

Native Plants



Native plants, also known as wildflowers, are plants that originated in the Midwest. They are adapted to our local conditions and can tolerate our climatic extremes. They require less water and minimal care once established. Native plants blend beautifully in a mixed border with non-native perennials and annuals. Below are some common Woodland (shade-loving) and Prairie (sun-loving) ferns, perennials, vines, ornamental grasses, and shrubs native to our area.

Common Name	Botanical Name	Bloom	Color	Height	Location
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Woodland

Ferns

Maidenhair Fern	<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	N/A	Light Green	10-18 in.	Shade
Lady Fern	<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>		Green	1-2 ft.	Partial to full shade
Ostrich Fern	<i>Matteucia struthiopteris</i>		Light Green	3-6 ft.	Open shade
Goldie's Fern	<i>Dryopteris goldiana</i>		Light Green	2-3 ft.	Moist shade
Sensitive Fern	<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>		Green	1-3 ft.	Moist shade
Interrupted Fern	<i>Osmunda claytoniana</i>		Light Green	2-4 ft.	Moist partial shade
Cinnamon Fern	<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>		Light Green	1-3 ft.	Moist shade
Royal Fern	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>		Light Green	2-3 ft.	Moist shade
Christmas Fern	<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>		Green	12-30 in.	Partial to full shade

Perennials

Goat's Beard	<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	May-June	White	3-5 ft.	Partial to full shade
Wild Ginger	<i>Asarum canadense</i>	Summer	Green	4 in.	Partial to full shade
Black Cohosh	<i>Cimifuga racemosa</i>	May-June	White	2-3 ft.	Partial to full shade
Spring Beauty	<i>Claytonia virginica</i>	Feb-May	Pinkish White	5-10 in.	Partial to full shade
Sharp-lobed hepatica	<i>Hepatica acutiloba</i>	Feb-Apr	White/Pink	4-8 in.	Shade
False Rue Anemone	<i>Isopyrum biternatum</i>	Mar-May	White	5-8 in.	Partial to full shade
Virginia Bluebells	<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	Mar-Apr	Pink to Blue	12-24 in.	Moist shade
Wild Sweet William	<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	Spring	Blue	12-16 in.	Shade
Jacob's Ladder	<i>Polemonium reptans</i>	Spring	Light Blue	8-18 in.	Moist shade
Solomon's Seal	<i>Polygonatum biflorum</i>	May	White	12-36 in.	Shade
Bloodroot	<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	Spring	White	4-8 in.	Shade
Golden Ragwort	<i>Senecio aureus</i>	Spring	Yellow	6-12 in.	Shade
Squaw-Weed	<i>Senecio obovatus</i>	Apr-June	Yellow.	4 in.	Dry shade
Celadine Poppy	<i>Stylophorum diphyllum</i>	Spring	Yellow	16 in.	Moist shade
Woodland Spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia ernestiana</i>	Summer	Blue/Red	1-2 ft.	Moist shade

Vines

Virginia Creeper	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Summer	Green/Bronze	30-50 ft.	Full sun or shade
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Shrubs

Gray Dogwood	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	May-July	White	10-15 ft.	Moist shade
Leatherwood	<i>Dirca palustris</i>	Mar-Apr	Yellow	4-7 ft.	Moist shade
Strawberry Bush	<i>Euonymus americanus</i>	Sept	Red fruit	4-6 ft.	Moist shade
Witch Hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Fall/Winter	Yellow	15-20 ft.	Moist shade
Wild Hydrangea	<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>	June-Sept	White	3-4 ft.	Moist shade
Virginia Sweetspire	<i>Itea virginica</i>	May-June	White	3-5 ft.	Moist sun or shade
Indian Cherry	<i>Rhamnus caroliniana</i>	Aug-Oct	Red fruit	15-25 ft.	Shade
Roseshell Azalea	<i>Rhododendron roseum</i>	May	Pink	2-8 ft.	Full sun or shade
Bladdernut	<i>Staphylea trifolia</i>	Spring	Greenish white	10-15 ft.	Partial shade
Nannyberry viburnum	<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	Spring	Creamy white	15-18 ft.	Full sun or shade

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Prairie

Grasses/Sedges

Big Bluestem	<i>Andropogon gerardi</i>	N/A	Blue-green	5-9 ft.	Full sun
Sideoats Grama	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>		Green	2-3 ft.	Sun
Tussock Sedge	<i>Carex stricta</i>		Green	12-18 in.	Moist partial sun
Northern Sea Oats	<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>		Green	2-3 ft.	Sun to light shade
Switch Grass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>		Green	3-6 ft.	Full sun
Little Bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>		Blue-green	2-3 ft.	Full sun
Indian Grass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>		Blue-green	2-3 ft.	Full sun
Prairie Dropseed	<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>		Green	18-24 in.	Full sun
Eastern Gama Grass	<i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>		Green	4-8 ft.	Moist sun to shade

Perennials

Shining Blue Star	<i>Amsonia illustris</i>	Spring	Light blue	3-4 ft.	Sun to partial shade
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Spring	Red	2 ft.	Sun to light shade
Butterfly Milkweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Summer	Red orange	18-24 in.	Full sun
Marsh Milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Summer	Rose pink	3-4 ft.	Moist areas
Sky Blue Aster	<i>Aster azureus</i>	Fall	Blue	2-3 ft.	Sun to light shade
New England Aster	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	Fall	Purple	3-5 ft.	Sun
Aromatic Aster	<i>Aster oblongifolius</i>	Fall	Blue violet	2-3 ft.	Sun
White False Indigo	<i>Baptisia alba</i>	Spring	White	3 ft.	Full sun
Blue False Indigo	<i>Baptisia australis</i>	Summer	Blue	3 ft.	Full sun
Purple Poppy Mallow	<i>Callirhoe involucrata</i>	Summer	Purple red	4-6 in.	Full sun
Rose Turtlehead	<i>Chelone obliqua</i>	Summer	Rose pink	30-48 in.	Moist medium sun
Fremont's Leather Flower	<i>Clematis fremontii</i>	Mar-June	Purple	12-18 in.	Sun to partial shade
Butterfly Pea	<i>Clitoria mariana</i>	May-Sept	Light blue	1-3 ft.	Sun
Lanceleaf Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	May-June	Yellow	16-24 in.	Sun
Prairie Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis palmata</i>	Summer	Yellow	18-30 in.	Sun
Tall Larkspur	<i>Delphinium exaltatum</i>	July-Aug	Purple blue	3-4 ft.	Sun
Yellow Coneflower	<i>Echinacea paradoxa</i>	Summer	Yellow	2-3 ft.	Sun
Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Summer	Rosy purple	2-3 ft.	Sun to partial shade
Pale Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea pallida</i>	June-July	Lavender pink	2-3 ft.	Sun
Rattlesnake Master	<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	Summer	Whitish green	4-5 ft.	Full to medium sun
Joe Pye Weed	<i>Eupatorium purpureum</i>	Summer	Pink	4-7 ft.	Sun to partial shade
Mist Flower	<i>Eupatorium coelestinum</i>	Summer	Blue violet	12-18 in.	Sun
Boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	July-Oct	White	30-48 in.	Moist areas
Queen of the Prairie	<i>Filipendula rubra</i>	Summer	Pink	18-36 in.	Sun to partial shade
Rose Verbena	<i>Glandularia Canadensis</i>	Summer	Rosy pink	6-12 in.	Full to medium sun
Willow-leaved Sunflower	<i>Helianthus salicifolius</i>	Summer	Med. yellow	4-6 ft.	Full sun
Western Sunflower	<i>Helianthus occidentalis</i>	Summer	Deep yellow	30-40 in.	Full sun
Ox-eye Sunflower	<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	Summer	Deep yellow	3-5 ft.	Sun to partial shade
Rose Mallow	<i>Hibiscus lasiocarpus</i>	Summer	White	4-5 ft.	Moist areas
Zig-zag Iris	<i>Iris brevicaulis</i>	June	Blue violet	9-12 in.	Sun to partial shade
Copper Iris	<i>Iris fulva</i>	Spring	Red	2-3 ft.	Sun to partial shade
Southern Blue Flag	<i>Iris virginica</i> var. <i>shrevei</i>	Summer	Blue violet	15-40 in.	Moist areas
Crested Iris	<i>Iris cristata</i>	Apr-May	Blue	5-10 in.	Sun to medium shade
Eastern Blazing Star	<i>Liatris scariosa</i>	Aug-Sept	Purple-pink	30-48 in.	Full sun
Rough Blazing Star	<i>Liatris aspera</i>	Sept	Purple	2-3 ft.	Full sun
Prairie Blazing Star	<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>	July-Aug	Magenta	30-42 in.	Full sun
Blue Lobelia	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Sept-Oct	Blue	2-3 ft.	Moist areas
Cardinal Flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Summer	Red	2-4 ft.	Moist areas
Bee Balm, Horsemint	<i>Monarda bradburiana</i>	May-June	Light pink	1-2 ft.	Sun to partial shade
Wild Bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Summer	Lavender	2-4 ft.	Sun

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Prairie

Perennials (cont.)

Water Lily	<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>	Summer	White	1 in.	Water garden
Missouri Primrose	<i>Oenothera macrocarpa</i>	Summer	Yellow	10 in.	Full sun
Prickly Pear	<i>Opuntia humifusa</i>	June-July	Yellow	6-12 in.	Dry, rocky areas
Wild Quinine	<i>Parthenium integrifolium</i>	Summer	White	2-4 ft.	Full sun
Arrow Arum	<i>Peltandra virginica</i>	Spring	Greenish white	2-3 ft.	Great in containers
Foxglove Beard Tongue	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	May-June	White	30-48 in.	Sun
Prairie Beard Tongue	<i>Penstemon tubaeflorus</i>	Summer	White	2-3 ft.	Sun
Purple Beard Tongue	<i>Penstemon cobaea</i>	June	Purple	1-2 ft.	Sun
Garden Phlox	<i>Phlox paniculata</i>	Summer	Deep pink	3-4 ft.	Moist areas
Sand Phlox	<i>Phlox bifida</i>	Spring	Pale purple	4-6 in.	Dry sun or shade
Meadow Phlox	<i>Phlox maculata</i>	Summer	Med. pink	2-3 ft.	Full sun
Downy Phlox	<i>Phlox pilosa</i>	Spring	Deep pink	12-16 in.	Sun
Pickrel Plant	<i>Pontederia cordata</i>	June-Oct	Blue violet	18-24 in.	Water garden
Slender Mountain Mint	<i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i>	Summer	White	1-2 ft.	Full sun
Gray-head Coneflower	<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	Summer	Yellow	3-4 ft.	Full sun
Sweet Coneflower	<i>Rudbeckia subtomentosa</i>	Summer	Gold	4-6 ft.	Full sun
Orange Coneflower	<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>	July-Sept	Deep yellow	18-30 in.	Sun to partial shade
Missouri Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia missouriensis</i>	July-Aug	Yellow	2-3 ft.	Full sun
Blue Sage	<i>Salvia azurea</i>	Summer	Blue	3-4 ft.	Full sun
Lizard's Tail	<i>Saururus cernuus</i>	Summer	White	18-48 in.	Water garden
Sedum	<i>Sedum ternatum</i>	Spring	White	2-4 in.	Sun to partial shade
Prairie Ragwort	<i>Senecio plattensis</i>	Spring	Yellow	6-8 in.	Sun to partial shade
Wild Senna	<i>Senna marilandica</i>	Summer	Med. yellow	3-5 ft.	Full sun
Royal Catchfly	<i>Silene regia</i>	June-Aug	Red	2-3 ft.	Full sun
Fire Pink	<i>Silene virginica</i>	Apr-May	Deep red	10-20 in.	Sun to partial shade
Prairie Dock	<i>Silphium terebinthinaceum</i>	Summer	Yellow	2-3 ft.	Full sun
Compass Plant	<i>Silphium laciniatum</i>	Summer	Yellow	4-7 ft.	Full sun
Cup Plant	<i>Silphium perfoliatum</i>	Summer	Soft yellow	4-8 ft.	Full to medium sun
Rosinweed	<i>Silphium integrifolium</i>	July-Aug	Yellow	4-6 ft.	Full sun
Showy Goldenrod	<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	Fall	Yellow	3-4 ft.	Full sun
Gray Goldenrod	<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>	Fall	Yellow	24-30 in.	Full sun
Cliff Goldenrod	<i>Solidago drummondii</i>	Fall	Deep yellow	18-36 in.	Sun to partial shade
Stiff Goldenrod	<i>Solidago rigida</i>	Fall	Yellow	30-48 in.	Full sun
Water Canna	<i>Thalia dealbata</i>	Summer	Purple	4-5 ft.	Water garden
Ohio Spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i>	May-July	Blue	18-30 in.	Sun to partial shade
Ironweed	<i>Vernonia fasciculata</i>	Summer	Red violet	3-4 ft.	Sun
Culver's Root	<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	Summer	White	3-4 ft.	Sun to partial shade
Yucca	<i>Yucca filamentosa</i>	Summer	White	2 ft.	Full sun

Vines

Cross Vine	<i>Bignonia capreolata</i>	Apr-June	Red orange	30 ft.	Sun
Trumpet Creeper	<i>Campsis radicans</i>	July-Sept	Red orange	20-40 ft.	Full sun
American Bittersweet	<i>Celastrus scandens</i>	Fall	Red orange	30 ft.	Full sun
Virgin's Bower	<i>Clematis virginiana</i>	Aug-Sept	White	12-20 ft.	Sun to partial shade
Virginia Creeper	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Summer	Green/Bronze	30-50 ft.	Full sun to shade
Passion Flower	<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	Summer	Light blue	12-20 ft.	Sun

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Prairie

Shrubs

Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	April	White	15-25 ft.	Sun to partial shade
Lead Plant	<i>Amorpha canescens</i>	May-Aug	Purple	1-3 ft.	Sun
Black Chokeberry	<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	Spring	White	3-9 ft.	Sun to partial shade
American Beautyberry	<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	Summer	Deep pink	4-5 ft.	Full sun
New Jersey Tea	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	May-June	White	3-4 ft.	Full sun
Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Aug	White	3-6 ft.	Moist areas
Gray Dogwood	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	May-July	White	10-15 ft.	Sun to partial shade
American Filbert	<i>Corylus americana</i>	Spring	Green	10-16 ft.	Sun to partial shade
Wahoo	<i>Euonymus atropurpureus</i>	Spring	Purple	12-20 in.	Sun to partial shade
Witch Hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Winter	Yellow	15-20 ft.	Sun to partial shade
Vernal Witch Hazel	<i>Hamamelis vernalis</i>	Winter	Yellow	6-10 ft.	Sun to partial shade
Shrubby St. John's Wort	<i>Hypericum prolificum</i>	June-Sept	Deep yellow	1-5 ft.	Sun to partial shade
Deciduous Holly	<i>Ilex decidua</i>	Spring	White	7-15 ft.	Sun
Winterberry Holly	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Fall	Red berries	6-10 ft.	Full sun
Virginia Sweetspire	<i>Itea virginica</i>	May-June	White	3-5 ft.	Sun to partial shade
Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spring	Yellow	6-12 ft.	Sun
Ninebark	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	May-June	White	5-10 ft.	Sun
American Jointweed	<i>Polygonella americana</i>	June-Sept	Light pink	2-4 ft.	Dry, rocky areas
Roseshell Azalea	<i>Rhododendron roseum</i>	May	Medium pink	2-8 ft.	Sun to partial shade
Flameleaf Sumac	<i>Rhus copallina</i>	Summer	Yellow	20-30 ft.	Dry, rocky areas
Fragrant Sumac	<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	Spring	Yellow green	2-6 ft.	Sun to partial shade
Smooth Sumac	<i>Rhus glabra</i>	Aug-Sept	Red berries	9-12 ft.	Sun
Golden Currant	<i>Ribes odoratum</i>	Spring	Deep yellow	6-12 ft.	Sun
Pasture Rose	<i>Rosa carolina</i>	May-June	Medium pink	1-3 ft.	Full sun
Prairie Willow	<i>Salix humilis</i>	Mar-May	Green	3-9 ft.	Sun to partial shade
Elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	Spring	White	5-12 ft.	Sun to partial shade
Arrowwood	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Spring	White	6-10 ft.	Sun
Nannyberry Viburnum	<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	Spring	White	15-18 ft.	Sun to partial shade
Black Haw Viburnum	<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	Spring	White	12-15 ft.	Sun
Rusty Blackhaw	<i>Viburnum rufidulum</i>	Apr-May	White	10-20 ft.	Sun to partial shade

Plant and Seed Sources

Missouri Wildflower Nursery
 9814 Pleasant Hill Rd.
 Jefferson City, MO 65109
 (573) 496-3492
www.mowildflowers.net

Hamilton's Native Nursery & Seed Farm
 16786 Brown Rd.
 Elk Creek, MO 65464
 (417) 967-2190

Websites

www.grownative.org (color photos of plants – excellent resource)
www.wildflowerfarm.com
www.kcwildlands.org
 Kansas Wildflower Society – www.cs.hesston.edu/kws
 Kansas City Chapter of Missouri Native Plant Society - www.angelfire.com/mo2/kcmonps/
www.lib.ksu.edu/wildflower
www.naturalkansas.org

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