

# Native Plant Guide

PLANTING RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR BEAUTIFYING LA CROSSE WI

# INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this guide is to aid residents on choosing the best Wisconsin native plants for their yard. This is not a complete list nor are residents limited to these plants. This is for those who are unsure of where to start. Further research is encouraged and sources used for this guide can be found at the end.

## WHY NATIVES?







Native plants are ones that have been naturally occurring in our area long before human interference. They provide an essential habitat for native wildlife, pollinators and other insects. In addition, native plants have deep root systems which aid in water retention and erosion prevention. They take some time to be fully established but once they are, native plants will flourish, be fairly low maintenance and attract a variety of pollinators.

# INFORMATION

When starting a native garden it can be started by seed or plant.

- Seeds are cheaper although they take longer to establish and it may be two to five years before they reach full size. Also they need to be planted either in the fall or spring.
- Plants are more money but they will establish quicker. Plants can be planted anytime throughout the growing season.

**KEY**

FULL SUN:		
FULL/ PART SUN:		H: Height
PART SUN:		S: Spread
MOIST SOIL:		B: Bloom Time
Average:		
DRY SOIL:		

# NATIVE PLANT RECOMMENDATIONS



**LEAD PLANT**

(*Amorpha canescens*)

H: 24"-36" | S: 24"-36"

B: Spring-Early Summer



**RED COLUMBINE**

(*Aquilegia canadensis*)

H: 24"-36" | S: 12"-20"

B: Spring-Early Summer



**BLACK-EYED SUSAN**

(*Rudbeckia hirta*)

H: 20"-36" | S: 24"-36"

B: Late Spring-Summer



**BUTTERFLY MILKWEED**

(*Asclepias tuberosa*)

H: 18"-24" | S: 12"-24"

B: Mid Summer

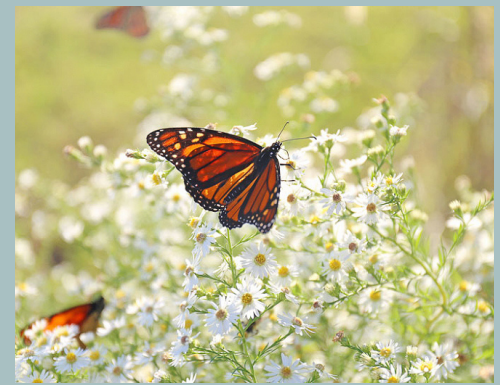


**BUTTON BLAZINGSTAR**

(*Liatris aspera*)

H: 24"-36" | S: 12"-24"

B: Late Summer



**HEATH ASTER**

(*Symphyotrichum ericoides*)

H: 12"-36" | S: 12"-18"

B: Late Summer- Fall



# PERENIALS



## PRAIRIE SMOKE

(*Geum triflorum*)

H: 6"-18" | S: 6"-12"

B: Late Spring-Summer



## WOODLILY

(*Lilium philadelphicum*)

H: 18"-36" | S: 12"-24"

B: Mid Summer- Fall



## WREATH GOLDENROD

(*Solidago Caesia*)

H: 12"-24" | S: 16"-20"

B: Late Summer- Fall



## CREAM WILD INDIGO

(*Baptisia Bracteata*)

H: 24"-36" | S: 24"-36"

B: Early Summer



## BLUEBELL

(*Campanula rotundifolia*)

H: 12"-18" | S: 6"-12"

B: Summer



## DOWNY PHLOX

(*Phlox Pilosa*)

H: 12"-18" | S: 12"-24"

B: Summer



# GRASSES



**LITTLE BLUESTEM**

(Schizachyrium scoparium)  
H: 24"-48" | S: 12"-24"



**PRAIRIE DROPSEED**

(Sporobolus heterolepis)  
H: 24"-36" | S: 12"-24"



**PRAIRIE JUNEGRASS**

(Koeleria macrantha)  
H: 12"-24" | S: 12"-20"



**BOTTLEBRUSH GRASS**

(Hystrix patula)  
H: 12"-36" | S: 8"-12"



**SIDE OATS GRAMA**

(Bouteloua curtipendula)  
H: 24"-36" | S: 14"-30"



**PINK MUHLY GRASS**

(Muhlenbergia capillaris)  
H: 24"-36" | S: 24"-36"



# SOURCES

Gardenia.net

Wisconsin DNR

University of Wisconsin Extension

For those interested in Rain Gardens:

[https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Stormwater/documents/  
RainGardenManual.pdf](https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Stormwater/documents/RainGardenManual.pdf)