



Black-Eyed Susan



Prairie Blazingstar



Downy Sunflower



Building A Floral Highway

Help the Monarch's journey south with these fall bloomers

Photo by:
Deanna Frautschi



Bee Balm



Purple Coneflower



Butterfly Weed



Joe Pye Weed



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 allelopathic 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 umbels 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, wasps, butterflies and beetles. *Photo By: Kelly Allsup*