



Native Plant Basics: Selected Plants

Prepared by Sharon Yiesla of Sharon Yiesla, Horticultural Services

Revised 7/22

Scientific name	Native to U.S. or Illinois	Height of foliage (in flower for grasses)	Cultural notes
Common name			
<u>GRASSES</u>			
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	Illinois	4-7' (up to 10')	Full sun; tolerant of heat, drought, clay soil
Big Bluestem			
<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	Illinois	2-3' (3-4')	Partial shade; consistent moisture; salt tolerant
Northern Sea Oats			
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Illinois	5-7' (6-8')	Full sun; prefers moist, fertile soils, but is tolerant of a range of soil conditions
Switchgrass			
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Illinois	3' (3')	Full sun; tolerant of most soils, except wet
Little Bluestem			
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Illinois	2-3' (3-4')	Full sun; drought tolerant
Indian Grass			
<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	Illinois	2-3' (3-4')	Full sun; heat and drought tolerant
Prairie Dropseed			
<u>WILDFLOWERS/PERENNIALS</u>			
<i>Amsonia tabernaemontana</i>	Illinois	2-3'	Full sun to partial shade; moist, well drained soil
Willow Bluestar			
<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	Illinois	4-7'	Partial shade; moist soil
Goatsbeard			
<i>Asarum canadense</i>	Illinois	6-12"	Partial shade to shade; moist soils
Wild Ginger			
<i>Baptisia australis</i>	United States	3-4'	Full sun to partial shade; drought tolerant
False Indigo			
<i>Chelone glabra</i>	Illinois	1-3'	Partial shade to full sun; consistent moisture
Turtlehead			

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<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Illinois	2-4'	Full sun; well drained soil; drought tolerant
Purple Coneflower			
<i>Eutrochium (Eupatorium) maculatum</i>	Illinois	4-6'	Full sun to partial shade; moist soils; avoid dry
Joe-Pye Weed			
<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	Illinois	2-4'	Full sun; tolerates drought and flooding
Rattlesnake Master			
<i>Geum triflorum</i>	Illinois	6-12"	Full sun; well drained soil
Prairie Smoke			
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	United States	2-3'	Full sun; moist soils; can tolerate wet soils
Larger Blue Flag			
<i>Liatris spicata</i>	Illinois	2-3'	Full sun to partial shade; well drained soil
Blazing Star, Gayfeather			
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Illinois	2-4'	Partial shade; consistently moist soil
Cardinal Flower			
<i>Oenothera macrocarpa</i>	United States	4-6"	Full sun; requires good drainage
Missouri Evening Primrose			
<i>Sympyotrichum</i>	Illinois	2-4'	Full sun; moist soil
<i>(Aster) novae-angliae</i>			
New England Aster			
<i>Solidago</i> species	United States	2-4' +	Full sun; well drained soil; tolerates drought
Goldenrod			does NOT cause hay fever

TREES

<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Illinois	40-60'	Full sun to partial shade; slightly acid soil; tolerates wet sites
Red Maple			
<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Illinois	50-75'	Full sun to partial shade; well drained soil
Sugar Maple			
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<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Illinois	50-90'	Full sun to light shade; tolerates wet to dry soils and wide range of pH
Common Hackberry			
<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>	Illinois	60-75'	Full sun; tolerates some dryness and wet sites; pH adaptable
Kentucky Coffeetree			
<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	Illinois	25-40'	Full sun to moderate shade; tolerates dryness, pH adaptable
American Hophornbeam			
<i>Quercus imbricaria</i>	Illinois	50-60'	Full sun to partial shade; tolerates alkaline soil
Shingle Oak			
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Illinois	60-75'	Full sun to partial shade; moist sites; acid soil
Red Oak			

SHRUBS

<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Illinois	6-12'	Full sun; wet to moist sites; pH adaptable
Common Buttonbush			
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	United States	6-9'	Full sun to moderate shade; moist to wet sites
Summersweet Clethra			
<i>Fothergilla gardenii</i>	United States	3'	Full sun to partial shade; moist well drained soil; slightly acid soil is best
Dwarf Fothergilla			
<i>Hypericum kalmianum</i>	Illinois	3'	Full sun; moist to wet sites; tolerates dryness
Kalm St. Johnswort			
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	Illinois	6-9'	Full sun; moist to wet sites; tolerates dryness;
Common Ninebark			
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	Illinois	3'	Full sun to partial shade; prefers moist soil; tolerates poor, dry soil; pH adaptable
Potentilla or cinquefoil			
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	Illinois	6-9'	Full sun, partial shade; tolerates wet and dry
American Elderberry			
<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	Illinois	15-18'	Full sun or shade; tolerates wet and dry
Nannyberry Viburnum			