

Plants for Tiny Prairies

Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society
January 2022
Chris Neumann

Form	Scientific Name	Common Name	Comments	Flower Color	Height	Flower Period	Full Sun	Part Sun	Part Shade	Moisture	Special Soil Types	Butterflies	Hummingbirds	Deer Resistant
forb	<i>Allium cernuum</i>	nodding wild onion		Lavender, pink or white	10" - 20"	July - Aug	x	x		DM, M, WM	Clay	X		X
forb	<i>Amorpha canescens</i>	lead plant	shrub; cut back after flowering for more compact plant	Purple	18" - 42"	June - July	x			DM, M		X		
forb	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	swamp milkweed		Red - pink	3' - 4'	July - Aug	x			M, WM, W	Humus	X		X
forb	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	butterflyweed	deep taproot	Orange	2' - 3'	July - Sept	x	x		D, DM, M		X		X
forb	<i>Asclepias verticillata</i>	whorled milkweed		White	16" - 30"	July - Sept	x	x		D, DM, M	Clay	X		X
forb	<i>Baptisia leucophaea</i>	cream wild indigo	ornamental seed pods, legume	Cream	18" - 30"	May - June	x			D, DM, M				X
forb	<i>Camassia scilloides</i>	wild hyacinth	spring ephemeral; endangered	Lavender	1' - 2'	April - June	x	x		M, WM	Humus			
forb	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	New Jersey tea	shrub; cut back after flowering for more compact plant; attracts many small insects	White	18" - 36"	June - Aug	x	x		D, DM, M		X	X	
forb	<i>Dalea candida</i>	white prairie clover	legume	White	1' - 3'	June - Sept	x			D, DM, M		X		X
forb	<i>Dalea purpurea</i>	purple prairie clover	legume; showy	Purple	1' - 3'	June - Aug	x	x		D, DM, M	Clay	X		
forb	<i>Echinacea pallida</i>	pale purple coneflower	threatened	Pink - purple	2' - 4'	June - July	x			D, DM, M	Clay	X	X	X
forb	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	purple coneflower	introduced in Wisconsin	Pink - red	3' - 4'	June - Sept	x	x		D, DM, M	Clay	X		X
forb	<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	rattlesnake master	attracts many small insects	White	3' - 5'	July - Aug	x			DM, M, WM	Clay	X		
forb	<i>Geum triflorum</i>	prairie smoke	name from long feathery hairs on fruiting head	Red	6" - 13"	April - May	x	x		D, DM, M, WM, W				X
forb	<i>Heuchera richardsonii</i>	Alum Root		yellow-green	1' - 3'	May - June	x	x		D, DM, M, WM				
forb	<i>Hypoxis hirsuta</i>	yellow star grass	small, grass-like perennial	Yellow	3" - 8"	April - July	x	x		DM, M, WM				
forb	<i>Liatris aspera</i>	blazing star		Pink - purple	16" - 48"	Aug - Oct	x	x		D, DM, M		X		
forb	<i>Liatris cylindracea</i>	dwarf blazing star		Pink - violet	18" - 24"	July - Sept	x			D, DM		X		
forb	<i>Liatris spicata</i> 'Kobold'	Kobold blazing star	more compact than species; 'Kobold Original': 9"-18" tall; species found only in extreme SE WI	Rose - purple	24" - 30"	Jul-Aug	x			M, WM, W		X		
forb	<i>Lithospermum canescens</i>	hoary pucoon	highly ornamental; good rock garden plant	Gold	8" - 12"	April - June	x			D, DM, M	Sand			
forb	<i>Lithospermum carolinense</i>	hairy pucoon	similar to L. canescens	Gold	1' - 2'	May - July	x			D, DM, M	Sand			
forb	<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	Lupine	sole food plant of Karner Blue Butterfly larva; legume	Deep blue	1' - 2'	May - June	x	x		D, DM		X		X
forb	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	white beardtongue	introduced in Wisconsin, readily self-sows	White - violet	1' - 4'	May - July	x	x	x	M, WM	Clay		X	X
forb	<i>Penstemon grandiflorus</i>	beardtongue		Lavender - pink	20" - 40"	May - June	x			D, DM			X	
forb	<i>Phlox bifida</i>	Sand Phlox	special concern	Light Blue	4" - 12"	April - June	x			D, DM	Sand	X		
forb	<i>Phlox pilosa</i>	prairie phlox		Pink - red - purple	1' - 2'	April - June	x	x		D, DM, M, WM		X		
forb	<i>Primula fassettii</i>	amethyst shooting star	spring ephemeral; grows well from seed	Violet	8" - 16"	April - May	x	x	x	DM, M, WM				
forb	<i>Primula meadia</i>	shooting star	spring ephemeral	White - lavender, pale pink	8" - 24"	May - June	x	x		DM, M, WM				X
forb	<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i> var. <i>speciosa</i>	orange coneflower	not common in Wisconsin	Yellow	2' - 4'	July - Sept	x	x		M, WM				
forb	<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i> var. <i>speciosa</i> 'Blovi'	Viette's Little Suzy coneflower	more compact than species	Yellow	12" - 18"	July - Sept	x	x		M, WM				
forb	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	black-eyed Susan	annual, biennial, short lived perennial	Yellow	1' - 3'	June - Oct	x	x		DM, M, WM	Clay	X		X
forb	<i>Ruellia humilis</i>	prairie petunia	endangered	Blue - lavender	3" - 24"	June - Aug	x			D, DM				X
forb	<i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>	stout blue-eyed grass	small, grass-like perennial; seeds readily	Light Blue	4" - 12"	May - June	x	x		DM, M, WM				
forb	<i>Sisyrinchium campestre</i>	blue-eyed grass	small, grass-like perennial	Blue	6" - 10"	May - June	x			D, DM				X

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forb	<i>Solidago juncea</i>	early goldenrod	usually found on sandy soil	Yellow	1' - 3'	July - Sept	x			D, DM				X
forb	<i>Solidago riddellii</i>	Riddel's goldenrod	dome-shaped bloom; attractive foliage	Yellow	18" - 42"	Sept - Oct	x			M, WM	Calcareous	X		X
forb	<i>Solidago rugosa</i> 'Fireworks'	Fireworks rough goldenrod	more compact than species; pinch back in June for more compact & bushy plant; species uncommon in WI	Yellow	2' - 4'	Aug - Oct	x	x		DM, M		X		
forb	<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	Showy Goldenrod	one of the showiest	Yellow	1' - 5'	Aug - Oct	x	x		D, DM, M		X		X
forb	<i>Solidago speciosa</i> 'Wichita Mountains'	Wichita Mountains goldenrod	from Oklahoma; thought to be <i>S. speciosa</i> , but currently listed as "species unknown."	Yellow	2' - 4'	Sept - Oct	x			D, DM				
forb	<i>Solidago sphacelata</i> 'Golden Fleece'	Golden Fleece goldenrod	native south and east of Wisconsin. Better behaved than species	Yellow	12" - 18"	Aug - Sept	x			DM, M				
forb	<i>Symphotrichum ericoides</i>	heath aster		White	1' - 3'	Aug - Oct	x	x		D, DM, M	Clay	X		
forb	<i>Symphotrichum laeve</i>	smooth aster	pinch in June for more compact & bushy plant.	Blue - violet	3' - 5'	Aug - Oct	x	x		DM, M, WM		X		
forb	<i>Symphotrichum laeve</i> 'Bluebird'	Bluebird smooth aster	more compact than species	Blue - violet	30" - 36"	Sept - Oct	x	x		DM, M, WM		X		
forb	<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>	New England Aster	pinch in June for more compact & bushy plant.	Purple - blue	1' - 7'	Aug - Oct	x	x		DM, M, WM	Clay	X		X
forb	<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i> 'Purple Dome'	Purple Dome New England Aster	more compact than species	Purple - blue	18" - 24"	Aug - Sept	x	x		DM, M, WM	Clay	X		X
forb	<i>Symphotrichum sericeum</i>	silky aster	named for it's silky, silvery foliage	Purple	1' - 2'	Sept - Oct	x			D, DM, M		X		
forb	<i>Viola pedata</i>	bird's foot violet	large, showy flowers	Violet	3" - 6"	April - June	x	x		D, DM	Sand	X		X
forb	<i>Viola pedatifida</i>	prairie violet		Violet	3" - 6"	April - June	x			DM, M	Sand	X		X
forb	<i>Zizia aptera</i>	heart-leaved golden Alexander	more open than <i>Z. aurea</i>	Yellow	1' - 3'	May - June	x	x		DM, M		X		X
forb	<i>Zizia aurea</i>	golden Alexander	bushier than <i>Z. aptera</i>	Gold	1' - 3'	May - July	x	x	x	DM, M, WM	Humus	X		X
grass	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i> 'Blackhawks'	Blackhawks big bluestem	excellent fall color; more compact than species		4' - 5'	Aug - Sept	x	x		D, DM, M, WM	Clay			
grass	<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>	purple love grass	cool season; clump forming; purple spikelets		1' - 2'	July - Sept	x			DM, M	Sand			
grass	<i>Koeleria cristata</i>	June Grass	cool season; sod forming; inflorescence very attractive		1' - 2'	May - June	x			D, DM	Sand			
grass	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	little bluestem	warm season; clump forming; good fall color		2' - 4'	Aug - Sept	x	x		D, DM, M				
grass	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> 'Carousel'	Carousel little bluestem	more compact than species		24" - 30"	Aug - Sept	x	x		D, DM, M				
grass	<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	prairie dropseed	warm season; clump forming, ornamental		2' - 3'	Aug - Sept	x			D, DM, M, WM				
grass	<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i> 'Tara'	Tara prairie dropseed	warm season; clump forming, ornamental		1' - 2'	Aug - Sept	x			D, DM, M, WM				
sedge	<i>Carex bicknellii</i>	prairie sedge	also called copper shouldered oval sedge		2' - 3'	June - July	x			DM, M				

Moisture

D: Dry
DM: Dry Mesic
M: Mesic
WM: Wet Mesic
W: Wet

Special Soil Types

Calcareous: prefers pH 7 - 8.8.
Sandy: will grow in sand
Clay: will grow in clay.
Humus: will grow in rich organic soils