Help the Monarch Butterfly journey south with these native fall bloomers

Building a Floral Highway

- Black-Eyed Susan
- Prairie Blazingstar
- Swamp Milkweed
- Wild Bergamot (Bee Balm)
- Purple Coneflower
- Cardinal Flower
- Joe-Pye Weed
- Smooth Blue Aster
Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
**Plant Characteristics:** Blooms June through August; single composite flower of dark brown disk florets surrounded by bright yellow ray florets. **Growing Conditions:** Grows 1 to 2 and half feet tall; full sun; easy to grow; short-lived biennial that spreads quickly by reseeding. **Pollinator Associations:** Bees, flies, wasps, beetles, and butterflies. Caterpillars of silvery checkerspots feed on the leaves. *Photo by: Layne Knoche, redoakraingarden.org*

Prairie Blazingstar (*Liatris pycnostachya*)
**Plant Characteristics:** Blooms July through August; large erect pink to purple spikes. **Growing Conditions:** Grows 2 to 5 feet tall; full sun; young plants do not tolerate drought; deadheading may encourage reblooming. **Pollinator Associations:** Bees, flies, moths, and butterflies. *Photo by: Layne Knoche, redoakraingarden.org*

Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)
**Plant Characteristics:** Blooms June through August; pink or white fragrant umbel shaped clusters. **Growing Conditions:** Grows 4 to 5 feet tall; full sun; wet to average drained soils, deep taproot makes transplanting difficult. **Pollinator Associations:** Bees, flies, wasps, beetles, and butterflies. *Photo by: Ryan Pankau*

Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)
**Plant Characteristics:** Blooms July through September; 3 to 4 inch ring of several tubular flowers in an array of colors from pink to red. **Growing Conditions:** Grows 2 to 3 feet tall; partial sun; moist conditions; susceptible to powdery mildew (divide every few years, in other years remove a quarter of spring growth to improve air flow); deadheading may encourage reblooming. **Pollinator Associations:** Bees, hummingbirds, moths, skippers, and butterflies. *Photo by: Layne Knoche, redoakraingarden.org*

Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)
**Plant Characteristics:** Blooms June through August; produces daisy-like flowers that ranges in colors from purple to pink ray petals with central brown cone disk florets. **Growing Conditions:** Grows 3 feet tall; full to partial sun; prefers well-drained soil; drought tolerant once established. **Pollinator Associations:** Bees, beetles, and butterflies. *Photo by: Deanna Frautschi*

Smooth Blue Aster (*Symphyotrichum laeve*)
**Plant Characteristics:** Blooms September through October; blue-violet ray florets with yellow disk florets. **Growing Conditions:** Grows 2 to 3 and half feet tall; full sun; pinching in early summer can make plants more compact; pinching past July may delay flowering. **Pollinator Associations:** Bees, flies, skippers, and butterflies. *Photo by: Layne Knoche, redoakraingarden.org*

Joe Pye Weed (*Eutrochium purpureum*)
**Plant Characteristics:** Blooms July through September; pink to purplish-pink panicle of compound flowers. **Growing Conditions:** Grows 5 to 7 feet tall; light shade to partial sun; may get leggy in too much shade or overly rich soils. **Pollinator Associations:** Bees, moths, skippers, and butterflies. *Photo by: Kelly Allsup*

Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
**Plant Characteristics:** Blooms July through September with showy red spike-like racemes that produces small seeds dispersed by wind. **Growing Conditions:** Grows 2 to 4 feet tall; light shade to full sun; moist conditions; difficult to transplant because of taproot; can be short-lived. **Pollinator Associations:** Hummingbirds and butterflies. *Photo by: Layne Knoche, redoakraingarden.org*