

WILDLIFE GARDEN SPECIES LIST

Plant Information	Scientific Name	Priority	Description
1. Yellow Buckeye Type: Tree Life Cycle: Perennial Bloom Time: Spring Sun: Partial Sunlight Moisture: Moist Ecological Resources: Fruit/Nut/Seed, Pollen, Nectar	<i>Aesculus flava</i>	Medium	A large, deciduous tree or shrub reaching 50–75 feet, with stout branches and green foliage. Red and yellow flowers bloom in spring, attracting butterflies and hummingbirds, followed by brown fruits. Thrives in sun to partial shade with even moisture and well-drained soils. Tolerant of heat, humidity, and deer. Provides striking fall color and pollinator value, making it ideal for southeastern U.S. forests and large gardens. Sources: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center; Plant Lust
2. Tall Thimbleweed Type: Forb Life Cycle: Perennial Bloom Time: Summer Sun: Partial Sunlight Moisture: Moist Ecological Resources: Fruit/Nut/Seed	<i>Anemone virginiana</i>	Low	Native to the central and eastern United States, this perennial grows 1-3 feet tall and 1-2 feet wide. It prefers average, well-drained, sandy-humusy soils in sun to shade and is drought tolerant once established. Its showy, white, spring-blooming flowers produce thimble-shaped seed heads. This plant is resistant to deer, rabbits, and Verticillium wilt (a fungal disease that causes wilting). Sources: Plant Lust; Missouri Botanical Garden
3. Hemp Dogbane Type: Forb Life Cycle: Perennial Bloom Time: Summer Sun: Full Sun Moisture: Moist Ecological Resources: Pollen, Nectar	<i>Apocynum cannabinum</i>	Low	Native to northeastern United States and Canada, this 2–4-foot perennial herb has stiff, upright stems with lance-shaped leaves. Tiny white to green summer flowers attract butterflies, and fibrous stems were historically used for rope. Thrives in dry, well-drained soils in full sun and can naturalize aggressively, making it ideal for wild or butterfly gardens. Sources: Missouri Botanical Garden; Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
4. Common Milkweed Type: Forb Life Cycle: Perennial Bloom Time: Summer Sun: Full Sun Moisture: Moist Ecological Resources: Pollen, Nectar, Larval Host	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	High	This 3-4 foot tall perennial is native to eastern North America. It thrives in full sun and dry, well-drained soils, showing excellent drought tolerance. From June to August, it produces fragrant, pinkish-purple flowers that attract numerous pollinators. It is an essential host plant for monarch butterfly caterpillars. Sources: Plant Lust; Missouri Botanical Garden
5. Butterflyweed Type: Forb Life Cycle: Perennial Bloom Time: Summer Sun: Full Sun Moisture: Dry Ecological Resources: Pollen, Nectar, Larval Host	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	High	Native to the eastern and southern United States, this tuberous-rooted perennial reaches 1-2.5 feet tall and 1-1.5 feet wide with narrow, lance-shaped leaves and upright to reclining hairy stems. Prefers average, dry to medium, well-drained soils in full sun and excels in poor, dry conditions with excellent drought tolerance. Produces bright orange to yellow-orange flower clusters from June through August followed by spindle-shaped seed pods that split open to release silky-tailed seeds. Serves as

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essential larval host for monarch butterfly caterpillars while attracting hummingbirds, butterflies, and other pollinators with its nectar-rich flowers.Sources: Missouri Botanical Garden; Plant Lust

6. Green Milkweed

Asclepias viridiflora

Medium

Type: Forb

Life Cycle: Perennial

Bloom Time: Summer

Sun: Full Sun

Moisture: Dry

Ecological Resources: Pollen, Nectar, Larval Host

Native to central and eastern North America, this erect, herbaceous perennial reaches 1–2 feet tall with narrow, opposite leaves. Prefers dry to medium, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade and tolerates poor soils and drought once established. Produces small, greenish-white to pale yellow clustered flowers from June through August, attracting butterflies, bees, and other pollinators. Sources: Missouri Botanical Garden; Plant Lust

7. Blue Wild Indigo

Baptisia australis

Medium

Type: Forb

Life Cycle: Perennial

Bloom Time: Late Spring to Early Summer

Sun: Full Sun

Moisture: Dry

Ecological Resources: Fruit/Nut/Seed, Pollen, Nectar, Larval Host

Native to the eastern United States, this slow-growing herbaceous perennial reaches 3-4 feet tall and wide with clover-like, trifoliate, bluish-green leaves. Prefers average, dry to medium, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade and tolerates drought, poor soils, and clay. Produces showy spikes of indigo-blue, lupine-like flowers in May-June followed by inflated seed pods that turn charcoal black when ripe. Develops deep, extensive root systems over time and should not be disturbed once established. Attracts butterflies and bees while offering excellent deer resistance and heat tolerance.Sources: Missouri Botanical Garden; Plant Lust

8. Cherokee Sedge

Carex cherokeensis

Low

Type: Graminoid

Life Cycle: Perennial

Bloom Time: Late Spring to Early Summer

Sun: Partial Sunlight

Moisture: Moist

Ecological Resources: Fruit/Nut/Seed, Shelter/Nesting Material

Native to the southeastern United States, this slowly-spreading sedge forms attractive clumps 6-12 inches tall and up to 4 feet wide with fine-textured, narrow, grass-like, deep green evergreen leaves. Prefers medium to wet soils in full sun to part shade and thrives in moist conditions while tolerating average garden soils. Produces insignificant greenish-white flowers in April-June followed by wheat-like seed spikes in autumn. Offers excellent heat tolerance, verticillium wilt resistance (fungal disease affecting plant vascular system), and deer resistance while attracting birds with its seeds.Sources: Missouri Botanical Garden; Plant Lust

9. Gray's Sedge

Carex grayi

Low

Type: Graminoid

Life Cycle: Perennial

Bloom Time: Late Spring to Early Summer

Sun: Partial Sunlight

Moisture: Wet

Ecological Resources: Fruit/Nut/Seed, Shelter/Nesting Material

Native to eastern North America, this perennial sedge reaches 2-3 feet tall and 1.5-2 feet wide with grass-like, semi-evergreen leaves up to 0.5 inches wide. Prefers moist, fertile soil in full sun to part shade and thrives at or near water with medium to wet moisture conditions. Produces distinctive greenish-yellow to brown seed heads that look like spiked clubs from May-October, remaining attractive through winter and adding interest when shadows reflect on snow. Sharp-edged stems distinguish sedges from round rushes, while the showy seed heads make excellent fresh or dried arrangements and provide winter interest near water gardens. Sources: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center; Missouri Botanical Garden

10. Fox Sedge*Carex vulpinoidea*

Low

Type: Graminoid**Life Cycle:** Perennial**Bloom Time:** Late Spring to Early Summer**Sun:** Full Sun**Moisture:** Wet**Ecological Resources:** Fruit/Nut/Seed, Shelter/Nesting Material

Native to North America, this semi-evergreen sedge forms clumps 1-3 feet tall and 1-3 feet wide with narrow, grass-like leaf blades and sharp-edged stems. Prefers damp to very wet soils in full sun to part shade and excels in standing water to even moisture conditions, tolerating average, clay, and gritty soils. Produces attractive seedheads that spray out from the center of the clump resembling a fox's tail in May-July, though they are short-lived. Provides food and shelter for invertebrates, songbirds, and waterfowl including mallards while offering excellent deer resistance and verticillium wilt resistance, making it ideal for rain gardens and bioretention areas. Sources: Missouri Botanical Garden; Plant Lust

11. Eastern Redbud 'Forest Pansy'*Cercis canadensis 'Forest Pansy'*

High

Type: Tree**Life Cycle:** Perennial**Bloom Time:** Spring**Sun:** Full Sun**Moisture:** Moist**Ecological Resources:** Fruit/Nut/Seed, Pollen, Nectar, Larval Host

Native to eastern and central North America, this fast-growing cultivar reaches 20-30 feet tall with a slightly larger spread and rounded crown, preferring medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Features stunning rosy-pink pea-like flowers blooming profusely on bare branches in early spring before heart-shaped burgundy foliage emerges, turning variable fall colors of red, purple, orange and yellow. Attracts birds and hummingbirds with early-season nectar, while seeds and flower buds provide food for songbirds. Sources: Missouri Botanical Garden; Plant Lust

12. White Fringetree*Chionanthus virginicus*

High

Type: Tree**Life Cycle:** Perennial**Bloom Time:** Spring**Sun:** Partial Sunlight**Moisture:** Moist**Ecological Resources:** Fruit/Nut/Seed, Pollen, Nectar

Native to Virginia and the eastern United States, this deciduous shrub or small tree grows 12–20 feet tall with a rounded, spreading habit. In late spring, airy clusters of creamy white, fragrant flowers bloom, followed by dark blue-black fruits that feed birds and wildlife. Preferring moist, fertile soils in sun to part shade, it adds seasonal interest with green foliage that turns yellow in autumn. Sources: Plant Lust; Missouri Botanical Garden

13. Flowering Dogwood 'Appalachian Joy'*Cornus florida 'Appalachian Joy'*

High

Type: Tree**Life Cycle:** Perennial**Bloom Time:** Spring**Sun:** Partial Sunlight**Moisture:** Moist**Ecological Resources:** Fruit/Nut/Seed, Pollen, Nectar, Larval Host, Shelter/Nesting Material

Native to Virginia and the southeastern United States, this slow to medium-growing cultivar reaches 15-20 feet tall and wide with a rounded shape and prefers acidic, well-drained, moist soil. Produces white spring blooms with supernumerary bracts (extra petals creating up to 8 petals per flower), delivering more abundant displays. Bred for superior disease resistance to powdery mildew (fungal disease-causing white coating on leaves). Attracts Spring Azure butterflies, Cecropia Silk moths, and specialized native bees, and the bright red berries attract birds. Sources: Arbor Day Foundation; US Patent USPP18238P3

14. Rose Coreopsis*Coreopsis rosea*

Low

Type: Forb**Life Cycle:** Perennial**Bloom Time:** Summer**Sun:** Full Sun**Moisture:** Wet

Native to the eastern U.S., this perennial grows 1-2 feet tall and 1.5-2.5 feet wide. The only moisture-loving Coreopsis, it prefers consistently moist, well-drained soil in full sun. The profuse, 1-inch, rose-pink, yellow-centered flowers bloom from mid-summer to fall, attracting bees, birds, and butterflies. It is resistant to deer, heat, and humidity. Sources: Missouri Botanical Garden; Plant Lust

Ecological Resources: Fruit/Nut/Seed,
Pollen, Nectar

15. Threadleaf Coreopsis

Coreopsis verticillata

Medium

Type: Forb

Life Cycle: Perennial

Bloom Time: Summer

Sun: Full Sun

Moisture: Dry

Ecological Resources: Fruit/Nut/Seed,
Pollen, Nectar

Native to the eastern United States, this rhizomatous perennial grows 2–3 feet tall and 1.5–2 feet wide in dense, bushy clumps. Palmately divided, thread-like leaves create a fine texture, while yellow, daisy-like flowers bloom from June through September, attracting butterflies. Thrives in full sun on dry, well-drained, sandy, or rocky soils, and tolerates drought, heat, and poor soils. Deadheading encourages rebloom. Sources: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center; Missouri Botanical Garden

16. Northern Bush-Honeysuckle

Diervilla lonicera

Low

Type: Shrub

Life Cycle: Perennial

Bloom Time: Summer

Sun: Partial Sunlight

Moisture: Moist

Ecological Resources: Pollen, Nectar

Native to Eastern North America, this fast-growing deciduous shrub reaches 2–4 feet tall and 3–5 feet wide with glossy green, ovate to oblong-lanceolate leaves that turn yellow to orange or red in fall. Tube-like yellow flowers bloom in June–July, attracting hummingbirds and butterflies. Easily grown in average, dry to medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Sources: Plant Lust; Missouri Botanical Garden

17. Purple Coneflower

Echinacea purpurea

Medium

Type: Forb

Life Cycle: Perennial

Bloom Time: Summer

Sun: Full Sun

Moisture: Moist

Ecological Resources: Fruit/Nut/Seed,
Pollen, Nectar

Native to eastern and central North America, this coarse, rough-hairy perennial grows 2–5 feet tall with dark green, ovate to broad-lanceolate leaves. Daisy-like purplish-pink flowers bloom June to August atop stiff stems, attracting butterflies, hummingbirds, and seed-eating birds. Tolerant of drought, clay, and shallow rocky soils, it thrives in full sun to part shade and reblooms easily. Resistant to deer. Sources: Plant Lust, Missouri Botanical Garden

18. Rattlesnake Master

Eryngium yuccifolium

Medium

Type: Forb

Life Cycle: Perennial

Bloom Time: Summer

Sun: Full Sun

Moisture: Dry

Ecological Resources: Fruit/Nut/Seed,
Pollen, Nectar

Native to the tallgrass prairies of the eastern United States, this drought-tolerant perennial grows 4–5 feet tall and 2–3 feet wide, featuring blue-green, sword-like leaves edged with soft bristles and topped in summer by globe-shaped, greenish-white flowers. Low-maintenance and heat-tolerant, it attracts bees, butterflies, and other pollinators while adding bold texture to dry, sunny sites. Sources: Missouri Botanical Garden; Plant Lust

19. Hearts-a-Burstin'

Euonymus americanus

Low

Type: Shrub

Life Cycle: Perennial

Bloom Time: Spring

Sun: Partial Sunlight

Moisture: Moist

Ecological Resources: Fruit/Nut/Seed

Native to the eastern United States, this slow-growing deciduous shrub reaches 4-6 feet tall and wide with green stems and oblong leaves that turn orange-red in fall. Inconspicuous greenish-yellow flowers appear in May-June, followed by striking warty red fruits that split to reveal scarlet seeds. Tolerant of shade and well-drained soils, it attracts birds and naturalizes in woodland gardens. Sources: Plant Lust; Missouri Botanical Garden

20. Hollow Joe Pye Weed

Eutrochium fistulosum

High

Type: Forb

Life Cycle: Perennial

Native to eastern North America, this towering perennial grows 8–12 feet tall and 2–6 feet wide with hollow green stems and coarsely serrated,

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Bloom Time: Late Summer to Early Fall Sun: Partial Sunlight Moisture: Wet Ecological Resources: Fruit/Nut/Seed, Pollen, Nectar			lance-shaped leaves in whorls of 4–7. Dusky pink, vanilla-scented flowers bloom mid-summer to early fall in large, domed clusters, attracting butterflies, while seeds persist into winter. Thrives in rich, moist soil with full to part sun and tolerates humidity and wet sites. Sources: Plant Lust; Missouri Botanical Garden
21. Fothergilla 'Mt Airy' Type: Shrub Life Cycle: Perennial Bloom Time: Spring Sun: Partial Sunlight Moisture: Moist Ecological Resources: Fruit/Nut/Seed, Pollen, Nectar, Shelter/Nesting Material	<i>Fothergilla major 'Mt Airy'</i>	Medium	Native to the southeastern United States, this fast-growing hybrid cultivar reaches 3-5 feet tall and wide with an upright habit, preferring moist, acidic, organically rich, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Produces profuse, fragrant, white bottlebrush-like flower spikes in early spring before dark green foliage emerges, with honey-scented fragrance from dense clusters of white stamens. Features excellent fall color in shades of yellow, orange and red-purple, and is deer resistant with no serious pest or disease problems. Sources: Missouri Botanical Garden; Plant Lust
22. Wild Strawberry Type: Forb Life Cycle: Perennial Bloom Time: Spring Sun: Partial Sunlight Moisture: Moist Ecological Resources: Fruit/Nut/Seed, Pollen, Nectar	<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	Low	This low-growing perennial spreads via runners to form dense colonies, producing white, five-petaled flowers in spring followed by small, red, edible fruits. Thrives in dry, well-drained soils with full sun to part shade. Attracts butterflies, serves as a larval host for gray hairstreaks, and provides food for birds. Ideal for ground cover, woodland edges, fields, prairies, and naturalized areas in Virginia and other eastern North American habitats. Sources: Plant Lust; Missouri Botanical Garden
23. Shrubby St. John's Wort Type: Shrub Life Cycle: Perennial Bloom Time: Summer Sun: Full Sun Moisture: Dry Ecological Resources: Fruit/Nut/Seed, Pollen, Nectar	<i>Hypericum prolificum</i>	Low	Native to central and eastern North America, this rounded deciduous shrub reaches 2-6 feet tall and 5 feet wide, and tolerates a wide range of average, well-drained soils in full sun to mostly shade. It has 1-inch bright yellow flowers with numerous stamens, which provide a long bloom season. The unique bark exfoliates, and it is resistant to drought, erosion, and black walnuts. Sources: Plant Lust; Missouri Botanical Garden
24. 'Shamrock' Inkberry Type: Shrub Life Cycle: Perennial Bloom Time: Spring Sun: Partial Sunlight Moisture: Moist Ecological Resources: Fruit/Nut/Seed, Pollen, Nectar, Shelter/Nesting Material	<i>Ilex glabra 'Shamrock'</i>	Medium	This compact cultivar grows slowly to 3-4 feet tall and wide with a dense, rounded shape, glossy dark green evergreen leaves, and reduced suckering compared to the species. Prefers moist, acidic, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade and tolerates wet conditions. Produces inconspicuous greenish-white spring flowers followed by jet-black berry-like drupes (small fruits) that persist through winter. Offers excellent verticillium wilt resistance (fungal disease affecting plant vascular system), plus tolerance to air pollution, deer, and rabbits. Attracts birds with persistent winter berries and provides year-round evergreen interest. Sources: Missouri Botanical Garden; Plant Lust
25. Northern Blue Flag Iris Type: Forb Life Cycle: Perennial	<i>Iris versicolor</i>	Low	Native to Virginia, this clump-forming perennial reaches 2–2.5 feet tall and wide with narrow, arching-to-erect, sword-shaped blue-green leaves

Bloom Time: Late Spring to Early Summer
Sun: Full Sun
Moisture: Wet
Ecological Resources: Fruit/Nut/Seed, Pollen, Nectar

and 4-inch bluish-purple flowers in late spring, each with a central yellow blotch and white zone. Thrives in medium to wet soils, full sun to part shade, tolerates deer, and slowly spreads by tough rhizomes, attracting wetland pollinators. Sources: Plant Lust; Missouri Botanical Garden

26. Dense Blazing Star

Liatris spicata

Medium

Type: Forb
Life Cycle: Perennial
Bloom Time: Late Summer to Early Fall
Sun: Full Sun
Moisture: Moist
Ecological Resources: Fruit/Nut/Seed, Pollen, Nectar

Native to the eastern United States, this tall, upright, clump-forming perennial reaches 2-4 feet tall and 0.75-1.5 feet wide with narrow, grass-like, medium green leaves. Prefers average to rich, medium, well-drained soils in full sun and performs better in moist soils than most other *Liatris* species while tolerating drought once established. Produces terminal spikes of sessile, rounded, fluffy, deep purple flower heads in July-August that bloom from top to bottom. Attracts hummingbirds, butterflies, and other pollinators with nectar-rich flowers while songbirds enjoy the small seeds, making it excellent for fresh cut or dried flower arrangements. Sources: Missouri Botanical Garden; Plant Lust

27. Coral Honeysuckle

Lonicera sempervirens

High

Type: Vine
Life Cycle: Perennial
Bloom Time: Summer
Sun: Partial Sunlight
Moisture: Moist
Ecological Resources: Fruit/Nut/Seed, Pollen, Nectar

Native to the southeastern United States, this vigorous twining vine reaches 10-15 feet tall and 3-6 feet wide with oval, bluish-green leaves that are glaucous (waxy coating) beneath. Prefers average, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade but flowers best in full sun. Produces large, trumpet-shaped flowers that are scarlet to orangish-red outside and yellowish inside in May-June, followed by ornamental red berries in late summer. Attracts hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees with nectar-rich blooms while birds enjoy the small red berries, making it an excellent non-invasive alternative to Japanese honeysuckle. Sources: Missouri Botanical Garden; Plant Lust

28. Wild Bergamot

Monarda fistulosa

Medium

Type: Forb
Life Cycle: Perennial
Bloom Time: Summer
Sun: Full Sun
Moisture: Moist
Ecological Resources: Pollen, Nectar

Monarda fistulosa, or wild bergamot, is a North American native perennial herb, including Virginia, that grows in clumps 2-4 feet tall and 2-3 feet wide. It produces lavender, tubular flowers in dense globular heads from July to September, attracting bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Thriving in full sun to part shade with dry to medium, well-drained soils, it tolerates drought, poor soils, and deer, making it ideal for herb, native, or naturalized gardens. Sources: Plant Lust; Missouri Botanical Garden

29. Eastern Prickly Pear

Opuntia humifusa

Low

Type: Forb
Life Cycle: Perennial
Bloom Time: Summer
Sun: Full Sun
Moisture: Dry
Ecological Resources: Fruit/Nut/Seed, Pollen, Nectar, Shelter/Nesting Material

Native to the eastern and central United States, this clump-forming, semi-prostrate cactus reaches 0.5-1 foot tall and 1-1.5 feet wide with jointed, round-to-oval, flattened, succulent green pads covered in scattered spines and numerous tufts of bristles (glochids). Prefers dry, sandy or gravelly, well-drained soils in full sun and excels in poor, dry conditions with excellent drought tolerance. Produces showy bright yellow 2-3 inch diameter flowers, sometimes with reddish eyes, in June-July followed by pulpy, red fruits that ripen in late summer. Spreads by pads breaking off and rooting

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Ecological Resources: Fruit/Nut/Seed, Pollen, Nectar, Shelter/Nesting Material

feet tall and 4-6 feet wide with ovate to rounded, usually 3-5 lobed dull green leaves. Prefers average, slightly acidic, dry to medium moisture, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade and tolerates a wide range of conditions including drought, clay, and wet soils. Produces small pink or white five-petaled flowers in dense, flat, rounded clusters in May-June followed by drooping clusters of reddish inflated seed capsules (fruits). Features attractive exfoliating bark (peeling bark) on mature branches that reveals multiple layers of reddish to light brown inner bark, providing winter interest while attracting bees and birds. Sources: Plant Lust; Missouri Botanical Garden

35. American Sycamore

Platanus occidentalis

Low

Type: Tree
Life Cycle: Perennial
Bloom Time: Spring
Sun: Full Sun
Moisture: Wet
Ecological Resources: Fruit/Nut/Seed, Shelter/Nesting Material

Native to the southeastern United States, this fast-growing deciduous tree reaches 75-100 feet tall and wide with a massive trunk diameter of 3-8 feet and rounded habit. Prefers rich, consistently moist, well-drained soils in full sun but tolerates light shade and wet conditions. Features distinctive exfoliating bark (peeling bark) that flakes off in irregular pieces to reveal creamy white inner bark, creating mottled patterns. Produces insignificant yellowish male and reddish female flowers in April followed by fuzzy brown spherical fruiting balls that persist into winter. Offers excellent verticillium wilt resistance and deer resistance while tolerating urban pollution. Sources: Plant Lust; Missouri Botanical Garden

36. Hoary Mountain Mint

Pycnanthemum incanum

High

Type: Forb
Life Cycle: Perennial
Bloom Time: Late Summer to Early Fall
Sun: Full Sun
Moisture: Dry
Ecological Resources: Pollen, Nectar

A hardy perennial reaching 2–4 ft tall with a 3–5 ft spread, this fragrant, spearmint-scented plant produces clusters of white to pale lavender flowers in summer. Thrives in full sun to part shade and well-drained soils. Attracts butterflies, bees, and beneficial insects. Drought, heat, and erosion tolerant, making it ideal for pollinator gardens, meadows, and naturalized landscapes. Sources: Plant Lust; Missouri Botanical Garden

37. Virginia Mountain Mint

Pycnanthemum virginianum

Medium

Type: Forb
Life Cycle: Perennial
Bloom Time: Late Summer to Early Fall
Sun: Partial Sunlight
Moisture: Moist
Ecological Resources: Pollen, Nectar

Native to Virginia and the eastern United States, this perennial grows 2–3 feet tall with 1–2 feet of spread. White summer flowers attract bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects, supporting pollinator gardens. It tolerates mostly sunny conditions and a variety of soils, from clay to well-drained, and withstands occasional moisture. Fragrant foliage adds interest while resisting deer and rabbits. Sources: Plant Lust; Missouri Botanical Garden

38. Smooth Sumac

Rhus glabra

Medium

Type: Shrub
Life Cycle: Perennial
Bloom Time: Summer
Sun: Full Sun
Moisture: Dry
Ecological Resources: Fruit/Nut/Seed, Shelter/Nesting Material

Native to the U.S. and southern Canada, this deciduous shrub or tree grows 8-20 feet tall and wide, forming thickets. Tolerant of a wide range of soils, it prefers dry to medium, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Its showy yellow-green flowers bloom from June to August, followed by showy red berries that attract birds and other wildlife. Sources: Plant Lust; Missouri Botanical Garden

39. Carolina Rose*Rosa carolina*

Medium

Type: Shrub**Life Cycle:** Perennial**Bloom Time:** Summer**Sun:** Full Sun**Moisture:** Moist**Ecological Resources:** Fruit/Nut/Seed, Pollen, Nectar, Shelter/Nesting Material

Native to eastern and central North America, this deciduous shrub reaches 3-6 feet tall and spreads 5-10 feet wide by suckers to form colonies. Prefers average, medium to wet, well-drained soil in full sun and adapts to both dry and wet conditions. Produces single, fragrant, clear pink flowers (to 2.5 inches across) in May followed by bright red hips (fruits) in late summer that persist into fall. Features smooth, dark green foliage with attractive yellow-orange-red autumn color. Attracts birds with nutritious hips and butterflies with nectar-rich flowers, while offering better natural disease resistance than most hybrid roses. Sources: Plant Lust; Missouri Botanical Garden

40. Brown Eyed Susan*Rudbeckia triloba*

Medium

Type: Forb**Life Cycle:** Annual**Bloom Time:** Late Summer to Early Fall**Sun:** Full Sun**Moisture:** Dry**Ecological Resources:** Fruit/Nut/Seed, Pollen, Nectar

Native to the central-eastern United States, this densely-branched biennial or short-lived perennial reaches 2-4 feet tall and wide with thin, rough-textured leaves, some three-lobed. Prefers average, moist, well-drained soils in full sun but tolerates light shade, heat, and some drought. Produces profuse masses of small daisy-like flowers with yellow rays and brown-purple center disks from July through October. Self-seeds freely to naturalize in the garden, providing long-lasting blooms. Attracts butterflies while offering excellent deer resistance and serves as an outstanding cut flower. Sources: Missouri Botanical Garden; Plant Lust

41. Hairy Ruellia*Ruellia humilis*

Low

Type: Forb**Life Cycle:** Perennial**Bloom Time:** Late Summer to Early Fall**Sun:** Partial Sunlight**Moisture:** Dry**Ecological Resources:** Pollen, Nectar

Native to eastern and central United States, this low-growing, herbaceous perennial reaches 1–2 feet tall and 1.5–2 feet wide with hairy, oblong to lance-shaped leaves. Prefers average, dry to medium, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade and tolerates drought once established. Produces violet to lavender, trumpet-shaped flowers from May through October, attracting butterflies and hummingbirds. Sources: Missouri Botanical Garden; Plant Lust

42. American Elderberry*Sambucus canadensis*

High

Type: Shrub**Life Cycle:** Perennial**Bloom Time:** Summer**Sun:** Partial Sunlight**Moisture:** Wet**Ecological Resources:** Fruit/Nut/Seed, Pollen, Nectar, Larval Host

Native to eastern North America, this fast-growing deciduous shrub reaches 5-12 feet tall and wide with a somewhat sprawling, suckering habit. Prefers medium to wet, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade and tolerates clay soil and wet conditions. Produces large flat-topped clusters of tiny, lemon-scented white flowers in June followed by shiny black elderberry fruits (drupes) in late summer. Spreads by root suckers to form colonies, providing excellent nesting cover for songbirds. Attracts bees and butterflies with nectar-rich flowers, while the nutritious black fruits attract numerous bird species. Sources: Missouri Botanical Garden; Plant Lust

43. Little Bluestem*Schizachyrium scoparium*

High

Type: Graminoid**Life Cycle:** Perennial**Bloom Time:** Late Summer to Early Fall**Sun:** Full Sun**Moisture:** Dry

Native to eastern North America, this slow-growing perennial grass forms upright, clumping blue-green foliage 2–4 feet tall and 1–2 feet wide, turning bronze-orange in fall. Narrow leaves support 3–5-foot flowering stems with purplish-bronze blooms that persist into winter, providing seed for birds. Tolerant of drought, deer, pollution, and varied soils,

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Ecological Resources: Fruit/Nut/Seed, Shelter/Nesting Material

it excels in prairies, meadows, borders, and naturalized areas. Sources: Missouri Botanical Garden; Plant Lust

44. American Senna

Type: Forb

Life Cycle: Perennial

Bloom Time: Late Summer to Early Fall

Sun: Full Sun

Moisture: Moist

Ecological Resources: Fruit/Nut/Seed, Pollen, Nectar, Larval Host

Senna hebecarpa

Medium

Native to the East Coast, this sturdy shrub-like perennial reaches 4-6 feet tall and 2-3 feet wide with feathery compound leaves. Prefers moist to average, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade and tolerates periodic flooding. Produces clusters of bright yellow pea-type flowers in July and August followed by chocolate brown seedpods (legumes). Serves as larval host for cloudless sulphur butterflies and attracts hummingbirds and other butterflies, while birds favor the seedpods. Sources: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center; Plant Lust

45. Narrow Blue-Eyed Grass

Type: Forb

Life Cycle: Perennial

Bloom Time: Late Spring to Early Summer

Sun: Full Sun

Moisture: Moist

Ecological Resources: Fruit/Nut/Seed, Pollen, Nectar

Sisyrinchium angustifolium

Low

Native to Virginia, this clump-forming perennial reaches 12–18 inches tall and 9–12 inches wide with narrow, deep blue-green, grass-like foliage and ¾-inch blue, purple, and yellow spring blooms. Adaptable to sun or mostly shade, average to well-drained soil, and occasional watering, it is drought tolerant once established, deer resistant, and verticillium wilt resistant, attracting small pollinators. Sources: Plant Lust; Missouri Botanical Garden

46. Gray Goldenrod

Type: Forb

Life Cycle: Perennial

Bloom Time: Late Summer to Early Fall

Sun: Full Sun

Moisture: Dry

Ecological Resources: Fruit/Nut/Seed, Pollen, Nectar

Solidago nemoralis

Low

Native to Canada and the United States, this rhizomatous, upright herbaceous perennial reaches 0.5-2 feet tall and 0.5-2 feet wide with clumps of gray-green stems densely covered with short white hairs. Prefers average, dry to medium, slightly acidic, well-drained soils in full sun and excels in rocky, sandy soils with excellent drought tolerance. Produces narrow, often downward-arching, one-sided, bright yellow flower plumes from August-September with flowerheads primarily located on the upper side of each panicle. Spreads by rhizomes (underground stems) and self-seeding to colonize areas, attracting butterflies and bees while providing nectar for pollinators and offering excellent deer resistance. Sources: Missouri Botanical Garden; Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

47. Stiff Goldenrod

Type: Forb

Life Cycle: Perennial

Bloom Time: Late Summer to Early Fall

Sun: Full Sun

Moisture: Dry

Ecological Resources: Fruit/Nut/Seed, Pollen, Nectar

Solidago rigida

Medium

Native to the eastern and northeastern United States, this perennial grows 3-5 feet tall and 1-3 feet wide. It is one of the more well-behaved goldenrods, holding its flat golden heads on stiff stems. The showy, bright yellow flowers bloom from August to September, attracting bees, butterflies, and birds. It thrives in average, clay, and well-drained soils and is resistant to deer. Sources: Plant Lust; Missouri Botanical Garden

48. Indiangrass

Type: Graminoid

Life Cycle: Perennial

Bloom Time: Late Summer to Early Fall

Sun: Full Sun

Moisture: Dry

Sorghastrum nutans

Medium

Native to eastern and central United States, this perennial grass forms 2–3-foot-wide clumps with upright blue-green foliage reaching 3–7 feet tall. Silky, light-brown flower panicles with yellow stamens bloom late summer to fall, attracting bees, songbirds, and small mammals. Foliage turns

Ecological Resources: Fruit/Nut/Seed,
Shelter/Nesting Material

orange-yellow in fall and persists through winter.
Thrives in dry to medium, well-drained soils with full
sun and tolerates drought, erosion, and poor soils.
Sources: Plant Lust; Missouri Botanical Garden

49. White Meadowsweet

Spiraea alba

Low

Type: Shrub
Life Cycle: Perennial
Bloom Time: Summer
Sun: Full Sun
Moisture: Wet
Ecological Resources: Fruit/Nut/Seed,
Pollen, Nectar

Native to Virginia and eastern North America, this upright, deciduous shrub grows 3–4 feet tall and wide. In summer, it produces cone-shaped clusters of white flowers that attract butterflies. Preferring full sun and consistently moist soils, it thrives along streams, wetlands, and low spots. Narrow, toothed green leaves add texture, while low-maintenance growth and deer tolerance make it ideal for rain gardens, borders, or naturalized landscapes. Sources: Plant Lust; Missouri Botanical Garden

50. Emerald Green Arborvitae

Thuja occidentalis
'Smaragd'

Low

Type: Tree
Life Cycle: Perennial
Bloom Time: Spring
Sun: Full Sun
Moisture: Moist
Ecological Resources: Shelter/Nesting
Material

This semi-dwarf cultivar grows 12-14 feet tall and 3-4 feet wide with a compact, narrowly pyramidal habit and glossy bright green, scale-like foliage in flat sprays that retains its rich color through winter. Prefers average, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade but appreciates light afternoon shade in hot climates. Features aromatic evergreen foliage and urn-shaped cones that mature to reddish-brown in autumn. Offers excellent verticillium wilt resistance and air pollution tolerance while attracting birds and providing year-round interest, making it ideal for hedging with minimal maintenance requirements. Sources: Plant Lust; Missouri Botanical Garden

51. Upland Ironweed

Vernonia glauca

Medium

Type: Forb
Life Cycle: Perennial
Bloom Time: Late Summer to Early Fall
Sun: Full Sun
Moisture: Dry
Ecological Resources: Fruit/Nut/Seed,
Pollen, Nectar

Native to Virginia, this broadleaf perennial grows 3-5 feet tall and 2-4 feet wide in rich, well-drained soil with sun to partial shade. Summer brings purple blooms that attract bees, butterflies, and beneficial insects, while its sturdy clumping stems provide deer resistance. Fruits are cypselsae, supporting local wildlife. Sources: Plant Lust; Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center