

Native Plants Recommended for Home Butterfly Gardens in Northern Illinois

Milkweeds (essential for the monarch butterfly lifecycle)

Asclepias tuberosa (butterfly weed, orange glory)—1-2.5' orange, June/July/August

Asclepias incarnata (rose milkweed, swamp milkweed)—3-4' pink, June/July/August

Asclepias verticillata (whorled milkweed)—2' white, July/August/September

Perennials, Spring Bloom

Antennaria plantaginifolia (pussytoes)—1' white, April/May

Coreopsis lanceolata (tickseed, lanceleaf coreopsis)—1-2' yellow, May/June

Viola pedatifida (prairie violet)—0.5' purple, May/June

Viola sororia (common violet)—0.5' purple, May/June

Zizia aurea (golden Alexander)—3' yellow, May/June

Perennials, Summer Bloom

Dalea purpurea (purple prairie clover)—2' purple July/August/September

Echinacea pallida (pale purple coneflower)—2-3' pale pink, June/July

Echinacea purpurea (purple coneflower)—2-5' pink, July/August

Eupatorium purpureum or *eutrochium purpureum* (Joe Pye weed)—4-7' pink,
July/August/September

Liatris cylindracea (dwarf blazing star)—1.5-2' purple, July/August/September

Liatris pycnostachya (prairie blazing star)—3-4' purple, July/August/September

Monarda fistulosa (wild bergamot, bee balm)—2-4' lavender, July/August/September

Ratibida pinnata (yellow coneflower)—4-6' yellow June/July/August

Rudbeckia fulgida (orange coneflower)—3' light orange, July/August/September

Verbena stricta (hoary vervain)—2-4' purple, July/August/September

Veronicastrum virginicum (Culver's root)—4-5' white, July/August

Perennials, Fall Bloom

Liatris aspera (rough blazing star)—3' purple, August/September/October

Symphotrichum laeve (smooth blue aster)—4' blue, August/September/October

Symphotrichum oblongifolium (aromatic aster)—1-3', purple, August/September

Symphotrichum shortii (Short's aster)—3' blue, August/September/October

Grasses

Schizachyrium scoparium (little bluestem)—2-3'

Sporobolus heterolepis (prairie dropseed)—2'

Shrubs

Amorpha canescens (leadplant)—2-3' Bloom: June/July, purple

Ceanothus americanus (New Jersey tea)—2-4' Bloom: June/July, white

Resources

<https://illinoiswildflowers.info/>

<https://xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center>

<https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/About/Native-Plants/keystone-plants-by-ecoregion>

<https://www.mipn.org/> (Midwest Invasive Plants Network)

<https://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/>

<http://www.prairieplugs.com/>

<https://www.prairiemoon.com/>

NOTE: these are my personal recommendations, based on research and experience, and not the official recommendations of any other entity or person—Diana Swanson