

Ratibida pinnata

Common Name: Gray-headed coneflower, Prairie coneflower

Plant Type: Herbaceous perennial

Family: Asteraceae

Height: 3 to 5 feet

Spread: 1.5 to 2 feet

Bloom Time: July - August

Bloom Color: Yellow

Sun: Full sun

Water: Medium



Long summer bloom period. Interesting plant for the sunny border, native plant garden, meadow or prairie. Best massed because individual plants are narrow and somewhat sparsely leafed. Attractive to bees, butterflies and songbirds, Leave the cones on during the winter to feed the birds. Gray-headed Coneflower is an excellent choice for a wildflower garden because of its long blooming period and attractive yellow flowers. The entire plant is delicately constructed and has a tendency to sway or flutter with each passing breeze.

Rudbeckia hirta

Common Name: Black-eyed Susan

Family: Asteraceae

Height: 2 to 3 feet

Spread: 1 to 2 feet

Bloom Time: June - September

Bloom Color: Yellow

Sun: Full sun

Water: Medium



Silvery Checkerspot butterfly and caterpillar

May act as a biennial, annual or short-lived perennial, blooms in the first year from seed and is often grown as an annual. Black-eyed Susan is a common native wildflower which typically occurs in open woods, prairies, fields, roadsides and waste areas throughout the State. The nectar and pollen of the flowers attract a wide variety of insects, including long-tongued bees, short-tongued bees, wasps, flies, beetles, butterflies, and skippers. Miscellaneous insects feed on the foliage and other parts of these species: this includes the caterpillars of the Silvery Checkerspot and Gorgone Checkerspot, the caterpillars of several moths, leaf beetles and some aphids.

Rudbeckia fulgida sullivantii

Common Name: *Sullivant's Coneflower, Fen Black-eyed Susan*

Family: Aster family (Asteraceae)

Height: 1 ½ to 2 ½ feet

Spread: 1 to 1 ½ feet

Bloom Time: July to September

Bloom Color: yellow to yellow orange

Sun: full sun to part sun

Water: wet to medium



Sullivant's Coneflower is found primarily in moist rocky woodlands, savannas and barrens, woodland openings and edges, moist meadows, limestone glades, moist rocky ledges, fens, hillside seeps, and swamps. Sullivant's Coneflower is typically found in high quality natural habitats, but it will temporarily colonize open disturbed areas. This coneflower requires cross-pollination with genetically distinct plants to produce viable seeds. Like other Rudbeckias, the showy flowers attract their fair share of pollinating insects including leaf-cutting bees, Andrenid bees, Halictid bees, small butterflies, and skippers, Syrphid flies, bee flies, and sometimes soldier beetles, weevils, Blackberry Looper, Common Eupithecia, Wavy-Lined Emerald, and Sunflower moth caterpillars feed on Rudbeckias.

Rudbeckia triloba

Common Name: *Brown-eyed Susan, thin-leaved coneflower*

Plant Type: Herbaceous biennial or short-lived perennial

Family: Asteraceae

Height: 2 to 3 feet

Spread: 1 to 1.5 feet

Bloom Time: July - October

Bloom Color: Yellow rays with brown-purple center disk

Sun: Full sun

Water: Medium



Brown-Eyed Susan is often self-pollinated, but it nonetheless attracts numerous nectar-seeking and pollen-seeking insects to its flowers. These visitors include bumblebees, little carpenter bees, digger bees, cuckoo bees, leaf-cutting bees, Andrenid bees, and Halictid bees (including green metallic bees). One of these bees, *Andrena rudbeckiae*, is a specialist pollinator (oligolege) of Rudbeckia and Ratibida coneflowers. Other floral visitors include Sphecid wasps, Vespidae wasps, Syrphid flies, bee flies, thick-headed flies, Tachinid flies, small to medium-sized butterflies.

Ruellia humilis

Common Name: Hairy Wild Petunia

Family: Acanthaceae

Height: 4 to 12 inches

Spread: 4 to 12 inches

Bloom Time: June-August

Bloom Color: light purple

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Medium

Wild petunia is quite adaptable, tolerating full or partial sun, moist to dry conditions, and

practically any kind of soil. Under moist conditions with rich soil, however, this plant is unable to compete with taller, more aggressive plants. It has been reported that the caterpillars of the butterfly Buckeye feed on the foliage of *Ruellia* spp. Wild petunia occurs in dry soils in open woods, glades, prairies, and fields. Charming, low growing clumps produce light purple tubular flowers.



Sabatia angularis

Common Name: Rosepink, Rose Gentian

Plant Type: annual, biennial

Family: Gentianaceae

Height: 1-2½' tall

Bloom Time: June - September

Bloom Color: rose-pink

Sun: sun to light shade

Water: medium

This native biennial wildflower forms a low rosette of leaves

during the 1st year, bolting into an erect plant about 1-2½' tall during the 2nd year. In favorable sites, such as rocky open woods, glades, thickets, fields, prairies, roadsides. It mists roadsides and fields with its pale magenta hues. This is certainly a good candidate for native plant gardening! The flowers are cross-pollinated by long-tongued bees and possibly butterflies and skippers. A little carpenter bee, *Ceratina dupla*, and a large leaf-cutting bee have been observed visiting the flowers for nectar or pollen. The caterpillars of the moth, Short-Lined Chocolate, feed on Rose Pinks. Common Rose Pink is a bitter-tasting plant, but it is unclear to what extent this may deter its consumption by mammalian herbivores.



Salvia azurea *naturalized in OH*

Common Name: Wild Blue Sage

Plant Type: Herbaceous perennial

Family: Lamiaceae

Height: 3 to 5 feet

Spread: 2 to 4 feet

Bloom Time: July - October

Bloom Color: Blue

Sun: Full sun

Water: Dry to medium

Bumblebees visit the flowers for nectar, Halictid bees occasionally collect pollen, but they are non-pollinating. Less often, butterflies and skippers may visit the flowers for nectar, including Silver-Spotted Skipper. The caterpillars of the Hermit Sphinx moth may feed on the foliage. This is a wonderful plant with attractive blue flowers - a pleasant alternative to the preponderance of goldenrods and asters during the fall.



Salvia lyrata

Common Name: Lyreleaf Sage

Family: Lamiaceae

Height: 1 to 2 feet

Spread: 6 to 12 inches

Bloom Time: April-June

Bloom Color: Blue

Sun: Full sun to partial shade

Water: Dry to medium

This wildflower forms a basal rosette of 3-8

in elongated leaves that may be solid green or blotched with a dark wine-purple along the midrib. Heaviest flowering is typically period between April and June, but the plants may produce a few flowers at almost any time of year. Can take full sun to light shade, but the foliage color is stronger in brighter light. Lyreleaf sage tolerates both flooding and drought very well, but grows best in moist soil. Butterflies, hummingbirds, and bees are attracted to the flowers. Songbirds such as goldfinches eat the seeds. The young leaves have a mildly minty flavor and can be eaten in salads or cooked as a green. The seeds and leaves can also be brewed as a tea.



Scutellaria incana

Common Name: Downy or Hoary Skullcap

Plant Type: perennial

Family: Mint family (Lamiaceae)

Height: 2 to 3 feet

Bloom color: blue-violet or purple

Bloom Time: mid to late summer

Sun: partial sun to light shade

Water: medium to dry medium



The flowers are pollinated by primarily bumblebees, which suck nectar or collect pollen. Less common visitors are bee flies, skippers, or small butterflies. Some species of wasps may perforate the base of the flower and steal nectar (specifically, the Eumenid wasp has been observed to do this), and Halictid bees sometimes take advantage of these perforations to suck nectar themselves. Swallowtail butterflies and other butterflies occasionally visit the flowers, but they are also less effective at cross-pollination. Downy Skullcap has attractive foliage and flowers; it is one of the showier species in this genus. This wildflower is a good choice for shade gardens.

Sedum ternatum

Common Name: Wild Stonecrop, three-leaved stonecrop

Family: Stonecrop family (Crassulaceae)

Height: 3-6 inches

Spread: 6-10 inches

Bloom Time: June to July

Bloom Description: white

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: medium



Wild Stonecrop is fairly easy to distinguish from other *Sedum* spp., whether native or introduced, because it has nearly orbicular leaves in whorls of 3 and flowers with 4 white petals. Tolerates part shade and moist soils better than most other sedums. Although it spreads by creeping stems, and any unwanted plants are easy to remove. Best in rock gardens or as a ground cover. The flower nectar and pollen of stonecrops attract various kinds of bees and less often, wasps and flies visit flowers of these plants. Insects that feed on the foliage of Wild Stonecrop include the *Sedum* Aphid and the aphid *Aphis acrita*. The Eastern Chipmunk eats the roots of this plant.

Silene regia

Common Name: Royal Catchfly

(state listed as potentially threatened in Ohio)

Family: Caryophyllaceae

Height: 3 to 4 feet

Spread: 1.5 to 2 feet

Bloom Time: July - August

Bloom Color: Scarlet

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Dry to medium

Excellent drainage is essential for

growing this plant. Taller plants may need some support. The nectar of the flowers attracts the larger butterflies, such as Black Swallowtail. This species attracts the ruby throated hummingbird, and in fact requires visits by this vibrant bird in order to produce fruit and set seeds. Best in sun or part shade of wildflower gardens, native plant gardens, woodland gardens or cottage gardens. Can also be grown in borders.



Silene stellata

Common Name: Starry Campion

Plant Type: Herbaceous perennial

Family: Pink family (Caryophyllaceae)

Height: 1-2 1/2 feet

Spread: 1-2 feet

Bloom Time: July -Oct.

Bloom Color: white

Sun: light shade to partial sun

Water: dry to medium

Starry Campion should not be confused with the similar-looking

naturalized weed, Bladder Campion which features the most inflated

calyx pouch. Starry Campion reproduces by reseeding itself. This conservative species is usually

found in higher quality natural areas. The flowers are pollinated primarily by moths and, to a

lesser extent, by bumblebees. Generally, the foliage and seeds of *Silene* spp. contain varying

amounts of saponins and are somewhat toxic to mammalian herbivores. The faunal-floral

relationships of Starry Campion are still poorly understood. The flowers of Starry Campion are

quite beautiful. It should be grown more often in flower gardens.



Silphium asteriscus var. *trifoliatum*

Common Name: Whorled or Starry Rosinweed

Family: Asteraceae

Height: 3-5' feet

Spread: 2.5 to 3.5 feet

Bloom Time: late July through early September

Bloom Color: yellow

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Dry to medium

Ohio's whorled rosinweed is a unique northern variety of *Silphium asteriscus*, starry rosinweed, a plant found also in the states to the south of Ohio, including Kentucky and Tennessee. The plant appears to grow naturally only on former or existing prairies. It does not spread into non-prairie areas. The pollen and nectar of the flowers attract long-tongued bees. Some butterflies occasionally visit the flowers, including Sulfurs and Painted Ladies. Other visitors include short-tongued bees and various flies. The seeds are eaten by Goldfinches. Small herbivores, such as rabbits, are less likely to eat this plant because of its height and the coarseness of its leaves.



Silphium laciniatum

Common Name: Compass-plant

Family: Aster family (Asteraceae)

Native Range:

Height: 6-12' tall

Bloom Time: July-August

Bloom Color: yellow

Sun: full sun

Water: moist to slightly dry

This plant can live up to 100 years. It takes several years for a seedling to develop into a full-sized mature plant. Mature plants are easy to maintain, resist drought, and can handle competition from other plants. If planted on a slope, there is a tendency to flop over, particularly while blooming. Long-tongued bees are the primary pollinators of the flowers, including bumblebees, Miner bees, large Leaf-Cutting bees, and others. Short-tongued Halictine bees and Syrphid flies also visit the flowers, but they are less effective at pollination. Occasionally, Sulfur butterflies and Monarchs may visit the flowers for nectar. Several species of insects are specialist feeders; Silphium Beetle and its larvae feed on the flower heads and stems, the larvae of Gall Wasp spp. feed within the stems, forming galls that are not visible from the outside. Nonetheless, they attract the hyperparasitic wasp, whose larvae feed on these gall formers.



Silphium perfoliatum

Common Name: Cup Plant

Plant Type: Herbaceous perennial

Family: Asteraceae

Height: 4 to 8 feet

Spread: 1 to 3 feet

Bloom Time: July - September

Bloom Color: Yellow

Sun: Full sun

Water: Medium to wet

The large opposite leaves join together around the central stem to form a cup that can hold water, hence the name of the plant. Long-tongued bees, butterflies, and skippers are the most important pollinators of the flowers. Some short-tongued bees, wasps, bee flies, and other kinds of flies also visit the flowers for pollen or nectar. Various birds, especially goldfinches, are very fond of the seeds, and drink water from the cups formed by the leaves. Because of the tendency to form dense colonies, this plant provides good cover for birds, which often lurk among the leaves during the heat of the day, searching for insects or pausing to rest.



Sisyrinchium angustifolium

Common Name: Narrow leaf Blue-Eyed Grass

Plant Type: perennial

Family: Iris family (Iridaceae)

Height: 6 to 12 inches

Bloom Time: April to June

Bloom Color: blue violet

Sun: Full Sun, Partial Sun

Water: Dry, Moist

Forms a tidy clump of grassy

leaves, with yellow-throated blue flowers on upright

stems. Especially nice in a colony of several plants. Best grown in medium moisture, well-drained soil in full sun. Tolerates light shade. Prefers consistently moist soils that do not dry out, but drainage must be good. Will freely self-seed in optimum growing conditions. Plantings may be sheared back after bloom to avoid any unwanted self-seeding and/or to tidy foliage for remaining part of the growing season. Plants may need to be divided every 2-3 years to keep plantings vigorous.

