

Agastache foeniculum

Common Name: Anise Hyssop

Plant Type: biennial to short lived perennial

Family: Lamiaceae

Height: 2-3½' feet

Bloom Time: June, July, August, September

Bloom Color: Purple

Sun: Sun to part shade

Water: Mesic, Dry Mesic

Anise Hyssop is in the Mint family and produces many showy purple flower spikes over fragrant, dark green foliage. Excellent for semi-shaded spots or in full sun, this biennial will reproduce readily by itself once established. The leaves and flowers emit a strong licorice odor when crushed and can be used in cooking and for tea. The flowers are cross-pollinated primarily by honeybees, bumblebees, digger bees, leaf-cutting bees, Halictid bees, and Masked bees, which seek nectar or pollen. Other occasional floral visitors are hummingbirds and various butterflies, skippers, and moths. Mammalian herbivores normally avoid consumption of this plant as the anise scent of the foliage is repugnant to them.



Agastache scrophulariifolia

also seen as *Agastache scrophulariaefolia*

Common Name: Giant Blue hyssop

Plant Type: Herbaceous perennial

Family: Lamiaceae

Height: 2 to 5 feet

Spread: 1 to 1.5 feet

Bloom Time: July - September

Bloom Color: white to lavender

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Medium

This plant is attractive to long-tongued bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. *Agastache* will provide feathered pollinators a feast; they are such favorites of hummingbirds that if you take a nursery pot with an *Agastache* blooming, and set it on a table, the hummingbird will find its way to the feast in no time.



Asclepias syriaca

Common Name: Common milkweed

Family: Asclepiadaceae

Height: 2 to 3 feet

Spread: 1 to 1.5 feet

Bloom Time: June - August

Bloom Color: Pink, mauve, white

Sun: Full sun

Water: Dry to medium

Common milkweed is a rough, weedy native

perennial which commonly occurs in fields, open woods, waste areas, roadsides and along railroad tracks throughout the State. Domed, slightly drooping clusters (umbels) of fragrant, pinkish-purple flowers appear mostly in the upper leaf axils over a long bloom period from late spring well into summer. Stems and leaves exude a milky sap when cut or bruised. Flowers give way to prominent, warty seed pods which split open when ripe releasing their numerous silky-tailed seeds for dispersal by the wind. Flowers are a nectar source for many butterflies and leaves are a food source for monarch butterfly larvae (caterpillars). Somewhat weedy and can spread. This plant is considered by many gardeners to be too vigorous and weedy for borders.



Asclepias tuberosa

Common Name: Butterfly weed

Family: Asclepiadaceae

Height: 1 to 2.5 feet

Spread: 1 to 1.5 feet

Bloom Time: June - August

Bloom Color: Yellow/orange

Sun: Full sun to light partial shade

Water: Dry to medium

Plants are somewhat slow to establish and may take 2-3 years to produce flowers. Butterfly

weed does not transplant well due to its deep taproot and is probably best left undisturbed once established. Excellent host plant for Monarchs; adults nectar and lay eggs on the underside of leaves caterpillars feed on the leaves. Uses: Butterfly gardens, meadows, prairies, or naturalized/native plant areas. Also effective in sunny borders. Whether massing plants in large drifts or sprinkling them throughout a prairie or meadow, butterfly weed is one of our showiest native wildflowers.



Asclepias verticillata

Common Name: Whorled milkweed

Family: Asclepiadaceae

Height: 1 to 1.5 feet

Spread: .5 feet

Bloom Time: June - August

Bloom Color: white

Sun: Full sun

Water: Dry to medium

This milkweed blooms later than most milkweeds and is good at attracting butterflies. The preference is full sun and dry conditions - poor, sterile soil is actually preferred because this reduces competition. The flower nectar attracts long-tongued bees, short-tongued bees, wasps, flies, butterflies, skippers, and beetles. Monarch caterpillars feed on the foliage and flowers. The Yellow Milkweed Aphid sucks juices from the upper stems and leaves and often attracts ants, which feed on their honeydew, as well as Ladybird Beetles and Green Lacewings, which feed on the aphids themselves. Mammalian herbivores avoid this plant because of the bitter white latex, which is poisonous. Whorled Milkweed is among the most poisonous of milkweeds, containing a high concentration of cardiac glycosides.



Aster laevis

Common Name: Smooth Aster

Plant Type: Herbaceous perennial

Family: Asteraceae (Aster Family)

Height: 1 ½ to 3 ft

Bloom Time: late summer early fall

Bloom Color: light lavender -light blue

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: dry to medium

The nectar and pollen of the flowers attract honeybees, bumblebees, cuckoo bees, digger bees, leaf-cutting bees, Halictid bees., Andrenid bees, Sphecic wasps, Syrphid flies, Muscid flies, butterflies, and skippers. Other insects feed destructively on the leaves, flowers, and other parts of Smooth Blue Aster. These species include a leaf beetle, larvae of a leaf-mining fly, larvae of the Papery Blister Gall Midge, the Short-winged Meadow Katydid, and caterpillars of a butterfly, the Pearl Crescent. The Wild Turkey feeds on both the leaves and seeds of asters. The Tree Sparrow and White-footed Mouse also eat the seeds. The young foliage of these plants is browsed occasionally by various mammalian herbivores, including deer, rabbits, groundhogs, horses, cattle, and sheep.



Symphotrichum oolentangiense

Common Name: Sky Blue Aster, Azure Aster

Family: Aster family (Asteraceae)

Height: 1½-3'

Spread: 1½-2'

Bloom Time: September to October

Bloom Color: Blue rays w/ yellow centers

Sun: Full sun

Water: Dry to medium



This plant is rather indifferent to soil characteristics - it can flourish in soil that is loamy, sandy, rocky, or contains clay. It is easy to grow and drought resistant. The nectar and pollen of the flowers attract bumblebees, digger bees, leaf-cutting bees, Halictid bees, Andrenid bees, Syrphid flies, bee flies, butterflies, skippers, miscellaneous beetles, and other insects. Larvae of the Silvery Checkerspot (above) and Pearl Crescent feed on asters, as do larvae of the Aster Borer Moth. The Ruffed Grouse and Wild Turkey browse on the leaves and seeds of asters; the Tree Sparrow also eats the seeds during the winter. The Cottontail Rabbit and White-Tailed Deer browse on the foliage, while the White-footed Mouse eats the seeds.

Symphotrichum novae-angliae

(Formerly *Aster novae-angliae*)

Common Name: New England Aster

Family: Asteraceae

Height: 3 to 6 feet

Spread: 2 to 3 feet

Bloom Time: August - September

Bloom Color: Deep pink-purple to rose

Sun: Full sun

Water: Medium

Pinching back stems before mid-July will help control plant height, and promote bushiness. Easily grown from seed and may self-seed in the garden in optimum growing conditions. Plants may be cut to the ground after flowering to prevent any unwanted self-seeding and/or if foliage has become unsightly. New England aster occurs in moist prairies, meadows, thickets, low valleys and stream banks throughout the state. Flowers are attractive to Andrenid bees, sweat bees, small carpenter bees, bumble bees, and butterflies.



Aster oblongifolius, *Symphyotrichum oblongifolium*

Common Name: Aromatic Aster, Shale Barren Aster, Blue Cliff Aster

Family: Asteraceae (Aster Family)

Height: 1-2 feet

Spread: 1.5 to 2.5 feet

Bloom Time: August-Sept.

Bloom Color: Pink to lavender-blue

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Dry to medium



This aster has attractive flowers and is fairly easy to cultivate in a sunny rock garden and similar areas. A robust perennial with a shrubby appearance. Prolific blooms into late fall. Many insects visit the flowers, including long-tongued bees, short-tongued bees, small to medium-sized butterflies, and skippers. Many kinds of insects feed on the foliage and other parts of asters, including the caterpillars of the Silvery Checkerspot (above) and many moth species. The Wild Turkey and possibly other upland gamebirds eat the seeds and foliage to a limited extent. Mammalian herbivores occasionally eat the foliage of asters, even though their food value is low. Pinch back stems in June/July to keep plant compact.

Carex bicknellii

State listed as Threatened in Ohio.

Common Name: Bicknell's Sedge

Family: Cyperaceae

Height: 1½-2½ ft.

Bloom Time: May-June

Sun: full sun

Water: medium to dry conditions



Sometimes referred to as the *Prairie Sedge*,

the plant inhabits moist to dry prairies, hill prairies, barren rocky areas with scant vegetation, thinly wooded slopes, and savannas, usually higher quality natural habitats. Various kinds of soil are tolerated, including loam and clay-loam. Most growth occurs during the spring or early summer. Bicknell's Sedge and other sedges that occupy open upland areas are host plants to the Red-legged Grasshopper, Large-headed Grasshopper and other grasshoppers. Ring-Necked Pheasant, Horned Lark, Savannah Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Tree Sparrow, Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspur, and Slate-Colored Junco eat the seeds. This sedge adapts to cultivation in a sunny garden, but it resents competition from tall broad-leaved forbs.

Coreopsis lanceolata

Common Name: Lance leaved *Coreopsis*

Family: Aster family (Asteraceae)

Height: 1½-3 feet

Spread: 2 to 3 feet

Bloom Time: June-July

Bloom Color: yellow

Sun: Full sun- part shade

Water: Dry to Medium

This plant often forms colonies by reseeding itself. Goldfinches flock to the plant before the seeds mature, making this a wonderful plant for attracting them to your garden. The nectar and pollen of the flowers attract many kinds of insect visitors, including long-tongued bees, short-tongued bees, wasps, flies, butterflies, skippers, day-flying moths, and beetles. The larvae of moths such as the Dimorphic Gray, Wavy-lined Emerald, and Common Tan Wave feed on the flowers. Mammalian herbivores occasionally browse on the foliage of *Coreopsis* spp., including rabbits, groundhogs, deer, horses, and livestock. Because of the showy flowers and ease of cultivation, Lance leaved *Coreopsis* is often grown in flower gardens.



Eupatorium altissimum

Common Name: Tall Boneset

Plant Type: Herbaceous perennial

Family: Aster family (Asteraceae)

Height: 3-4' tall

Spread: 2-3 feet

Bloom Time: July- September

Bloom Color: white

Sun: full to partial sun

Water: medium to dry

Tall Boneset habitats include dry black soil prairies, clay prairies, gravel prairies, savannas, thickets, openings in upland forests, dry banks of lakes, limestone glades, pastures and abandoned fields, fence rows, vacant lots, and areas along railroads. This plant favors disturbed areas, where it may form large colonies. The nectar or pollen of the flowers attracts many kinds of insects, including bees, flies, wasps, butterflies, and beetles. The caterpillars of various moth species are known to feed on various parts of Boneset, including Clymene Moth, Lined Ruby Tiger Moth and Three-Lined Flower Moth. The small seeds appear to be of little interest to birds and other fauna, although they are occasionally eaten by the Swamp Sparrow.



Eryngium yuccifolium

Potentially threatened in Ohio

Common Name: Rattlesnake Master

Family: Apiaceae

Height: 4 to 5 feet

Spread: 2 to 3 feet

Bloom Time: June - September

Bloom Color: Greenish-white

Sun: Full sun

Water: Dry to medium

The flowers attract many kinds of insects, including long-tongued bees, short-tongued bees, wasps, flies, butterflies, skippers, moths, beetles, and plant bugs.

These insects usually seek nectar, although some of the bees may collect pollen for their brood nests. The coarse foliage and prickly balls of flowers are not popular as a source of food with mammalian herbivores, although they may nibble off the ends of the leaves.



Heliopsis helianthoides

Common Name: Ox-eye sunflower, false sunflower

Family: Asteraceae

Height: 3 to 6 feet

Spread: 2.5 to 3 feet

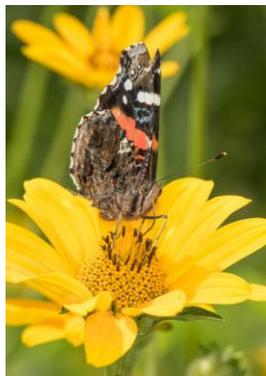
Bloom Time: July - September

Bloom Color: yellow

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Dry to medium

Ox-eye has many 2 to 3-inch golden yellow flowers that are beautiful when used in floral arrangements. This is an



exceptionally long-blooming flower for the cutting garden. False Sunflower is accented well in a butterfly garden or prairie meadow when planted with coneflowers, blazing stars, Asters, and prairie grasses. Ox-eye Sunflowers attract nectar-seeking butterflies and birds enjoy the ripe seeds. This species tolerates both severe winters and hot summers well. Best in part shade to sunny areas of wildflower gardens, native plant gardens, woodland gardens or cottage gardens. Can also be grown as borders.

Hypoxis hirsuta

Common Name: Yellow Star Grass

Plant Type: Herbaceous perennial

Family: Liliaceae

Height: 6-12 inches

Bloom Time: April-June

Bloom Color: yellow

Sun: full to partial sun

Water: moist to slightly dry conditions



This small native perennial plant consists of a rosette of slender basal leaves and shorter flowering stems. This dainty wildflower is easily overlooked, except when it's in bloom. Habitats include mesic black soil prairies, hill prairies, savannas, open woodlands and paths through woodlands, fens, sandstone glades, abandoned fields, and lawns. Like *Claytonia virginica* (Spring Beauty), Yellow Star Grass can spread into lawns if mowing is delayed until late in the spring. The flowers attract small bees primarily, including Little Carpenter bees, Mason bees, and Halictine bees. These insects collect pollen and are usually females. Other insect visitors include Syrphid flies and beetles, which feed on pollen. Cross-pollination is required for fertile seeds.

Liatris aspera

Common Name: Rough blazing star

Family: Asteraceae

Height: 2 to 4 feet

Spread: 1 to 1 1/2 feet

Bloom Time: August to October

Bloom Description: Rose Purple

Sun: Full sun

Water: Dry to medium



Features rounded, fluffy, deep rose-purple flower heads which are crowded into long, terminal flower spikes atop erect, rigid, leafy flower stalks. Primarily long-tongued bees, butterflies, skippers, and bee flies visit the flowers. Among the long-tongued bees, this includes honeybees, bumblebees, Little Carpenter bees, Miner bees, and Leaf-Cutting bees. Butterfly visitors include Monarchs, Painted Ladies, Black Swallowtails, Sulfurs, and others. Other visitors include Green Metallic bees and other Halictine bees. The latter bees collect pollen primarily and are not effective pollinators. Mammalian herbivores, large and small, readily eat the foliage and stems, including rabbits, deer, groundhogs, and livestock. Sometimes small rodents will dig up the corms and eat them.

Lobelia siphilitica

Common Name: **Great Blue Lobelia**

Family: Campanulaceae

Height: 2 to 3 feet

Spread: 1 to 1.5 feet

Bloom Time: July - September

Bloom Color: Blue

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Medium to wet

Will tolerate full sun in cool, northern climates, but otherwise



appreciates part shade. Pollinators attracted include yellow-faced bees, sweat bees, small carpenter bees, and bumble bees. Provides late summer bloom to the perennial border, wild garden, native plant garden, woodland garden or naturalized planting. Also effective near ponds or streams. Great Blue Lobelia produces violet-blue flowers during late summer or early fall, when forbs with yellow flowers are typically dominant.

Oenothera biennis

Common Name: **Evening primrose**

Family: Onagraceae

Height: 3 to 5 feet

Spread: 2 to 3 feet

Bloom Time: June to September

Bloom Color: yellow

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Medium



In the first year, this biennial produces a basal rosette and in the second year, a stiffly-upright, rough-hairy, purple-tinged flower stem, with spirally arranged leaves rises from the center of the rosette, topped by a showy summer to fall bloom of lemon yellow flowers. Moths pollinate the flowers, particularly Sphinx moths. Other occasional visitors include the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird, honeybees, bumblebees, and Primrose Miner Bee. These insects seek nectar, although some of the bees collect pollen. The caterpillars of several moths feed on the foliage. This includes Pearly Wood Nymph, Grape Leaf folder Moth, White-Lined Sphinx, and Momphid Moth. Various beetles feed on the foliage. The seeds are eaten by goldfinches.

Oenothera pilosella

Common Name: Prairie Sundrops

Family: Evening Primrose family (Onagraceae)

Height: 2-3 feet

Spread: .5 to 1.5 feet

Bloom Time: May-July

Bloom Color: yellow

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: moist to medium

The flowers are pollinated by long-tongued bees, butterflies, and skippers. Halictid bees and Syrphid flies often visit the flowers, but they are

attracted by the abundant pollen and cannot be considered highly effective at pollination. Among the long-tongued bees, are such visitors as Little Carpenter bees and large Leaf-Cutting bees, which suck nectar or collect pollen. This lovely plant should be grown more often. During the 19th century, this was a more popular garden plant, but it has since passed from favor and is not widely available.



Parthenium integrifolium

Common Name: Wild Quinine

Family: Asteraceae

Height: 2-4' tall

Spread: 0.75 to 1.5 feet

Bloom Time: April - June

Bloom Color: White tinged with pink

Sun: Full sun to light shade

Water: medium to dry

The flowers attract Halictine bees, wasps, flies, beetles, and plant bugs. The beetles usually feed on pollen, while the other insects seek nectar primarily. The fly visitors include Syrphid flies, Tachinid flies, Flesh flies, Muscid flies, Anthomyiid flies, and others. Wasp visitors

include Crabronine wasps, Eumenine wasps, Cuckoo wasps, Braconid wasps, and others.

Mammalian herbivores appear to ignore this plant as a food source because the leaves are sandpaperly in texture and bitter tasting.



Penstemon hirsutus

Common Name: Hairy Beardtongue

Family: Snapdragon family
(Scrophulariaceae)

Height: 1-3 feet

Spread: 1-2 feet

Bloom Time: June-July

Bloom Color: pale purple

Sun: full to partial sun

Water: dry to medium



The tubular flowers of this plant attract long-tongued bees, including honeybees, bumblebees, Anthophorine bees, Miner bees, Mason bees, and large Leaf-Cutting bees. Butterflies, Sphinx moths, and hummingbirds may visit the flowers. The caterpillars of the Chalcedony Midget moth feed on the foliage of this and other beardtongues. There have been reports that the caterpillars of the Baltimore butterfly feed on the foliage of beardtongues. It is probably one of the easiest *Penstemon* to grow east of the Mississippi river. The flowers are quite showy, and the blooming period is rather long for an early season plant.

Penstemon digitalis

Common Name: Foxglove Penstemon

Family: Snapdragon family (Scrophulariaceae)

Height: 3-3.5 feet

Spread: 1 to 2 foot

Bloom Time: May-June

Bloom Color: white

Sun: full to partial sun

Water: medium



The tubular flowers of this plant attract long-tongued bees, including honeybees, bumblebees, Anthophorine bees, Miner bees, Mason bees, and large Leaf-Cutting bees. Butterflies, Sphinx moths, and hummingbirds may visit the flowers. The caterpillars of the Chalcedony Midget moth feed on the foliage of this and other beardtongues. There have been reports that the caterpillars of the Baltimore butterfly feed on the foliage of beardtongues. This is probably the easiest *Penstemon* to grow east of the Mississippi river. The flowers are quite showy, and the blooming period is rather long for an early season plant.

Pycnanthemum incanum

Common Name: Hoary Mountain Mint

Family: Lamiaceae (Mint Family)

Height: 2-4 ft. tall

Spread: 4 ft.

Bloom Time: July to September

Bloom Color: white (sometimes lavender-tinged)

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Dry to medium

The minty-smelling plants have terminal flower clusters composed of numerous, small, two-lipped corollas varying from whitish to lavender, with purple spots. The genus name derives from the Greek for dense and flower and aptly describes the crowded flower clusters. These plants, particularly the flower clusters, have a very strong odor when crushed and the flowers are favored by bees, butterflies, moths, and some species of wasps. A vigorous and often aggressive grower, this plant spreads by long rhizomes. It prefers rocky, gravelly or sandy soil, and typically grows in woods, thickets, fields, and hills, presumably the origin of its common name of Mountain mint.



Pycnanthemum pilosum

Common Name: Hairy Mountain Mint

Plant Type: perennial

Family: Lamiaceae

Height: 2-4'

Bloom color: white or pinkish color with purple spots

Bloom Time: mid to late summer

Sun: full sun to partial sun

Water: moist to slightly dry

The nectar-rich flowers are very attractive to many kinds of insects, including honeybees, cuckoo bees, leaf-cutting bees, Halictid bees, Halictid cuckoo bees, thread-waisted wasps, the Great Golden Digger Wasp, the Black Grasshopper Wasp, bee wolves, paper wasps, Eumenine wasps, Syrphid flies, bee flies, Thick-headed flies, Tachinid flies, small- to medium-sized butterflies, and skippers. The mountain mints are listed on many "Top Ten Plants for Pollinators" lists. Mountain Mint is loaded with pulegone, the same insect repellent found in pennyroyal. It can be rubbed on the skin to repel mosquitoes! Some authorities refer to this plant as *Pycnanthemum verticillatum* var. *pilosum*.



Pycnanthemum virginianum

Common Name: American or Virginia mountain mint

Family: Lamiaceae

Height: 2 to 3 feet

Spread: 1 to 1.5 feet

Bloom Time: July - September

Bloom Color: White

Sun: Full sun

Water: Medium

The common name of mountain mint for this native plant is somewhat misleading since the plant typically occurs in moist soils in wet meadows, swamps and along streams and ponds. All parts of the plant emit a strong, mint-like aroma when crushed. White flowers attract bees, butterflies and other beneficial insects. *Pycnanthemums* have been used in teas.



Ruellia humilis

Common Name: Hairy Wild Petunia

Family: Acanthaceae

Height: 4 to 12 inches

Spread: 4 to 12 inches

Bloom Time: June-August

Bloom Color: light purple

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Medium

Wild petunia is quite adaptable, tolerating full or partial sun, moist to dry conditions, and practically any kind of soil. Under moist conditions with rich soil, however, this plant is unable to compete with taller, more aggressive plants. It has been reported that the caterpillars of the butterfly Buckeye feed on the foliage of *Ruellia* spp. Wild petunia occurs in dry soils in open woods, glades, prairies and fields. Charming, low growing clumps produce light purple tubular flowers.



Salvia azurea *naturalized in OH*

Common Name: Wild Blue Sage

Plant Type: Herbaceous perennial

Family: Lamiaceae

Height: 3 to 5 feet

Spread: 2 to 4 feet

Bloom Time: July - October

Bloom Color: Blue

Sun: Full sun

Water: Dry to medium

Bumblebees visit the flowers for nectar, Halictid bees occasionally collect pollen, but they are non-pollinating. Less often, butterflies and skippers may visit the flowers for nectar, including Silver-Spotted Skipper. The caterpillars of the Hermit Sphinx moth may feed on the foliage. This is a wonderful plant with attractive blue flowers - a pleasant alternative to the preponderance of goldenrods and asters during the fall.



Silene regia

Common Name: Royal Catchfly

(state listed as potentially threatened in Ohio)

Family: Caryophyllaceae

Height: 3 to 4 feet

Spread: 1.5 to 2 feet

Bloom Time: July - August

Bloom Color: Scarlet

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Dry to medium

Excellent drainage is essential for

growing this plant. Taller plants may need some support. The nectar of the flowers attracts the larger butterflies, such as Black Swallowtail. This species attracts the ruby throated hummingbird, and in fact requires visits by this vibrant bird in order to produce fruit and set seeds. Best in sun or part shade of wildflower gardens, native plant gardens, woodland gardens or cottage gardens. Can also be grown in borders.



Silphium asteriscus var. *trifoliatum*

Common Name: Whorled or Starry Rosinweed

Family: Asteraceae

Height: 3-5' feet

Spread: 2.5 to 3.5 feet

Bloom Time: late July through early September

Bloom Color: yellow

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Dry to medium

Ohio's whorled rosinweed is a unique northern variety of *Silphium asteriscus*, starry rosinweed, a plant in the states to the south of Ohio, including Kentucky and Tennessee. The plant appears to grow naturally only on former or existing prairies. It does not spread into non-prairie areas. The pollen and nectar of the flowers attract long-tongued bees. Some butterflies occasionally visit the flowers, including Sulphurs and Painted Ladies. Other visitors include short-tongued bees and various flies. The seeds are eaten by Goldfinches. Small herbivores, such as rabbits, are less likely to eat this plant because of its height and the coarseness of its leaves.



Sisyrinchium angustifolium

Common Name: Narrow leaf Blue-Eyed Grass

Plant Type: perennial

Family: Iris family (Iridaceae)

Height: 6 to 12 inches

Bloom Time: April to June

Bloom Color: blue violet

Sun: Full Sun, Partial Sun

Water: Dry, Moist

Forms a tidy clump of grassy

leaves, with yellow-throated blue flowers on upright stems. Especially nice in a colony of several plants. Best grown in medium moisture, well-drained soil in full sun. Tolerates light shade. Prefers consistently moist soils that do not dry out, but drainage must be good. Will freely self-seed in optimum growing conditions. Plantings may be sheared back after bloom to avoid any unwanted self-seeding and/or to tidy foliage for remaining part of the growing season. Plants may need to be divided every 2-3 years to keep plantings vigorous.



Solidago juncea

Common Name: Early Goldenrod

Family: Aster family (Asteraceae)

Height: 3 feet

Bloom Time: mid- to late summer

Bloom Color: yellow

Sun: full to partial sun

Water: mesic to slightly dry

Early Goldenrod is the earliest goldenrod to bloom in Ohio. Like other goldenrods, this plant attracts many kinds of insects to the flowers, including long-tongued and short-tongued bees, wasps, flies, butterflies, moths, and beetles, including Goldenrod Soldier Beetle. The caterpillars of many moths feed on the foliage and other parts of this goldenrod while the adults of Goldenrod Stowaway Moth like to hide in the flowers. The Eastern Goldfinch, Tree Sparrow, and Swamp Sparrow eat the seeds to a limited extent. Mammalian herbivores may feed on the foliage if little else is available, including the White-Tailed Deer, Groundhog, and Cottontail Rabbit.



Solidago nemoralis

Common Name: Gray Goldenrod

Family: Aster family (Asteraceae)

Height: 1-3'

Bloom Time: August to October

Bloom Color: yellow

Sun: full sun to partial sun

Water: moist to slightly dry conditions

This plant thrives best in soil containing sand, clay or gravel, but will flourish in fertile soil as well. It's a good choice for difficult locations, such as slopes or areas with poor soil, where little else will grow. A wide range of insects visit the flowers for pollen and nectar, including long-tongued bees, short-tongued bees, flies, butterflies, moths, and beetles. Bee visitors include honey bees, Little Carpenter bees, Halictine bees, and Plasterer bees. The seeds are eaten by Eastern Goldfinch. Mammalian herbivores, such as groundhogs, rabbits, deer, and livestock, may browse on this plant occasionally, although it is not favored by them. This is one of the smallest goldenrods, which blooms later than most. It can be distinguished from other goldenrods that occur in the prairies by the presence of winged leaflets along the central stem and small white hairs on both the stem and leaves.



Oligoneuron rigidum

Common Name: Stiff Goldenrod

Plant Type: Herbaceous perennial

Family: Asteraceae

Height: 3 to 5 feet

Spread: 1.5 to 2.5 feet

Bloom Time: August - September

Bloom Color: Yellow

Sun: Full sun

Water: Medium



The flowers attract many kinds of insects, including long-tongued bees, short-tongued bees, wasps, flies, butterflies, and beetles. Monarch butterflies are especially attracted to the flowers. The caterpillars of several species of moths feed on various parts of this and other goldenrods. Many mammalian herbivores eat this plant, including the White-Tailed Deer, Cottontail Rabbit, Muskrats, and livestock. The latter tend to leave this plant alone when there are other sources of food available.

Tradescantia ohiensis

Common Name: Ohio spiderwort

Plant Type: Herbaceous perennial

Family: Commelinaceae

Height: 2 to 3 feet

Spread: 1.5 to 2.5 feet

Bloom Time: May - July

Bloom Color: Deep blue, rose or pale blue

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Dry to medium



Easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Very tolerant of part shade, but bloom may be less profuse. Divide clumps when they become overcrowded. Cut back to 6-12" in mid-summer to encourage new growth and a possible fall bloom. The most important pollinators of the flowers are long-tongued bees, especially bumblebees. Other visitors include Halictine bees and Syrphid flies. Spiderwort is rarely bothered by insects, although Leaf Beetle sp. reportedly feeds on the foliage. Mammalian herbivores also eat the plant, including the White-Tailed Deer, Cottontail Rabbit, Box Turtles, and livestock. The foliage is non-toxic to these animals. An interesting and long-blooming perennial for the border, naturalized area, meadow or open spaces of the woodland garden.

Verbena stricta

Common Name: Hoary Vervain

Plant Type: perennial

Family: Vervain family (Verbenaceae)

Height: 2- 3½ feet

Bloom color: lavender blue

Bloom Time: mid- to late summer

Sun: full sun

Water: medium to dry

Hoary Vervain flourishes in poor soil containing some clay, sand, or gravel. In rich loamy soil, it will grow well, but has difficulty competing with other plants. Many insects are attracted to the flowers, including long-tongued bees, green metallic bees, thread-waisted wasps, bee flies, thick-headed flies, butterflies, and skippers. Insect feeders include caterpillars of the Fine-Lined Sallow moth and the Verbena Moth.

The seeds of *Verbena* spp. are eaten by various songbirds to a limited extent, including the Cardinal (winter), Slate-Colored Junco (winter), Field Sparrow, and others. It is possible that these birds help to distribute the seeds to new areas. Mammalian herbivores rarely eat Hoary Vervain because the foliage is quite hairy and bitter.



Viola sororia

Common Name: Common Blue Violet

Plant Type: Herbaceous perennial

Family: Violet family (Violaceae)

Type: Herbaceous perennial

Height: 4 inches

Spread: 6 inches

Bloom Time: June to October

Bloom Description: medium to dark violet

Sun: dappled sunlight to light shade

Water: Medium to wet

The flowers attract Mason and Halictid bees, skippers, Syrphid flies, and other insects. The caterpillars of the Diana, Variegated Fritillary (above), Aphrodite Fritillary, Meadow Fritillary, and Silver-Border Fritillary feed on the foliage. Turkey, Bobwhite, Mourning Dove, and White-Footed Mouse eat the seeds. Wild Turkeys also eat the leaves and fleshy roots of *Viola* spp. (Violets). The leaves have a tendency to turn yellowish green when exposed to full sun under dry conditions - this reaction is normal, and is not necessarily a sign of poor health. This plant is very easy to grow, and it will spread under favorable conditions. This wildflower will adapt to lawns, especially if they are not mowed too often during the spring or cut too low.

