferring a rich, moist soil, but does beautifully in fertile garden soil. Native to wetlands from the east coast to Ohio and Indiana. Also called Swamp Rose Mallow.



Great Blue Lobelia - *Lobelia siphilitica*

Soil: Sand, Loam, Clay **Moisture:** Medium, Moist
Blooms: Jul, Aug, Sep **Color:** Blue

Covered in deep blue flowers in late summer and early fall, Great Blue Lobelia can form colonies of flowered spikes. Longer lived than the Cardinal Flower, it also attracts hummingbirds. Planted together, the two Lobelias make a stunning combination. Excellent for damp clay soil.



Red Milkweed - *Asclepias incarnata*

Soil: Sand, Loam, Clay **Moisture:** Moist, Wet
Blooms: Jun, Jul **Color:** Red, Pink

Hawk moths, Swallowtail butterflies, Greater Fritillaries, Monarch butterflies, skippers, bumble bees and numerous other nectar-seekers will visit this plant - even an occasional hummingbird. The leaves are a preferred food source for caterpillars of both the Monarch and Queen butterflies.



Rattlesnake Master - *Eryngium yuccifolium*

Soil: Sand, Loam, Clay **Moisture:** Dry, Medium
Blooms: Jun, Jul, Aug **Color:** White

Rattlesnake Master is a unique wildflower with leaves like a yucca, and unique 'golf ball' flowers. Makes an excellent focal point in the garden when planted individually or in groups. Native Americans brewed a tea from the root as an antidote to rattlesnake venom.



Wild Quinine - *Parthenium integrifolium*

Soil: Sand, Loam, Clay **Moisture:** Medium, Moist
Blooms: Jun, Jul, Aug, **Color:** White

This flower is a garden-worthy plant with everything one could want in a great perennial: good form, excellent foliage, long bloom time, and resistance to insects and disease. The pure white flowers make a fantastic combination when planted with Prairie Blazingstar.



Queen of the Prairie - *Filipendula rubra*

Soil: Sand, Loam, Clay **Moisture:** Medium, Moist
Blooms: Jun, Jul **Color:** Pink

A show-stopper with 'cotton candy' pink plumes, the Queen of the Prairie is a highlight in the summer prairie garden. Easy to grow, transplants spread by rhizomes, making it an excellent choice for naturalizing in moist meadows.