

## MINNESOTA NATIVE SPRING FLOWERS:



**American pasqueflower**  
(1/2-1ft tall)  
*Anemone patens*  
☀️ 🌱 💧 💧



**Wild columbine**  
(1-3ft tall)  
*Aquilegia canadensis*  
☀️ 🌱 💧 💧



**Marsh marigold**  
(1ft tall)  
*Caltha palustris*  
🌱 💧



**Wild geranium**  
(1-3ft tall)  
*Geranium maculatum*  
🌱 ☀️ 💧



**Virginia waterleaf**  
(1-2ft tall)  
*Hydrophyllum virginianum*  
🌱 ☀️ 💧



**Prairie smoke**  
(1ft tall)  
*Geum triflorum*  
☀️ 🌱 💧 💧



**Wild lupine**  
(1-2ft tall)  
*Lupinus perennis*  
🌱 ☀️ 💧

## MINNESOTA NATIVE MID-SUMMER FLOWERS:



**Fragrant hyssop**  
(2-4ft tall)  
*Agastache foeniculum*  
☀️ 🌱 💧 💧



**Butterfly weed**  
(1-3ft tall)  
*Asclepias tuberosa*  
☀️ 💧



**Common milkweed**  
(2-4ft tall)  
*Asclepias syriaca*  
☀️ 🌱 💧 💧



**Yellow coneflower**  
(3-5ft tall)  
*Ratibida pinnata*  
☀️ 💧 💧



**Purple prairie clover**  
(1-3ft tall)  
*Dalea purpurea*  
☀️ 💧 💧



**Rattlesnake master**  
(3-5ft tall)  
*Eryngium yuccifolium*  
☀️ 💧



**Wild bergamot**  
(2-5ft tall)  
*Monarda fistulosa*  
☀️ 🌱 💧

## MINNESOTA NATIVE LATE-SUMMER-FALL FLOWERS:



**Spotted joe pye weed**  
(4-10ft tall)  
*Eutrochium maculatum*  
☀️ 🌱 💧 💧



**Bottle gentian**  
(1-2ft tall)  
*Gentiana andrewsii*  
☀️ 🌱 💧



**Maximilian sunflower**  
(4-8ft tall)  
*Helianthus maximiliani*  
☀️ 💧 💧



**Rough blazing star**  
(2-3ft tall)  
*Liatris aspera*  
☀️ 💧 💧



**Dwarf blazing star**  
(1-2ft tall)  
*Liatris cylindracea*  
☀️ 🌱 💧 💧



**Goldenrod**  
(3-4ft tall)  
*Solidago* sp.  
☀️ 🌱 💧 💧



**Smooth blue aster**  
(1-3ft tall)  
*Symphyotrichum laevis*  
🌱 💧

## WHY PLANT NATIVE PLANTS?

- Native plants are adapted to our climate, so they require very little care once they are established.
- Many native plants grow long root systems. This makes them useful for erosion control and makes many resistant to drought.
- Many cultivars and hybrid plant species produce very little, if any, nectar or pollen for pollinators. They have been bred by people for extra petals or novel colors, not their benefit to pollinators.
- Native plants are beautiful!

You can see many of these native wildflowers (and more!) in the prairie demonstration space around the Tiger and Toucan parking lots at the Minnesota Zoo!

Check out [mnzoo.org/plantforpollinators](https://mnzoo.org/plantforpollinators) for more pollinator favorites!





### 3. Meadow Blazing Star

*Liatrix ligulistylis* (3–5 feet tall)  
Blooms Late Summer to Early Fall  
This is the preferred plant for monarch butterflies in late August and September as they load up on energy before migrating to Mexico for the winter.



### 4. Black-eyed Susan

*Rudbeckia hirta* (1–3 feet tall)  
Blooms June through September  
Black-eyed susan is an iconic plant and an important food source for many butterflies and bees. They can thrive in a variety of soil types.



### 5. New England Aster

*Symphotrichum novae-angliae* (1–4 feet)  
Blooms Autumn  
Bright purple flowers make New England asters one of the most striking plants of fall. It is loved by almost all pollinators and is a host plant for crescent butterflies.

## TIPS FOR ATTRACTING POLLINATORS TO YOUR GARDEN



- Plant wildflowers native to your region.
- Choose a variety of plants that bloom from spring to fall.
- Avoid pesticides and avoid purchasing plants that have been treated with pesticides. Ask your garden store for pesticide-free plants.
- Choose plants of different heights.
- Choose plants that provide food for butterfly caterpillars. For example, monarch caterpillars can only eat milkweed.

**For more resources about gardening for pollinators and to learn more about Minnesota Zoo's work to save butterflies visit [mnzoo.org/savebutterflies](http://mnzoo.org/savebutterflies)**



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## PLANT FOR POLLINATORS

Bees, butterflies and other animals pollinate most wild plants, as well as at least a third of our food. Pollinators have been declining due to habitat loss and the lack of nectar and pollen resources.

Minnesota Zoo scientists are working with many partners to save Minnesota's endangered prairie butterflies. We are breeding butterflies at the Zoo and studying reasons for their decline in the wild.

You can make a difference in your own garden. No matter how large, pollinator gardens with native plants can have a huge impact!

## TOP FIVE BEST CHOICE NATIVE PLANTS



Full Sun



Partial Sun



Shade



Wet



Moderate



Dry



### 1. Rose (swamp) Milkweed

*Asclepias incarnata* (2–4 feet tall)  
Blooms mid-summer  
They thrive in a variety of soil types, particularly moister soils and are a caterpillar host for Monarchs. The clusters of pink flowers will attract many pollinator species.



### 2. Purple Coneflower

*Echinacea* sp. (3–4 feet tall)  
Blooms mid-summer  
Purple coneflowers are rich nectar and pollen sources for pollinators. Narrow-leaf purple coneflower (*E. angustifolia*) is native to western Minnesota prairies. The most commonly sold species is purple coneflower (*E. purpurea*), but it is not actually native to Minnesota.