



Butterfly Weed

Asclepias tuberosa

Bloom Time: June-September

Sunlight: Full Sun

Height: 1-2.5ft Spread: 1-1.5ft

Zone: 3-9

Butterfly Weed is a perennial and a member of the milkweed family. It is commonly found in our Midwest prairies and grasslands. The vibrant orange flower clusters are a nectar source for many species of butterflies!



Did You Know?

- Monarch butterflies cannot survive without milkweed *Asclepias spp.* They are their caterpillars only food source and it is the only plant they will lay their eggs on.
- The genus name *Asclepias* is named after the Greek god of medicine Asklepios. The species name *tuberosa* refers to the tuberous, knobby roots
- Native Americans harvested fibers from dried stems of butterfly weed that were then made into ropes and twine for weaving.



Summer Beauty Allium

Allium tanguticum 'Summer Beauty'

Bloom Time: June-August
Sunlight: Full Sun to Part Shade
Height: 1.5-2ft **Spread:** 1.5-2ft
Zone: 4-9

This attractive perennial is a member of the onion family. The dark green, narrow leaved foliage forms a dense clump and its flowers are sterile so it will not seed around. Very tolerant of heat and drought, grows in many soil types.



Did You Know?

- All parts of this plant are fragrant and have a mild onion scent. It is also an edible alternative to garlic.
- It has been said that the city of Chicago got its name from a smelly onion?! Likely derived from an Algonquin Indian name for a stream with leeks or 'smelly onions' the word 'shikaakwa' was then degraded to "Checagou" by French explorers, leading eventually to 'Chicago'.
- In winter, the flower heads dry up and hold their shape, don't cut them back for extra visual interest in the snow!



Prairie Dropseed

Sporobolus heterolepis

Bloom Time: August-October

Sunlight: Full Sun

Height: 2-3ft Spread: 2ft

Zone: 3-9

Prairie Dropseed is a clump forming, warm season, native, perennial grass. Its arching, finely textured blades turn golden-orange-bronze in fall. Deer resistant, drought tolerant and a great food source for song birds!



Did You Know?

- The feathery seed panicles are very fragrant once they turn golden brown! Some people have compared the scent to popcorn, coriander, and a combination of honey and cilantro leaves. Take a whiff!
- The tiny seeds drop to the ground from their hulls in fall, hinting at this plant's common name. The seeds of Prairie Dropseed were ground into flour by the Plains Indians.
- This species is a hearty long-lived one, with plants easily living to be 15 to 20 years old.



Stiff Coreopsis

Coreopsis palmata

Bloom Time: June-August

Sunlight: Full Sun

Height: 1.5-2.5ft Spread: 1-1.5ft

Zone: 3-8

This cheery perennial features daisy-like, bright yellow flowers and finely textured leaves. A tough plant that thrives in poor soils and is tolerant of drought, heat, humidity and deer. Good choice for native gardens, dry soils and border plantings.



Did You Know?

- Another common name for *Coreopsis spp.* is Tickseed. The genus name, *Coreopsis* comes from the Greek words *koris* meaning bug and *opsis* meaning like. This is in reference to the shape of the seed which resembles a bug or tick.
- The specific epithet, *palmata* means 'having the shape of a hand' in reference to the leaf shape.
- It spreads by underground rhizomes which form a dense mat, making it great for stabilizing dry slopes - even sand dunes!



Prairie Blazing Star

Liatris pycnostachya

Bloom Time: July-August
Sunlight: Full Sun
Height: 2-5ft Spread: 1-2ft
Zone: 3-9

This is a deer-resistant, clump forming perennial that is often found in prairies, meadows, along railroad tracks and roads. It features tall purple flower spikes that can be up to 20" long, this also makes an excellent cut flower.



Did You Know?

- Prairie Blazing Star is perhaps the tallest *Liatris* species in cultivation, typically growing 2-4' tall (infrequently to 5').
- The *Liatris spp.* belongs to the aster family. Aster flowers typically consist of fluffy disks that resemble "blazing stars" *pycnostachya* means crowded in Greek, likely a reference to the layout of the plant's flowers and leaves.
- This plant attracts bees, hummingbirds, butterflies and moths, including the rare Glorious Flower Moth which eats the flowers and seed capsules of this species.