

FULL NAME	COMMON NAME	IMAGE	INFORMATION
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Asclepias sullivantii

Prairie Milkweed



Plant Images

Plant Information

Quick Facts:

Milkweeds are essential sanctuaries to the endangered indigenous American Monarch butterfly. Prairie Milkweed is also called Sullivant's Milkweed, named for William Starling Sullivant, an American botanist of the mid-1800's.

Agalinis tenuifolia

Slender False Foxglove



Plant Images

Plant Information

Quick Facts:

Agalinis comes from the Greek word aga which means remarkable and linum is from the Latin word for flax, because the flowers somewhat resemble flax flowers.

Agastache foneniculum

Anaise Hyssop



Plant Images

Plant Information

Quick facts:

Flowers are pollinated primarily by various types of bees including honeybees, bumblebees, Halictid bees, digger bees, leaf-cutting bees and masked bees. Flowers are also visited by pollinating flies, butterflies, skippers, moths and the occasional hummingbird. It is an edible plant smell like a candy cane and licorice stick. Once the dark green leaves are dried and steeped, they also make a delicious, refreshing tea. It is also known as an antiviral, antibacterial and anti-inflammatory plant.

Agastache nepetoides

Yellow Giant Hyssop



Plant Images

Plant Information

Quick Facts:

The attractiveness of Yellow Giant Hyssop consists primarily of its foliage. The flowers are visited by bees, bee flies, and butterflies. These insects suck nectar, although some of the bees may collect pollen. Syrphid flies also visit the flowers to feed on pollen, but they are less effective at cross-pollination. The dense foliage of Yellow Giant Hyssop attracts its fair share of predatory insects, including parasitic wasps, spiders, ladybird beetles, and others. White-Tailed Deer leave the foliage alone because of its bitter taste.

FULL NAME	COMMON NAME	IMAGE	INFORMATION
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Agastache scrophulariifolia Purple Giant Hyssop



Plant Images
Plant Information

Quick Facts:
Hyssop has anti-inflammatory, anti-viral and anti-septic properties. It can be used in treatment of arthritis, rheumatism, diabetes, poor digestion, irregular menstrual period, hypotension, anxiety, respiratory disorders and fever. Poultices made of leaves accelerate healing of insect bites, bruises, cuts and edema.

Allium cernuum Nodding Onion



Plant Images
Plant Information

Quick Facts:
Attracts hairstreak butterfly. The leaves and bulbs of the Nodding Onion were eaten raw or used as flavouring by Natives and early settlers of the prairies. The city of Chicago gets its name from the Algonquin Indian name for this plant, "chigagou".

Andropogon gerardii Big Bluestem



Plant Images
Plant Information

Quick Facts:
The Tallgrass Prairies of the Midwestern United States were dominated by four native grasses that are sometimes called "The Four Horsemen of the Prairies". Of these grasses, *Andropogon gerardii* was the most abundant and tallest. The other "horsemen" are *Schizachyrium scoparium*, *Sorghastrum nutans*, and *Panicum virgatum*.

Hosts caterpillars of several skippers. Seeds are eaten by songbirds and prairie chickens. The dense mass of foliage provides cover and nesting sites for songbirds, secluded spots for butterfly pupation and high protein forage for deer, cattle and other mammals.

Apocynum cannabinum Dogbane



Plant Images
Plant Information

Quick Facts:
The abundant nectar of the flowers attracts many kinds of insects, including cuckoo bees, Halictid bees, plasterer bees, masked bees, Sphecid wasps, Syrphid flies, bee flies, Tachinid flies, Calliphorid flies, butterflies, skippers, and beetles. Dogbane Family (Apocynaceae) members like the infamous oleander typically have milky or viscous sap that can be loaded with highly toxic alkaloids.

FULL NAME	COMMON NAME	IMAGE	INFORMATION
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Asclepias exaltata

Poke Milkweed



Plant Images

Plant Information

Quick Facts:

Milkweeds are essential sanctuaries to the endangered indigenous American Monarch butterfly.

Asclepias incarnata

Rose Milkweed



Plant Images

Plant Information

Quick Facts:

Milkweeds are essential sanctuaries to the endangered indigenous American Monarch butterfly. This milkweed has specialized roots for living in damp soils with little oxygen.

Asclepias speciosa

Showy Milkweed



Plant Images

Plant Information

Quick Facts:

Milkweeds are essential sanctuaries to the endangered indigenous American Monarch butterfly. The fibers from this plant were used by Native Americans to make ropes, nets and other items. This is one of the least toxic of the milkweeds - there are even recipes for preparing this species as a vegetable. This plant can spread through underground rhizomes (a continuously growing horizontal underground stem which puts out lateral shoots) and attracts hummingbirds and butterflies and is a host for Monarch larva.

Asclepias syriaca

Common Milkweed



Plant Images

Plant Information

Quick Facts:

Milkweeds are essential sanctuaries to the endangered indigenous American Monarch butterfly. The plant contains cardiac glycosides, allied to digitalins used in treating some heart disease. These glycosides, when absorbed by monarch butterfly larvae whose sole source of food is milkweed foliage, make the larvae and adult butterflies toxic to birds and other predators.

FULL NAME	COMMON NAME	IMAGE	INFORMATION
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Asclepias tuberosa

Butterfly Weed



Plant Images

Plant Information

Quick Facts:

The bright orange-to-yellow blooms that are rich with nectar and pollen, which in turn attracts butterflies, along with bees, insects, and hummingbirds. Butterfly Weed boasts a long medicinal history as well—Native Americans used to chew the roots as a remedy for pleurisy and other pulmonary issues, and they can also be brewed into a tea that can then be used to treat diarrhea and other stomach ailments.

Asclepias verticillata

Whorled Milkweed



Plant Images

Plant Information

Quick Facts:

Milkweeds are essential sanctuaries to the endangered indigenous American Monarch butterfly.

Asclepias verticillata

Whorled Milkweed



Plant Images

Plant Information

Quick Facts:

This is among the most toxic of the milkweeds - poisonous to livestock and horses. *Asclepias verticillata* is one of the most widely distributed milkweed species in the United States. They recently belonged to their own Milkweed Family (Asclepiadaceae) but are now classified in a subfamily of the Dogbane Family (Apocynaceae).

Asclepias viridis

Spider Milkweed



Plant Images

Plant Information

Quick Facts:

Milkweeds are essential sanctuaries to the endangered indigenous American Monarch butterfly. Spider Milkweed shares with other *Asclepias* species its milky, irritating sap and strong attractiveness to Monarch butterflies, Soldier and Queen Butterfly caterpillars and adults, and serves as a nectar plant for many other butterflies and pollinators. Like other milkweed species, it is also somewhat toxic, some fatally so, to both humans and animals.

FULL NAME	COMMON NAME	IMAGE	INFORMATION
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Bidens aristosa

Swamp Marigold



Plant Images

Plant Information

Quick Facts:

Bidens aristosa is an annual herb occasionally reaching 150 cm (5 feet) in height. It has numerous yellow flower heads with both ray florets and disc florets. Fruits are dry achenes bearing barbs that get caught in fur or clothing, thus aiding in the plant's dispersal

Bouteloua curtipendula

Side-Oats Grama



Plant Images

Plant Information

Quick Facts:

Bouteloua curtipendula is larval host to green and dotted skippers. Wild turkeys and upland birds feed on the seed. This is a nutritious forage grass that livestock readily graze.

Chamaecrista fasciculata

Partridge Pea



Plant Images

Plant Information

Quick Facts:

Seed pods are eaten by gamebirds and songbirds, and the plant provides excellent cover for gamebirds and browse for deer. Leaves collapse when touched, giving rise to the common name Sensitive-plant. Like other members of the pea family, Partridge-pea requires the presence of microorganisms that inhabit nodules on the plant's root system and produce nitrogen compounds necessary for the plant's survival.

Cirsium discolor

Pasture Thistle



Plant Images

Plant Information

Quick Facts:

Benefit many different bees, butterflies, and moths, along with hummingbirds. Goldfinches are particularly fond of the seed. Pasture Thistle can be identified by examining the underside of the leaves; the downy white underside contrasts with the green topside.

FULL NAME	COMMON NAME	IMAGE	INFORMATION
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Cleome serrulata

Rocky Mountain Bee Plant



Plant Images

Plant Information

Quick Facts

Bees are attracted to the pink flowers, and seeds are important food for doves and other small birds. Nectar important for Monarchs, Swallowtails and many other butterflies. Indians boiled the strong leaves for food and as a stomachache remedy. In times of drought early Spanish-Americans made tortillas from the barely palatable but nourishing seeds.

Echinacea angustifolia

Narrow-leaved Coneflower



Plant Images

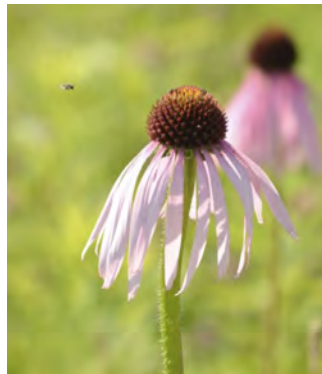
Plant Information

Quick Facts:

Also known as "Mad Dog Plant" because the Plains Indians prized it as a remedy for rabid dog and rattlesnake bites. Today, it's best known as an over-the-counter herbal remedy for the common cold or flu. However, it's also used to treat pain, inflammation, migraines and other health issues.

Echinacea pallida

Pale Purple Coneflower

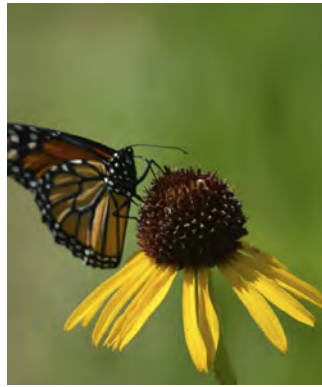


Plant Images

Plant Information

Echinacea paradoxa

Bush's Coneflower



Plant Images

Plant Information

FULL NAME	COMMON NAME	IMAGE	INFORMATION
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Echinacea purpurea

Purple Coneflower



Plant Images

Plant Information

Quick Facts:

Purple coneflowers are the primary ingredient used in herbal teas designed to strengthen the immune system. Today there are more than 200 medicines derived from *Echinacea purpurea* extract. This plant was nicknamed the "Thirst Plant" by pioneers because its roots produce a salty taste when consumed. Eating the purple coneflower's roots helped reduce a person's thirst when water was scarce.

Echinocystis lobata

Wild Cucumber



Plant Images

Plant Information

Quick Facts:

The name *Echinocystis* comes from the Greek echinos for "hedgehog" and cystis for "bladder", appropriately describing the spiny fruit.

Elymus canadensis

Canada Wild Rye



Plant Images

Plant Information

Quick Facts:

Elymus virginicus hosts caterpillars of several species of branded skippers, satyrs and several types of moths. Plants provide seed to birds and small rodents. Grazing animals feed on the foliage early in the season.

Eryngium yuccifolium

Rattlesnake Master



Plant Images

Plant Information

Quick Facts:

These bristly flowers and coarse leaves make it largely ignored by deer and rabbits. It is a member of the carrot/parsley (Apiaceae) family, but is very different-looking from the usual umbel flowers and fine-cut foliage of plants in this family. Beneficial pollinators including native bees, wasps, butterflies, skippers, moths and beetles seek nectar and pollen from the flowers. The common names, 'Rattlesnake Master' and 'Button Snake-root' are used because Herbalists and Native Americans believed the root was an antidote for snakebite.

FULL NAME	COMMON NAME	IMAGE	INFORMATION
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Eupatorium perfoliatum

Boneset



Plant Images
Plant Information

Quick Facts:
The dried leaves have also been used to make a tonic, boneset tea, though effective in treating colds, coughs, and constipation.

Euphorbia cyathophora

Fire on the Mountain



Plant Images
Plant Information

Quick Facts:
The nectar and pollen of the flowers attract small bees, flies, and possibly other insects. A flea beetle, *Glyptina cyanipennis*, and the caterpillars of a moth, *Sprague's Pygarctia*, feed on Wild Poinsettia. Other insects that feed on *Euphorbia* spp. include two aphids, *Aphis pulchella* and *Macrosiphum euphorbiae*. The foliage of this plant is usually avoided by mammalian herbivores because of the toxic milky latex. It can irritate the lining of their mouth parts and digestive tracts. The seeds may be eaten by some upland gamebirds and granivorous songbirds.

Eutrochium fistulosum

Hollow Joe Pye Weed



The flowers are visited by honeybees, bumblebees, and other long-tongued bees. Butterflies, skippers, moths also visit the flowers. Mammals typically steer away from this plant due to its bitter taste, but will consume it if nothing else is available.

Eutrochium purpureum

Joe Pye Weed



Plant Images
Plant Information

Quick Facts:
Joe-pye weed flowers were named after a New England man that used the plant medicinally for helping people with typhus fever. In addition to its medicinal properties, both the flowers and seeds have been used in producing pink or red dye for textiles. The flowers are loaded with nectar and pollen that attract native bees, honeybees and butterflies. In the fall, many species set copious seeds that are both ornamental as well as useful for attracting and feeding small seed-eating songbirds. The plants are highly resistant to browsing deer and rabbits. In their native environment, these plants can be found in thickets and woodlands throughout the eastern half of North America.

FULL NAME	COMMON NAME	IMAGE	INFORMATION
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Eutrochium purpureum

Sweet Joe Pye Weed



Plant Images
Plant Information

Quick Facts:

A butterfly favorite, it is easy to grow and its vanilla-scented flowers are irresistible for Monarchs, Swallowtails and many other butterflies. *Eupatorium purpureum* differs from the other Joe Pyes due to its fragrant dome shaped flower clusters and solid stems that are mostly green except for purple blotches at the nodes.

Filipendula rubra

Queen of the Prairie



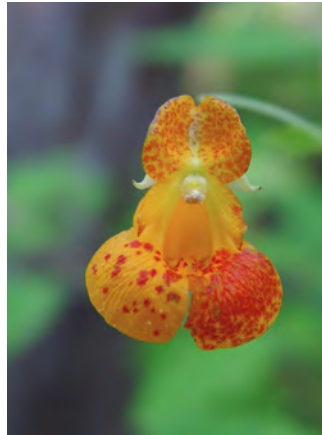
Plant Images
Plant Information

Quick Facts:

The root is rich in tannin, it is used as an astringent in the treatment of diarrhoea, dysentery, bleeding. It has also been used in the treatment of various heart complaints. The plant probably contains salicylic acid, the chemical forerunner of aspirin. This is anti-inflammatory and analgesic.

Impatiens capensis

Spotted Touch Me Not



Plant Images
Plant Information

Quick Facts:

The mature seed pods of spotted touch-me-not pop open at a slight touch, giving this species its common name. Juice from the crushed stem is said to alleviate the symptoms of poison ivy and stinging nettle. This is due to the binding action of the chemical lawsone. Native Americans used it topically to treat a wide variety of skin conditions.

Impatiens pallida

Yellow Jewelweed



Plant Images
Plant Information

Quick Fact:

Another name is Yellow Touch-me-not. It is found throughout New England, but it is more common in western New England, in moist to wet, shaded forests and streamsides. It has pale yellow flowers, which distinguishes it from its close relative spotted touch-me-not (*Impatiens capensis*), with bright orange flowers. It was used by Native Americans for medicinal purposes, chiefly as a topical salve.

FULL NAME	COMMON NAME	IMAGE	INFORMATION
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Liatris aspera

Button or Rough Blazing Star



Plant Images

Plant Information

Quick Facts:

The blazing star is a favorite target for bees and other pollinating insects. The blazing star had several medicinal uses among the native peoples of North America. The roots were ground and used as a pain reliever for headache, arthritis and earaches by the Cheyenne. The Cheyenne also treated communicable diseases like measles, mumps, smallpox and the average fever with blazing star root. The small feathered nuts or seeds of the blazing star were shelled and slow cooked as a foodstuff by the Paiute tribe, and the Montana Indians used the leaves as a treatment for upset stomach and an antiseptic wash.

Liatris pycnostachya

Prairie Blazing Star



Plant Images

Plant Information

Quick Facts:

Specific epithet means crowded in Greek, in probable reference to the arrangement of both flower heads and leaves.

Liatris scariosa var. *nieuwlandii*

Northern Blazing Star



Plant Images

Plant Information

Liatris spicata

Dense Blazing Star



Plant Images

Plant Information

Quick Facts:

A standard component of butterfly gardens, water feature margins, rain gardens, and naturalized moist prairies. Butterflies, bees and hummingbirds all visit this plant, which is a host plant for the rare Glorious Flower Moth (*Schinia gloriosa*), as well. Birds feed on the seeds in fall. Other common names include Dense Gayfeather and Marsh Blazing Star.

FULL NAME	COMMON NAME	IMAGE	INFORMATION
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Lobelia cardinalis

Cardinal Flower



Plant Images

Plant Information

Quick Facts:

With its bright scarlet petals, tubular flower shape, and sweet nectar, cardinal flower is a favorite of hummingbirds, but is also readily visited and pollinated by butterflies and moths (such as the hawk moth) with longer proboscises that are able to access to nectar.

Lobelia siphilitica

Great Blue Loebelia



Plant Images

Plant Information

Quick Facts:

The nectar and pollen of the flowers attract primarily bumblebees and other long-tongued bees. Less common visitors include the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird, large butterflies, and Halictid bees. Most mammalian herbivores don't eat this plant because the foliage contains several toxic alkaloids, chief among them being lobeline and lobelanine. The seeds are too small to be of much value to birds.

Monarda bradburiana

Bradbury's Bee Balm



Plant Images

Plant Information

Quick Facts:

Long tongued bees, butterflies, skippers, hummingbird moths and hummingbirds sip nectar from the flowers. Caterpillars of several moth species feed on the foliage. The aromatic leaves and stems are unpalatable to deer and other herbivores.

Monarda bradburiana is touted by many as a superior beebalm for the garden. Attributes include its mildew resistance, short stocky stature, earlier bloom time and less aggressive spreading than other Monarda spp.

Monarda fistulosa

Wild Bergamot



Plant Images

Plant Information

Additional Information:

Often cited for its historical medicinal applications among indigenous peoples which include poultices for boils and lacerations, as well as tea infusions for headaches, indigestion and colds and flu. Wild Bergamot is a favorite of butterflies, bees and hummingbirds.

FULL NAME	COMMON NAME	IMAGE	INFORMATION
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Monarda punctata

Spotted Bee Balm



Plant Images

Plant Information

Additional Information:

Also known as Spotted Bee Balm and Horsemint, this Monarda has a lovely thyme scent and has been used in teas and for other medicinal purposes. Spotted Bee Balm is drought tolerant and thrives in dry, sandy conditions, requiring little water and upkeep. Growing to be 40" tall, this Bee Balm attracts an abundance of pollinators to the summer garden or meadow.

Nicotiana rustica

Midewiwan Sacred Tobacco



Plant Images

Plant Information

Quick Facts:

Sacred tobacco (wild tobacco) is used ceremonially and medicinally by various tribes of Native Americans. This one is from the Midewiwan tribe. The dried leaves are used as an insecticide for greenhouse insects such as aphids, mites, and whiteflies.

Oligoneuron rigidum

Stiff Goldenrod



Plant Images

Plant Information

Quick Facts:

Native bees, wasps, Monarchs and other butterflies, moths, beetles and pollinating flies seek nectar and pollen from the flowers. Seed are eaten by Eastern Goldfinch and foliage is occasionally nibbled by White-tailed Deer and other herbivores.

Persicaria pensylvanica

Pinkweed



Plant Images

Plant Information

Quick Facts:

The flowers of Pennsylvania Smartweed attract many kinds of insects, including honeybees, bumblebees, cuckoo bees, digger bees, leaf-cutting bees, Halictid bees, Andrenid bees, Sphecid wasps, Vespid wasps, spider wasps, Syrphid flies, Tachinid flies, flesh flies, and miscellaneous butterflies and moths. Most of these insects feed on the nectar and they help to cross-pollinate the flowers.

FULL NAME	COMMON NAME	IMAGE	INFORMATION
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Rudbeckia hirta

Black-eyed Susan



Plant Images
Plant Information

Quick Facts:

A hallmark of prairies and meadows, Black Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) blooms and completes its life cycle in its second year with an extravagant floral display. Exceptionally showy and easy to grow, *Rudbeckia hirta* has a prolonged bloom time that attracts butterflies and other pollinators. The late season seed heads attract finches and other birds.

Schizachyrium scoparium

Little Bluestem



Plant Images
Plant Information

Quick Facts:

Schizachyrium scoparium is a dominant species of the Midwestern Tallgrass Prairies. This grass along with *Andropogon gerardii*, *Panicum virgatum* and *Sorghastrum nutans* are sometimes called "The Four Horsemen of the Prairie".

Plants host the caterpillars of at least 6 species of skippers. The seed are eaten by a variety of small songbirds and young foliage is browsed by deer, bison and livestock.

Solidago rugosa

Wrinkle-leaf Goldenrod



Plant Images
Plant Information

Quick Facts:

In addition to the many insect species the Wrinkled-Leaved Goldenrod attracts, many birds including Indigo Bunting, Eastern Goldfinch, Ruffed Grouse, and Greater Prairie Chicken enjoy consuming the seeds.

Solidago speciosa

Showy Goldenrod



Plant Images
Plant Information

Quick Facts:

Solidago speciosa provides valuable late season nectar and pollen for native bees, honeybees, butterflies, moths and beetles. Plants host caterpillars of several moth species. Seed are eaten by the Eastern Goldfinch and Greater Prairie Chicken. Young foliage is occasionally nibbled by White-tailed Deer and other herbivores. Sadly, goldenrods often get blamed for causing the dreaded hayfever. This is simply not true. Their pollen is quite large and sticky so as to better adhere to the body of visiting insects. Because of this, goldenrod pollen cannot become airborne and can never make its way into your sinuses.

FULL NAME	COMMON NAME	IMAGE	INFORMATION
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Sorghastrum nutans

Indian Grass



Plant Images

Plant Information

Quick Facts:

Sorghastrum nutans is a dominant species of the Midwestern Tallgrass Prairies. This grass along with *Andropogon gerardii*, *Panicum virgatum* and *Schizachyrium scoparium* are sometimes called "The Four Horsemen of the Prairie". *Sorghastrum nutans* provides seed, cover and nesting sites for birds and pollen for bees. Pepper-and-salt skipper caterpillars and deer nibble the foliage. Ranchers plant this grass as a high protein forage grass.

Symphotrichum

Smooth Blue Aster



Plant Images

Plant Information

Symphotrichum novae-angliae

New England Aster



Plant Images

Plant Information

Quick Facts:

Bees and butterflies are frequent visitors to this amazing pollinator favorite, and larval host for the Pearl Crescent, the Gorgone Checkerspot butterfly and the Northern Flower moth. Other common names include Michaelmas Daisy.

Triodanis perfoliata

Venus' Looking Glass



Plant Images

Plant Information

Quick Facts:

Small bees are the most common visitors of the flowers. This includes Little Carpenter bees, Plasterer bees, Green Metallic bees, and other Halictine bees. The Plasterer bee *Colletes brevicornis* is an oligolege of Venus' Looking Glass. Other insect visitors include bumblebees, flies, small butterflies, and skippers. The seeds are too small to be of any interest to birds. Mammalian herbivores may consume this plant, although it is of minor importance as a food source.

FULL NAME

COMMON NAME

IMAGE

INFORMATION

Verbena hastata

Blue Varvain

**Plant Images****Plant Information****Quick Facts:**

The nectar and pollen of *Verbena hastata* attracts a wide variety of native bees, honey bees, beneficial wasps, pollinating flies, small butterflies, skippers and moths. Caterpillars of the verbena moth and common buckeye butterfly feed on the leaves. Cottontail rabbits nibble young foliage and cardinals, sparrows and juncos forage for the seed. The generic name *Verbena* is Latin for "sacred plant". In the days of yore, drinking "sacred" vervain tea was said to ward off vampires. The specific epithet means "spear shaped" due to the lanceolate leaves.

Vernonia fasciculata

Common Ironweed

**Plant Images****Plant Information****Quick Facts:**

The genus name honors 17th century English botanist and plant collector William Vernon. André Michaux first recorded *Vernonia fasciculata* in his flora of North America (*Flora Boreali-Americana*, 1803). The flowers are attractive to butterflies and other pollinators. Deer-resistant.

Vernonia noveboracensis

New York Ironweed

**Plant Images****Plant Information****Quick Facts:**

The genus name honors 17th century English botanist and plant collector William Vernon. André Michaux first recorded *Vernonia fasciculata* in his flora of North America (*Flora Boreali-Americana*, 1803). The flowers are attractive to butterflies and other pollinators. Deer-resistant.