

Garden Ontario[®]

Pollinator Garden Guide



Photo taken at Pollinator Garden
by Don Taylor

www.gardenontario.org

Research & Preparation:

This guide was researched and prepared by Kim Bonner of the Bath Gardening Club and Horticultural Society. The master plan was developed by Pat Haslett using mostly native plants to attract a wide range of pollinators. The lovely pallet art was painted by Bonnie Freidenberg.

The Ontario Horticultural Association is thankful for their generosity in sharing this excellent guide with other member Societies and Garden Clubs.

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Introduction

Purpose

- The purpose of this guide is to provide horticultural volunteers with an example guide for weeding, dividing, watering, and maintaining a pollinator garden.

Guiding principles for the Pollinator Garden:

- Stocked with plants that are beneficial to pollinators by providing pollen and nectar, hosting caterpillars, and/or supplying nesting sites.
 - Most in this guide are native (denoted by ) but there is a sprinkling of non-native plants that provide pollinator support
 - While most are perennials, this guide also includes several beneficial herbs, annuals, grasses and trees
- Supports a variety of pollinators – bees, wasps, butterflies, moths, hummingbirds, beetles, and other beneficial insects
- Supports pollinators through all 4 seasons:
 - plants that bloom at various intervals, providing pollen and nectar throughout the growing season
 - plants with various heights, colours, and scents, to attract a range of pollinators
 - plants that host pollinators' larvae and caterpillars
 - plant material that provides protected places for overwintering
- No use of toxic herbicides, pesticides, or fungicides
- When sourcing plant material for the garden, ensure it is labelled “neonic-free” (neonicotinoid insecticides are toxic to bees and other pollinators)
- No mulch, which prevents solitary bees from making nests

- Is a habitat first and a garden second when it comes to maintenance activities, e.g.
 - leaving last season's plant stalks in place to provide nesting cavities for bees
 - waiting until after the blossoms on apple trees in the area fade as an indicator to start spring maintenance activities

Resources:

Please see Appendix A for a list of sites that were consulted in the preparation of this document.

Maintenance Schedule:

Please see Appendix B for a summary of garden maintenance activities organized by season.

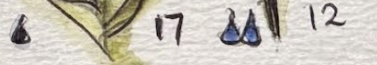
Pollinator Garden Plan

On the next page, you'll find a layout of the Pollinator Garden. The numbers next to the plants correspond to the numbers on the lovely pallet art. The plants in this document are ordered by their assigned number on the pallet art.

The blue drops of water on the diagram layout indicate how much water the plant requires:

- 1 drop – water sparingly
- 2 drops – light watering, when the soil is dry
- 3 drops – deep watering, 2-3 times a week when temperatures are hot

BGC BUGTEL
2024



Plant Inventory

Legend

In the plant descriptions that follow, you will see some icons under the Wildlife subheading, which have the following meanings:



Bees love it



Butterflies love it



Moths love it



Hummingbirds love it



Is a fragrant flower



Hosts butterfly and/or moth larvae



Birds enjoy the seeds



Is a Native plant



Provides overwintering habitat



Amphibians love it



Rabbits find these plants particularly tasty



Wasps love it



Beetles love it

A

Annual (assume all others are perennials)

Hardy Geranium (1)

Bot. Name	Geranium sp	Sun Exposure	Sun to Partial Shade
Mature Size	1-1.5 m H x 0.5-1 m W	Flower Colour	Blue
Bloom Time	April to June		

Watering Instructions: Water weekly, but only at root level to prevent fungal disease.

Spring Maintenance: Apply compost.

Summer Maintenance: After flowering, shear the plants back to basal growth (7-12 cm) to encourage reblooming.

Fall/Winter Maintenance: As winter approaches, cut off stems to just above ground level to eliminate fungal spores. If the centre is dying out, then it is time to divide into halves or quarters using a sharp spade.

Wildlife:  



Photo credit: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:G.maculatum.jpg>
Hardy plants at English Wikipedia, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Swamp Milkweed (2)

Bot. Name	Asclepias incarnata	Sun Exposure	Full Sun
Mature Size	0.5-1.5 m H x .6-.9 m W	Flower Colour	Pink
Bloom Time	June to August		

Watering Instructions: Moist to wet

Spring Maintenance: No fertilizing required. Cut back dead flower stalks leaving stem stubble of varying height, from 20-60 cms, to provide nest cavities for bees. New growth will gradually hide the stem stubble.

Summer Maintenance: To prolong blooming period, deadhead spent milkweed flower heads in early summer.

Fall/Winter Maintenance: Their hollow stems are used by nesting bees, so leave the stems in place. Leave some seed heads for the birds and small animals who use their natural fibres and seed fluff in their nests. This plant does not like to be moved or divided due to its long taproot.

Wildlife: 



Photo Credit: R. A. Nonenmacher, CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Swamp Rose Mallow (3)

Bot. Name Hibiscus moscheutos
Mature Size 1-2 m H x 0.5-1.5 m W
Bloom Time Summer to fall

Sun Exposure Full Sun
Flower Colour Pink

Watering Instructions: Once the plant is actively growing, it needs a deep watering two or three times per week during hot weather.

Spring Maintenance: Cut back dead flower stalks leaving stem stubble of varying height, from 20-60 cms, to provide nest cavities for bees. New growth will gradually hide the stem stubble. Pinch back growing tips when they reach 20 cm and again at 30 cm if bushy plants are desired.

Summer Maintenance: Apply fertilizer monthly during the growing season.

Fall/Winter Maintenance: Their hollow stems are used by nesting bees, so leave the stems in place.

Wildlife: 



Photo Credit - https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Swamp_rose-mallow.jpg

The Cosmonaut, CC BY-SA 2.5 CA <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.5/ca/deed.en>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Sundrops (4)

Bot. Name Oenothera sp
Mature Size 0.6 m H x 0.6 m W
Bloom Time May June

Sun Exposure Sun to Partial Shade
Flower Colour Yellow

Watering Instructions: Water sparingly

Spring Maintenance: None

Summer Maintenance: None, except to remove plants that have spread outside of desired area.

Fall/Winter Maintenance: Leave seedheads in place for overwintering birds.

Wildlife: 



Photo credit: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Oenothera_rubricaulis_2014_G1.jpg
George Chernilevsky, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

New England Aster (5)

Bot. Name	Symphyotrichum novae-angliae		
Mature Size	1-2 m H x 0.5 to 1 m W	Sun Exposure	Sun to Partial Shade
Bloom Time	September to October	Flower Colour	Purple

Watering Instructions: Water only when rainfall does not reach 2.5 cm per week.

Spring Maintenance: Add compost. Cut back dead flower stalks leaving stem stubble of varying height, from 20-60 cms, to provide nest cavities for bees. New growth will gradually hide the stem stubble.

Summer Maintenance: Pinching back stems every few weeks will promote more compact growth but stop before end of July.

Fall/Winter Maintenance: Remove seedheads to prevent self-seeding – except for a few for overwintering birds - but leave tall pithy stems in place for nesting bees. Divide when needed by sectioning off stems to make 15-20 cm diameter divisions with a group of leaves and roots.

Wildlife: 



Photo credit: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Symphyotrichum_novae-angliae3.jpg

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Ohio Goldenrod (6)

Bot. Name Solidago ohioensis
Mature Size 1 m H x 0.5 m W
Bloom Time August to Sept

Sun Exposure Full Sun
Flower Colour Yellow

Watering Instructions: Mature goldenrod plants are drought tolerant and rarely need supplemental watering except when rainfall is scarce.

Spring Maintenance: Cut back dead flower stalks leaving stem stubble of varying height, from 20-60 cms, to provide nest cavities for bees. New growth will gradually hide the stem stubble. Does not need to be fertilized.

Summer Maintenance: Deadheading spent flower heads will prolong blooms into the fall.

Fall/Winter Maintenance: Leave tall pithy stems in place for nesting bees. Leave a few seed heads for overwintering birds. Divide every 2-5 years as needed.

Wildlife: 



Photo credit: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Solidago_ohioensis_5499400.jpg
Rob Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org, CC BY 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Prairie Coneflower (7)

Bot. Name Ratibida columnifera

Mature Size 1 m H x -.5 m W

Bloom Time Summer to Fall

Sun Exposure Full Sun

Flower Colour Yellow

Watering Instructions: Water deeply but infrequently to avoid root rot. Avoid getting the leaves wet.

Spring Maintenance: Cut back in early spring.

Summer Maintenance: None

Fall/Winter Maintenance: Leave seedheads to ripen for winter birds. Divide every few years in spring or fall by cutting the root mass into 2-3 pieces.

Wildlife: 



Photo credit: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ratibidacolumnifera.jpg>
Stickpen, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Wild Bergamot (8)

Bot. Name	Monarda fistulosa	Sun Exposure	Sun to Partial Sun
Mature Size	0.5 to 1 m H x 0.5 to 1 m W	Flower Colour	Pink
Bloom Time	July to September		

Watering Instructions: Water deeply but infrequently to avoid root rot. To avoid powdery mildew, do not get water on the leaves and flowers.

Spring Maintenance: Add compost in early spring, if desired. Cut back dead flower stalks leaving stem stubble of varying height, from 20-60 cms, to provide nest cavities for bees. New growth will gradually hide the stem stubble. It also needs good air circulation, or it can get powdery mildew. If mildew occurs, spray plants with a 40/60 ratio of milk to water on a sunny day.

Summer Maintenance: Deadhead first set of faded blooms to encourage plant to rebloom.

Fall/Winter Maintenance: Leave some seedheads to ripen for winter birds and remove the rest, leaving the tall hollow stems for use by nesting bees. Divide every 2-3 years to maintain its vigor.

Wildlife: 



Photo credit: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Monarda_didyma_00.jpg
Takkk, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Chives (9)

Bot. Name	Allium sp	Sun Exposure	Full Sun to Part Shade
Mature Size	0,5 m H x 0.5 m W	Flower Colour	Purple
Bloom Time	Spring to Summer		

Watering Instructions: Water when the top 1 cm of soil is dry.

Spring Maintenance: Add compost.

Summer Maintenance: Once flowers have faded, cut plant down by half.

Fall/Winter Maintenance: Once dormant, cut back to ground level. Divide clumps as needed.

Wildlife: 

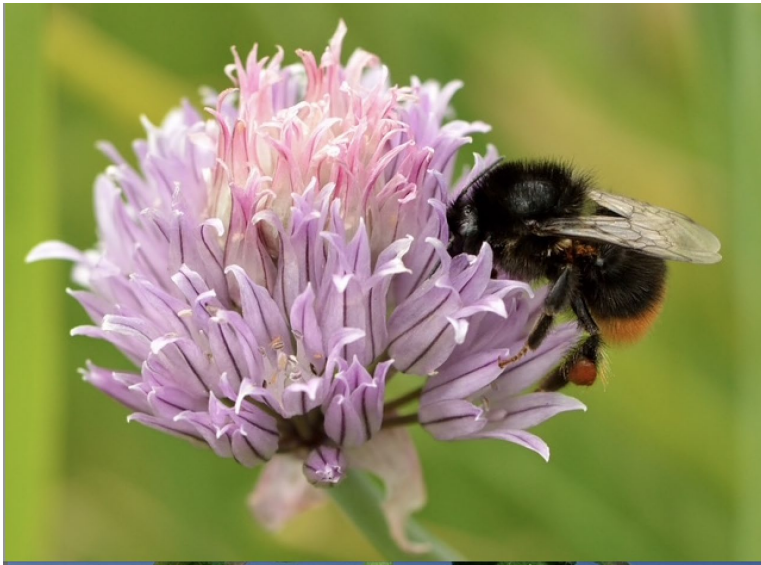


Photo credit: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Allium_schoenoprasum_-_Bombus_lapidarius_-_Tootsi.jpg
Ivar Leidus, CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Lanceleaf Coreopsis (10)

Bot. Name Coreopsis lanceolata
Mature Size up to 1 m H x 0.5 m W
Bloom Time May to August

Sun Exposure Full Sun
Flower Colour Yellow

Watering Instructions: Drought tolerant. Moist to Dry. Keep the soil moist to a depth of 2.5 cm.

Spring Maintenance: Cut back to 15 cm high in spring before new growth begins. This plant does not require fertilizer.

Summer Maintenance: Deadheading spent blooms will help control self-seeding and encourage additional blooms. Cut back hard if plant becomes too sprawly. Divide if plant has weakened or has fewer flowers than usual.

Fall/Winter Maintenance: None

Wildlife: 



Photo credit: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Coreopsis_lanceolata_Sterntaler.JPG
User:Qwertzy2, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Anise Hyssop (11)

Bot. Name	Agastache foeniculum	Sun Exposure	Full Sun
Mature Size	0.5-1.5 m H x 0,5–m W	Flower Colour	Lavender
Bloom Time	Summer to Fall		

Watering Instructions: Drought tolerant, so may not need to be watered unless leaves start to droop.

Spring Maintenance: Add compost. Cut back dead flower stalks leaving stem stubble of varying height, from 20-60 cms, to provide nest cavities. New growth will gradually hide the stem stubble.

Summer Maintenance: Prune deeply after 1st flush to 1/3 of plant height.

Fall/Winter Maintenance: Deadhead blooms to prevent prolific self-seeding but leave the tall hollow stems in place for use by nesting bees. Water well just before it dies back in fall. Dividing anise hyssop every 3-5 years can help prevent the center of the plant from dying out and rejuvenate the entire plant.

Wildlife: 



Photo credit: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Agastache_foeniculum02.jpg
Meneerke bloem, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Purple Coneflower (12)

Bot. Name	Echinacea purpurea	Sun Exposure	Full Sun
Mature Size	0.5-1.5 m H x up 0.5 m W	Flower Colour	Pinkish-purple
Bloom Time	June to August		

Watering Instructions: When the top inch of soil is dry, water thoroughly.

Spring Maintenance: Add compost. Cut back dead flower stalks leaving stem stubble of varying height, from 20-60 cms, to provide nest cavities for bees. New growth will gradually hide the stem stubble.

Summer Maintenance: Deadheading spent flowers in June and July will keep the plant blooming all summer. Plant needs good air circulation so make sure it is not crowded. Thin out stems if needed.

Fall/Winter Maintenance: Leave last set of spent flowers standing throughout the winter months to feed the birds. Leave the tall pithy stems in place for use by nesting bees. If needed, divide by cutting the root mass into 2-3 pieces and replanting.

Wildlife: 



Photo credit: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Echinacea_purpurea_Grandview_Prairie.jpg
Eric Hunt, CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Garlic Chives (13)

Bot. Name	Allium sp	Sun Exposure	Full Sun
Mature Size	up to 0.5 m H x W	Flower Colour	White
Bloom Time	Spring to Summer		

Watering Instructions: Water when the top 1 cm of soil is dry.

Spring Maintenance: Add compost.

Summer Maintenance: Once flowers have faded, cut plant down by half.

Fall/Winter Maintenance: Once dormant, cut back to ground level. Divide clumps and replant as needed.

Wildlife: 



Photo credit: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Allium_tuberosum_kz01.jpg
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Eastern Pasqueflower (14)

Bot. Name Pulsatilla patens
Mature Size up to 0.3 m H x W
Bloom Time April to June

Sun Exposure Full Sun
Flower Colour Red

Watering Instructions: Water at the base of plant. Does not like wet feet.

Spring Maintenance: Fertilize in spring, but do not overdo it. Cut back to the ground level before new growth emerges. The long tap root of Pasqueflower makes it difficult to move or divide.

Summer Maintenance: None

Fall/Winter Maintenance: Do not cut back. Dried seedheads and foliage add interest to the winter garden.

Wildlife:   



Photo credit: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pulsatilla_cernua_4.JPG
Qwert1234, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Dill (15)

Bot. Name	Anethum sp	Sun Exposure	Full Sun
Mature Size	up to 1.5 m H x 1 m W	Flower Colour	Yellow
Bloom Time	Late summer to fall		

Watering Instructions: Water at the base. Plant does not like wet feet.

Spring Maintenance: No need to fertilize. Pluck buds and prune upper leaves for a bushier plant.

Summer Maintenance: Leave some flowers and seedheads for reseeding and deadhead the rest.

Fall/Winter Maintenance: Tidy up by cutting back stems after dormancy but leave some stalks with seedheads for reseeding.

Wildlife: 



Photo credit: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Illustration_Anethum_graveolens_clean.jpg
Illustration_Anethum_graveolens0.jpg: Prof. Dr. Otto Wilhelm Thomé
derivative work: Aroche, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Dense Blazing Star (16)

Bot. Name	Liatris spicata	Sun Exposure	Full Sun
Mature Size	up to 1.5 m H x 0.5 m W	Flower Colour	Purple
Bloom Time	July to November		

Watering Instructions: 2.5 cms of water per week

Spring Maintenance: Cut back dead flower stalks leaving stem stubble of varying height, from 20-60 cms, to provide nest cavities for bees. New growth will gradually hide the stem stubble. Requires good air circulation.

Summer Maintenance: None

Fall/Winter Maintenance: Their pithy stems are used by nesting bees and overwintering birds enjoy the seeds, so leave them in place. Divide if needed by digging up the root corms, separating them, and replanting.

Wildlife: 



Photo credit: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Liatris_spicata_Purple.jpg
I, Chrumps, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Butterfly Weed (17)

Bot. Name	Asclepias tuberosa	Sun Exposure	Sun to Partial Shade
Mature Size	up to 1 m H x .5 m W	Flower Colour	Yellow-Orange
Bloom Time	June to September		

Watering Instructions: Water mature plants sparingly when soil is dry to the touch.

Spring Maintenance: Cut back dead flower stalks leaving stem stubble of varying height, from 20-60 cms, to provide nest cavities. New growth will gradually hide the stem stubble. Do not fertilize. They do not do well with moving or dividing since they have a long taproot.

Summer Maintenance: To prolong the blooming period, deadhead spent milkweed flower heads only in early summer by removing the stalk at the first junction of the leaves below the flower.

Fall/Winter Maintenance: Their hollow stems are used by nesting bees, so leave the stems in place. Leave a few seed heads for the birds and small animals who use their natural fibres and seed fluff in their nests.

Wildlife: 



Photo: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Asclepias_tuberosa_interior.jpg

Eric Hunt, CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Catmint (18)

Bot. Name	Nepeta sp	Sun Exposure	Full Sun to Part Shade
Mature Size	up to 1 m H x W	Flower Colour	Blue-purple
Bloom Time	Summer to Fall		

Watering Instructions: Drought tolerant so only water in extreme heat/dry spells. If leaves and flowers are drooping or brown, the plant needs water.

Spring Maintenance: Does not need to be fertilized.

Summer Maintenance: Once stems become leggy and flop open, give the plants a good cutting back which may result in a second bloom.

Fall/Winter Maintenance: Cut top growth down to 10-15 cm above the ground. To divide, dig up the plant in early spring or fall; break up clump into pieces, each with plenty of roots and shoot buds, and replant.

Wildlife:   



Photo credit: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Catnip-blossom.jpg>
Jon Sullivan, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Foxglove Beardtongue (19)

Bot. Name Penstemon Digitalis
Mature Size 1.5 m t x 0.5 m W
Bloom Time May to July

Sun Exposure Sun to Partial Shade
Flower Colour White

Watering Instructions: 2.5 cm of water per week

Spring Maintenance: Fertilize.

Summer Maintenance: Remove individual stalks that have flowered at the soil line unless you want the plant to self-seed.

Fall/Winter Maintenance: Does not like to be wet in winter. Leave seedheads in place for overwintering birds. Divide clumps as needed and replant.

Wildlife: 



Photo credit: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Penstemon_digitalis.jpg
Eric Hunt, CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

False Sunflower (20)

Bot. Name Heliopsis helianthoides

Mature Size 1-2 m H x 1 m W

Bloom Time July to October

Sun Exposure Full Sun

Flower Colour Yellow

Watering Instructions: These plants like to be kept consistently moist.

Spring Maintenance: Does not need to be fertilized. If desired, prune or pinch them back in mid-spring for a shorter sturdier plant.

Summer Maintenance: Deadheading spent flowers will keep new buds forming and give the plant a tidier appearance.

Fall/Winter Maintenance: In mid fall after plant has stopped blooming, remove seedheads to reduce self-seeding. Leave stems in place to provide winter cover to pollinators. Every 2 years, divide by cutting plant apart into halves or thirds and replanting.

Wildlife: 



Photo credit: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Heliopsis_July_2011-2.jpg

Alvesgaspar, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Virginia Spiderwort (21)

Bot. Name Tradescantia virginiana
Mature Size up to 1 m H x 0.5 m W
Bloom Time May to July

Sun Exposure Full Sun
Flower Colour Pink

Watering Instructions: Water every few days during the hot summer months. If stems or leaves turn yellow, it is getting too much water.

Spring Maintenance: Fertilize once in spring.

Summer Maintenance: Stems should be trimmed back hard when blooming ends to 20-30 cm tall to encourage repeat blooms.

Fall/Winter Maintenance: At the end of fall, water well before the ground freezes. Every 2-3 years, divide the clump by splitting it into pieces that contain 4-6 shoots each with the roots attached and replant.

Wildlife: 



Photo credit:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tradescantia_virginiana_Plummers_Island_MD_with_Toxomerus_sp2.jpg
Daniel J. Layton, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Autumn Joy Sedum (22)

Bot. Name	Sedum 'Herbstfreude'	Sun Exposure	Full Sun
Mature Size	0.5 m H x W	Flower Colour	Pink, Red
Bloom Time	Summer to Fall		

Watering Instructions: Light watering once every 1-2 weeks. More frequent watering may cause root rot.

Spring Maintenance: Cut back dead flower stalks leaving stem stubble of varying height, from 20-60 cms, to provide nest cavities for bees. New growth will gradually hide the stem stubble. Do not fertilize.

Summer Maintenance: None

Fall/Winter Maintenance: Do not cut back. Leave the dried flowerheads in place for the birds to feed on over the winter and the tall pithy stems in place for use by nesting bees in spring. Every 3-4 years, just as new growth begins to appear, divide each clump into sections with a sharp knife. Each division should contain several shoots and a portion of the root system.

Wildlife: 



Photo credit: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sedum_telephium_200907.jpg
Henry Salomé, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Prairie Smoke (23)

Bot. Name	Geum triflorum	Sun Exposure	Full Sun
Mature Size	0.5 m H x W	Flower Colour	Pink to Maroon
Bloom Time	Spring to early Summer		

Watering Instructions: Water once a week if not receiving enough water from rainfall.

Spring Maintenance: Does not tolerate competition from other plants. Fertilize when new growth begins.

Summer Maintenance: Stalks can be cut back after the flowers are spent to tidy up the plant's appearance. Divide by root division when needed and replant.

Fall/Winter Maintenance: Does not like to be wet in the winter.

Wildlife: 🍁 🐰 🐝 esp. bumblebee queens



Photo credit - https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Geum_triflorum_var._ciliatum_2.jpg
Thayne Tuason, CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Smooth Blue Aster (24)

Bot. Name Symphyotrichum laeve

Mature Size 0.5-1.5 m H x W

Bloom Time August to November

Sun Exposure Full Sun to Part Shade

Flower Colour Pale Purple

Watering Instructions: Dry

Spring Maintenance: Add compost. Does not like to be overcrowded so make sure it has room.

Summer Maintenance: Cut back to 1/3 of height once or twice in early summer to promote bushier growth and more blooms.

Fall/Winter Maintenance: Leave the seedheads for birds to enjoy over the winter. Move or divide when needed, just as plants start to grow, by creating 15-20 cm diameter divisions with a group of leaves and roots.

Wildlife: 



Photo credit: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Symphyotrichum_laeve_93797924_\(cropped\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Symphyotrichum_laeve_93797924_(cropped).jpg)
Kathleen Houlahan Chayer, CC0, via Wikimedia Commons

Little Bluestem (25)

Bot. Name	Schizachyrium scoparium	Sun Exposure	Full Sun
Mature Size	1.5 m H x .6 m W	Flower Colour	N/A
Bloom Time	Summer, Fall		

Watering Instructions: Water lightly on a weekly basis. Do not overwater.

Spring Maintenance: Do not fertilize. Cut back after the apple blossoms fade to allow time for bumblebees to emerge in spring.

Summer Maintenance: None

Fall/Winter Maintenance: Do not cut back in the fall. Leave in place for overwintering bumblebees. To divide, cut the clump into 2-3 sections with a good number of roots and then replant.

Wildlife: 



Photo credit: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:SchizachyriumScoparium.jpg>
Chhe, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Black-eyed Susan (26)

Bot. Name Rudbeckia hirta
Mature Size 1 m H x 0.5 m W
Bloom Time Summer to Fall

Sun Exposure Sun to Partial Sun
Flower Colour Yellow

Watering Instructions: Moist to dry. Water from the base weekly, or more frequently during dry periods, especially if the plant is drooping.

Spring Maintenance: Apply light dressing of compost. Does not like to be overcrowded.

Summer Maintenance: Cutting back after flowering may result in a second, smaller bloom. Cut the stem back to just beyond a leaf so you do not leave dead stems poking out.

Fall/Winter Maintenance: Leave some dried seedheads on the plants for the overwintering birds to enjoy. Divide by cutting the root ball in 2 and replant.

Wildlife: 



Photo credit: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Black_eyed_susan_dyke_road_\(20013843578\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Black_eyed_susan_dyke_road_(20013843578).jpg)
Russ, CC BY 2.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Serviceberry (27)

Bot. Name Amelanchier sp
Mature Size up to 7 m H
Bloom Time April

Sun Exposure Sun to Partial Shade
Flower Colour White

Watering Instructions: Moist.

Spring Maintenance: Apply general-purpose fertilizer before growth starts. Remove dead or damaged branches.

Summer Maintenance: Apply/top-up mulch 5 cm deep around base to retain moisture but keep it 30-45 cms from the trunk. Water when top 8-10 cms of soil feels dry.

Fall/Winter Maintenance: Provide consistent watering through the fall, but less frequently than in the growing season.

Wildlife: 



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Amelanchier_grandiflora2.jpg

Kurt Stüber [1], CC BY-SA 3.0 <<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

False Indigo (28)

Bot. Name	Baptisia Australis	Sun Exposure	Full Sun
Mature Size	about 1 m H x W	Flower Colour	Blue
Bloom Time	mid-May to mid-June		

Watering Instructions: Moist to dry. Drought tolerant once established.

Spring Maintenance: No fertilizing needed. Cut back the old flowering stems to ground level now or in the fall after stems go black.

Summer Maintenance: Give it a modest shearing after flowering.

Fall/Winter Maintenance: No winterizing needed. Cut back the old flowering stems to ground level when the stems go black, or in the spring. Division is difficult and not advised.

Wildlife: 



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Baptisia_australis.jpg

Eric Hunt, CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Profusion Zinnia (29)

Bot. Name	Zinnia Profusion	Sun Exposure	Full Sun
Mature Size	45 cm H x 60 cm W	Flower Colour	Multi-coloured
Bloom Time	summer till frost		

Watering Instructions: Medium. Avoid watering from overhead to discourage mildew.

Spring Maintenance: Seeds can be sowed after the danger of frost has passed. Amend the soil with compost before sowing seeds or planting seedlings. Avoid overcrowding to prevent powdery mildew. If mildew occurs, spray plants with a 40/60 ratio of milk to water on a sunny day.

Summer Maintenance: Add a balanced fertilizer during growing season.

Fall/Winter Maintenance: They die off with the first hard frost.

Wildlife:  **A**



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Zinnia_single_layer_and_12_Petals_2.jpg CC BY-SA 4.0
<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0> via Wikimedia Commons

Appendix A - Resources

All required permissions were obtained as of April 7, 2025.

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Appendix B - Maintenance Schedule

Spring

1. Geranium – add compost.
2. Swamp Milkweed – cut back dead flower stalks leaving stem stubble of varying heights from 20-60 cms.
3. Swamp Rose Mallow – cut back dead flower stalks leaving stem stubble of varying heights from 20-60 cms.
4. Sundrops – nothing required.
5. New England Aster – add compost. Cut back dead flower stalks. leaving stem stubble of varying heights from 20-60 cms.
6. Ohio Goldenrod – cut back dead flower stalks leaving stem stubble of varying heights from 20-60 cms.
7. Prairie Coneflower– cut back in early spring.
8. Wild Bergamot – add compost. Cut back dead flower stalks leaving stem stubble of varying heights from 20-60 cms.
9. Chives – Add compost.
10. Lanceleaf Coreopsis – cut back to 15 cm in spring before new growth begins.
11. Anise Hyssop – Add compost. Cut back dead flower stalks. leaving stem stubble of varying heights from 20-60 cms.
12. Purple Coneflower – Add compost. Cut back dead flower stalks leaving stem stubble of varying height, from 20-60 cms.
13. Garlic Chives – add compost.
14. Eastern Pasqueflower – Apply a light application of fertilizer. Cut back to ground before new growth emerges.
15. Dill - Pluck buds and prune upper leaves for a bushier plant.
16. Dense Blazing Star – Cut back dead flower stalks leaving stem stubble of varying height, from 20-60 cms.
17. Butterfly Milkweed – Cut back dead flower stalks leaving stem stubble of varying height, from 20-60 cms.
18. Catmint – n/a
19. Foxglove Beardtongue – Fertilize.
20. False Sunflower – pinch in mid-spring for a sturdier plant.
21. Virginia Spiderwort – fertilize.
22. Autumn Joy Sedum – Cut back dead flower stalks leaving stem stubble of varying height, from 20-60 cms.
23. Prairie Smoke – fertilize when new growth begins. Make sure it is not crowded by other plants.
24. Smooth Blue Aster- add compost.
25. Little Bluestem – cut back after apple blossoms in the area have faded.
26. Black-eyed Susan – add compost.
27. Serviceberry – fertilize before new growth starts.

28. False Indigo – Cut back old flowering stems to ground level.
29. Zinnia – Sow seeds/plant seedlings after danger of frost has passed.

Summer

1. Geranium – after flowering, shear plants back to 7-12 cm to encourage reblooming.
2. Swamp Milkweed – deadhead spent flower heads in early summer to encourage reblooming.
3. Swamp Rose Mallow – Pinch back growing tips when they reach 20 cm and again at 30 cm if bushy plants are desired. Fertilize monthly.
4. New England Aster – pinch back stems every few weeks but stop before end of July.
5. Ohio Goldenrod – Deadheading spent flowers will prolong blooms into the fall.
6. Wild Bergamot – deadhead first set of faded blooms to encourage reblooming.
7. Chives – once flowers have faded, cut plant down by 1/2.
9. Lanceleaf Coreopsis – Deadhead spent blooms to control self-seeding. Cut back hard if too sprawly.
10. Anise Hyssop – prune to 1/3 plant height after flowering.
11. Purple Coneflower – Deadhead spent flowers in June and July. Thin out stems if needed for air circulation.
12. Garlic Chives – When flowers are faded cut down plant by half.
13. Eastern Pasqueflower – n/a.
14. Dill – Leave some flowers and seedheads for reseeding and deadhead the rest.
15. Dense Blazing Star – n/a.
16. Butterfly Milkweed – deadhead spent flower heads in early summer to encourage reblooming.
17. Catmint – once stems become leggy and flop open, give plants a good shearing for a 2nd bloom.
18. Foxglove Beardtongue – Remove individual stalks that have flowered unless you want the plant to self-seed.
19. False Sunflower – Deadheading spent flowers will keep new buds forming.
20. Virginia Spiderwort – when blooming finishes, cut back to 20-30 cms tall to encourage repeat blooming.
21. Prairie Smoke – Cut stalks back after flowering. Divide by root division when needed.
22. Smooth Blue Aster – Cut back to 1/3 of height once or twice in the summer to promote more blooms.
23. Little Bluestem – none.
24. Black-eyed Susan – Cut back after flowering to encourage reblooming.
25. Serviceberry – apply/top-up mulch 5 cm deep around base to retain moisture but keep it 30-45 cms from the trunk.
26. False Indigo – give it a modest shearing after flowering.

27. Zinnia – apply balanced fertilizer throughout the growing season.

Late Fall

1. Geranium – cut off stems to just above ground level.
2. Swamp Milkweed – Leave stems and seedheads in place.
3. Swamp Rose Mallow – Leave stems in place.
4. Sundrops – Leave seedheads in place.
5. New England Aster – Leave stems in place. Remove all but a few seedheads.
6. Ohio Goldenrod – Leave stems in place. Remove all but a few seedheads.
7. Prairie Coneflower – Leave stems and seedheads in place.
8. Wild Bergamot – Leave stems in place. Remove all but a few seedheads.
9. Chives – once dormant, cut back to ground level.
10. Lanceleaf Coreopsis – n/a
11. Anise Hyssop – Leave stems in place. Dead head blooms to prevent self-seeding. Give it a good watering before it dies back.
12. Purple Coneflower – Leave stems and flower heads in place.
13. Garlic Chives – once dormant, cut back to ground level.
14. Eastern Pasqueflower – Leave stems and seedheads in place.
15. Dill – tidy up but leave some seedheads in place for reseeding.
16. Dense Blazing Star – Leave stems and seedheads in place.
17. Butterfly Weed – Leave stems and seedheads in place.
18. Catmint – cut down to 10-15 cms.
19. Foxglove Beardtongue – Leave stems and seedheads in place.
20. False Sunflower – Deadhead but leave stems in place.
21. Virginia Spiderwort – Water well before the ground freezes.
22. Autumn Joy Sedum – leave stems and flowers in place.
24. Smooth Blue Aster – leave a few seedheads in place.
23. Prairie Smoke – does not like to be wet in winter.
25. Little Bluestem – leave stems in place.
26. Black-eyed Susan – leave a few seedheads in place.
27. Serviceberry – reduce amount of water in the fall.
28. False Indigo – n/a
29. Zinnia Profusion - Dies off with first hard frost.