



keep
Indianapolis
beautiful INC.

KIB NATIVE PLANT DESCRIPTIONS

Resource: Missouri Botanical Garden

Learn more at: <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org>

WHY PLANT NATIVE?

Native plants play a vital role in capturing storm water, supporting native bee and pollinator populations, and beautify our city. Most foreign plants, while providing nectar to pollinators are not food sources for their young. Native plants are the first step in ensuring that our native birds and butterflies can survive in our city. Plus, they come back every year! You don't need to buy new plants each year this way.



Asclepias incarnata **SWAMP MILKWEED**

Height: 4 – 5 Feet
Bloom Time: Jul – Aug
Sun: Full Sun

Description: Easily grown in medium to wet soils in full sun. Tolerant of average well-drained soils in cultivation. Plants have deep taproots and are best left undisturbed once established. Foliage is slow to emerge in spring. This Milkweed is one of the only food sources for the caterpillar form of the endangered Monarch Butterfly.



Asclepias tuberosa **BUTTERFLY WEED**

Height: 1 – 2.5 Feet
Bloom Time: Jun – Aug
Sun: Full Sun

Description: Short growing member of the Milkweed family, meaning it is one of the only food sources for the endangered Monarch Butterfly. Produce bright orange flowers that are a nectar source for a variety of butterflies and hummingbirds. Does not like to be moved once it has established.



Baptisia australis **BLUE FALSE INDIGO**

Height: 3 – 4 Feet
Bloom Time: May – June
Sun: Full Sun/Part Shade

Description: Easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Tolerates drought and poor soils. Does not like to be moved once established. Trimming foliage after bloom helps maintain rounded plant appearance and avoids a possible need for staking, but eliminates the attractive developing seed pods.

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illinoiswildflowers.info

Carex lurida **SALLOW SEDGE**

Height: 1.5 - 3 feet

Bloom Time: May - Sep

Sun: Full sun/part shade

Description: Easily grown in moist soil around water gardens or in wet meadows, swampy areas, or around bodies of water. Is less prone to summer die-back and remains attractive during warm weather though may require supplemental watering if planted in a dry area.



illinoiswildflowers.info

Carex stipata **COMMON FOX SEDGE**

Height: 1.5 – 3 Feet

Bloom Time: June – July

Sun: Full Sun/Part Shade

Description: Prefers growth in light shade to full sun and in moist to slightly wet conditions. This sedge adapts to a variety of soil types, including a heavy clay-loam. In shaded situations, it tolerates drier conditions.

* Source: IllinoisWildflowers.info *



Echinacea purpurea **PURPLE CONEFLOWER**

Height: 2 – 5 Feet

Bloom Time: Jun – Aug

Sun: Full Sun/Part Shade

Description: Hardy, herbaceous native perennial common throughout landscapes in Indianapolis. Flower is a large, daisy like purple-pink coneflower with spiny center. Species is adaptable to most soil types and can tolerate more shade than most prairie species, though prefers full sun.

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Eutrochium purpureum **JOE PYE WEED**

Height: 5 – 7 Feet

Bloom Time: July - Sep

Sun: Full Sun/Part Shade

Description: Easily grown in average, medium moisture soils in full sun to part shade. Intolerant of dry soils which may cause leaf scorching. Cut plants to the ground in late winter.



bluestoneperennials.com

Helenium autumnale **COMMON SNEEZEWEED**

Height: 3 – 5 Feet

Bloom Time: Aug – Oct

Sun: Full Sun

Description: Easily grown in average, medium to wet soils in full sun. Prefers rich, moist soils. Intolerant of dry soils. Avoid over-fertilization which may cause plants to grow too tall. Remove spent flowers to encourage additional bloom. Cut back plants by 1/2 after flowering. Divide clumps as needed (every 3-4 years) to maintain vigor.



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Helianthus mollis **DOWNY SUNFLOWER**

Height: 2 – 4 Feet

Bloom Time: July – Sep

Sun: Full Sun

Description: Easily grown in average, dry to medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun. Tolerates some light shade and a wide variety of soils, including average, sandy and poor rocky soils, as long as drainage is good. Avoid clay soils. May need staking, particularly if grown in exposed locations.

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Liatris aspera
ROUGH BLAZING STAR

Height: 2 – 3 Feet

Bloom Time: Aug – Oct

Sun: Full Sun

Description: Easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soils in full sun. Tolerant of poor soils, drought, summer heat and humidity. Intolerant of wet soils in winter. No serious insect or disease problems associated, though taller spires may need staking.



Liatris spicata
DENSE BLAZING STAR

Height: 2 – 4 Feet

Bloom Time: July – Aug

Sun: Full Sun

Description: Best grown in average, medium, well-drained soils in full sun. Somewhat tolerant of poor soils, but prefers moist, fertile ones and generally performs better in moist soils than most other species of *Liatris*. Intolerant of wet soils in winter. Tolerant of summer heat and humidity. Taller plants may require staking.



Monarda fistulosa
BEE BALM

Height: 2 – 4 Feet

Bloom Time: July – Sept

Sun: Full Sun/Part Shade

Description: Best grown in dry to medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Tolerates somewhat poor soils and some drought. Plants need good air circulation. Deadhead flowers to prolong summer bloom. Tends to self-seed.

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Panicum virgatum SWITCHGRASS

Height: 3 – 6 Feet

Bloom Time: July – Feb

Sun: Full Sun/Part Shade

Description: Easily grown in average, medium to wet soils in full sun to part shade. Tolerates a wide range of soils, including dry ones, but prefers moist, sandy or clay soils. Tolerates occasional flooding. May flop in overly rich soils. Generally performs best in full sun. Cut back clumps to the ground in late winter to early spring.



Penstemon calycosus CALICO BEARDTONGUE

Height: 1 – 3 Feet

Bloom Time: Jun – July

Sun: Full Sun/Part Shade

Description: The preference is full to partial sun, rich loamy soil, and moist to mesic conditions. Like other penstemons, this species rarely has problems with foliar disease.

* Source: IllinoisWildflowers.info *



Penstemon digitalis FOXGLOVE BEARDTONGUE

Height: 3 – 5 Feet

Bloom Time: April – Jun

Sun: Full Sun

Description: Grow in average, dry to medium moisture, well-drained soil in full sun. Avoid wet, poorly drained soils.

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Physostegia virginiana OBEDIENT PLANT

Height: 3 – 4 Feet

Bloom Time: June – Sep

Sun: Full Sun

Description: Easily grown in average, moist, acidic, well-drained soils in full sun. Tolerates wet soils and some part shade. Stems tend to flop in rich soils, too much shade or hot summer temperatures. Taller plants may need staking.



missouribotanicalgarden.org

Pycnanthemum tenuifolium SLENDER MOUNTAIN MINT

Height: 2 – 3 Feet

Bloom Time: July – Sep

Sun: Full Sun/Part Shade

Description: Easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. A vigorous and sometimes aggressive grower. All parts of the plant emit a strong, mint-like aroma when crushed.



Rudbeckia fulgida speciosa BLACK EYED SUSAN

Height: 2 – 3 Feet

Bloom Time: June – Oct

Sun: Full Sun

Description: Best grown in dry to medium, organically rich to average, well-drained soils in full sun. Best bloom occurs in full sun, although plants will tolerate some light shade. Some tolerance for drought once established. Tolerant of a wide range of growing conditions including dry soil, clay soil, and urban environments. Deadhead spent flowers to encourage additional bloom.

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Schizachyrium scoparium **LITTLE BLUESTEM**

Height: 2 – 4 Feet
Bloom Time: Aug – Feb
Sun: Full Sun

Description: Easily grown in average, dry to medium moisture, well-drained soil in full sun. Tolerates a wide range of soil conditions. Tolerates clay soils and occasional inundation. Performs well in poor soils. Good drought resistance once established. Tolerates high heat and humidity. Cut to the ground in late winter to early spring.



Solidago speciosa **SHOWY GOLDENROD**

Height: 2 – 4 Feet
Bloom Time: July – Sep
Sun: Full Sun

Description: Easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soil in full sun. Tolerates poor, dry soils. Remove spent flower clusters to encourage additional bloom.



Symphyotrichum oolentangiense **SKYBLUE ASTER**

Height: 2 – 3 Feet
Bloom Time: Sept – Oct
Sun: Full Sun

Description: Easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soils in full sun to light shade. Tolerates a wide range of soils. Also tolerates drought. Spreads by rhizomes and self-seeding. May be grown from seed.

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