

Top Performing Herbaceous Native Plants





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Chapter Four

Landscaping with Native Plants

A Gardeners Guide for Missouri

If you plant after June 15th, water periodically for the first three years after established.

- Remove weeds as they appear.
- Water as needed.
- Top-prune perennials and grasses late April through mid May to reduce flowering height and prevent flopping.

Summer - Year 2

- Be vigilant and remove weeds as they appear.
- Provide a deep watering when needed rather than frequent, shallow waterings.
- Summer planting is not recommended. Sun is hot and unpredictable rainfall.

Fall/Winter - Year 2

- Continue to be vigilant and remove winter weeds as they appear.
- Water newly planted trees and shrubs by hand if winter drought occurs.
- Reapply mulch to this area.
- Be careful to not mulch where you want plants to spread by reseeding. This is the trick to getting succulent plants like wood piggy, Virginia bluebell, blue-eyed Mary, wild geranium, bloodroot and others to spread.

Plant Selection Guide

Top Performing Native Plants for Landscaping

Based on:

- 3-4 seasons of interest
- long life expectancy
- compact form or slow growth
- availability from nurseries

Full Sun

Grasses and Sedges:
Carex albicans (dark sedge)
Carex americana (yellow-flowered fox sedge)
Carex muskingumensis (palm sedge)
Sporobolus heterostachyus (panic grass)

Perennials:

Aster multiflorus (showing blue)
Asperula tuberosa (tuberous yellow)
Aster divaricatus (sterile aster)
Solidago canadensis (yellow wild-angelic)
Callitriche heterophylla (purple yellow milk-weed)
Rudbeckia richardsonii (prairie sunflower)
Thuja occidentalis (green juniper)
Pyrola asarifolia (winter mountain-heath)
Rubus odoratus (orange raspberry)

Small Flowering Trees and Shrubs:
Amelanchier arborea (snowberry)
Callicarpa americana (blueberry)
Cornus amomum (holuby)
Crataegus viridis (green Hawthorn)
Hydrangea arborescens (wild hydrangea)
Ilex verticillata (winterberry holly)
Abies balsamea (spotted fir)

Part Shade

Aster divaricatus (sterile aster)
Carex albicans (dark sedge)
Carex americana (fox sedge)
Carex grayi (fox sedge)
Carex muskingumensis (palm sedge)
Erigeron philadelphicus (purple ox-eye)
Heuchera americana (American alum-root)
Heuchera richardsonii (purple alum-root)
Polygonum bistorta (Spikeweed)
Solidago nemoralis (small-leaved golden-rod)
Spigelia marilandica (Indian pink)

Small Flowering Trees and Shrubs:
Amelanchier arborea (snowberry)
Asimina trilobata (pawpaw)
Callicarpa americana (blueberry)
Cornus canadensis (cornelian)
Cornus florida (flowering dogwood)
Hamamelis virginica (Witch-hazel)
Hydrangea arborescens (wild hydrangea)
Ilex verticillata (winterberry holly)
Staphylea trifolia (american holly)

Shade

Ferns:
Adiantum pedatum (Maidenhair fern)
Athyrium filix-femina (maidenhair)
Onoclea sensibilis (sensitive fern)
Polystichum acrostichoides (Christmas fern)

Grasses and Sedges:
Carex albicans (dark sedge)
Carex americana (fox sedge)
Carex grayi (fox sedge)
Carex muskingumensis (palm sedge)

Perennials:

Asarum canadense (wild ginger)
C. dumosa (fox sedge)

Heuchera americana (American alum-root)
Heuchera (dark green)
Polygonatum biflorum (Solomon's seal)
Saxifraga hypnoides (dog-toe goldenrod)
Spigelia marilandica (Indian pink)

Small Flowering Trees and Shrubs:
Amelanchier arborea (snowberry)
Callicarpa americana (blueberry)
Cornus americana (cornelian)
Cornus florida (flowering dogwood)
Cornus spicata (spice dogwood)
Cornus rugosa (black haw)
Hamamelis virginica (Witch-hazel)

Native Groundcovers



The 12-inch native groundcover *Asarum canadense* (wild ginger) growing in a garden bed at Shaw Nature Reserve. It has a low, creeping habit and is a native plant.

*Plants that spread rapidly by rhizomes and develop into large colonies. These species require large areas and consistent shade.

Shade

Grasses & Sedges:
Carex albicans (dark sedge)
C. dumosa (fox sedge)

True or False –

It is the plant choice that determines a great performer! ?

- Not necessarily – performance is based first on right plant, right place
- Performance is judged on particular need/goal in the landscape

Points considered for Top Performing Native Plants list

- Reliable longevity
- Compact form and/or slow growth
- 3 to 4 season appeal
- Able to tolerate a wide range of growing conditions
- Availability in the nursery trade

True or False –

Compared to lawns and traditionally manicured landscapes-





**native landscapes are
low maintenance.**



What reduces maintenance???



Match plant to
cultural
requirements

If minimal maintenance is required,
how easy is it when it is necessary?



Cord grass



Big bluestem



Prairie dropseed

Weed elimination:

Plants that grow into dense groupings eliminate weeds

Prairie dropseed...Yes!



Buffalo grass...No!



Seediness:

Plants that do not spread readily from seed

Palm sedge...No, very little reseeding!

New England aster & river oats...Yes-lots of reseeding!

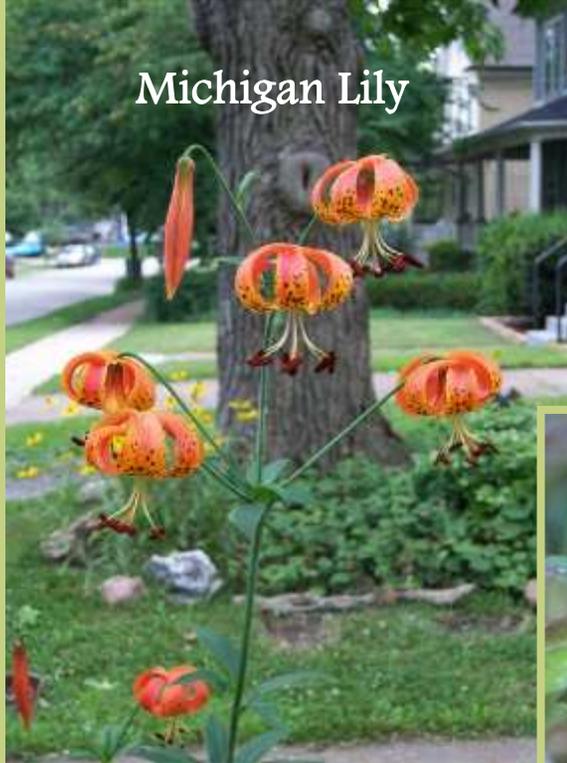


Beautiful native plants...great landscape plants???

Fall Glade Onion



Michigan Lily



Dwarf Larkspur



Jack-in-the-Pulpit



Bottle Gentian



Cardinal flower (*Lobelia*)

- Short-lived
- Low tolerance for dry soil
- Resents competition



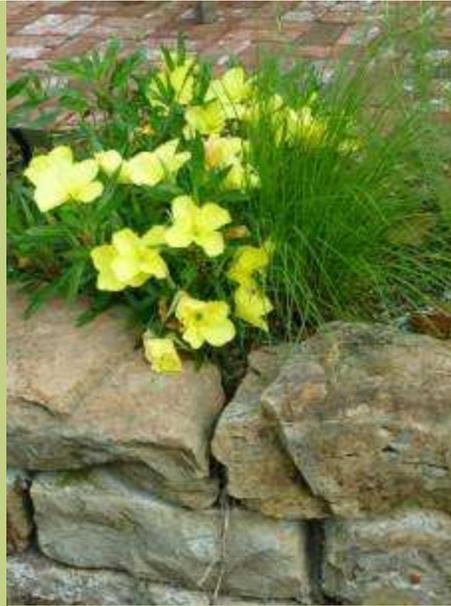
Yellow false indigo (*Baptisia sphaerocarpa*)

- Long-lived
- Great spring color
- Great foliage for growing season
- Fall interest with seed pods
- Minimal maintenance
- Wide range of tolerance

MO evening primrose
(*Oenothera macrocarpa*)
•Low range of tolerance

Feathery Bluestar
(*Amsonia ciliata*)
Narrow tolerance of
soil conditions

Columbine
(*Aquilegia canadense*)
•Short-lived



Butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
•Long-lived
•Minimal maintenance
•Wide range of tolerance

Prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*)
•Long-lived
•Slow, compact growth
•Minimal maintenance
•Good fall/winter interest
•Wide range of tolerance
•Reliably fills in to choke out weeds

Glade and pale coneflowers
(*Echinacea pallida*/*E. simulata*)

- Specific soil requirements



Shining bluestar (*Amsonia illustris*)

- Long-lived
- Wide range of tolerance
- Good foliage throughout season
- Reliably fills in to choke out weeds
- Minimal maintenance

Rose verbena, sand phlox and fire pink
(*Glandularia canadense*, *Phlox bifida*, *Silene virginica*)

- Low range of tolerance
- Does not out-compete weeds



Orange coneflower (*Rudbeckia fulgida*)

- Long-lived
- Wide range of tolerance
- Long flowering season
- Reliably fills in to choke out weeds



Prairie alum root
(*Heuchera richardsonii*)

- Long-lived
- Slow, compact growth
- Great foliar texture
- Wide range of tolerance
- Minimal maintenance
- Reliably fills in to choke out weeds





Oak sedge (*Carex albicans*)



- Long-lived
- Wide range of tolerance
- Short, compact growth
- Minimal maintenance



Ivory/cedar sedge (*Carex albicans*)



Indian pink (*Spigelia marilandica*)

- Long-lived
- Slow, compact growth
- Wide range of tolerance
- Minimal maintenance
- Reliably fills in to choke out weeds

Wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*)

- Long-lived
- Slow, compact growth
- Wide range of tolerance
- Minimal maintenance



- Long-lived
- Wide range of tolerance
- Reliably fills in to choke out weeds
- Minimal maintenance

Bur sedge (*Carex grayii*)



Palm sedge (*Carex muskingumensis*)

Aromatic aster
(*Aster/Symphycarpon oblongifolius*)



- Long-lived
- Great late fall color
- Compact growth
- Wide range of tolerance
- Minimal maintenance
- Reliably fills in to choke out weeds

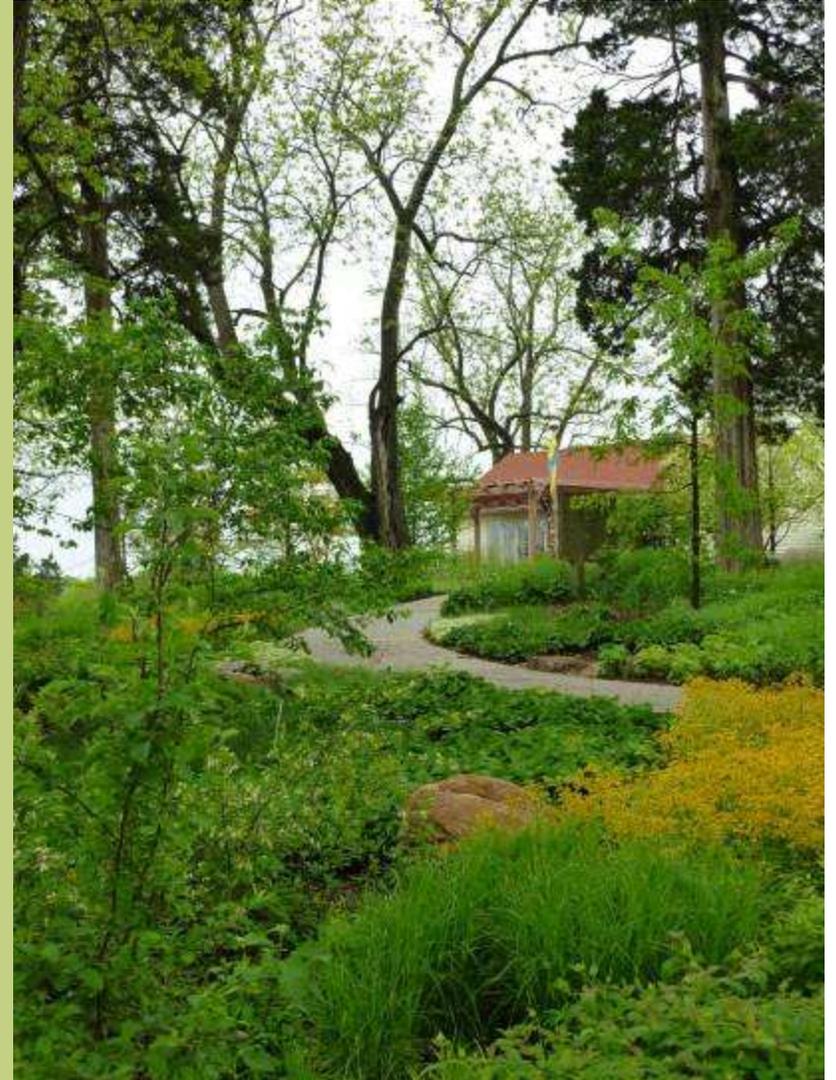


Use a “broad brush”...



- Higher diversity = higher maintenance
- Lower diversity = lower maintenance







Informal solution to
reducing maintenance



Alberici Headquarters



MDC Discovery Center, Kansas City



First Presbyterian Church, Kirkwood



Commerce Bank Education Center, Missouri Botanical Garden



The City Garden, St. Louis

