

Native Plant Guide



East Otter Tail

Soil & Water Conservation District



Grasses

Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)

Height: 2-4 feet

Type: warm-season, clump-forming

Sun: Full to partial sun

Bloom Time: August to February

Characteristics: Plants are green with a purple tinge at the base and a reddish cast after frost.

Leaves are smooth but covered with hairs at the base. Seed heads are 3 inches long. Highly drought tolerant.



Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*)

Height: 2-7 feet

Type: warm-season, clump-forming

Sun: Full to partial sun

Bloom Time: September to February

Characteristics: Leaves emerge gray to blue-green, mature to red tones in the summer, and turn a reddish-bronze in the fall. The seed head is 3-parted and purplish in color, resembling a turkey foot. Highly drought tolerant, a dominant prairie grass.

Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)

Height: 3-7 feet

Type: warm-season, clump-forming

Sun: Full to partial sun

Bloom Time: September to February

Characteristics: Leaves emerge blue-green in color and turn yellow-orange in the fall. Seed heads are narrow, feathery, and light-brown in color, turning to dark brown or bronze in the winter.



Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)

Height: 3-6 feet

Type: warm-season, clump-forming

Sun: Full to partial sun

Bloom Time: July to February

Characteristics: Leaves emerge bluish-green but quickly turn burgundy-red. Leaves are smooth with hairs at the base. Seed heads are large and airy, with slender spreading branches. It can grow in a wide variety of soil conditions.



Blue Grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*)

Height: 0.75-3 feet

Type: warm-season, clump-forming

Sun: Full sun

Bloom Time: June to August

Characteristics: Narrow, blue-gray leaves form a dense, curly clump and the attachment of the leaf blades have long, white hairs. The seed heads are curved, resembling human eyebrows, making it a popular ornamental grass. Foliage turns golden brown in autumn.

Sideoats Grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*)

Height: 1.5-2 feet

Type: warm-season, clump-forming

Sun: Full sun

Bloom Time: July to August

Characteristics: Leaves are narrow and bluish-grey and form a dense clump, turning golden brown in fall. Seed heads form oat-like spikes with purple, orange, or yellow flowers which turn to tan in the fall.





Slender Wheatgrass (*Elymus trachycaulus*)

Height: 2-3 feet

Type: cool-season, clump-forming

Sun: Full to partial sun

Bloom Time: April to May

Characteristics: Leaves and stems are tinged reddish-purple at the base and leaves are deeply veined. Seed heads are erect, long, and narrow.

Western Wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*)

Height: 1-3 feet

Type: cool-season, clump-forming

Sun: Full sun

Bloom Time: June to July

Characteristics: Leaves are blue-green with prominent veins. Stems are single or in small clusters. Seed heads are erect, long, and narrow.



Canada Wild Rye (*Elymus Canadensis*)

Height: 2-5 feet

Type: cool-season, clump-forming

Sun: Full sun

Bloom Time: July to August

Characteristics: Leaves are flat, pointed, and bluish-green to green in color. Seed heads form long, arching bristles green in color that turn tan in the fall. It adapts to a wide variety of soil conditions and is drought tolerant.

Flowers

Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)

Height: 1-3 feet

Sun: Full sun

Bloom Time: June to October

Characteristics: Yellow ray petals surround a dark button-shaped disk. Leaves are oblong to lance-like and are covered in short, stiff hairs. The center disk becomes a head of dry, dark seeds in the fall.



Yarrow (*Achillea milifolium*)

Height: 1-3 feet

Sun: Full sun

Bloom Time: June to September

Characteristics: Leaves are deeply dissected and fern-like, producing a strong scent when crushed. Flowers are small and long-lasting, growing in groups of 10 to 20, with 3 clusters forming a flat-headed bunch.

Anise Hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*)

Height: 2-4 feet

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Bloom Time: June to October

Characteristics: An upright, clump-forming perennial of the mint family. Hyssop has blue to purple spike flowers. It has square stems with wide, pointed, and toothed leaves. When crushed, the leaves smell like licorice. Very attractive to bees and butterflies.





Canada Milkvetch (*Astragalus canadensis*)

Height: 1-3 feet

Sun: Full sun to partial shade

Bloom Time: June to August

Characteristics: A legume in the pea family, Canada milkvetch fixes nitrogen into the soil and is adaptable to any well-drained soil. Leaves are compound with an odd number of leaflets. Creamy flowers turn to oval seed pods with an oval tip.

Common Oxeye (*Heliopsis helianthoides*)

Height: 2-6 feet

Sun: Full sun to partial shade

Bloom Time: June to September

Characteristics: Common oxeye is an upright, clump-forming plant with yellow-orange daisy-like flowers. They bloom throughout summer atop stiff stems with oval toothed leaves and are typically 1 1/2 to 3 1/2 inches across. Although not a true sunflower, it closely resembles them and is sometimes called false sunflower. It does well in a variety of soils, although plants are more robust in moister conditions.



Maximilian Sunflower (*Helianthus maximilianii*)

Height: 2-10 feet

Sun: Full sun

Bloom Time: July to October

Characteristics: Stem is hairy and rigid, with rough, tapered, greyish-green leaves which are mostly toothless. Flowers are 2 to 4 inches across, surrounding a center disk which turns into a seed head in the fall. They bloom from shorter flower stalks that split from the stem.



Purple Prairie Clover (*Dalea purpurea*)

Height: 1-3 feet

Sun: Full sun

Bloom Time: June to August

Characteristics: Purple flowers with yellow or orange stamens bloom bottom to top. Leaves are compound with 3 to 7 leaflets and are smaller and skinnier than white prairie clover. When crushed, the leaves smell strongly of citrus.



White Prairie Clover (*Dalea candida*)

Height: 1-3 feet

Sun: Full sun

Bloom Time: June to July

Characteristics: Leaves are compound in groups of 5 to 9. White flowers are packed in a cylindrical spike and bloom from bottom to top. Leaves are wider than purple prairie clover, and when crushed they don't smell as citrusy.

Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)

Height: 2-10 feet

Sun: Full sun

Bloom Time: July to October

Characteristics: Leaves are coarsely toothed and hairy underneath. The stem is reddish-brown and square. Flowers range from purple to pink to sometimes white and are 1 to 2 inches across. Petals drop off in the fall, leaving dark brown seeds.



Leadplant (*Amorpha canescens*)

Height: 1-3 feet

Sun: Full sun

Bloom Time: June to August

Characteristics: Leaves are compound and oval in shape, covered with many fine hairs giving it a greyish color. Main stems are wood and brown. Purple flowers form in dense spikes with orange stamens, usually with 5 flowers at the end of a branching stem.



Hoary Vervain (*Verbena stricta*)

Height: 1-3 feet

Sun: Full sun

Bloom Time: June to September

Characteristics: Leaves are coarsely toothed, oblong, and hairy. Stems are square and may be a reddish color. Purple flowers are densely packed spike clusters, and spikes get longer as the plant matures. Seeds form on the spike.



Prairie Cinquefoil (*Potentilla arguta*)

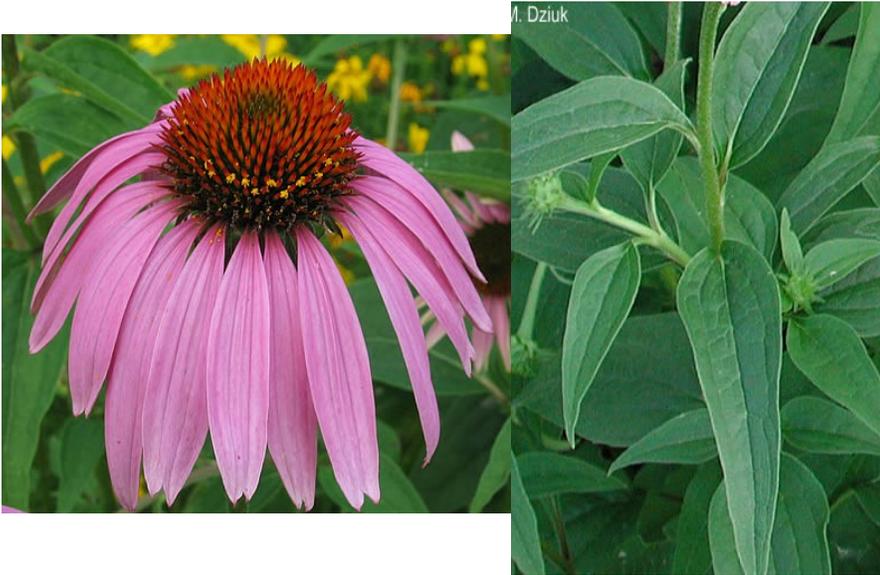
Height: 1-3 feet

Sun: Full sun to partial shade

Bloom Time: June to August

Characteristics: Leaves are compound in groups of 7 to 11. Leaflets are generally oval, coarsely toothed, and very hairy. Stems are covered in hairs and are slightly sticky. White flowers have 5 petals and a yellow center. Typically only a few flowers are open at a time.





Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)

Height: 2-4 feet

Sun: Full sun to partial shade

Bloom Time: July to October

Characteristics: Flowers bloom at the top of stiff, hairy stems. Dark green leaves are broad and lance-like with coarse hairs and serrated edges.

Gray-headed Coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*)

Height: 3-7 feet

Sun: Full sun

Bloom Time: June to August

Characteristics: Leaves are narrow and deeply lobed, and are bigger at the base of the stem. They are rough and covered with small hairs. 1-12 flower heads bloom at the top of thin stalks. Petals are drooping and surround an erect oval cone where seeds form.



Partridge Pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*)

Height: 1-2 feet

Sun: Full sun

Bloom Time: July to September

Characteristics: Leaves are compound with 5-18 pairs of leaflets. Stems are hairless or have short flattened hairs. Flowers have 5 petals and red blotches at the base, surrounding dark maroon stamens. Seeds form in flat pods like peas. Shorter plants are erect, while older plants tend to sprawl more.



All photos from minnesotawildflowers.info

Common Weeds



03 © Peter M. Dziuk
Hoary Alyssum



Ragweed



Black Medic



Purslane



Pigweed



Sow Thistle



Lamb's Quarters



Plantain

Invasive Species



Birds-foot Trefoil



Sweet Clover



Reed Canary Grass



Orange Hawkweed



Leafy Spurge



Canada Thistle



Wild Parsnip



Spotted Knapweed



Common Mullein

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East Otter Tail

Soil & Water Conservation District

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