

Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale



## ***Monarda fistulosa* - Bergamot**

COMMON NAME: Bergamot, Wild Bergamot, Bee Balm

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Monarda fistulosa* - dedicated to Nicolas Monardes, 16th century Spanish physician and botanist.

FLOWER COLOR: Lavender, lilac-pink

BLOOMING PERIOD: June – September

SIZE: 2 – 5 ft.

BEHAVIOR: Perennial. Grows singly and in clusters. Spreads by branched rhizomes. Tends to become overly tall in new plantings without competition. Easily propagated from seed and blooms the second year.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Has a wide tolerance of soils and light conditions. Flowers best in full sun.

NATURAL RANGE: Quebec to Alberta, south to Florida and Texas. It is found throughout Wisconsin.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Very fragrant long-lasting flowers. Excellent for fresh bouquets. Hummingbirds visit the flowers and many birds are attracted to the seeds. Insects, especially butterflies and bees, are attracted to the flowers. Wisconsin's Native Americans used bergamot for medicinal purposes. They made a tea to treat colds.

SUGGESTED CARE: Requires little care once established. May require staking in small gardens and needs competition to control spreading. Mature plants can be divided.

COMPANION PLANTS: There is a wide range of associates including yellow coneflower, prairie dock, stiff goldenrod, whorled milkweed, yarrow, flowering spurge, big bluestem, Culver's root and turkscap lily.



## ***Liatris pycnostachya* – Prairie Blazing Star**

COMMON NAME: Prairie Blazing-star, Gayfeather, Tall Blazingstar

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Liatris pycnostachya* – Greek *pycnos* means “dense” or “thick” referring to the flower spike and also the leaves.

FLOWER COLOR: pink or magenta

BLOOMING PERIOD: July to September

SIZE: 6-12 inch flower spike on an unbranched 1-4 foot stem

BEHAVIOR: Hardy perennial. A dense spike of small clumps of 5-7 tiny flowers give this plant an almost fuzzy appearance.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Grows best in moist, well-drained soils. Can be planted in full sun or in areas with sun most of the day. Prefers a pH of 6-8 (slightly acidic).

SPECIAL FEATURES: Very showy excellent butterfly flower. Can be used as a cut flower. The flower spikes may be heavy enough that the plant needs staking in a small garden. Ideal for prairie gardens mixed with medium to tall grasses to help support the spikes. Seeds attract winter birds.

SUGGESTED CARE: Best propagated by seed, but the corm can be divided. Seeds require scarification (lightly nick with a knife) and moist stratification (3 months at 40° F.) in order to germinate.

NATURAL RANGE: Damp prairies, Wisconsin to Minnesota and South Dakota, south to Kentucky, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas.

COMPANION PLANTS: Culver’s root, eastern shooting star, spiderwort, rattlesnake master and tall grasses such as Indian grass and big bluestem.



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## ***Solidago rigida* – Stiff Goldenrod**

COMMON NAME: Stiff Goldenrod

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Solidago rigida* - the name comes from Latin *solidus* meaning "whole" and referring to supposed healing properties

FLOWER COLOR: Bright yellow

BLOOMING PERIOD: Late July to early September

BEHAVIOR: May become tall on new sites, but usually stands upright well. Can self-sow on open soils, and may become weedy on heavier soils.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Tolerant of a wide variety of soils and variable moisture. Requires full sun.

NATURAL RANGE: Massachusetts to Saskatchewan, south to Georgia, Louisiana and Texas. It is most common in southern and western Wisconsin.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Colorful. An excellent attractor of butterflies, beetles and other pollinators.

SUGGESTED CARE: Plants should need little care after initial watering. Provide lots of competition, especially with grasses, to keep it from getting too tall or reseeding aggressively.

COMPANION PLANTS: leadplant, big bluestem, smooth aster, coreopsis, rattlesnake master, wild bergamot, yellow coneflower, compass plant, prairie dock.



## ***Symphyotrichum novae-angliae* – New England Aster**

COMMON NAME: New England Aster

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*

FLOWER COLOR: purple to magenta

BLOOMING PERIOD: late August until hard frost

SIZE: 3 ½ to 5 feet

BEHAVIOR: A beauty, but reseeds readily and may thus become aggressive by dominating small plants.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Has a wide tolerance of soils and light conditions, but does best with more acidic soils. It is good for full sun exposure but will tolerate some shade and drought in gardens.

NATURAL RANGE: Southern Alberta to Quebec, Maryland, North Carolina west to Kansas and Colorado. It is found throughout Wisconsin.

SPECIAL FEATURES: An excellent plant for migrating monarch butterflies and other fall butterflies. The seeds attract goldfinches and other winter finches.

SUGGESTED CARE: Requires little attention once established. Deer do not bother this plant.

COMPANION PLANTS: Marsh milkweed, mountain mint, golden alexander, shooting star, big bluestem, switchgrass, prairie phlox, stiff goldenrod.



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## ***Veronicastrum virginicum* – Culver's Root**

COMMON NAME: Culver's Root, False Veronica

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Veronicastrum virginicum* - the suffix *astrum* means false, and the common name honors Dr. Culver who prescribed the plant as an effective laxative.

FLOWER COLOR: White

BLOOMING PERIOD: Late June through July

SIZE: Large herb, 3-5 feet tall

BEHAVIOR: Perennial. When planted in areas similar to wet or mesic (well drained) prairies the plants will spread readily. It is best propagated by division since the seeds are difficult to germinate. Divide mature plants making sure the each section has a bud and root.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Wet to dry, open woods, wet-mesic prairie, shaded rocky slopes. Growth is best in rich loamy soil.

NATURAL RANGE: Throughout Wisconsin, except the far north. New England to Manitoba, south to South Carolina, Mississippi and eastern Texas. It is listed as endangered in Vermont and threatened in Massachusetts and New York.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Flowers are on distinctive slender spikes that resemble candelabra. Leaves occur in whorls of three or four.

SUGGESTED CARE: Water sufficiently the first year. Seems to thrive in moist areas with plenty of sunshine.

COMPANION PLANTS: Lead plant, heath aster, shooting star, rattlesnake master, flowering spurge, sawtooth sunflower, wild bergamot, mountain mint, yellow coneflower, black-eyed Susan, compass plant, prairie dock, stiff goldenrod, cordgrass, prairie dropseed and golden Alexanders.



## ***Rudbeckia subtomentosa*- Sweet Black-Eyed Susan**

COMMON NAME: Sweet black-eyed susan

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Rudbeckia subtomentosa*

FLOWER COLOR: Yellow ray flowers with a reddish brown disk

BLOOMING PERIOD: July to September

HEIGHT: 3 to 6 feet tall

BEHAVIOR: A robust plant that competes well with other tall species.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: A good plant for wet sites. Also grows well on mesic sites and clay soils. Tolerates more shade than most prairie plants.

NATURAL RANGE: Michigan to Wisconsin, south to Louisiana and west to Oklahoma.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Looks like a shrub with large yellow flowers and dark green, fuzzy leaves. It is taller than black-eyed Susan and has larger flowers than brown-eyed Susan.

SUGGESTED CARE: No special care is required. Size can be controlled by cutting back in late June or early July.

COMPANION PLANTS: Prairie dock, gayfeather, tall meadow rue, yellow coneflower, downy phlox, New England aster, Culver's root and ironweed.





## ***Lobelia cardinalis* – Cardinal Flower**

COMMON NAME: Cardinal Flower, Cardinal Lobelia

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Lobelia cardinalis* -honoring Matthias de l'Obel, early 17th century Flemish herbalist.

FLOWER COLOR: Intense crimson red. There are also white and pink forms. The individual flowers are 1-2 inches occurring in a large spike of 20 or more flowers.

BLOOMING PERIOD: Late July to early September

SIZE: 3 – 5 ft.

BEHAVIOR: Cardinal flower is such a short-lived perennial it often seems more like a biennial. Unless site requirements are fully met, the planting may soon die out.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Grows naturally in southern Wisconsin in moist soils in wet forests, along creeks, streams and rivers. Will grow in full sun if adequately watered, but does best in light shade. In the garden it does not require a permanently wet site, but should be watered frequently, especially during drought.

SPECIAL FEATURES: The bright color. It is a hummingbird flower.

NATURAL RANGE: Native to eastern Canada, Maine to Florida, west to Minnesota and the southern U.S. to California.

SUGGESTED CARE: Water frequently and do not let the soil dry out completely. Be sure to scatter seeds where older plants have bloomed so there will be a new crop of blooming plants in subsequent years. Annual division of the crown will also help keep plants blooming for several years.

COMPANION PLANTS: Swamp milkweed, spotted water-hemlock, large blue lobelia, monkey flower, bristly buttercup, water parsnip, blue vervain, wild iris, swamp rose.



## ***Iris versicolor* – Wild Iris**

COMMON NAME: Wild Iris, Blue Flag

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Iris versicolor* (*Iris* was the Greek goddess of the rainbow)

FLOWER COLOR: Blue, with a bright yellow pubescent patch at the base of each of the three sepals.

BLOOMING PERIOD: Mid-May to July.

SIZE: Flowering stems are 1 to 3 feet tall

BEHAVIOR: Grows well in wet locations such as fens and wet prairies, or pond edges. Forms clumps with rhizomes.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Full sunlight and moist soil

NATURAL RANGE: Quebec to Minnesota, south to Kansas and North Carolina

SPECIAL FEATURES: The showiest parts of the flower are the sepals rather than the petals. The yellow patch at the base of the sepals makes the plant especially attractive. Flat, sword-shaped leaves.

COMPANION PLANTS: Meadow-rue and marsh milkweed.



## ***Geum triflorum* – Prairie Smoke**

COMMON NAME: Prairie Smoke, Prairie Avens

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Geum triflorum* (an ancient name used by Pliny, and *triflorum* meaning three-flowered)

FLOWER COLOR: Soft, brick red, pink

BLOOMING PERIOD: Late May, early June

SIZE: Usually one foot or less in height.

BEHAVIOR: Forms mats. Established plants are easily divided. Most of the foliage is basal.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Needs a dry site in full sun. Can be grown on sands or even gravel.

NATURAL RANGE: Northern New York west to Ontario and Alberta, south to Illinois and west to Montana. Found in the southern two-thirds of Wisconsin, where it occurs most frequently in dry prairies.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Probably better known for its fluffy seed heads rather than its subtle flowers.

SUGGESTED CARE: Water sparingly to establish new plantings, then little care is needed. Protect from too much competition from taller species.

COMPANION PLANTS: Pasque flower, lead plant, little bluestem, thimbleweed, white and silky asters, side-oats grama, shooting star, downy gentian, alumroot, rough blazing star, purple prairie clover, downy phlox, stiff goldenrod, prairie dropseed, and bird's foot violet.





## ***Carex stipata* – Fox Sedge**

**COMMON NAME:** Fox Sedge, so called because the inflorescence (entire assemblage of flowers on the stem) looks like a fox's tail. It is also called Prickly Sedge or Awl-fruited Sedge.

**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Carex stipata*

**FLOWER:** Green in color, golden brown seed heads

**BLOOMING PERIOD:** May to July

**SIZE:** 1 to 3 feet

**BEHAVIOR:** A perennial clump forming sedge with stems about 1-3 feet, leaves generally taller than the stems. The lowest leaves on the stem, however, are reduced to scales. Stems are slender and firm with whitish, thin sheaths that are conspicuously cross-wrinkled.

**SITE REQUIREMENTS:** Found in sedge meadows, marshes and forest openings. It prefers moist to slightly wet conditions but tolerates drier conditions in shaded sites. Full to partial sun.

**NATURAL RANGE:** Throughout Canada except for the arctic regions and most of the continental U.S.

**SPECIAL FEATURES:** This is one of the showiest sedges with mounds of yellow-green leaves produced in profusion. Forms beautiful clumps of cascading foliage. It is a source of food for songbirds, grouse, chicks, ducks and woodcocks. Fox sedge is a pioneering species that tends to colonize wet open sites soon after disturbance.

**SUGGESTED CARE:** Easily grown sedge.



## ***Pycnanthemum virginianum* – Mountain Mint**

COMMON NAME: Mountain Mint

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Pycnanthemum virginianum* (Greek word *pycnos* means dense and *antheon* means flower)

FLOWER COLOR: White

BLOOMING PERIOD: July and August

SIZE: Medium size herb, 1 to 3 feet tall

BEHAVIOR: Perennial, spreading by underground rhizomes. The flowers are in tight clusters about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch across on the tip of the stalk, opening in succession starting on the outer edge. The plants are upright and have a bushy appearance.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Wet meadows, prairies. Needs full sun.

NATURAL RANGE: Maine to North Dakota, south to western North Carolina Missouri and eastern Kansas. Found throughout Wisconsin.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Tasty, highly aromatic foliage. Brushing the leaves releases a pest repellent perfume. The French botanist, Andre Michaux, found meadows of this plant in Pennsylvania and named it mountain mint.

SUGGESTED CARE: Easy to grow. Animals rarely bother this plant.

COMPANION PLANTS: In dry prairies it is found with little bluestem, sky-blue aster, coreopsis, wild strawberry, switch grass, yellow coneflower, black-eyed Susan, stiff goldenrod, prairie dropseed, spiderwort, and golden Alexanders. In moist prairies and fens it is found with bluejoint grass, marsh shield fern, sneezeweed, sawtooth sunflower, yellow stargrass, rattlesnake root, cord grass, New England aster, spotted joe-pye weed, boneset, and cowbane.

