



Digging Into the Details... Site Prep

Sod Removal

The fastest site preparation method is to remove the sod and till the soil.

- If needed, mow grass or existing vegetation.
- Remove sod using a sod cutter. A sod cutter removes 2"-3" of soil. The bed will be lower than the adjacent soil.
- Till soil using a roto-tiller or other implement (optional).
- Mulch after planting to conserve moisture and discourage weeds (recommended).

Vegetation can be planted immediately. However, roots and seed capable of sprouting a new crop of weeds can persist in the soil. If weeds regrow, pull weeds or lightly till using a hoe or similar tool.

Smothering

Lawns can usually be killed in 2-3 months. For sites with a lot of perennial weed pressure, leave smothering material on the garden for a full growing season.

Smothering is a simple technique that does not require chemicals or special equipment. Plants need sunlight to survive, smothering deprives plants of that sunlight.

- Mow vegetation at the lowest setting.
- During the growing season, cover garden area with materials such as old plywood, a thick layer of newspaper covered with grass clippings, black plastic, or other available material until vegetation is completely dead.
- Remove smothering material and plant.
- Mulch after planting (recommended).

Tilling

Existing garden beds or areas with little vegetation, such as areas that have been in row crops, may simply require hand pulling of vegetation or tilling to be ready for planting. Follow these steps:

- Mow existing vegetation.
- Till soil.
- Rake out remaining vegetation and roots to prevent them from re-growing.
- Mulch after planting (recommended).

If considerable weed pressure is anticipated, additional tilling may be required to eliminate weeds that may germinate from the existing seed-bank or grow from roots remaining in the soil. Lightly till the soil 2-3 times, approximately 1 week apart before planting, if needed.

Herbicide Application

Non-selective, non-persistent herbicides may be used to kill existing vegetation when it is actively growing.

- Apply a non-selective, non-persistent herbicide in early fall or mid-spring when vegetation is actively growing. If vegetation is tall, mow the site prior to application and apply herbicide once new growth reaches 4"-6" in height.
- Early Fall Application - After a complete kill, if dead vegetation is thin or has decomposed over winter, new plants can be planted directly into the bed. Dead thatch helps prevent weeds and holds moisture in the soil.

- Early Spring Application - After a complete kill, if dead vegetation is thick, tilling once more or removing the sod using a sod cutter may make planting easier. Remember, tilling may bring more weed seed to the surface. Plan to keep weeds in check with regular weeding or light tilling using a hoe or similar tool.

- Mulch after planting (recommended).
- Note: Always read and follow the manufacturer's herbicide label. Plant plugs, potted plants, and bare root stock after waiting the time indicated.*

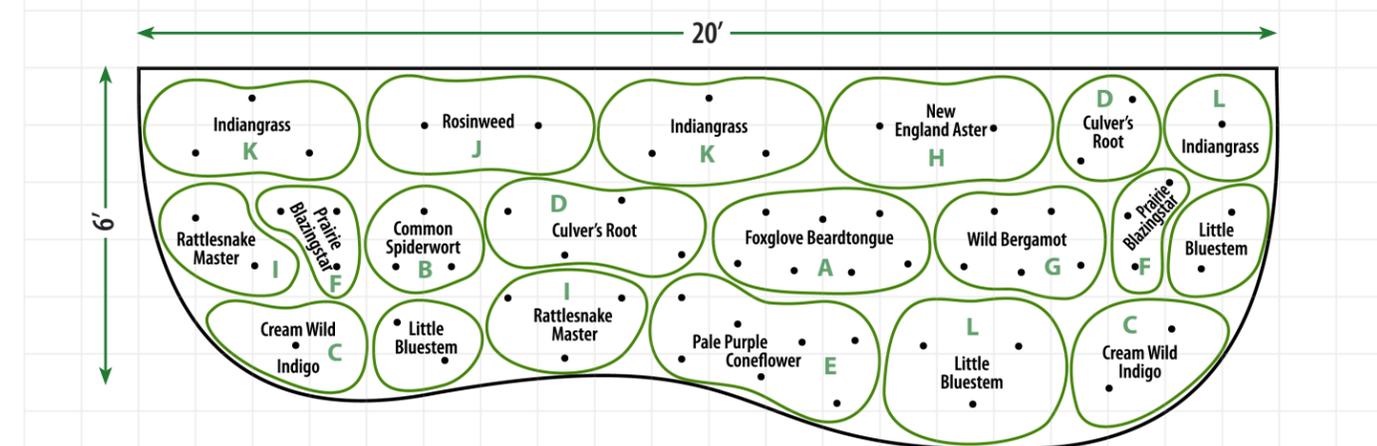
Avoid use of pesticides toxic to pollinators. Contact your local Extension office for more information.

Where to Find Native Plants?

Local nurseries frequently provide a selection of popular native plants in pots during the spring and early summer. Nurseries that specialize in native plants provide a wide array of species, which can be purchased as bareroot, corm, potted, or plug material. When selecting plants, overlook the flowers and focus on plants with robust vegetation, a well-developed root system, and no signs of insect or disease damage. When ordering by mail, nurseries commonly ship native plants in the spring and fall when conditions are safe for plant transport. Spring plant shipments generally occur from early April through mid-June and fall plant shipments generally occur from mid to late September until the first freeze.

Tall Border Pollinator Garden

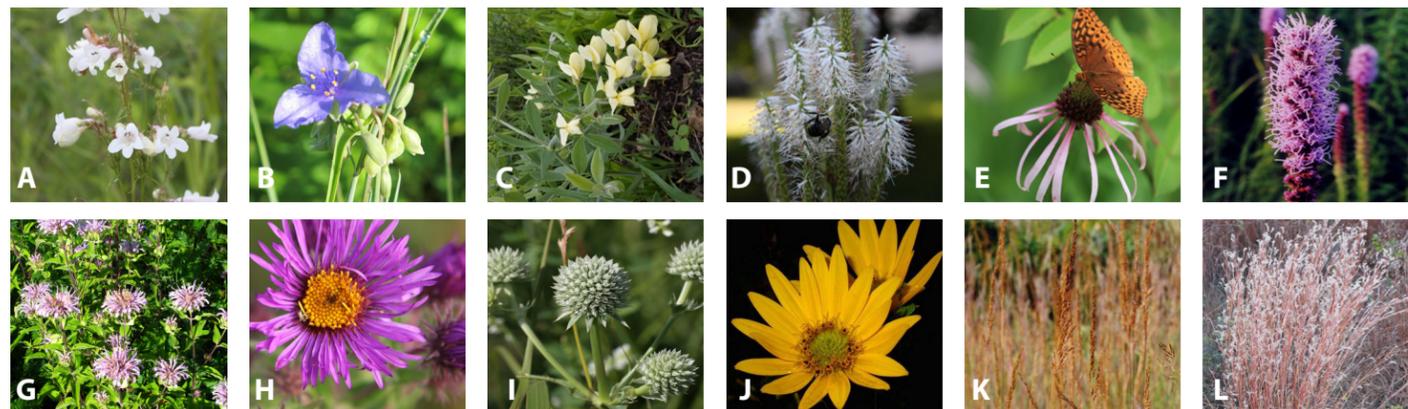
Site conditions: Full sun - 6 or more hours per day
These sites have soils that are moist, but are not saturated wet or soggy



Tall Border Pollinator Garden

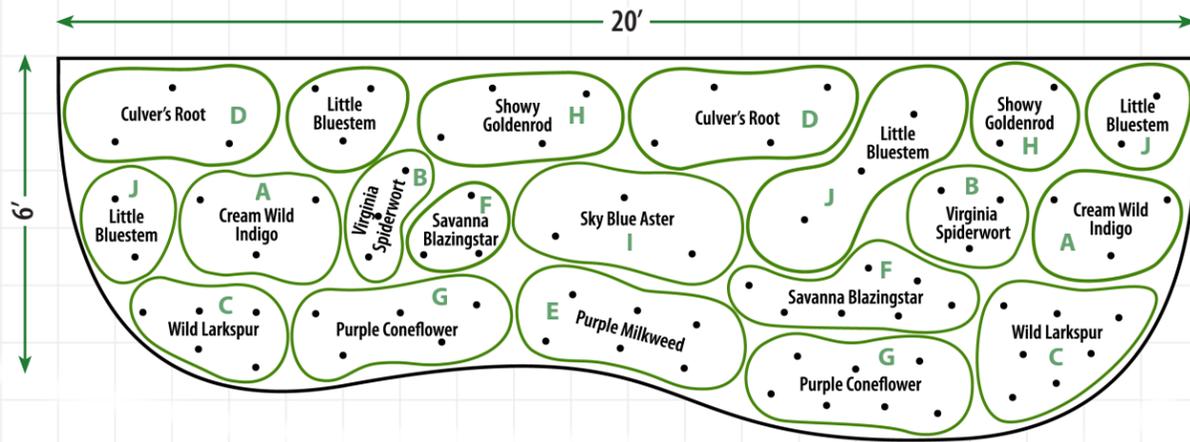
	Common Name	Latin Name	No. of Plants	Height	Spacing	Flower Color
Early Bloomers						
A	Foxglove Beardtongue*	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	7	2'-3'	1'	White
B	Common Spiderwort *	<i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i>	3	2'-4'	1'	Blue
C	Cream Wild Indigo	<i>Baptisia bracteata</i>	3	1'-3'	1'-3'	Cream
Mid Season Bloomers						
D	Culver's Root *	<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	6	3'-6'	18"	White
E	Pale Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea pallida</i>	7	3'-5'	1'	Purple
F	Prairie Blazingstar *	<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>	6	3'-5'	6"-1'	Purple
G	Wild Bergamot *	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	5	2'-3'	1'	Pink
Late Season Bloomers						
H	New England Aster *	<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>	2	3'-6'	1'-18"	Purple
I	Rattlesnake Master *	<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	5	3'-5'	1'	White
J	Rosinweed *	<i>Silphium integrifolium</i>	2	2'-6'	2'	Yellow
Grasses						
K	Indiangrass *	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	7	5'-7'	2'	—
L	Little Bluestem *	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	7	2'-3'	2-3'	—

* Reseeds readily. Remove spent flowers before the plant goes to seed.



Savanna Pollinator Garden

Site conditions: Part shade - 4 to 6 hours per day
 These savanna sites have soils that are moist, but are not wet or soggy



Savanna Pollinator Garden

	Common Name	Latin Name	No. of Plants	Height	Spacing	Flower Color
Early Bloomers						
A	Cream Wild Indigo	<i>Baptisia bracteata</i>	6	1'-3'	1-3'	Cream
B	Virginia Spiderwort *	<i>Tradescantia virginiana</i>	6	18"-3'	1'-18"	Blue
C	Wild Larkspur	<i>Delphinium tricorne</i>	12	6"-1'	6"-1'	Blue
Mid Season Bloomers						
D	Culver's Root *	<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	7	3'-6'	18"	White
E	Purple Milkweed	<i>Asclepias purpureascens</i>	6	3'	1-3'	Purple
F	Savanna Blazingstar	<i>Liatris scariosa</i>	10	2'-4'	1-2'	Purple
Late Season Bloomers						
G	Purple Coneflower *	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	12	2'-5'	1'	Purple
H	Showy Goldenrod *	<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	6	3'-5'	1'-18"	Yellow
I	Sky Blue Aster *	<i>Symphyotrichum oolentangiense</i>	3	2'-3'	1'	Purple
Grasses						
J	Little Bluestem *	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	10	2'-3'	2-3'	—

* Reseeds readily. Remove spent flowers before the plant goes to seed.



Dry Pollinator Garden

Site conditions: Full sun - 6 or more hours per day
 These sites have soils that tend to be overly dry



Dry Pollinator Garden

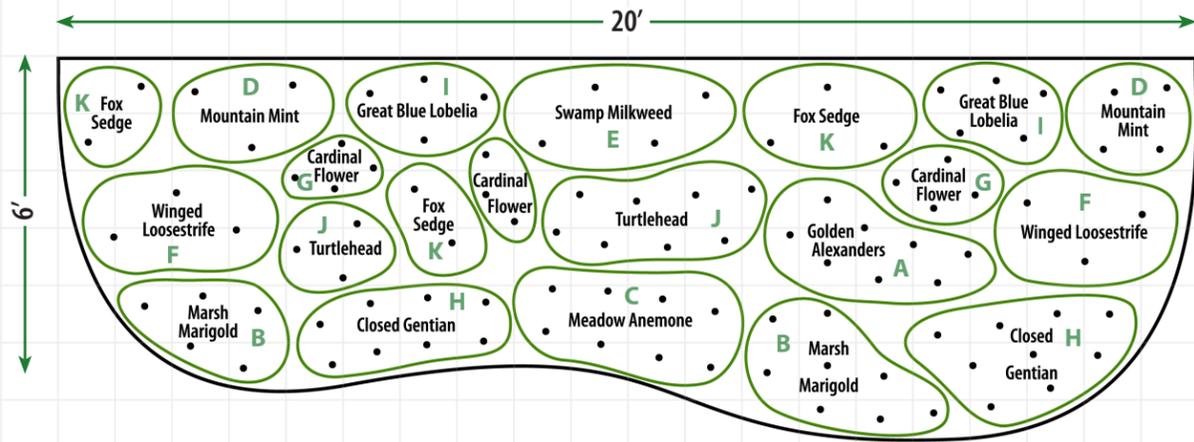
	Common Name	Latin Name	No. of Plants	Height	Spacing	Flower Color
Early Bloomers						
A	Common Spiderwort *	<i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i>	6	2'-4'	1'	Blue
B	Cream Wild Indigo	<i>Baptisia bracteata</i>	4	1'-3'	1'-3'	Cream
C	Prairie Smoke	<i>Geum triflorum</i>	9	6"	6"-1'	Pink
D	Pale Penstemon *	<i>Penstemon pallidus</i>	7	1'	6"-1'	White
Mid Season Bloomers						
E	Butterflyweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	14	2'-3'	1'-18"	Orange
F	Purple Prairie Clover	<i>Dalea purpurea</i>	6	1'-2'	1'	Purple
G	White Prairie Clover	<i>Dalea candida</i>	6	1'-2'	1'	White
Late Season Bloomers						
H	Rough or Meadow Blazingstar	<i>Liatris aspera</i> or <i>Liatris ligulistylis</i>	7	2'-5'	6"-1'	Purple
I	Showy Goldenrod*	<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	7	1'-3'	1'-18"	Yellow
J	Stiff Aster*	<i>Aster linariifolius</i>	6	1'-2'	1'	Purple
Grasses						
K	Junegrass	<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	9	2'-3'	1'-3'	—
L	Prairie Dropseed	<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	6	2'-3'	2'-3'	—

* Reseeds readily. Remove spent flowers before the plant goes to seed.



Wet Pollinator Garden

Site conditions: Full sun - 6 or more hours per day
 These wet sites have soils that remain wet for prolonged periods of time



Wet Pollinator Garden

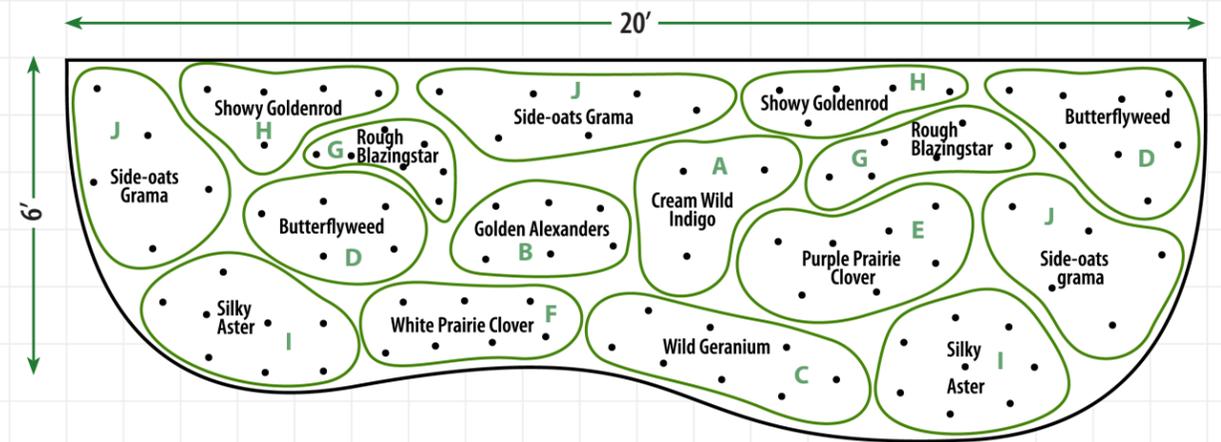
	Common Name	Latin Name	No. of Plants	Height	Spacing	Flower Color
Early Bloomers						
A	Golden Alexanders *	<i>Zizia aurea</i>	8	1'-2'	1'	Yellow
B	Marsh Marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	13	1'-2'	1'-2'	Yellow
C	Meadow Anemone *	<i>Anemone canadensis</i>	8	1'-2'	1'	White
Mid Season Bloomers						
D	Mountain Mint	<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	7	3'	1'-18"	White
E	Swamp Milkweed *	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	4	3'-5'	1'-18"	Pink
F	Winged Loosestrife	<i>Lythrum alatum</i>	6	3'	2'-3'	Purple
Late Season Bloomers						
G	Cardinal Flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	11	2'-5'	6"-1'	Red
H	Closed Gentian	<i>Gentiana andrewsii</i>	17	1'-2'	1'	Blue
I	Great Blue Lobelia *	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	9	1'-4'	1'	Blue
J	Turtlehead	<i>Chelone glabra</i>	11	2'-4'	1'	White
Grasses						
K	Fox Sedge	<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	7	1'-3'	18"	—

* Reseeds readily. Remove spent flowers before the plant goes to seed.



Typical Moisture Pollinator Garden

Site conditions: Full sun - 6 or more hours per day
 These typical sites have soils that are moist, but are not wet, soggy, or overly dry



Typical Moisture Pollinator Garden

	Common Name	Latin Name	No. of Plants	Height	Spacing	Flower Color
Early Bloomers						
A	Cream Wild Indigo	<i>Baptisia bracteata</i>	3	1'-3'	1-3'	Cream
B	Golden Alexanders *	<i>Zizia aurea</i>	6	1'-2'	1'	Yellow
C	Wild Geranium	<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	8	1'	6"-1'	Purple
Mid Season Bloomers						
D	Butterflyweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	13	2'-3'	1'-18"	Orange
E	Purple Prairie Clover	<i>Dalea purpurea</i>	7	1'-2'	1'	Purple
F	White Prairie Clover	<i>Dalea candida</i>	7	1'-2'	1'	White
Late Season Bloomers						
G	Rough Blazingstar	<i>Liatris aspera</i>	13	2'-5'	6"-1'	Purple
H	Showy Goldenrod	<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	10	1'-3'	1'-18"	Yellow
I	Silky Aster	<i>Symphotrichum sericeum</i>	16	1'-2'	1'	Purple
Grasses						
J	Side-oats Grama	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	16	2'-3'	2'-3'	—

* Reseeds readily. Remove spent flowers before the plant goes to seed.

