Native Plants
Warm Season Grasses, Flowers and Legumes

Warm Season Grasses

**Big Bluestem**
(Andropogon gerardii)
Spreads by short rhizomes
Somewhat bunchy
Grows 6 to 9 feet tall

Identification Tips:
Sheath: Round to somewhat flattened, open, often purplish at the base, usually hairy
Blade: Rolled in the bud shoot, silky hairs widely dispersed on the upper leaf surface
Ligule: Small membranous

**Little Bluestem**
(Schizachyrium scoparium)
Strong bunch grass
Grows 2 to 4 feet tall

Identification Tips:
Sheath: Flattened, open, often purplish at the base
Blade: Folded in the bud shoot, folded along the midrib, narrow
Ligule: Small membranous

**Switchgrass**
(Panicum virgatum)
Sod forming, 3 to 6 feet tall

Identification Tips:
Sheath: Round, open, white to purplish tinged below
Blade: Rolled in the bud shoot, flat up to 1/2-inch wide
Ligule: Fringe of hairs with a dense mat of hairs extending onto the upper leaf surface

**Indiangrass**
(Sorghastrum nutans)
Spreads by short rhizomes, somewhat bunchy, 3 to 6 feet tall

Identification Tips:
Sheath: Round, open, may be hairy at the base
Blade: Rolled in the bud shoot, flat, narrowed at base
Ligule: Prominent, membranous, clawlike -- often referred to as a rifle sight
### Prairie Flowers

- **Black-eyed Susan** *(Rudbeckia hirta)*
  - 2-5’ tall, blooms July-Sept., prefers dry sites, 100,000 seeds/oz.

- **Yellow Coneflower** *(Ratibida pinnata)*
  - 2-5’ tall, blooms July-Sept., dry to moist sites, 27,000 seeds/oz.

### Legumes

- **White Wild Indigo** *(Baptisia lactea)*
  - 2-3’ tall, blooms May-June, medium to moist sites, 1585 seeds/oz.

- **Canada Tick Trefoil** *(Desmodium canadense)*
  - 1-5’ tall, blooms July-August, moist sites, 4,500 seeds/oz.

### Other Plants to Consider

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flowers</th>
<th>Ht. in ft.</th>
<th>Flower Color</th>
<th>Flower Date</th>
<th>Seeds/Oz.</th>
<th>Preferred Site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bergamot</td>
<td>2-4’</td>
<td>Purple/Pink</td>
<td>Jul/Sept</td>
<td>78,000</td>
<td>Medium to moist, deep silts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Milkweed</td>
<td>2-3’</td>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>Jun/Aug</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>Dry to medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cupplant</td>
<td>3-6’</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>Jul/Sept</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>Medium to moist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadplant</td>
<td>2-3’</td>
<td>Purple</td>
<td>Jun/Jul</td>
<td>17,000</td>
<td>Dry to medium, Sandy soil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple Coneflower</td>
<td>2-4’</td>
<td>Purple</td>
<td>Jun/Jul</td>
<td>4,500</td>
<td>Dry to medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rattlesnake Master</td>
<td>2-6’</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td>Jun/Aug</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>Medium to moist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough Blazing Star</td>
<td>1-4’</td>
<td>Purple/Pink</td>
<td>Aug/Sept</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>Dry to medium, Sandy soil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Showy Sunflower</td>
<td>3-7’</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>Jul/Aug</td>
<td>4,500</td>
<td>Dry to medium, Rich deep silts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spiderwort</td>
<td>1-2’</td>
<td>Purple/Blue</td>
<td>May/Jul</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>Dry to moist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stiff Goldenrod</td>
<td>3-4’</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>Aug/Oct</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>Dry to moist</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Legumes</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Purple Prairie Clover</td>
<td>1-2’</td>
<td>Purple/Red</td>
<td>Jul/Aug</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>Dry to medium, well drained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roundheaded bush clover</td>
<td>2-4’</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Aug/Sept</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>Dry to moist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grasses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Side-oats grama</td>
<td>1-3’</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jul/Aug</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dry sites, Shallow, rocky</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Check state plant reference manuals for species occurrence and status.*

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