



Wildly Beneficial Talk Handout

Full Sun

Purple Coneflower
Wild Bergamot
Butterflyweed
Aromatic Aster or New England Aster
Wild Penstemon
Liatris species
Yellow Coneflower
Showy, Stiff, or Grey Goldenrod
Aromatic Aster
Little Bluestem
Prairie Dropseed

Part Sun (Some of the full sun plants will work with part sun)

Bradbury's Monarda
Long-beaked Sedge
Wild Larkspur
Starry Campion
New England Aster (prune before 7/4 to keep compact; place trimmings near plant to allow any caterpillars to crawl back to plant)
Sweet Brown-eyed Susan
Sweet Joe-pye Weed
Great Blue Lobelia
Anise Hyssop
Wild Columbine

Shade (under trees)

Wild Ginger
Native ferns (Christmas, Maidenhair, Royal, Sensitive)
Foamflower
Merrybells
Trilliums (if some sun in early spring)
Meadow Anemone (can be aggressive)
Carexes
Jacob's Ladder
Short's Aster
Zig-zag Goldenrod or Blue-stemmed Goldenrod

Tips:

- Work with volunteer plants
- Densely planting reduces weeds

- No need for conventional clean-up; probably should get rid of the idea of “clean-up” for native plant gardens.
- Remove any unwanted seedlings (pot up and share or make a new garden)
- Trim stems--mid-late spring (12-18” stems give cavity nesting native pollinators a nesting site)
- If leaves settle too thickly, simply move off to the side and treat like a mulch.

Further reading recommendations:

- *Design Your Natural Midwest Garden*, Pat Hill
- *Planting in a Post-Wild World*, Claudia West and Thomas Rainier
- *Living Landscapes*, Doug Tallamy and Rick Darke
- *Bringing Nature Home*, Doug Tallamy
- *Nature’s Best Hope*, Doug Tallamy
- Heather Holm’s books
- Xerces Society
- *Midwestern Native Garden* and *Midwestern Native Trees and Shrubs*, Charlotte Edelman and Bernard Schwartz
- Catalogs from Prairie Moon Nursery and Prairie Moon
- *My Journey into the Wilds of Chicago*, Mike MacDonald
- Free landscape designs created by native garden landscape designers:
<https://nativegardendesigns.wildones.org>
- www.westcook.wildones.org

