

Native Perennials

Plant widths are similar to their heights unless noted otherwise.

We use www.plants.usda.gov as our source to determine whether a species is native to Minnesota. If you're looking for plants native to North America but not Minnesota, you'll find them in the Perennials section.

Native plants are marked with the native symbol ☐ and the source of the plant stock or seed used to grow these plants is given. Those without the Minnesota symbol are selections or cultivated varieties bred from the Minnesota species, sometimes called "nativars." In those cases, the term "cultivar," "selected," or "selection" is used.

Many of these plants are first-season seedlings that will stay small this year as they develop their root systems, not blooming until their second season in the garden.

Key

- Full sun
- ◐ Part sun/part shade
- Shade
- 🐝 Attractive to bees
- 🦉 Audubon-endorsed
- 🦋 Butterfly-friendly
- 🐦 Hummingbird-friendly
- 🌿 Attractive foliage
- 🍷 Culinary
- 🌸 Edible flowers
- 🌱 Ground cover
- 🏠 Houseplant
- 🧴 Medicinal
- ☑ Minnesota native
- 🪨 Rock garden
- ❄ Cold-sensitive: keep above 40°F
- ☹ Toxic to humans
- 🔄 Saturday restock

About those stars...

Throughout, you will notice plants that are marked with five stars (*****). These plants have been awarded five stars by Heeger, Lonnee, and Whitman in the 2011 edition of *Growing Perennials in Cold Climates* as some of the very best plants available on the market.



No more Aster

All of the U.S. native plants named aster used to also have the scientific name *Aster*. Unfortunately, the botany experts decided to change the genus of the U.S. native asters to a couple of other, much more complicated names. We mourn the loss of *Aster* for our native plants.

N001 Anemone, Wood

Anemone quinquefolia

White 1" flowers wave in spring breezes on slender stems, then disappear after blooming to return next spring. Spreading by rhizomes, the plants form a nice drift at the woodland edge. Seed from Carlton County, Minn. 4–8"h ○●☑☹

\$10.00—4" pot

Aster, Aromatic

Symphyotrichum oblongifolium

Showy, low-growing, bushy plant with hundreds of daisy flowers in fall. Excellent cut flower. Host plant for silvery checkerspot butterflies. ○●🐝

\$3.00—2.5" pot:

N002 **Dream of Beauty**—Pink flowers with burnt orange centers form a dense carpet in many soil types, including clay. Selected by Great Plains plantsman Claude Barr. ***** 12"h

N003 **October Skies**—Light lavender-blue 1" flowers with gold centers on mint-scented mounds. Pollinators appreciate that it blooms in late summer and fall when nectar is harder to find. Cultivar. ***** 15–24"h

N004 **Raydon's Favorite**—Blue-lavender 1" flowers. Rated by the Chicago Botanic Garden as one of the best aster cultivars for its shape and flower production. 24–36"h by 18–36"w

\$4.00—3.5" pot:

N005 **Wild Aromatic Aster**—Blue-lavender flowers with yellow centers. Seed from Peoria County, Illinois. 12–40"h ☑☹

N006 Aster, Calico

Symphyotrichum lateriflorum Lady in Black

Statuesque beauty with dark purple leaves in spring, smothered in small white daisies with purplish red centers in late summer. Cultivar. 36"h ○●🐝

\$3.00—2.5" pot

N007 Aster, Heart-Leaved

Symphyotrichum cordifolium

Clouds of small daisy flowers, sometimes light blue, sometimes white, with centers that change from white to dark pink, August–October. Wonderful cut flowers and charming in the garden. Average to dry soil. Seed from Clayton County, Iowa. 24–36"h ○●🐝☑☹

\$4.00—3.5" pot

Aster, New England

Symphyotrichum novae-angliae

Daisy flowers with excellent late-season color, blooming throughout the fall. Tolerant of wet soil, but happy in average soil. Deer-resistant. ○●🐝

\$3.00—2.5" pot:

N008 **Purple Dome**—A standout in the fall garden. Performs best in full sun and well-drained soil. Cultivar. ***** 18"h

\$4.00—3.5" pot:

N009 **Wild New England Aster**—Lavender, pink, or violet blossoms. Cutting back the stems back in June produces bushier plants. Seed from Winona County, Minn. 24–60"h ☑☹

\$7.00—4.5" pot:

N011 **Vibrant Dome**—A selection with profuse hot pink daisy flowers with gold centers. ***** 15–20"h by 30"w

N012 Aster, Short's

Symphyotrichum shortii

Woodland aster with 1" lavender or pale blue-violet daisy flowers from summer to fall. The centers of the flowers age from yellow to reddish purple. Named for Charles Wilkins Short, an early nineteenth century physician and botanist, and not for the height of the plant. May self-seed. Seed from Allamakee County, Iowa. 24–40"h ○●🐝☑☹

\$4.00—3.5" pot

Cutting back your aster plants by half in mid-June will make them bushier and will not impede blooming.



N013 Aster, Sky Blue

Symphyotrichum oolentangiense

A best bet for late season beauty and drama. From August–October, dozens of 1" lavender to deep blue, yellow-eyed daisies are held in large sprays. Thrives in dry soil but is even more gorgeous in rich garden soil. Seed from Ringgold County, Iowa. 12–48"h

○●🐝☑☹ \$4.00—3.5" pot

N014 Aster, Smooth Blue

Symphyotrichum laeve

Lavender daisy flowers in profusion August–October. One of the most versatile, appealing, and long-lived of all the asters. The attractive blue-green foliage is silky smooth. Plant in full sun for a charming floral display. Seed from Winona County, Minn. ***** 36–60"h

○●🐝☑☹ \$4.00—3.5" pot

N015 Aster, White Woodland

Eurybia divaricata

A carpet of snowflakes in fall. Small but numerous white daisy flowers with yellow centers that fade to burgundy and rose-pink, all colors present at once. Black, twiggy stems for strong contrast. Wisconsin source. 24–36"h by 24–48"w ○●🐝☑☹

\$3.00—2.5" pot

Baneberry *Actaea*

Good on wooded hillsides. ○●☹

\$7.00—1 quart pot:

N016 **Doll's Eyes** *A. pachypoda*—White bottlebrush flowers, but the show is the white berries with black tips contrasting with magenta stalks. Wild seed source outside Minnesota. ***** 36"h ☑

\$10.00—4" pot:

N017 **Wild Red Baneberry** *A. rubra*—Attractive lobed foliage followed by poisonous bright red berries in late summer and fall. Seed from Mille Lacs County, Minn. 18–24"h ☑

Beardtongue, Foxglove

Penstemon digitalis

Elongated, triangular leaves ripple slightly on upright stems. Not related to foxglove (*Digitalis*); it's so named because the June flowers resemble miniature foxgloves. Self-seeds, though not in a bad way. ○●🐝☹

\$4.00—3.5" pot:

N018 **Wild Foxglove Beardtongue**—White to light pink tubular flowers. Seed from McHenry County, Iowa. 24–48"h ☑☹

\$7.00—4.5" pot:

N019 **Blackbeard**—Cultivar named after the English pirate Blackbeard, the foliage emerges dark red and deepens to almost black. Strong burgundy stems hold spires of tubular lilac-pink flowers, followed by burgundy seed pods. Rugged and easy to grow. 28–34"h by 20–24"w

N020 Beardtongue, Large-Flowered

Penstemon grandiflorus

Tubular, large-throated lavender flowers in early summer above blue-green foliage. Prefers a dry spot. Seed from Clinton County, Iowa. 24–40"h

○●🐝☑☹ \$4.00—3.5" pot

See more BEARDTONGUE, page 31

N021 Bee Balm, Spotted

Monarda punctata

Tiers of pink or lavender petal-like whorls ring the stems, and are showier than the actual flowers, which are small and purple-spotted pink to yellow. Aromatic, self-seeding biennial. Prefers well-drained sandy soils. Native to prairie and savanna. Seed from Wabasha County, Minn. 12–36"h ○●🐝☑☹

\$4.00—3.5" pot

See more BEE BALM, page 31

N022 Bellflower, Tall

Campanula americana

Blue star flowers on tall spikes in late summer, not bell-like. Long bloom time. Self-seeding biennial, not weedy like the unfortunately ubiquitous European creeping bellflower. Seed from Clayton County, Iowa. 24–72"h ○●🐝☑☹

\$4.00—3.5" pot

N023 Bergamot, Wild

Monarda fistulosa

This fragrant member of the mint family has lavender blossoms July–September. Excellent for butterflies and moths; attracts hummingbirds and finches. Good for tea. Seed from McHenry County, Illinois. 24–48"h by 48"w ○●🐝☑☹

\$4.00—3.5" pot

N024 Bishop's Cap *Mitella diphylla*

Spikes of tiny, fantastically intricate white flowers with fringed petals from April–June. Maple-shaped 3" leaves. Prefers moist soil. Spreads by seed or rhizomes. Seed from Winona County, Minn. 6–16"h ○●☑☹

\$4.00—3.5" pot

Black-Eyed Susan *Rudbeckia hirta*

Daisies with long petals on single stems. Biennial or short-lived perennial. Also known as gloriosa daisy. ○●🐝☹

\$3.00—2.5" pot:

N025 **Irish Eyes**—Gold with green centers. Highly rated for pollinators at the U of M trial gardens. Cultivar. 24–30"h

N026 **Toto Gold**—Yellow and red 4–5" flowers with prominent dark centers. Prolong bloom until frost by cutting back the plant after first blooming. Compact cultivar that is great for a summer container. 12–15"h

\$4.00—3.5" pot:

N027 **Wild Black-Eyed Susan**—Seed from Madison County, Iowa. 12–40"h ☑☹

N028 Black-Eyed Susan, Sweet

Rudbeckia subtomentosa

Large yellow flowers with red-brown centers. An outstanding perennial. Attracts butterflies. Blooms August–October. Seed from Iowa County, Wis.

24–72"h ○●🐝☑☹ \$4.00—3.5" pot

See more BLACK-EYED SUSANS, pages 22 and 32

Blanket Flower *Gaillardia aristata*

Sun-loving, colorful daisies on mounding plants. Blooms regardless of heat and drought. Deadheading results in a blanket of color all summer. Requires good drainage. ○🐝

\$3.00—2.5" pot:

N029 **Arizona Sun**—Bicolor 3" flowers in brick and gold. Cultivar. 8–10"h

N030 **Burgundy**—Wine red flowers, best in full sun. Cultivar. 24–30"h

\$8.00—1 quart pot:

N031 **Fanfare Blaze**—Fiery trumpet-like petals surround a red and yellow center. Cultivar. 12–16"h 🐦

Blazing Star *Liatris*

Vertical spikes of flowers. Loved by butterflies. Seeds eaten by birds. ○🐝☑☹

\$3.00—2.5" pot:

N032 **Eureka** *L. pycnostachya*—Reddish purple flowers on long spikes from midsummer to early fall. Densely clustered lower leaves. Tall selection that is breathtaking in the garden. Great for cut flowers. 60"h

\$4.00—3.5" pot:

N033 Wild Button Blazing Star

L. aspera—Tufts of lavender flowers loosely line the stems creating a showy flower spike. Blooms August–September. Protect bulbs from rodents. Quite adaptable. Seed from Fayette County, Iowa. 24–36"h

☑☹

N034 Wild Dotted Blazing Star

L. punctata—Narrow, horizontal leaves are interspersed with magenta-violet flowers. The most drought-tolerant blazing star, its roots go down 7–15'. Seed from Pope County, Minn. 12–36"h ☑☹

N035 Wild Meadow Blazing Star

L. ligulistylis—Tall stalks of purple blossoms, best in moist soil. The absolute favorite of monarch butterflies. Seed from Freeborn County, Minn. ***** 36–60"h ☑☹

N036 Wild Prairie Blazing Star

L. pycnostachya—Dense flower spikes of bright purple from midsummer to early autumn over densely clustered lower leaves and hairy stems. Seed from Salle County, Illinois. 24–48"h ☑☹

See more BLAZING STAR, page 32



Button blazing star

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Native Perennials

Blue-Eyed Grass *Sisyrinchium*

Delicate, late-spring bloomer. Looks like a grass, but then small, star-shaped blue flowers appear. ○●

\$4.00—3.5" pot:

N037 **Prairie Blue-Eyed Grass** *S. campestre* —Wild seed from Winona County, Minn. 4–12" h

N038 **Stout Blue-Eyed Grass** *S. angustifolium* —Seed from Menard County, Illinois. 12–20" h

N039 **Bluebells, Virginia** *Mertensia virginica*

Mertensia virginica

Blooms in spring, then disappears until the following spring. Pink buds open to lavender-blue bells. Good between daylilies or hosta. Seed from Houston County, Minn. 12–24" h ○●●

\$4.00—3.5" pot

N040 **Boneset** *Eupatorium perfoliatum*

Eupatorium perfoliatum

Pink blossoms July–September. Interesting leaf texture with leaves pierced by the stem (the species name means “perforated foliage”). Prefers the wetter end of the garden or edge of pond. Excellent nectar for bees and butterflies. Seed from Mille Lacs County, Minn. 36" h ○●●

\$4.00—3.5" pot

N041 **Brown-Eyed Susan** *Rudbeckia triloba*

Yellow flowers with dark centers July–October. Great cut flowers. Easy to grow; blooms the second year. Short-lived, self-seeding perennial with smaller flowers than black-eyed Susan, but blooms more heavily. Seed from Jo Daviess County, Illinois. 24–60" h ○●

\$4.00—3.5" pot

N042 **Bunchberry** *Cornus canadensis*

A great native ground cover. The shortest member of the dogwood family, bunchberry has very showy clusters of orange berries in summer and red fall color. Slow-growing, but a must-have for woodland gardens and restorations. Prefers acidic soil. St. Louis County, Minn., source. 4–10" h ○●

\$10.00—4" pot

Butterfly Garden see box at right

N043 **Cardinal Flower** *Lobelia cardinalis*

Spikes of scarlet flowers attract hummingbirds. Blooms mid- to late summer. Best in part shade and constantly moist, rich soil. Seed from Clayton County, Iowa. 24–36" h ○●●

\$4.00—3.5" pot

N044 **Cinquefoil, Wineleaf** *Potentilla tridentata*

Potentilla tridentata

Loose clusters of dainty white buttercup flowers in June and glossy leaves that turn wine and bronze in autumn. Seldom seen in gardens or anywhere else, these are undemanding rock garden plants that will be happy in sun and well-drained, even gravelly, soil. St. Louis County, Minn., source. 3–6" h by 12–15" w ○●

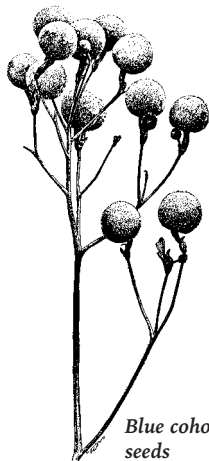
\$10.00—4" pot

N045 **Cohosh, Blue** *Caulophyllum thalictroides*

Caulophyllum thalictroides

The half-inch yellow-green flowers, smelling of nutmeg, may be inconspicuous, but they arrive in April and May in time to feed the solitary bees and produce conspicuous seeds that look like blueberries. Lacy blue-green foliage. Long-lived, spreading slowly. Dislikes being moved. Prefers rich, moist soil. Seed from Grant County, Wis. 12–36" h ○●●

\$12.00—5.25" pot



Blue cohosh seeds

N046 **Columbine, Wild** *Aquilegia canadensis*

Aquilegia canadensis

Red and yellow blossoms in late spring. Easy to grow, though short-lived and self-seeding. Excellent nectar source for hummingbirds. Does well in dappled shade. Good for edge of woodland or partly shaded hillside. Seed from the Upper Midwest. 24–36" h ○●●

\$4.00—3.5" pot

See more COLUMBINE, page 33

N047 **Compass Plant** *Silphium laciniatum*

Silphium laciniatum

Yellow daisy flowers June–September with huge, attractive leaves that point north and south. Tolerates drier soils. An excellent choice for a large-scale wildflower garden. Seed from Mower County, Minn. 72–120" h ○●●

\$4.00—3.5" pot

N048 **Coneflower, Green-Headed** *Rudbeckia laciniata*

Rudbeckia laciniata

Turned-back yellow petals and a greenish center. Blooms late July–October. An edible green. Native to prairie, savanna, and woodlands. Spreads. Seed from Dane County, Wis. 72–120" h ○●●

\$4.00—3.5" pot

N049 **Coneflower, Narrow-Leaf** *Echinacea angustifolia*

Echinacea angustifolia

Large pink daisies with turned-back petals in July. Prefers dry, sandy, well-drained soil. Seed from western Minnesota. 12–24" h ○●●

\$4.00—3.5" pot

See also CONEFLOWER, PALE PURPLE, page

N050 **Coneflower, Yellow** *Ratibida pinnata*

Ratibida pinnata

Long yellow petals droop attractively down around a prominent dark center, somewhat like a badminton birdie. One of the most elegant of all wild flowers. Blooms July–September. Easy to grow. Seed from Kossuth County, Iowa. 36–72" h ○●●

\$4.00—3.5" pot

N051 **Coreopsis, Prairie** *Coreopsis palmata*

Coreopsis palmata

Yellow daisy blossoms in July. Aggressive, spreads by rhizomes to form dense patches. Common on undisturbed prairies. Easy to grow. Tolerates dry conditions. Seed from Menard County, Wis. 16–36" h ○●●

\$4.00—3.5" pot

N052 **Coreopsis, Sand** *Coreopsis lanceolata*

Coreopsis lanceolata

Yellow 1–2" flowers with closely spaced, toothed petals and yellow centers. Flowers bloom on slender, upright stems from spring to early summer. Well-drained soil. Seed from Sheboygan County, Wis. 12–24" h ○●●

\$4.00—3.5" pot

See more COREOPSIS, page 34

N053 **Culver's Root** *Veronicastrum virginicum*

Veronicastrum virginicum

Tall and stately with big, dramatic spikes of white to pale pink or pale blue flowers July–August. Seed from Clayton County, Iowa. Watch the bees adore the flowers in the height of summer. 72" h by 36" w ○●●

\$4.00—3.5" pot

See more CULVER'S ROOT, page 34

N054 **Cup Plant** *Silphium perfoliatum*

Long-blooming yellow daisies in later summer. Huge leaves catch water at stem joint. There's nothing like seeing a goldfinch bathing in one of these naturally occurring bird baths! An impressive prairie plant that self-seeds freely. Prefers moist soil. Seed from Columbia County, Wis. 48–96" h ○●●

\$4.00—3.5" pot

N055 **Dock, Prairie** *Silphium terebinthinaceum*

Stately plant with yellow daisy flowers held high on sturdy stems above a mound of large blue-green leaves. The undersides of the leaves feel like sandpaper. Long taproot. Seed from McHenry County, Illinois. 24–120" h ○●●

\$4.00—3.5" pot

N056 **False Indigo** *Amorpha fruticosa*

Loose, airy shrub that often forms dense thickets. Fine-textured foliage on the upper third of the plant. Small purple flowers in narrow 3–6" spikes from April–June. Happy anywhere from a dry prairie to a bog garden. Seed from the Upper Midwest. 72–120" h ○●●

\$6.00—4" pot

Ferns see box, page 54

N068 **Figwort** *Scrophularia marilandica*

Tiny reddish brown flowers that look like “a horse's mouth with a bad overbite,” but are interesting enough to put in dried flower arrangements. This southeastern Minnesota native blooms July–October and has special value to native bees due to its large amount of nectar, according to the Xerces Society. Deer-resistant. Also called carpenter's square. Seed from Clayton County, Iowa. 40–96" h by 24" w ○●●

\$4.00—3.5" pot

N069 **Fireweed** *Chamerion angustifolium*

Spikes of 1" magenta to pink flowers on red stems with pointed, narrow leaves. So named because it rapidly fills open spaces left by fires (spreading by rhizomes and seeds). In England during World War II, it was called bombweed because it filled bomb craters. Does not like to be crowded. Blooms all summer. Formerly *Epilobium*. Seed from Polk or Burnett County, Wis. 48" h ○●●

\$4.00—3.5" pot

N070 **Gentian, Bottle** *Gentiana andrewsii*

Clusters of closed blue flowers, August–October, that must be pried open by bumblebees. Prefers damp soil. Seed from Sherburne County, Minn. 18–30" h ○●●

\$10.00—4" pot

See more GENTIAN, pages 19 and 35



Sand coreopsis



False indigo

PACKAGED NATIVE PLANT GARDENS

36 plants, six plants each of six different species. Specific plants included will be based on those ready for transplant in early May. Once established, expect blossoms early in the year with more arriving as summer and fall roll around. Recommended for a 40–60 square foot area.

36 plants (a full flat) \$90.00

N117 **Butterfly Garden**—This plant mix creates the perfect environment for our orange and black winged friends. With milkweed for the caterpillars to feast on and other blooming plants for nectar, they won't be able to resist. Other butterflies and pollinators will also enjoy the variety of colorful flowers as well. Wild seed from the Upper Midwest. ○●●

N118 **Rusty Patched Bumblebee Garden** **NEW**—The species in this mix are considered “Superfood” by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for the Rusty Patched Bumblebee. Wild seed from the Upper Midwest. ○●●

N119 **Shade Garden** **NEW**—Perfect for under tall trees with plenty of shade and filtered sunlight, or perhaps on the north side of your house. Wild seed from the Upper Midwest. ○●●

N071 **Geranium, Wild** *Geranium maculatum*

Small lavender-pink flowers from April–July. Red fall foliage. Seed from Winneshiek County, Iowa. 18–30" h ○●●

\$4.00—3.5" pot

N072 **Ginger, Wild** *Asarum canadense*

Aromatic ground cover with heart-shaped 4–6" leaves. Dark maroon and beige flowers hide under leaves in spring. Forms a colony. Deer-resistant. Seed from Winona County, Minn. 4–6" h ○●●

\$4.00—3.5" pot

N073 **Golden Alexanders** *Zizia aurea*

Bright yellow 3–4" flat-topped flower clusters like a yellow Queen Anne's lace bloom May–June. Leaves and fruits turn bright purple in fall. Self-seeds enthusiastically; tolerates heavy clay soil. Host for the black swallowtail butterfly. Seed from north central Illinois. 24–30" h ○●●

\$4.00—3.5" pot

N074 **Goldenrod, Gray** **NEW** *Solidago nemoralis*

Bright yellow flowers in 6–8" nodding plumes August–October. Grows well in poor soil. Not an aggressive spreader. Seed from the Upper Midwest. 6–24" h ○●●

\$6.00—4" pot

N075 **Goldenrod, Showy** *Solidago speciosa*

Densely clustered yellow mini-flowers on reddish stems with olive-green foliage. Probably the nicest goldenrod for sunny locations. Blooms August–October. Seed from southeastern Minnesota. 36–60" h ○●●

\$4.00—3.5" pot

N076 **Goldenrod, Stiff** *Solidago rigida*

A handsome plant, once common across the American prairie, with radiant yellow flat-topped flower clusters. August–September bloom. Seeds are late-season food for birds. Adaptable to poor soils and salt exposure. Seed from Winona County, Minn. 36–60" h ○●●

\$4.00—3.5" pot

N077 **Goldenrod, Zigzag** *Solidago flexicaulis*

There are flowers in two places: 3–6" spikes of small yellow flowers on top and smaller flower clusters where the zigzag stem and large leaves meet. Adds color to shady areas. Best in naturalized woodland settings. Seed from Alamakee County, Iowa. 24–36" h ○●●

\$4.00—3.5" pot

N078 **Goldenseal** *Hydrastis canadensis*

Unassuming woodlander with hairy stems and seven-lobed serrated leaves. Spring flowers are white and without petals, followed by red berries. West Virginia source. 10" h ○●●

\$5.00—3.5" pot

N079 **Harebells** *Campanula rotundifolia*

A delicate-looking plant with down-facing purple bell-flowers on thin stems. Grassy leaves. Blooms June–September. Prefers drier soil. Native to prairie, savanna, and woodland edges. May be small at the sale. Seed from central Minnesota. 4–20" h ○●●

\$4.00—3.5" pot

N080 **Helen's Flower** *Helenium autumnale*

Yellow-centered flowers with a skirt of jagged-edged yellow petals. Grows beautifully in the garden and is great for clay soil. Nicknamed “sneezeweed” because the dried leaves were once used to make snuff—not because it aggravates allergies. Thrives in damp soil. Seed from Winona County, Minn. 48–60" h ○●●

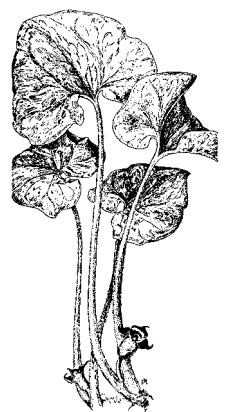
\$4.00—3.5" pot

See more HELEN'S FLOWER, page 35

N081 **Hepatica** *Hepatica americana*

Sweet in the woodland garden, with lavender, white, pink, or blue flowers in April. Burgundy-brown leaves persist through winter. Midwestern source. 5" h ○●●

\$4.00—2.5" pot



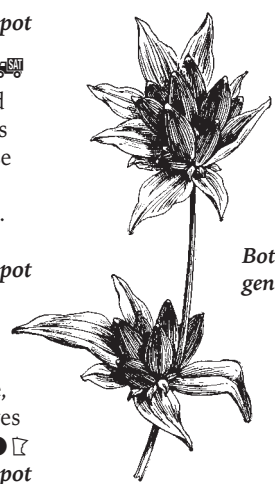
Wild ginger



Blue-eyed grass



Harebells



Bottle gentian

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Native Perennials

Key

- Full sun
- ◐ Part sun/part shade
- Shade
- 🐝 Attractive to bees
- 🦉 Audubon-endorsed
- 🦋 Butterfly-friendly
- 🐦 Hummingbird-friendly
- 🌿 Attractive foliage
- 🍵 Culinary
- 🌸 Edible flowers
- 🌱 Ground cover
- 🏠 Houseplant
- 🩹 Medicinal
- 📄 Minnesota native
- 🪨 Rock garden
- ❄️ Cold-sensitive: keep above 40°F
- ☠️ Toxic to humans
- 🔄 Saturday restock

Plants marked with  are good for bees

N082 **Hyssop, Anise** *Agastache foeniculum* 🐝
Fragrant purple flowers July–August. Goldfinches favor the seeds. Aromatic leaves used for tea. Vigorous. Seed from Anoka County, Minn. 24–36”h ○●🐝🦋🐦🌿
\$4.00—3.5” pot

N083 **Hyssop, Purple Giant** 🐝
Agastache scrophulariifolia
Crowded spikes of lavender flowers from July through September. Large, fragrant leaves below the flower spikes. Spreads well (it’s in the mint family). Seed from McHenry County, Illinois. 48–60”h ○●🐝🦋🐦🌿
\$4.00—3.5” pot

Iris, Blue Flag *Iris*

Brightens sunny marsh edges during early summer in the wild. Good for gardens with moist soil, too. ○●🦋🐦

\$4.00—3.5” pot:

N084 **Wild Northern** *I. versicolor* 🐝
—Large, showy flowers, purple on the edges with a yellow and white throat. Seed from Crawford County, Wis. 18–30”h 🐝🦋🐦

N085 **Wild Southern** *I. virginica shrevei* 🐝
—Fragrant light blue to deep violet 3.5” flowers with yellow and white patches and prominent veining in late spring to early summer. Very similar to *Iris versicolor* in appearance and habitat, with subtle differences in flower color and veining. Strappy, sword-shaped leaves. Native to inland swamps, marshes, and flood plains, prefers consistent moisture. Also known as Shreve’s iris. Seed from Monroe County, Wis. 18–30”h 🌿



Northern blue flag iris

N086 **Ironweed** *Vernonia fasciculata* 🐝
Tall plants with clusters of fluffy bright reddish purple flowers July–September. Seed from Goodhue County, Minn. 48–72”h ○●🐝🌿
\$4.00—3.5” pot

N087 **Jack-in-the-Pulpit** 🐝
Arisaema triphyllum
Clusters of three leaves, followed by an upright green tube with a cover that curls over it. One of the easiest native plants to cultivate. Native to savanna and woodlands in neutral soil. Leaves, seeds, and root will severely burn mouth, eyes, and nose. Seed from Grant County, Minn. 12–36”h ●●🌿☺️
\$4.00—3.5” pot

Jacob’s Ladder *Polemonium reptans*
Small, bell-shaped light blue flowers in loose clusters appear on reclining stems in mid- to late spring. The foliage looks fresh until frost. Likes moist soil. Deer-resistant. ●●🐝🌿
\$4.00—3.5” pot:

N088 **Wild Jacob’s Ladder** 🐝—Seed from Monroe County, Wis. 18”h 🌿
\$10.00—4.5” pot:

N089 **Stairway to Heaven** 🐝—Foliage is green with cream edges. In cool weather, the leaves are tinged with pink. Cultivar. 12–15”h 🌿

Joe Pye Weed *Eutrochium*
Popular in European gardens. Blooms July–September. Moist soil, suitable for rain gardens or naturalized areas. Formerly *Eupatorium*. ○🐝☺️
\$4.00—3.5” pot:

N090 **Wild Joe Pye** *E. maculatum* 🐝—Tall and stately with flat clusters of pink flowers. Wild seed from Houston County, Minn. 72–100”h 🐝🌿
N091 **Wild Sweet Joe Pye** *E. purpureum* 🐝—Tall, with aromatic pink blossoms. Excellent nectar for bees and butterflies. Seed from Winona County, Minn. 84”h 🌿

N092 **Larkspur, Dwarf** *Delphinium tricornis* 🐝
A woodland ephemeral with deeply lobed leaves and gorgeous 1” spurred blossoms in shades of blue, purple, and, rarely, white. Blooms in April and May, offering nectar to hummingbirds and a wide variety of insects, with special value to native bees. Prefers dappled light and moist, well-drained soil. Self-seeds. Midwest seed source. 6–18”h ●🐝🦋🌿☺️
\$3.50—3.5” pot

N093 **Leadplant** *Amorpha canescens* 🐝
Small gray-green shrub with dense spikes of violet-blue flowers June–August. Nicely textured foliage. Tolerates drier soils. Seed from Kittson County, Minn. 24–48”h ○🐝🦋🌿
\$4.00—3.5” pot

N094 **Lily, Michigan** *Lilium michiganense*
Orange flowers with brown-spotted, curled-back petals, June–August. First-year seedlings. Seed from Sherburne County, Minn. 48–60”h ○●🐝🌿
\$10.00—4” pot

N095 **Lobelia, Great Blue** 🐝
Lobelia siphilitica
Spikes of tubular blue-lavender flowers, July–September. The three lower petals are long landing pads for pollinators. Prefers moist soil, but adapts well to gardens. Good for stream banks or damp woods. Self-seeds. Seed from Winona County, Wis. 24–36”h ○●🐝🦋🌿☺️
\$4.00—3.5” pot

N096 **Loosestrife, Winged** **NEW**
Lythrum alatum
Dainty half-inch flowers open along vertical stems, with new buds from bottom to top. Flowers have six crinkly pink-purple petals with a deep purple midline. Blooms June–September and likes wet feet. Takes its name from the slight “wings” at the corners of the square stem. This plant is not invasive and should not be confused with the destructive purple loosestrife. Seed from the Upper Midwest. 24–48”h ○🐝🌿
\$6.00—4” pot

N097 **Lupine, Wild** *Lupinus perennis* 🐝
Showy blue to violet tiered spikes of blossoms, May–June. Seven to 11 leaflets are arranged like wagon-wheel spokes. Excellent for butterflies, both for nectar and caterpillars; it’s the only food for larvae of the endangered Karner blue butterfly. Rabbits also love to eat wild lupine. Must have sandy soil. Tolerates drier conditions. Goes dormant after seed. Fewer flowers in shade. Seed from Crawford County, Wis. 12–24”h ○●🐝🌿☺️
\$4.00—3.5” pot

N098 **Marsh Marigold** *Caltha palustris* 🐝
Bright yellow buttercups in early spring. Native to swamps and brooksides throughout our area. Grows in prairie, savanna, and woodland, but requires year-round moisture. Readily cultivated in wet garden soil or containers. Seed from the upper Midwest. 4–16”h ○●🌿☺️
\$4.00—3.5” pot

N099 **May Flower** *Maianthemum canadense*
Shiny leaves alternate up the thin stems to clusters of star-shaped white flowers. Spreads by rhizomes, so will form a nice colony under trees. Seed from Carlton County, Minn. 4–8”h ●●🌿🌿
\$18.00—6 plants in a pack

N100 **Mayapple** *Podophyllum peltatum*
White flowers under large umbrella leaves. Blooms May–June. Happiest under oak trees. Midwestern source. 24–36”h ○●●🌿☺️
\$7.00—1 quart pot

N101 **Meadow Rue, Early** 🐝
Thalictrum dioicum
The flowers have an unusual form, like little jellyfish in pale green, purple, and yellow. The drooping stamens sway in the slightest breeze. A spring favorite with April–May bloom time. Midwest seed from Houston County, Minn. 8–28”h ●●🌿🌿
\$4.00—3.5” pot

N102 **Meadow Rue, Purple** 🐝
Thalictrum dasycarpum
Clouds of fluffy-looking clusters of creamy white flowers on tall dark purple stems in June–July. Seed from McHenry County, Illinois. 72”h ○●🐝🌿
\$4.00—3.5” pot

N103 **Merrybells**
Uvularia grandiflora 🐝
Bright yellow nodding flowers with twisted petals. Clump-former. Easy and well-behaved. Seed from Clayton and Allamakee counties, Iowa. 12–24”h ●●🐝🌿
\$4.00—3.5” pot

N104 **Mexican Hat**
Ratibida columnifera 🐝
Colorful sombreros of mahogany and yellow in summer. A biennial cousin of the yellow coneflower. Seed from Fall River County, S.D. 24–36”h ○●🐝🌿
\$4.00—3.5” pot

Milkweed see box, page 55

N114 **Mint, Hairy Wood** *Blephilia hirsuta*
Blue-purple, two-lipped flowers in late spring to mid-summer in tiered, whorled clusters in vertical spikes above clear green aromatic and hairy foliage. Best in a wild or open woodland garden. Seed from Clayton County, Iowa. 18–36”h ○●
\$4.00—3.5” pot



Merrybells



Bring your own wagon...you'll be glad you did!

Native Ferns

N057 **Christmas Fern** 🐝
Polystichum acrostichoides
Stays green into winter and can be used for winter decorations. Clumps will grow larger, but do not spread. Tolerates drier soils in shade. Horticultural source. 12–24”h ●●🌿🌿
\$10.00—4.5” pot

N058 **Cinnamon Fern** 🐝
Osmunda cinnamomea
One of our most majestic native ferns. Grows in boggy and swampy areas, but happy in a well-drained garden, too. Soon after the foliage appears in spring, erect, leafless golden yellow spore fronds emerge from the center of the crown. Horticultural source. **** 36–60”h ○●🌿🌿
\$12.00—1 gal. pot

N059 **Interrupted Fern** 🐝
Osmunda claytoniana
Similar in appearance to cinnamon fern except that the central fronds look “interrupted” by dark spores midway along. Prefers moist soil, but will tolerate drought and planting on hillsides. Horticultural source. 36–48”h ●🌿
\$12.00—1 gal. pot

Lady Fern *Athyrium*
Prefers moist, rich soil, but is tolerant of sun and drought. Deer- and rabbit-resistant. ○●●🌿
\$5.00—3.5” pot:

N060 **A. filix-femina** 🐝—Vigorous with finely textured fronds. Horticultural source. **** 24–36”h 🌿
\$10.00—4.5” pot:

N061 **Victoriae** *A. filix-femina* 🐝—Criss-cross leaflets end in small tufts, looking like a fountain of bright green letter Xs. Prefers evenly moist, rich soil. Cultivar originally popular during the Victorian fern craze. 18–24”h
\$12.00—1 gal. pot:

N062 **Lady in Red** *A. angustum rubellum* 🐝—Burgundy stems contrast with green fronds. Best color begins to be seen in the second year. Cultivar. **** 30–36”h

Maidenhair Fern *Adiantum pedatum*
Tiers of delicate 8–12” fronds held horizontally in a circular pattern like spokes on a wheel. Wiry purple-black stems are so thin that the fronds look like they are floating. Pinkish purple fiddleheads in spring. Deer-resistant. Water during drought. **** 12–24”h ●●🌿
\$5.00—3.5” pot:

N063 **Smaller pot** 🐝—Horticultural source. 🌿
\$12.00—1 gal. pot:

N064 **Larger pot** 🐝—Horticultural source. 🌿

N065 **Ostrich Fern** 🐝
Matteuccia struthiopteris
Native to U.S., Europe and Asia. Syn. *M. pensylvanica*. Vase-shaped, with huge leaves like ostrich plumes. Grow in moist shade in a woodland garden or at the edge of a pond. Extremely vigorous, spreading by rhizomes. Horticultural source. **** 36–60”h ○●●🌿☺️
\$5.00—3.5” pot

N066 **Royal Fern** *Osmunda regalis*
Bronze to brown spore capsules at top of the fronds look like crowns. Fiddleheads emerge wrapped in a white fuzzy blanket. Spreading colonies of upright, smooth fronds are nice spring through fall. Native to most of the globe. Horticultural source. 36–48”h ●●🌿🌿
\$12.00—1 gal. pot

N067 **Sensitive Fern**
Onoclea sensibilis
Spreading colonies of smooth, upright fronds. Goes dormant at 40°F (hence the name). Horticultural source. 12–36”h ○●●🌿☺️
\$5.00—3.5” pot



CINNAMON FERN

See more hardy FERNS, page 34

Native Perennials

Plant widths are similar to their heights unless noted otherwise.

Key

- Full sun
- ◐ Part sun/part shade
- Shade

- 🐝 Attractive to bees
- 🦉 Audubon-endorsed
- 🦋 Butterfly-friendly
- 🐦 Hummingbird-friendly

- 🌿 Attractive foliage
- 🍷 Culinary
- 🌸 Edible flowers
- 🌱 Ground cover
- 🏠 Houseplant
- 🩹 Medicinal
- 📖 Minnesota native
- 🌳 Rock garden

- ❄️ Cold-sensitive: keep above 40°F
- ☹️ Toxic to humans
- 🔄 Saturday restock

N146 **Sarsaparilla, Wild** *Aralia nudicaulis*
White flowers May–July followed by purple-black edible berries. Green compound leaves emerge shiny bronze in spring. Creeps by underground stems. Seed from St. Louis County, Minn. 12–24”h ○●🦋🌿
\$10.00—4” pot

Shooting Star *Dodecatheon meadia*
Delicate flowers fly up and then point down from the leafless stalks, each blossom resembling a shooting star with a pointed red and yellow center. Lush foliage base. Blooms May–June. Plants may go dormant in late summer. Self-seeds gently in good locations. Pollinated by bumblebees. Deer-resistant. ○●
\$4.00—3.5” pot:

N147 **Wild Shooting Star** 🌿—White to light pink flowers. Midwestern seed source. 18–20”h 🌿🌿
\$9.00—1 quart pot:

N148 **Aphrodite**—Magenta flowers on a giant, robust (for a shooting star) hybrid. 20”h ☺️
24–48”h ○🌿🌿 \$4.00—3.5” pot

N149 **Spiderwort, Ohio** 🌿
Tradescantia ohiensis
Blue-purple flowers, May–July. Bluish green leaves. Prefers dry areas (xeriscape plant). Absolutely loved by bees. Self-seeds. Seed from Houston County, Minn. 24–48”h ○🌿🌿 \$4.00—3.5” pot

N150 **Steeplebush** *Spiraea tomentosa*
Spires of showy pink flowers and foliage that turns bright gold and auburn in fall. Good for hedges—plant 36” on center. Prefers rich, moist soil. Also called rosy meadowsweet and hardhack. Upper Midwest source. 24–48”h by 36–60”w ○●🌿🌿 \$6.00—4” pot

N151 **Strawberry, Barren**
Waldsteinia fragarioides
Bright yellow half-inch flowers with five round petals around the center. Blooms April–May, producing inedible red fruits. Mat-forming ground cover that tolerates difficult dry shade. Plants from the northern Appalachian mountains. 4–6”h ○●🌿🌿 \$7.00—4.5” pot

N152 **Strawberry, Wild** *Fragaria virginiana* 🌿
Delicate, five-petaled white flowers in spring lead to half-inch sweet red fruit in summer. This spreading ground cover is a parent plant to the modern cultivated strawberry (a hybrid of *F. virginiana* and the South American *F. chiloensis*), which were called “strawberry” because historically, the plants were mulched with straw to prevent fungal disease. Prefers sandy loam; good for erosion control. Seed from the Midwest. 4–7”h by 12–24”w ○🌿🌿🌿 \$4.00—3.5” pot

Sunflower, Early *Heliopsis helianthoides*
Easy to grow. Known as one of the best “clay busters,” breaking up heavy clay soils. Not a true sunflower. July–September bloom. ○●🌿🌿
\$3.00—2.5” pot:

N153 **Burning Hearts**—Stems of dark purple carry gold daisies with red centers. Leaves are dark green with shades of purple. This cultivar blooms mid- to late summer. 36–48”h by 18–24”w 🌿
N154 **Summer Nights**—Bright yellow 2–3” flowers with red-orange centers on mostly red stems. Purple-red foliage in spring. Deadheading will prolong bloom from midsummer into fall. Cultivar. 36–48”h by 24–36”w

\$4.00—3.5” pot:
N155 **Wild Early Sunflower** 🌿—Abundant 2” yellow blossoms June–September. Excellent for butterflies. Blooms for an exceptionally long time. Seed from northern Iowa. 24–60”h 🌿🌿
\$8.00—4.5” pot:

N156 **Bleeding Hearts** (NEW) 🌿—Profuse 2” daisies first red, then orange, then bronze. Black stems and dark purple leaves for contrast. Cultivar. 40–48”h 🌿

N157 **Turtlehead, White** *Chelone glabra* 🌿
Creamy white turtlehead flowers on arching spikes July–September. Desirable for the moist wild garden. Excellent nectar plant for butterflies and bees. Seed from Pope County, Minn. **** 36–48”h ○●🌿🌿🌿
\$4.00—3.5” pot

Vervain, Wild *Verbena*
Tiny dark blue to violet flowers on mini-candelabras. ○●🌿🌿

\$4.00—3.5” pot:
N158 **Blue V.** *V. hastata* 🌿—Blooms July–September. Native to moist cordgrass and cattail prairies over most of North America. Self-seeds. Seed from Houston County, Minn. 36–72”h 🌿

N159 **Hoary V.** *V. stricta* 🌿—Blooms June–September. Prefers dry areas (xeriscape plant). Seed from Houston County, Minn. 24–48”h 🌿

N160 **Violet, Bird’s Foot** *Viola pedata*
Lovely light and dark violet bicolor with leaves in the shape of birds’ feet. Midwestern source. 3–6”h ○●🌿
\$4.00—2.5” pot

N161 **Violet, Prairie** *Viola pedatifida* 🌿
Violet-purple flowers April–June, often reblooming in September. Fan-shaped leaves. Good food for butterfly caterpillars. Prefers a well-drained sunny site. Seed from Madison County, Iowa. 4–8”h ○●🌿🌿
\$4.00—3.5” pot

Wild Indigo *Baptisia*
Blue-green, pea-like foliage and long spikes of flowers. Seed from Pierce County, Wis. ○●🌿🌿
\$4.00—3.5” pot:

N162 **Cream B.** *B. leucophaea* 🌿—Creamy yellow flowers that are held horizontally, spring to early summer. Particularly effective when planted on top of a rock wall where the flowers can be viewed at eye level. 18”h 🌿

N163 **White B.** *B. leucantha* 🌿—Many small white flowers in late spring on tall, dark stems. Attractive seed pods. Easy to grow in average to dry soils; drought-tolerant. 36–48”h 🌿

Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*
Long bloom time, June–August. Dome-shaped 3–4” flower clusters and lacy foliage. Good for cutting and drying: they are what architects use as the “trees” around model buildings. Drought-tolerant. ○●🌿🌿
\$3.00—2.5” pot:

N165 **Cherry Queen** 🌿—Cherry-pink cultivar. 24–36”h
N166 **Summer Pastels** 🌿—A mix of pink, salmon, yellow, and white. Cultivar. 24–36”h

\$4.00—4” pot:
N167 **Wild White Yarrow** (NEW) 🌿—White flowers. Popular in bee lawns, it can be cut back and even mowed. Will spread by seed and rhizomes. Seed from the upper Midwestern. 24–36”h 🌿🌿
\$7.00—4.5” pot:

N168 **Desert Eve Terracotta** 🌿—Small peachy yellow flowers turn burnt orange and have gold centers and stripes. Cultivar. 12–18”h

N169 **New Vintage Violet** 🌿—Small magenta flowers with a cream eye. Cultivar. 12–18”h

N170 **Pink Grapefruit** 🌿—Large clusters of tiny white-centered flowers emerge bright pink and become light pink. Color is brightest in full sun. Cultivar. 18–24”h

N171 **Strawberry Seduction** 🌿—Dark red with a prominent yellow eye. Cultivar. 18–20”h

More Minnesota Native Plants

Look for these native plants in other sections:

Climbers:

- C015 Bleeding Heart, Climbing
- C017 Virgin’s Bower

Fruit:

- F010 Blackberry, Dwarf
- F027 Elderberry
- F034 Hazelnut, American
- F037 Huckleberry
- F060 Serviceberry

Grasses:

- G001 Blue Joint Grass
- G002 Bluestem, Big
- G005 Bluestem, Little
- G009 Bottlebrush Grass
- G012 Dropseed, Northern
- G025 June Grass
- G030 Rye, Silky
- G034–038 Sedge, Native
- G039 Side-Oats Grama
- G040 Sweet Grass
- G042 Tufted Hair Grass
- G043 Yellow Prairie Grass
- S002 Alder
- S010 Aspen
- S021 Bladdernut
- S026 Bush Honeysuckle
- S028 Buttonbush
- S037 Chokeberry
- S038 Chokecherry
- S043 Cranberry, Highbush
- S051, S054 Dogwood
- S058 Fir, Balsam
- S092 Kentucky Coffeetree
- S113 Nannyberry
- S118 Oak, Bur
- S122 Pussy Willow
- S67 Rose, Species—Early Wild
- S170 Snowberry
- S180 Tamarack
- S182 Willow, Sandbar

Herbs:

- H056 Ginseng, American
- H131 Self-Heal
- H137 Spikenard, American



Shrubs and Trees:

- S002 Alder
- S010 Aspen
- S021 Bladdernut
- S026 Bush Honeysuckle
- S028 Buttonbush
- S037 Chokeberry
- S038 Chokecherry
- S043 Cranberry, Highbush
- S051, S054 Dogwood
- S058 Fir, Balsam
- S092 Kentucky Coffeetree
- S113 Nannyberry
- S118 Oak, Bur
- S122 Pussy Willow
- S67 Rose, Species—Early Wild
- S170 Snowberry
- S180 Tamarack
- S182 Willow, Sandbar

Unusual:

- U027–029 Lady’s Slipper
- U051 Puccoon

Vegetables:

- V225 Ramps
- V239 Strawberry Spinach



Shooting star



Bring your own wagon if you can, and be sure to keep track of your plant purchases.

See page 3 for details.

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Grasses & Sedges

Most grasses and sedges are showiest in late summer and fall. Many grow in attractive clumps and provide winter interest as well. They can be used to replace spikes in containers and provide vertical, mounding garden accents.

G001 Blue Joint Grass

Calamagrostis canadensis

Bluish leaves with delicate purple panicles in summer. Used by the Cree to make mattresses. Clump-forming perennials that spread by rhizomes. Wet to normal soil; it's good for holding banks along lakes and ponds. Seed from Waushara County, Wis. 36–72" h ○●☐

\$3.00—2.5" pot

Bluestem, Big *Andropogon gerardii*

Vertical stems in a dense clump. Known for its three-pronged "turkey-foot" seed heads in late summer. From the prairie and savanna, it's drought-tolerant, reliably perennial, and adaptable. Best in lean soil. Emerges in late spring. ○●

\$3.00—2.5" pot:

G002 **Wild Big Bluestem** ☞—Seed from Polk County, Minn. 60–92" h ☞☐

\$11.00—4.5" pot:

G003 **Blackhawks** ☞—Bluish green in spring, with red tinges in summer, and turning purplish in fall until it's almost black. Shorter selection. 48–60" h by 24" w

G004 **Dancing Wind** ☞—Foliage turns a soft red in midsummer, then brilliant scarlet after frost. Purple-red seed heads in fall. Selection. 72" h by 24–36" w ☞

Bluestem, Little *Schizachyrium scoparium*

A favorite for ornamental and naturalized landscapes. Prefers sun. Clump-forming and deer-resistant. Drought-tolerant perennial once established. Provides larval food for 11 native butterflies and moths. ○●☞

\$3.00—2.5" pot:

G005 **Wild Little Bluestem** ☞—Seed from Polk County, Minn. 12–36" h ☞☐

\$9.00—1 quart pot:

G006 **Blue Heaven**—Upright, slender green leaves with a tinge of blue at base. Purplish bronze flowers in August, followed by fluffy silver-white seed heads. Bronze-orange fall foliage. Selection. **** 24–48" h ☞

G007 **Standing Ovation**—Thick bluish green leaves. Fiery foliage in fall. Selection. 36–48" h ☞

G008 **The Blues**—Selected for pronounced blue color. Best in dry soils. Selection. 12–24" h ☞

G009 Bottlebrush Grass *Elymus hystrix* ☞

Clump-forming perennial with tall spikes that look like bottlebrushes. A must for forest restorations and shady gardens. Excellent for texture. Seed from St. Croix County, Wis. 36" h ○●●☐

\$3.00—2.5" pot

G010 Bunny Tails *Lagurus ovatus* ☞

Fun for children and adults. Fuzzy seed heads on compact grass. Drought-tolerant annual; needs well-drained soil. 20" h ○

\$2.00—2.5" pot

G011 Dropseed, Giant *Sporobolus wrightii*

Airy, feathery cream to bronze 12–24" plumes from August–October, above a 36–48" clump of arching, gray-green foliage. Fast-growing and drought-tolerant perennial once established. 36–84" h ○●

\$8.00—1 quart pot

Dropseed, Northern *Sporobolus heterolepis*

Fine-textured clump-forming perennial with seed heads variously described as scented like buttered popcorn, cilantro, or Juicy Fruit gum. Host plant to six native butterflies, and the only host plant for the Dakota skipper. ○●☞

\$3.00—2.5" pot:

G012 **Wild Dropseed** ☞—Grown for its arching, thin leaves and cloud-like panicles of pinkish beige flowers in midsummer. Seed from Polk County, Minn. **** 24–48" h ☞☐

\$10.00—4.5" pot:

G013 **Tara**—Short and upright selection, less arching than the species. Orange-red fall color. 12" h

Feather Reed Grass *Calamagrostis*

Showy, feathery plumes that last into fall and winter. Clump-forming perennial. ○

\$3.00—2.5" pot:

G014 **Korean** *C. brachytricha* ☞—Feathery mauve-pink plumes in fall are great as a cut stem or left to give winter interest to your garden. Can take some shade. 36–48" h

Feather Reed Grass continued

\$8.00—1 quart pot:

G015 **Avalanche** *C. x acutiflora*—Variegated with a wide white stripe in the center of each blade. Gold seed heads. 48–60" h

G016 **El Dorado** *C. x acutiflora*—Gold-centered, variegated leaves. Wheat-colored seed heads. **** 48" h

G017 **Karl Foerster** *C. x acutiflora* ☞—Great as a grass hedge. Blooms earlier than most tall grasses with wheat-colored seed heads. **** 48–60" h

G018 Fescue, Dwarf Blue ☞

Festuca ovina glauca

Soft tufts provide contrast in the garden. Also for edging, ground cover, or lawn alternative. Good drainage needed. Clump-forming perennial. 10–16" h ○☞

\$3.00—2.5" pot

G019 Fiber Optic Grass *Isolepis cernuus*

It really does look like fiber optic filament, only green. A great accent grass. Not hardy, but worth over-wintering, because the mature plant develops a "trunk." Moist soil. 8–12" h ○☞☞

\$3.00—2.5" pot

G020 Flame Grass ☞

Miscanthus sinensis purpurascens Red Flame

Gray-green foliage turns brilliant red-orange in fall. Narrow silvery plumes in midsummer. Clump-forming perennial from Asia with prominent feathery flower heads. **** 36–48" h ○

\$7.00—4.5" pot

Fountain Grass *Pennisetum*

A garden favorite. ○●

\$5.00—4" pot:

G021 **Fireworks** *P. setaceum* ☞—Long stripes of burgundy, hot pink, and white. New growth is the most vibrant. In late summer, it looks like purple foxtails. Treat as an annual. 24–30" h ☞

\$8.00—1 quart pot:

G022 **Hamel** *P. alopecuroides*—Early-blooming, short fountain grass with copper-tan seed heads. Yellow fall color. Clump-forming perennial that needs winter protection. 24–36" h

Japanese Forest Grass *Hakonechloa macra*

A delightful, short ornamental perennial, forming graceful mounds of draping foliage. Lights up shady areas of the garden and pairs well with hostas. Slow to emerge in spring. Slow-spreading, it does well in moist but well-drained soil. ○●

\$10.00—4.5" pot:

G023 **Aureola** ☞—Variegated in gold and green. 12" h

G024 **Green** ☞—Leaves turn copper-orange in the fall. More sun- and drought-tolerant than the variegated varieties. 12–18" h

G025 June Grass *Koeleria macrantha* ☞

Low-grower suitable for edging native restoration plantings. Provides larval food for five native butterfly species. Clump-forming perennial, most commonly found growing in dry sandy soils. Seed from Sherburne County, Minn. 12–24" h ○●☞☐

\$3.00—2.5" pot

G026 Muhly Grass ☞

Muhlenbergia capillaris Pink Cloud

A well-behaved and drought-tolerant clump-former, its seeds are a favorite of birds. Spiky non-hardy perennial with a puffy, rose-pink cloud of graceful flowers in early fall that look even better backlit by early or late sun. Try planting with deep pink shrub roses or in a bed of groundcover juniper or even as a small hedge. 30–36" h ○●

\$5.00—4" pot

G027 Northern Sea Oats ☞

Chasmanthium latifolium

Graceful and arching perennial. Loosely tufted spreader with persistent hanging seed heads shaped like fish. Native as nearby as Wisconsin and Iowa. 36–60" h ○●●

\$3.00—2.5" pot

G028 Ruby Grass ☞

Melinis nerviglumis Savannah

Ruby pink 3–4" plumes, that rise a foot above the foliage from late July are real showstoppers. Blue-green foliage turns purple-red in the fall. Annual. 8–12" h ○☞

\$5.00—4.5" pot

G029 Rush, Corkscrew *Juncus effusus* Spiralis

Curly foliage is fantastic in flower arrangements. Prefers a moist location, even 1–6" under water in a pond, but it also did well in our State Fair garden, which is well-drained. Cut back the old stems in late winter so you can see the fresh green corkscrews in spring. Clump-forming perennial. 12–18" h ○●☞

\$3.50—2.5" pot

G030 Rye, Silky *Elymus canadensis* ☞

Arching feathery plumes in late summer and fall on this oak savanna native. Larval host to more than 30 native butterflies and moths. Clump-forming perennial. Wet to dry soil, good for shade. Seed from Kossuth County, Iowa. 36–72" h ○●☞☐

\$3.00—3.5" pot

Sedge *Carex*

Colorful sedges that may be perennial in sheltered locations, so don't remove in spring until you are sure.

\$5.00—4" pot:

G031 **EverColor Everglow** ☞—Mound of slender leaves with cream margins turn golden orange in early fall. Great addition to moist shade gardens. Native to Japan. Morning sun is ideal. 12–18" h ○●

G032 **Red Rooster** *C. buchananii* ☞—Slender orange-brown to red-brown leaves with wispy, slightly curly tips. Graceful and upright. Great in containers or the garden. 20–30" h ○●☞

\$12.00—1 gal. pot:

G033 **Bowles Golden** *C. elata* **NEW** ☞—Narrow grass-like leaves are bright greenish yellow. A nice companion for yellow-variegated hosta. Requires consistent moisture, or can be planted in 2–3" of water at the edge of a pond, where its reflection will be brilliant. Known to be hardy in Saint Paul. Grows slowly. Cut back in early spring. 1993 RHS Plant of Merit. 18–24" h by 24–36" w ○●

Sedge, Native *Carex*

Glossy, arching leaves. Perennial useful as a shady lawn substitute in moist, rich soil. Prefers partial to full shade, but will grow in full sun if soil is kept moist. Deer- and rabbit-resistant. ○●

\$3.00—2.5" pot:

G034 **Cattail Sedge** *C. typhina* ☞—Neat little clump-former does indeed look like a miniature cattail. Blooms in fuzzy 1" cylinders July–August.

Decorative seed heads persist into winter. Good in wet soils. Rare and at risk in Minnesota. Seed from Laport, Ind. 12–24" h ☐

G035 **Gray's Sedge** *C. grayi*—Large showy seed heads like spiked medieval clubs. Wider leaves are more upright than most sedges. Originally found in moist shade, but will grow in many locations. Clump-forming perennial. Seed from Wisconsin. 24–30" h ☐

G036 **Long-Beaked Sedge** *C. sprengelii*—A slowly spreading clump-former with showy, pendant seed heads. Found in woodlands but will grow in full sun. Provides cover and seeds for birds, but is not attractive to herbivores. Seed from Dane County, Wis. 24" h ☞☐

G037 **Star Sedge** *C. radiata* ☞—Dense clumps of very narrow, arching foliage. In late spring, 24" stalks of green stars. Self-seeds, but slowly. Seed from Clayton County, Iowa. 8–12" h ☞☐

\$15.00—6 plants in a jumbo pack:

G038 **Pennsylvania Sedge** *C. pennsylvanica*—Arching to weeping spreader that tolerates light foot traffic. Grows well under oaks and with ephemeral wild flowers. Good for everywhere from prairies to woodlands to rain gardens. Even good in dry shade, and needs no mowing. Seed from southern St. Louis County, Minn. **** 6–12" h ☞☐

G039 Side-Oats Grama

Bouteloua curtipendula

Graceful, upright grass whose flowers align on one side of the stems. Host to six native butterfly and moth species. Tolerates dry soil. Prefers sun. Clump-forming perennial. Seed from Waukesha County, Wis. 12–36" h ○●☞☐

\$3.00—2.5" pot

G040 Sweet Grass ☞

Hierochloa odorata

Upright, spreading grass with tan seed heads. Sacred plant among many Native American tribes. Used in basket-weaving and braided to make incense. Likes moist to wet soil. Aggressive perennial spreader. Seed from Price County, Wis. 12–24" h ○●☐

\$3.00—2.5" pot

G041 Switch Grass ☞

Panicum virgatum Shenandoah

Most compact and controlled cultivar. Red by midsummer. Delicate, feathery seed heads. Prefers light soil. Clump-forming perennial. 36" h ○

\$7.00—4.5" pot

G042 Tufted Hair Grass ☞

Deschampsia caespitosa

Narrow, arching blades with nice mounding habit. Beige and chartreuse mops of flowers ripen to airy seed heads. Prefers part shade in moist soils. Clump-forming perennial. Unknown seed origin. **** 12" h ○●☐

\$3.00—2.5" pot

G043 Yellow Prairie Grass ☞

Sorghastrum nutans

Silky plumes in shades of gold and brown. Good grass for gardens. Tolerates dry soil. Clump-forming perennial. Seed from Polk County, Minn. Formerly called Indian Grass. **** 36–72" h ○●☞☐

\$3.00—2.5" pot

Key

- Full sun
- Part sun/part shade
- Shade

- ☞ Attractive to bees
- ☞ Audubon-endorsed
- ☞ Butterfly-friendly
- ☞ Hummingbird-friendly

- ☞ Attractive foliage
- ☞ Culinary
- ☞ Edible flowers
- ☞ Ground cover
- ☞ Houseplant
- ☞ Medicinal
- ☞ Minnesota native
- ☞ Rock garden

- ☞ Cold-sensitive: keep above 40°F

- ☞ Toxic to humans

- ☞ Saturday restock

About those stars...

Throughout, you will notice plants that are marked with five stars (*****). These plants have been awarded five stars by Heger and Whitman in the 2011 edition of *Growing Perennials in Cold Climates* as some of the very best plants available on the market.

Watch for the birdie!



Plants marked with the bird icon are endorsed by the Audubon Society as providing food and habitat for birds. www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds



Bunny tails

See also VANILLA GRASS, page 10