





















































The Little Garden Club of Wilmette©
 Pocket PrairieSM Plant Companion Guide

PP*	Picture	Common Name	Size	Propagation	Purpose	Soil / Light	Flower Color	Blooms (Apr - Oct)						
								A	M	J	J	A	S	O
Sunnyside Up Pocket PrairieSM Gardens														
SU HH SL C 		Wild Geranium[^] (<i>Geranium maculatum</i>)	12"	- Self seeds - Easily divided - Rhizomatous	- Host: Geranium Bud-worm & Whitemarked Tussock Moth - Nectar/pollen/seeds	 	-Purple - Red fall foliage							
SU C 		Lanceleaf(leaved) Coreopsis[^] or Tickseed (<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>) Note: Vigorous spread -Deer resistant	24"	Perennial	- Host: Wavy-lined Emerald moth - Nectar/pollen/seeds	 	Yellow							
SU 		Butterfly Weed[^] (<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>) - Best in full sun - Loved by many adult butterflies & gold finches	24"- 36"	- Slow self-seeding (lacks the "milk" of other <i>Asclepias</i>)	- Host: Monarch butterfly & Milkweed Tussock moth - Nectar/pollen/seeds	 	Orange/ Red							
SU AC 		Sullivant's Milkweed[^] a/k/a Prairie Milkweed (<i>Asclepias sullivantii</i>) - Taller than target plants	36" - 60"	- Rhizomatous - Less aggressive than common milkweed	- Host: Monarch butterfly & Milkweed Tussock m - Nectar/pollen/seeds - Favorite of humming-birds, & bees	 	- Fragrant Pink - Red central vein on leaves							
SU AC 		Swamp or Rose Milkweed[^] (<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>) - Taller than target plants - Rain garden plant	48"	- Reseeds	- Host: Monarch & Swallowtail butterflies - Nectar/pollen/seeds	 	Pink to Rose - vanilla fragrance							
SU HH C 		Purple Cone Flower[^] (<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>) - Deer resistant - Favorite of Goldfinches	24"- 36"	- Perennial - Self-seeds - Easily divided	- Host: Silvery Checkerspot butterfly - Caterpillars overwinter at base - Nectar/pollen/seeds	 	Golden Red- Purple							

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SU HH C 		Dotted Blazing Star ^ <i>(Liatris punctata)</i> - Threatened	24"	- Perennial - Self-seeds - Easily divided	- Host: Rare Glorious Flower Moth - Attracts hummingbirds & Hummingbird moths - Nectar/pollen/seeds	 	Rose-lavender - Speckled Leaves									
SU 		Dwarf Blazing Star ^ <i>(Liatris cylindracea)</i> - True Illinois native - Threatened	12"- 18"	- Perennial - Self-seeds - Easily divided	- Host: Rare Glorious Flower Moth - Attracts hummingbirds & Hummingbird moths - Nectar/pollen/seeds	 	Rose/Purple - Speckled Leaves									
SU HH SL 		Aromatic Aster ^ <i>(Aster oblongifolius)</i> - Foliage is aromatic - Avoid hybrids - they tend to be taller	12" - 24"	- Perennial (Native of Illinois) - Rhizomatous	- Host: Silvery Checkerspot butterfly & moth species - Nectar/pollen/seeds	 	Blue/ Purple									
SU HH 		Showy Goldenrod ^ <i>(Solidago speciosa)</i> - Not a source of hay fever - Aggressive with watering - Deer resistant	24"- 36"	- Perennial - Rhizomatous - Easily divided	- Host: Goldenrod Flower moth - Attracts goldfinches & some woodpeckers - Nectar/pollen/seeds	 	Yellow									
Half & Half Pocket PrairieSM Gardens																
HH SL		Virginia Bluebells <i>(Mertensia virginica)</i> - Spring Ephemeral - Threatened species	12"- 24"	- Self seeds - Easily divided	- Early Nectar/pollen - Early visual interest	 	Blue									
HH SL		Celandine Poppy <i>(Stylophorum diphyllum)</i> - Mostly dormant by summer - Critter Resistant	12"	- Self seeds (ants assist)	- Early Nectar/pollen/seeds - Early visual interest - Threatened species	 	Yellow									

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*Pocket Prairies: SU=Sunnyside up; HH=Half Half; SL=Shady Lady; C=Container 2 of 6























Photos courtesy of Prairie Moon Nursery

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HH 		Golden Alexanders[^] (<i>Zizia aurea</i>)	18" - 36"	- Slow self-seeding	- Host: Ozark Woodland & Black Swallowtail butterflies - Nectar/pollen/seeds		Yellow							
HH		Midland Shooting Star (<i>Dodecatheon meadia</i>) - Spring Ephemeral - Threatened species	12"	- Self seeds - Easily divided	- Early pollen - Early visual interest - Attractive seed heads		Pink, white, lavender							
HH 		Prairie Phlox[^], Downy Phlox[^] (<i>Phlox pilosa</i>)	12" - 24"	- Perennial	- Host: Sphinx, Phlox & Hummingbird Hawk moths - Nectar/pollen/seeds		Eye Popping Pink - Red fall foliage							
HH 		Bradbury's Bee Balm or Monarda[^] (<i>Monarda bradburiana</i>) - Deer resistant	12" - 24"	- Self seeds - Easily divided	- Host: Gray Hairstreak butterfly & Hermit Sphinx moth - Nectar/pollen/seeds		- Eye-popping Pink - Purple foliage							
HH 		Orange Cone Flower[^] (<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>) - Do not confuse w. Black-eyed Susans	36"	- Perennial - Self-seeds - Easily divided	- Host: Pearl Crescent butterfly - Attract gold finches - Nectar/pollen/seeds		Yellow-Orange							
HH 		Blackeyed Susan[^] (<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>) - Can be a bit aggressive	18" - 24"	- Biennial - Self-seeds	- Host: Pearl Crescent, Silvery Checkerspot butterflies - Nectar/pollen/seeds		Yellow							

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HH C 		Blue Stem Goldenrod[^] <i>(Solidago caesia)</i> - Well behaved woodland species - Does not cause hay fever	36"	- Loose clump forming	- Nectar/pollen/seeds at key time of year - Attracts woodpeckers - Winter interest from bluish stems	 	Yellow									
Shady Lady Pocket PrairieSM Gardens																
SL 		Woodland Phlox a/k/a Wild Blue Phlox[^] <i>(Phlox divaricata)</i> - Deer but not rabbit resistant	12" - 15"	- Rhizomatous	- Host: Sphinx, Phlox & Hummingbird Hawk moths - Attracts humming birds - Nectar/seeds	 	Deep Blue									
SL 		Bride's Feathers/ Goatsbeard <i>(Aruncus dioicus)</i> - Can become tall <i>Courtesy Missouri Botanical Garden)</i>	24" - 60"	- Self seeds - Easily divided	- Host: Dusky Azure Butterfly - Early Nectar/pollen - Early visual interest	 	Pink, white, lavender									
SL		Solomon's Seal <i>(Polygonatum biflorim)</i>	12" - 36"	- Self seeds - Easily divided	- Early Pollen/nectar/ black berries in fall - Early visual interest	 	Greenish White									
SL		Canadian Wild Ginger <i>(Asarum canadense)</i>	6" - 12"	- Perennial - Easily divided - Rhizomatous	Alternative to hosta in shady areas	 	Dark red/ brown (hidden under its leaves)									
Sunny Container Pocket PrairieSM Gardens																
C 		Purple Poppymallow <i>(Callirhoe involucrata)</i> - Nectar for foliage protecting insects, like ants & ladybird beetles	6" - 12"	- Self-seeding - Long tap root makes it difficult to transplant	- Host: Grey Hairstreak butterfly - Nectar/pollen/seeds	 	Showy pink or deep magenta									

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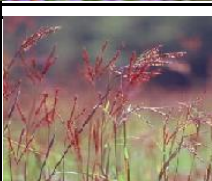






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C		Prairie Alumroot <i>(Heuchera richardsonii)</i>	24"	- Perennial	- Nectar/pollen/seeds - Attracts butterflies & bees	☹☹☹ ☹☹	- Cream to Green - Tall flower stalk (3') - orange tip									
Native Grasses																
SU C		Prairie Drop Seed <i>(Sporobolus heterolepis)</i> - Native Americans ground its seeds for flour	36"	- Tussock-forming - Slow to establish & reseed	- Seeds - Warm weather grass - Winter interest - golden hued	☹☹☹ ☹☹	Green -Coppery pink in winter									
SU 		Switch Grass <i>(Panicum virgatum)</i> - Rain garden friendly - Black Walnut tolerant	36"- 48"	- Clump forming - Aggressive reseeder in sunny spots	- Several species of Skipper butterflies - Warm weather grass - Winter interest/seeds	☹☹☹ ☹☹	Purple tinged -Coppery pink in winter									
-HH -SL 		Bottlebrush Grass <i>(Elymus hystrix)</i> -Can be planted under Black Walnut trees - Cool season grass	30"- 48"	Clump forming	- Host: Northern pearly-eye butterfly - Winter interest - Seeds	☹☹ ☹☹☹	Pale Green -Golden Brown in fall									
HH 		River Oats <i>(Chasmanthium or Uniola latifolium[a])</i> - Attractive in floral displays	24"- 36"	Clump forming	- Host: Northern pearly-eye & Skipper butterflies - Warm weather grass - Winter interest/Seeds	☹☹☹ ☹☹	Pale Green -Golden Brown in fall									
HH C		Little Bluestem Grass <i>(Schizachyrium scoparium)</i>	36"	Reseeds in sunny spots	- Winter interest - Warm weather grass - Seeds	☹☹☹ ☹☹	Green -Coppery pink in winter									

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The Alley Cats Pocket PrairieSM Gardens															
AC C 		Blue Wild Indigo (<i>Baptisia australis</i>) - Member of pea family - Self fertilizing	48"	- Forms small shrub shape - Clump forming w. deep roots	- Host: Marine Blue Butterfly and more - Nectar for dozens of butterfly species - Winter interest - pods	 	Deep Blue								
AC 		Common Milkweed[^] (<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>) - Very fragrant - Vigorous spreader - Emerges late - mark site	36"- 60"	- Hard to transplant - Rhizomatous & reseeds	- Host: Monarch butterfly - Nectar for dozens of butterfly species - Nectar/pollen/seeds	 	Dusty Rose/ Lavender								
AC 		Sweet Joe Pye Weed[^] (<i>Eupatorium purpureum</i>) - Vigorous spreader - Aromatic - Name: Native Am. Healer	36"- 78"	- Clump forming - Reseeds	- Host: 36 butterfly species & nectar for even more butterflies - Nectar/pollen/seeds - Winter interest	 	Dusty Rose Pink								
AC 		New England Aster[^] (<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>) - Deer resistant - Cut back in spring for compact plants	48"- 60"	- Aggressive reseeder	- Host: Silvery Checkerspot butterfly - Nectar/pollen/seeds	 	Deep purple - Lower leaves naturally dry up								
AC 		Big Bluestem (<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>) - Provides sense of place	36"- 84"	- Aggressive reseeder	Host: Skipper Butterfly - Pollen/seeds - Warm weather grass - Winter interest - Screening	 	Bronze to Brown								
AC 		Indian Grass (<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>)	60"- 72"	- Aggressive reseeder	Host: Skipper Butterfly - Pollen/seeds - Warm weather grass - Winter interest - Screening	 	Bronze to Brown								

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