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# Plant Guide

*June 2021  
Plant Sale*

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# Foxglove Beardtongue

*Penstemon digitalis*



**Sun:** Full sun

**Soil Type:** Normal, sandy, or clay

**Soil pH:** Neutral, alkaline, or acidic

**Moisture:** Average to moist

**Growth Rate:** Medium

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Height:** 29-35 in

**Spread:** 12-18 in

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*An easy and outstanding perennial selected in Nebraska and tolerant of harsh conditions. Plants form a sturdy mound of leaves, beet-red during the spring and fall and greener in the summer. Upright stems of very pale pink tubular flowers appear during the summer months. Clumps may be easily divided in spring or fall. Selected as the Perennial Plant of the Year in 1996.*

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## Uses

*Outstanding for foliage effect in the border, but also useful in tubs and mixed containers. Ideal for naturalistic planting schemes, and also used in rock gardens, cotton gardens, and prairie plantings. Nice for cut flowers.*

*Drought tolerant and deer and rabbit resistant.*

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## Ecology

*Attracts many pollinators such as birds, bees, and butterflies. Insects are especially attracted to the tubular flowers and guiding lines on the lower petals. It blooms in late spring to early summer, and is a vital food source for pollinators in that timeframe. Common pollinators include sphinx moths, skipper and swallowtail butterflies, mason bees, sweat bees, leafcutter bees, bumblebees, pollen-collecting wasps, as well as some songbirds and ruby-throated hummingbirds.*

# Giant Hyssop

Agastache



**Sun:** Full sun or partial shade

**Soil Type:** Normal, sandy, or clay  
Neutral, alkaline, or acidic

**Moisture:** Average to moist

**Growth Rate:** Medium

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Height:** 23-29 in

**Spread:** 18-23 in

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*A long-blooming selection for the middle of the back of the border, featuring wands of dusky violet-blue flowers. Especially attractive in combination with Rudbeckia or Purple Coneflower. Plants form a compact bush of licorice-scented green leaves. Removing faded blooms will lengthen the flowering time. These are hybrids between a native North American wildflower and Agastache rugosa, so a good choice for natural meadow gardens. Easily divisible in spring.*

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## Uses

Frequently used in herb gardens, wildflower gardens, butterfly and prairie gardens and as border plants. Great for adding color later in the season after most other plants have lost their blooms.

Both the flowers and leaves are edible and sometimes eaten in salads or to flavor cold drinks. The flowers look good cut and are used for their fragrance.

Deer and rabbit resistant.

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## Ecology

One of the best plants to attract butterflies, hummingbirds (especially Ruby Throat), bees, and other pollinators. These plants bloom from July to October, and so are a staple for many pollinators during this time, especially in late summer and early fall when other flowers are not available.



# Rattlesnake Master

*Eryngium yuccifolium*



**Sun:** Full sun

**Soil Type:** Normal, sandy, or clay

**Soil pH:** Neutral, alkaline, or acid

**Moisture:** Average, dry, moist

**Growth Rate:** Medium

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Height:** 35-47 in

**Spread:** 12-23 in

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*Quite different from the usual blue forms of Sea Holly, this is a native North American wildflower. Plants form a low clump of grassy, yucca-like leaves, bearing tall stems of creaming white flowers in mid to late summer. It fits nicely into the sunny perennial border, but also a good candidate for more relaxed forms of gardening, like meadow plantings or gravel gardens.*

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## Uses

The shoots and roots of the plant are edible. Native Americans have traditionally used the plant to make rope and string. They also use it in bitter teas as an antidote to venereal diseases, snakebites, impotence, and to induce vomiting. Chewing the root can also be used to help with appetite. It is a modern-day remedy for fevers, spasms, cough, breathing problems, and more.

Drought tolerant, deer and rabbit resistant. A good cut flower.

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## Ecology

As many as 180 species (according to some studies) may visit this plant, including bees, wasps, flies, butterflies (including monarchs), beetles, true bugs, and predatory wasps.

Wild rattlesnake master is an indicator species of high-quality prairie or barrens, and thus is commonly used in restoration projects and pollinator gardens.

# Goldenrod

*Solidago rugosa*



**Sun:** Full sun or partial shade

**Soil Type:** Normal, sandy, or clay

**Soil pH:** Neutral, alkaline, or acidic

**Moisture:** Average to moist

**Growth Rate:** Medium

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Height:** 35-47 in

**Spread:** 23-29 in

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*Plants form a bushy, upright clump of dark-green leaves, bearing large heads of golden-yellow flowers that look like an exploding sun. This deserves a special spot in any sunny garden, with no fear of it taking over. Clumps may be easily divided in early spring. Tolerates hot, humid summer regions. Flowers do not cause allergies.*

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## Uses

Adds good texture and form to wild flower gardens and meadows. A good cut flower. Blooms in late summer to early fall.

Deer resistant.

## Ecology

Because of its late blooming, goldenrod provides vital late season nectar for bees, wasps, Monarchs and other butterflies, moths, beetles, and flies. Various types of caterpillars feed on the leaves and songbirds eat the seeds.

# Nodding Onion

*Allium cernuum*



**Sun:** Full sun or partial shade

**Soil Type:** Normal, sandy, or clay

**Soil pH:** Neutral, alkaline, or acidic

**Moisture:** Average, dry, or moist

**Growth Rate:** Slow

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Height:** 12-18 in

**Spread:** 8-12

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*A large-flowered selection of one of our native North American ornamental onions. This forms a low tuft of grassy leaves, bearing taller stems with nodding heads of rosy-lilac bells in early summer. Adapts to sun or part shade, and a wide range of soil types. Nice in the rock garden or perennial border. Dried seed heads remain attractive well into the winter. Received a Royal Horticulture Society Awards of Garden Merit (1993). Easily divided in spring or fall, if desired. Plants may also self sow.*

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## Uses

An attractive cut flower. Good for borders, alpine and rock gardens, and to add texture and form.

Also has medical uses. A poultice on the chest can treat respiratory ailments, and the juice can treat kidney stones as well as an ingredient in treatments for colds and sore throats. The juice is also used as moth repellent. The bulb of the plant is edible raw or rooks and can be used as a flavoring. The leaves are similarly edible and used in salads.

Deer resistant and drought tolerant.

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## Ecology

Attractive to different kinds of bees as well as butterflies, hummingbirds, and other pollinators. Provides nectar from June to August.

# Swamp Milkweed

*Asclepias incarnata*



**Sun:** Full sun

**Soil Type:** Normal, clay, sandy

**Soil pH:** Neutral, alkaline, acidic

**Moisture:** Average to moist

**Growth Rate:** Medium

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Height:** 35-47 in

**Spread:** 23-29 in

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*A recent selection of native North American wildflowers. This forms tall, upright clumps of long leaves, bearing clusters of rosy-pink, vanilla scented flowers in midsummer that are magnets to butterflies!*

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## Uses

Useful as a perennial border or in a wildflower meadow.

Deer and Rabbit resistant.

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## Ecology

Certain types of butterflies also lay their eggs specifically on this plant, which the larvae use for food.



# Giant Blue Lobelia

*Lobelia Siphilitica*



**Sun:** Partial to full sun

**Soil Type:** Normal, sandy, or clay

**Soil pH:** Neutral, alkaline, or acidic

**Moisture:** Average to moist soil

**Growth Rate:** Medium

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Height:** 23-35 in

**Spread:** 12-23 in

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*The perennial lobelias have upright spikes of large flowers, not at all like the more familiar trailing types grown in hanging baskets. This easy-to-grow native species bears heads of dark blue to white flowers through late summer and fall, over dark-green leaves.*

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## Uses

Used as a border or container plant; good for texture and form.

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## Ecology

Attracts hummingbirds, butterflies, and other pollinators.

Poisonous if eaten in large quantities.



# Boneset

*Eupatorium Perfoliatum*



**Sun:** Partial to full sun

**Soil Type:** Normal, clay, or sandy

**Soil pH:** Neutral or Alkaline

**Moisture:** Average to moist

**Growth Rate:** Medium

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Height:** 3-5 ft

**Spread:** 3-4ft

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*Boneset is a native rhizomatous perennial with multiple upright stems. The bold leaves are arranged in pairs on the stem. Each pair is perfoliate with bases that merge together and surround the stem. In late summer large terminal flower clusters emerge.*

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## Uses

Great for butterfly gardens, mass planting, perennial borders, or shade gardens.

It offers showy blooms and provides erosion control. It is also useful in stormwater retention basins and rain gardens.

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## Ecology

The fragrant white blooms attract butterflies and other pollinators.

Deer and rabbit resistant.

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## Uses

Good in cottage gardens, wild gardens, and shady borders.

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## Ecology

Attracts butterflies and is tolerant of deer.

# Snakeroot

*Ageratina altissima*



**Sun:** Part shade to full sun

**Soil Type:**

**Soil pH:** x

**Moisture:** moist, well-drained

**Growth Rate:** x

**Difficulty:**x

**Height:** 3-5 ft

**Spread:** 2-4 ft

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## Uses

x

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## Ecology

x

# Oaks

*Red, White, & Pin Oaks*



**Sun:** x

**Soil Type:** x

**Soil pH:** x

**Moisture:** xt

**Growth Rate:** x

**Difficulty:** x

**Height:** x

**Spread:** x

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## Uses

x

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## Ecology

x



# Northern Sea Oats

*Chasmanthium latifolium*



**Sun:** x

**Soil Type:** x

**Soil pH:** x

**Moisture:** xt

**Growth Rate:** x

**Difficulty:** x

**Height:** x

**Spread:** x

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**Uses**

x

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**Ecology**

x