



Spring Affair

Lancaster Event Center

Preview Party Meal and Live Music 6-8, Plant Sale 6-9 p.m. April 21

PLANT SALE 9-2 p.m. Saturday, April 22

Free Admission Saturday
Free Parking

springaffair@unl.edu

plantnebraska.org

402-472-2971



Celebrate Plants All Year Long

Spring Affair is an annual event but a Nebraska Statewide Arboretum membership keeps you in a gardening frame of mind all year long. And a \$45 membership gives you a *10 percent discount on Spring Affair and Arboretum plants. Sign up now and save on Preview Party tickets as well.

plantnebraska.org/join-us

*For Spring Affair plant discount, show member card at checkout.

It's all about plants

Gardeners can choose from more than 700 plant varieties, plus all the last minute Plant Surprises. Some of our favorites from the Backyard Farmer garden are being offered for the first time this year. Just a few:

- ❖ Bottle gentian, *Gentiana andrewsii*, is a wildflower with deep blue balloon-like flowers late summer into fall that never open. Bumblebees are the only pollinators strong enough to open the tight petals (see video at plantnebraska.org ?????). PART SUN
- ❖ Calamint, *Calamintha nepeta ssp. nepeta*, is a fragrant but not aggressive member of the mint family with tiny lilac to white flowers from June into September. Leaves can be dried for sachets. FULL SUN
- ❖ *Kalimeris incisa* ‘Blue Star’ (no common name) is another long-bloomer with daisy-like blue flowers similar to aster and boltonia. PART SUN
- ❖ Scarlet milkweed, *Asclepias curassavica*, blooms much longer than perennial milkweeds. Red-orange flowers with yellow hoods can bloom summer into early autumn. Great for hummingbirds, bees and butterflies, which also depend on it as a larval food source. The delicate, narrow 3-4” seed pods have silky-tailed seeds. TEMPERENNIALS
- ❖ Greek columnar basil, *Ocimum basilicum* ‘Greek Columnar’, is upright and goes to seed less rapidly than other varieties, making it a great choice for the kitchen garden. HERBS

LOOK FOR BLUEBIRD'S SURPRISES
marked with “Surprise” signs at the plant sale

VENDORS with garden items

A VOLUNTEER EFFORT

The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum wants to thank the 100+ volunteers whose time, knowledge and energy make this sale possible.

Nonprofit Org.
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Nebraska Statewide Arboretum
P.O. Box 830964
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, NE 68583-0964
Phone: 402/472-2971
arboretum.unl.edu

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Bring friends, boxes and maybe
a wagon to put your plants in!

Nebraska Statewide Arboretum
is a nonprofit that works toward
sustainable home and community
landscapes through initiatives in
education, public gardens and the
environment.

Preview Party

Friday, April 21

Sit-down meal and Live Music 6-8

Plant sale 6-9 p.m.

The 30th annual Spring Affair opens with the Preview Party and plant sale on Friday, April 21. Entrance doors open at 6 p.m. and the plant sale runs from 6-9 but the sit-down meal will be **served ONLY from 6-8 p.m.** Meal includes barbecue pork and chicken sandwiches, green bean almonidine, loaded baked potatoes, garden salad and brownies or peach cobbler, with a vegetarian option available upon request.

During the 6-8 p.m. meal, you can enjoy live music from Osage, a unique acoustic trio that uses violin,



guitar and bass for a wide range of music—southern rock, classic rock, 90s, country and contemporary—as well as some of their own.

You can browse tables of perennials, shrubs, trees, grasses, vines and annuals to find just the right plant with the help of plant experts.

This annual event serves as an educational tool and a fundraising event for the ongoing growth of the Arboretum’s programs and affiliate gardens.

Purchase tickets online

BEFORE April 17

plantnebraska.org
or send in this order form...

Preview Party Order Form

- _____ Tickets @ \$46 each for non-members (join now and purchase tickets at the member price below)
- _____ Tickets @ \$35 each for NSA Members
- _____ One year membership @ \$45 in the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum
- _____ I would like to make a donation to benefit the Arboretum's programs and affiliate sites. Enclosed is my check for \$_____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Make checks payable to NSA and send with this form to:
Nebraska Statewide Arboretum
Spring Affair Preview Party
P. O. Box 830964
Lincoln, Nebraska 68583-0964

402-472-2971 arboretum@unl.edu

Plant Talk Schedule

Plant talks below will be held at the west end of Pavilion I.

The following half hour presentations will be followed by a “walk-about” through the plant sale to highlight recommended plants:

- 10-10:30
- “Tough Plants,” by Mark Canney, Park Planner and Urban Designer for Lincoln Parks and Recreation
- 11-11:30
- “Gardening 101: I’ve got my plants, now what?” by Justin Evertson, Green Infrastructure Coordinator for the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum
- 12-12:30
- “Brighten the Corners of Your Landscape with Container Gardening” by Terri James, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of Agronomy & Horticulture, Nebraska Extension Educator

Plant Prices

- 3” pot
- \$3.50
- 4” pot
- \$6.50
- 6” pot
- \$10
- Round gallon pot
- \$12

Some prices may be slightly higher due to limited availability or higher production costs, but these will be clearly marked.

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Instagram
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Pinterest
www.pinterest.com/nearboretum



Facebook
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THANK YOU!



for your generous support of Spring Affair

Garden Vendors

plantnebraska.org/spring-affair-vendor-list

EYES OF THE WORLD IMPORTS

Lincoln’s premier spot for hand picked, high quality, sterling silver jewelry and unique gifts. Our garden section has grown to include garden metal structure, statues, chimes, pots, and fencing. You’ll also find all kinds of beautiful one-of-a-kind home decor items and Lincoln’s freshest and most affordable incense. You’ll find us in Lincoln at 1501 South Street, 402-438-0005.

GARDEN GALLERY

The Garden Gallery is a unique boutique filled with unusual annuals, perennials and art! Special events are happening year round in the greenhouses and gallery. At Spring Affair 2017, we will be bringing a variety of uncommon annuals, perennials and fantastic tropicals. Our hanging baskets are amazing. One-of-a-kind art created by local artists will be another highlight at our booth. You can find The Garden Gallery on Facebook and follow the blog: the-garden-gallery.blogspot.com

JONI’S DANCE-IN-THE-WIND IRIS GARDEN

Don’t let the name fool you as there is much more available besides iris plants. Also offered are daylilies, peonies, tree peonies, hostas and other perennials that will grow well in your Midwest garden. I try to offer the new and unusual. The last couple years, I have imported tree peonies from China to obtain different varieties that you would not usually see in the United States. I grow over 1,000 iris varieties, 500 hosta cultivars, and about 400 different daylilies. My garden is state inspected annually and all plants offered have grown well in my zone 4 garden. I have growing instructions available for anyone who is just getting started. If you have any questions please feel free to stop by my booth at Spring Affair 2017.

LINCOLN IRIS SOCIETY

The Lincoln Iris Society is a group of friendly, enthusiastic people who love and grow irises. They share iris knowledge and information at the monthly meetings and hold an annual iris show and sale to further inform the public about the beauty and pleasure of growing irises. See our ad in this publication for date/location information for the show and sale. Our meetings are held in the evenings on the last Monday of each month except for May and December. The Lincoln Iris Society currently meets at St. Andrews

Lutheran Church 1015 Lancaster Lane, Lincoln NE. The Lincoln Iris Society is an Affiliate of the American Iris Society (AIS) and is located within Region 21 of the AIS.

MERISTEN FARM & NURSERY

Meristen Farm & Nursery is a certified organic farm offering the experience of a charming 1900s farmstead within the metropolitan Omaha area. Our primary emphasis is on the sale of aronia berry plants and value-added products, along with native perennials, bedding plants, succulents, nursery stock, and fresh produce.

NEBRASKA EXTENSION MASTER GARDENERS OF DOUGLAS-SARPY COUNTIES

Our group is made up of Nebraska Certified Master Gardeners of Douglas-Sarpy Counties. Nebraska Extension Master Gardeners are volunteers who promote science-based gardening practices of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. We have two major programs that make money. The first is the Master Gardener Raffle. Raffle proceeds benefit the Friends of Extension and 4-H in Douglas/Sarpy County Foundation to support local Extension and Master Gardener educational projects. The second program is our marketing and sales committee. Under this committee we sell the following items: 2017 Master Gardener Calendars, Master Gardener Cookbooks, Master Gardener T-shirts, Master Gardener Buttons and Plant Labels/Magnets. All the products are created by our Master Gardeners.

NEBRASKA FOREST SERVICE

This mission of the Nebraska Forest Service is “To enrich lives of Nebraska’s citizens by protecting, restoring and utilizing Nebraska’s tree and forest resources.”

NEBRASKA STATEWIDE ARBORETUM

This nonprofit organization has offered more than three decades of service with landscape information, new plants, publications and inspiration to gardeners all across the Great Plains. It has helped make homes and communities more attractive, healthy and vital places to live, work and visit. The Arboretum depends on memberships and donations to carry out all of its efforts. arboretum.unl.edu

NEBRASKA STATEWIDE ARBORETUM GREENHOUSE

Specializes in plants for low water use gardens, sustainable landscaping practices, edible and native plants. Plants are unique, hard-to-find selections, ideal for plant collectors or for gardeners wanting unique plants. Visit online at www.nsaplants.org or call 402-472-2971.

RETREE NEBRASKA

ReTree Nebraska is a 10-year cooperative initiative to raise public awareness of the value of trees, reverse the decline of Nebraska’s community tree and forest resources and improve the health and sustainability of community trees and forests across our state for future generations. The primary goal is to foster the proper planting and maintenance of a million new trees by 2017.

URBAN TRAIL GARDENS

Colorful hanging baskets, exotic annuals and tropicals, many new-release perennials, succulent rock planters, fairy gardens, trough gardens, and collector begonias and succulents.

WADDELL & REED FINANCIAL ADVISORS

Founded in 1937, Waddell & Reed is one of the most enduring financial services firms in the U.S. Providing proven, professional investment management and financial planning services to individuals and institutional investors, we operate through Financial Advisors; Ivy Funds Wholesale Distribution; and Institutional Management. Many of our investment strategies are offered to defined benefit plans, pension plans and endowments. We also provide sub-advisory services to other investment companies.

Gardening through the Seasons

Spring Beauties

Karma Larsen, **Spring Affair News** Editor

After a long, gray winter, there's nothing more welcome than the first spring blossoms. Once that first tight bud opens, a whole range of slow, subtle transformations will occur. Even a daily walk-through isn't frequent enough to catch all the drama going on in the garden.

Prairie ecologist J. E. Weaver's "look closely, look often," is sage advice. Emerging, awakening, unfurling, flowering, fruiting—plants reward anyone who takes the time to pay attention. Everyone has their own favorites, but here's a list of beauties just starting to make their appearance now, and with much more to offer as the growing season progresses.

Early-flowering Perennials

Variegated Solomon's seal, *Polygonatum multiflorum* 'Variegatum'. Emerging leaves are striped ivory-white along arching stems. Delicate, vase-shaped white flowers hang from stems in May. In fall blue-black fruits hang from the stems and leaves turn a nice yellow. Prefers shade and rich, organic soils. Once established, tolerates dry

shade and form full patches with stems all arranged in the same direction. Combines well with spring bulbs or groundcovers.

Virginia bluebells, *Mertensia virginica*. Wonderful woodland flower with beautiful blue blossoms in April and May. May take awhile to establish but will colonize and spread readily once established. Tends to go dormant in summer months.

Creeping Jacob's ladder or Greek valerian, *Polemonium caeruleum*. A Missouri wildflower with bell-shaped light blue flowers in late spring (name refers to the way leaves are arranged like rungs of a ladder).

Columbine, *Aquilegia canadense*. Red and yellow bell-shaped flowers are held high above the foliage in spring. Prefers fertile, well-drained soil and some shade. May rebloom if cut back

after first bloom.

Dwarf spiderwort, *Tradescantia tharpaii*. This native wildflower emerges early as a clump of narrow, hairy, leaves. In late April the pastel hues of flowers, from blue to purple to rose to pink, cover the plants.

Crested iris, *Iris cristata*. This easy-to-grow iris is a valuable addition to any part-shade woodland garden. Its 5-6" sword-like leaves arise from impressive colonies and by mid-spring they are adorned with beautiful pale to deep violet flowers.

Barren Strawberry, *Waldsteinia ternata*. A shade-loving groundcover or edging plant that spreads steadily to form a dense mat of shiny green leaves that resemble those of a strawberry. In early spring, small yellow saucer-shaped flowers appear. It combines well with spring beauties like bleeding heart, woodland phlox and Virginia bluebells.

Prairie smoke, *Geum triflorum*. Reddish pink, nodding flowers are blooming right now, but the silvery pink seedheads that really draw our attention, and that gave this plant its common name.

Pasque flower, *Pulsatilla*. Drought-tolerant prairie native with delicate lavender, cup-shaped flowers in early spring followed by silky seedheads.

Creeping Veronica. A fast-growing groundcover that can take tough conditions. Glossy evergreen leaves create a nice carpet. Beautiful sky blue flowers may rebloom later in the season.

Shell-leaf penstemon, *Penstemon grandiflora*. Waxy foliage is gray and glossy. Flowers are wonderful shades of lavender and pink in May and June. Prefers well-drained soil, full sun and light, sandy soil.

Plants from top: Solomon's seal and prairie coneflower at top; Virginia bluebells; prairie smoke; and Waterperry Blue Veronica.

Perennials to Beat the Heat

Bob Henricksonson, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum Horticulture Program Coordinator

Many plants have adapted to grow in harsh climates with extreme conditions and thin soils. But it takes a special plant to bloom during the worst of summer's heat. For that we have tended to rely on a fairly narrow palette of plants like Russian sage, black-eyed Susan, purple coneflower, sedum, coreopsis, daylilies, hostas and the striking hardy hibiscus. They're excellent choices for the hot summer perennial garden, providing beauty without much care. Thankfully, there are many more summer bloomers to choose from that are starting to gain the attention they deserve.

If you want to beat the heat in late summer, here are some plants to consider:

Valerian or Jupiter's beard, *Centranthus* 'Pretty Betsy'. This age-old Mediterranean perennial is second to none for long, showy summer bloom. It forms a handsome, bushy clump of blue-green leaves, topping out at 2' with fragrant, carmine red flowers in early summer. Easy-to-grow and long-lived.

Rocky Mountain penstemon, *Penstemon strictus*. An upright perennial with glossy green leaves that sports showy spikes of intense blue-purple blooms in late spring. It is one of the longest-lived, most easily grown of all the penstemons; a real show stopper. Flowering spikes can be cut after bloom; leave a few if reseeding is desirable. It is exceptionally drought and heat tolerant.

Sweet black-eyed Susan, *Rudbeckia subtomentosa*. A tough, beautiful native that can handle clay. While other plants fold in the heat of summer, this one retains its luxuriant deep green foliage and butter-yellow blooms with shimmering red-brown centers. Give it clay, or any reasonably rich soil and it will reward you with years of beautiful flowers.

Fremont's primrose, *Oenothera macrocarpa* ssp. *Fremontii*. This compact native beauty is oblivious to heat and drought. It grows into a 12" mound of narrow, pewter-gray foliage and blooms in late spring with 3" lemon-yellow flowers, often reblooming during the summer months.

Purple prairie clover, *Dalea purpurea*. An exceptionally attractive, fine-textured wildflower that can survive drought and other extremes. The stiff, upright stems emerge in spring, growing into a bushy, knee-high plant with fine cut, sweetly-scented leaves. In summer, bright red-violet flowers top the plant, shooting up like pop bottle rockets on the 4th of July. It's at its showiest combined with prairie natives.

Leadwort, *Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*. This attractive plant produces dense growth of glossy green foliage, making it a fine groundcover for sun or shade. The intense, gentian blue flowers will start appearing in late July and last through the heat of August. The foliage can turn a bronzy red in fall, contrasting nicely with the flowers. It emerges late in spring, so don't forget where it was planted.

Dotted Gayfeather, *Liatris punctata*. Dotted gayfeather is the most drought-tolerant of the gayfeathers, with roots extending deep in the soil. In late summer the stiff flowering spikes are covered with feathery clusters of purplish-pink flowers with microscopic dots on the undersides of leaves. Each plant has a corm that can live for decades and give rise to dozens of flower stalks each year.

Photos from top: valerian; Fremont's evening primrose; Rocky Mountain penstemon; dotted gayfeather.



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Spring Garden Seminar The Magic of Pollinating Plants

Featuring **Bob Henrickson**, NE Statewide Arboretum

Hosted by Nebraska Extension Master Gardeners of Douglas-Sarpy Counties

When: April 8, 2017

Time: 10:00-12:00 noon

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.

Where: Nebraska Extension Office

8015 West Center Rd., Omaha, NE 68124

Admission: Non-perishable food or cash donation to Food Bank for the Heartland



Photo courtesy of Lyle Karre



www.friendsofextension.org

Coming to the Seminar?

Present this ad and receive a **free \$5 ticket** for the 2017 Master Gardener Raffle

"A Garden Oasis"

One free raffle ticket to the first 20 registrants.

Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

Planting Nebraska with Spring Affair and Much More



We'll be in the garden...
come join us!

Take part in free arboretum tours in spring,
GARDENS IN JULY mid-summer
and arboretum tours again in fall.
Or join us for free first Thursday
brown-bags in UNL Keim 150.
Full calendar on back cover.

Christina Hoyt, NSA Executive Director

Nebraska Statewide Arboretum has been a Spring Affair sponsor since its beginning about 40 years ago. The original intent was to offer a more diverse, more sustainable and more regionally appropriate plant palette. The need is even stronger and more compelling today as we learn more and more about the interconnectedness and interdependence of people, soil, plants, insects and other wildlife.

Over the last decades of work we have come to understand that trees and landscapes have a dramatic impact on quality of life—they renew our environment, improve our health, increase social interactions, deepen our sense of place and provide opportunities for learning. Landscapes open up possibilities for on-the-ground transformation and purposeful beauty. Ultimately it is peoples' lives that are changed... vibrant business districts, neighborly connections, confidence in moving forward and a commitment to long-term stewardship.

Our work is made possible by committed plant enthusiasts and community advocates across Nebraska—whether that's at a local arboretum, a large municipal project or a home landscape. We're working to get native and underutilized plants into our landscapes that support insects and wildlife and offer essentials like shade and clean water. Our work focuses on plants, but it's really about giving people the tools they need to improve their homes and communities.

Thanks to the wonderful plants supplied by Bluebird Nursery, Inc. in



Clarkson—another longstanding Nebraska tradition that has been going strong for since 1958—Spring Affair is one way we work toward more sustainable landscapes. There are other ways as well:

NSA's public garden and arboreta network is unique in the nation. There are now 104 affiliated arboretums in 59 communities, each reflecting the geographic and ecological diversity of their local community.

More than 250 towns have been impacted by our community landscape program: more trees, more shade, more native plants, more wildlife and more beauty.

We have helped implement over 1,300 projects ranging from schools to downtowns to parks and given over \$9.7 million in funding through our partnership



with the Nebraska Environmental Trust.

NSA is both local and global, doing outreach through workshops, social media, websites and publications.

NSA's horticultural program works to get native and underutilized plants into the nursery industry and into private and public landscapes.

NSA is a non-profit that relies on memberships, donations and grants to fund our programs.

If you're interested in getting more involved, you can:

- Join us at events
- Buy plants online or at plant sales
- Volunteer at our greenhouse, at plant sales, in the office or at event booths
- Become a member
- Donate—from \$25 to an estate gift, our donors make a difference
- Visit us at plantnebraska.org

We're using "plantnebraska" as our web name because plant is a verb that branches into all the things we recommend: plant native, sustainably, waterwise. You'll find lots of resources online—native and recommended trees and plants, seasonal information, gardens to visit, tips, events and beautiful photos.

Sale Day Reminders

NOTE: Saturday sale runs 9-2
(not until 4 p.m. as in some previous years)

Please remember that before you get to a cashier, a ticket writer needs to record your plants on a check-out sheet. Grouping your plants by size and price helps speed up the process.

The sale can be very busy and you may have to wait in line to check out. This year there will be an express lane for Nebraska Statewide members.

Plants can be held for you, either before or after you pay for them, by leaving them with a plant sitter on the north side of Pavilion 1.

You must show paid receipts for plants and vendor purchases to the door attendant as you exit Pavilion 1. Volunteers will be available to help you carry out your plants.

You can pay for your plants with cash, MasterCard, Visa, Discover, American Express or checks payable to Nebraska Statewide Arboretum (NSA).

To receive an NSA member discount, member identification is required at the checkout.



Bring Boxes & Carts!

We strongly recommend bringing your own cart or wagon to carry your plants. If you bring a wagon, please label it so it doesn't get confused with someone else's; and don't leave your wagon unattended.

We also encourage you to bring your own flats or trays to save on waste, although box flats will be available.

Web Resources

plantnebraska.org
retreenebraska.unl.edu
nfs.unl.edu
agronomy.unl.edu
byf.unl.edu (Backyard Farmer)
drought.unl.edu
entomology.unl.edu
ianrpubs.unl.edu (publications)
mastergardener.unl.edu
water.unl.edu
www.bluebirdnursery.com

Please help us thank these Spring Affair Sponsors for making this event possible

*Sponsorship opportunities are still
available at plantnebraska.org



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www.bluebirdnursery.com

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Better Together

Good Plant Combinations Make Gardens Easier to Manage

Rachel Anderson, MLA, Community Landscape Specialist for the Nebraska Forest Service & Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

For a healthy landscape, it is often a good idea to imitate nature. In the natural world, a plant does not exist in a vacuum. It grows as part of a population that shifts and renews itself in a never-ending search for ecological balance. Luckily for the gardener, interweaving different plants together makes for some stunning combinations.

In the garden, prairie plants especially benefit from companions. When planted alone, these beauties can get floppy. This is because many of them evolved with so much competition that they did not need the “stay upright” gene, so to speak. These plants rely on each other to hold them up, so bringing this principle into the garden comes in handy. There is no need to fear goldenrod or pitcher sage when they are intermixed with a “prop” plant like switchgrass. Additionally, some plants (like beardtongue and larkspur), may not have the substance to hold their own visually year-round and are more attractive among grasses and other plants.

When selecting plants to use together, the ideal combination is one in which the plants make each other look better all year long. This may seem hard to do, since many plants make a fantastic pairing in bloom or in autumn but might look disheveled the rest of the year. The secret cure-all solution to this issue is simple: put a grass in there. Grasses (and grass-like plants) provide the texture and structure necessary to polish off any combo. And if the area in question is shaded, no problem—many types of

sedge thrive in part shade, and grassy plants like fern and liriopoe would work well, too.

Try out these pairings for landscape combinations that span the seasons. And remember that letting these plants reseed is a good thing, not only because it will eliminate bare spots and choke out weeds, but because a self-perpetuating population is much more sustainable in the long run and serves as prime habitat for wildlife.

Dry to Average Soil in Sun

- Butterfly milkweed, sideoats grama, leadplant, purple poppy mallow and torch lily create a beautiful mix of summer oranges and violets.
- Sand lovegrass, pale purple coneflower, hummingbird mint, artemisia and Autumn Joy sedum offer winter texture and color.
- Little bluestem, rattlesnake master, gayfeather, yarrow and dwarf false blue indigo provide color and winter seedpods.
- In western Nebraska, consider pairing prairie zinnia, prairie dropseed, rabbitbrush, pineleaf penstemon and blue flax for year-long textural contrast and bold, long-lasting blooms.

Average to Moist Soil in Sun

- Goldenrod, switchgrass, pitcher sage, balloonflower and aromatic or New England aster have great autumn color.
- Pasqueflower, shortbeak sedge, dwarf spiderwort, prairie smoke and junegrass green-up and bloom in early spring.

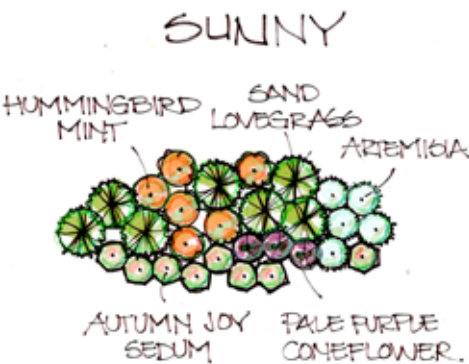
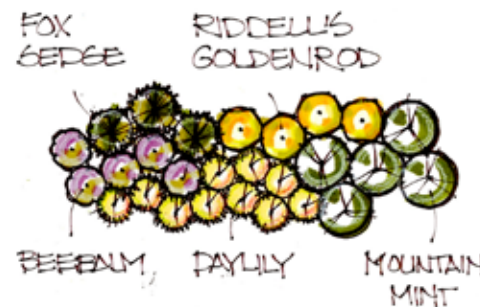
Wet Soil in Sun or Part Sun

- Mountain mint, fox sedge, daylily, beebalm and Riddell's goldenrod make for bold summer color.

Moist soil in Shade or Part Shade

- Sweet woodruff, wild ginger, variegated solomon's seal, wild columbine and woodland phlox create attractive spring groundcovers.

WET & SUNNY



Helenium

Article and design drawings by Rachel Anderson.

PLANT IT FORWARD

retreenebraska.org



Tree Planting for Success

Remove containers, wire, string, rope and tags.

If staking is necessary, use two opposing belt-like straps.

Place top of root mass at or slightly above existing grade (2" max) first lateral roots 1-2" below soil surface.

Use plastic guard to protect from rabbit or mower damage.

Mulch 2-4" deep to dripline or beyond. Keep mulch off trunk.

Root flare should be visible at base of trunk.

Dig hole 2-3x diameter of root mass

© Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, Inc.

ReTree Week—Sept. 24-30, 2017

For Future Generations!

DRY SHADE



Dry Shade to Part Shade

- Bricknell's sedge, bloody cranesbill, yellow corydalid, foam flower and epimedium offer beautiful summer color and texture.

Woody Combinations

- Prairie Gold quaking aspen and Gro-Low sumac provide excellent fall color in sunny areas.
- Black Hills spruce and Isanti redbud dogwood create winter interest.
- Apache plume and curl-leaf mountain mahogany have strong textural contrast and can withstand dry conditions (good choices for western Nebraska).
- Serviceberry, arum and plumbago for spring and fall “wow” in shade.
- Deam's viburnum and blue flag in wet areas for spring blooms, summer texture, fall color and winter berries.

For more plant combinations: <http://pinterest.com/nearboretum/plant-combinations-sun/>

NOTE: Thanks to Greg Simmons and Kim Todd of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Todd Faller of Faller Landscape & Nursery, Christina Hoyt of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum and Amy Seiler of the Nebraska Forest Service for their time and ideas.

Landscapes in Transition

Christina Hoyt, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum
Executive Director

To manage landscapes well, whether we’re overseeing the green infrastructure for an entire community or just our own backyard, we have to embrace that these landscapes are living systems and, as such, change is inevitable. In **The American Woodland Garden**, Rick Darke writes, “The regimented aesthetic of traditional formal gardens is usually in conflict with the necessary plasticity of native forests. A garden that seeks to capture the spirit of the forest must welcome change as an inevitable or even desirable part of the aesthetic, as an essential element in ecological stewardship, and as an endearing part of the story of the woodland landscape.”

In all of our natural ecosystems, whether they’re forests, prairies or wetlands, change is constant. Fire, floods and drought are catastrophic events that have long-lasting consequences. Smaller changes—like fallen trees, changes in shade patterns, variation in microclimate and seed dispersal patterns—occur constantly, though more subtly. At the edge of any wooded area, there is a constnat give-and-take between woody and herbaceous materials depending on light, moisture, soil and disturbance. The diversity and flexibility of a natural landscape is essential to its perpetuation.

Perhaps, as Darke said, we need to begin to see change “as an essential element in ecological stewardship.” How does this play out practically as we manage our landscapes?

Sun to Shade

In design class those big tree circles on the page with shade plants underneath seemed like such a great idea—until you realize that the small trees that are planted may not cast shade to their outlying edges for another 10 to 20 years. In the meantime, it would be more appropriate to plant sun-loving grasses, perennials or shrubs nearby. I’ve learned to adjust plant selections to accommodate change; now when I plan those areas I don’t assume every plant will survive for the next 10 years and I purposely include plants that are adaptable and can take sun to part-shade as the trees grow.

Shade to Sun

This is harder to plan for because often this happens rapidly with the loss of a tree, and shade-loving plants can easily get fried by the sun. In this case, the best thing you can do is plan for the future right from the beginning by planting multi-generations of trees and being willing to move and transplant things that aren’t thriving. Some sun-loving plants can take more shade than we give them credit for and vice versa, so experiment with different plants.

Diversity

The need for diversity was made clear decades ago when large American elms, which graced many of our city streets for decades, succumbed to Dutch elm disease. Many beautiful windbreaks have similarly been lost due to monoculture and disease. And emerald ash borer poses the same risk of dramatic loss in coming years. If our cities and windbreaks had been planted with a mixture of species these losses would be far less dramatic and costly. Large expanses of the same species may be beautiful but that simply does not make sense long-term. A diverse landscape is more resilient to pests, diseases and other environmental factors.

Naturalization

There is something in us that equates gardening and management with keeping things in their place. But if we relax a little, we can let nature do much of the adjusting after the initial planting and allow plants to battle it out for where they are happiest. We can allow plants to reseed and purposely



This woodland (top) and prairie garden were designed to encourage naturalization and allow for continual change.

plant things that tend to move around a little. Our job, then, is simply to edit as needed. My mother’s shade garden is a great example of this: trillium, jack-in-the-pulpit, sweet woodruff and ferns move around (unlike many gardeners, she “weeds” hosta and trillium out of her woodland site). For the most part, managing this area simply involves adding or moving plants a little bit here and there.

Another great example of flexibility is some of the rain gardens we’ve installed in Lincoln. They are made up of mostly native prairie species, and are far from static. While

originally planted in groupings, they are designed and managed in a way that allows for continual change.

Conclusion

The idea of allowing a landscape to take on a life of its own may seem daunting. However, as we push for beneficial and sustainable landscapes we need to look hard at how we design and manage landscapes to support, and even encourage, change. Done correctly, these dynamic, living and ever-changing landscapes will be with us long into the future.

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Plants for the Long Haul

Bob Henricksonson, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum Horticulture Program Coordinator

Perennial plants can make a gardener's life much easier. Beds don't have to be replanted, much of the structure of the garden remains throughout the year and plants don't have to be purchased annually.

By definition, a perennial is a plant that lives for more than two or three years. But just how perennial is that perennial you just planted?

Many wonderful perennials survive only two or three years. Still, we plant them happily and hope they will continue on by reseeding themselves. Examples include: baby's breath, blanket flower, delphinium, hybrid tulips, penstemon and scabiosa.

Other perennials are old reliables we can trust to carry on year after year. For shade, hostas and ferns are dependable comebacks.

Not surprisingly, many of the longest-lived perennials for sun are deep-rooted grasses and prairie plants. They may not look like much in garden centers early in spring, maybe not even the first year or two they're in the ground, but they'll pay off in the long-term. If you're thinking years or even decades into the future, here's some to consider:

Dwarf blue indigo, *Baptisia minor*, is a sun-loving, drought-tolerant wildflower that forms a dense, rounded "shrub" of blue-green leaves to 2' high. In spring, indigo blue spikes of pea-like flowers rise above the emerging foliage, followed by seedpods that turn charcoal black in fall. It will take at least three seasons to reach maturity, but will outlive most other perennials in your garden.

Ozark bluestar, *Amsonia hubrichtii*. A dependable plant worthy of any garden. Upright stems emerge in early spring and rapidly extend to their mature size. The fine, thread-like dark green leaves unfold along the stems to form a fine-textured mound of foliage. Plants are topped with starry, pale blue flowers in May and June. In autumn, the foliage turns a lovely golden yellow. Grows into a 3 x 3' mound of foliage and has been known to live for decades.

Prairie dropseed, *Sporobolus heterolepis*. A native bunchgrass with ribbon-like leaves that form 2' mounds; delicate seedheads appear in late summer and are especially attractive when backlit. The strongly fragrant seedheads are scented and foliage can turn orange to copper. It takes a few years to grow into maturity, but likes it dry and never needs dividing. This is one of the best grasses for large scale groundcovers.

Beebalm, *Monarda 'Raspberry Wine'*. The buds on this beebalm really do resemble raspberries! This 4' tall, mildew resistant selection is topped with wine-red flowers from June through August. Cherished by butterflies and hummingbirds, but loathed by deer. Also makes an excellent pollinator plant and cut flower.

Rattlesnake master, *Eryngium yuccifolium*. This unique wildflower has handsome, gray-green leaves that look like a yucca, and unique golf ball-like flowers. This 3' upright plant makes an excellent focal point in the garden and combines well with other summer bloomers whether planted individually or in groups.

Culver's root, *Veronicastrum virginicum*, is a very erect perennial with spikes of small, white tubular flowers in



Have plants will travel, says NSA Executive Director Christina Hoyt. The Arboretum's goal is to promote plants that will survive far into the future.

July-August. Native to open woods and moist meadows, it prefers moist, well-drained soil in full sun or light shade.

Queen of the meadow, *Filipendula ulmaria*, has fragrant, creamy white astilbe-like flowers that bloom from early summer into fall. Full to part sun.

Dwarf blue indigo, *Baptisia minor*, has beautiful blue flowers in spring and rich brown seed pods that are great for dried arrangements.

New Jersey tea, *Ceanothus americanus*, is a native shrub with clusters of white flowers.

Pale purple coneflower, *Echinacea pallida*, is a sweet-scented coneflower with spidery petals that blooms June-July. Also a long-lasting cut flower.

More long-lived perennials (*asterisk denotes shade)

- Aster
- *Astilbe
- *Balloon flower, *Platycodon*
- Black-eyed Susan, *Rudbeckia*
- *Bleeding heart, *Dicentra*
- *Campanula
- Catmint, *Nepeta*
- Daylily, *Hemerocallis*
- Evening primrose, *Oenothera*
- *Ferns (p. 9)
- **Geranium sanguineum*
- *Hosta
- Iris
- Joe pye weed, *Eupatorium*
- *Lady's mantle, *Alchemilla*
- Leadplant, *Amorpha*
- *Lenten roses, *Hellebore*
- Peony
- *Sedum
- Yarrow, *Achillea*



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BACKYARD FARMER

Backyard Farmer Garden Top 25

What plants get the most “Oohs and Ahhs” in the Backyard Farmer Garden in Lincoln? Here’s the top 25, and many of these will be available in the plant sale:

1. *Heptacodium miconiodes*, seven-sons shrub
2. *Rudbeckia nitida* ‘Herbstonne’
3. *Amsonia hubrichtii*, bluestar
4. *Aster oblongifolius* ‘Raydon’s Favorite’
5. *Juncus inflexus*, blue rush
6. *Liatris ligustylis*, gayfeather
7. *Echinacea* ‘Cheyenne Spirit’
8. *Filipendula rubra* ‘Venusta’
9. *Agastache cana*, hummingbird mint
10. *Asclepias curassavica*, rose milkweed
11. *Gentiana andrewsii*, blue gentian
12. *Cephalanthus occidentalis* ‘Sugar Shack’, buttonbush
13. *Penstemon* ‘Dark Towers’
14. *Solidago flexicaulis*, zig zag goldenrod
15. *Schizachrium scoparium* ‘Standing Ovation’, little bluestem
16. *Prunus maackii*, Manchurian cherry
17. *Tricyrtis hirta* ‘Gilt Edge’, toad lily
18. *Antennaria neglecta*, pussytoes
19. *Ipheion* ‘Wisley Blue’, spring star flower
20. *Salix humilis*, prairie willow
21. *Chelone*, turtlehead
22. *Iris spuria* Fontanelle



Plans grow and change, just like you

My mission is to help you at all stages and through the changes that life may bring. Contact me to discuss your personal financial plan.

Nebraska Statewide Arboretum Executive Board 2017

The staff and member of NSA want to thank the Executive Board for their time, effort and generosity in supporting the grassroot nonprofit to continually grow its efforts to Plant Nebraska.

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A Tale of Two Landscapes

Justin Evertson, Green Infrastructure Coordinator for the Nebraska Forest Service and the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

Compare these two home landscapes and think about which is more beneficial.
Both landscapes include about 6,000 square feet of green space on a typical suburban lot.

Landscape A

Traditional turf-dominated landscape developed by a homeowner who doesn't know much about landscaping and desires mostly to blend into the neighborhood.



- Area of lawn (tall fescue): 5,700 sq. ft. kept lush and weed-free
- Other landscaping: one shade tree, two ornamental trees and a few foundation shrubs
- Automatic irrigation system covers most of the lawn
- Estimated annual hours of lawn care including mowing (using a riding mower and push mower), string trimming, weed spraying, fertilizing, aerating, raking: 160
- Estimated annual hours of other landscape care including watering, tree/shrub care, mulching, herbaceous plant cleanup, deadheading, weed control: 15
- Estimated annual cost of landscape care including amortized cost of mowing and irrigation equipment, other equipment, fertilizer, pesticides, refuse collection, 4-step-lawn-care: \$1,150
- Estimated municipal water used for irrigation: 30,000 gallons - \$1,250/yr
- Stormwater capture: None. Two downspouts drain directly to pavement and street gutter
- Other benefits: barefoot-friendly grass and lots of open space to play sports and host parties

Landscape B

Reflects a homeowner who values biodiversity and is striving for better sustainability. A primary goal is the reduction of lawn maintenance.




- Area of lawn (tall fescue and clover mix): 1,750 sq. ft. – not fussed over, but mostly green
- Other landscaping: 15 large-maturing trees, several understory trees, numerous fruiting/ornamental shrubs, native prairie border, shade gardens, perennial gardens, rain gardens at downspouts
- No automatic irrigation system
- Estimated annual hours of lawn care including mowing (push mower), fall fertilizer (Milorganite), some weed digging, overseeding, fall leaf raking/chopping: 30
- Estimated annual hours of other landscape care including watering, weed pulling/spraying, tree/shrub care, mulching, herbaceous plant cleanup, deadheading, vegetable gardening: 215
- Estimated annual cost of landscape care including mowing and other equipment, tree trimming, landscape/vegetable plants/seed, mulch, fertilizer: \$550
- Estimated municipal water used for irrigation: 8,000 gallons - \$350/yr
- Stormwater capture: all downspouts connected to rain barrels and rain gardens
- Other benefits: year-round interest and color; lots of birds, butterflies, bees, snakes, toads and other beneficials; soil is highly organic, full of life and easy to dig; shade trees reduce utility costs; less smog and CO² from gas-powered equipment; no refuse costs (all plant materials recycled via mulching and composting)

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BLOOM BOX Creates a Pollinator-friendly Yard



BLOOM BOX

Rachel Anderson, Bloom Box Coordinator

The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum is making it easy to support bees and butterflies at home, work or school with a new BLOOM BOX program. These are handpicked collections of garden plants for pollinators that are half-price after rebate.

Each BLOOM BOX is professionally curated to help create a pollinator-friendly garden anywhere in Nebraska, with a bounty of prairie and woodland species tailored to thrive in almost any environment.

Sign up online by April 15th to share your garden profile with a personal horticulturist and get 25-100 plants

delivered to your door in May, along with gardening tips and tricks. Then fill out and return a survey with pictures of your new garden by June 15th for a 50 percent savings.

They contain up to 26 different species of regionally native flowers and grasses that provide continual blooms from early spring to autumn. Once planted, BLOOM BOX provides optimal habitat for bees, flies, moths, butterflies, beetles and other pollinator insects indigenous to the Great Plains that are critical to our food supply and ecosystems.

BLOOM BOX is funded by the Nebraska Environmental Trust, a beneficiary of the Nebraska Lottery.



Blue flax, *Linum*

Recommended Pollinator Plants for Sun

- Agastache
- Allium
- Amorpha*, leadplant
- Amsonia*, bluestar
- Artemisia
- Asclepias*, milkweed (**opposite**)
- Aurinia*, basket-of-gold
- Baptisia*, false indigo
- Boltonia
- Calamintha
- Callirhoe*, poppy mallow
- Ceanothus americanus*, New Jersey tea
- Centranthus*, red valerian
- Coreopsis
- Dalea purpurea*, purple prairie clover
- Echinacea pallida*, pale purple coneflower
- Eryngium yuccifolium*, rattlesnake master
- Eupatorium*, joe-pye plant
- Filipendula
- Geranium
- Geum triflorum*, Prairie smoke
- Helenium amarum*, Helen’s Flower
- Heliopsis*, oxeye sunflower
- Ipomopsis aggregata*, scarlet gilia
- Liatris*, gayfeather
- Linum*, flax (**top, far right**)
- Monarda*, beebalm
- Oenothera*, evening primrose
- Penstemon
- Phlox
- Pulsatilla patens*, pasque flower
- Pycnanthemum*, mountain mint
- Ratibida*, prairie coneflower
- Salvia azurea*, pitcher sage
- Scutellaria*, skullcap
- Sedum
- Senna hebecarpa*, wild senna
- Silphium integrifolium*, rosinweed
- Solidago*, goldenrod
- Symphyotrichum azureus*, sky blue aster
- Valeriana officinalis*, common valerian
- Vernonia*, ironweed
- Zizia aurea*, Golden alexander





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- If you brought firewood in from another area, BURN IT! Don't leave it, don't take it with you.



BUY LOCAL, BURN LOCAL.
To report potential emerald ash borer, contact the Nebraska Department of Agriculture at 402-471-2351.

Recommended Pollinator Plants for Shade

- Alchemilla mollis*, lady’s mantle
- Aquilegia*, columbine
- Chelone*, turtlehead
- Lobelia
- Parthenium*, wild quinine
- Physostegia virginiana*, obedient plant
- Polemonium*, creeping Jacob’s ladder
- Tradescantia*, prairie spiderwort

Plants with a Purpose

Plants for Dry Shade

One of the challenges of gardening can be dealing with shade, particularly dry shade under the canopy of trees where rainwater is deflected away and plants need to compete for moisture, root space, nutrients, even airflow. Narrow spaces between buildings or under north-facing eaves offer the same challenge.

Below is a list of plants that can thrive in shade or part shade in areas with minimal moisture. But keep in mind that, like any plant, they need to be well-watered the first several years until their roots are well-established.

Ajuga
Baneberry, *Actaea rubra*
Barren strawberry, *Waldsteinia*
Bear’s breeches, *Acanthus*
Bergenia
Bleeding heart, *Dicentra*
Brunnera
Columbine, *Aquilegia*
Lily of the valley, *Convallaria*
Coral bells, *Heuchera*
Corydalis (**opposite**)
Daylily, *Hemerocallis*
Euphorbia
FERNS (see page 9)
Foam flower, *Tiarella*
Foxglove, *Digitalis*
Geranium (perennial)
Hosta
Jack-in-the-pulpit, *Asarum*
Lady’s mantle, *Alchemilla*
Lamb’s ear, *Stachys*
Lamium
Lenten rose, *Helleborus*
Liriope
Meadow rue, *Thalictrum*
Pachysandra
Periwinkle, *Vinca minor*
Sedum
Snow-in-summer, *Cerastium*
Solomon’s seal, *Polygonatum*
Wild ginger, *Asarum canadense*

Name Your Challenge

Native plants can handle some of the most challenging landscape problems:
Low spots or wet spots. Deep-rooted native or prairie plants can usually withstand extremes of wet to dry moisture better than most landscape plants.
Dry spots surrounded by hardscape. Native plants need a minimum of watering and maintenance.
Dry shade under trees. Root competition can be troublesome under trees, but there are plants that can take it.

Curbside

For many homeowners, curbside strips of soil surrounded by hardscape or buildings are the toughest spot to work with. They’re difficult to mow, difficult to water without runoff, sometimes they’re shaded part of the day and exposed to harsh sunlight later on. Often they have to withstand foot traffic, pet refuse and salt from snow removal.

Prairie plants meet many of the requirements for tough spots since they’re deep-rooted to withstand drought, heat and exposure, are adaptable to difficult soils and need very little care. Here are some other plants worth trying.

For groundcovers: wild strawberry; prairie smoke; ajuga; snow-in-summer; plumbago; lamb’s ears; bloody cranesbill; and Corydalis. For salt-tolerance, good groundcovers include: candytuft; sedum; coral bells; hosta; and Artemisia.

Low-maintenance grasses like blue and sideoats grama, buffalograss and switchgrass can be used to replace turf. For spring color, they can be interplanted with bulbs that will be showy until grasses fill in and cover the dead foliage of short tulips, squill, tiny irises or other bulbs planted among the grasses.

Low perennials for hot, dry areas include: evening primrose; daylily; feverfew; yarrow; basket-of-gold; purple poppy mallow; prairie phlox; pasque flower; coneflower; butterfly milkweed; curly or prairie onion; and aromatic aster.

Rain Gardens

Grasses: Indiangrass, big bluestem, switchgrass, feather reed grass, cordgrass, rush and sedges.
Perennials: Iris, sweetflag, nodding pink onion, swamp milkweed, flat-topped and New England aster, turtlehead, purple and prairie coneflower, Joe-Pye plant, Filipendula, gayfeather, obedient plant, Rudbeckia, bottle gentian, culver’s root, meadow rue, hibiscus.

Give them Time

The first plants to sell at any plant sale tend to be ones that are blooming, but most perennials put their energy into roots and, as a result, are far less likely to bloom in spring nursery pots. Below are some plants that might not draw your eye this spring, but will reward you this fall when bright summer beauties may have faded. *Asterisk for shade or part shade.
Agastache
Anemone
Aster ‘October Skies’
Blazing star, *Liatris scariosa*
Chrysanthemum
Joe pye weed, *Eupatorium*
Goldenrod, *Solidago*
*Monkshood, *Aconitum*
Rudbeckia
Sedum
Sneezeweed, *Helenium*
Sunflowers, *Heliopsis*, *Helianthus*
*Toad lily, *Tricyrtis*
*Turtlehead, *Chelone*

Groundcovers for Living Mulch

One of the best ways to avoid weed-ing is to crowd them out with groundcov-ers. *Asterisk denotes very aggressive.

LOW GROUNDCOVERS FOR SUN
Cerastium tomentosum, snow-in-summer
Euphorbia, cushion spurge
Geranium sanguineum, cranesbill
Juniperus, spreading juniper
Stachys, lambs ear*
Symphoricarpos, coralberry
Thymus, thyme
Veronica prostata, speedwell

GROUNDCOVERS 6-8”
Achillea, yarrow
Aurinia saxatilis, basket-of-gold
Nepeta, catmint
Salvia
Sedum, stonecrop

GRASSES FOR SUNNY AREAS
Bouteloua curtipendula, side oats grama
Bouteloua dactyloides, bufflograss
Bouteloua gracilis, blue grama
Carex brevior, *C. bicknellii*, sedge
Muehlenbergii cuspidata, plains muhly
Schizachyrium scoparium, little bluestem

GROUNDCOVERS FOR PART SHADE
Aegopodium podagraria, bishop’s weed
Ajuga, bugleweed
Alchemilla mollis, lady’s mantle
Bergenia cordifolia, heartleaf bergenia
Brunnera macrophylla (Jack Frost is a variegated cultivar)
Carex plantaginea, plantain sedge
Ceratostigma plumbaginoides, plumbago
Convallaria majalis, lily-of-the-valley
Epimedium, barrenwort
Euonymus fortunei, wintercreeper*
Fragaria virginiana, barren strawberry
Galium odoratum, sweet woodruff
Geranium sanguineum, cranesbill
Hedera helix, English ivy*
Lamium maculatum, spotted dead nettle (**shown below in December**)
Lysimachia nummularia, moneywort
Pachysandra terminalis, Japanese spurge
Vinca minor, periwinkle*

NATIVE PLANTS FOR SHADE
Asarum canadense, wild ginger
Carex species
Heuchera richardsonii, coralbells
Packera aurea, golden ragwort
Polemonium reptans, creeping Jacob’s ladder
Polygonatum biflorum, Solomon’s seal

Tall Plants for the Back Border

Plants can vary greatly in height due to site, soil, exposure and other factors, but the plants listed below are likely to grow higher than 3 feet. Descriptions can be found in the lists noted at top.

GRASSES
Andropogon, 5’
Calamagrostis, 3-5’
Cyperus papyrus, 7’
Eragrostis trichodes, 3’
Miscanthus, 3-4’
Panicum, 4-5’
Schizachyrium scoparium, 2-4’
Sorghastrum nutans, 3-4’
Spodiopogon sibiricus, 3-4’
Sporobolis wrightii, 3-4’

HERBS
Artemisia annua, 4-5’
Coriandrum sativum, 3’
Foeniculum vulgare ‘Dulce’, 5”
Laurus nobilis, 3-8’
Rosmarinus, 2-3’
Salvia elegans, 3-4’
Stevia rebaudiana, 3’

PERENNIALS, full sun
Acanthus, 3-4’
Achillea, 3-4’
Alcea rosea, 3-6’
Amorpha canescens, 4’
Asclepias 2-4’
Aster, 3-4’
Baptisia lactea, 36-48”
Boltonia, 3’4’
Buddleja, 3-7’
Caryopteris, 3’
Centranthus ruber, 2-3’
Echinacea, 3-4’
Eupatorium dubium, 3-4’
Fallopia aubertii, 12’
Helianthus ‘Lemon Queen’, 4-5’
Hibiscus, 3-5’

Ipomopsis aggregata, 4’
Iris sibirica & spuria, 2-3’
Kniphofia caulescens, 3’
Lespedeza, 3’
Liatris, 3-5’
Lychnis, 2-3’
Paeonia, 2-3’
Papaver orientale, 2-3’
Penstemon, 2-3’
Persicaria, 2-4’
Philadelphus microphyllus, 2-3’
Phlox, 2-3’
Ratibida, 4’
Rudbeckia fulgida, 3-4’
Salvia azurea, 4’
Senna hebecarpa, 2-3’ (**shown below in summer and fall**)
Silene regia, 3-4’
Solidago, 3-4’

PERENNIALS, part shade
Aconitum, 2-5’
Callicarpa dichotoma, 3-5’
Chelone glabra ‘Black Ace’, 3-6’
Clematis vines 6+ ft.
Delphineum, 3-5’
Filipendula, 3-5’
Heptacodium miconioides, 15’
Ligularia, 4-5’
Lobelia, 3-4’
Lonicera, 8’
Lysimachia, 2-3’
Monarda, 3-4’
Thalictrum, 2-5’
Weigela, 6’
Wisteria, 15’

PERENNIALS, shade
Actaea, 36-60”
Hosta, 3-4’
Tricyrtis, 24-36”



Above: photos of wild senna or *Senna hebecarpa* in winter and mid-summer.
Opposite: *Corydalis* and *Lamium*.





April 22-23 **SPRING AFFAIR, Lancaster Event Center**
April 23 **Tree Climb, Omaha’s Elmwood Park, 10-3**

PLANT SALES at NSA Shadehouse, 38th & Leighton, unless noted

- 🍃 **April 29—Arbor Day plant sale noon to 5pm**
- 🍃 **May 5—Member Plant Sale & Ice Cream 4-7pm**
- 🍃 **May 6—Spring Plant Sale 9am to 1pm**
- 🍃 **May 13—Plant Sale at Fontenelle Forest in Omaha**
- 🍃 **May 19, 26—Plant sale noon to 5pm**
- 🍃 **June 16, 23—Plant sale noon to 5pm**

FREE BROWN-BAGS at UNL Keim 150

- 🍃 **April 6—Sneak Peek at Spring Affair Plants**
- 🍃 **May 4—Container Pots**
- 🍃 **June 1—Wild Wonders**

***DATES, EVENTS and topics may change...**
Check for calendar updates at plantnebraska.org

plantnebraska.org

Even More Plant Information

We’ve been working toward this for quite some time, but it’s finally here. Nebraska Statewide Arboretum’s updated website has even more resources for gardeners.

Whether you’re a budding or seasoned gardener, a community activist or someone who wants to do the right things in their home landscape, there’s a wealth of information about purposeful, sustainable and beautiful landscapes with a sense of place that fits in with, and is beneficial to the larger environment. From “My Yard” to tips for waterwise, resilient and biodiverse landscapes, we invite you to plantnebraska.org. There’s more coming every month, so keep checking back



Top 4 Tips for Weed Management

- 🍃 Relax more about weeds. Except for noxious weeds, there is no law that requires weeds to be killed or controlled. Some plants commonly considered weeds are actually very beneficial.
- 🍃 Be a good neighbor. Don’t ignore weeds or embrace a weedy style that is grossly out of step with the neighborhood. Conversely, don’t hesitate to enlighten your neighbors about the benefits of a more relaxed weed outlook.
- 🍃 Embrace weed-pulling. When trying to control weeds, think mechanical control first: hoeing, digging, mowing and pulling. Herbicide spraying should be seen as a last resort.
- 🍃 Think about our trees. If herbicide spraying is deemed necessary to control lawn weeds, plan to spray in the fall. Fall spraying typically kills weeds better than in the spring and there is much less potential harm to trees and other non-target plants.

Top 4 Tips for Mulching

- 🍃 For long-term soil improvement, use organic mulches like wood chips, leaves, decayed grass clippings or compost.
- 🍃 Apply mulch only 2-3” deep; deep enough to reduce weeds but not limit transfer of soil and water.
- 🍃 If weeds have already begun to take over, it’s best to get rid of them before mulching. Large weedy areas can be covered with clear plastic for several weeks to eliminate existing weeds and seeds. Smaller patches can be hand-weeded or hoed.
- 🍃 Mulches more quickly enrich the soil if they are partially decomposed or shredded, and wetting them down will further encourage decomposition.



A SPRING AFFAIR WITH A DIFFERENT FLAIR

This spring, take time to surround yourself in acres of nature’s beautiful work. Take home inspiration for your great landscapes.

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