



‘Top’ Flowering Native Perennial Plants

From Pat Curran
CCE Tompkins County

‘Easy’ defined: relatively long-lived and drought-resistant, don’t need frequent division, disease/pest resistant, staking not essential, winter-hardy, not fussy about soil if well-drained, don’t spread too much, preferably bloom for several weeks, good foliage quality.

Perennials for Sun

- | | <u>Comments</u> |
|--|---|
| • Amsonia tabernaemontana, bluestar | durable; fall foliage color; pest-free |
| • Baptisia australis, false indigo | takes time to establish; shrub-like impact |
| • Boltonia asteroides ‘Snowbank’ | trouble-free; shrub-like impact |
| • Coreopsis verticillata ‘Zagreb’ | shorter cultivar of native species |
| • Filipendula rubra, queen of the prairie | likes it moist; fragrant |
| • Helenium autumnale, sneezeweed | likes it moist; red, yellow, or orange blooms |
| • Liatris spicata, gayfeather | butterfly magnet; spikes bloom top down |
| • Phlox paniculata ‘David’, and other mildew-resistant varieties, deer problem, fragrant | |
| • Veronicastrum virginicum, Culver’s root | vertical accent; showy |

Perennials for Light Shade

- | | <u>Comments</u> |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| • Aquilegia canadensis, wild columbine | resists leafminer; allow to self-sow |
| • Chelone obliqua, pink turtlehead | likes it moist or even wet |
| • Cimicifuga (now Actaea) racemosa, black snakeroot, deer-resistant | vertical accent |
| • Dicentra eximia, fringed bleeding heart | long-blooming; may spread |
| • Heuchera ‘Green Spice’, ‘Amethyst Mist’ | watch out for frost-heaving |
| • Polygonatum commutatum, great Solomon’s seal | spreads into large colonies |
| • Sanguinaria canadensis, bloodroot, durable; single flower | spread by seed; may go dormant Aug |

Reference:

Herbaceous Perennial Plants, Third Edition, by Allan M. Armitage
Perennials for American Gardens by Ruth Rogers Clausen and Nicolas H. Ekstrom
The Well-Tended Perennial Garden: Planting & Pruning Techniques, by Tracy DiSabato-Aust

Learn more:

Cornell Bluegrass Lane perennial research:
http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/cornell_herbaceous/
Missouri Botanic Garden Plant Finder (over 6800 plants):
<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfindersearch.aspx>
Garden Guidance
www.gardening.cornell.edu

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