



# Maintenance Guide



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# NATURALISTIC GARDENING

Naturalistic gardening is low maintenance. Because native plants have evolved to thrive in the surrounding climate and conditions, there is less need for extra watering once the plants are established. A watering schedule in the first three years is advised to establish new plantings. During this time, added fertilization should not be necessary as the decaying plant matter from the previous season will continue to feed the soil. When the plants fully develop into their mature dimensions, weed pressure will be greatly reduced. Once the garden is established and the ground is covered in a closely planted design, weeds tend to germinate sparingly. In addition, leaving the seed heads will feed wildlife through the winter, so a spring cleanup is the most maintenance needed outside of weeding. Deadheading or cutting back is advised on some plants but not necessary.

## SYMBOL KEY

Pollinators



Bees



Moths



Butterflies



Larval Host



Birds



Hummingbirds



Wasps

Bloom Time



Spring



Summer



Fall

Sun Requirements



Full



Part



Shade

Water Requirements



Dry



Medium



Moist

# GARDEN

# MAINTENANCE

# SCHEDULE



## March

Prune and Deadwood woody plants as needed.

If spring flowering plants need to be cut back to control size, consider completing that pruning once the plant has finished flowering for the season.

Cut down any remaining grasses and perennials that were left up through the winter.

Leave stems up for hollow stemmed plants that house solitary bees and other insects through winter.

Plant material may be mulched at this time for a tinder appearance although is not necessary for plant or garden health.

Plants may also be left standing until insects emerge sometime between late April and Middle of May. This timeframe can change some from year to year depending on the temperatures of that specific season.

## April

Weed as needed.

## May

Weed as needed.

Some watering may be necessary.

Cut down any remaining perennials in mid to late May once nighttime low temperatures are constantly above 50 degrees.

## July

Weed as needed.

Consider additional watering if drought conditions occur.

## August

Weed as needed.

Consider additional watering if drought conditions occur.

## September

Weed as needed

Consider additional watering if drought conditions occur

## October

Weed as needed.

Any transplanting or divisions can be completed at this time, Late September or early October transplanting allows for the heat of summer to pass, while giving the plant some time to establish in its new space before winter.

Plant divisions should not be necessary until the third full season Remember to keep an eye on watering newly transplanted plants as to not let them dry out before becoming established. Assess needs of garden for following season, including any

blank spaces and what can be done to fill those spaces.

## November through February

Rest and Relax!

## Items to note by year

### YEAR 1

Supplemental watering will be necessary through the first season to ensure proper establishment of plants. Watering times and amounts should be adjusted based on temperature and precipitation rates.

Weeding will be most pressing through the first season while plants are still establishing and there is plenty of bare ground for weed plants to germinate and establish.

Replace plants as needed that fail during the establishment phase.

### YEAR 2

The need for supplemental watering should be less through the second season, but it may still be needed in hotter and drier periods throughout the season. Pay special attention to Woody Plants, especially the Black Gum and Serviceberries.

Continue to stay on top of weeding as the garden continues to establish.

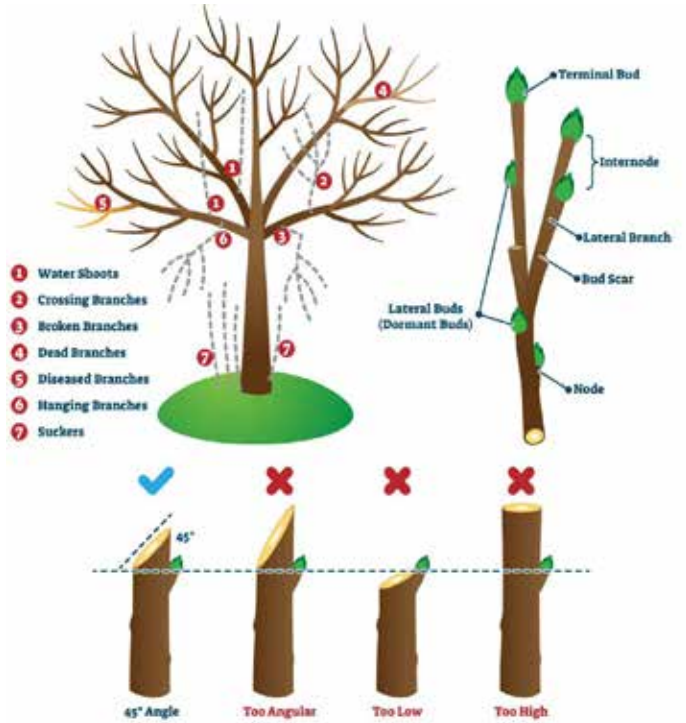
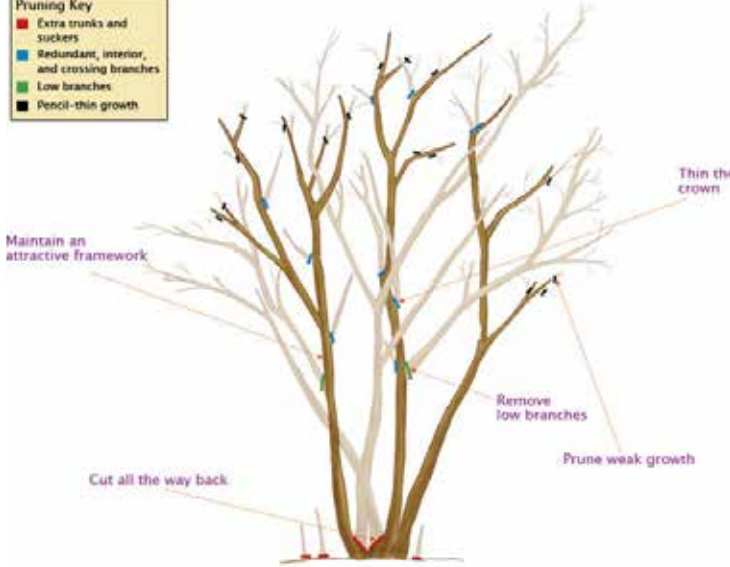
### YEAR 3 and Beyond

The need for supplemental watering should mostly subside, except in periods of prolonged drought.

Plants may need to be moved/ divided by the end of the third season to prevent crowding and more aggressive plants from out competing their neighbors.

# WOODYYS

**Pruning Key**  
 ■ Extra trunks and suckers  
 ■ Redundant, interior, and crossing branches  
 ■ Low branches  
 ■ Pencil-thin growth



Amelanchier x grandiflora  
 'Autumn Brilliance' Serviceberry

25' H x 20' W

**Maintenance Needs:**

Low maintenance. Tolerant of a somewhat wide range of soils, but prefers moist, well-drained loams. Root suckers are common, and if not removed, will result in a shrubby growth habit for the plant. Edible fruits in June. Expect to see Orioles, Bluebirds, Cedar Waxwings, Scarlet Tanagers, Northern Flickers, and Robins feasting on the berries in midsummer. Viceroy, Tiger Swallowtails, and Striped Hairstreak butterflies will use this tree as a larval host plant.



Notes:







*Aronia melanocarpa* 'Viking'  
Black Chokeberry 'Viking'

8'H x 6'W

Maintenance Needs:

Low maintenance. Plants have a wide range of soil tolerance including boggy soils. Remove root suckers to prevent colonial spread unless hedge row desired. They are self-fertile. You will get more fruit in full sun during late summer. Adding an additional bush will drastically increase the size of your crop.



Notes:



*Lindera benzoin*  
Spicebush

12' H x 12' W

Maintenance Needs:

Low maintenance. Easily grown in average, well-drained soils in part shade. Fall color is best with more sun. Tolerates full shade, but habit becomes more open and wide-spreading. Also tolerant of full sun, but good soil moisture is required. Regular pruning is not required, but if you wish to prune, do so in early spring, just before the new growth begins to emerge. Thrives in moist to wet soils. Female plants need a male pollinator in order to set fruit.



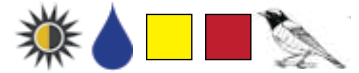
Notes:



*Myrica gale*

2-6' H x 4-6' W

Sweetgale



Maintenance Needs:

Medium maintenance. Needs pruned regularly. Sweet-gale is a common shoreline shrub of acidic lakes, streams and bogs. It spreads vegetatively by both branch layering and root suckers forming large thickets. Like most members of the bayberry family, the leaves are pungently fragrant when crushed.

Notes:



*Nyssa sylvatica*

50' H x 30' W

Black Gum



Maintenance Needs:

Low maintenance. Slow-growing. This species tolerates drier sites and poor drainage. Make sure to plant the tree in its permanent location as it is difficult to move without harming the taproot. Trees in their first growing season will need regular watering, but after that you likely won't have to worry about watering unless your climate is dry. The pruning and fertilization requirements for this native tree are also minimal. Shelter from cold, dry winds.

Notes:





## Physocarpus opulifolius Ninebark

8' H x 6' W



### Maintenance Needs:

Low maintenance. Needs plenty of space. Prune branches by one-third after flowering to retain shape and improve air circulation. Older shrubs benefit from a rejuvenating pruning (close to the ground) before or during winter to encourage better leaf and flower growth. Plants can also be divided in early spring by chopping through the middle of the shrub with a sharp spade. Host plant for 34 species of Lepidoptera larva. Avoid maroon or red nativars (the anthocyanins deter feeding).

### Notes:



## Rhus aromatica 'Gro-Low' Gro-Low Sumac

3' H x 10' W



### Maintenance Needs:

Low maintenance. As a pioneer species that thrives in difficult conditions, it's easily grown in a wide range of average to dry soils and full to part sun. Prune every few years in late winter or early spring to remove dead branches, provide air circulation, and rejuvenate the shrub. Remove one-third of the oldest branches by cutting at the base. It tends to be unbothered by diseases, and it attracts predatory insects that feed upon pest insects.

### Notes:



**Rhus typhina**  
**Staghorn Sumac**

**Maintenance Needs:**

Medium maintenance. This is a suckering shrub that will form thickets in the wild via self-seeding and root suckering. Rejuvenate leggy plants by cutting it to the ground every few years in the fall. Wear gloves as the sap can irritate the skin. Some susceptibility to leaf spots, rusts, powdery mildew, blister and cankers. Scale, aphids and caterpillars may appear. Watch for mites. By preparing a decoction from the fruits, a lemonade-like drink can be enjoyed.

25' H x 30' W

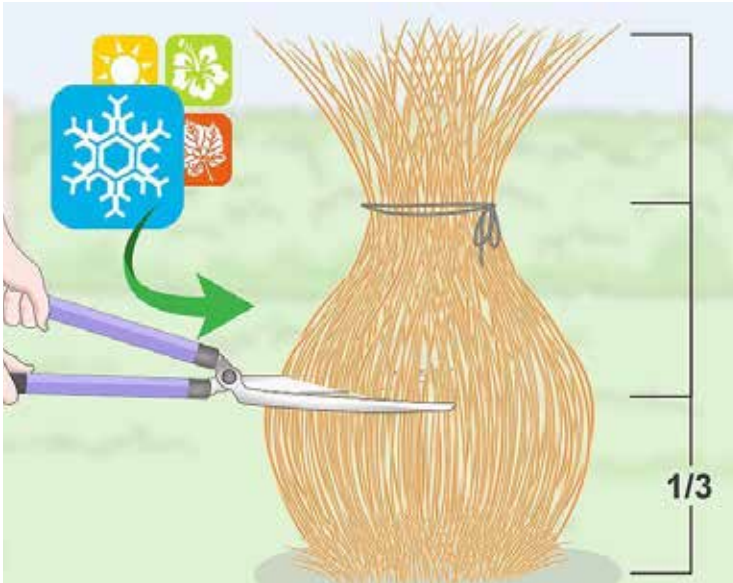


Notes:

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# GRASSES



Use hand pruners or hedger to cut and remove 2/3 of the total grass height. Trim edges. For warm season grasses (more common), this is best done in late winter to early spring. For cool season grasses apply the same maintenance practices in the late fall, once the plant is dormant. Be careful to not cut into the root crown.



*Carex pennsylvanica*  
Pennsylvania Sedge

## Maintenance Needs:

Low maintenance. Pennsylvania Sedge grows actively in spring and fall when soil temperatures are cooler. Planted one foot on center, it fills-in to form a dense low growing turf that doesn't need mowing. It can tolerate mowing one or two times a season if desired. Requires a well-drained dryer soil, in partial to full shade. Plants spread by rhizomes. Plants may self-seed in optimum growing conditions. No serious insect or disease problems. Leaf spot, smut and rust are occasional problems.

1' H x 1' W



Notes:



*Carex rosea*  
Curly-styled Wood Sedge

Maintenance Needs:

Low maintenance. Prospers in dry, moist or wet woodlands including difficult dry shady sites. The preferred exposure is the bright shade or part sun found at woods edge. Plants will tolerate full shade but will not fill in as quickly. Plants should be cut to the ground during late winter before new growth is initiated. Excellent for shoreline restoration and rain garden edges.

1' H x 1' W



Notes:



*Carex vulpinoidea*  
Fox Sedge

Maintenance Needs:

Low maintenance. *Carex vulpinoidea* is a resilient sedge for wetlands and disturbed sites. Plants prosper in sun or part shade. Moist soil is preferred but plants will tolerate average soils, drought and wet sites. New clumps can be pulled out as soon as they appear, which would normally be in spring. It's possible to lessen the plant's tendency to reseed by cutting back the seed sprays before the seed becomes viable and ready to spread. Can spread rapidly in the right conditions.

3' H x 3' W



Notes:





**Panicum virgatum 'Northwind'** 6' H x 3' W  
**Switchgrass 'Northwind'**

**Maintenance Needs:**

Low maintenance. Use hand pruners or hedger to cut and remove 2/3 of the total grass height. Trim edges. For warm season grasses (Like this one), this is best done in late winter to early spring. 'Northwind' is extremely drought tolerant, but soil that is occasionally boggy does not bother it.



**Notes:**



**Schizachyrium scoparium 'Jazz'** 2.5' H x 2.5' W  
**Little Bluestem 'Jazz'**

**Maintenance Needs:**

Low maintenance. 'Jazz' Little Bluestem Grass is a striking prairie native cultivar (nativar) selected for its smaller stature. Leave the grass standing over winter to enjoy its motion and texture in wind and snow, and to provide nutritious seeds for songbirds. It is a host plant for many butterflies. Water deeply and regularly during the first growing season to establish an extensive root system. Once established, reduce frequency; tolerates drought. Cut to the ground in early spring.



**Notes:**



**Sporobolus heterolepis**

**Prarie Dropseed**

**Maintenance Needs:**

Low maintenance. Leave the grass sanding over winter for winter interest and bird food. Water deeply and regularly during the first growing season to establish an extensive root system. Once established, reduce frequency; tolerates drought. Cut to the ground in early spring. If plant seems to be dying out from the middle, divide with a sharp flat shovel in the fall.

2' H x 3' W



Notes:

# FERNS & FORBS

## How to Create Habitat for Stem-Nesting Bees



### WINTER

Leave dead flower stalks intact over the winter

### SPRING

Cut back dead flower stalks leaving stem stubble of varying height, 8 to 24 inches, to provide nest cavities.



Female bees find cut or naturally occurring open stems, start a nest, then lay an egg on the pollen balls. Larvae eat the pollen.



### SUMMER

New growth of the perennial hides the stem stubble.



Bee larvae develop in cut dead stems during the growing season.





FALL



WINTER



Bees hibernate in stems during the winter



SPRING

Cut back dead flower stalks. Old stem stubble will naturally decompose.



Adult bees emerge and start nests in newly cut dead stems or in naturally occurring open stems.



Allium cernuum  
Nodding Onion

1' H x 1' W

Maintenance Needs:

Low maintenance. Nodding Onion only needs to be pruned after flowering. Plants usually go dormant after they bloom. These plants are not sensitive to harsh weather conditions. Nodding onions also do not have many pests associated with them as well. Thrives in rocky soils and grows in a range of well-drained soils. Tolerates drought.



Notes:





## Amsonia heubrichtii Hubricht's Bluestar

### Maintenance Needs:

Low maintenance. In soils that are constantly moist, Amsonia prefers full sun. Otherwise, plant it in light to partial shade. Too much shade causes the plants to sprawl or flop open. Plants must be cut back in either the late fall or late winter to about 8 inches from the ground. Remember to wear gloves when working with Amsonia since stems release a white sap. Though not required, cutting them back again half way to the ground after flowering will result in even fuller growth.

4' H x 3' W



Notes:



## Aquilegia canadensis Wild columbine

### Maintenance Needs:

Low maintenance. Columbine is a short-lived herbaceous perennial that reseeds itself easily. Columbine will not tolerate excessive heat and begins to decline in the summer. The plant prefers soil with medium moisture but well-drained. Prune columbine plants back to their healthy basal leaves just after blooming. Doing so might promote a second set of stem growth within a few weeks enabling you to enjoy another wave of blooms.

2' H x 3' W



Notes:





## Asclepias incarnata Swamp Milkweed

4' H x 3' W

### Maintenance Needs:

Low maintenance. In research held by Michigan State, cutting back milkweed in July has produced interesting results. They found that fewer milkweed stems tend to regrow if cut at this time (especially with dry weather), but the stems that do emerge are very attractive to monarchs and sometimes have quite a few eggs and caterpillars on them. Eggs that are laid in late summer produce the group of adult butterflies that make the trip back to Mexico.



### Notes:



## Asclepias tuberosa Butterfly Weed

2' H x 2' W

### Maintenance Needs:

Low maintenance. Water regularly to maintain a moist soil in the first year. Once established, it prefers a drier soil and will tolerate drought. Fertilizer is not needed and may actually harm the plant and discourage blooming. While mostly trouble free, butterfly weed is susceptible to aphids, which may be controlled with neem oil or predator insects such as ladybugs.



### Notes:





**Aster cordifolius 'Avondale'**  
**Blue Wood Aster**

**Maintenance Needs:**

Low maintenance. Water well on planting and regularly until established. Flowering is best with 3 hours of sun or more. Works well in average, dry or moist soil, but does not like to be consistently wet. To encourage growth trim dead leaves and stems. To inspire bigger and better blooms, deadhead spent flowers throughout the blooming season. To prepare Avondale Blue Wood Aster for the winter, cut the stems back to a couple of inches above ground after the first major frost.

3' H x 3' W



Notes:



**Athyrium filix-femina**  
**Lady Fern**

**Maintenance Needs:**

Low maintenance. Lady Fern is relatively tolerant of sun and dry soil, compared to other ferns. The best growth will occur in full to partial shade and a rich, moist soil. Avoid pruning back after the first heavy frost. Once you see the new fronds, you can clear away the old fronds by hand. Mulching helps protect them during the winter. Birds use the spent stalks for nesting materials. Lady fern shelters many mammals, amphibians, and insects in the summer months from heat and predators.

3' H x 2' W



Notes:



**Baptisia australis**  
**Blue False Indigo**

**Maintenance Needs:**

Low maintenance. Keep well-watered until established, after which time it is drought tolerant. Overwatering may cause the stems to flop over. If you do not deadhead the flowers, you will get attractive seed pods. You can prevent this by giving your false indigo a modest shearing after flowering. Stalks will need to be trimmed off near ground level as winter sets in—or immediately in the spring before new growth begins if you prefer to leave the seed heads in place through winter.

5' H x 4' W



Notes:



**Dryopteris marginalis**  
**Marginal Wood Fern**

**Maintenance Needs:**

Low maintenance. The rhizome tends to form a large, dramatic, single-crowned specimen. Marginal Wood Fern does not spread by runners and never becomes aggressive. Prune them at just the right time, and it takes no time at all! To avoid a mish-mash mess, cut all of the fronds from your fern to the ground early each spring. Once all of the fronds are cut down, each plant should look like a tiny, curled fist on the ground.

3' H x 2' W



Notes:





**Echinacea pallida**  
**Pale Purple Coneflower**

**Maintenance Needs:**

Low maintenance. An adaptable plant that is tolerant of drought, heat, humidity and poor soil. Divide clumps when they become overcrowded (about every 4 years). Plants usually rebloom without deadheading, however prompt removal of spent flowers improves general appearance. Freely self-seeds if at least some of the seed heads are left in place. Japanese beetle and leaf spot are occasional problems. Susceptible to aster yellows disease.

25' H x 3' W



Notes:



**Echinacea purpurea 'White Swan'** 3' H x 2' W  
**Echinacea 'White Swan'**

**Maintenance Needs:**

Low maintenance. An adaptable plant that is tolerant of drought, heat, humidity and poor soil. Divide clumps when they become overcrowded (about every 4 years). Plants usually rebloom without deadheading, however prompt removal of spent flowers improves general appearance. Freely self-seeds if at least some of the seed heads are left in place. Japanese beetle and leaf spot are occasional problems. Susceptible to aster yellows disease.



Notes:





## Euphorbia corollata Flowering Spurge

### Maintenance Needs:

Low maintenance. This plant is not too fussy about soils and performs well in loam, sand, clay, or gravel, It will however suffer in places that stay wet for prolonged periods of time, especially in winter and early spring. The plant has an upright clumping habit that spreads by seeds and underground rhizomes. Seeding can be somewhat aggressive in newly established gardens and can be controlled by removing 50-70% of the seed heads upon completion of flowering.

3' H x 3' W



Notes:



## Eurybia macrophylla Bigleaf Aster

### Maintenance Needs:

Low maintenance. This is a woodland species that will grow in shade, but best flowering and growth is in part shade. Divide and replant in spring. Spreads by rhizomes and self-seeding to form colonies in optimum growing conditions. No known serious insect or disease problems. Powdery mildew may occur.

4' H x 4' W



Notes:



## Geranium maculatum

2' H x 2' W

### Wild Geranium

#### Maintenance Needs:

Low maintenance. You'll get the best flowering when you give wild geranium a spot with more sun and ample water. Deadheading is not recommended as plants do not normally repeat bloom. Too much sun and not enough water leads to yellow leaves that drop prematurely. If plants get enough moisture, they'll keep their leaves all season long. If not, plants tend to go dormant.



Notes:



## Iris cristata

16" H x 3' W

### Crested Iris

#### Maintenance Needs:

Low maintenance. Best grown in organically rich, medium moisture, well-drained soils in part shade. Will tolerate close to full shade. If grown in full sun, the soil must be kept consistently moist. Grows well on well-drained slopes. Remove any dying foliage in autumn, old flower stems can be cut down after flowering.



Notes:





*Liatris pycnostychia*  
Prairie Blazing Star

5' H x 2' W

Maintenance Needs:

Low maintenance. Tolerant of poor soils, drought, summer heat and humidity. Intolerant of wet soils in winter. Sometimes treated as a biennial. Deadheading the Prairie Blazing Star flowers isn't necessary. The dried bloom can be a great source of food for wild birds in late fall and early winter. Deadheading after the first year of growth, however, can help to ensure the corms will receive the most nutrients possible for maximum growth.



Notes:



*Liatris spicata* 'Floristan Violet'  
Floristan Violet Blazing Star

4' H x 2' W

Maintenance Needs:

Low maintenance. Tolerates heat, cold, drought, and poor soils. plants may rot over winter if grown in heavy soil. Virtually pest and disease-free. Deadhead regularly then cut stems down to ground in spring. Divide every three to four years in spring. Will bloom from top to bottom.



Notes:





**Lupinus perennis**  
**Wild Lupine**

2' H x 2' W

**Maintenance Needs:**

Low maintenance. For the first few months, make sure that Lupine plants are getting adequate water for good root development (they are deeply rooted), but let the soil dry out between waterings. After that, water only during periods of drought or very dry spells. Lupines can bloom again lightly on side shoots if immediately deadheaded. However, if seeds have begun to form in the lower parts of the flower, they are unlikely to repeat their bloom.



Notes:



**Monarda bradburiana**  
**Eastern Beebalm**

2' H x 2' W

**Maintenance Needs:**

Low maintenance. Thrives in sun or part shade with well drained soil. Plants tolerate drought and shallow rocky infertile soils. Plants bloom more vigorously if they are divided in spring or fall every 3-4 years. This species is resistant to powdery mildew. Water during drought and prune to thin dense growth helps to enhance the resistance.



Notes:





**Penstemon digitalis**  
**Foxglove Beardtongue**

4' H x 2' W

**Maintenance Needs:**

Low maintenance. Remove spent blooms to promote rebloom later. Some plants tend to flop over after the first bloom and attempt to regrow from the base; in these cases, the old stems can be cut away in summer. As plants become dormant in the fall, remove dead leaves and stems.



Notes:



**Phlox divaricata 'Blue Moon'**  
**Woodland Phlox 'Blue Moon'**

1' H x 2' W

**Maintenance Needs:**

Low maintenance. Flourishes in bright shade with moist rich well drained acid soil. Plants tolerate clay loam, sand, part sun and dry shade. Plants are fairly pest resistant but need good air circulation to prevent issues with powdery mildew. Trim back after flowering to the low green foliage for lush new growth. Do not prune in fall, may need minimal clean-up in spring to tidy its appearance. Can be divided every 3 to 5 years in spring right after flowering or early fall.



Notes:





**Rudbeckia fulgida** 'American Gold Rush'  
**Black Eyed Susan**

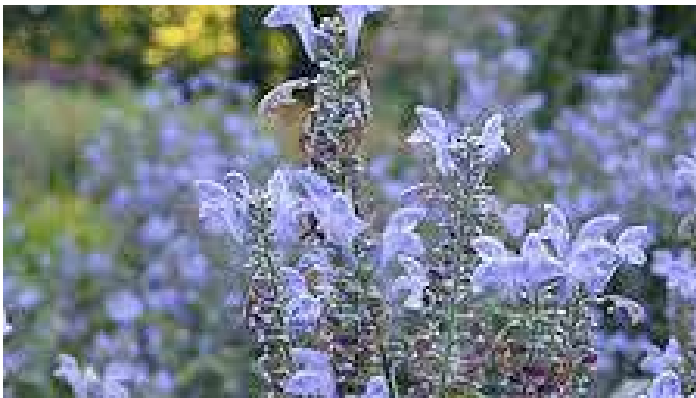
2' H x 2' W

**Maintenance Needs:**

Low Maintenance. Best grown in average, evenly moist, well-drained soils in full sun. Tolerates hot and humid summers. Tolerates some drought once established. Tolerates part shade. Deadhead spent flowers to encourage additional bloom. May flop and require staking in rich, fertile soils. Divide clumps every 4-5 years to maintain robust growth. Watch for aphids, powdery mildew, downy mildew, and septoria leaf spot. Susceptible to aster yellows disease, but offers improved resistance to septoria leaf spot.



Notes:



**Scutellaria incana**  
**Downy Skullcap**

3' H x 3' W

**Maintenance Needs:**

Low maintenance. Scutellaria incana grows best in dappled sun in average well drained slightly acid sandy or clay soil. Plants tolerate heat, drought, shade, poor infertile soils, rocky or gravelly soils, moderate salinity and full sun if soil is moist. Prune after the flowers have died back to improve its compact habit.



Notes:



## Silphium laciniatum Compass plant

### Maintenance Needs:

Low maintenance. Although it's a little slow to take off, it will tolerate drought and competition from other plants once established. The thick stem is very sturdy, but it may flop if planted on a slope or in areas buffeted by wind. This amazing plant can live up to 100 years and often occurs in natural habitats alongside big bluestem grass. It will die back so pruning is not necessary.

12' H x 3' W



Notes:



## Solidago flexicaulis Zigzag Goldenrod

### Maintenance Needs:

Low maintenance. Water well for a few weeks until they've established. Zigzag goldenrod prefers moist conditions, but it will tolerate a fair amount of summer drought. You can prune your Zigzag Goldenrod any time you notice dead, diseased, or damaged leaves during the growing season. Once you locate an unwanted leaf, then follow its stem all the way to the bottom of petiole. Every few years, divide large plants at the roots.

3' H x 2' W



Notes:





*Thalictrum dioicum*

### Early meadow-rue

#### Maintenance Needs:

Medium maintenance. They like a well-prepared soil bed with the addition of dung and leaf mold to get them to grow taller and create the best flowering displays. The soil needs to be moist and thalictrum are therefore best positioned in partial shade. Meadow rues can be cut back in fall or spring. deadheading isn't essential, but cutting back spent flower sprays encourages more blooms and results in a shorter and sturdier plant by the end of the growing season.

2' H x 2' W



Notes:



*Tiarella cordifolia*

### Heart-leaved Foamflower

#### Maintenance Needs:

Low maintenance. Plants are fairly pest resistant but need good air circulation to prevent issues with powdery mildew, slugs and rust. This species grows best in soils that are rich and moisture retentive but cannot tolerate sites that are wet or soggy in winter. May trim spent blooms. They form dense clumps and small colonies from spreading leafy stems that root at the nodes

1' H x 1' W



Notes:



**Verbena hastata**  
**Swamp Verbena**

**Maintenance Needs:**

Low maintenance. Verbenas can be trimmed in the spring to help shape the plant and help promote new growth. Can handle being trimmed back during the growing season if the plant gets too tall for your space. Deadheading Verbena or removing spent flowers maintains a clean appearance and allows the plant to refocus its energy into even more flowers. Leave any dead growth to protect the plant during the winter and trim it back in the spring.

4' H x 2' W



Notes:



**Vernonia noveboracensis**  
**New York Ironweed**

**Maintenance Needs:**

Low maintenance. Easily grown in average, medium to wet soils in full sun. Tolerates wide range of soils, but prefers rich, moist, slightly acidic soils. Remove flower heads before seed develops to avoid unwanted self-seeding. Overall plant height may be reduced by cutting back stems nearly to the ground in late spring.

7' H x 4' W



Notes:



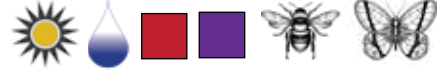


## Veronicastrum Fascination Culver's Root

5' H x 2' W

### Maintenance Needs:

Low maintenance. Easily grown in average, medium to wet, well-drained soil in full sun. Tolerates light shade, but tends to flop and require support if grown in too much shade. Soils should not be allowed to dry out. Usually takes several years to establish itself in the garden. Deadhead spent racemes to extend bloom period. Cut back plants after flowering to basal growth to stimulate new foliage growth and possible late summer or fall bloom.



Notes:

# GINLC BIOME/ZONE EXPLANATION

**WOODLAND BIOME** - The woodland biome is representative of native forests. It consists of a tree canopy that shades the forest floor and a ground layer consisting of smaller woody and vegetative plants. You are likely to encounter plants such as native sedges and ferns, along with earlier flowering perennials and bulbs that take advantage of the light early in the season before the overstory canopy fills in. The shade that follows through the hotter part of the season provides a great reprieve from the sun for both humans and the animals that inhabit the neighboring space.

**PRAIRIE BIOME** - The prairie biome is representative of native prairies and wild meadows. This area of the garden consists of a low growing grass matrix, with different native wildflowers and taller grasses coming up through the ground layer, providing an array of textures and colors that change with the seasons. Bees and other pollinators will take advantage of the nectar from the wildflowers, and the seed heads that follow will feed birds and other wildlife. Many of the plants are used as a host for the larvae of native insects to feed on as they begin a new life cycle before molting into their adult form. The dead blades of grasses from the previous season are often utilized by birds to build their nests.

**SHRUBLAND/ BIRD BORDER** - The bird border on the eastern border of the garden is a designed mix of native shrubs that would often be found along the woodlands edge between the forest and prairie/grasslands. The bird border will function as a visual barrier to close off the space and make the garden feel more intimate. The early season flowers will provide nectar to pollinators while the berries and fruit that follow later in the season will feed birds and other animals, especially helping migratory birds as they start their journey down south for the winter. The fall color of the foliage will provide visual interest and beauty to garden visitors once the summer flowers have subsided for the year.

**RAIN GARDENS** - The rain gardens provide purposely placed low areas in the garden for water to collect and then percolate into the ground, which takes pressure off of the local storm water systems that the water would otherwise flow into. Along waterfront properties, rain garden systems allow for a place for the initial flush of water to collect during rain events, helping prevent pollutants from streets and hard surfaces from entering the adjacent body of water. The rain gardens are filled with plants that can take the alternation between wet and dry conditions that come about due to changes in temperature and precipitation throughout the seasons. In natural areas these plants would be found in floodplains or low lying areas at the bottom of a slope or swale that gravity would feed with runoff from rain or spring snowmelt.