



Deep Roots/Pollinator Plant List for Prairie Plantings

The intent of this list is geared to what we've defined loosely as "large landscape," however including as many of these species as possible in landscape beds would also be beneficial. Note this is for prairie or full sun plantings. This list was compiled by biologist Larry Rizzo and pollinator authority Mike Arduser. Some adjustments were made for commercial availability and other considerations which are noted.

Lead plant (*Amorpha canescens*)

Milkweeds (at least two of the following): Purple (*Asclepias purpurascens*), common (*A. syriaca*), butterfly (*A. tuberosa*) or green (*A. viridis*)

Indigos (any or all of the following): Cream (*Baptisia bracteata*), white (*B. alba*) or blue (*B. australis*) (latter may not be appropriate for all sites due to its natural distribution)

Prairie coreopsis (*Coreopsis palmata*)

Tall coreopsis (*Coreopsis tripteris*)

Purple prairie clover (*Dalea purpurea*)

Pale purple coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*)

Rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*)

Rigid sunflower (*Helianthus pauciflorus*)

Willow-leaved sunflower (*Helianthus salicifolius*)

Rough blazing star (*Liatris aspera*)

Tall/prairie blazing star (*Liatris pycnostachya*)

Wild bergamot/Horsemint (*Monarda fistulosa*)

Goldenrods (any or all of the following): Old field (*Oligoneuron nemoralis*), rigid (*O. rigida*), showy (*O. speciosa*)

Prairie/foxtail beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*)

Mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*)

Gray-head coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*)

Blue/pitcher sage (*Salvia azurea*)

Rosinweed (*Silphium integrifolium*)

Heath aster (*Symphotrichum ericoides*)

Aromatic aster (*Symphotrichum oblongifolius*)

Golden alexanders (*Zizia aurea*)*

[*may be hard to obtain in quantity—this species can be included under Spring Flora below]

Other Considerations...

There are a number of other species that are favored by bees, but seed may not be readily available or too expensive to obtain in the quantity needed in a planting. Some of these species would include the following:

Tall thistle (*Cirsium altissimum*)

Sawtooth sunflower (*Helianthus grosseserratus*)

Scurf pea (*Psoralidium tenuifolium*)

Willow-leaved aster (*Symphotrichum prealtus*)

Other species are considered "weedy" and often not considered desirable in plantings or not available commercially. These would include the following:

Dogbane (*Apocynum cannabinum*)

Annual sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*)

Tall goldenrod (*Solidago altissima*)

Hairy aster (*Symphotrichum pilosum*)

Ironweed (*Vernonia baldwini*)

Spring flora: It is important to have species that bloom throughout the growing season to attract the maximum diversity of bees. Often early spring flora is not included in plantings as these species can be hard to collect or not available or too expensive to obtain commercially. However, efforts should be made to add them. This group would include the following:

Wild hyacinth (*Camassia scilloides*)

Prairie trout lily (*Erythronium mesochoreum*)

Prairie ragwort (*Packera plattensis*)

Lousewort/Wood betony (*Pedicularis canadensis*)

Prairie violet (*Viola pedatifida*) –or other violet species

Any of the species in these groups should be considered candidates for hand-collecting to add to a planting!