Starter plant lists for beginners

Not sure where to start? Here are some of our most popular and reliable plants for various conditions, selected for a variety of color and season-long bloom.

Small Prairie Garden (Sunny, mostly dry conditions)

Baptisia australis, Blue false indigo

Echinacea purpurea, Purple coneflower

Helianthus mollis, Ashy sunflower

Monarda fistulosa, Wild bergamot

Oligoneuron rigida, Stiff goldenrod

Schizachyrium scoparium, Little bluestem

Silene regia, Royal catchfly

Woodland Edge (Part to full shade, dry to moist conditions)

Anemone canadensis, Thimbleweed

Chasmanthium latifolium, River oat

Elymus canadensis, Canada wild rye

Pycnanthemum verticilliatum, Hoary mountain mint

Rudbeckia triloba, Three-lobed coneflower

Solidago caesia, Blue-stemmed goldenrod

Symphyotrichum cordifolium, Heart-leaved aster

Campansulastrum americanum, Tall bellflower

Wet Woods/Wetland (Sunny to part shade, moist to wet)

Blephilia hirsuta, Hairy woodmint

Chasmanthium latifolium, Wild river oats

Chelone glabra, Turtlehead

Penstemon digitalis, Foxglove beardtongue

Rudbeckia fulgida, Orange coneflower

Symphyotrichum novea-angliae, New England aster

Zizia aurea, Golden Alexander

Carex Grayi, Gray's sedge

Bird, Bee & Butterfly Garden (Sunny-part shady, dry to moist)

Asclepias incarnata, Swamp milkweed

Bouteloua curtipendula, Side-oats grama

Echinacea purpurea, Purple coneflower

Elymus hystrix, bottlebrush grass

Eupatorium maculatum, Spotted Joe Pye-weed

Liatris spicata, Spiked blazingstar

Solidago nemoralis, Gray goldenrod

Shrubs to replace honeysuckle in a woods or woodland edge

Cornus racemosa, Gray dogwood

Corylus americana, American hazelnut

Euonymus atropurpureus, Eastern wahoo

Lindera benzoin, Spicebush

Ptelea trifoliata, Hop tree

Staphylea trifolia, American bladdernut

Viburnum prunifolium, Blackhaw

Species which are less palatable to deer

Aquilegia canadensis, Wild columbine

Asclepias spp., Milkweeds

Eryngium yuccifolium, Rattlesnake master

Eupatorium spp., Bonesets

Monarda fistulosa, Wild bergamot

Pycnanthemum spp., Mountain mints

Rudbeckia spp., coneflowers

Solidago spp., Goldenrods

Veronicastrum virginicum, Culver's root

Dasiphora fruticosa, Shrubby cinquefoil

Lindera benzoin, Spicebush

Prunus americana, American plum

Viburnum prunifolium, Blackhaw