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Plant List and Photo Guide

Native Wildflowers & Grasses







(Photos and descriptions: Missouri Botanical Garden)



Butterfly Milkweed / Asclepias tuberosa

- Grows 1 to 2 ½ feet tall
- Blooms yellow/orange June to August







Lanceleaf coreopsis / Coreopsis lanceolate

- Grows 1 to 2 feet tall
- Yellow daisy-like flowers bloom May to June
- Likes to be deadheaded Feel free to pick a bouquet





White Coneflower / Echinacea purpurea white

- Any of a number of white coneflower varieties (two types are below)
- Grows 1 ½ to 2 feet tall
- Blooms June to August







Magnus Coneflower / Echinacea purpurea Magnus

- Grows 2 ½ to 3 feet tall
- Blooms June to August







Goblin Blanket Flower / Gaukkardua x grandiflora

- Grows 2 to 3 feet tall
- Blooms June to September





Perennial Sunflower / Heliopsis helianthoides

- Grows 3 to 6 feet tall
- Blooms June to August



Plains Sunflower / Helianthus annuus

- Grows 3 to 10 feet tall
- Blooms July to August
- State Flower of Kansas



Rough Blazing Star / Liatris aspera

- Grows 2 to 3 feet tall
- Blooms August to October



Beebalm / Monarda didyma

- Grows 2 to 4 feet tall
- Blooms July to August





Smooth Penstemon or Beardtongue / Penstemon digitalis

- Grows 3 to 5 feet tall
- Blooms April to June





Mexican Hat Coneflower / Ratibida columnifera

- Grows 1 to 3 feet tall
- Blooms June to September







Goldsturm Black Eyed Susan / Rudbeckia fulgida var. sullivantii Goldsturm

- Grows 2 to 3 feet tall
- Blooms June to September





Gray Headed Coneflower / Ratibida pinnata

- Grows 3 to 5 feet tall
- Blooms June to August



May Night Salvia / Salvia x sylvestris May Night

- Grows 1 ½ to 2 feet tall
- Blooms May to June



Big Bluestem / Adropogon gerardii

- Grows 4 to 9 feet tall
- Grass tops look like turkey claws
- Turns orange or red in fall



Sideoats Grama / Bouteloua curtipendula

- Grows 1 ½ to 2 ½ feet tall
- Purplish flowers bloom July to August
- Native grass with oat-like seed spikes
- Bluish-gray leaf blades up to 1/4" wide
- Turns golden brown with hues of orange and red









Switch Grass / Panicum virgatum

- Grows 3 to 6 feet tall
- Similar to Johnson grass, but Johnson grass has a white stripe down the middle of its leaves



Indian Grass / Sorghastrum nutans

- Grows 3 to 5 feet tall
- Blooms September to February





Little Bluestem / Schizachyrium scoparium

- Grows 2 to 4 feet tall
- Blooms purplish bronze from August to February
- Bronze-orange fall color
- Kansas State Grass (named by Shawnee Mission South students)





Prairie Dropseed / Sporobolus heterolepsis

- Grows 18 to 30 inches tall
- Very thin emerald green leaves







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