

ANISE HYSSOP, *Agastache foeniculum*



TYPE: native perennials, perennials

NOTABLE TRAITS: attracts butterflies/pollinators, fragrant, great cut flowers, low-maintenance, midwest native, tolerates clay soil, tolerates harsh roadside conditions

HARDINESS: Zone 4 – 8

MATURE HEIGHT: 24-36in

LIGHT: sun (8+ hrs)

WATER: drought tolerant

BLOOM COLOR: lavender, purple

BLOOM SHAPE: spike

BLOOM TIME: fall, summer

GROWS HAPPILY IN AVERAGE SOIL IN FULL SUN TO LIGHT SHADE AND ATTRACTS ALL SORTS OF POLLINATORS. DEADHEAD SPENT FLOWERS TO PROMOTE ADDITIONAL BLOOM. PLANTS WILL SPREAD BY RHIZOMES AND WILL EASILY SELF-SEED.

BIG BLUESTEM, *Andropogon gerardii*



TYPE: grasses, native grasses, native perennials, perennials that last

NOTABLE TRAITS:

attracts songbirds, butterfly caterpillar food, exceptional fall color, great cut flowers, low-maintenance, midwest native, ornamental fruit & seed, outstanding winter interest, resistant: deer, tolerates clay soil, tolerates harsh roadside conditions

HARDINESS: Zone 4 – 9

MATURE HEIGHT: 6-8ft

LIGHT: part sun/afternoon shade (eastern exposure), part sun/morning shade (western exposure), sun (8+ hrs)

WATER: drought tolerant

BLOOM TIME: summer

FOLIAGE: green

BUTTERFLY HOST: Delaware Skipper

THIS COLORFUL, ROBUST HARDY GRASS IS NATIVE FROM CANADA TO MEXICO. TALL FOLIAGE TURNS LIGHT RED AFTER FROST. AN EXCELLENT BACKDROP FOR SHRUBS AND PERENNIALS, AND ALSO PLANTED WITH TALL FLOWERING NATIVES. TOUGH, SELF-SUFFICIENT BIG BLUESTEM IS JUSTLY FAMED FOR RESTORING DAMAGED SOIL AND COMPROMISED SITES.

TALL GREEN MILKWEED, *Asclepias hirtella*



TYPE: Monarch larval hosts, native perennials, perennials that last

NOTABLE TRAITS: attracts butterflies/pollinators, butterfly caterpillar food, heirloom garden plant, midwest native, ornamental fruit & seed, resistant: deer, resistant: disease, resistant: rabbit, tolerates clay soil, tolerates harsh roadside conditions, wildlife food source

HARDINESS: Zone 3 - 9

MATURE HEIGHT: 3-4ft

LIGHT: part to full sun (4 hours or more sun), sun (8+ hrs)

WATER: drought tolerant

BLOOM COLOR: white

BLOOM SHAPE: globe

BLOOM TIME: summer

FOLIAGE: green

BUTTERFLY HOST: Monarch

PLANTS GROW UP TO 4' AND PRODUCE WHITE FLOWERS. THIS SPECIES PREFERS MEDIUM-WET TO DRY SOIL AND GROWS BEST IN FULL SUN TO PARTIAL SHADE. BLOOMS MID-SUMMER AND IS ATTRACTIVE TO BUTTERFLIES AND BEES, INCLUDING HONEYBEES, BUMBLEBEES, AND LEAF-CUTTING BEES. NATIVE FROM KANSAS TO WEST VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA TO LOUISIANA.

SWAMP/ROSE MILKWEED, *Asclepias incarnata*



TYPE: Monarch larval hosts, natar, perennials that last

NOTABLE TRAITS: attracts butterflies/pollinators, butterfly caterpillar food, low-maintenance, midwest native, resistant: deer, resistant: disease, resistant: rabbit, tolerates clay soil, tolerates harsh roadside conditions

HARDINESS: Zone 3 – 9

MATURE HEIGHT: 24-36in

LIGHT: part sun/afternoon shade (eastern exposure), part sun/morning shade (western exposure), part to full sun (4 hours or more sun), sun (8+ hrs)

WATER: drought tolerant, tolerates poor drainage

BLOOM COLOR: white

BLOOM SHAPE: cluster

BLOOM TIME: summer

FOLIAGE: green

BUTTERFLY HOST: Monarch

CLUSTERS OF WHITE BLOOMS, FROM MID-SUMMER TO AUTUMN ARE NECTAR-RICH, ATTRACTING BUTTERFLIES GALORE. AS THE FLOWERS FADE, THEY ARE REPLACED BY INTRIGUING SEEDPODS WHICH CAN BE USED IN FRESH OR DRIED CUT FLOWER DISPLAYS.

PURPLE POPPY MALLOW, *Callirhoe involucrata*



TYPE: groundcover, low-maintenance lawn, native perennials, native plants, perennials that last

NOTABLE TRAITS: attracts butterflies/pollinators, low-maintenance, midwest native, resistant: deer, resistant: disease, resistant: rabbit, tolerates clay soil, tolerates harsh roadside conditions, trailing habit

HARDINESS: Zone 4 - 8

MATURE HEIGHT: 8-12in

LIGHT: sun (8+ hrs)

WATER: drought tolerant

BLOOM COLOR: purple

BLOOM SHAPE: cup

BLOOM TIME: summer

FOLIAGE: green

BUTTERFLY HOST: Common Checkered-Skipper

LOW-GROWING MOUNDS OF CUT-LEAVES ARE COVERED WITH LARGE, PURPLE, CUP-SHAPED FLOWERS ALL SUMMER. CAN SELF-SEED AND SPREAD ONCE ESTABLISHED. GROWS IN HIDEOUS CLAY SOIL, AND HEAT AND DROUGHT ONLY SLOW ITS GROWTH SLIGHTLY! AN EXCELLENT BORDER PLANT AND GROUND COVER.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN BEE PLANT, *Cleome serrulata*



TYPE: annuals — color all summer, butterfly annuals, flowering annuals, native annuals, native plants

NOTABLE TRAITS: attracts butterflies/pollinators, attracts hummingbirds, heirloom garden plant, low-maintenance, resistant: deer, resistant: disease, resistant: rabbit, tolerates clay soil, tolerates harsh roadside conditions

HARDINESS: Zone 1 – 10

MATURE HEIGHT: 24-36in

LIGHT: sun (8+ hrs)

WATER: drought tolerant

BLOOM COLOR: pink

BLOOM SHAPE: cluster

BLOOM TIME: fall, summer

FOLIAGE: green

BUTTERFLY HOST: Cabbage White, Checkered White

THIS COLORFUL LONG-BLOOMING NATIVE ANNUAL HAS LARGE SHOWY FLOWERS IN SHADES OF PINK AND ROSE PINK. PLANTS NATURALIZE IN THE GARDEN AND PROVIDE AN INVALUABLE NECTAR SOURCE FOR POLLINATORS

LANCE-LEAF COREOPSIS, *Coreopsis lanceolata*



TYPE: native perennials, perennials that last

NOTABLE TRAITS: attracts butterflies/pollinators, great cut flowers, green roof plants, midwest native, tolerates harsh roadside conditions

HARDINESS: Zone 4 – 9

MATURE HEIGHT: 18-24in

LIGHT: sun (8+ hrs)

WATER: drought tolerant, requires regular watering

BLOOM COLOR: orange

BLOOM SHAPE: daisy

BLOOM TIME: fall, summer

FOLIAGE: green

BUTTERFLY HOST: Southern Dogface

COREOPSIS LANCEOLATA (LANCELEAF TICKSEED) SPORTS BRIGHT YELLOW, DAISY-LIKE FLOWERS IN SUMMER OVER GLOSSY GREEN FOLIAGE. PLANTS SELF-SEED AND SPREAD FREELY. A PRAIRIE NATIVE GREAT FOR NATURALIZING WITH GRASSES AND OTHER SELF-SEEDERS. GROWS 1-2' TALL IN FULL SUN.

PURPLE CONEFLOWER, *Echinacea purpurea*



TYPE: perennials that last

NOTABLE TRAITS: attracts butterflies/pollinators, attracts songbirds, great cut flowers, low-maintenance, ornamental fruit & seed, resistant: deer, resistant: disease, resistant: rabbit, tolerates clay soil, tolerates harsh roadside conditions, wildlife food source

HARDINESS: Zone 3 – 8

MATURE HEIGHT: 18-24in

LIGHT: part sun/afternoon shade (eastern exposure), part sun/morning shade (western exposure), part to full sun (4 hours or more sun), sun (8+ hrs)

WATER: drought tolerant

BLOOM COLOR: pink

BLOOM SHAPE: daisy

BLOOM TIME: fall, summer

FOLIAGE: green

THE CLASSIC PURPLE CONEFLOWER WITH ROSE-PINK PETALS AND A COPPERY BROWN CENTRAL CONE. NEWER BLOOMS ARE MORE INTENSE IN COLOR AND LIGHTEN TO PALE ROSE AS THEY AGE, LENDING A BICOLOR EFFECT TO THE CLUMP. PRAISED FOR THEIR LARGE, DAISY-LIKE FLOWERS WHICH APPEAR FROM MIDSUMMER THRU FALL AFTER MANY OTHER PERENNIALS HAVE FINISHED BLOOMING, BLOOM CAN BE EXTENDED WITH DEADHEADING. LEAVE SPENT BLOOMS IN FALL TO PROVIDE WINTER SEED FOR FINCHES AND OTHER SONGBIRDS AND WINTER INTEREST.

DOWNY SUNFLOWER, *Helianthus mollis*



TYPE: groundcover, native perennials, perennials that last

NOTABLE TRAITS: attracts butterflies/pollinators, attracts songbirds, butterfly caterpillar food, resistant: deer, resistant: disease, resistant: rabbit, tolerates clay soil, tolerates harsh roadside conditions, wildlife food source

HARDINESS: Zone 4 – 9

MATURE HEIGHT: 3-4ft

LIGHT: part sun/afternoon shade (eastern exposure), part sun/morning shade (western exposure), part to full sun (4 hours or more sun), sun (8+ hrs)

WATER: drought tolerant

BLOOM COLOR: yellow

BLOOM SHAPE: daisy

BLOOM TIME: fall, summer

FOLIAGE: green

BUTTERFLY HOST: Painted Lady, Silvery Checkerspot

FINE HAIRS COVER THE STEMS AND LEAVES, GIVING THIS NATIVE PERENNIAL A GRAY-GREEN COLOR. A CLASSIC SUNFLOWER THAT BLOOMS FOR SUMMER THRU EARLY FALL. THRIVES IN POOR, DRY SOILS WITH GRAVEL, ROCK OR CLAY WHERE IT WILL FORM A DENSE COLONY. CAN PREVENT OTHER PLANTS FROM GROWING AROUND IT SO USE THIS NATIVE IN AREAS WHERE AN ISOLATED MONOCULTURE CAN GROW. DOWNY SUNFLOWER IS VERY AGGRESSIVE—A QUALITY SOME MIGHT LOOK FOR, BUT IN A SMALL LANDSCAPE SETTING IT'S A PLANT THAT COULD EASILY TAKE OVER AN ENTIRE AREA. NATIVE FROM NEBRASKA SOUTH TO TEXAS AND EAST.

ROUND-HEADED BUSH CLOVER, *Lespedeza capitata*



TYPE: native perennials, native plants, perennials that last

NOTABLE TRAITS: attracts butterflies/pollinators, attracts songbirds, butterfly caterpillar food, low-maintenance, midwest native, tolerates clay soil, tolerates harsh roadside conditions, wildlife food source

HARDINESS: Zone 4 – 8

MATURE HEIGHT: 24-36in

LIGHT: part to full sun (4 hours or more sun), sun (8+ hrs)

WATER: drought tolerant

BLOOM COLOR: white

BLOOM SHAPE: cluster

BLOOM TIME: fall, summer

FOLIAGE: green

COMMONLY FOUND IN UPLAND WOODS, THICKETS, AND PRAIRIES, ALONG STREAMS, RAILROADS, AND ROADSIDES. TINY CREAMY WHITE, PEA-LIKE FLOWERS WITH A MAGENTA SPOT AT THE BASE OPEN IN DENSE, ROUNDED CLUSTERS IN MID TO LATE SUMMER. NATIVE TO THE EASTERN HALF OF THE U.S.

DOTTED BLAZING STAR, *Liatris punctata*



TYPE: native perennials, perennials that last

NOTABLE TRAITS: attracts butterflies/pollinators, great cut flowers, heirloom garden plant, low-maintenance, midwest native, resistant: deer, resistant: disease, resistant: rabbit, tolerates clay soil, tolerates harsh roadside conditions

HARDINESS: Zone 4 – 9

MATURE HEIGHT: 18-24in

LIGHT: part sun/afternoon shade (eastern exposure), part sun/morning shade (western exposure), part to full sun (4 hours or more sun), sun (8+ hrs)

WATER: drought tolerant

BLOOM COLOR: purple

BLOOM SHAPE: spike

BLOOM TIME: summer

LIATRIS PUNCTATA IS A SPECIES OF FLOWERING PLANT IN THE ASTER FAMILY KNOWN BY THE COMMON NAMES DOTTED GAYFEATHER, DOTTED BLAZINGSTAR, AND NARROW-LEAVED BLAZINGSTAR. NATIVE THROUGHOUT THE PLAINS OF CENTRAL CANADA, THE UNITED STATES, AND NORTHERN MEXICO.

LEMON MINT, *Monarda citriodora*



TYPE: annuals – color all summer, flowering annuals, nativar

NOTABLE TRAITS: attracts butterflies/pollinators, fragrant, great cut flowers, low-maintenance, midwest native, resistant: deer, resistant: disease, resistant: rabbit, tolerates clay soil, tolerates harsh roadside conditions

HARDINESS: Zone 2 – 11

MATURE HEIGHT: 18-24in

LIGHT: sun (8+ hrs)

WATER: drought tolerant

BLOOM COLOR: pink, purple, white

BLOOM SHAPE: spike

BLOOM TIME: fall, summer

FOLIAGE: green

LEMON MINT (AKA HORSEMINT) FOLIAGE HAS A STRONG CITRUS SCENT WHEN RUBBED OR CRUSHED. IT IS VERY EASY TO GROW AND OFTEN FORMS LARGE COLONIES SOUGHT BY BEES AND BUTTERFLIES. ALTHOUGH ANNUAL, IT WILL SELF-SEED AND WIND THROUGH THE PERENNIAL GARDEN.

BLACK-EYED SUSAN, *Rudbeckia hirta*



TYPE: native perennials, perennials that last

NOTABLE TRAITS:

attracts butterflies/pollinators, attracts songbirds, butterfly caterpillar food, great cut flowers, heirloom garden plant, low-maintenance, midwest native, resistant: deer, resistant: rabbit, tolerates clay soil, tolerates harsh roadside conditions, wildlife food source

HARDINESS: Zone 4 – 10

MATURE HEIGHT: 24-36in

BLOOM SHAPE: daisy

HUGE 3-4" DEEP YELLOW BLOOMS WITH DARK BROWN EYE COVER THIS BLACK-EYED SUSAN FROM LATE SPRING UNTIL FROST IN AN EXUBERANT SHOW. A RAMPANT SELF-SEEDER, ONE PLANT WILL QUICKLY BECOME MANY IN THE GARDEN. WE LEAVE OURS TO DRY AND PROVIDE BIRDSEED IN WINTER. PLANTS GROW 30-36" TALL AND TOLERATE A SMALL AMOUNT OF SHADE. NATIVE TO MOST OF THE U.S.

LITTLE BLUESTEM, *Schizachyrium scoparium*



TYPE: grasses, natar, native grasses, native perennials, perennials that last

NOTABLE TRAITS: attracts songbirds, butterfly caterpillar food, green roof plants, resistant: deer, tolerant of black walnut

HARDINESS: Zone 3 – 9

MATURE HEIGHT: 24-36in

LIGHT: sun (8+ hrs)

WATER: drought tolerant

BLOOM COLOR: white

BLOOM TIME: summer

FOLIAGE: blue

BUTTERFLY HOST: Swarthy Skipper



SILVERY-BLUE FOLIAGE WITH EXCEPTIONAL BRONZE-RED FALL COLOR. ONE OF THE DOMINANT GRASSES OF THE TALLGRASS PRAIRIE WHICH ONCE COVERED THE RICH AND FERTILE SOILS OF CENTRAL NORTH AMERICA, THIS PRAIRIE NATIVE TOLERATES HEAT AND HUMIDITY LIKE A CHAMP. WITH 5-8 FOOT DEEP ROOTS DROUGHT IS ALSO NOT A PROBLEM. NATIVE TO PRAIRIES, FIELDS, CLEARINGS, HILLS, LIMESTONE GLADES, ROADSIDES, WASTE AREAS, AND OPEN WOODS FROM ALBERTA TO QUEBEC SOUTH TO ARIZONA AND FLORIDA.

BLUE VERVAIN, *Verbena hastata*



TYPE: native perennials, perennials that last

NOTABLE TRAITS: attracts butterflies/pollinators, great cut flowers, green roof plants, heirloom garden plant, low-maintenance, midwest native, resistant: deer, resistant: disease, resistant: rabbit, tolerates harsh roadside conditions

HARDINESS: Zone 3 – 8

MATURE HEIGHT: 12-18in

LIGHT: part to full sun (4 hours or more sun)

WATER: drought tolerant, tolerates poor drainage

BLOOM COLOR: blue, pink

BLOOM TIME: summer

FOLIAGE: green

EASILY GROWN IN AVERAGE, MEDIUM TO WET SOILS IN FULL SUN. FORMS COLONIES IN THE WILD BY SLOWLY SPREADING RHIZOMES AND SELF-SEEDING. A LOVELY LITTLE GARDEN FILLER MAKES GREAT CUT FLOWERS AND ATTRACTS POLLINATORS BY THE SCORE. NATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA.

TWO-GROOVED MILK VETCH, *Astragalus bisulcatus*



Life Cycle: Perennial

Sun Exposure: Full

Soil Moisture: Medium, Medium-Dry

Height: 2 feet

Bloom Time: May, June, July

Bloom Color: Purple

USDA Zones: 3-6

Plant Spacing: 18-24"

Two-Grooved Milk Vetch is native to the Western United States. It is a showy species for prairies, roadsides, and other upland habitats. Although domesticated animals tend to avoid the plant, it should not be included in rangeland plantings because it accumulates selenium. Many different bee species visit Two-Grooved Milk Vetch. Astragalus species are one of the host plants of the [Clouded Sulphur](#) butterfly.

LARGE YELLOW WILD INDIGO, *Baptisia Sphaerocarpa*



Life Cycle: Perennial

Sun Exposure: Full

Soil Moisture: Medium, Medium-Dry, Dry

Height: 3 feet

Bloom Time: June, July

Bloom Color: Yellow

USDA Zones: 4-9

Plant Spacing: 24-36"

Baptisia sphaerocarpa prefers full sun and average to dry soil. Like all of its genus, it is slow to establish but long-lived. The beautiful large yellow blossoms of Large Yellow Wild Indigo project proudly above its foliage in June and July. Like other *Baptisia* species, *Baptisia sphaerocarpa* is a host plant for the [Wild Indigo Duskywing](#) (*Erynnis baptisiae*). The marble-sized round seed pods distinguish this species from other *Baptisias*.

TALL SWAMP MARIGOLD, *Bidens coronata*



Life Cycle: Annual

Sun Exposure: Full

Soil Moisture: Wet, Medium-Wet

Height: 4 feet

Bloom Time: August, September, October

Bloom Color: Yellow

USDA Zones: 3-8

Plant Spacing: 18-24"

Damp spot? Tall Swamp Marigold or any of the *Bidens* species will give you glorious yellow color from late summer through late fall. *Bidens coronata* is similar to *Bidens aristosa mutica* but can be distinguished by flower bracts that are curly and sparsely fringed or bristled. Tall Swamp Marigold is an annual; it completes its life cycle during one season but will re-seed. Sticktight (see detailed seed picture) are the bur-like seeds of some *Bidens* species, so named because they stick to clothing, shoestrings, etc.

Other common names in use: Crowned Beggarticks, Tall Tickseed-sunflower.

TALL BELLFLOWER, *Campanula americana*



Life Cycle: Biennial

Sun Exposure: Partial, Shade

**Soil Moisture: Medium-Wet, Medium,
Medium-Dry**

Height: 5 feet

Bloom Time: July, August, September, October

Bloom Color: Blue

USDA Zones: 3-8

Plant Spacing: 18-24"

Campanula americana, Tall Bellflower or American Bellflower, reaches from three to five feet in height, its blue-violet blooms providing a bright late-summer accent to savanna or woodland plantings.

Self-seeding, it is either annual or biennial by habit, seemingly depending on when germination occurs. First-year plants are tight rosettes of heart-shaped leaves that shoot up the following spring to form tall stems. Because *Campanula americana* is the only bellflower with wide-spread petals, a petal tube that elongates with age and stamens that extend over the petals, it often is assigned the special designation *Campanulastrum americanum*.

Attracts birds and bees.

PARTRIDGE PEA, *Chamaecrista fasciculata*



Life Cycle: Annual

Sun Exposure: Full, Partial

Soil Moisture: Medium, Medium-Dry, Dry

Height: 2 feet

Bloom Time: July, August, September

Bloom Color: Yellow

USDA Zones: 4-9

Plant Spacing: 6-12"

Partridge Pea's yellow flowers with deep-red stamens are not only a cheery summer plant, but are great favorites of bees and other pollinators. The plant's visual appeal is enhanced by its symmetrical foliage, with blue-green leaves oppositely arranged in groups of 8-15 pairs. The leaves retreat when touched so another name that may be used is Sensitive Plant. These leaves are the larval host for the [Little Yellow](#), [Sleepy Orange](#) and [Orange Sulfur](#) butterflies. Partridge Pea is an annual and a legume so fixes soil nitrogen and forms attractive maroon seed pods in the fall, from which it readily self-seeds in medium to dry soils, growing to 2' in height. These seed pods are excellent food for game birds and songbirds that spend the winter with us. It is native to much of the eastern half of the US. It was formerly called *Cassia fasciculata*. Attracts birds and bees.

LEAFY PRAIRIE CLOVER, *Dalea foliosa*



Life Cycle: Perennial

Sun Exposure: Full, Partial

Soil Moisture: Medium, Medium-Dry, Dry

Height: 2 feet

Bloom Time: July, August, September

Bloom Color: Purple

USDA Zones: 4-7

Once a strong presence in medium to dry soil prairies, this species is now on the brink of extinction in natural areas, occurring in small populations in just a few states. Loss of habitat and fire suppression have contributed to its decline. Its form is more leafy than other Prairie Clovers. The root system consists of a single taproot. *Dalea foliosa* prefers full-partial sun and medium to dry conditions. It tolerates rocky soil but requires well drained-soil. *Dalea foliosa* does not tolerate competition from taller species.

The blooming period lasts between 1-2 months and occurs in late summer. There is no noticeable floral scent, but the flowers attract plenty of pollinators. Bees, butterflies, moths and skippers all enjoy visiting the flowers. In addition to attracting insects, rabbits and other mammalian herbivores consume the foliage. In areas where rabbits and deer are plentiful, we recommend taking extra precautions when growing this species.

BUSH MORNING GLORY, *Ipomoea leptophylla*



Life Cycle: Perennial

Sun Exposure: Full

Soil Moisture

Medium-Dry, Dry

Height: 3 feet

Bloom Time: June, July, August

Bloom Color: Pink

USDA Zones: 4-8

Ipomoea leptophylla, Bush Morning Glory, is a native perennial of the South-Central states of Texas and New Mexico; the Plains states of Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska and South Dakota; and the Mountain states of Colorado, Wyoming and Montana. Stems bend into an arc as they grow, forming a bushy clump that can reach about three feet in height. Large funnel-shaped, pinkish-purple flowers occur at the axils of the plant's linear leaves. The preference is for dry to medium-dry soils that are particularly sandy or gravelly in nature. You can find Bush Morning Glory in grasslands, roadsides, banks and somewhat disturbed areas.



This plant is also referred to as Man-root due to its ability to grow a root system that is allegedly the size of a man (it's more like a small child). Because of this large root system, the plant is very drought-tolerant, however, this largeness also makes the plant difficult to move once established so choose your spot wisely.

WILD MINT, *Mentha arvensis*



Life Cycle: Perennial

Sun Exposure: Full, Partial

Soil Moisture: Wet, Medium-Wet, Medium

Height: 2 feet

Bloom Time: July, August, September

Bloom Color: White, Purple

USDA Zones: 3-7

Plant Spacing: 1-2'

This mint has tiered clusters of small white to light purple flowers which appear along the stem in the heat of summer. It primarily attracts flies and wasps for its nectar, but butterflies, and small bees will visit on occasion. All parts of the plant are very aromatic. The strong minty scent of the foliage usually keeps herbivores at bay. *Mentha arvensis* is rhizomatous and aggressive and therefore may not be suitable for small landscape plantings.

SENSITIVE PLANT, *Mimosa quadrivalis* var. *nuttali*



Life Cycle: Perennial

Sun Exposure: Full

Soil Moisture: Medium-Dry, Dry

Height: 3 feet

Bloom Time: May, June, July

Bloom Color: Pink

USDA Zones: 5-10

Plant Spacing: 10-18"

Sensitive Plant prefers sunny, sandy sites. It goes by many names: Littleleaf Sensitive-brier, Cat's Claw, Catclaw Brier, and *Schrankia nutallii*. Its leaves fold when disturbed, hence its common name. From May-July plants (2-3' tall) bloom in bunches of pink-magenta flower globes, which set seeds in long, prickly pods. Despite the barbs, the pods are nutritious for foraging mammals. The plant's vining stems also are covered by small, backward-curving thorns (see photo). The plant gives off a sulfur smell.

WILD FOUR O'CLOCK, *Mirabilis nyctaginea*



Life Cycle: Perennial

Sun Exposure: Full

Soil Moisture: Medium, Medium-Dry, Dry

Height: 4 feet

Bloom Time: June, July, August, September

Bloom Color: Purple

USDA Zones: 3-10

Plant Spacing: 18-24"

The genus name, *Mirabilis*, means marvelous in Latin. Wild Four O'Clock is common in disturbed areas, especially those with poor soils like gravel or clay of roadsides, ditches, railroad tracks and even urban alleys. This easy-to-grow, perennial re-seeds itself readily, but in fertile soil, the Wild Four O'Clock is often outcompeted by its neighbors. It is native to the north and central US states and adventive in the far Eastern states. In the summer the range of pale pink to deep magenta flowers start to open late-afternoon (guess what time - 4:00!), remain open all night to be pollinated by various insects and even Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds, and close in the morning. It is a nice larval host to the [White-lined Sphinx Moth](#). Its flowers are trumpet- or horn-shaped, about half an inch across. Deer typically avoid this plant. The roots and seed are poisonous. The dark green, large leaves are very showy, as is the seeding period.

MIDEWIWAN SACRED TOBACCO, *Nicotiana rustica*



Life Cycle: Annual

Sun Exposure: Full, Partial

Soil Moisture: Medium, Medium-Dry

Height: 2 feet

Bloom Time: July, August, September

Bloom Color: Yellow

There are a number of common names in use for this species including: Wild Tobacco, Shamanic Tobacco, Erowid Tobacco or Aztec Tobacco. In South America it is traditionally called Mapacho.

Midewiwan Sacred Tobacco is an annual; it completes its life cycle during one season but will re-seed. It grows well in sandy, loamy, and clay soils. Midewiwan Sacred Tobacco prefers well-drained soil and cannot grow in shade.

PRAIRIE SUNDROPS, *Oenothera pilosella*



Life Cycle: Perennial

Sun Exposure: Full, Partial

Soil Moisture: Medium-Wet, Medium,
Medium-Dry

Height: 2 feet

Bloom Time: May, June

Bloom Color: Yellow

USDA Zones: 3-8

Plant Spacing: 18-24"

A member of the Evening Primrose family, it is actually a day-flowering species. It spreads semi-aggressively and forms dense mats, but can be removed easily from a garden setting because of its shallow roots. Doves of long-tongued bees, butterflies, and skippers are drawn to the prolific pollen these plants produce.

The bright yellow, fragrant flowers and photo-worthy stamens appear early summer. Prairie Sundrops prefer moist soils and near full sun but can tolerate periods of drought and light shade. Plant in full sun for strong, upright stems. Another common name in use is Meadow Evening Primrose.

EASTERN PRICKLY PEAR, *Opuntia humifusa*



Life Cycle: Perennial

Sun Exposure: Full, Partial

Soil Moisture: Dry

Height: 6 inches

Bloom Time: June, July

Bloom Color: Yellow

USDA Zones: 4-9

Plant Spacing: 6-8"

Deserts aren't the only places on Earth that have cacti! Scattered around a generous portion of eastern North America grows a lovely, sun loving species of cacti known as the Eastern Prickly Pear cactus. While seemingly out of place in many temperate regions, this interesting cactus still carries with it some of the habits of its desert dwelling relatives. Preferring full sun and sandy, dry conditions, the Eastern Prickly Pear cactus is a must have for the driest parts of your garden. From June to July, the cactus puts out some of the most stunning flowers. Bathed in bright yellow, the 3" wide blooms are immediately descended upon by a myriad of different pollinator species. Beetles, bees, and butterflies, this plant attracts them all. After flowering the pads produce bright red, edible fruits that are almost as attractive as the flowers that preceded them. Typical of most cacti, the seeds in these edible fruits must ripen for a minimum of 9 months before they are ready to germinate.

LARGE-FLOWERED BEARDTONGUE, *Penstemon grandiflorus*



Life Cycle: Perennial

Sun Exposure: Full, Partial

Soil Moisture: Medium-Dry, Dry

Height: 2 feet

Bloom Time: May, June

Bloom Color: Purple

USDA Zones: 3-8

Plant Spacing: 8-12"

Large-flowered Beardtongue prefers full sun to partial shade, dry mesic to dry conditions, and poor soil containing rocky material or sand. When mature it can reach heights of 2'. Its stunning large, tubular pink to purple flowers bloom for just a few weeks in May or June.

This plant is endangered in some states and is typically rare to see in the wild. Bumblebees like to visit the flowers for nectar and this plant is well liked by birds. In addition to the many pollinators it attracts, *Penstemon grandiflorus* is one of the host plants for the [Chalcedon Checkerspot](#) and [Edith's Checkerspot](#) within the western region of its range. *Penstemon grandiflorus* is one of the showiest of all Penstemons! In the past Native Americans treated toothaches by chewing the root pulp of this plant and then placing it in the cavity. Large-flowered Beardtongue is loved by bees and hummingbirds and is drought tolerant. Other common names include Showy Beardtongue, Pink Beardtongue, Shell-leaf Beardtongue, Canterbury Bells, and Wild Foxglove.

MARYLAND SENNA, *Senna maurilandica*



Life Cycle: Perennial

Sun Exposure: Full, Partial

Soil Moisture: Medium-Wet, Medium,
Medium-Dry

Height: 4 feet

Bloom Time: July, August

Bloom Color: Yellow

USDA Zones: 4-10

Senna marilandica is virtually indistinguishable from its relative, *Wild Senna* (*Senna herbecarpa*) until the 2 species have ripe seeds. The Wild Senna will readily open its pod and the seeds will fall out, whereas the Maryland Senna seed pods will stay tightly closed. For this reason, as wild turkey food, it's good to plant both Sennas; the Wild Senna will feed them in early fall as the seeds fall out of the pod, and the Maryland Senna's heavy, fibrous pods with seeds intact will sustain them during the later winter months.

Wild Senna, and other *Chamaecrista*/*Cassia* and *Senna* species in the *Fabaceae* (pea) family, are important host plants for many species of *Sulphur Butterflies*.

SKY BLUE ASTER, *Symphotrichum oolentangiense*



Life Cycle: Perennial

Sun Exposure: Full, Partial

Soil Moisture: Medium, Medium-Dry, Dry

Height: 3 feet

Bloom Time: August, September, October

Bloom Color: Blue

USDA Zones: 3-8

Plant Spacing: 1-2'

Sky Blue Aster has blue to blue-violet flowers. It is easy to grow and is drought tolerant. Blooming late summer to fall, like most Asters, it attracts butterflies and other beneficial insects such as small bees, flies, small to medium-sized butterflies, skippers, and wasps.

Sky Blue Aster prefers full or partial sun and can grow in many different types of soil as long as it is well-drained. The leaves are smaller when heading upward along the stem, and are typically heart-shaped at the base. The leaves on the very similar-looking [Smooth Blue Aster](#) are indeed smooth to the touch. Sky Blue Aster has rough leaves, as do many other Asters. It is also scientifically named *Aster oolentangensis* and *Aster azureus*.

BLUE-RIDGE BUCKBEAN, *Thermopsis caroliniana*



Life Cycle: Perennial

Sun Exposure: Full, Partial

Soil Moisture: Medium, Medium-Dry, Dry

Height: 4 feet

Bloom Time: May, June

Bloom Color: Yellow

USDA Zones: 4-7

Plant Spacing: 2-3'

This *Thermopsis* is native to the East Coast, USA. *Thermopsis caroliniana* is typically found in open meadows, prairies, woodland edges, and fields.

It is closely related to *Baptisia* species. Another commonly used scientific name is *Thermopsis villosa*. For common names, you may hear it called Carolina Lupine, Aaron's Rod, False Lupine, Southern Lupine, Bush Pea, and many others! *Thermopsis caroliniana* prefers full sun and well-drained soils. The bright yellow flowers resemble those of Wild Lupine and other *Lupinus* species. These flowers attract bees and butterflies. It has an extremely sturdy taproot that often needs a hatchet to cut.