

YOUR GUIDE TO

# Identifying Native Pollinator Plants



## Planting Meadow Plants

Restoring or establishing a meadow in either a back yard setting or on a large-scale, is a fun and educational activity and provides natural habitat for wildlife and pollinator species.

Meadow wildflowers provide valuable natural habitat for a variety of wildlife and are an essential part of maintaining healthy biodiversity. They attract a group of important wildlife recognized as pollinator species including bees, hummingbirds, butterflies, moths, beetles, birds and other insects. Canada is home to over 1,000 pollinators working constantly to move pollen from flower to flower allowing reproduction of the plant to take place and providing us with fruits and vegetables.

It is very important to choose plants native to the region and avoid using or introducing non-native or invasive species. By definition, a native plant is one that occurs naturally in a particular region without human intervention. These plants were growing prior to the arrival of European settlers. Southern Ontario has its own collection of native species that have evolved together over thousands of years. Native plants are vital to creating a natural, sustainable landscape. They provide food and shelter for native insects and wildlife and are perfectly suited to our local growing conditions.

When choosing native plants, pollinator species do not use size as their guide, they use smell and colour as indicators. Planting a variety of flowers with a wide colour range and interspersed with grasses and sedges will help attract pollinators and assist with weed control. It is also important to have flowers blooming throughout the season providing a continuous supply of nectar. The plants listed in this guide are some of the common varieties which will establish and survive in Ontario. There are many other types of plants and most nurseries and garden centres will be able to help in the selection process.

# A Quick Reference of Flower Shapes for Identification

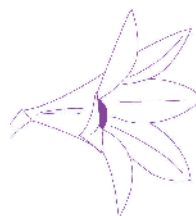
Bowl-shaped



Campanulate



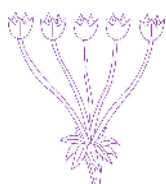
Funnelform



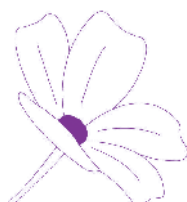
Labiate



Umbel



Saucer-shaped



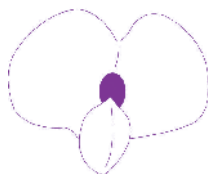
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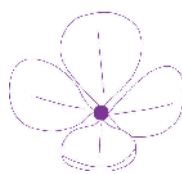
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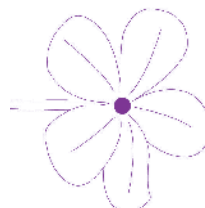
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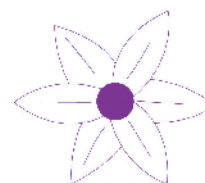
Cruciform



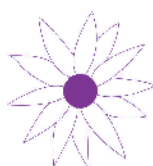
Salverform



Stellate



Ray



Urceolate



Tubular



## Wild Columbine (*Aquilegia Canadensis*)



### Family:

Buttercup (*Ranunculaceae*)

### Preferred Planting Conditions:

- Full sun to full shade
- Sand to clay soil
- Dry to medium moisture requirements

### Description & Key Features:

Height: - 30 to 90 centimeters (1 to 3 feet)

- Blooms May and June

Leaves: - Compound leaves divided to obovate leaflets, narrow end at base

Flowers: - Flower faces down, funnel-shape, outer petals are spur-like red with yellow tips

- Illusion of two flowers

### Maintenance & Care:

- Reproduced by seed
- Germinate seeds in trays with even moisture for 3 to 4 weeks
- Seedlings transplanted to pots for root growth
- Expose plants to frost-free outdoors before placing in garden
- Does not usually flower in first year

### Habitat Location & Value:

Wide range: - Along eastern and central Canada and United States

- Found in low woods, along clearings of forests, black-oak savannas, cedar glades, mixed conifer hardwood forests, ledges, banks, gravelly shorelines and quarries
- Sometimes browsed by deer, unpalatable to livestock
- Favoured by bees and humming birds

### Aliases:

- Red columbine, wild honeysuckle, meeting-houses, red-bell, Canada columbine, American columbine, rock-lily, jack-in-trousers, cluckies



## Hairy Beardtongue (*Penstemon hirsutus*)



### Family:

Figwort (*Scrophulariaceae*)

### Preferred Planting Conditions:

- Sun, part shade, shade
- Sand to loam soil
- Dry to medium moisture requirements

### Description & Key Features:

Height: - 30 to 90 centimeters (1 to 3 feet)

- Blooms June to July

Leaves: - Compound leaves, in oblong/ovate (egg shape), lance-shape

Flowers: - Trumpet or tube-shaped white, lavender or pinkish flower

- Very hairy/downy stem

### Maintenance & Care:

- Reproduced by seed
- Germinates best in moist well drained soil

### Habitat Location & Value:

- Found in dry woods, rocky fields and bluffs
- Attracts bees, hummingbirds, moths and butterflies
- Important nectar source for native pollinators

### Additional Information:

- Beardtongue is large family and difficult to determine species, identification is largely based on the "downy" stem

## Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)



### Family:

Aster (*Asteraceae*)

### Preferred Planting Conditions:

- Full sun to part shade
- Sand to clay soil
- Drought tolerant

### Description & Key Features:

Height: - 30 to 90 centimeters (1 to 3 feet)

- Blooms July to September

Leaves: - Oblong to lance shape shaped leaves

Flowers: - Bright yellow ray shape flower with dark brown center on tall stalk

### Maintenance & Care:

- Easily established by seed, will re-seed each year
- Best mixed with other bunch grasses
- Control competing vegetation to prevent decrease in Black-eyed Susan

### Habitat Location & Value:

- Used in erosion control, along roadsides, ditches, hillsides, landscaping and gardens
- Food and protection source for several birds
- Attracts butterflies and is deer resistant

### Additional Information:

- One of the most recognized plants
- Very easy to grow

## Pale Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*)



Photo credit: PAN

### Family:

Aster (*Asteraceae*)

### Preferred Planting Conditions:

- Full sun to part shade
- Sand to clay soil
- Drought tolerant

### Description & Key Features:

- Height: - 90 to 150 centimeters (3 to 5 feet)
- Blooms June and July
- Leaves: - Stout stems with coarse bristly hairs
- Leaves narrow, elliptic-lance shape, majority of leaves located at base of stem
- Flowers: - Pale purple ray shape flower with drooping petals

### Maintenance & Care:

- Does not require fertilizer for seed planting in normal conditions
- Propagate by seed only
- Cultivate weeds between plant rows
- Remove dead plant material in spring

### Habitat Location & Value:

- Wildlife planting along roads and restoration areas
- Food and cover for wildlife
- Attracts butterflies, song birds and is used in cut flower arrangements
- Deer resistant

### Additional Information:

- Believed to have cortisone-like, insecticidal and bactericidal activity
- Also believed to have a stimulant effect on immune system

## Virginia Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum virginianum*)



Photo credit: Landry LM



Photo credit: Landry LM



Photo credit: Landry LM

### Family:

Mint (*Lamiaceae*)

### Preferred Planting Conditions:

- Full sun to part shade
- Sand to clay soils
- Dry moisture requirements

### Description & Key Features:

- Height: - 30 to 90 centimeters (1 to 3 feet)
- Blooms July to September
- Leaves: - Erect, square-shaped stem with multiple branches near top, opposite long leaves, narrow, smooth margin
- Flowers: - Very small white to pink, umbel-like cluster flower

### Maintenance & Care:

- Reproduced by seed
- Germinate in pots, plant in spring

### Habitat Location & Value:

- Wet meadows, shores, marshes, along streams, prairies, woods, meadows

### Additional Information:

- Used as insect repellent
- Rats, rodents do not like smell
- Known to be used in granaries to repel rodents

### Aliases:

- Common mountain mint



## (Eastern) Purple Coneflower *Echinacea purpurea*



### **Family:**

Aster (*Asteraceae*)

### **Preferred Planting Conditions:**

- Full sun, part shade
- Sand or clay soil
- Dry to medium moisture requirements

### **Description & Key Features:**

- Height: - 60 to 120 centimeters (2 to 4 feet)
- Blooms June to September
- Leaves: - Rough stems with fine hairs, leaves alternate and simple
- Ovate to ovate-lance shape with toothed edges
- Flowers: - Ray shape flower with slightly drooping purple petals and bright reddish-orange spiny center on individual stems

### **Maintenance & Care:**

- Germinate seeds in flats
- Plant when second set of leaves has appeared, transfer to individual pots taking care to weed and water
- Plant in late spring or early summer in well prepared, weed-free soil, 30 to 60 centimeters (1-2 feet)

### **Habitat Location & Value:**

- Introduced to Ontario
- Rocky prairie areas, wooded areas
- Seed is food source for songbirds
- Gophers and moles eat roots
- Attracts butterflies, deer resistant

### **Additional Information:**

- Takes 3 to 4 years for roots to reach harvestable size

### **Aliases:**

- Snakeroot, scurvy root, Indian head, comb flower, hedgehog and Eastern purple coneflower

## Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)



### Family:

Mint (*Lamiaceae*)

### Preferred Planting Conditions:

- Full sun, part shade
- Sand or clay soil
- Dry to medium moisture requirements

### Description & Key Features:

- Height: - 90 to 152 centimeters (3 to 5 feet)
- Blooms July to September
- Leaves: - Square stems with alternate lanceolate shape leaf, slightly toothed
- Flowers: - Lavender to pinkish flower clusters

### Maintenance & Care:

- Mow in spring to control woody and dead plants
- Spread by rhizomes, to control aggressive growth dig up clump in early March, divide into sections
- Add leaf mold and compost to soil

### Habitat Location & Value:

- Sunny fielded areas or along woodland borders
- Attracts bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, songbirds and used for cut flower arrangements
- Stems sometimes used by Indigo Bunting birds to build nests

### Additional Information:

- Very fragrant flower

### Aliases:

- bee balm

## Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)



### Family:

Milkweed (*Asclepiadaceae*)

### Preferred Planting Conditions:

- Full sun, part shade
- Sand or clay soil
- Dry to medium moisture requirements

### Description & Key Features:

- Height: - 30 to 90 centimeters (1 to 3 feet)
- Blooms May to September
- Leaves: - Stems erect, woody, hairy, grow in clumps. White milk-like sap in stem
- Enlarged root system with buds
  - Leaves lance shape, shiny green, velvety underneath
- Flowers: - Showy orange very small ray shape 5-petal flower and five very small scoop shape erect petals from centre

### Maintenance & Care:

- Reproduced by seed and rhizome
- Can be invasive
- Blooms in second year, rarely in first year
- Collect rhizome cutting when plant is dormant and place in ground before late fall to allow root development

### Habitat Location & Value:

- Grows in clumps along roadsides, fields, pastures, disturbed sites
- Significant to Monarch Butterfly as larval food source: Chemicals from the plant ingested by Monarch butterflies make them distasteful to predators. Eggs are laid on underside of leaves
- Attracts hummingbirds and several insects including bees

### Additional Information:

- Can be toxic if not prepared properly
- Believed to be toxic to livestock
- Fibers from the stem of this plant have been found in textiles from the pre-historic Arizona/New Mexico Pueblo area
- Asclepias: From Greek God of medicine Asklepios - tuberosa meaning swellings and refers to root system

### Aliases:

- Orange milkweed, chigger weed

## Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)



### Family:

Milkweed (*Asclepiadaceae*)

### Preferred Planting Conditions:

- Full sun, part shade
- Sand or clay soil
- Dry to medium moisture requirements

### Description & Key Features:

- Height: - 57 to 198 centimeters (1 to 6.5 feet)
- Blooms May to September
- Leaves: - Solitary, erect, hairy stem. White milk-like sap in stem
- Rhizome root system
  - Leaves broad ovate to elliptic, dense hair below
- Flowers: - Small, 5-petal, light pink to rose clusters at top of plant

### Maintenance & Care:

- Reproduced by seed and rhizome
- Can be invasive
- Blooms in second year, rarely in first year
- Collect rhizome cutting when plant is dormant and place in ground before late fall to allow root development
- Break off stalks in late fall to encourage new spring growth

### Habitat Location & Value:

- Grows in clumps along roadsides, fields, pastures, disturbed sites
- Significant to Monarch Butterfly as larval food source: Chemicals from the plant ingested by Monarch butterflies make them distasteful to predators. Eggs are laid on underside of leaves
- Attracts hummingbirds and several insects including bees

### Additional Information:

- Flowers can be eaten
- Sap is poisonous
- Used for fiber, food and medicine
- Stems collected when dry to collect fibers, twisted to make cord

### Aliases:

- Virginia-silk, algodoncillo, silky swallowwort



## Foxglove Beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*)



Photo credit: Cooper GA, Smithsonian



Photo credit: Landry LM



Photo credit: Cooper GA, Smithsonian

### Family:

Figwort (*Scrophulariaceae*)

### Preferred Planting Conditions:

- Sun, part shade, shade
- Sand to loam soil
- Dry to medium moisture requirements

### Description & Key Features:

Height: - 60 to 90 centimeters (2 to 3 feet)

- Blooms June & July

Leaves: - Elliptic shaped basal leaves and lance to oblong shape toothed leaves in pairs on tall stems (leaf can also be smooth edged)

Flowers: - Tubular shape with three lobes on lower portion and two lobes on upper portion. White flower with purple lined throat

### Maintenance & Care:

- Reproduces by seed or by root division
- For root division, separate, plant and prune foliage in spring
- Dead stalks can be trimmed when they turn brown

### Habitat Location & Value:

- Grows in fields, prairies and open woods
- Attracts butterflies, hummingbirds and bees

### Additional Information:

- One of the few plants that will thrive in clay

### Aliases:

- Smooth white beardtongue, Mississippi beardtongue, Talus slope beardtongue, Smooth beardtongue

## Blanketflower (*Gaillardia aristata*)



Photo credit: PAN



Photo credit: PAN

### **Family:**

Aster (*Asteraceae*)

### **Preferred Planting Conditions:**

- Full sun
- Sand to loam soil
- Dry to medium water requirements
- Drought tolerant

### **Description & Key Features:**

Height: - 30 to 60 centimeters (1 to 2 feet)

- Blooms June to September

Leaves: - Long stout stems from tap root

- Alternate, oblong to lance shaped leaves

Flowers: - Bright red "daisy-like" ray flower with yellow-orange tips and cone in centre

### **Maintenance & Care:**

- Propagate by seed only
- Best results with space between plants

### **Habitat Location & Value:**

- Large range in both Canada and United States
- Open, hot fields and plains
- Attracts butterflies, hummingbirds, insects, pollinators, provides cover and food source for wildlife
- Used in cut flower arrangements
- Rarely grazed

### **Additional Information:**

- Very resilient to heat and provides flowers throughout the summer

## Pussy Toes (*Antennaria howellii* spp *Canadensis*)



Photo credit: Landry LM



Photo credit: Landry LM



Photo credit: Landry LM

### Family:

Aster (*Asteraceae*)

### Preferred Planting Conditions:

- Sun & part shade
- Dry to moderate soil
- Drought tolerant

### Description & Key Features:

- Height: - Stems 3 to 15 centimeters (1.2 to 6 inches)  
- Blooms May & June
- Leaves: - Narrow, hairless spatulate-obovate leaves  
- Low ground cover with erect fairly leafless stalks
- Flowers: - Whitish tubular shape flower in cluster

### Maintenance & Care:

- Grows rapidly forming mat-like cover
- Reproduces both vegetatively and by seed

### Habitat Location & Value:

- Open forests, pastures, meadows, roadsides, grows well on gentle slopes
- Not palatable for grazing animals
- Attracts butterflies and moths

### Aliases:

- Nuttall's, small-leaved, little-leaf and silver pussy toes

## Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*)



Photo credit: Landry LM

Photo credit: Landry LM

### Family:

Rose (*Rosaceae*)

### Preferred Planting Conditions:

- Sun & part shade
- Sand or clay soil
- Medium to moist water requirement

### Description & Key Features:

- Height: - 1 to 12 centimeters (0.4 to 4 inches)
  - Blooms May & June
- Leaves: - 3-toothed thin leaves growing close to the ground
- Flowers: - Flowers are white 5-petals with yellow centre
  - Fruit is a small strawberry with a more intense flavor than commercial varieties

### Maintenance & Care:

- Spreads by rhizomes and seed
- Runners of plantlets can be dug, planted in pots covering both roots and stems with soil, keep moist, plant in late winter to early spring In loose soil with full sun
- Prune each year and divide every 3 to 4 years

### Habitat Location & Value:

- Extensive range throughout most of Canada, Northwest Territories, Yukon and United States
- Dry open woodlands and clearings
- Attracts butterflies, song birds and numerous wildlife will feed on the berries

### Additional Information:

- Distribution of this plant is wide-spread over all of North America including northern regions

### Aliases:

- Mountain strawberry, Virginia strawberry



## New England Aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*)



### Family:

Aster (*Asteraceae*)

### Preferred Planting Conditions:

- Full sun to part shade
- Sand to clay soil
- Medium to moist water requirement

### Description & Key Features:

- Height: - 90 to 180 centimeters (3 to 6 feet)
- Blooms August to October
- Leaves: - Tall hairy leaves and stems, with lance to elliptic-lance shape
- Thin leaves up to 10 cm long with pointed tips
- Flowers: - Pink to deep purple ray flower on individual stalk
- 40 or more petals and yellow-orange centre

### Maintenance & Care:

- Reproduced by seed
- Plant seeds in pots, plant in summer
- Plants can be divided in spring or fall

### Habitat Location & Value:

- Prairie swales, wet meadows, thickets and along streams
- Attracts butterflies, moths, bees and is deer resistant

### Additional Information:

- Provides a late-season source of nectar

### Aliases:

- Aster, starwort, first flower

## Stiff-leaved Goldenrod (*Oligoneuron rigidum*, aka *Solidago rigida*)



Photo credit: Rechenthin CA, USDA



Photo credit: Allain L, USDA

### Family:

Aster (*Asteraceae*)

### Preferred Planting Conditions:

- Full sun
- Dry to medium sand, loam soil
- Drought tolerant

### Description & Key Features:

- Height: - 30 to 90 centimeters (1 to 3 feet)
- Blooms September & October
- Leaves: - Upper leaves are lance shape, alternate, slender and rough, lower are oblong
- Slender, erect stem smooth to rough
- Flowers: - Flat top cluster of yellow bell-shape flower

### Maintenance & Care:

- Reproduces by seed
- Plant in a 6 mm (1/4 inch) into soil
- Will produce transplants in one season
- Plants largely cross-pollinated

### Habitat Location & Value:

- Found in prairies and woods
- Used for roadside plantings
- Attracts butterflies, bees, wasps and various pollinator insects
- Palatable to wildlife but not preferred grazing

### Additional Information:

- Species can become invasive
- Young plants are grazed, older plants spread quickly

### Aliases:

- Rigid Goldenrod, showy goldenrod

## Ox-eye Sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*)



Photo credit: Justice WS, Smithsonian



Photo credit: Alexander PJ, USDA



Photo credit: Cooper GA, Smithsonian

### Family:

Aster (*Asteraceae*)

### Preferred Planting Conditions:

- Full sun to part shade
- Sand, clay soil
- Dry to medium water requirements

### Description & Key Features:

- Height: - 60 to 150 centimeters (2 to 5 feet)
- Blooms June to August
- Leaves: - Upper leaves are lance shape, alternate, slender and rough, lower are oblong
- Slender, erect stem smooth to rough
- Flowers: - Yellow flower with ten or more rays
- Center is yellow-orange

### Maintenance & Care:

- Reproduced through seed, spring planting recommended
- Remove dead flowers to extend flowering period
- Plant seeds in March or April, 1 meter (3.2 feet) apart in weed free soil

### Habitat Location & Value:

- Tall grass prairies, edge of woods, good for garden border
- Attracts butterflies, livestock and wildlife will graze

### Additional Information:

- No serious disease or insect problems
- Livestock and deer will sometimes graze this plant

### Aliases:

- False sunflower, oxeye daisy, Loraine sunshine, Smooth ox-eye, Sweet Ox-eye

## Showy Ticktrefoil *(Desmodium Canadense)*



### Family:

Pea (*Fabaceae*)

### Preferred Planting Conditions:

- Full sun to part shade
- Sand, clay soil
- Drought tolerant

### Description & Key Features:

- Height: - 60 to 150 centimeters (2 to 5 feet)
- Blooms June to August
- Leaves: - Three long leaves alternate, three oblong to lance shape, dense hairs on lower surface
- Flowers: - Pink-rose-purplish, labiate shape

### Maintenance & Care:

- Deep taproot assists with drought conditions
- Seed pods, flat, spread by animals and humans
- Remove dead flowers to extend flowering period
- Plant seeds in March or April, 1 meter (3.2 feet) apart in weed free soil

### Habitat Location & Value:

- Prairies, meadows, open thickets
- Wildlife food and cover for birds, pheasants, turkey, deer
- Important pollinator plant for bees, wasps, hummingbirds and several insects
- Used in mixture for restoration

### Additional Information:

- Adds nitrogen to soil

### Aliases:

- Showy trefoil, Beggars Lice, Stick Tights



## Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis Margaritaceae*)



### Family:

Aster (*Asteraceae*)

### Preferred Planting Conditions:

- Full sun to part shade
- Sand, gravelly soil
- Drought tolerant

### Description & Key Features:

- Height: - 30 – 90 centimeters (1 – 3 feet)
- Blooms July to September
- Leaves: - Numerous, narrow, linear shape forming point at end.  
Grey to silver-green, smooth margin
- Flowers: - Round, white with yellow centre

### Maintenance & Care:

- Can be divided in fall or started by seed
- Remove dead flowers to extend flowering period
- Plant seeds in March or April, 1 meter (3.2 feet) apart in weed free soil

### Habitat Location & Value:

- Prairies, meadows, open thickets and roadsides
- Attracts butterflies ie: Painted Ladies, skipper dragonflies
- Used in mixture for restoration

### Additional Information:

- Traditional use: burn treatment

## Blue Vervain (*Verbena hastata*)



### Family:

Verbena (*Verbenaceae*)

### Preferred Planting Conditions:

- Full sun to part shade
- Sand, clay or loam soil
- Normal to moist water requirements

### Description & Key Features:

- Height: - Tall plant, up to 2 meters (6.5 feet)
- Blooms June to September
- Leaves: - Opposite, narrow to moderately broad, long (4-18 centimetres)
- lance shaped, toothed edges
- Flowers: - Long spikes with multiple flowers, purple-blue, funnel shape with 5 lobes

### Maintenance & Care:

- Rhizome root system produces new plants
- Collect seed nutlets in fall, dry indoors, gently crush to release seeds prior to planting, seeds need to be stratified (brought out of dormancy by chilled/warmed temperatures to mimic outdoor conditions)
- Plant seeds in sand-soil mixture, seeds will also self-establish in fall

### Habitat Location & Value:

- Prefers moist open areas, meadow marshes, swamps, can grow in disturbed sites, wide range in Canada and United States
- Attracts various song birds, mammals, butterflies, bees, wasps, beetles

### Additional Information:

- Various traditional uses
- Effective plant to use in gardens to help with invasive control (ie: purple loosestrife)

## Common Evening Primrose (*Oenothera biennis*)



### Family:

Evening Primrose (*Onagraceae*)

### Preferred Planting Conditions:

- Full sun to part shade
- Sandy soil, can also grow in rocky areas
- Normal to dry water requirements

### Description & Key Features:

- Height: - Tall plant, up to 2 meters (6.5 feet), stem has small white hairs  
- Blooms June to September or October
- Leaves: - Alternate, toothed, lance shape, base leaves longer
- Flowers: - Yellow, 4-petal, open from evening and closing at mid-day

### Maintenance & Care:

- Narrow seedpods split open to disperse seeds by wind or fall to ground
- Plant seeds in sand, seeds will also self-establish

### Habitat Location & Value:

- Open areas, roadsides, ditches, meadows, prairies, wide range in Canada and United States
- Attracts hummingbirds, birds, butterflies, bees, wasps and other insects

### Additional Information:

- Multiple traditional uses
- Can become invasive

## Spotted Joe-Pye-Weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*)



### Family:

Aster (*Asteraceae*)

### Preferred Planting Conditions:

- Full sun to part shade
- Prefers moist soil but can grow in sand, gravel or acidic soils with sufficient moisture
- Normal to moist water requirements

### Description & Key Features:

- Height: - Tall plant, up to 2 meters (6.5 feet), purple or purple spotted stem with hairs
- Blooms August to September
- Leaves: - Whorled, ovate shape, toothed with distinct veins
- Flowers: - Small, purple clustered flowers

### Maintenance & Care:

- Small seeds with hair-like strands, dispersed by wind
- Plant can be divided in fall or early spring when new growth appears

### Habitat Location & Value:

- Primarily in swamp and wetland areas, wide range in Canada and United States
- Attracts some birds, butterflies, bees, wasps, dragonflies, damselflies and other insects

### Additional Information:

- Multiple traditional uses



## Spreading Dogbane (*Apocynum androsaemifolium*)



### **Family:**

Verbena (*Verbenaceae*)

### **Preferred Planting Conditions:**

- Full sun to part shade
- Sand, gravel soil
- Drought tolerant

### **Description & Key Features:**

Height: - 30 to 90 centimeters (1 to 3 feet), green-reddish stems

- Blooms June to August

Leaves: - Opposite oval shape, smooth margin, distinct veins

Flowers: - Small, pale pink bell shape, darker pink stripes on inside of flower

### **Maintenance & Care:**

- Small seeds with hair-like strands, dispersed by wind
- Spreads quickly from underground stems

### **Habitat Location & Value:**

- Meadow, prairie, forest edge, fields
- Attracts some butterflies, bees, wasps and other insects

### **Additional Information:**

- Traditionally used stem fibres as thread
- Related to milkweed

## Great Blue Lobelia (*Apocynum androsaemifolium*)



### **Family:**

Bellflower (*Campanulaceae*)

### **Preferred Planting Conditions:**

- Full sun to part or full shade
- Sand, clay, loam
- Prefers average to moist areas

### **Description & Key Features:**

Height: - 50 - 150 centimeters (1.5 to 5 feet), erect stems with fine hairs

- Blooms July to September

Leaves: - Alternate, ovate, elliptic or oblong shape, toothed margin

Flowers: - Lavender-bluish, tubular, two lobes above and three lobes below

### **Maintenance & Care:**

- Seeds in capsule at top of plant, plant in potting flat with well fertilized soil, transplant outside in sunny area approximately 20 to 30 centimeters (8 to 12 inches) apart
- Has main taproot with off-shoots appearing from base, these off-shoots can be redistributed in other areas

### **Habitat Location & Value:**

- Open fields, meadows, stream banks, marshes and wooded areas
- Attracts some butterflies, bees, wasps, insects and humming birds, deer will sometimes browse

### **Additional Information:**

- Traditionally medicinal use
- Does have toxic qualities

# References and Acknowledgements

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## References and Acknowledgements

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