

# NATIVE/RAIN GARDEN PLANTS

## ASTER, NEW ENGLAND

New England aster, is a Missouri native perennial. It is a stout, leafy plant typically growing 3-6' tall with a robust, upright habit. Features a profuse bloom of daisy-like asters with purple rays and yellow centers from late summer to early fall. Rough, hairy, lance-shaped leaves clasp stiff, hairy stems. Flowers are attractive to butterflies. Full sun Zone 4-8



(NTV)

## BL. EYED SUSAN

Black-eyed Susan is a flowering plant that grows over 3 feet tall. They have green leaves up to six inches long. Black-eyed Susan grows in open woods, gardens, fields, and roadsides. They grow quickly in just about any kind of soil. These plants are most easily recognized by their flowers. They have yellow flowers with a brownish-purple center. Black-eyed Susan bloom from June to October. Part sun to full sun. Zone 3-11



(RG)

## BL. EYED SUSAN, SWEET

Sweet Black-eyed Susan will persist for many years. Numerous flowers, which average 3" across and will bloom for many weeks late summer into fall. When blooming, it has a pleasant sweet smell. A very tough prairie plant, able to withstand drought, high winds and tough soils. They can reach to the height of 5 feet tall. Zone 3-8



(NTV/RG)

### **BLAZING STAR EUREKA**

Blazing Star is a tall, hardy, native perennial species that has a spectacular color. The individual flowers are an attractive rose-purple in color, with bracts that exhibit a purplish tinge. The simple non-branched stems typically grow from 3 to 4 feet tall. Full sun Zone 3-8



(RG)

### **BROOMSEDGE BLUESTEM**

This bunchgrass grows in small tufts. The flat base is usually yellow. The overlapping, flattened sheaths are hairy along the margin of the upper blade surface toward the base. Leaves turn straw yellow when mature. Stems grow stiffly erect. The seed heads are partly enclosed in a sheath. Broomsedge bluestem is a perennial, warm-season, native – 24 to 48 inches tall. Full sun. Zone 3-9



(NTV)

### **BUTTONBUSH**

Missouri native plant is a somewhat coarse, deciduous shrub with an open-rounded habit that grows 6-12' tall and 4-8' wide. Tiny, tubular, 5-lobed, fragrant white flowers appear in dense, long-stalked flower heads in early to mid-summer. Long, projecting styles give the flower heads a distinctively pincushion-like appearance. Flower heads are very attractive to bees and butterflies. Flower heads mature into hard spherical ball-like fruits. Fruiting heads usually persist throughout the winter. Leaves emerge late in spring. Full sun to part shade. Zone 5-9



(NTV/RG)

**CARDINAL FLOWER RED**

Cardinal flower is a Missouri native perennial which typically grows in moist locations. A clump-forming perennial which features erect, terminal spikes of large, cardinal red flowers on unbranched, alternate-leaved stalks rising typically to a height of 2-3'. Late summer bloom period.. Full sun to part shade. Zone 3-9



(NTV/RG)

**CAREX, FOX SEDGE**

This native sedge, which grows on moist open ground in swamps, wet prairies or near water, is one of the most abundant sedges in the state. Its narrow grass-like leaf blades grow in 2-3 feet in height. The seedheads, which spray out attractively from the center of the clump, resemble a fox's tail but are short-lived. Full sun to part shade. Zone 3-7



(RG)

**CHOKEBERRY, BLACK**

Black chokeberry, is an open, upright, spreading, somewhat rounded but leggy, suckering, deciduous shrub that typically grows 3-6' tall. It is native to low woods, swamps, bogs and moist thickets. It is noted for its 5-6 flowered clusters of white 5-petaled spring flowers, glossy dark green leaves, black autumn berries and purple/red fall color. Full sun to part shade. Zone 3-8



(N/RG)

**CONEFLOWER, PALE PRP**

Pale purple coneflower, is a coarse, hairy perennial of prairies, glades and open dry rocky woods. It features narrow, parallel-veined, toothless, dark green leaves and large, daisy-like flowers with drooping, pale pinkish-purple petals and spiny, knob-like, coppery-orange center cones. Flowers appear on rigid stems to 2-3' tall over a long summer bloom. Best flower display is in late June to late July, with sporadic continued bloom into autumn. Full sun to part shade. Zone 3-10



(NTV/RG)

**CONEFLOWER, PURPLE**

Purple coneflower, is a coarse, rough-hairy, herbaceous perennial that is native to moist prairies, meadows and open woods of the central to southeastern United States. It typically grows to 2-4' tall. Showy, daisy-like, purple coneflowers bloom throughout the summer atop stiff stems clad with coarse, dark green leaves. Easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soil. Full sun to part shade. Zone 3-8



(NTV/RG)

**CONEFLOWER, YELLOW**

Features large, daisy-like flowers with drooping yellow to orange-yellow petals and very large, coppery-brown to chocolate-brown central cones. Best flower display is mid-June to mid-July. Flowers grow on rigid, glabrous stems typically to 3' tall. Easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soil in full sun. Zone 5-8



(NTV)

**CURRENT, GOLDEN**

This is a thornless, loosely-branched, irregularly-shaped, deciduous shrub that typically grows to 6-8' tall and as wide. Golden yellow trumpet-shaped flowers appear in racemes in spring and emit a strong clove-like fragrance. Flowers give way to drooping clusters of large, oval-rounded, shiny black currants which ripen in late season. Best grown in rich, fertile, medium moisture, well-drained clay in full sun to part shade. Prefers full sun. Zone 4-8



(NTV)

**DOGWOOD, GRAY**

Gray dogwood is a deciduous shrub which is native to Missouri . It grows 10-15' tall and features white flowers in late spring and grayish-green leaves. Foliage turns a purplish red in fall. Terminal stems holding the flowers are red and provide contrast to the clusters of white berries which form after the flowers have dropped. Red stem color is seen after the fruits are gone, and often persists into early winter. Easily grown in average, medium, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Zone 4-8



(NTV)

**DOGWOOD, RED OSIER**

This is an upright-spreading, suckering shrub that typically grows to 6-9' tall with a slightly larger spread. Medium to dark green leaves acquire interesting shades of red to orange eventually fading to purple in autumn. Reddish stems turn bright red in winter and are particularly showy against a snowy backdrop. Tiny, fragrant, white flowers appear in clusters in late spring, with sparse, intermittent, additional flowering sometimes continuing into summer. Full sun to part shade. Zone 3-8



(NTV/RG)

**DOGWOOD, ROUGHLEAF**

This tree can be trained into a nice specimen small tree, or left as a multi-stemmed shrub. The height of this tree/shrub can grow 8-15' tall. Flat clusters of tiny white flowers are blooming by late spring. The foliage is a medium green and rough to the touch, turning a beautiful burgundy in early fall. The summer fruit is white and persists well into winter. Full or partial sun. Full sun. Zone 4-8



(NTV/RG)

**DOGWOOD, SILKY**

Silky Dogwood is a deciduous shrub with ornamental features. Silky Dogwood has attractive greenish-white flower clusters that appear in 2.5-inch clusters in the spring. The flowers mature to berry-like drupes that begin white but slowly turn to a lovely blue for the fall. The Silky Dogwood will mature to 8-12' tall with an equal spread. No serious insect or disease issues and is fast-growing. It does well in moist areas, so would be a great addition for those soggy areas. Sun or shade. Zone 4-8



(NTV/RG)

**GOLDEN RAGWORT**

A good semi-evergreen ground cover for moist shady locations. The flat-topped clusters of yellow, daisy like flowers open at the top of sparsely leaved, 12 to 24 in. stems in early spring. Plants spread rapidly and may be aggressive. Grow in part to full shade with average to moist soil. Grows in shade to part shade. Zone 3-8



(NTV/RG)



### **GRASS, BIG BLUESTEM**

Missouri native, perennial grass that may be grown as an ornamental because of its attractive foliage which changes color seasonally. It features an upright clump with flattened leaves which emerge gray to blue green in spring, mature to green with red in summer and turn reddish bronze with lavender in autumn after frost. Flowering stems rise in late summer above the foliage clump bearing purplish finger-like flower clusters. Total height of this grass is 4-8' tall. Full sun. Zone 4-9



(NTV)

### **GRASS, BLUE HEAVEN**

The dark blue to burgundy foliage, turning red-purple and violet in the fall, is unique on this taller more upright form, 40-48 inches with a 25-30 inch width. Flowering in September, the fall color extends into winter. Full sun. Zone 4



(NTV)

### **GRASS, CLOUD NINE**

This ornamental switch grass cultivar is reportedly the tallest of the switch grasses, typically growing 5-7' tall. It forms a narrow, erect clump of light metallic blue foliage which is topped in summer by finely-textured, golden flower panicles which hover over the foliage like an airy cloud. Panicles persist well into fall before eventually turning beige as the seeds mature. Seed plumes persist well into winter. Full sun. Zone 5-9



(NTV/RG)

**GRASS, INDIAN**

A metallic blue selection of the native prairie grass. Stiff upright growth habit and golden flowers produced in late summer. Reaches a height of 3 to 4 feet. Full sun. Zone 4



(NTV)

**GRASS, LITTLE BLUESTEM**

Little bluestem is a tidy, finely textured clumping grass with a blue-green summer color. Its silvery seed heads rise to a height of nearly 2 feet in late summer and are at their best when backlit in the morning or afternoon sun. In fall, the grass turns a rosy rust color that lasts all winter. This plant grows in full sun only and the height and spread gets up to 1-3 feet. Zone 4-9



(NTV)

**GRASS, PRAIRIE DROPSEED**

A magnificent fountain of fine-textured, emerald-green leaves, add a touch of elegance to any planting. The seed head has a fragrance, often described as resembling a combination of fresh popcorn and cilantro. Grows 2 to 4 feet tall and wide. Full sun. Zone 4



(NTV)



**GRASS, ROTSTRAHLBUSCH**

Rotstrahlbusch is a switch grass cultivar which is noted for its excellent burgundy-red fall color. It is a clump-forming, warm season grass which typically grows in an upright, vertical clump to 3' tall. Easily grown in average, medium to wet soils in full sun to part shade. Zone 5-9



(NTV/RG)

**GRASS, SIDE OATS GRAMA**

A Missouri native grass which is noted for the distinctive arrangement of oat-like seed spikes which hang from only one side of its flowering stems. Narrow, bluish-gray leaf blades typically form a dense clump growing 1-1.5' tall. Foliage turns golden brown in autumn, sometimes also developing interesting hues of orange and red. Easily grown in average, dry to medium moisture soils in full sun. Zone 4-9



(NTV)

**HAZELNUT, FILBERT**

This is a Missouri native, deciduous, rounded, multi-stemmed shrub which typically grows 8-16' tall and occurs statewide in dry or moist thickets, woodlands and wood margins. Fall color is variable, ranging from attractive combinations of orange, rose, purplish red, yellow and green to yellowish green. Full sun to part shade. Zone 4-9



(NTV/RG)

**IRIS WATER, YELLOW FLAG**

Yellow Flag Water Iris usually blooms from late May to late July and has attractive bright yellow flowers. Its green foliage is sword shaped and goes great in the background of a garden pond to add some height and color. Water iris can grow from 3-5' tall and goes great around the pond and is one of the most popular water garden plants among pond owners. Full sun

**IRIS, SOUTH. BLUE FLAG**

Southern blue flag is a native wetland species of iris which typically grows to 2' tall and features non-fragrant violet-blue flowers with falls that are crested with yellow and white. Flower color can vary from very light blue to purple. Bright green, sword-shaped leaves often lie on the ground or in the water. Blooms in late spring. Full sun. Zone 5-9



(RG)

**JOE PYE WEED**

Joe Pye weed is a tall Missouri native that occurs in low moist ground, wooded slopes and wet meadows. It is an erect, clump-forming perennial which typically grows 4-7' tall and features coarsely-serrated, dark green leaves in whorls of 3-4 on sturdy green stems with purplish leaf nodes. Tiny, vanilla-scented, pinkish-purple flowers in large, compound inflorescences bloom in mid-summer to early fall. Flowers give way to attractive seed heads which persist well into winter. Full sun to part shade. Zone 4-9



(NTV/RG)

### **LIZARDS TAIL**

Lizard's tail is a deciduous, marginal aquatic perennial that typically grows to 2-4' tall. In Missouri, it is commonly found in swampy woods, spring branches and slow-moving streams. Features heart-shaped leaves and tiny fragrant white flowers packed into tapered racemes that droop at the tips. Blooms June to September. The flowers give way to small green warty fruits. The nodding flower/fruit spikes resemble lizards' tails, hence the common name. Full sun to part shade. Zone 3-9



(RG)

### **MONKEY FLOWER**

Allegheny monkey flower is a Missouri native, upright perennial which occurs in swampy areas, wet meadows, and low woods. Typically grows 1-3' tall on erect, square, sometimes branching stems. Features lilac-purple flowers with two-lipped, open-mouthed corollas. Each flower resembles the face of a smiling monkey. Flowers bloom throughout the summer. Full sun to part shade. Zone 3-8



(RG)

### **NEW JERSEY TEA**

New Jersey tea is a compact, dense, rounded shrub which typically grows 2-3' tall. It is native to Missouri where it occurs in prairies, glades, dry open woods and thickets throughout the state. Cylindrical clusters of tiny, fragrant, white flowers appear on long stalks at the stem ends or upper leaf axils in late spring. Toothed, broad-ovate, medium to dark green leaves are gray and hairy below. Young twigs are noticeably yellow and stand out in winter. Full sun to part shade. Zone 4-8



(NTV)

### **OBEDIENT PLANT**

Commonly found in Missouri in open meadows, prairies, stream banks, gravel bars, wooded bluff bases and railroad track right-of-ways. Tubular, two-lipped, pink flowers in upright terminal spikes bloom throughout summer atop stems rising to 3-4' tall. Species plants are noted for being aggressive spreaders by both rhizomes and self-seeding. Full sun. Zone 3-9



(NTV/RG)

### **PRAIRIE CORD GRASS**

Prairie cord grass is a coarse, tough, warm season perennial grass that typically grows in a dense, arching clump to 4-7' tall when in flower. Typical habitat is freshwater marshes, swampy open valleys, pond margins, and both wet and dry prairie areas. Glossy dark green leaves have sharp edges. Leaves turn yellow in autumn. Flower stems rise above the foliage clump in July-August bearing terminal clusters of straw-colored flowers. Full sun to part shade. Zone 4-9



(NTV/RG)

### **RIVER OATS**

This clump-forming, upright, ornamental grass is a Missouri native plant which typically grows 2-5' feet tall. Known for its hanging seed heads that emerge green and turn purplish bronze by late summer. Excellent for dried flower arrangements. Easily grown in average, medium to wet, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Zone 3-8



(NTV/RG)

## **ROSE MALLOW**

Luna Red is a vigorous, sturdy, rounded, somewhat shrubby, woody-based hibiscus (or rose mallow) cultivar. It is a seed variety that is more compact than the species, typically growing to only 2-3' tall. It features dinner plate-sized, five-petaled, hollyhock-like flowers. Flowers are deep burgundy red. Each flower has a prominent and showy creamy white to pale yellow central staminal column. Individual flowers last only one day, but one or more flowers usually open each day, in succession, over a long mid-summer to early fall bloom period. Flowers are among the largest produced by any perennial that is winter hardy. Full sun Zone 5-9



(NTV/RG)

## **RUSH, BULLRUSH**

This is the smallest of the cattails, typically growing to only 18" tall. Its dwarf size makes it an ideal marginal aquatic perennial for smaller water gardens, pools and tubs. Features narrow, upright, grass-like, linear, mostly basal, green leaves and a stiff, unbranched central flower stalk. Flowers bloom in summer. Foliage turns yellow-brown in autumn. Full sun to part shade. Zone 3-10



(NTV/RG)

## **RUSH, HORSETAIL**

Striking reed-like plant that bears dark green, jointed stems. Spreading perennial used in bogs and water gardens and will grow in up to 4 inches of water. Upright habit grows up to 4 to 5 feet tall. One of the oldest plants on earth. Full sun to part shade. Zone 4-9



(RG)

### **RUSH, SOFT**

Soft rush is a grass-like perennial that features cylindrical upright green stems in spreading basal clumps to 20-40" tall. Clumps provide vertical accent to moist garden areas. Although the stems appear from a distance as coarse and stiff, they are soft to the touch. Full sun. Zone 4-9



(RG)

### **SEDGE, OAK**

This is a low sedge with soft, delicate, arching, semi-evergreen leaves. It typically grows in a clump to 8" tall. It is semi-evergreen in moderately cold winter climates. Narrow, grass-like, medium green leaves are typically shorter than the flowering stems. Flowers bloom in late spring (May) in inflorescences atop rough, sharply triangular stems. Part shade to full sun. Zone 3-8



(NTV)

### **SEDGE, PALM**

A dense, clump-forming sedge which is grown for its foliage effect. Produces rigid, erect stems to 20" tall with 8" long, pointed, grass-like, light green leaves radiating from the stem tops. Commonly called palm sedge since the leaves somewhat superficially resemble miniature palm fronds. A Missouri native which is found most often in wooded swamps and on wooded flood plains of rivers. Full sun to part shade Zone 4-9



(NTV/RG)



**SEDGE, TUSSOCK**

An evergreen sedge that grows in dense tussocks (clumps) to 1-3' tall and to 2' wide. Narrow, glaucous, grass-like leaves (to 3/8" wide) grow in dense clumps. Older leaves turn straw brown as they die, and build up around the base of each clump surrounding the newer yellowish-green leaves. Flowers appear in late spring in reddish-brown spikes atop stems rising above the foliage. Full sun to part shade Zone 3-8



(NTV/RG)

**SERVICEBERRY, NATIVE**

Serviceberry is a deciduous, early-flowering, large shrub or small tree which typically grows 15-25' tall. A Missouri native plant that occurs most often in open rocky woods, wooded slopes, and bluffs. Features 5-petaled, showy, slightly fragrant, white flowers in drooping clusters which appear before the leaves emerge in early spring. The finely-toothed, obovate leaves exhibit good fall color. Flowers give way to small, round green berries which turn red and finally mature to a dark purplish-black in early summer. Edible berries resemble blueberries in size and color. Full sun to part shade Zone 4-9



(NTV/RG)

**SPIDERWORT, SWEET KATE**

Lightly fragrant, deep blue flowers glow against the unusual bright gold foliage. Compact growing and mounding habit to 12 inches tall with a 15 inch spread. Blooms late spring through fall. Attracts butterflies. Full sun to part shade Zone 4



(NTV)

### **SUMAC, FRAGRANT**

Sparkling foliage and a low, wide-spreading habit make this fragrant sumac selection perfect for soil erosion control. The plant reaches 2 feet tall and spreads rapidly up to 8 feet. It has small, yellow, aromatic flowers in the spring, followed by red hairy fruit. Fall foliage is orange to scarlet. Full sun Zone 4.



(NTV)

### **SUMAC, STAGHORN**

This is an open, spreading shrub that typically grows 15-25' tall. It is noted for the reddish-brown hairs that cover the young branchlets in somewhat the same way that velvet covers the horns of a male deer. Leaves turn shades of yellow/orange/red in autumn. Tiny, greenish-yellow flowers bloom in terminal cone-shaped panicles in late spring to early summer. Full sun to part shade Zone 4-8



(NTV)

### **SWAMP MILKWEED**

Swamp milkweed, is an erect, clump-forming, Missouri native plant which is commonly found in swamps, river bottomlands and wet meadows throughout the State. It typically grows 3-4' tall on branching stems. Small, fragrant, pink to mauve flowers appear in tight clusters at the stem ends in summer. Flowers are uncommonly white. Stems exude a toxic milky sap when cut. Flowers are very attractive to butterflies as a nectar source. Full sun Zone 3-6



(NTV/RG)

## **SWITCHGRASS**

Switch grass is a Missouri native ornamental grass. It occurs in both wet and dry soils in prairies, open woods and stream banks. Switch grass is noted for its stiff, columnar form, and retains its vertical shape throughout the growing season. It is a clump-forming, warm season grass which typically grows to 3' tall. Features medium green leaves which turn yellow in autumn, fading to tan-beige in winter. Foliage clump is topped in mid-summer by finely-textured, pink-tinged, branched flower panicles. Full sun to part shade Zone 5-9



(NTV/RG)

## **VIBURNUM, BLACKHAW**

Black haw is grown as a large, upright, multi-stemmed, deciduous shrub, but it also may be grown as single trunk tree. As a shrub, it typically grows 12-15' tall with a spread of 6-12', but as a tree may reach a height of 30'. A Missouri native commonly occurs in moist woods, thickets and on stream banks. Non-fragrant white flowers appear in spring. Flowers give way in autumn to blue-black, berry-like drupes which often persist into winter. Ovate, glossy dark green leaves turn attractive shades of red and purple in fall. Full sun to part shade Zone 3-9



(NTV/RG)

## **WILD PLUM**

A Missouri native thicket-forming shrub or small tree with a short trunk, spreading branches, broad crown, showy large white flowers, and red plums. Wild plum is a small, understory tree to 35 ft. with fragrant, white flowers in a showy, flat-topped clusters occurring before the leaves in spring. The fruit that follows ripens to a shiny, bright red in August or September. Fall foliage ranges from electric red to pale yellow. Full sun to part shade Zone 3-8



(NTV)

**WITCHHAZEL, VERNAL**

It typically grows to 6' tall. Flowers in axillary clusters appear in mid to late winter prior to the emergence of the foliage in a variety of colors ranging from pale yellow to dark reddish purple. Each flower has four, narrow, ribbon-like, curled and crinkled petals that are usually red at the base transitioning to copper orange at the tip. Ovate-rounded leaves emerge light green with reddish-bronze tints in spring, but quickly mature to medium to dark green. Easily grown in average, medium moisture, and well-drained soils. A golden yellow fall color. Full sun to part shade  
Zone 4-8



(NTV)