



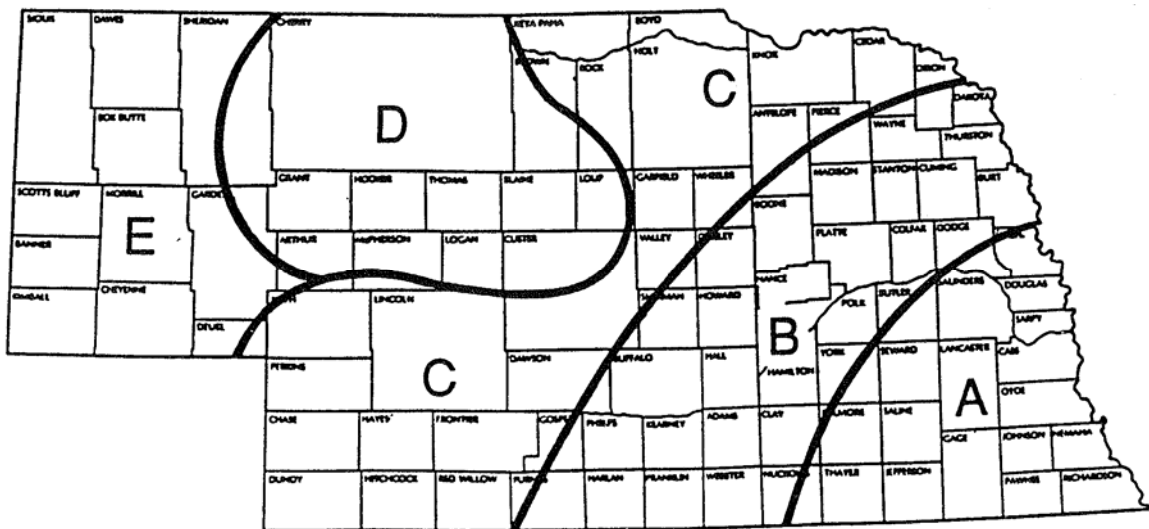
THE NEBRASKA STATEWIDE ARBORETUM PRESENTS

# NATIVE PRAIRIE PLANTS FOR NEBRASKA WILDLIFE

Justin Evertson & Bob Henrickson, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum. More at: [plantnebraska.org](http://plantnebraska.org)

These plants are native to the Great Plains region and serve as prime habitat for indigenous wildlife, including birds, butterflies, and bees.

## Hardiness Zone Map for Nebraska



Common name	Botanical name	Zone	Height	Color	Site Preference
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	All	2-3'	red-pink	drier prairie areas
Wild Onion	<i>Allium spp.</i>	A,B	2'	white	drier prairie areas
Leadplant	<i>Amorpha canescens</i>	All	4'	blue	wide variety of soils
Fragrant False indigo	<i>Amorpha nana</i>	All	1-3'	purple	wide variety of soils
Carolina Anemone	<i>Anemone caroliniana</i>	A,B	1'	white	drier prairie areas
Prickly Poppy	<i>Argemone polyanthemus</i>	D,E	2-4'	white	variety of soils
Prairie Sage	<i>Artemisia spp.</i>	All	2-3'	white	variety of soils
Swamp Milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	All	2-4'	pink	seasonally moist soils
Butterfly Flower	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	A,B	2-3'	orange	well drained soils
Heath Aster	<i>Aster ericoides</i>	All	1-3'	white	wide variety of soils
New England Aster	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	A,B	3-4'	violet-pink	moist soils, wood borders
Silky Aster	<i>Aster sericeus</i>	A,B	1-2'	purple	well drained soils
Blue False Indigo	<i>Baptisia australis</i>	A,B,C	2-3'	blue	dry, well drained soils
Plains Wild Indigo	<i>Baptisia leucophaea</i>	A,B,C	15"	cream	dry, well drained soils

Common name	Botanical name	Zone	Height	Color	Site Preference
Purple Poppy Mallow	<i>Callirhoe involucrata</i>	A,B	6"	purple	well drained soils
Plains Yellow Primrose	<i>Calylophus serrulatus</i>	All	6"	yellow	coarse, sandy soils
New Jersey Tea	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	A,B	3-4'	white	well drained soils
Golden Aster	<i>Chrysopsis villosa</i>	D,E	2'	yellow	dry or sandy soils
Rocky Mountain Bee Plant	<i>Cleome serrulata</i>	All	2-5'	purple	wide variety of soils
Plains Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis tinctoria</i>	All	1-3'	yellow	seasonally moist soils
White Prairie-clover	<i>Dalea candida</i>	A,B,C	1-3'	white	wide variety of soils
Purple Prairie-clover	<i>Dalea purpurea</i>	A,B,C	1-3'	purple	wide variety of soils
Prairie Larkspur	<i>Delphinium virescens</i>	All	1-3'	white	wide variety of soils
Illinois Bundleflower	<i>Desmanthus illinoensis</i>	A,B,C	2-4'	white	wide variety of soils
Native Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea angustifolia</i>	All	2-3'	pink-white	wide variety of soils
Pale Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea pallida</i>	A,B	2-3'	purple	wide variety of soils
Flowering Spurge	<i>Euphorbia corollata</i>	A,B	3'	white	wide variety of soils
Butterfly Weed	<i>Gaura spp.</i>	All	4'	white	wide variety of soils
Curly-top Gumweed	<i>Grindelia squarrosa</i>	All	1-2'	yellow	dry soil
Sneezeweed	<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	A,B	3-4'	red/gold	seasonally moist soils
Maximilian Sunflower	<i>Helianthus maximilianii</i>	All	4-6'	yellow	seasonally moist areas
False Sunflower	<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	A,B,C	5'	yellow	dry, well drained soils
Bush Morning Glory	<i>Ipomoea leptophylla</i>	All	3'	pink	coarse, sandy soils
Roundhead Lespedeza	<i>Lespedeza capitata</i>	A,B	2-3'	purple-pink	variety of soils
Rough Gayfeather	<i>Liatis aspera</i>	A,B	3'	red-violet	well drained soils
Dotted Gayfeather	<i>Liatis punctata</i>	All	1-3'	pink	variety of drier soils
Thickspike Gayfeather	<i>Liatis pyconstachya</i>	A,B	18"	rose-purple	moist, well drained soils
Blue Flax	<i>Linum lewisii</i>	All	1'	blue	coarse, dry soils
Tansy Aster	<i>Machaeranthera tanacetifolia</i>	All	1-2'	red-violet	dry, sandy soils
Wild Bergamont	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	All	5'	lavender	moist soils
Pale Evening Primrose	<i>Oenothera latifolia</i>	D,E	20"	white	sandy or rocky soils
Missouri Primrose	<i>Oenothera macrocarpa</i>	A,B	6"	yellow	dry, rocky soils
Showy Evening Primrose	<i>Oenothera speciosa</i>	A,B	18"	pink	dry, rocky soils
Plains Prickly Pear	<i>Opuntia polyacantha</i>	D,E	8"	yellow	dry, sandy or rocky soils
Beardtongue	<i>Penstemon spp.</i>	All	1-4'	variety	variety of soils
Cobaea Penstemon	<i>Penstemon cobaea</i>	A,B	1-2'	white	well drained soils
Shell-leaf penstemon	<i>Penstemon grandiflorus</i>	All	2-4'	variety	well drained, sandy soils
Prairie Phlox	<i>Phlox pilosa</i>	A,B	18"	pink	moist, rich soils
Pink Smartweed	<i>Polygonum bicornis</i>	A,B	4"	pink	wet soils
Wild Alfalfa	<i>Psoralea tenuiflora</i>	All	1-3'	blue-violet	wide variety of soils
Pasque Flower	<i>Pulsatilla patens</i>	All	18"	white	dry, rocky soils

Common name	Botanical name	Zone	Height	Color	Site Preference
Prairie Wild Rose	<i>Rosa setigera</i>	All	2'	pink-white	variety of soils
Prairie Coneflower	<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>	All	4'	red	wide variety of dryer soils
Greyhead Prairie Coneflower	<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	A,B	4-5'	yellow	wide variety of soils
Black Eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	All	3'	yellow	variety of soils
Pitcher Sage	<i>Salvia azurea var. grandiflora</i>	A,B	4'	blue	moist, well drained soils
Catclaw Sensitive Briar	<i>Schrankia nuttallii</i>	All	6"	pink	sandy or gravelly soils
Prairie Ragwort	<i>Senecio plattensis</i>	All	1-2'	yellow	variety of well drained soils
Compass Plant	<i>Silphium laciniata</i>	A,B	4-7'	yellow	seasonally moist soils
Goldenrod	<i>Solidago spp.</i>	All	18"	gold	wide variety of soils
Greenthread	<i>Thelesperma filifolium</i>	All	15"	yellow	dry, gravelly soils
Bracted Spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia bracteata</i>	All	16"	red-violet	seasonally moist areas
Prairie Spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia occidentalis</i>	All	20"	red-violet	variety of soils
Dakota Vervain	<i>Verbena bipinnatifida</i>	B,C	10"	red-violet	variety of soils
Rose Vervain	<i>Verbena canadensis</i>	All	4-8"	lavender	variety of soils
Hoary Vervain	<i>Verbena stricta</i>	All	1-3'	red violet	dry, disturbed soils
Baldwin Ironweed	<i>Vernonia baldwinii</i>	A	2-5'	red-violet	variety of dryer soils
Common Ironweed	<i>Vernonia fasciculata</i>	All	2-5'	red-violet	moist, well-drained soils
Small Soapweed	<i>Yucca glauca</i>	All	3'	white	dry, sandy soils

## Non-Native Wildflowers Worth Considering

Common name	Botanical name	Zone	Height	Color	Site Preference
Partridgepea	<i>Cassia chamaecrista</i>	D,E	1-3'	yellow	dry or sandy sites
Ox-eye Daisy	<i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i>	All	2-3'	white	variety of soils
Chicory	<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	All	1-3'	purple	variety of soils
Lance-leaf Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	A,B	2-3'	yellow	dry, coarse soils
Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	A	2-3'	purple	well drained soils
Rattlesnake Master	<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	A,B	4'	green	dry, well drained soils
Blanketflower	<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>	D,E	24"	scarlet	coarse, well drained soils
Dame's Rocket	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	All	2-3'	purple	wide variety of soils
Toadflax	<i>Linaria purpurea</i>	All	3'	pink-purple	variety of soils
Bird's-foot Trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	All	1'	yellow	variety of soils
Beebalm	<i>Monarda spp.</i>	All	3'	variety	seasonally moist areas
Lemon Beebalm	<i>Monarda citriodora</i>	A,B	2'	yellow	moist, well drained soils
False Dragonhead	<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	A,B	4'	pink	moist, rich soils
Cutleaf Coneflower	<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	A,B	5'	yellow	seasonally moist areas

Adam's Needle

*Yucca smalliana*

A,B

3'

white

dry, coarse soils

## Native Grasses

Common name	Botanical name	Zone	Height	Site Preference
Western Wheatgrass	<i>Agropyron smithii</i>	All	2-3'	wide variety of soils
Big Bluestem	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	A,B	5-6'	moist, well drained soils
Sand Bluestem	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i> var. <i>paucipilus</i>	All	3-4'	dry, sandy soils
Sideoats Grama	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	All	12-18"	wide variety of soils
Blue Grama	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	D,E	3-6"	variety of drier soils
Hairy Grama	<i>Bouteloua hirsuta</i>	D,E	1-2'	most dry soils
Buffalo Grass	<i>Buchloe dactyloides</i>	All	6"-1'	dry soils
Sand Lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis trichodes</i>	All	3'	sandy soils
Switchgrass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	All	4-5'	moist, well drained soils
Little Bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	All	2-3'	wide variety of soils
Indiangrass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	A,B	4-5'	moist, well drained soils
Prairie cordgrass	<i>Spartina pectinata</i>	All	4-6'	wet, non-saline soils
Prairie dropseed	<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	A,B	3-4'	sandy to silt loam
Tall dropseed	<i>Sporobolus asper</i>	All	3-4'	medium-heavy soils
Needleandthread	<i>Stipa comata</i>	C,D,E	2-3'	sandy and med. textures soils
Green needlegrass	<i>Stipa viridula</i>	D,E	2-3'	sandy; saline; well drained soil

## Non-Native Grasses worth considering

Common name	Botanical name	Zone	Height	Site Preference
Crested Wheatgrass	<i>Agropyron cristatum</i>	D,E	2-3'	wide variety of soils
Intermediate wheatgrass	<i>Agropyron intermedium</i>	All	2-3'	wide variety of soils

**DID YOU KNOW?** The greater the variety of plants, the more resilient the landscape.

Since 1978, the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum has been helping to grow sustainable landscapes for healthy homes and communities. Please support the NSA by becoming a member. Benefits include admission privileges at botanical gardens across North America, plant discounts, and publications with plant and garden recommendations. Plant information and much more at: [plantnebraska.org](http://plantnebraska.org)

