

Native Plant Lists for Polk County

Prairie/Upland Meadow



Dry to medium soils

Full sun 8 hours

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Height | Flower Color | Bloom Time | Butterflies | Hummingbirds | Songbirds | Waterfowl | Game Birds | Reptiles/Amphibians | Small Mammals | Deer |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------|--------------|------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|------------|---------------------|---------------|------|
| Grasses | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Big bluestem ° | <i>Andropogon gerardii</i> | 3-8' | NA | NA | | | • | | • | • | • | • |
| Blue grama* | <i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> | 1-2' | NA | NA | | | • | | • | | | • |
| Bottlebrush grass | <i>Elymus hystrix</i> | 3' | NA | NA | | | | | | | | |
| Canada wild rye | <i>Elymus canadensis</i> | 3-6' | NA | NA | • | | | | | | • | • |
| Indian grass ° | <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> | 3-6' | NA | NA | • | | • | | • | | | |
| June grass* | <i>Koeleria macrantha</i> | 1-2' | NA | NA | | | | | | | | • |
| Little bluestem* | <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> | 2-3' | NA | NA | • | | • | | | | | • |
| Needle grass* | <i>Stipa spartea</i> | 3-4' | NA | NA | | | • | | | | • | • |
| Prairie dropseed* | <i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i> | 2-4' | NA | NA | | | • | | • | | • | • |
| Side oats grama* | <i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i> | 2-3' | NA | NA | | | • | | • | | | • |
| Wildflowers | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Anise hyssop* | <i>Agastache foeniculum</i> | 2-4' | Lavender | June-Oct | • | | | | | | | |
| Bergamot* ° | <i>Monarda fistulosa</i> | 2-4' | Lavender | July-Aug | • | • | | • | | | | • |
| Black-eyed susan* | <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> | 1-3' | Yellow | June-Oct | • | | | | | | | |
| Bush clover* | <i>Lespedeza capitata</i> | 3-4' | Green | July-Oct | | | • | | • | | | • |
| Butterfly weed* | <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> | 2-3' | Orange | June-Sept | • | | | | | | | |
| Canada milk vetch | <i>Astragalus canadensis</i> | 2-3' | White | June-Aug | | | | | • | | • | • |
| Dotted mint | <i>Monarda punctata</i> | 1-3' | Lavender | June-Sept | • | | | | | | | |
| False sunflower* ° | <i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i> | 2-5' | Yellow | June-Oct | • | | | | | | | |
| Fireweed | <i>Epilobium angustifolium</i> | 2-6' | Pink | June-Aug | • | • | | | | | • | |
| Frost aster ° | <i>Aster pilosus</i> | 1-3' | White | Aug-Oct | • | | • | • | • | | • | • |
| Harebell* ° | <i>Campanula rotundifolia</i> | 4-20" | Purple | June-Sept | | • | | | | | | |
| Heath aster | <i>Aster ericoides</i> | 6-36" | White | Aug-Oct | • | | • | • | • | | • | • |
| Heart-leaf golden alexander | <i>Zizia aptera</i> | 1-3' | Yellow | May-June | • | | | | | | | |
| Hoary vervain* | <i>Verbena stricta</i> | 2-3' | Blue | June-Sept | • | | • | | | | • | |

° = Clay tolerant

* = Best for driest sites

NA = Not Applicable – no flowers or inconspicuous flowers

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|----------|-----------|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|---|---|
| Lance-leaf coreopsis* | <i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i> | 2-3' | Yellow | June-Aug | • | | | | | | | • | • |
| Leadplant* | <i>Amorpha canescens</i> | 2-3' | Blue | June-July | • | | • | | | | | • | • |
| Lupine* | <i>Lupinus perennis</i> | 1-2' | Blue | May-July | • | | | | | | | • | • |
| Pale purple coneflower ° | <i>Echinacea pallida</i> | 2-3' | Lavender | July-Aug | • | | | | | | | | |
| Pasque flower* | <i>Anemone patens</i> | 2-14" | Lavender | Mar-May | | | | | | | | | |
| Prairie coreopsis | <i>Coreopsis palmata</i> | 1-2' | Yellow | June-Oct | • | | | | | | | • | • |
| Prairie phlox | <i>Phlox pilosa</i> | 1-2' | Pink | May-June | • | | | | | | | • | • |
| Prairie sage* | <i>Artemisia ludoviciana</i> | 2-3' | White | July-Oct | | | • | | | | | • | |
| Prairie smoke* | <i>Geum triflorum</i> | 6-13" | Red | May-June | | | | | | | | | |
| Prairie violet | <i>Viola pedatifida</i> | 6-8" | Blue | May-June | • | | • | | • | | | • | |
| Pearly everlasting* | <i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i> | 1-2' | White | June-Aug | | | | | | | | | |
| Purple prairie clover* | <i>Dalea purpurea</i> | 1-3' | Purple | May-Sept | • | | | | | | | • | • |
| Rough blazing star* ° | <i>Liatris aspera</i> | 2-3' | Purple | Aug-Sept | • | | | | | | | • | • |
| Showy goldenrod ° | <i>Solidago speciosa</i> | 2-4' | Yellow | Aug-Oct | • | | • | | • | | | • | • |
| Smooth blue aster | <i>Aster laevis</i> | 2-3' | Blue | Aug-Oct | • | | • | | • | | | • | • |
| Sky blue aster | <i>Aster oolentangiensis</i> | 1-4' | Blue | Aug-Oct | • | | • | | • | | | • | • |
| Spike lobelia* | <i>Lobelia spicata</i> | 8-40" | Lavender | June-Aug | • | | | | | | | | • |
| Stiff goldenrod ° | <i>Solidago rigida</i> | 1-5' | Yellow | Aug-Sept | • | | • | | • | | | • | • |
| Upland white aster | <i>Solidago ptarmicoides</i> | 1-2' | White | June-Sept | | | • | | • | | | • | • |
| Western sunflower* | <i>Helianthus occidentalis</i> | 2-3' | Yellow | June-Sept | | | • | | • | | | • | • |
| White prairie clover* | <i>Dalea candida</i> | 1-3' | White | May-Sept | • | | | | | | | • | • |
| Yarrow* ° | <i>Achillea millefolium</i> | 2-3' | White | June-July | | | | | • | | | • | |
| Shrubs | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| New Jersey tea* | <i>Ceanothus americanus</i> | 1-3' | White | May-June | | | | | | | | • | |
| Prairie rose | <i>Rosa arkansana</i> | 2-3' | Pink | June-Aug | | | • | | • | | | • | • |

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Selected Species

Prairie/Upland Meadow



Dry to medium soils

Full sun 8 hours



Big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*)



Bottlebrush grass (*Elymus hystrix*)



Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)



Little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scorparium*)



Side oats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*)



Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)



Black eyed susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)



False sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*)



Fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*)



Heart leaf golden alexander (*Zizia aptera*)



Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*)



Prairie coreopsis (*Coreopsis palmata*)







| | | |
|--|---|--|
|  <p>Prairie phlox (<i>Phlox pilosa</i>)</p> |  <p>Pearly everlasting (<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>)</p> |  <p>Purple prairie clover (<i>Dalea purpurea</i>)</p> |
|  <p>Rough blazing star (<i>Liatris aspera</i>)</p> |  <p>Smooth blue aster (<i>Aster laevis</i>)</p> |  <p>Sky blue aster (<i>Aster oolentangiensis</i>)</p> |

Photo Source: "Wisconsin Botanical Information System" UW Madison Wisconsin State Herbarium

Wildlife information sources:

Craven, Scott R. and Edward R. Hasselkus. *Landscape Plants that Attract Birds*. University of Wisconsin Extension.

Martin, Alexander C. et.al., *American Wildlife and Plants, a Guide to Wildlife Food Habits; the Use of Trees, Shrubs, Weeds, and Herbs by Birds and Mammals in the United States*. 1951.

Shaw, Daniel and Rusty Schmidt. *Plant Species Selection for the Upper Midwest*. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. 2003.

Connecticut Botanical Society web site: www.ct-botanicalsociety.org

Illinois Wildflowers web site: www.illinoiswildflowers.info

NPIN: Native Plant Database: www.wildflower.org