Building A Floral Highway

Help the Monarch's journey south with these fall bloomers

Butterfly Weed
Prairie Blazingstar
Downy Sunflower
Bee Balm
Purple Coneflower
Smooth Blue Aster
**Liatris pycnostachya** (Prairie blazingstar)

**Plant Characteristics**: blooms mid to late summer; large erect pink to purple spikes. **Growing Conditions**: grows two to five feet tall; full sun; young plants do not tolerate drought; deadheading when most blooming is done may encourage re-blooming. **Pollinator Associations**: bees (halictine bees, honeybees, bumblebees, little carpenter bees, miner bees and large leaf cutting bees) bee flies, day flying moths and butterflies.

*Photo by: Deanna Frautschi*

**Eutrochium purpureum** (Joe pye weed)

**Plant Characteristics**: blooms mid-summer to early fall; pink to purplish pink panicle of compound flowers. **Growing Conditions**: grows three to seven feet tall; light shade to partial sun; may get leggy in too much shade or overly rich soils. **Pollinator Associations**: long tongued bees, skippers, moths and butterflies.

*Photo by: John Hilty*

**Rudbeckia hirta** (Black-eyed susan)

**Plant Characteristics**: blooms early to mid-summer; single composite flower of dark brown disk florets surrounded by bright yellow ray florets. **Growing Conditions**: grows one to two and half feet tall; easy to grow but short-lived biennial. **Pollinator Associations**: bees, flies, wasps, beetles and butterflies. Caterpillars of silvery checker spot feeds on the leaves. *Photo by: John Hilty*

**Monarda spp.** (Bee balm)

**Plant Characteristics**: blooms in summer and lasts up to two months; three to four inch ring of several tubular flowers in an array of colors from pink to red. **Growing Conditions**: two to three feet tall; partial sun; moist conditions; susceptible to powdery mildew; deadheading young plants to lateral branches can rebloom. **Pollinator Associations**: hummingbirds and butterflies. *Photo by: John Hilty*

**Symphyotrichum shortii** (Smooth blue aster)

**Plant Characteristics**: blooms in late summer to fall and lasts one to two months; ray blue–violet florets with yellow disk florets. **Growing Conditions**: two to three and half feet tall; partial sun to full sun; pinching in early summer can make plants more compact; pinching past July may delay flowering. **Pollinator Associations**: long–tongued bees; small–tongued bees, flies, skippers and butterflies. *Photo by: John Hilty*

**Echinacea purpurea** (Purple coneflower)

**Plant Characteristics**: blooms mid–summer to late summer; producing daisy like flower that range in colors from purple to pink ray petals with central brown cone disk florets. **Growing Conditions**: three feet tall; full to partial sun; prefers well-drained soil; drought tolerant once established; may bloom again in fall **Pollinator Associations**: bees(honeybees, bumblebees, digger bees and leaf-cutting bees), beetles and butterflies. *Photo by: John Hilty*

**Helianthus mollis** (Downy sunflower)

**Plant Characteristics**: blooms late summer to early fall; large bright yellow composite flower. **Growing Conditions**: two to four feet tall; full sun; tolerates drought; forms dense colonies and can have allopatic qualities and not do well with other plants. **Pollinator Associations**: bees (bumblebees, miner bees, large leaf–cutting bees, cuckoo bees, green metallic bees and halictid bees) bee flies and butterflies. *Photo by: John Hilty*

**Asclepias tuberosa** (Butterfly weed)

**Plant Characteristics**: blooms in early summer; bright orange umbles followed by hairy dull green to purplish seed heads. **Growing Conditions**: one to two and half feet tall; full sun; adaptable to many soils; does not transplant well because of taproot. **Pollinator Association**: bees (honeybees, diggers, leaf–cutting bees, bumble bees and halictid bees) bee flies and butterflies. *Photo By: Kelly Allsup*