Illinois Pollinator Plants for the Garden

- White Wild Indigo
- Anise Hyssop
- Prairie Sundrops
- Wild Columbine
- Black-Eyed Susan
- American Boneset
- Butterfly Weed
- Joe-Pye Weed
- Cardinal Flower
**White Wild Indigo (Baptisia alba)**
**Plant Characteristics:** Blooms May through July; produces flower spikes of blue and white with pea-like florets; forms green pods that turn black and split open. **Growing conditions:** Grows up to 5 feet tall; full sun; drought tolerant; long-lived; slow to establish; unable to compete against aggressive plants. **Pollinator Associations:** Bees. *Photo by: Kelly Allsup*

**Anise Hyssop (Agastache foeniculum)**
**Plant Characteristics:** Blooms June through September; produces blue-violet spike flowers. **Growing conditions:** Grows up to 3 feet tall; full sun to partial sun; adaptable and easy. **Pollinator Associations:** Bees, flies, moths, skippers, and butterflies. *Photo by: Kelly Allsup*

**Prairie Sundrops (Sundrops pilosella)**
**Plant Characteristics:** Blooms June through July; produces yellow petals with show floral parts in a saucer shape. **Growing Conditions:** Grows 2 feet tall; full sun; moist conditions; organic-rich soils; can have aggressive qualities. **Pollinator Associations:** Bees, flies, skippers, and butterflies. *Photo by: Layne Knoche, redoakraingarden.org*

**Black-Eyed Susan (Rudbeckia hirta)**
**Plant Characteristics:** Blooms June through August; the 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, checkered spots feed on the leaves. *Photo by: Layne Knoche, redoakraingarden.org*

**Wild Columbine (Aquilegia canadensis)**
**Plant Characteristics:** Blooms April through May; red and yellow blossoms that have pronounced nectar spurs. **Growing Conditions:** Grows 1 to 3 feet tall; prefers shade to partial shade; woodland species; cut back fading foliage after flowering. **Pollinator Associations:** Bees and hummingbirds. *Photo by: Layne Knoche, redoakraingarden.org*

**American Boneset (Eupatorium perfoliatum)**
**Plant Characteristics:** Blooms July through September; large spreading flower head with clusters of white disk florets; flowers turn into achenes and are dispersed by wind. **Growing Conditions:** Grows 2 to 4 feet; full sun to part sun; moist conditions; can withstand some flooding. **Pollinator Associations:** Bees, flies, wasps, beetles, and butterflies. *Photo by: Layne Knoche, redoakraingarden.org*

**Butterfly Weed (Asclepias tuberosa)**
**Plant Characteristics:** Blooms June through August; bright orange umbels followed by hairy dull green to purplish seed heads. **Growing Conditions:** Grows 1 to 2 and half feet tall; full sun; adaptable to many soils; does not transplant well because of the taproot. **Pollinator Associations:** Bees, flies, wasps, beetles, and butterflies. *Photo By: Kelly Allsup*

**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, moth, skippers, and butterflies. *Photo by: Layne Knoche, redoakraingarden.org*

**Cardinal Flower (Lobelia cardinalis)**
**Plant Characteristics:** Blooms July through September with showy red spike like racemes that procure 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*