

Fall 2026

Native Plant

Sale Directory

Montcalm
Conservation District



Photo/Information Sources:



White Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)

White yarrow is a fast-growing, herbaceous perennial with an extended bloom that can last from mid-summer to early fall. White yarrow is highly deer resistant due to its strong aroma and bitter taste. The plant's scientific name comes from the Latin term, "a thousand leaves." These leaves have been used by Native Americans to cure stomach issues, treat infected wounds and repel mosquitos.



Clarence A. Rechenthin

Sun	Soil	Moisture	Height	Bloom Time
Partial – Full	Sand – Loam	Dry – Moderate	1 – 3 ft.	June – September

Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

Butterfly weed is a perennial herb with hairy stems, velvety leaves, and showy flowers that range from yellow to orange to red. Butterfly weed is fairly fast-growing, once established, and remains relatively deer resistant. Milkweeds, like butterfly weed, are the only plants where monarch butterflies will lay their eggs and monarch larvae will feed. Butterfly weed roots were used extensively in ethnobotanical practices and was even listed in the U.S Pharmacopoeia from 1820 to 1905.



Jeff McMillian

Sun	Soil	Moisture	Height	Bloom Time
Full – Partial	Sand – Loam	Dry - Moderate	3 – 6 ft.	June – August

Calico Aster (*Aster laterifolium*)

Calico aster is a perennial wildflower in the daisy family that blooms from late summer to fall. Its flower heads have a yellow center of disc flowers that change to a purplish red color as the bloom ages. The disc flowers are encircled by pale purple or white ray flowers. Calico asters are moderately fast-growing, moderately deer resistant and can be found in fields and thickets providing nectar for bees.



Bruce Leander

Sun	Soil	Moisture	Height	Bloom Time
Full – Partial	Any	Moderate	2 – 3 ft.	August – October

New England Aster (*Aster novae-angliae*)

New England aster is a fast-growing, perennial forb that blooms a purple ray flower with a bright yellow disk later in the season from August to October. The New England aster is another plant known for attracting butterflies and moths for pollination. Unfortunately, the Aster family can suffer from various forms of stem-rot and a bleached appearance caused by yellow disease. However, this plant is seldom severely browsed by deer.



Robert Mohlenbrock

Sun	Soil	Moisture	Height	Bloom Time
Full - Partial	Any	Moist	2 – 6 ft.	August – September

Smooth Blue Aster (*Aster laevis*)

Smooth blue aster is a perennial forb in the daisy family with thick, stout leaves and pale blue ray flowers with yellow disks that bloom in late summer and fall. Smooth blue aster attracts native bees and butterflies for pollination. It is also generally considered deer-resistant and fast-growing, making it the perfect choice to fill in gardens.



Theodore S. Cochrane
Robert W. Freckmann Herbarium

Sun	Soil	Moisture	Height	Bloom Time
Full – Partial	Any	Moist	1 – 6 ft.	August – October

Sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*)

Sneezeweed is a perennial plant, with a slow to moderate growth rate, blooming a vibrant yellow in the late summer to fall. Sneezeweed is fairly deer resistant and very attractive to bees and butterflies. Despite its name, sneezeweed does not cause hay fever. The plant's name actually originates from the Menominee Indian Tribe, who would crush dry leaves to use as snuff for inducing sneezing and rid the body of evil spirits and sickness.



Sue Trull

Sun	Soil	Moisture	Height	Bloom Time
Full – Partial	Clay	Moist	3 – 5 ft.	August – October

Marsh Blazing Star (*Liatris spicata*)

Marsh blazing star is a perennial flowering plant that blooms stalks of fuzzy purple flowers. While not a fast-establishing plant, it is considered fast-growing. Marsh blazing star can be found in meadows, moist woodlands and marsh edges. Marsh blazing star is fairly resistant to deer browse and attracts butterflies, bees, hummingbirds and seed eating birds, such as goldfinches. Its hollow, dead stems also provide nesting habitat for native bees. Additionally, marsh blazing star is a host plant for the liatris borer moth and the liatris flower moth.



Hedwig Storch (NC State Extension)

Sun	Soil	Moisture	Height	Bloom Time
Full	Any	Moderate	3 – 6 ft.	July – September

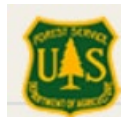
Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)

Cardinal flower is a very unique, herbaceous perennial blooming a bright red, two-lipped flower in mid to late summer. The nectar of the flowers is very attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds, while its bitter compounds and pyridine alkaloids typically deter deer from browsing. The cardinal flower has served many ethnobotanical purposes, and according to the Pawnee Native American legend, the plant's roots and flowers could be used to create a strong love charm as well.



Thomas G. Barnes

Sun	Soil	Moisture	Height	Bloom Time
Full – Partial	Any	Moderate - Moist	2 – 4 ft.	July – September



Great Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*)

Great blue lobelia is a fairly fast-growing, herbaceous perennial that blooms a purple-blue two-lipped flower in late summer. The nectar of these flowers is a favorite of the butterflies and hummingbirds while the bitter taste and alkaloids tend to deter deer. The great blue lobelia has many ethnobotanical uses, especially in conjunction with the cardinal flower; however, alone, the Meskwaki believed the great blue lobelia could be consumed by husband and wife as an anti-divorce remedy.



Thomas G. Barnes

Sun	Soil	Moisture	Height	Bloom Time
Full, Partial, Shade	Loam	Moderate – Moist	2 – 4 ft.	August – September

Spotted Beebalm (*Monarda punctata*)

Spotted beebalm is a native perennial in the mint family that blooms unique and fragrant flowers from mid to late summer. Spotted beebalm is resistant to damage by deer, rabbits, and even drought. Once established, spotted beebalm grows fairly quickly. The *Monarda* genus attracts many pollinators, including butterflies, hummingbirds and three species of specialized bees.



Susan Strine

Sun	Soil	Moisture	Height	Bloom Time
Full – Partial	Sand – Loam	Dry	1 – 3 ft.	July – September

Foxglove Beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*)

Foxglove beardtongue is a fast-growing, herbaceous perennial that blooms a white tubular flower around May/June. This plant is widely considered to be deer resistant and is utilized by many long-tongued pollinators like hummingbirds. The two-spotted bumble bee is another pollinator that enjoys the early bloom of the foxglove beardtongue.



Missouri Prairie Foundation

Sun	Soil	Moisture	Height	Bloom Time
Full – Partial	Any	Moderate	3 – 4 ft.	May – June

Virginia Mountain Mint

(*Pycnanthemum virginianum*)

Virginia mountain mint is a perennial in the mint family that blooms clusters of small, white flowers with purple spots from mid to late summer. Virginia mountain mint can be found in wet prairies and along stream edges growing at a medium-pace. Virginia mountain mint serves as a nectar source for bees and butterflies but does not experience much deer browse due to the strong minty flavor.



Alan Cressler

Sun	Soil	Moisture	Height	Bloom Time
Full – Partial	All	Moderate – Moist	2 – 3 ft.	July – September

Swamp Goldenrod (*Solidago patula*)

Swamp goldenrod, also known as round-leaved goldenrod, is the perfect fast-growing, pop-of-color in the fall with its late blooming yellow florets. Swamp goldenrod is a major attractor for pollinators and birds, while remaining deer resistant in high-traffic wildlife areas.



Stephanie Brundage

Sun	Soil	Moisture	Height	Bloom Time
Full, Partial, Shade	Any	Moderate - Moist	2 – 3 ft.	July – October

Upland White Goldenrod (*Oligoneuron album*)

Upland white goldenrod is part of the goldenrod family, but its white petaled and yellow centered blooms look more like daisies than a typical goldenrod. Fast-growing, hardy and drought tolerant, upland white goldenrod is a low maintenance herbaceous perennial. Upland white goldenrod's flowers attract bees and butterflies, and its seeds attract songbirds while remaining less palatable to deer.

Sun	Soil	Moisture	Height	Bloom Time
Full	Sand	Dry	1 – 2 ft.	August – October



Rob Routledge (Sault College, Bugwood.org)

Blue Vervain (*Verbena hastata*)

Blue vervain is a slower growing perennial wildflower that blooms a “candelabra” of bluish-purple flowers. Blue vervain is a hardy plant that can be found in marshes, riversides, pond sides, ditches and meadows. Blue vervain attracts songbirds, small mammals, bees and butterflies, although it is considered deer-resistant. It is also a host plant for the common buckeye butterfly. Blue vervain has a long history of being used to treat a wide variety of medical ailments, such as depression, headaches, colds, wounds and acne.



Dan Mullen (NC State Extension)

Sun	Soil	Moisture	Height	Bloom Time
Full – Partial	Any	Moderate – Moist	2 – 5 ft.	July – September

Hoary Vervain (*Verbena stricta*)

Hoary vervain is a perennial plant that blooms multiple small, purple/blue flowers on stalks late July through August. It grows at a moderate pace and is fairly deer-resistant. Hoary vervain is attractive to pests like lygus bugs but also pollinators such as digger bees, small carpenter bees, and bumble bees.

Sun	Soil	Moisture	Height	Bloom Time
Full	Any	Dry – Moderate	2 – 3 ft.	July – August



Peter Dziuk

Culver's Root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*)

Culver's root is a moderately slow-growing, native perennial that blooms a unique flower in July/September resembling the shape of a candelabrum. This plant grows well in pollinator mixes, attracting many different bees, butterflies, and moths, while deterring deer browse due to a strong fragrance and bitter taste. The common name likely developed from an 18th century herbalist who popularized the plant as a treatment for ailments. Many Native American tribes used Culver's root medicinally as well, treating coughs, fever, and even pain relief during childbirth.



Eleanor Saulys

Sun	Soil	Moisture	Height	Bloom Time
Full	Any	Moderate	4 – 7 ft.	July – August

Golden Alexander (*Zizia aurea*)

Golden Alexander is a perennial forb in the carrot family that blooms small, bright-yellow flowers that cluster into a flat-top bundle through May/June. The serrated, ovate leaves tend to turn light purple along with the fruit in the fall. Golden Alexander is a fairly low maintenance plant, preferring full sun and moist soil but can tolerate the opposite conditions as well. It is a fast-growing plant and moderately deer resistant.



Eleanor Saulys

Sun	Soil	Moisture	Height	Bloom Time
Full – Partial	Loam	Moist	1 – 2 ft.	May – June

Fox Sedge (*Carex vulpinoidea*)

Fox sedge is a sun loving, wet tolerant perennial that can grow well in disturbed soil. It is a medium to fast-growing, clump-forming plant and widely considered to be deer resistant. From July to August, fox sedge produces bristly tussocks that resemble a fox's tail.



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Katy Chayka

Sun	Soil	Moisture	Height
Full	Any	Moist	1 – 3 ft.



Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*)

Big bluestem is a fast-growing, clump-forming, perennial grass with blue coloration at the base of the culm and purple flower clusters. These flower clusters bear some resemblance to the foot of a turkey which has resulted in one of the common names for the plant being turkeyfoot. Big bluestem is used for wildlife and livestock grazing as well as erosion control, due to its extensive root system. However, the grass remains fairly resistant to deer browse.

Sun	Soil	Moisture	Height
Full – Partial	Loam	Moderate - Moist	6 – 8 ft.



Jennifer Anderson

Side Oats Grama Grass (*Bouteloua curtipendula*)

Side oats grama grass is the largest and most coarse plant of the grama grasses with a blue-green color, sometimes purple in the spring. Side oats grama grass is often used for erosion control especially in rocky or shallow soils. It forms compact clumps at a moderate-pace and is generally resistant to deer browse.



Ryan P. O'Connor

Sun	Soil	Moisture	Height
Full	Loam - Sand	Dry – Moderate	2 – 3 ft.

Bottlebrush Grass (*Elymus hystrix*)

Bottlebrush grass is a perennial, clump-forming grass that produces seedheads in summer and fall that resemble a bottlebrush. This cool-season grass goes dormant when summer heat is at its peak. It is a slow to moderate grower and is fairly deer-resistant. Bottlebrush grass is an incredibly hardy plant, as it is tolerant of drought, erosion and pollution. It can also grow near black walnut. Bottlebrush grass attracts small mammals and birds, who eat its seeds.

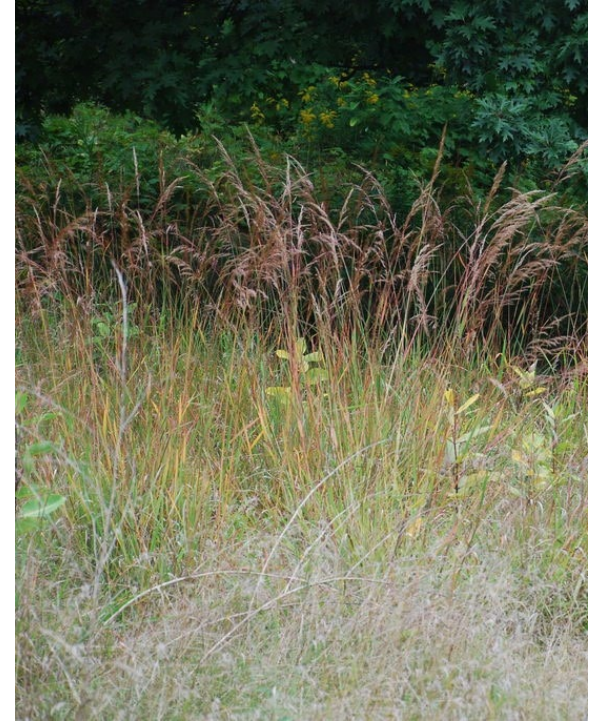


Kathleen Moore (NC State Extension)

Sun	Soil	Moisture	Height
Partial	Any	Moist	2 – 4 ft.

Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)

Indiangrass is a tall, fast-growing, perennial bunchgrass capable of reaching around 7 ft in height. The grass technically begins growing in the spring, but the majority of its growth occurs between the months of June and August. Indiangrass will remain green until the first frost when it descends into its yellow-orange, fall color. Indiangrass is attractive to wildlife, especially songbirds, and is deer resistant.



Douglas Goldman

Sun	Soil	Moisture	Height
Full	Any	Dry – Moderate	5 - 7 ft.