

Native Plants Suitable for Illinois Rain Gardens

Prepared by Prairie Rivers Network

www.prairierivers.org, 217-344-2371



Common Name	Scientific Name	Light	Moisture	Bloom Time	Color	Height (ft)
FORBS						
American bellflower	<i>Campanulastrum americanum</i>	partial	wet mesic - dry mesic	Jun - Oct	purple	2 - 6
Big-leaved aster	<i>Aster macrophyllus</i>	shade - partial	wet mesic - dry	Aug - Oct	blue	2 - 4
Black cohosh	<i>Cimicifuga racemosa</i>	shade - partial	wet mesic - mesic	Jun - Jul	white	4 - 9
Black-eyed susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	partial - sun	wet mesic - dry	Jun - Oct	yellow	1 - 3
Blue flag iris	<i>Iris virginica</i>	sun	wet - mesic	May - Jun	purple	2 - 3
Blue phlox	<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	partial	wet mesic - mesic	Apr - Jun	purple	1 - 2
Blue vervain	<i>Verbena hastata</i>	partial - sun	wet - mesic	Jun - Oct	purple	2 - 5
Cardinal flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	partial - sun	wet - mesic	Jul - Sep	red	2 - 4
Celandine poppy	<i>Stylophorum diphyllum</i>	partial	wet mesic	Apr - Jun	yellow	1 - 2
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	partial - sun	wet mesic - mesic	Apr - Jun	pink	1 - 3
Crested iris	<i>Iris cristata</i>	partial	wet - wet mesic	Apr - May	purple	1
Culver's root	<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	partial - sun	wet - mesic	Jun - Aug	white	3 - 5
Dutchman's breeches	<i>Dicentra cucullaria</i>	shade - partial	wet mesic - mesic	Apr - May	white	1
False aster	<i>Boltonia asteroides</i>	partial - sun	wet - mesic	Aug - Oct	white	3 - 5
Flat-top aster	<i>Aster umbellatus</i>	partial - sun	wet - wet mesic	Aug - Sep	white	1 - 6
Garden phlox	<i>Phlox paniculata</i>	partial - sun	wet mesic - mesic	Jul - Sep	pink	3 - 4
Golden alexander	<i>Zizia aurea</i>	partial - sun	wet mesic - mesic	May - Jun	yellow	1 - 2
Great blue lobelia	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	partial - sun	wet - mesic	Aug - Sep	blue	2 - 4
Hairy wood mint	<i>Blephilia hirsuta</i>	partial	wet mesic - dry	Jun - Aug	white	1 - 3
Jack-in-the-pulpit	<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	shade - partial	wet mesic - mesic	Apr - Jul	green	1 - 2
Jacob's ladder	<i>Polemonium reptans</i>	partial	wet mesic - mesic	Apr - Jun	purple	1 - 2

Joe pye weed	<i>Eupatorium purpureum</i>	partial - sun	wet mesic - mesic	Jun - Oct	pink	4 - 7
Monkey flower	<i>Mimulus ringens</i>	partial - sun	wet - wet mesic	Jul - Oct	blue	1 - 3
Mountain mint	<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	partial - sun	wet - mesic	Jul - Sep	white	2 - 4
New England aster	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	partial - sun	wet - mesic	Aug - Oct	purple	1 - 5
Obedient plant	<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	partial - sun	wet mesic - mesic	Jun - Sep	pink	1 - 4
Ohio spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i>	partial - sun	wet mesic - dry	May - Aug	purple	1 - 3
Orange jewelweed	<i>Impatiens capensis</i>	shade - partial	wet - mesic	Jun - Sep	orange	2 - 5
Pink turtlehead	<i>Chelone obliqua</i>	partial - sun	wet - wet mesic	Aug - Oct	pink	1 - 3
Prairie blazing star	<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>	sun	wet mesic - mesic	Jul - Oct	purple	2 - 4
Sneezeweed	<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	partial - sun	wet - mesic	Aug - Oct	yellow	2 - 6
Solomon's seal	<i>Polygonatum commutatum</i>	partial - sun	wet mesic - dry mesic	Apr - Jun	green	2 - 3
Stiff goldenrod	<i>Solidago rigida</i>	sun	wet mesic - dry	Jul - Oct	yellow	2 - 4
Swamp milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	partial - sun	wet - mesic	Jul - Aug	pink	2 - 4
Virginia bluebells	<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	shade - partial	wet - mesic	Apr - May	purple	1 - 3
Virginia waterleaf	<i>Hydrophyllum virginianum</i>	partial	wet mesic - mesic	Apr - Aug	purple	1 - 3
White turtlehead	<i>Chelone glabra</i>	partial - sun	wet - dry mesic	Jul - Oct	white	2 - 3
Wild bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	partial - sun	wet mesic - dry	Jul - Aug	pink	2 - 4
Zigzag iris	<i>Iris brevicaulis</i>	partial - sun	wet - mesic	Jun - Jul	blue	1
GRASSES						
Blue joint grass	<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>	sun	wet - wet mesic	Jul - Aug	green	3 - 5
Bottlebrush grass	<i>Elymus hystrix</i>	shade - partial	wet mesic - dry	Jun - Aug	green	2 - 5
Fowl manna grass	<i>Glyceria striata</i>	partial - sun	wet - mesic	May - Aug	green	2 - 4
River oats	<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	partial - sun	wet mesic - dry mesic	Jul - Oct	green	2 - 3
Stout wood reed	<i>Cinna arundinacea</i>	shade - partial	wet - wet mesic	Jul - Sep	green	3 - 5
Virginia wild rye	<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	partial - sun	wet mesic - dry mesic	Jun - Aug	green	2 - 4
SEDGES						
Bebb's oval sedge	<i>Carex bebbii</i>	sun	wet - wet mesic	Jun	green	1 - 2
Brome hummock sedge	<i>Carex bromoides</i>	partial - sun	wet mesic - dry mesic	May - Jun	green	1
Common fox sedge	<i>Carex stipata</i>	sun	wet - wet mesic	May	green	1 - 2

Common hop sedge	<i>Carex lupulina</i>	partial - sun	wet - mesic	May	green	1 - 3
Crested oval sedge	<i>Carex cristatella</i>	partial - sun	wet mesic - mesic	Jun	green	2 - 3
Curly-styled wood sedge	<i>Carex rosea</i>	shade - partial	wet mesic - mesic	Apr - May	green	1 - 2
Davis' sedge	<i>Carex davisii</i>	shade - sun	wet mesic - mesic	May - Jun	green	2 - 3
Frank's sedge	<i>Carex frankii</i>	shade - sun	wet mesic - mesic	Jun - Jul	green	1 - 2
Gray sedge	<i>Carex grayi</i>	partial - sun	wet - mesic	May - Sep	green	1 - 3
James' sedge	<i>Carex jamesii</i>	shade - partial	wet mesic - dry mesic	Apr - Jun	green	1
Palm sedge	<i>Carex muskingumensis</i>	partial - sun	wet - mesic	Apr - Jun	green	1 - 3
Pennsylvania sedge	<i>Carex pennsylvanica</i>	partial - sun	wet mesic - dry	Apr - May	green	1 - 2
Porcupine sedge	<i>Carex hystericina</i>	partial - sun	wet - wet mesic	May - Jun	green	1 - 3
Spreading oval sedge	<i>Carex normalis</i>	shade - partial	wet mesic - mesic	Jun	green	1 - 3
Straight-styled wood sedge	<i>Carex radiata</i>	shade - partial	mesic	Apr - May	green	1
Tussock sedge	<i>Carex stricta</i>	partial - sun	wet - wet mesic	Apr - Jul	green	1 - 3
SHRUBS						
Black chokeberry	<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	partial - sun	wet - dry	May - Jun	white	3 - 6
Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	partial - sun	wet - mesic	Jul - Aug	white	3 - 12
Eastern wahoo	<i>Euonymus atropurpureus</i>	partial - sun	wet mesic - dry mesic	May - Jul	purple	12 - 20
Gray dogwood	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	partial - sun	wet mesic - dry mesic	May - Jul	white	6 - 10
New Jersey tea	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	partial - sun	wet mesic - dry	Jun - Aug	white	1 - 3
Red osier dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	partial - sun	wet - mesic	May - Sep	white	3 - 19
St. Johns wort	<i>Hypericum kalmianum</i>	partial - sun	wet - dry	Jun - Aug	yellow	2 - 3
Winterberry holly	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	partial - sun	wet - mesic	May - Jul	white	5 - 8
FERNS						
Cinnamon fern	<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	shade - partial	wet - mesic		green	2 - 4
Maidenhair fern	<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	shade - partial	wet mesic - mesic		green	1 - 3
REEDS AND RUSHES						
Flat-stemmed spike rush	<i>Eleocharis compressa</i>	sun	wet - wet mesic		green	1 - 2
Great bulrush	<i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i>	partial - sun	wet - wet mesic		green	4 - 8