



# NATIVE PLANTS

Why • Benefits • Plants



## **Native Plants Matter**

- They are beautiful and play a vital role in maintaining our state's unique ecosystems.
- They are a testament to our commitment to preserve the natural heritage of our region.

# WHY NATIVES

## **Preserve Biodiversity**

Support local wildlife, providing essential food and habitat for pollinators, birds, and other creatures.

## **Sustainability**

Adapted to Wisconsin's climate and soil, requiring less water and fewer chemicals.

## **Erosion Control**

Native plants help prevent soil erosion, protecting our landscapes and water quality.

## **Water Conservation**

Many are drought-tolerant, saving water resources.

# BENEFITS

## **Attract Pollinators**

Native gardens are a haven for pollinators that play a crucial role in agriculture.

## **Restore Wildlife Habitat**

Create habitats for birds, insects, and amphibians, enriching our local biodiversity.

## **Improved Soil Health**

Native plant roots enrich the soil and reduce erosion.

## **Cleaner Water**

Native gardens filter rainwater, improving water quality in our lakes and rivers.

## **Lower Maintenance**

Native plants are adapted to Wisconsin conditions, reducing the need for extra care.

## **Support Local Agriculture**

Native pollinators benefit fruit and vegetable crops.

## **Climate Resilience**

Native plants are better adapted to withstand climate changes.

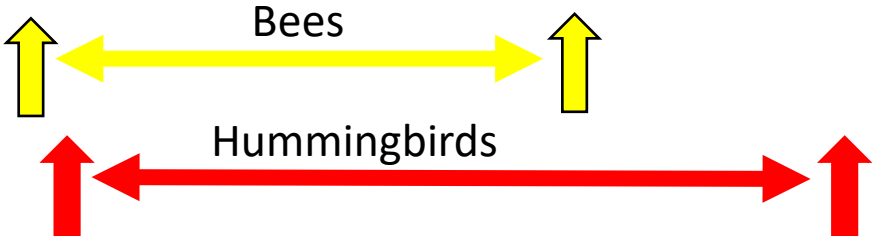
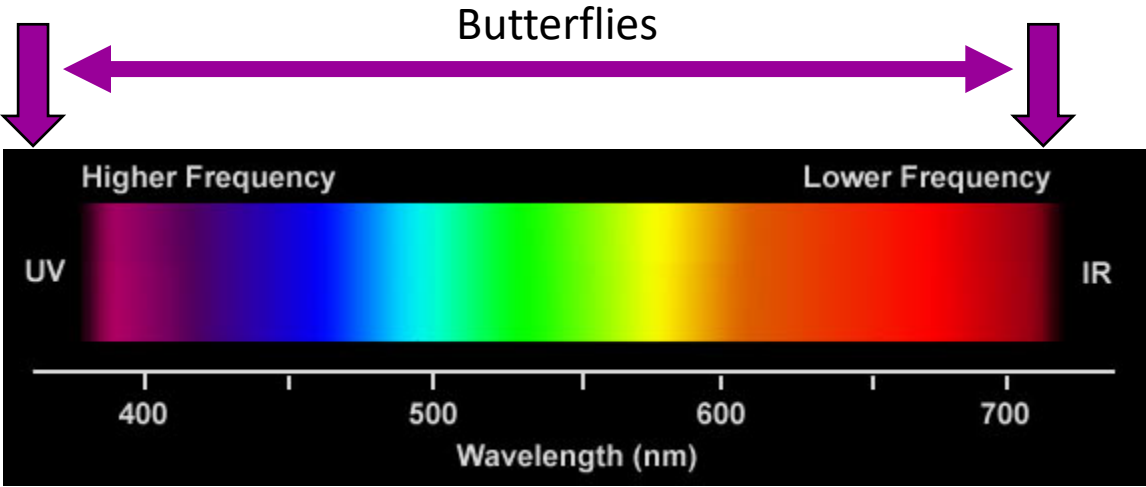
## **Recreational Opportunities:**

Birdwatching • Photography



# GARDEN DESIGN FACTORS

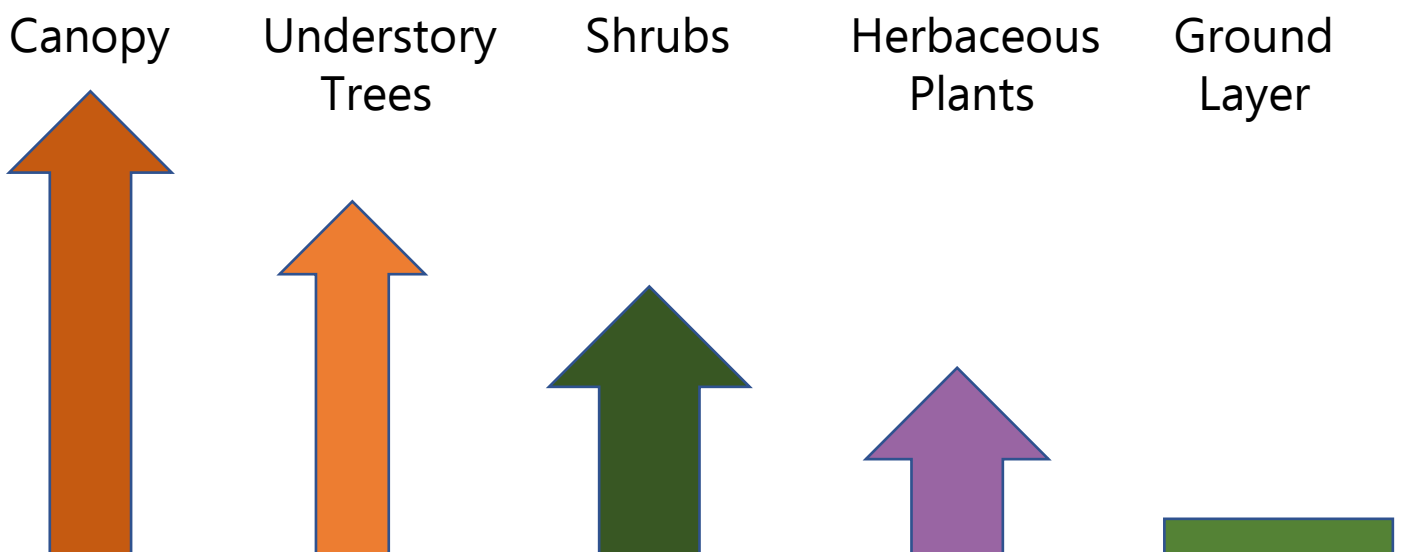
## COLORS



# LAYERS IN NATURAL LANDSCAPING

Try to replicate nature with multiple layers.

Birds need higher levels for food, shelter, nesting and territorial singing.



# Design Factors for Butterflies

Flat daisy-shaped flowers



Clusters of small flowers  
in rod or umbel shapes







# Create Habitat For Caterpillars

Include caterpillar (larval)  
food plants

Females come to lay eggs

Males come to wait for  
females (patrolling)





# Catepillars for Baby Birds

- 96% of terrestrial birds rear their young on caterpillars.
- Caterpillars are the perfect protein for growing chicks.
- Chickadees feed their young 95-100% caterpillar diet, 390-570 per nest per day for about 20 days (6,000-10,000 total).

From Dr. Doug Tallamy, Bringing Nature Home (2009)







# Design Factors for Bees

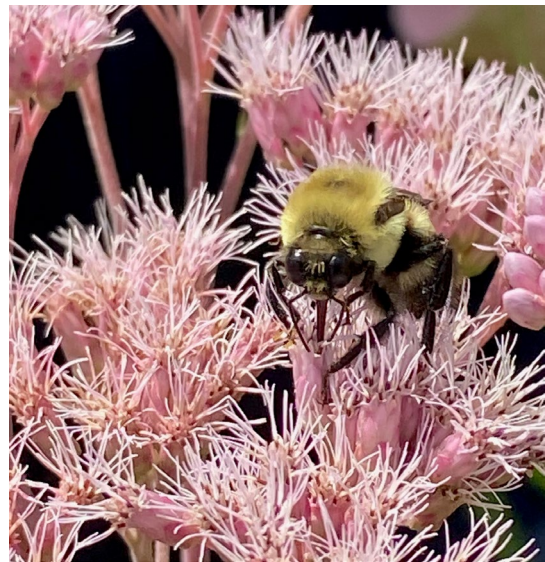
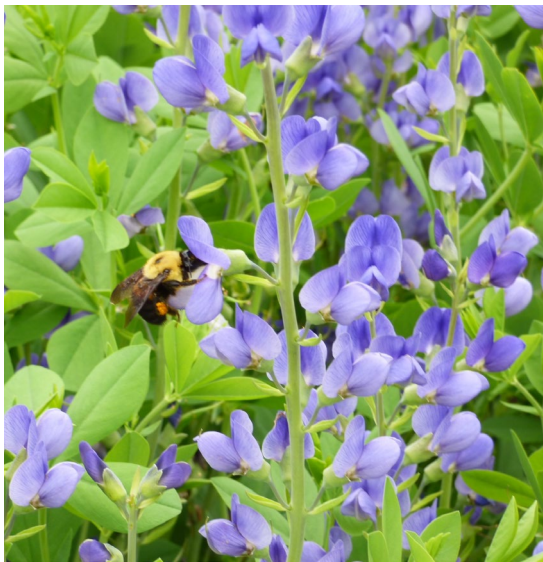
Flat daisy and umbel  
shaped flowers



Large bi-laterally  
symmetrical flowers







# Blooms Become Berries and Seed for Birds

Early season blooms in trees and shrubs crucial for pollinators and result in berries, fruit, and nuts for birds later.







Photo by Dave Maslowski, Audubon website



© Chris Bosak  
www.birdsofnewengland.com

# Plants for Butterflies

## Host Plants

Milkweed (Monarchs)

Carrot family (Black Swallowtail)

Nettles (Red Admiral, Comma, Question Mark)

Violets (Fritillaries)

Willows, poplars, aspen  
(Mourning Cloak, Viceroy)

Cherry, Ash (Tiger Swallowtail)

## Nectar Plants

Milkweed

Purple Coneflower

Joe-Pye weed

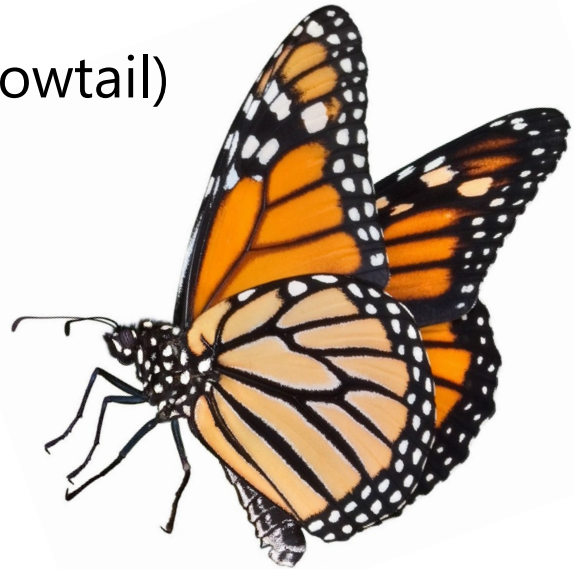
Black & Brown-Eyed Susan;

Rudbeckia

Vervain/Verbena

Liatis, button-style

Asters



# Native Plants for Hummingbirds

- Columbine

*Aquilegia Canadensis*

- Smooth Penstemon

*Penstemon digitalis*

- Monkey Flower

*Mimulus ringens*

- Royal Catchfly

*Silene regia*

- Cardinal Flower

*Lobelia cardinalis*

- Coral/Trumpet Honeysuckle

*Lonicera Semperviens*

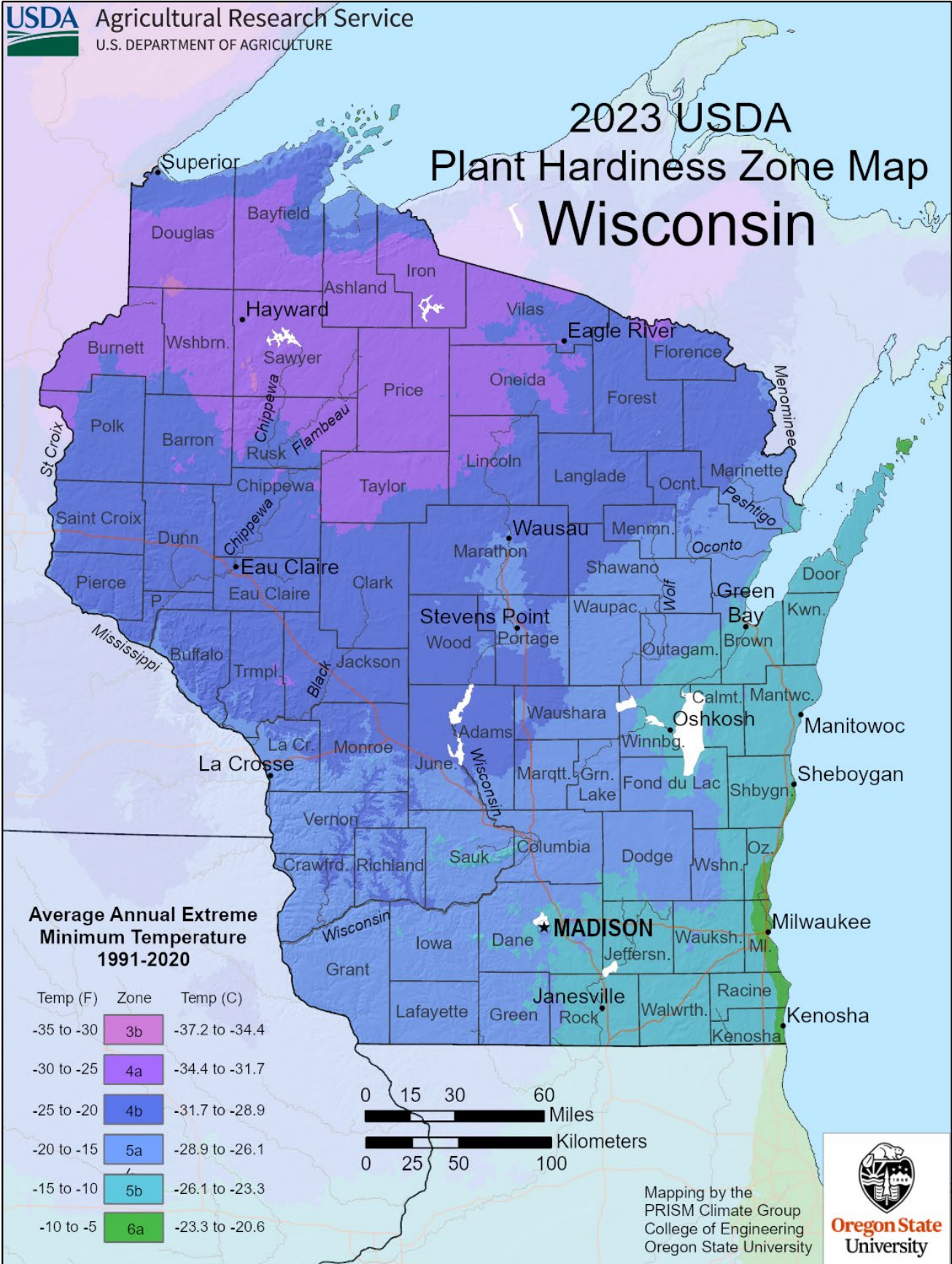
- Common Milkweed

*Asclepias syriaca*





# 2023 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map Wisconsin


























































































# Planting Guides
















































Use a guide like this to determine the type, size and color of plant you would like to use in your garden.



## Native Plant Attributes

Common Name	Botanical Name	Type	Color	Height	Sun Exposure	Bloom Time	Soil Moisture	
<b>Wildflowers</b>								( <i>Mesic</i> " is halfway between wet and dry)
Big-Leaved Aster	<i>Aster macrophyllus</i>	Forb	Lavender	1 - 2'	Part Sun to Full Shade	September - October	Wet Mesic to Dry	
Blue Vervain	<i>Verbena hastata</i>	Forb	Blue	3 - 5'	Full Sun to Part Sun	July - September	Wet to Mesic	 
Brown-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia triloba</i>	Forb	Yellow	3 - 5'	Full Sun to Part Sun	July - October	Wet Mesic to Dry Mesic	 
Butterfly Weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Forb	Orange	2 - 3'	Full Sun to Part Sun	June - September	Mesic to Dry	 
Cardinal Flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Forb	Red	3 - 5'	Full Sun to Part Sun	July - September	Wet to Wet Mesic	 
Common Milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Forb	Lavender	2 - 3'	Full Sun to Part Sun	June- August	Mesic to Dry	 
Culver's Root	<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	Forb	White	3 - 5'	Full Sun to Part Sun	July - August	Wet Mesic to Dry Mesic	 
Dwarf Blazing Star	<i>Liatris cylindrica</i>	Forb	Lavender	1 - 2'	Full Sun	July - August	Dry Mesic to Dry	 
Early Sunflower	<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	Forb	Yellow	3 - 5'	Full Sun to Part Sun	June - October	Wet Mesic to Dry Mesic	 
Great Blue Lobelia	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Forb	Blue	1 - 2'	Full Sun to Part Sun	July - September	Wet to Mesic	 
Ironweed	<i>Vernonia fasciculata</i>	Forb	Purple	4 - 6'	Full Sun to Part Sun	July - September	Wet Mesic to Mesic	 
Jacob's Ladder	<i>Polemonium reptans</i>	Forb	Blue	1 - 2'	Full Sun to Part Sun	April-June	Wet Mesic to Dry Mesic	 
Marsh Blazing Star	<i>Liatris spicata</i>	Forb	Purple	3 - 4'	Full Sun to Part Sun	July - September	Wet to Mesic	 
Mountain Mint	<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	Forb	White	1 - 3'	Full Sun to Part Sun	July - September	Wet to Mesic	
Nodding Pink Onion	<i>Allium cernuum</i>	Forb	Pink	1 - 2'	Full Sun to Part Sun	July - August	Wet Mesic to Dry Mesic	
Pale Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea pallida</i>	Forb	Purple	3 - 5'	Full Sun to Part Sun	June - July	Mesic to Dry	 
Prairie Blazing Star	<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>	Forb	Purple	2 - 4'	Full Sun to Part Sun	July - September	Mesic to Dry Mesic	 
Prairie Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis palmata</i>	Forb	Yellow	1 - 2'	Full Sun to Part Sun	June-August	Mesic to Dry	 
Prairie Smoke	<i>Geum triflorum</i>	Forb	Pink	5 - 12"	Full Sun	April-June	Wet Mesic to Dry	
Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpureum</i>	Forb	Purple	3 - 4'	Full Sun to Part Sun	July - August	Wet Mesic to Dry Mesic	 
Red Milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Forb	Red	3 - 5'	Full Sun	June-August	Wet to Mesic	 
Riddell's Goldenrod	<i>Solidago riddellii</i>	Forb	Yellow	1 - 3'	Full Sun	July - September	Wet to Mesic	 
Rough Blazing Star	<i>Liatris aspera</i>	Forb	Purple	1 - 3'	Full Sun	August - October	Mesic to Dry	 
Royal Catchfly	<i>Silene regia</i>	Forb	Red	1 - 4'	Full Sun to Part Sun	July - August	Mesic to Dry Mesic	 
Sand Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	Forb	Yellow	1 - 3'	Full Sun	May-July	Dry Mesic to Dry	 
Showy Goldenrod	<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	Forb	Yellow	3 - 5'	Full Sun to Part Sun	July - October	Mesic to Dry	 
Sky-blue Aster	<i>Aster azureus</i>	Forb	Blue	1 - 3'	Full Sun to Part Sun	August - October	Mesic to Dry	 
Smooth Penstemon	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	Forb	White	1 - 3'	Full Sun	May - July	Mesic to Dry Mesic	 
Spotted Joe Pye Weed	<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	Forb	Pink	4 - 6'	Full Sun to Part Sun	July - September	Wet to Wet Mesic	 
Stiff Goldenrod	<i>Solidago rigida</i>	Forb	Yellow	3 - 5'	Full Sun	July - September	Wet Mesic to Dry	 
Swamp Aster	<i>Aster puniceus</i>	Forb	Blue	3 - 5'	Shade	August- October	Wet to Wet Mesic	
Sweet Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia subtomentosa</i>	Forb	Yellow	4 - 5'	Full Sun to Part Sun	July - September	Wet Mesic to Dry Mesic	 
Whorled Milkweed	<i>Asclepias verticillata</i>	Forb	Cream	1 - 2'	Full Sun to Part Sun	July - August	Mesic to Dry	 
Wild Bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Forb	Lavender	2 - 4'	Full Sun to Part Sun	June - August	Wet Mesic to Dry	 
Wild Columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Forb	Red	1 - 3'	Full Sun to Full Shade	April-June	Mesic to Dry	 
Wild Geranium	<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	Forb	Pink	1 - 2'	Part Sun to Full Shade	April-June	Mesic to Dry Mesic	
Yellow Coneflower	<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	Forb	Yellow	4 - 5'	Full Sun to Part Sun	July - September	Mesic to Dry Mesic	
Cream Wild Indigo	<i>Baptisia leucophaea</i>	Legume	Cream	1 - 2'	Full Sun to Part Sun	May-June	Mesic to Dry	
Leadplant	<i>Amorpha canescens</i>	Legume	Purple	1 - 3'	Full Sun to Part Sun	June - August	Mesic to Dry	 
Purple Prairie Clover	<i>Petalostemum purpureum</i>	Legume	Purple	1 - 2'	Full Sun	June - August	Mesic to Dry	 
White Wild Indigo	<i>Baptisia leucantha</i>	Legume	White	3 - 5'	Full Sun to Part Sun	May - June	Wet Mesic to Dry	 
Wild Lupine	<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	Legume	Blue	1 - 3'	Full Sun to Part Sun	May-June	Dry Mesic to Dry	 
Wild Senna	<i>Cassia hebecarpa</i>	Legume	Yellow	4 - 6'	Full Sun to Part Sun	August - September	Wet Mesic to Mesic	 
<b>Sedges &amp; Rushes</b>								
Bottlebrush Sedge	<i>Carex hystericina</i>	Sedge	Green	1 - 3'	Full Sun	June July	Wet to Wet Mesic	
Brown Fox Sedge	<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	Sedge	Green	1 - 3'	Full Sun to Part Sun	April - May	Wet to Dry Mesic	
Copper-shouldered Oval Sedge	<i>Carex bicknellii</i>	Sedge	Green	1 - 2'	Full Sun	June - July	Wet Mesic to Mesic	
Fox Sedge	<i>Carex stipata</i>	Sedge	Green	1 - 3'	Full Sun to Full Shade	June - July	Wet to Mesic	
Great Bulrush	<i>Scirpus validus</i>	Sedge	Green	3 - 9'	Full Sun	May - August	Wet to Wet Mesic	
Long-beaked Sedge	<i>Carex sprengei</i>	Sedge	Green	1 - 2'	Full Sun to Full Shade	May - July	Wet Mesic to Dry Mesic	
<b>Grasses</b>								
Bottlebrush Grass	<i>Hystrix patula</i>	Grass	Green	3 - 5'	Part Sun to Full Shade	July - August	Mesic to Dry Mesic	
Indian Grass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Grass	Green	4 - 6'	Full Sun to Part Sun	August - September	Mesic to Dry	
June Grass	<i>Koeleria cristata</i>	Grass	Green	1 - 2'	Full Sun to Part Sun	June - September	Dry Mesic to Dry	
Little Bluestem	<i>Andropogon scoparium</i>	Grass	Green	2 - 3'	Full Sun to Part Sun	June - August	Mesic to Dry	
Prairie Dropseed	<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	Grass	Green	2 - 3'	Part Sun	July - August	Wet Mesic to Dry	
Silky Wild Rye	<i>Elymus villosus</i>	Grass	Green	3 - 5'	Part Sun to Full Shade	June - July	Wet Mesic to Dry Mesic	
Switch Grass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Grass	Green	4 - 6'	Full Sun to Part Sun	May - September	Wet Mesic to Dry	

## SAMPLE PLAN FOR CONTINUOUS BLOOM AND WILDLIFE SUPPORT

Plant Name	Height	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Bird	Bfly	Bee
<b>SHRUBS</b>											
Pussy Willow ( <i>Salix discolor</i> )	10-12'										
Running Serviceberry ( <i>Amelanchier stolonifera</i> )	3-5'										
Wild Plum ( <i>Prunus americana</i> )	15-30'										
American Bladdernut ( <i>Staphylea trifolia</i> )	10-15'										
Black Chokeberry ( <i>Aronia melanocarpa</i> )	5-7'										
Common Ninebark ( <i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> )	8-10'										
Gray Dogwood ( <i>Cornus racemosa</i> )	8-12'										
Silky Dogwood ( <i>Cornus amomum</i> )	8'										
Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle ( <i>Diervilla lonicera</i> )	2-4'										
Winterberry ( <i>Ilex verticillata</i> )	8-12'										
Meadowsweet ( <i>Spiraea alba</i> )	3-5'										
Common Snowberry ( <i>Symphoricarpos albus</i> )	3-5'										
Swamp Rose ( <i>Rosa palustris</i> )	3-6'										
Buttonbush ( <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i> )	6-8'										
Shrubby St John's Wort ( <i>Hypericum kalmianum</i> )	2-3'										
<b>PERENNIALS</b>											
False Rue Anemone ( <i>Enemion biternatum</i> )	6"-8"										
Wild Columbine ( <i>Aquilegia canadensis</i> )	1'-3'										
Wild Ginger ( <i>Asarum canadense</i> )	6"-10"										
Virginia Bluebells ( <i>Mertensia virginica</i> )	1'-2'										
Wild Phlox ( <i>Phlox divaricata lampharnii</i> )	6"-20"										
Blue Flag Iris ( <i>Iris versicolor</i> )	1'-3'										
White Beardtongue ( <i>Penstemon digitalis</i> )	1'-4'										
Purple Coneflower ( <i>Echinacea purpurea</i> )	2'-3'										
Black-eyed Susan ( <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> )	1'-3'										
Marsh Blazing-star ( <i>Liatris spicata</i> )	3'-6'										
Marsh Milkweed ( <i>Asclepias incarnata</i> )	1'-4'										
Giant St. John's Wort ( <i>Hypericum pyramidatum</i> )	2'-5'										
Woodland Sunflower ( <i>Helianthus strumosus</i> )	2'-6'										
Cardinal Flower ( <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> )	2'-5'										
Monkey Flower ( <i>Mimulus ringens</i> )	1'-3'										
Turtlehead ( <i>Chelone glabra</i> )	2'-4'										
Zigzag Goldenrod ( <i>Solidago flexicaulis</i> )	8"-4'										
Great Blue Lobelia ( <i>Lobelia siphilitica</i> )	1'-4'										
<b>Note: Color in column depicts color of flower.</b>											