

# *Agastache nepetoides*

**Common Name:** Yellow Giant Hyssop

**Family:** Mint family (Lamiaceae)

**Height:** 4-7'

**Bloom color:** pale greenish yellow

**Bloom Time:** July to September

**Sun:** light shade to partial sun

**Water:** moist to mesic conditions

A bold plant that masses well in the perennial border, native wildflower area, woodland or butterfly garden, *Agastache nepetoides* is a fast-growing, strong-stemmed perennial which lacks the fragrance common to many mint family members. This plant dislikes dry sunny areas, which will cause the foliage to wilt during a summer drought. The flowers are visited by honeybees, bumblebees, & Halictid bees, bee flies, and butterflies. These insects suck nectar, although some of the bees may collect pollen. Syrphid flies also visit the flowers to feed on pollen, but they are less effective at cross-pollination. The dense foliage of Yellow Giant Hyssop attracts its fair share of predatory insects, including parasitic wasps, spiders, ladybird beetles, and others. White-Tailed Deer leave the foliage alone because of its bitter taste.



# *Agastache scrophulariifolia*

also seen as *Agastache scrophulariaefolia*

**Common Name:** Giant hyssop

**Zone:** 6 to 10

**Plant Type:** Herbaceous perennial

**Family:** Lamiaceae

**Height:** 2 to 5 feet

**Spread:** 1 to 1.5 feet

**Bloom Time:** July - September

**Bloom Color:** white to lavender

**Sun:** Full sun to part shade

**Water:** Medium

This plant is attractive to long-tongued bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. *Agastache* will provide feathered pollinators a feast; they are such favorites of hummingbirds that if you take a nursery pot with an *agastache* blooming, and set it on a table, the hummingbird will find its way to the feast in no time.



# *Aquilegia canadensis*

**Common Name:** Wild Columbine

**Family:** Buttercup family (Ranunculaceae)

**Height:** 1-3'

**Bloom Time:** April- May

**Bloom Color:** yellow and red to purplish red

**Sun:** light shade to partial sun

**Water:** moist to slightly dry conditions

Once it becomes established, this plant is easy to maintain. Bumblebees and the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird visit the flowers for nectar; bumblebees may also collect pollen for their larvae. The larvae of various insects feed on Wild Columbine, including those of Columbine Duskywing, Borer Moth, Columbine Sawfly, and several Leaf Miner Flies. Because the foliage is toxic, it is little bothered by mammalian herbivores. This is the only *Aquilegia sp.* (Columbine) that is native to Ohio. The flowers of Wild Columbine are colorful and attractive, and the foliage is attractive as well. The cultivated Columbines that are sold by nurseries usually have *Aquilegia vulgaris* (European Columbine) as one or both parents. **All parts of this plant are poisonous if ingested.**



# *Asclepias incarnata*

**Common Name:** Swamp milkweed

**Family:** Asclepiadaceae

**Height:** 4 to 5 feet

**Spread:** 2 to 3 feet

**Bloom Time:** July - August

**Bloom Color:** White, pink, mauve

**Sun:** Full sun

**Water:** Medium to wet

Excellent host plant for

Monarchs; adults nectar and

lay eggs on the underside of leaves, caterpillars

feed on the leaves. Great for sunny borders, stream/pond banks, butterfly gardens. A good plant for low spots or other moist areas in the landscape but can tolerate average soil.





## ***Aster cordifolius, Symphyotrichum cordifolium***

**Common Name:** Blue Wood Aster

**Family:** Asteraceae (Aster Family)

**Height:** 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 ft.

**Spread:** 1.5 to 2 feet

**Bloom Time:** August to September

**Bloom Color:** Pale blue to rich blue with yellow centers

**Sun:** Full sun to part shade

**Water:** Dry to medium

The nectar and pollen of the flowers attracts many insects, including long-tongued bees, short-tongued bees, wasps, flies, butterflies, skippers, and beetles. Caterpillars of the Silvery Checkerspot and Pearl Crescent butterflies feed on the foliage, as do the caterpillars of many moth species. Pinching back stems before mid-July helps control plant height and promote bushiness. Easily grown from seed and often self-seeds in the garden. Plants may be cut to the ground after flowering to prevent any unwanted self-seeding and/or if foliage has become unsightly. No serious insect or disease problems. Works well in open shade gardens, native plant gardens, cottage gardens or butterfly gardens.



## ***Aster lanceolatus, Symphyotrichum lanceolatum***

**Common Name:** Panicked Aster

**Family:** Aster family (Asteraceae)

**Height:** 1-3  $\frac{1}{2}$ '

**Spread:** 1-2' or more

**Bloom Time:** late summer into fall

**Bloom Color:** white

**Sun:** full sun to part shade

**Water:** moist to medium

The nectar and pollen of the flowers attracts many kinds of insects, including honeybees, bumblebees, leaf-cutting bees, Halictid bees, cuckoo bees, Andrenid bees, Syrphid flies, bee flies, Tachinid flies, butterflies, skippers, and beetles. Caterpillars of the Pearl Crescent feed on the leaves and other parts of the Panicked Aster. Mammalian herbivores also browse on the foliage of asters, including deer, rabbits, groundhogs, horses, cattle, and sheep. White-Tailed Deer are very fond of the foliage of Panicked Aster, browsing its leafy stems to within inches of the ground.



# ***Symphyotricum novae-angliae***

(Formerly *Aster novae-angliae*)

**Common Name:** New England Aster

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Height:** 3 to 6 feet

**Spread:** 2 to 3 feet

**Bloom Time:** August - September

**Bloom Color:** Deep pink-purple to rose

**Sun:** Full sun

**Water:** Medium

Pinching back stems before mid-July will help control plant height, and promote bushiness. Easily grown from seed and may self-seed in the garden in optimum growing conditions. Plants may be cut to the ground after flowering to prevent any unwanted self-seeding and/or if foliage has become unsightly. New England aster occurs in moist prairies, meadows, thickets, low valleys and stream banks throughout the state. Flowers are attractive to Andrenid bees, sweat bees, small carpenter bees, bumble bees, and butterflies.



# ***Symphyotrichum praealtum*, *Aster praealtus***

**Common Name:** Willow aster, Veiny-lined aster

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Height:** 2-5 feet

**Spread:** 1 ½ to 4 feet

**Bloom Time:** August to October

**Bloom Color:** Lavender rays and yellow centers

**Sun:** full to partial shade

**Water:** Medium to wet

This aster is native to moist locations including wet prairies, lake or stream margins, ditches, open woodland areas, fields and roadsides. It often grows in dense colonies. Honeybees, bumblebees, Halictine bees, and some Andrenid bees that fly late in the season seek nectar; bees also collect pollen for their larvae. The caterpillars of the Silvery Checkerspot and Pearl Crescent butterflies feed on the foliage, as well as the caterpillars of several species of moths.





# ***Baptisia australis***

*state listed as extirpated in Ohio, USDA says endangered*

**Common Name:** Blue false indigo

**Family:** Fabaceae

**Height:** 3 to 4 feet

**Spread:** 3 to 4 feet

**Bloom Time:** May - June

**Bloom Color:** Indigo blue

**Sun:** Full sun to part shade

**Water:** Dry to medium

Plants develop slowly expanding clumps with deep and extensive root systems and should not be disturbed once established. Queen bumblebees are the primary pollinators of the flowers. The larvae of two moths, the Three-lined Grapholita and the Black-rimmed Prominent, larvae of two skippers, the Wild Indigo Duskywing and Hoary Edge, and larvae of three butterflies, the Frosted Elfin, Marine Blue, and the Orange Sulfur feed on the leaves, developing seeds, and other parts of Blue Wild Indigo and other *Baptisia* spp. Mammalian herbivores usually avoid the consumption of Blue Wild Indigo and other Wild Indigos because their foliage is somewhat toxic.



# ***Baptisia leucantha*** *state listed potentially*

*threatened in Ohio*

**Common Name:** White Wild Indigo

**Plant Type:** Herbaceous perennial

**Family:** Fabaceae

**Height:** 2 to 4 feet

**Spread:** 2 to 2.5 feet

**Bloom Time:** June-July

**Bloom Color:** White

**Sun:** Full sun to part shade

**Water:** Medium

Easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Best in full sun. Tolerates drought and poor soils. Over time, plants develop slowly expanding clumps with deep and extensive root systems and should not be disturbed once established. Attractive to bumble bees and other native bees. Use in borders, cottage gardens, prairies, meadows and native plant gardens. Effective in naturalized settings but best as a specimen or in small groups.



# ***Blephilia hirsuta***

**Common Name:** Hairy Wood Mint

**Family:** Mint family (Lamiaceae)

**Height:** 1-3'

**Bloom:** pink, purple or white

**Spread:** 2 feet

**Sun:** partial sun to light shade

**Water:** moist to mesic

The preference is a rich loamy soil with decaying leaf mold. Habitats include mesic deciduous woodlands, areas along woodland paths, woodland borders, woodland openings, limestone glades, and thickets. The preference is a rich loamy soil with decaying leaf mold. Habitats include mesic deciduous woodlands, areas along woodland paths, woodland borders, woodland openings, limestone glades, and thickets. The dense whorls of flowers distinguish the genus *Blephilia* from many other members of the Mint family. Another member of this genus that occurs in Ohio is Downy Wood Mint (*Blephilia ciliata*). Downy Wood Mint prefers habitats that are somewhat sunnier and drier; it is sometimes found in prairies and savannas.



# ***Boehmeria cylindrica***

**Common Name:** False Nettle

**Family:** Nettle family (Urticaceae)

**Height:** 2-3'

**Bloom color:** white

**Bloom Time:** early to mid-summer

**Sun:** light shade

**Water:** moist

In sunny locations, this plant prefers wetter ground and the foliage may become yellowish green. The flowers don't attract many insects because they are wind-pollinated. Caterpillars of the Comma, Question Mark, and Red Admiral (above) butterflies feed on the foliage of False Nettle; caterpillars of the Flowing-Line Bomolocha moth also feed on this plant. Because the foliage lacks stinging hairs and it is non-toxic, mammalian herbivores may browse on this plant occasionally. The two members of the Nettle family with stinging hairs are Wood Nettle and Stinging Nettle. The latter species has been introduced from Europe. The other common member of the Nettle family without stinging hairs, Clearweed, is a hairless annual plant with translucent stems and shiny leaves.





# *Carex vulpinoidea*

**Common Name:** Brown Fox Sedge

**Family:** Sedge family (Cyperaceae)

**Height:** 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  -3  $\frac{1}{2}$  ft.

**Bloom Time:** July - September

**Bloom Color:** green

**Sun:** full sun to part sun

**Water:** moist to medium

Like other wetland *Carex* sedges, Brown Fox Sedge is a food plant of sedge grasshoppers, the Common Meadow Katydid, caterpillars of several skippers, caterpillars of the Eyed Brown, the Tufted Sedge and other moths, semi-aquatic leaf beetles and other insects. Some wetland birds feed on the seeds of sedges in wetlands including ducks, rails, and songbirds. When the Brown Fox Sedge forms large colonies, it provides good cover for many species of wetland animals, including nesting habitat for the Sedge Wren.



# *Cassia hebecarpa*

**Common Name:** Wild Senna

**Family:** Senna family (Caesalpinaceae)

**Height:** 3 to 6 feet

**Spread:** 1 to 3 feet

**Bloom Time:** July - September

**Bloom Color:** Yellow

**Sun:** Partial to Full sun

**Water:** Medium

Habitats include moist meadows near rivers, savannas, fens, pastures, and roadsides. The flowers attract bumblebees primarily, which seek pollen. Halictid bees also visit the flowers for pollen but are less likely to achieve cross-pollination. The caterpillars of some Sulfur butterflies rely on the foliage of *Senna* spp. (Sennas) as a source of food. This includes Sleepy Orange, Orange-Barred Sulfur, and Cloudless Sulfur. Other insects that feed on Sennas include caterpillars of the Black Witch and Common Tan Wave moths, caterpillars of the last species feed on the flowers. Mammalian herbivores usually avoid consumption of the foliage, which has purgative properties. The seeds may be eaten by some upland gamebirds, particularly the Bobwhite.



# *Caulophyllum thalictroides*

**Common Name:** Blue Cohosh

**Family:** Barberry family (Berberidaceae)

**Height:** 1-3'

**Bloom Time:** mid to late spring

**Bloom Color:** yellow to yellowish green

**Sun:** dappled sunlight in spring, light shade in summer

**Water:** medium



The preference is fertile loamy soil with abundant organic matter from decaying leaves and other plant materials. The large seeds are difficult to germinate, but once established at a favorable site, Blue Cohosh is long-lived. This conservative wildflower can be found in woodlands dominated by either oaks or maples where the native flora is still intact. Both pollen and nectar are available to insect visitors which include miscellaneous flies, small Halictid bees, and bumblebees. Caterpillars of the Black-Patched Clepsid moth feed on this plant. Because of the bright blue coloration of the fleshy seed coats and their carbohydrates, woodland birds are likely the primary dispersal agents of the seeds, which are toxic to humans. The bitter-tasting foliage of this wildflower contains toxic glycosides and alkaloids and is rarely eaten by White-Tailed Deer and other mammalian herbivores.

# *Chelone glabra*

**Common Name:** Turtlehead

**Family:** Scrophulariaceae (Figwort)

**Height:** 2 to 4 feet

**Spread:** 1 to 1.5 feet

**Bloom Time:** June - August

**Bloom Color:** white

**Sun:** sun to part shade

**Water:** wet to medium



Turtlehead flowers are pollinated by bumblebees; sometimes they also attract the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird. Like other butterflies, the Baltimore Checkerspot searches for one kind of host plant from which it will gain nourishment during its period of growth. In this case, the White Turtlehead is the only host plant that this butterfly will use. It lays eggs on the undersides of the plant's leaves. In summer, the eggs hatch into orange and black caterpillars which feed off this host plant. The foliage is bitter and usually avoided by the White-Tailed Deer and other mammalian herbivores.



# *Clinopodium vulgare*

**Common Name:** Wild basil

**Family:** Lamiaceae (Mint Family)

**Height:** 6-12 inches

**Bloom color:** rose-purple

**Bloom Time:** early to mid-summer

**Sun:** sun to light shade

**Water:** dry to medium

Wild basil is a circumboreal species that is used in European herbal medicine as an anti-inflammatory. In America it is native from Manitoba to Nova Scotia;

south to upland North Carolina; west to Tennessee and Kansas; north to Minnesota. This plant is native in the northern part of its range but was probably introduced from Europe, where it is widespread, in the southern part. The dried leaves can be used as a seasoning although they are milder than those of the commercial Basil.



# *Conoclinium coelestinum* AKA *Eupatorium coelestinum*

**Common Name:** Mist Flower

**Family:** Aster family (Asteraceae)

**Height:** 1-2½' tall

**Spread:** 2-3 feet

**Bloom Time:** July- September

**Bloom Color:** purplish pink to blue

**Sun:** light shade to full sun

**Water:** moist to medium

The flowers attract long-tongued bees, butterflies, and skippers. Other occasional visitors include short-tongued bees, various flies, moths, and beetles. Insects that feed on *Eupatorium* spp. (Bonesets) may also feed on Mistflower. Insect feeders of this group of plants include the caterpillars of the Clymene Moth and Lined Ruby Tiger Moth who eat the foliage, Eupatorium Borer Moth which bores into the roots, and Three-Lined Flower Moth which eats the florets & developing seeds. Mammalian herbivores rarely consume Mistflower because of its bitter foliage.



# *Coreopsis lanceolata*

**Common Name:** Lance leaved Coreopsis

**Family:** Aster family (Asteraceae)

**Height:** 1½-3 feet

**Spread:** 2 to 3 feet

**Bloom Time:** June-July

**Bloom Color:** yellow

**Sun:** Full sun- part shade

**Water:** Dry to Medium



This plant often forms colonies by reseeding itself. Goldfinches flock to the plant before the seeds mature, making this a wonderful plant for attracting them to your garden. The nectar and pollen of the flowers attract many kinds of insect visitors, including long-tongued bees, short-tongued bees, wasps, flies, butterflies, skippers, day-flying moths, and beetles. The larvae of moths such as the Dimorphic Gray, Wavy-lined Emerald, and Common Tan Wave feed on the flowers. Mammalian herbivores occasionally browse on the foliage of Coreopsis spp., including rabbits, groundhogs, deer, horses, and livestock. Because of the showy flowers and ease of cultivation, Lance leaved Coreopsis is often grown in flower gardens.

# *Delphinium exaltatum*

**Common Name:** Tall Larkspur

**Family:** Ranunculaceae

**Height:** 4 to 6 feet

**Spread:** 1 to 2 feet

**Bloom Time:** July - September

**Bloom Color:** Gentian blue to pale blue

**Sun:** Full sun to part shade

**Water:** Medium



Appreciates some afternoon shade in hot summer climates. Needs protection from strong winds. Remove spent flower spikes to encourage additional bloom and/or a possible second, autumn bloom. This species is taller, blooms later and has more abundant foliage than most other native U.S. larkspurs. As is the case with many of the buttercup family members, all parts of this plant are poisonous. Tall Larkspur is attractive to hummingbirds and butterflies. Slugs and snails are sometimes visitors. Taller plants may require support.



# *Delphinium tricornne*

**Common Name:** Dwarf Larkspur, Spring larkspur

**Family:** Buttercup family (Ranunculaceae)

**Height:**  $\frac{1}{2}$ -2 feet

**Spread:** 8 to 12 inches

**Bloom Time:** late spring

**Bloom Color:** purple or blue-violet

**Sun:** light shade to partial sun

**Water:** mesic to slightly dry

Dwarf Larkspur habitats include deciduous woodlands, moist ravines

and thinly wooded slopes (often rocky), thinly wooded bluffs, and partially shaded cliffs along riverbanks. This species displays a preference for hilly woodlands and a soil that is rocky or loamy. The flowers are pollinated primarily by long-tongued bees, including bumblebees, Anthophorid bees, and some Miner bees. These insects suck nectar and collect pollen. The flowers are also visited by butterflies, skippers, and Sphinx moths. The Ruby-Throated Hummingbird may also visit the flowers. The caterpillars of the Spotted Strawmoth eat the flowers of *Delphinium* spp., while the maggots of Delphinium Leaf-Miner Fly tunnel through the leaves. The foliage of Dwarf Larkspur is toxic to most mammalian herbivores.



# *Dodecatheon meadia*

**Common Name:** Shooting Star

**Family:** Primulaceae

**Height:** 1 -  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ft.

**Bloom Time:** May-June

**Bloom Color:** white to pale blue

**Sun:** full or partial sun

**Water:** moist to slightly dry soil

This plant is occasional to locally common in high quality habitats, otherwise it is rare or absent. Habitats include moist to slightly dry black soil prairies, hill prairies, openings in rocky upland forests, limestone glades, bluffs along major rivers, fens, and abandoned fields. Queen bumblebees are the most typical visitors of the oddly shaped flowers. They obtain pollen from the flowers by the rapid vibration of their thoracic muscles, which is sometimes called 'buzz pollination.' Other bees visiting the flowers are Anthophorine bees, Eucerine Miner bees, and Green Metallic bees. The seeds are too small to be of much interest to birds.



# *Eupatorium altissimum*

**Common Name:** Tall Boneset

**Family:** Aster family (Asteraceae)

**Height:** 3-4' tall

**Spread:** 2-3 feet

**Bloom Time:** July- September

**Bloom Color:** white

**Sun:** full to partial sun

**Water:** medium to dry

Tall Boneset habitats include dry black soil prairies, clay prairies, gravel prairies, savannas, thickets, openings in upland forests, dry banks of lakes, limestone glades, pastures and abandoned fields, fence rows, vacant lots, and areas along railroads. This plant favors disturbed areas, where it may form large colonies. The nectar or pollen of the flowers attracts many kinds of insects, including bees, flies, wasps, butterflies, and beetles. The caterpillars of various moth species are known to feed on various parts of Boneset, including Clymene Moth, Lined Ruby Tiger Moth and Three-Lined Flower Moth. The small seeds appear to be of little interest to birds and other fauna, although they are occasionally eaten by the Swamp Sparrow.



# *Eupatorium serotinum*

**Common Name:** Late Boneset

**Family:** Aster family (Asteraceae)

**Height:** 3-6'

**Bloom color:** white

**Bloom Time:** late summer - early fall

**Sun:** partial or full sun

**Water:** moist

The flowers are popular with many kinds of insects, including long-tongued bees, short-tongued bees, wasps, flies, small to medium-sized butterflies, skippers, moths, and beetles. Most of these insects seek nectar, although bees may collect pollen and beetles may feed on it. The caterpillars of various moths can be found feeding on this and other Bonesets, including Clymene Moth, Ruby Tiger Moth, Eupatorium Borer Moth, and the Three-Lined Flower Moth. Mammalian herbivores rarely consume this plant because of the bitter foliage. In overgrazed pastures, Late Boneset often becomes more common because of reduced competition from other plants.





## *Eupatoriadelphus fistulosus*

**Common Name:** Hollow Joe-Pye Weed

**Plant Type:** perennial

**Family:** Aster family (Asteraceae)

**Height:** 3-9'

**Spread:** 2-3 ft.

**Bloom Time:** mid-summer to early fall

**Bloom Color:** pale pink-lavender to deep rosy pink

**Sun:** full or partial sun

**Water:** wet to moist

This wildflower is an impressive sight as it towers above the surrounding vegetation in open areas. Hollow-Stemmed Joe-Pye habitats include wet sand prairies, seeps and springs in partially wooded areas, soggy thickets, fens, rocky sandstone ravines along streams, and low areas along railroads and roadsides. The flowers are visited by honeybees, bumblebees, and other long-tongued bees; other floral visitors include bee flies (Bombyliidae), butterflies, skippers, and moths. Most of these visitors obtain nectar from the flowers, although some bees also collect pollen.



## *Eupatoriadelphus maculatus*

**Common Name:** Spotted Joe-Pye

**Family:** Aster family (Asteraceae)

**Height:** 3-6 feet

**Spread:** 18 to 24 inches

**Bloom Time:** late July - August

**Bloom Color:** purplish pink- mauve

**Sun:** full sun to partial shade

**Water:** moist to medium

Spotted Joe-Pye Weed habitats include moist black soil prairies, sand prairies, sedge meadows, marshes, fens, and swampy thickets with small trees or shrubs. It's not found in disturbed areas. The nectar of the flowers attracts long-tongued bees, butterflies, and skippers. The caterpillars of some moth species feed on Joe-Pye Weeds, including Three-Lined Flower Moth and Clymene Moth; the seeds are a minor source of food to the Swamp Sparrow. The foliage is not a preferred food source for mammalian herbivores, but it may be eaten occasionally by deer, rabbits, or livestock.



# *Filipendula rubra*

**Common Name:** Queen-of-the-Prairie

**Family:** Rose family (Rosaceae)

**Height:** 3-6 feet

**Spread:** rhizomes, tends to form colonies

**Bloom Time:** early to mid-summer

**Bloom Color:** pink

**Sun:** full or partial sun

**Water:** wet to moist

The colorful flowers provide pollen as a reward for insect visitors, but not nectar. Various species of bees collect pollen from the flowers and probably are the most important pollinators. Beetles and flies feed on the pollen. Wasps and butterflies may land on the flowers looking for nectar, but their search will be futile. Little is known about the floral-fauna relationships for birds and mammals. The foliage does not seem to be bothered by deer and other herbivorous mammals. In prairies, the pink flowers rise above the surrounding vegetation and can be seen from a considerable distance. It has a very distinctive appearance and can't be confused with any other native plant. This is an indicator plant of high-quality habitats.



# *Geranium maculatum*

**Common Name:** Wild Geranium

**Family:** Geraniaceae

**Height:** 1-2½' tall

**Spread:** 1-1½'

**Bloom Time:** April to May

**Bloom Description:** Pale pink, deep pink, lilac

**Sun:** Full sun to part shade

**Water:** Medium

This wild geranium is a clump-forming, woodland perennial which typically occurs in woods, thickets and shaded roadside areas. The nectar and pollen of the flowers attract bumblebees, mason bees, cuckoo bees, digger bees, Halictid bees, Andrenid bees and other bees. The flowers also attract Syrphid flies, dance flies, butterflies, and skippers. The caterpillars of Bridled Arches, Geranium Budworm Moth, Omnivorous Leaf roller Moth, and Tobacco Budworm Moth feed on Wild Geranium. Among vertebrate animals, the Eastern Chipmunk sometimes eats the seeds, while the White-Tailed Deer occasionally browses on the foliage. The Wild Geranium is the showiest of the native geraniums and is one of the easier woodland species to cultivate.





# *Heliopsis helianthoides*

**Common Name:** **Ox-eye sunflower, false sunflower**

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Height:** 3 to 6 feet

**Spread:** 2.5 to 3 feet

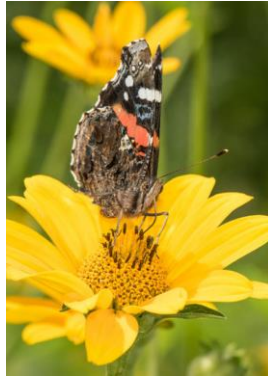
**Bloom Time:** July - September

**Bloom Color:** yellow

**Sun:** Full sun to part shade

**Water:** Dry to medium

Ox-eye has many 2 to 3-inch golden yellow flowers that are beautiful when



used in floral arrangements. This is an exceptionally long-blooming flower for the cutting garden. False Sunflower is accented well in a butterfly garden or prairie meadow when planted with coneflowers, blazing stars, Asters, and prairie grasses. Ox-eye Sunflowers attract nectar-seeking butterflies and birds enjoy the ripe seeds. This species tolerates both severe winters and hot summers well. Best in part shade to sunny areas of wildflower gardens, native plant gardens, woodland gardens or cottage gardens. Can also be grown as borders.

# *Hepatica nobilis acuta*

**Common Name:** **Sharp-Lobed Hepatica**

**Plant Type:** perennial

**Family:** Buttercup family (Ranunculaceae)

**Height:** 3-6 inches

**Spread:** 6 inches

**Bloom Time:** early to mid-spring and lasts 2-3 weeks

**Bloom Color:** white, pastel pink or pastel blue

**Sun:** dappled sunlight during the spring and light shade in summer

**Water:** well-drained, loamy



Sharp-Lobed Hepatica occurs in high quality wooded areas where the original flora is largely intact. Sometimes it is cultivated as a rock garden plant. Small bees collect pollen from the flowers, while Syrphid flies and other flies feed on the pollen. Bee visitors include honeybees, small Carpenter bees, Andrenid bees, and Halictid bees. Nectar is not provided by the flowers. Chipmunks reportedly eat the achenes. The brownish green basal leaves are poisonous and somewhat camouflaged. The flowers of Sharp-Lobed Hepatica bloom earlier than most spring-blooming wildflowers of woodlands. They are delicately attractive and tend to blow about on their slender stems in the wind.

# *Heuchera americana*

**Common Name:** Alumroot

**Family:** Saxifrage family  
(Saxifragaceae))

**Height:** 1-2 ft.

**Bloom Time:** May-June

**Bloom Color:** white to pink

**Sun:** dappled sunlight

**Water:** medium to dry

This is primarily a foliage plant that can function as a ground cover if it is densely planted. The nectar and pollen of the flowers attract small bees. The bitter-tasting basal leaves are usually ignored by mammalian herbivores. Attractive foliage and airy flower panicles provide color and contrast to the rock garden, perennial border, native plant garden, open woodland garden or shade garden. Good edging plant. Mass to form an attractive ground cover.



# *Hibiscus laevis*

**Common Name:** Halberd-Leaved Rose Mallow

**Family:** Mallow family (Malvaceae)

**Height:** 4 to 6 feet

**Spread:** 2 to 4 feet

**Bloom Time:** July - September

**Bloom Color:** pink

**Sun:** Full or partial sun

**Water:** wet to Medium

Each flower lasts a day and requires sunlight to open up properly. This species doesn't like to dry out but can tolerate medium soils. The nectar and pollen of the flowers attract bumblebees and caterpillars of the butterfly Gray Hairstreak feed on the flower buds and seeds, while the caterpillars of Checkered Skipper, the moth Pearly Wood Nymph, and the Painted Lady feed on the foliage. Unfortunately, the Japanese Beetle is quite fond of the foliage and flowers of Rose Mallows and similar species. Deer and livestock eat the non-toxic foliage of native *Hibiscus* spp.





# *Hibiscus moscheutos*

**Common Name:** Swamp (Crimson-eyed) Rose Mallow

**Family:** Mallow family (Malvaceae)

**Height:** 4 to 6 feet

**Spread:** 2 to 4 feet

**Bloom Time:** July - September

**Bloom Color:** white or pink

**Sun:** Full or partial sun

**Water:** wet to consistently moist

Each flower usually has a reddish purple throat at the base of its petals, although sometimes this is absent. This wildflower spreads by reseeding itself. The flowers are cross-pollinated by bumblebees and other long-tongued bees. The Ruby-Throated Hummingbird is another nectar-seeking visitor of the flowers. Some insects feed on various parts of Rose Mallows. The caterpillars of Common Checkered Skipper and the Painted Lady butterfly sometimes feed on the leaves, while the caterpillars of the Gray Hairstreak butterfly feed on the developing seeds.



# *Hydrophyllum appendiculatum*

**Common Name:** Appendaged Waterleaf, Great Waterleaf

**Plant Type:** biennial

**Family:** Waterleaf family (Hydrophyllaceae)

**Height:** 1-2½ ft.

**Bloom Time:** late spring to early summer

**Bloom Color:** blue lavender or pale purple

**Sun:** light dappled shade

**Water:** moist to mesic

*Hydrophyllum appendiculatum* is one of the more common *Hydrophyllum* spp. and its flowers are the most attractive. The

nectar and pollen of the flowers attract various kinds of bees, including honeybees, bumblebees, mason bees, digger bees, Andrenid bees, and Halictid bees. Other insects that visit the flowers include Syrphid flies, dance flies, butterflies, and skippers. Except for these flower visitors, surprisingly little appears to be known about floral-fauna relationships for this species. White-Tailed Deer may browse on the foliage. Despite its biennial habit, it is possible to maintain this plant in a woodland flower garden as it reseeds itself readily.



# *Hypoxis hirsuta*

**Common Name:** Yellow Star Grass

**Family:** Liliaceae

**Height:** 6-12 inches

**Bloom Time:** April-June

**Bloom Color:** yellow

**Sun:** full to partial sun

**Water:** moist to slightly dry conditions



This small native perennial plant consists of a rosette of slender basal leaves and shorter flowering stems. This dainty wildflower is easily overlooked, except when it is in bloom. Habitats include mesic black soil prairies, hill prairies, savannas, open woodlands and paths through woodlands, fens, sandstone glades, abandoned fields, and lawns. Like *Claytonia virginica* (Spring Beauty), Yellow Star Grass can spread into lawns if mowing is delayed until late in the spring. The flowers attract small bees primarily, including Little Carpenter bees, Mason bees, and Halictine bees. These insects collect pollen and are usually females. Other insect visitors include Syrphid flies and beetles, which feed on pollen. Cross-pollination is required for fertile seeds.

# *Jeffersonia diphylla*

**Common Name:** Jefferson Twinleaf

**Family:** Berberidaceae

**Height:** 0.75 to 1.50 feet

**Spread:** 0.50 to 0.75 feet

**Bloom Time:** April

**Bloom Color:** White

**Sun:** Part shade

**Water:** Medium



Twinleaf is a delightful spring-blooming perennial which grows in moist, rich woods. A solitary white-petaled flower rises on leafless stems 8 or 9 inches tall. The flowers look a bit like shaggy daisies and last a single day followed by an upright seed pod or follicle, with a distinct cap which is held closed until seeds are ready to be dispersed. Twinleaf is named for its foliage which is one leaf divided into two semicircles at the end of a stalk. Good companions for Twinleaf are Foamflower, Bishops Cap, Celandine Poppy and Shooting Stars. They may naturalize and form huge patches of thousands of plants.



# *Koeleria macrantha*

**Common Name:** Prairie June Grass

**Family:** Poaceae

**Height:** 1-2 ft.

**Spread:** 8 to 18 inches

**Bloom Time:** May to June

**Sun:** full sun

**Water:** Dry to medium



Prairie June grass is a clump-forming, perennial bunch grass that needs good drainage.

Tolerates drought. Avoid wet soils or shade. Will self-seed in optimum growing conditions. June grass may go dormant in hot and humid summer climates. In cool summer climates, it will usually remain attractive until fall. Plants may be short-lived. June Grass is one of the food plants of several grass-eating grasshoppers, particularly those species that prefer dry habitats with sparse vegetation. Best for massing and naturalizing in fields or prairies where self-seeding is not a problem. Mix with other ornamental grasses. Potential for summer/fall dormancy.

# *Liatris squarrosa*

**Common Name:** Scaly Blazing star

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Height:** 1-2½ feet

**Spread:** 1 ft.

**Bloom Time:** July-August

**Bloom Description:** Purple

**Sun:** Full sun

**Water:** Dry to medium



This wildflower is found in high quality natural areas. The flowers are cross-pollinated primarily by bumblebees, butterflies, and skippers. In general, several insect species feed on blazing stars. These species include: the caterpillars of Blazingstar Flower Moth, which feed on the florets and developing seeds; the caterpillars of Blazingstar Borer Moth and Liatris Borer Moth, which bore through the stems; and the foliage and flower heads of Blazing stars are edible to many mammalian herbivores, including cattle, horses, sheep, goats, deer, rabbits, and groundhogs. Where these mammals are abundant, Blazingstar populations usually decline.

# *Lobelia cardinalis*

**Common Name:** Cardinal flower, Red lobelia

**Plant Type:** Herbaceous perennial

**Family:** Campanulaceae

**Height:** 2 to 4 feet

**Spread:** 1 to 2 feet

**Bloom Time:** July - September

**Bloom Color:** Scarlet, white or rose

**Sun:** Full sun to part shade

**Water:** Medium to wet

Needs constant moisture, tolerates

full sun in cool, northern climates, but otherwise appreciates part shade. The flowers attract the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird and the Black Swallowtail, Spicebush Swallowtail, and Pipevine Swallowtail. Sometimes bumblebees steal nectar through slits in the tubular corolla. Halictid bees gather pollen but are ineffective at pollination. The caterpillars of the Pink-washed Looper Moth feed on the leaves. Grown by **Natives in Harmony** nursery of Marengo Ohio. For nursery hours and information call 419-688-9800 or go to [www.nativesinharmony.com](http://www.nativesinharmony.com).



# *Monarda punctata*

**Common Name:** Dotted or Spotted Bee Balm

**Family:** Lamiaceae

**Height:** 1.5 to 2 feet

**Spread:** 0.75 to 1 foot

**Bloom Time:** June - July

**Bloom Color:** Yellow with purple spots

**Sun:** Full sun to part shade

**Water:** Dry to medium

This wildflower is usually a short-lived perennial; some plants may persist for only 1 or 2 years. Spotted Bee Balm has greater tolerance of sun and drought than many other Bee Balms. The nectar and pollen of the flowers attract honeybees, bumblebees, Miner bees and Plasterer bees; butterflies also visit the flowers of Spotted Bee Balm for nectar, including the endangered Karner Blue, which is found in sandy habitats. Insects that feed on the flowers, foliage or stems of Spotted Bee Balm include the caterpillars of the moths Pyralid Moth and the Gray Marvel. Grown by **Natives in Harmony** nursery of Marengo Ohio. For nursery hours and information call 419-688- 9800 or go to [www.nativesinharmony.com](http://www.nativesinharmony.com).





# *Oenothera pilosella*

**Common Name:** **Prairie Sundrops**

**Family:** Evening Primrose family (Onagraceae)

**Height:** 2-3 feet

**Spread:** .5 to 1.5 feet

**Bloom Time:** May-July

**Bloom Color:** yellow

**Sun:** Full sun to part shade

**Water:** moist to medium

The flowers are pollinated by long-tongued bees, butterflies, and skippers. Halictid bees and Syrphid flies often visit the flowers, but they are

attracted by the abundant pollen and cannot be considered highly effective at pollination. Among the long-tongued bees, are such visitors as Little Carpenter bees and large Leaf-Cutting bees, which suck nectar or collect pollen. This lovely plant should be grown more often. During the 19th century, this was a more popular garden plant, but it has since passed from favor and is not widely available.



# *Oligoneuron rigidum*

**Common Name:** **Stiff Goldenrod**

**Plant Type:** Herbaceous perennial

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Height:** 3 to 5 feet

**Spread:** 1.5 to 2.5 feet

**Bloom Time:** August - September

**Bloom Color:** Yellow

**Sun:** Full sun

**Water:** Medium

The flowers attract many kinds of insects, including long-tongued bees, short-tongued bees, wasps, flies, butterflies, and beetles. Monarch butterflies are especially attracted to the flowers. The caterpillars of several species of moths feed on various parts of this and other goldenrods. Many mammalian herbivores eat this plant, including the White-Tailed Deer, Cottontail Rabbit, Muskrats, and livestock. The latter tend to leave this plant alone when there are other sources of food available.



# *Panicum virgatum*

**Common Name:** Switch Grass

**Family:** Grass family (Poaceae)

**Height:** 3-6'

**Bloom color:** light green to reddish green

**Bloom Time:** midsummer

**Sun:** partial to full sunlight

**Water:** moist to medium

This robust grass can tolerate practically any kind of soil and it will adapt to drier conditions. Most growth and development occurs during the summer. This grass can spread aggressively, therefore it should not be over-planted. Insects that feed on Switch Grass include the caterpillars of the Delaware Skipper, Leonard's Skipper, Indian Skipper, Hobomok Skipper, Tawny-edged Skipper, and the Northern Broken-Dash. The seeds of Switch Grass are eaten by wetland birds, upland gamebirds, and granivorous songbirds. The seeds of these grasses are also eaten by the Prairie Deer Mouse and wild House Mouse. The young foliage of this grass is edible to cattle and other hoofed mammalian herbivores. Because Switch Grass remains upright during the winter and often forms large clumps, it provides good cover for various birds and mammals during this time of year.



# *Parthenium integrifolium*

**Common Name:** Wild Quinine

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Height:** 2-4' tall

**Spread:** 0.75 to 1.5 feet

**Bloom Time:** April - June

**Bloom Color:** White tinged with pink

**Sun:** Full sun to light shade

**Water:** medium to dry

The flowers attract Halictine bees, wasps, flies, beetles, and plant bugs. The beetles usually feed on pollen, while the other insects seek nectar primarily. The fly visitors include Syrphid flies, Tachinid flies, Flesh flies, Muscid flies, Anthomyiid flies, and others. Wasp visitors include Crabronine wasps, Eumenine wasps, Cuckoo wasps, Braconid wasps, and others. Mammalian herbivores appear to ignore this plant as a food source because the leaves are sandpapery in texture and bitter tasting.





# *Penstemon digitalis*

**Common Name:** Foxglove Penstemon

**Plant Type:** Herbaceous perennial

**Family:** Snapdragon family  
(Scrophulariaceae)

**Height:** 3-3.5 feet

**Spread:** 1 to 2 foot

**Bloom Time:** May-June

**Bloom Color:** white

**Sun:** full to partial sun

**Water:** medium

The tubular flowers of this plant attract long-tongued bees, including honeybees, bumblebees, Anthophorine bees, Miner bees, Mason bees, and large Leaf-Cutting bees. Butterflies, Sphinx moths, and hummingbirds may visit the flowers. The caterpillars of the Chalcedony Midget moth feed on the foliage of this and other beardtongues. There have been reports that the caterpillars of the Baltimore butterfly feed on the foliage of beardtongues. This is probably the easiest *Penstemon* to grow east of the Mississippi river. The flowers are quite showy, and the blooming period is rather long for an early season plant.



# *Penstemon hirsutus*

**Common Name:** Hairy Beardtongue

**Family:** Snapdragon family  
(Scrophulariaceae)

**Height:** 1-3 feet

**Spread:** 1-2 feet

**Bloom Time:** June-July

**Bloom Color:** pale purple

**Sun:** full to partial sun

**Water:** dry to medium

The tubular flowers of this plant attract long-tongued bees, including honeybees, bumblebees, Anthophorine bees, Miner bees, Mason bees, and large Leaf-Cutting bees. Butterflies, Sphinx moths, and hummingbirds may visit the flowers. The caterpillars of the Chalcedony Midget moth feed on the foliage of this and other beardtongues. There have been reports that the caterpillars of the Baltimore butterfly feed on the foliage of beardtongues. It is probably one of the easiest *Penstemon* to grow east of the Mississippi river. The flowers are quite showy, and the blooming period is rather long for an early season plant.



# *Phlox divaricata*

**Common Name:** Wild Sweet William, Woodland Phlox

**Family:** Polemoniaceae

**Height:** 12-15" tall

**Bloom Time:** April to May

**Bloom Color:** Rose/lavender or violet/blue

**Sun:** Part shade to full shade

**Water:** Medium

Woodland phlox is a spreading, wildflower which forms mats of foliage. This is a woodland species which occurs in rich woods, fields and along streams. The flowers are pollinated by bumblebees, bee flies, swallowtail butterflies, skippers, and moths (including Hummingbird Clearwing & Sphinx moths). Spotted Straw and Olive Arches moth caterpillars feed on Woodland Phlox and it is browsed by rabbits, deer, and livestock. The flowers of Woodland Phlox often have a wonderful fragrance and it is a beautiful plant. Powdery mildew can be a serious problem. Cutting back stems after flowering helps combat mildew. Spider mites can also be a problem, in hot, dry conditions. Also an effective, shallow-rooted cover for early spring bulbs.



# *Physostegia virginiana*

**Common Name:** Obedient Plant

**Plant Type:** Herbaceous perennial

**Family:** Mint family (Lamiaceae)

**Height:** 1-4 feet

**Spread:** 1-2 feet

**Bloom Time:** July -Oct.

**Bloom Color:** lavender or purplish pink

**Sun:** full to partial sun

**Water:** moist to medium

Bumblebees are the most important pollinators of the flowers. Occasionally, other long-tongued bees and the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird may visit the flowers. Like other members of the Mint family, the Obedient Plant is probably not a favored source of food for mammalian herbivores. This plant is often grown in flower gardens, and some populations may represent escaped plants from cultivation. Usually, the horticultural forms are more rosy pink or purple in appearance than native wild populations, which are usually white with light pink or purple tints. Because the individual flowers stay in place when moved, the common name is 'Obedient Plant,' as used here.





# *Polemonium reptans*

**Common Name:** Jacob's Ladder

**Family:** Phlox family (Polemoniaceae)

**Height:** 1-1½' feet

**Bloom Time:** late spring

**Bloom Color:** blue

**Sun:** light shade or partial sun

**Water:** medium

Jacob's ladder prefers high quality natural habitats, and rarely wanders far from wooded areas. The nectar and pollen of the flowers attract bees primarily, including honeybees, bumblebees, Little Carpenter bees, Mason bees, Cuckoo bees (Nomadine), Halictid bees (including Green Metallic), and Andrenid bees. The flowers are also visited by Giant Bee Fly and various butterflies, skippers, or moths, which seek nectar. The bell-shaped flowers and compound leaves together provide Jacob's ladder with a distinctive appearance. The common name of *Polemonium reptans* refers to the pairs of opposite leaflets on the compound leaves, which supposedly resemble a series of steps on a ladder in a dream by the biblical Joseph.



# *Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium*

**Common name:** Sweet Everlasting

**Plant Type:** summer annual or biennial

**Height:** 9 to 30 inches

**Spread:** 6 inches

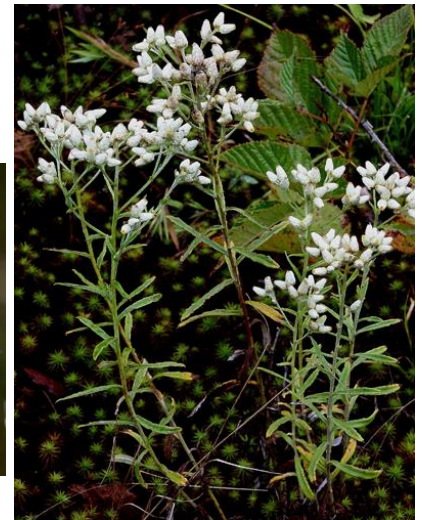
**Bloom Time:** July-September

**Bloom Color:** White

**Sun:** full sun to light shade

**Water:** mesic to dry

The preference is soil containing sand or silt. A little shade is tolerated. The nectar of the flowers attracts short-



tongued bees (mainly Halictid), wasps, and flies primarily. Among the wasps, are such visitors as Eumenid wasps, Crabronid wasps, Paper wasps, Spider wasps, Cuckoo wasps, Weevil wasps, and many others. It is also a host plant for the beautiful Painted Lady Butterfly. Sweet Everlasting's older scientific name is *Gnaphalium obtusifolium* (by which it is still commonly referred), but it has been reassigned to the genus *Pseudognaphalium*.

# *Pycnanthemum incanum*

**Common Name:** Hoary Mountain Mint

**Family:** Lamiaceae (Mint Family)

**Height:** 2-4 ft. tall

**Spread:** 4ft

**Bloom Time:** July to September

**Bloom Color:** white (sometimes lavender-tinged)

**Sun:** Full sun to part shade

**Water:** Dry to medium

The minty-smelling plants have terminal flower clusters composed of numerous, small, two-lipped corollas varying from whitish to lavender, with purple spots. The genus name derives from the Greek for dense and flower and aptly describes the crowded flower clusters. These plants, particularly the flower clusters, have a very strong odor when crushed and the flowers are favored by bees, butterflies, moths, and some species of wasps. A vigorous and often aggressive grower, this plant spreads by long rhizomes. It prefers rocky, gravelly or sandy soil, and typically grows in woods, thickets, fields, and hills, presumably the origin of its common name of Mountain mint.



# *Pycnanthemum pilosum*

**Common Name:** Hairy Mountain Mint

**Family:** Lamiaceae

**Height:** 2-4'

**Bloom color:** white or pinkish color with purple spots

**Bloom Time:** mid to late summer

**Sun:** full sun to partial sun

**Water:** moist to slightly dry

The nectar-rich flowers are very attractive to many kinds of insects, including honeybees, cuckoo bees, leaf-cutting bees, Halictid bees, Halictid cuckoo bees, thread-waisted wasps, the Great Golden Digger Wasp, the Black Grasshopper Wasp, bee wolves, paper wasps, Eumenine wasps, Syrphid flies, bee flies, Thick-headed flies, Tachinid flies, small- to medium-sized butterflies, and skippers. The mountain mints are listed on many "Top Ten Plants for Pollinators" lists. Mountain Mint is loaded with pulegone, the same insect repellent found in pennyroyal. It can be rubbed on the skin to repel mosquitoes! Some authorities refer to this plant as *Pycnanthemum verticillatum* var. *pilosum*.





# *Ratibida pinnata*

**Common Name:** **Gray-headed coneflower, Prairie coneflower**

**Plant Type:** Herbaceous perennial

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Height:** 3 to 5 feet

**Spread:** 1.5 to 2 feet

**Bloom Time:** July - August

**Bloom Color:** Yellow

**Sun:** Full sun

**Water:** Medium



Long summer bloom period. Interesting plant for the sunny border, native plant garden, meadow or prairie. Best massed because individual plants are narrow and somewhat sparsely leafed. Attractive to bees, butterflies and songbirds. Leave the cones on during the winter to feed the birds. Gray-headed Coneflower is an excellent choice for a wildflower garden because of its long blooming period and attractive yellow flowers. The entire plant is delicately constructed, and has a tendency to sway or flutter with each passing breeze.

# *Rudbeckia fulgida speciosa*

**Common Name:** **Showy coneflower, Sullivant's Coneflower**

**Plant Type:** Herbaceous perennial

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Height:** 1.5 to 2.5 feet

**Spread:** 2 to 2.5 feet

**Bloom Time:** June -

October

**Bloom Color:** Orange / yellow

**Sun:** Full sun

**Water:** moist to medium



Wavy-lined Emerald caterpillar (left) and adult moth (above)



Floral insect visitors include leaf-cutting bees, Andrenid bees, Halictid bees, small butterflies and skippers, various flies, and sometimes soldier beetles. Several moth caterpillars are known to feed on Rudbeckia spp.; they are usually found on the flowers, and include such species as Blackberry Looper Moth, Common Eupithecia, Wavy-Lined Emerald, and Sunflower Moth. Mammalian herbivores that browse on the foliage include deer, rabbits, groundhogs, cattle, and other farm animals.

# Rudbeckia hirta

**Common Name:** Black-eyed Susan

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Height:** 2 to 3 feet

**Spread:** 1 to 2 feet

**Bloom Time:** June - September

**Bloom Color:** Yellow

**Sun:** Full sun

**Water:** Medium



*Silvery Checkerspot butterfly and caterpillar*



May act as a biennial, annual or short-lived perennial, blooms in the first year from seed and is often grown as an annual. Black-eyed Susan is a common native wildflower which typically occurs in open woods, prairies, fields, roadsides and waste areas throughout the State. The nectar and pollen of the flowers attract a wide variety of insects, including long-tongued bees, short-tongued bees, wasps, flies, beetles, butterflies, and skippers. Miscellaneous insects feed on the foliage and other parts of these species: this includes the caterpillars of the Silvery Checkerspot and Gorgone Checkerspot, the caterpillars of several moths, leaf beetles and some aphids.

# Ruellia humilis

**Common Name:** Hairy Wild Petunia

**Plant Type:** Herbaceous perennial

**Family:** Acanthaceae

**Height:** 4 to 12 inches

**Spread:** 4 to 12 inches

**Bloom Time:** June-August

**Bloom Color:** light purple

**Sun:** Full sun to part shade

**Water:** Medium



Wild petunia is quite adaptable, tolerating full or partial sun, moist to dry conditions, and practically any kind of soil. Under moist conditions with rich soil, however, this plant is unable to compete with taller, more aggressive plants. It has been reported that the caterpillars of the butterfly Buckeye feed on the foliage of *Ruellia* spp. Wild petunia occurs in dry soils in open woods, glades, prairies and fields. Charming, low growing clumps produce light purple tubular flowers.



# *Salvia lyrata*

**Common Name:** Lyreleaf Sage

**Family:** Lamiaceae

**Height:** 1 to 2 feet

**Spread:** 6 to 12 inches

**Bloom Time:** April-June

**Bloom Color:** Blue

**Sun:** Full sun to partial shade

**Water:** Dry to medium

This wildflower forms a basal rosette of 3-8

in elongated leaves that may be solid green or blotched with a dark wine-purple along the midrib. Heaviest flowering is typically period between April and June, but the plants may produce a few flowers at almost any time of year. Can take full sun to light shade, but the foliage color is stronger in brighter light. Lyreleaf sage tolerates both flooding and drought very well but grows best in moist soil. Butterflies, hummingbirds, and bees are attracted to the flowers. Songbirds such as goldfinches eat the seeds. The young leaves have a mildly minty flavor and can be eaten in salads or cooked as a green. The seeds and leaves can also be brewed as a tea.



# *Silene regia*

**Common Name:** Royal Catchfly

(state listed as potentially threatened in Ohio)

**Family:** Caryophyllaceae

**Height:** 3 to 4 feet

**Spread:** 1.5 to 2 feet

**Bloom Time:** July - August

**Bloom Color:** Scarlet

**Sun:** Full sun to part shade

**Water:** Dry to medium

Excellent drainage is essential for growing this plant. Taller plants may

nectar of the flowers attracts the larger butterflies, such as Black Swallowtail. This species attracts the ruby throated hummingbird, and in fact requires visits by this vibrant bird in order to produce fruit and set seeds. Best in sun or part shade of wildflower garden



need some support. The

# *Silphium perfoliatum*

**Common Name:** Cup Plant

**Plant Type:** Herbaceous perennial

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Height:** 4 to 8 feet

**Spread:** 1 to 3 feet

**Bloom Time:** July - September

**Bloom Color:** Yellow

**Sun:** Full sun

**Water:** Medium to wet

The large opposite leaves join together around the central stem to form a cup that can hold water, hence the name of the plant. Long-tongued bees, butterflies, and skippers are the most important pollinators of the flowers. Some short-tongued bees, wasps, bee flies, and other kinds of flies also visit the flowers for pollen or nectar. Various birds, especially goldfinches, are very fond of the seeds, and drink water from the cups formed by the leaves. Because of the tendency to form dense colonies, this plant provides good cover for birds, which often lurk among the leaves during the heat of the day, searching for insects or pausing to rest.



# *Sisyrinchium angustifolium*

**Common Name:** Narrow leaf Blue-Eyed Grass

**Family:** Iris family (Iridaceae)

**Height:** 6 to 12 inches

**Bloom Time:** April to June

**Bloom Color:** blue violet

**Sun:** Full Sun, Partial Sun

**Water:** Dry, Moist

Forms a tidy clump of grassy leaves, with yellow-throated blue flowers on upright stems. Especially nice in a colony of several plants.

Best grown in medium moisture, well-drained soil in full sun. Tolerates light shade. Prefers consistently moist soils that do not dry out, but drainage must be good. Will freely self-seed in optimum growing conditions. Plantings may be sheared back after bloom to avoid any unwanted self-seeding and/or to tidy foliage for remaining part of the growing season. Plants may need to be divided every 2-3 years to keep plantings vigorous.





# *Solidago caesia*

**Common Name:** Blue-Stemmed Goldenrod

**Family:** Aster family (Asteraceae)

**Height:** 1½-3'

**Bloom color:** golden yellow

**Bloom Time:** late summer into fall

**Sun:** medium shade to partial sun

**Water:** mesic to dry-mesic

This distinctive goldenrod is both elegant and shade tolerant. The nectar and pollen of the flowers attracts a wide variety of insects, especially short-tongued bees, wasps, and flies. The caterpillars of Goldenrod

Gall Moth and other species of moths feed on goldenrods. The seeds of goldenrods are eaten sparingly by the Indigo Bunting, Slate-Colored Junco, Tree Sparrow, Eastern Goldfinch, and other songbirds. White-Tailed Deer are especially likely to feed on the foliage of goldenrods in woodlands.



# *Solidago juncea*

**Common Name:** Early Goldenrod

**Family:** Aster family (Asteraceae)

**Height:** 3 feet

**Bloom Time:** mid- to late summer

**Bloom Color:** yellow

**Sun:** full to partial sun

**Water:** mesic to slightly dry

Early Goldenrod is the earliest goldenrod to bloom in Ohio. Like other goldenrods, this plant attracts

many kinds of insects to the flowers, including long-tongued and short-tongued bees, wasps, flies, butterflies, moths, and beetles, including Goldenrod Soldier Beetle. The caterpillars of many moths feed on the foliage and other parts of this goldenrod while the adults of Goldenrod Stowaway Moth like to hide in the flowers. The Eastern Goldfinch, Tree Sparrow, and Swamp Sparrow eat the seeds to a limited extent. Mammalian herbivores may feed on the foliage if little else is available, including the White-Tailed Deer, Groundhog, and Cottontail Rabbit.



# *Solidago nemoralis*

**Common Name:** Gray Goldenrod

**Family:** Aster family (Asteraceae)

**Height:** 1-3'

**Bloom Time:** August to October

**Bloom Color:** yellow

**Sun:** full sun to partial sun

**Water:** moist to slightly dry conditions

This plant thrives best in soil containing sand, clay or gravel, but will flourish in fertile soil as well. It's a good choice for difficult locations, such as slopes or areas with poor soil, where little else will grow. A wide range of insects visit the flowers for pollen and nectar, including long-tongued bees, short-tongued bees, flies, butterflies, moths, and beetles. Bee visitors include honeybees, Little Carpenter bees, Halictine bees, and Plasterer bees. The seeds are eaten by Eastern Goldfinch. Mammalian herbivores, such as groundhogs, rabbits, deer, and livestock, may browse on this plant occasionally, although it is not favored by them. This is one of the smallest goldenrods, which blooms later than most. It can be distinguished from other goldenrods that occur in the prairies by the presence of winged leaflets along the central stem and small white hairs on both the stem and leaves.



# *Solidago rugosa*

**Common Name:** Wrinkle-Leaved Goldenrod

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Height:** 2.5 to 3.5 feet

**Spread:** 2.5 to 3 feet

**Bloom Time:** September - October

**Bloom Color:** Yellow

**Sun:** Full sun to light shade

**Water:** Medium to wet

Attractive to bees and butterflies. Insectivorous birds benefit indirectly from goldenrods because of the numerous insects that they attract. Other birds feed directly on goldenrods to a minor extent, including the Indigo Bunting, Eastern Goldfinch and Swamp Sparrow. White-Tailed Deer and Cottontail Rabbits feed on young foliage to a limited extent, while Meadow Voles eat both the seeds and foliage. Good cut flower. Provides good color and contrast for the late summer to early fall perennial border, wild garden, meadow or naturalized area.





# *Solidago uliginosa*

**Common Name:** Bog Goldenrod

**Family:** Asteraceae (Aster Family)

**Height:** 4 feet

**Bloom Time:** Aug- Sept

**Bloom Color:** Yellow

**Sun:** Full Sun to Part Shade

**Water:** Wet-Medium

The flowers attract honeybees, bumblebees, ants, beetles, moths and



butterflies. These insects primarily seek nectar. The caterpillars of many moths feed on various parts of this goldenrod and others. Other insect feeders include various leafhoppers, lace bugs, plant bugs, and beetles. To a limited extent, the seeds are eaten by the Eastern Goldfinch. Mammalian herbivores occasionally eat the leaves, stems, and flowers, including deer, rabbits, groundhogs, and livestock.

# *Tradescantia ohiensis*

**Common Name:** Ohio spiderwort

**Plant Type:** Herbaceous perennial

**Family:** Commelinaceae

**Height:** 2 to 3 feet

**Spread:** 1.5 to 2.5 feet

**Bloom Time:** May - July

**Bloom Color:** Deep blue, rose or pale blue

**Sun:** Full sun to part shade

**Water:** Dry to medium



Easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-

drained soil in full sun to part shade. Very tolerant of part shade, but bloom may be less profuse. Divide clumps when they become overcrowded. Cut back to 6-12" in mid-summer to encourage new growth and a possible fall bloom. The most important pollinators of the flowers are long-tongued bees, especially bumblebees. Other visitors include Halictine bees and Syrphid flies. Spiderwort is rarely bothered by insects, although Leaf Beetle sp. reportedly feeds on the foliage. Mammalian herbivores also eat the plant, including the White-Tailed Deer, Cottontail Rabbit, Box Turtles, and livestock. The foliage is non-toxic to these animals. An interesting and long-blooming perennial for the border, naturalized area, meadow or open spaces of the woodland garden.

# *Verbena hastata*

**Common Name:** Blue vervain

**Family:** Verbenaceae

**Height:** 2 to 6 feet

**Spread:** 1 to 2.5 feet

**Bloom Time:** July - September

**Bloom Color:** Purplish-blue

**Sun:** Full sun

**Water:** Medium to wet

Typically forms colonies in the wild by both thick, slowly spreading rhizomes and self-seeding. Blue vervain commonly occurs in wet meadows, wet river bottomlands, stream banks, slough peripheries, fields and waste areas throughout the Ohio. These flowers are insect pollinated. Some of these pollinating insects consist of Checkered White Butterflies, Swallowtail Butterflies, Skippers, Bumblebees, Honeybees, and Mining Bees.



# *Vernonia fasciculata*

**Common Name:** Prairie Ironweed

**Family:** Compositae (Asteraceae)

**Height:** 2-4 ft.

**Bloom Time:** July-September

**Bloom Color:** magenta

**Sun:** full

**Water:** wet to moist

*Vernonia fasciculata* is distinguished from other Ohio *Vernonia* species by its glabrous leaves that are pitted beneath, and an unusually flat and densely flowered inflorescence. Although this species seems restricted to prairie areas of Ohio, its true range and status in the state are not known with certainty. It is easily misidentified as the common Ironweed (*Vernonia gigantea*) and also hybridizes with that species. The flowers attract long-tongued bees, butterflies, and skippers primarily. Other visitors include bee flies and Halictid bees. These insects seek nectar, although bees also collect pollen. Among the long-tongued bees, are such visitors as bumblebees, Epeoline cuckoo bees, Miner bees, and large Leaf-Cutting bees. The caterpillars of several moths feed on Ironweed, including Parthenice Tiger Moth and Red Groundling. The bitter foliage of Ironweed deters consumption by mammalian herbivores.





# *Viola cucullata*

**Common Name:** Marsh Blue Violet

**Family:** Violet family (Violaceae)

**Height:** 6 to 8 inches

**Bloom Time:** mid to late spring

**Bloom Color:** blue-violet

**Sun:** full sun to part shade

**Water:** wet to moist



The floral nectar of Marsh Violet attracts bumblebees, mason bees, Halictid bees, Andrenid bees, bee flies, butterflies, and skippers. Some of the bees also collect pollen. The caterpillars of several Fritillary butterflies feed on the foliage of violets primarily in open areas: Meadow Fritillary, Silver-Bordered Fritillary, Variegated Fritillary, Aphrodite Fritillary, Atlantis Fritillary, Great Spangled Fritillary, and Regal Fritillary. Other insect feeders include caterpillars of the Grateful Midget moth and The Beggar moth. The seeds and other parts of violets are eaten occasionally by such birds as the Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, and Mourning Dove, and they are also consumed by the White-Footed Mouse, Pine Mouse, and Eastern Chipmunk. Similarly, the foliage of these low-growing plants is a source of food for the Cottontail Rabbit and Wood Turtle.