

## ILLINOIS NATIVE PLANTS

This brochure is a guide to the characteristics and benefits of selected Illinois plants to help home gardeners choose native plants appropriate for site-specific conditions.

By using native plants in your landscape, you help support healthy ecosystems on land and water. Many are food sources for pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Native plants promote clean water and conservation by reducing the need for garden inputs. They rarely require fertilizer and pesticides when planted in conditions similar to their natural ecosystems. Further, native plants have extensive root systems that, once established, help them thrive without watering. For more information, visit the University of Illinois Extension Horticulture website: [extension.illinois.edu/global/horticulture](http://extension.illinois.edu/global/horticulture).

### TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL NATIVE PLANTINGS

Whether you're a native plant purist or if you simply want to add them to your existing landscape, there are a few things to keep in mind:

1. For design inspiration, look to natural areas, although you may want to interpret your design for the property's scale, which is likely smaller. One strategy is to emphasize an iconic feature, such as a mass planting of Prairie Dropseed with seasonal flowers, to represent a prairie. Another approach is to contain the bed with a defined border. Whatever your design, check local municipal or homeowner's association ordinances to ensure compliance.
2. Know your property's site conditions. This informs which plants work best (or do not). Use this brochure to match your site's sun, moisture, and soil type to plants suited to those conditions.
3. Before digging, call JULIE at 811 or 800-892-0123 or visit [www.illinois1call.com](http://www.illinois1call.com) to place a local utility request. When you know it's safe to dig, start by preparing your garden bed.
4. If you are using small plugs, consider soaking them in a small bucket. It can be difficult to rehydrate them once they dry out.
5. To plant, dig a hole as deep and a little wider than the pot the plant came in. If the plant is root-bound, cutoff the bottom 1/4" of the roots to stimulate new growth. Place the plant in the hole and backfill with soil. Be sure the level of the plant's soil matches the level of the ground around it.
6. Add 2-3" of natural shredded mulch, leaving a circle approximately 2" in diameter of bare soil around the stem.
7. Water your new plants every other day for two weeks if it doesn't rain. After two weeks, additional watering may be necessary if the weather is hot and dry.
8. Your native plant may not bloom in the first two years while it's busy putting down deep roots. To have color during perennial establishment, you can intermingle them with annuals.
9. Although native plants are often described as low maintenance, this does not mean no maintenance, especially in the first two years when they are establishing root systems. During this critical time, expect to pull weeds and to maintain the mulch layer to discourage unwanted plants.

### WHERE TO FIND PLANTS AND MORE INFORMATION

The plant palette is inspired by the Red Oak Rain Garden: [www.RedOakRainGarden.org](http://www.RedOakRainGarden.org). The Illinois Native Plant Society webpage lists sources of native plants. For more information about plants, see the University of Illinois Extension Horticulture website.

### PUT YOUR NATIVE PLANT GARDEN ON THE MAP

You can be part of a network of native plantings by registering your Illinois native plant garden or rain garden. This helps build community and encourage native plant use.

Add your native plant garden to the map: <http://go.illinois.edu/GardenMap>

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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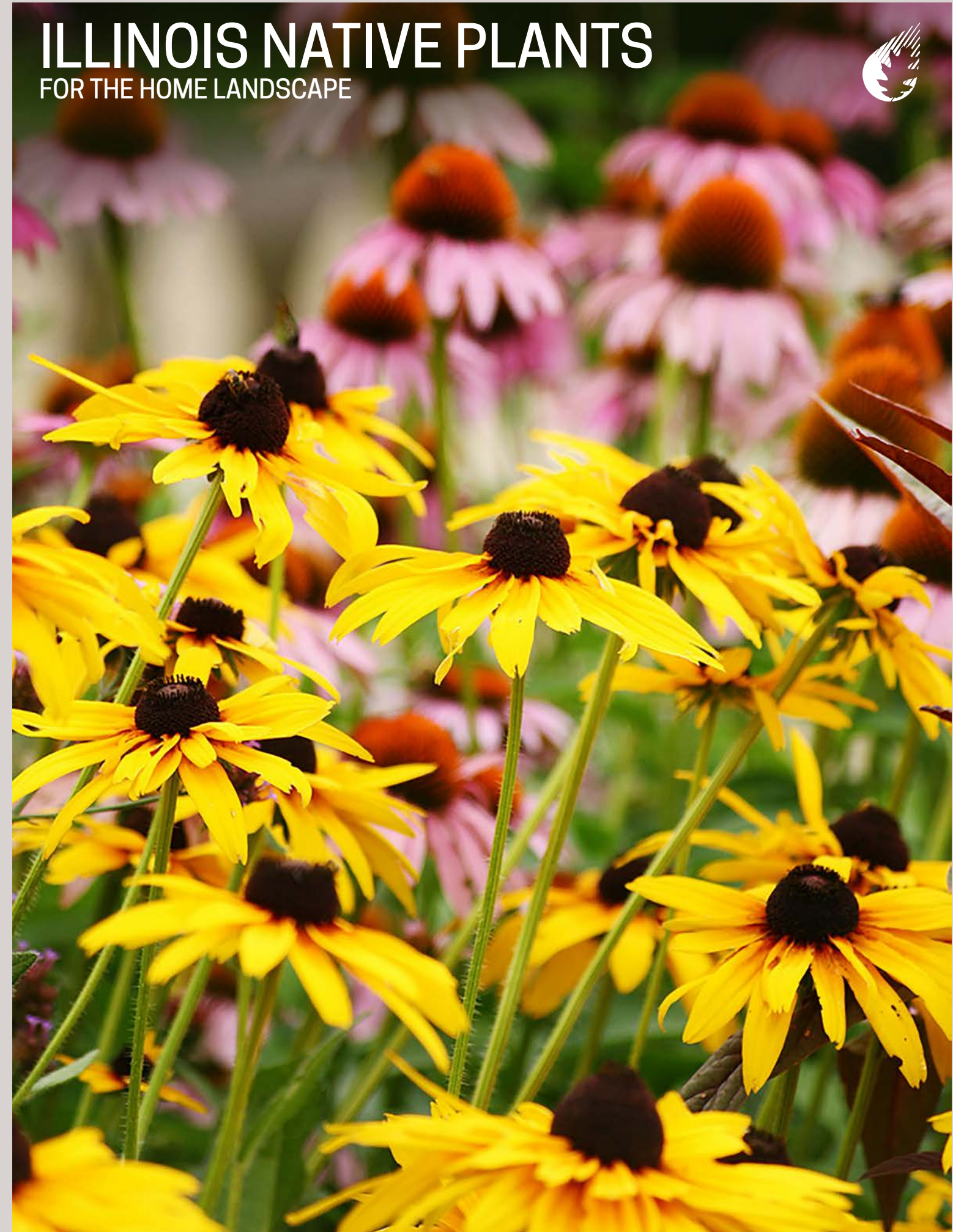
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## FOR THE HOME LANDSCAPE





FORBS ORGANIZED BY BLOOM TIME **SPRING**

**SUMMER**

**FALL**

**WINTER**

**SUNLIGHT**

**HEIGHT**

**SPACING**

**MOISTURE**

**SOIL TYPE**

**COMMON ECOSYSTEM**

**ATTRACTION**

**DROUGHT TOLERANCE**

Plant Name	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Sunlight	Height	Spacing	Moisture	Soil Type	Common Ecosystem	Attraction	Drought Tolerance
<b>COLUMBINE</b> <i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>						2-3'	1-1½'		SANDY, ROCKY, ACIDIC	WOODLAND		
<b>GOLDEN ALEXANDERS</b> <i>Zizia aurea</i>						1-3'	1-2'		LOAM	WET PRAIRIE		
<b>FOXGLOVE BEARDTONGUE</b> <i>Penstemon digitalis</i>						2-3'	1-1½'		LOAM	BLACK SOIL PRAIRIE		
<b>WILD QUININE</b> <i>Parthenium integrifolium</i>						1-2½'	1-2'		LOAM	BLACK SOIL PRAIRIE		
<b>SULLIVANT'S MILKWEED</b> <i>Asclepias sullivantii</i>						2-3'	1-2'		LOAM	WET PRAIRIE		
<b>WHITE WILD INDIGO</b> <i>Baptisia alba</i>						3-6'	2½-3'		TOLERANT	BLACK SOIL PRAIRIE		
<b>NEW JERSEY TEA</b> <i>Ceanothus americanus</i>						2-3'	1½-3'		LOAM, ROCKY	BLACK SOIL PRAIRIE		
<b>PURPLE PRAIRIE CLOVER</b> <i>Dalea purpurea</i>						1-3'	1½-2'		TOLERANT	BLACK SOIL PRAIRIE		
<b>PALE PURPLE CONEFLOWER</b> <i>Echinacea pallida</i>						1-3'	1-1½'		LOAM, CLAY, ROCKY	BLACK SOIL PRAIRIE		
<b>FALSE SUNFLOWER</b> <i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>						3-5'	1½-3'		TOLERANT	WOODLAND BORDER		
<b>YELLOW CONEFLOWER</b> <i>Ratibida pinnata</i>						2-4'	1½-2'		LOAM, CLAY LOAM	BLACK SOIL PRAIRIE		
<b>BLACK-EYED SUSAN</b> <i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>						2-2½'	1½-2'		TOLERANT	DRY PRAIRIE		
<b>SWAMP MILKWEED</b> <i>Asclepias incarnata</i>						3-5'	1½-3'		LOAM, CLAY, SILT	FLOODPLAIN		
<b>POKE MILKWEED</b> <i>Asclepias exaltata</i>						2-6'	2-3'		LOAM, SANDY	WOODLAND OPENING		
<b>BUTTERFLYWEED</b> <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>						1-2½'	1-3'		SANDY, ROCKY, ACIDIC	SAND PRAIRIE		
<b>WILD BERGAMOT</b> <i>Monarda fistulosa</i>						2½-4'	2-3'		LOAM	BLACK SOIL PRAIRIE		
<b>COMPASS PLANT</b> <i>Silphium laciniatum</i>						6-12'	1½-3'		LOAM	TALLGRASS PRAIRIE		
<b>COMMON MOUNTAIN MINT</b> <i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>						1-3'	1-1½'		TOLERANT	WET PRAIRIE		
<b>RATTLESNAKE MASTER</b> <i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>						2-5'	1½-2'		TOLERANT	BLACK SOIL PRAIRIE		
<b>PURPLE JOE PYE WEED</b> <i>Eutrochium purpureum</i>						3-7'	3-4'		SILT/SANDY LOAM	WET PRAIRIE		
<b>PRAIRIE BLAZING STAR</b> <i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>						2-4'	1-1½'		LOAM, CLAY	BLACK SOIL PRAIRIE		
<b>OBEDIENT PLANT</b> <i>Physostegia virginiana</i>						3-4'	1-2'		LOAM	WET PRAIRIE		
<b>GREAT BLUE LOBELIA</b> <i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>						2-3'	1-1½'		TOLERANT	UPLAND WOODLAND		
<b>MISSOURI IRONWEED</b> <i>Vernonia missurica</i>						1-3'	2-3'		LOAM	BLACK SOIL PRAIRIE		
<b>ROUGH BLAZING STAR</b> <i>Liatris aspera</i>						2-5'	1-1½'		TOLERANT	BLACK SOIL PRAIRIE		
<b>SMOOTH BLUE ASTER</b> <i>Symphyotrichum laeve</i>						1½-3'	1½-2'		TOLERANT	BLACK SOIL PRAIRIE		
<b>ELM-LEAVED GOLDENROD</b> <i>Solidago Ulmifolia</i>						1-3'	1-3'		LOAM	MESIC WOODLAND		
<b>NEW ENGLAND ASTER</b> <i>Symphyotrichum novae-angliae</i>						2-4'	2-3'		LOAM/CLAY	BLACK SOIL PRAIRIE		
<b>SHORT'S ASTER</b> <i>Symphyotrichum shortii</i>						2-3½'	1-1½'		LOAM	MESIC WOODLAND		
<b>OTHERS ORGANIZED BY HEIGHT</b>												
<b>PENNSYLVANIA SEDGE</b> <i>Carex pensylvanica</i>						½-1'	½-1'		SANDY LOAM	UPLAND WOODLAND		
<b>PRAIRIE DROPSEED</b> <i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>						2-3'	2-3'		LOAM, ROCKY	HILL PRAIRIE		
<b>GRAY'S SEDGE</b> <i>Carex grayi</i>						2-3'	1½-2'		TOLERANT	MOIST WOODLAND		
<b>LITTLE BLUESTEM</b> <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>						2-4'	2-3'		TOLERANT	HILL PRAIRIE		
<b>INDIAN GRASS</b> <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>						3-7'	2-3'		TOLERANT	SAVANNAH		
<b>BIG BLUESTEM</b> <i>Andropogon gerardii</i>						3-8'	2-3'		TOLERANT	TALLGRASS PRAIRIE		

**SOURCES:**  
 ILLINOIS WILDFLOWERS:  
[www.illinoiswildflowers.info](http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info)  
 PRAIRIE MOON NURSERY:  
[www.prairiemoon.com](http://www.prairiemoon.com)  
 MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN:  
[www.missouribotanicalgarden.org](http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org)  
 GARDENER EXPERIENCE

**LEGEND**

SUN  
 PART SUN/PART SHADE  
 SHADE  
 WET  
 MOIST  
 MESIC  
 DRY  
 ATTRACTS BEES  
 ATTRACTS HUMMINGBIRDS  
 ATTRACTS BIRDS  
 ATTRACTS A VARIETY OF BUTTERFLIES  
 BENEFITS CATERPILLARS  
 ATTRACTS MONARCH BUTTERFLIES  
 TOLERATES DROUGHT  
 TOLERATES DROUGHT, BUT MAY YELLOW AND DROOP  
 WILL NOT SURVIVE EXTENDED DROUGHT