

PRAIRIE DROPSEED

(*Sporobolus heterolepis*)



**NORTHWEST MICHIGAN
INVASIVE SPECIES NETWORK**

Protecting, enhancing, and promoting Northwest Michigan's natural communities through terrestrial invasive plant management and outreach.

Sally and Andy Wisowski
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



Is prairie dropseed right for your garden?



1-3 ft tall

1-3 ft wide

Aug.-Sept.



To learn more about how you can help protect our wild places, visit HabitatMatters.org

Key Features:



American Horticultural Society

Fall Color

Foliage turns golden in the fall, fading to bronze in winter. Snow does not readily weigh it down.



Mark Swanson

Border Plant

Excellent for borders and constrained spaces.



Summerazure

Visitors to Explore

Hosts insects like this leonard's skipper, the admirable grasshopper, the red-tailed leafhopper, and others.

LITTLE BLUESTEM

(*Schizachyrium scoparium*)



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Gardentrek

Is little bluestem right for your garden?



2-4 ft tall
1-2 ft wide

Aug.-Oct.



Patrick Alexander



Angie Lucas



John Beetham

Key Features:

Mass Effect

Readily re-seeds, and looks great in large plantings. Outstanding for erosion control on slopes.

All Year Beauty

Blue green stems in summer yield to red fall color and winter interest from tufted seedheads.

Visitors to Explore

Hosts the caterpillars of this swarthy skipper. Also hosts the admirable grasshopper. Seeds feed birds like the bobolink.

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SIDE OATS GRAMA

(*Bouteloua curtipendula*)



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lgns.org

Key Features:



John Hilty

Leaves

Blades are up to 8 inches long and are light green to blue-green, mostly hairless.



wildflower.org

Seed Spikes

Seeds are borne on only one side of the stem, giving this grass its name. Clusters of fruits look like little flags in late summer.



jeinc.com

Visitors to Explore

Many grasshoppers, like this red-winged grasshopper, and other insects feed on this grass. Birds, especially game birds, also visit for seeds.

Is side oats grama right for your garden?



1-2.5 ft tall
1-2 ft wide

June-Aug

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ROUGH BLAZING STAR

(*Liatris aspera*)



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Peter Gorman



Is rough blazing star right for your garden?



2-3 ft tall

1-2 ft wide

July-Sept.

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Key Features:



Peter Gorman

Native Bees

Especially attractive to a variety of native bee species, like this bumblebee.



Anne McCormack

Valuable Seed

Many birds, caterpillars, and small mammals munch on the seeds.



Bonnie Harper-Lore

Visitors to Explore

Attracts insect predators like this robber fly, which help with pest control in backyard gardens and regional farms.

BLUESTEM GOLDENROD

(*Solidago caesia*)



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Stefan Bloodworth



Is bluestem goldenrod right for your garden?



1-3 ft. tall

Aug.-Oct.

Key Features:



R.W. Smith

Blooms

Blooming occurs in late summer to early fall and lasts three to four weeks.



A.A. Reznicek

Unique Appearance

With twisting stems and flower all along, this shade-loving plant is a burst of color in late summer.



Diane Wilson

Visitors to Explore

Important to many short-tongued insects that can easily reach the nectar of the small flowers.

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FOXGLOVE BEARDTONGUE

(*Penstemon digitalis*)



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Peter Gorman



Is foxglove beardtongue right for your garden?



3-5 ft tall
1-2 ft wide

May-July



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Key Features:



Wendy Cutler

Mass Effect

Dramatic when planted densely, but foliage not always attractive afterwards. Plant near late blooming species. Cut dead stalks.



Rachel Ford James

Rosette

Forms overwintering clumps, from which next year's flowers grow.



Stylurus

Visitors to Explore

Sustains pollinators and hosts the caterpillars of this Baltimore checkerspot, as well as those of the chalcidony midget moth.

HORSEMINT

(*Monarda punctata*)



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Rhododendrites



Is horsemint right for your garden?

1-3 ft tall

July-Sept



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Key Features:



Bobby Hathaway

Flowers

Purple spotted flowers bloom from mid-summer to early fall. The entire plant is fragrant.



Illinois Wildflowers

Easy to Grow

Grows well in sunny, dry conditions with sandy soil, and readily colonizes bare areas.



Ted Bodner

Visitors to Explore

Nectar and pollen attracts honeybees, bumblebees, and butterflies. Thyme-scented foliage is unattractive to mammals.

WILD BERGAMOT/BEE BALM

(Monarda fistulosa)



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Phillip Merritt



Key Features:



Phillip Merritt

Showy Blooms

Attractive and unique purple blooms vary in color as a response to environment conditions.



Phillip Merritt

Bushy Appearance

Shallow rhizomes send up multiple leafy stems in a tight cluster, giving a full appearance.



Phillip Merritt

Visitors to Explore

Nectar attracts pollinators like honey bees, bee flies, butterflies, skippers and hummingbird moths. Often planted as a honey plant.

Is bee balm right for your garden?



1-3 ft tall

2-2.5 ft wide

June-Aug



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EARLY/FALSE SUNFLOWER

(*Heliopsis helianthoides*)



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James L. Reveal



Is early sunflower right for your garden?



3-4 ft tall

2-4 ft wide

June-Sept.

Key Features:



Joaquim Alves Gaspar

Bright Blooms

Long-lasting, sunny yellow flowers show their faces all summer long.



Andrey Korzun

Mass Effect

Forms bright clumps of greenery and flowers, providing a great backdrop to lower plants in front.



Diane Wilson

Visitors to Explore

Long-lasting blooms attract many pollinators, including butterflies, beetles, and bees, like this tiny mining bee.

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PURPLE CONEFLOWER

(*Echinacea purpurea*)



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John Beetham



Is purple coneflower right for your garden?



2-4 ft tall
1-2 ft wide

July-Aug.



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Key Features:



G.T. Conservation District

Mass Effect

Combines well with black-eyed susan and other species in mass plantings.



Ellen Falbowski

Native Bees

Especially good for attracting native bees. Also attracts some insect predators like this ambush bug.



Bill Bumgarner

Visitors to Explore

Hosts the caterpillars of this silvery checkerspot butterfly. Attracts hummingbirds.

SAND/LANCE-LEAF COREOPSIS

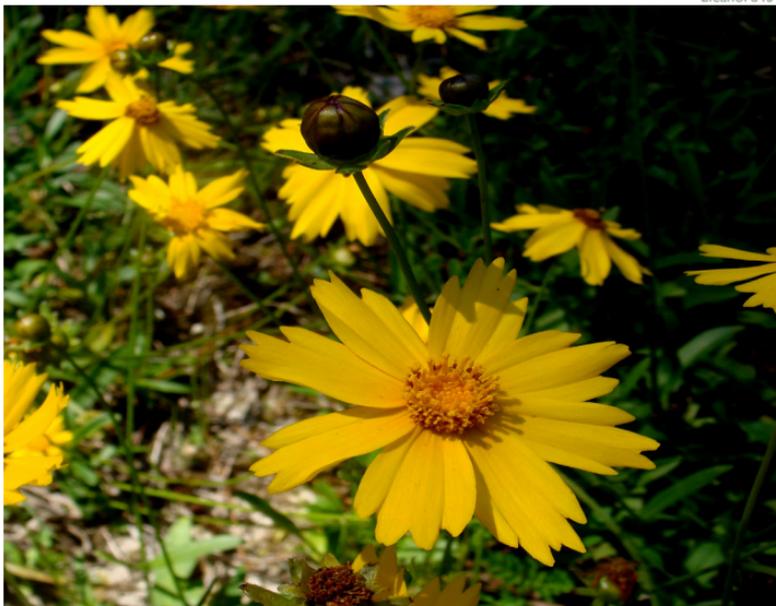
(*Coreopsis lanceolata*)



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Eleanord43



Is sand coreopsis right for your garden?



2-3 ft tall
1-2 ft wide

May-July



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Key Features:



G.T. Conservation District

Mass Effect

Fantastic summer bloom display lasts for weeks on end, especially in dry, sandy soil.



Angie Lucas

Easy to Grow

Prefers full sun, average to dry conditions and poor soil with rocks or sand. Easy to grow from transplants.



Anita Gould

Visitors to Explore

The caterpillar of the way lined emerald moth will camouflage itself by covering itself in cut portions of coreopsis flower.

BLUE FALSE/WILD INDIGO

(*Baptisia australis*)



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Jean-Pol Grandmont



Is blue false indigo right for your garden?



3-4 ft tall
2-3 ft wide

June-July

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Key Features:



Phyzone

Bright Blooms

Sprays of bold purple-blue blossoms attract pollinators and make a strong statement.



Denis Prevot

Showy Seeds

Seed pods darken to black by midsummer, giving a pleasing rattle when moved by passing breezes.



AW Thomas

Visitors to Explore

Supports the caterpillars of many butterflies, skippers, and moths, including this marine blue. Many other pollinators also value the flowers.

WHORLED MILKWEED

(*Asclepias verticillata*)



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Janice Lynn



Is whorled milkweed right for your garden?



1-2 ft tall
1-1.5 ft wide

July-Aug.



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Key Features:



John Hilty

Fall Beauty

Golden pods with bright silver threads holding seeds glow in autumn light, as well as feeding wildlife.



Andy and Sally Wasowski

Easy to Grow

Drought and deer-resistance and ready re-seeding makes this milkweed great for prairie gardens and restoration work.



Tim Lindenbaum

Visitors to Explore

Whorled milkweed hosts the caterpillars of beautiful butterflies like these monarchs and milkweed tussock moths.

BUTTERFLY MILKWEED

(*Asclepias tuberosa*)



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Anthony Zukoff



Is butterfly weed right for your garden?



1-3 ft tall

1-1.5 ft wide

June-July



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Key Features:



Anita Gould

Pollinators

Bright flowers attract and support many pollinators, from bees and butterflies to hummingbirds!



Mark Funk

Easy to Grow

Low, compact shape and simple growth requirements makes this milkweed easy to incorporate into existing gardens.



Tim Lindenbaum

Visitors to Explore

Butterfly weed hosts the caterpillars of beautiful butterflies like these monarchs and milkweed tussock moths.