



CREATE YOUR OWN NATIVE GARDEN



BACKGROUND

What are native plants?

Definition: A plant that has lived and developed in a particular region for over hundreds or thousands of years.

Native gardens are crucial to ecosystems as they...

- Support insect, bird, and other wildlife populations. In fact, many insects are dependent on native plants to complete their life cycle.
- Have deep roots that provide erosion control and help water permeate throughout the soil
- Maintain genetic diversity
- Sequester more carbon than turf grass

Other benefits to you:

- Reduced mowing time
- More opportunities for wildlife viewing
- Aesthetically pleasing

TIMELINE



Plan



Clear the Area



**Purchase &
Start Plants**



Care



PLAN

When deciding what plants to incorporate into your garden, ask yourself these questions:

- What do I want my garden to look like?
- How much time do I have to maintain my garden?
- How can I incorporate plants that bloom at different times of the year (staggered)?

It's important to have a garden with diverse plants that have staggered bloom times because animals that feed on pollen and nectar need access to food from spring to fall. It also enhances the aesthetics of your garden and allows for consistently beautiful blooms rather than having flowers only for a short time.

- How much sun exposure does my garden have?
- How moist is my soil?
- Which plants are aggressive/spread quickly?

Ohio Spiderwort, Wild Bergamot, Common Evening Primrose, White Snakeroot, Ironweed, Sweet Black-Eyed Susan, Common Milkweed, some Asters, and some Goldenrods

- While many of these plants are gorgeous and can be great additions to your garden, it's good to know which are aggressive/spread quickly. If these plants are paired with less aggressive plants, they can quickly choke out others and become the dominant species. Although, this could be beneficial to you if you want a garden that fills in quickly, looks a little more "wild", and are pairing these plants with other aggressive plants.



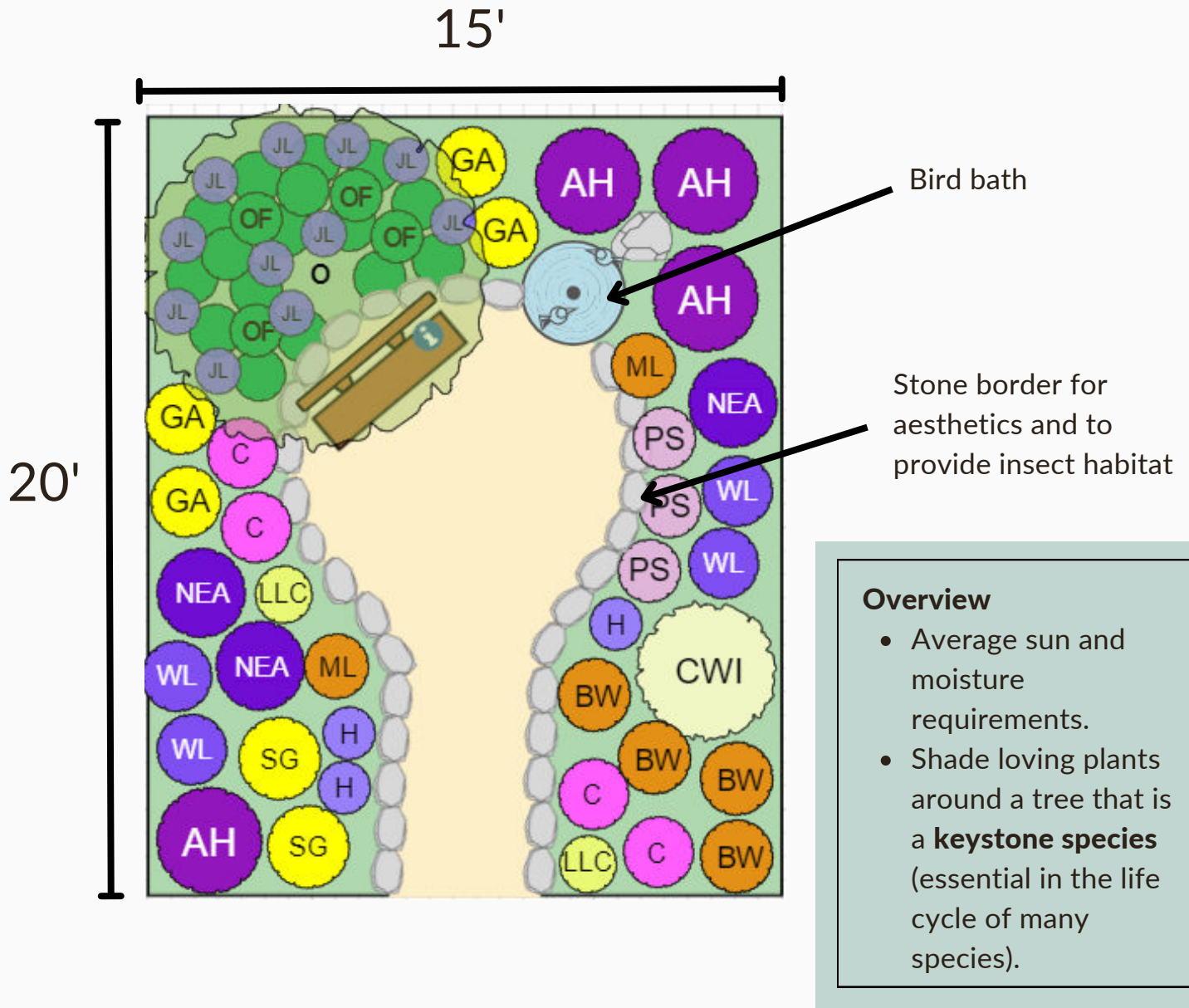
Ohio Spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohioensis*)



White Snakeroot (*Ageratina altissima*)

*The color of the symbol represents the color of the flower

Reading Nook

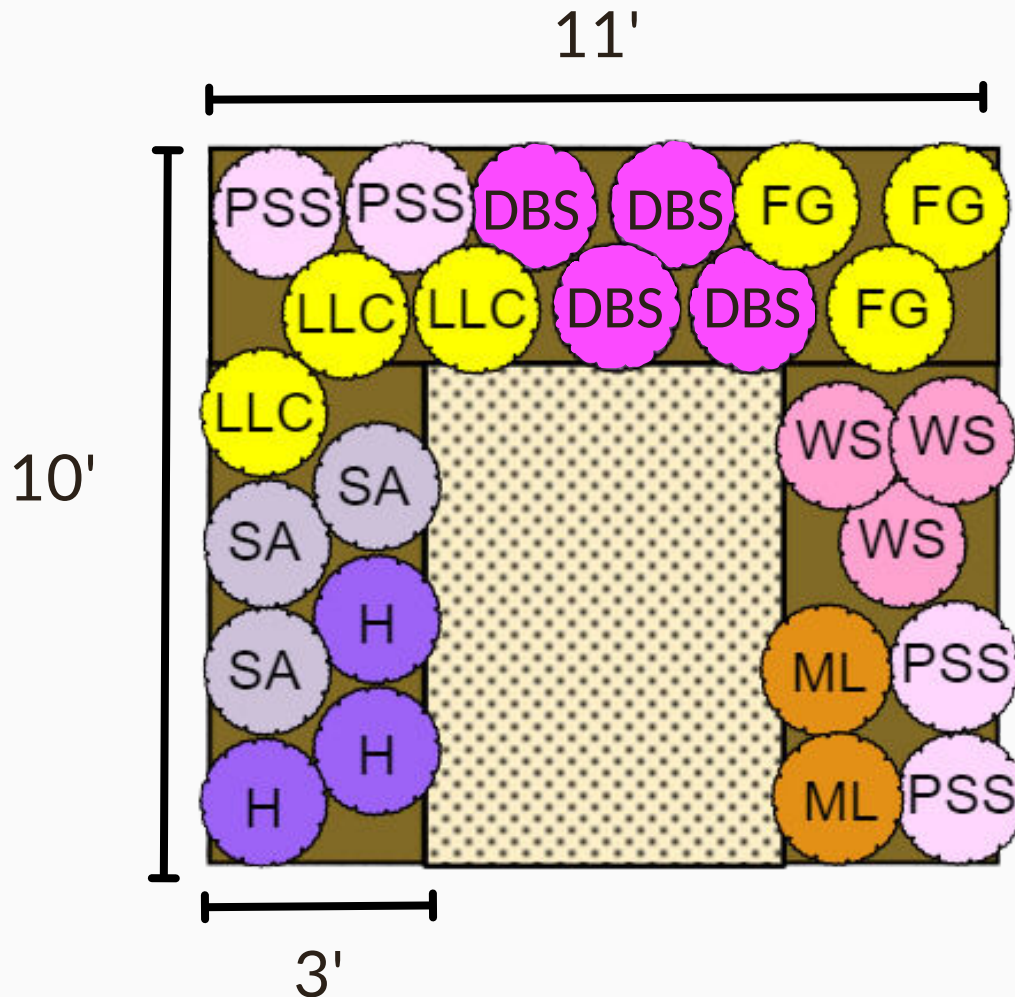


| Key | Common Name | Scientific Name | Bloom Time |
|-----|----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| O | Oak Tree | <i>Quercus</i> spps. | N/A |
| OF | Ostrich Fern | <i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i> | N/A |
| GA | Golden Alexander | <i>Zizia aurea</i> | April-July |
| C | Columbine | <i>Aquilegia Canadensis</i> | May-June |
| NEA | New England Aster | <i>Aster novae-angliae</i> | August-October |
| LLC | Lance-leaf Coreopsis | <i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i> | May-August |
| WL | Wild Lupine | <i>Lupinus perennis</i> | May-June |
| ML | Michigan Lily | <i>Lilium michiganense</i> | June-August |
| SG | Stiff Goldenrod | <i>Solidago rigida</i> | August-October |
| H | Harebell | <i>Campanula rotundfolia</i> | June-September |
| AH | Anise Hyssop | <i>Agastache scrophulariifolia</i> | July-September |
| PS | Prairie Smoke | <i>Geum triflorum</i> | April-June |
| CWI | Cream Wild Indigo | <i>Baptisia bracteata</i> | May-June |
| JL | Jacob's Ladder | <i>Polemonium reptans</i> | May-June |

Raised Beds

Overview

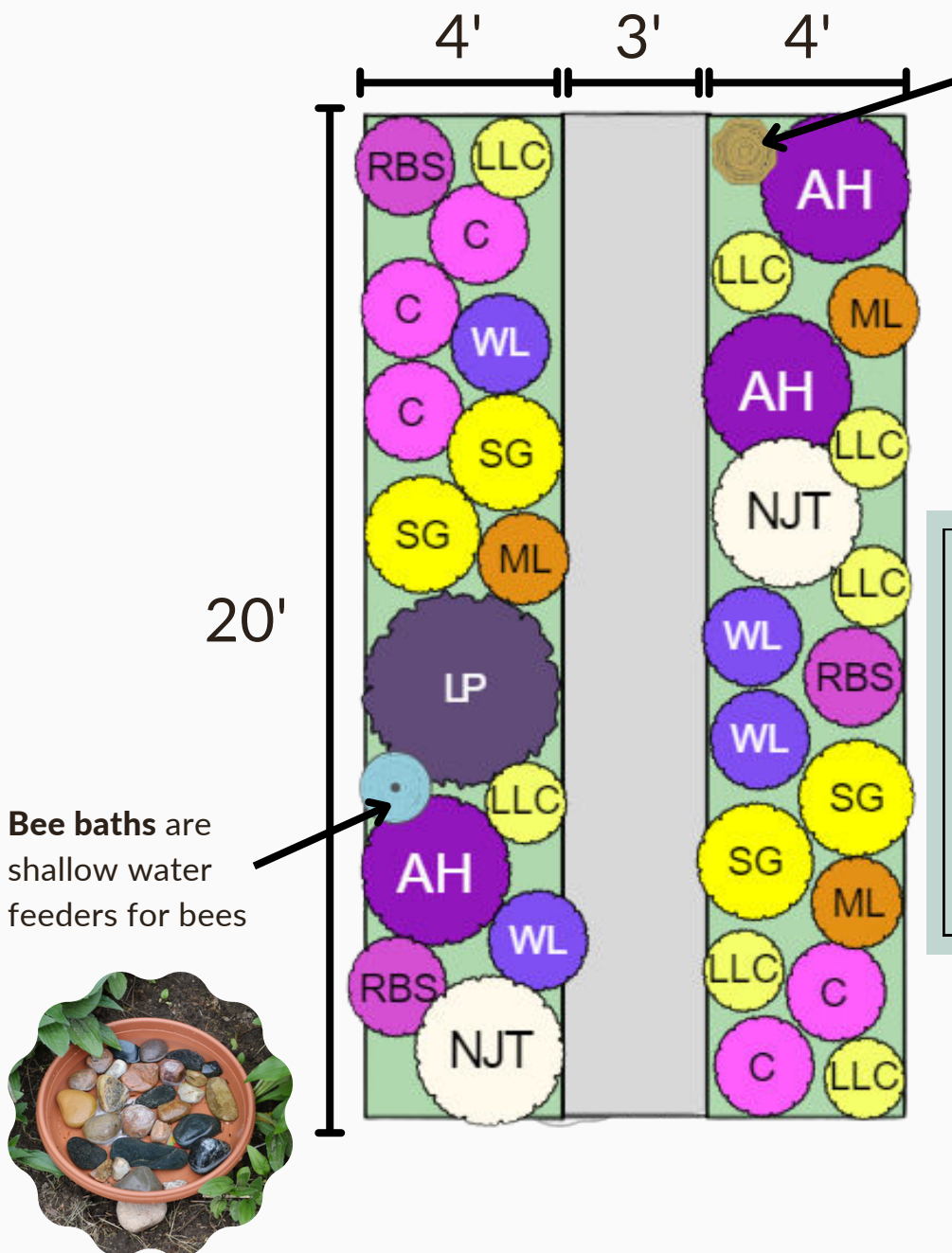
- Designed to be accessible to people sitting or standing.
- Plants have shallower root systems so that they can be successful in raised beds.
- Soil should be at least 18" deep.



| Key | Common Name | Scientific Name | Bloom Time |
|-----|-----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| DBS | Dwarf Blazing Star | <i>Liatris cylindracea</i> | July-October |
| H | Harebell | <i>Campanula rotundifolia</i> | June-September |
| SA | Smooth Aster | <i>Aster laevis</i> | August-October |
| LLC | Lance-leaf Coreopsis | <i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i> | May-August |
| FG | Field Goldenrod | <i>Solidago nemoralis</i> | August-October |
| PPC | Purple Prairie Clover | <i>Dalea purpurea</i> | July-August |
| WS | Wild Strawberry | <i>Fragaria virginiana</i> | April-May |
| ML | Michigan Lily | <i>Lilium michiganense</i> | June-August |

*The color of the symbol represents the color of the flower

Walkway Garden



Logs and wood cross sections are an easy way to provide essential habitat.

Overview

- Full sun or variable sun requirements.
- Average moisture requirements.
- Medium height plants - prevents drooping into walkway.

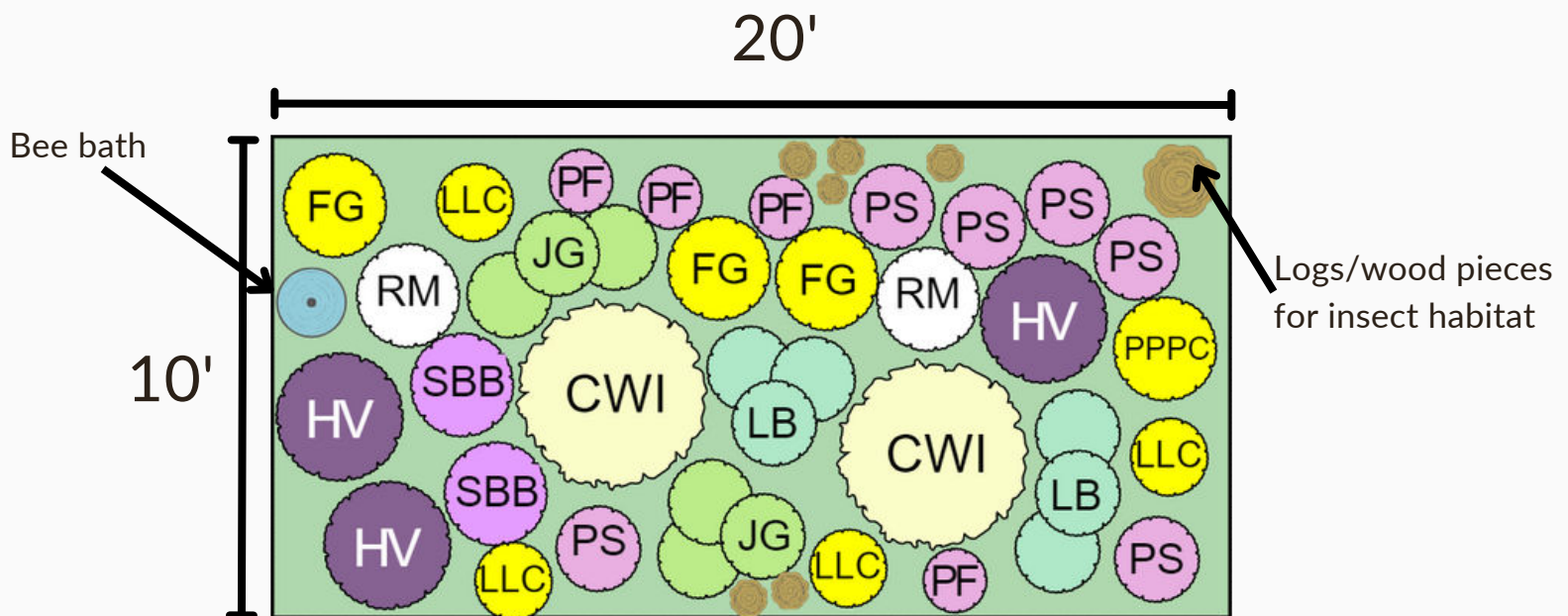
| Key | Common Name | Scientific Name | Bloom Time |
|-----|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| LLC | Lance-leaf Coreopsis | <i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i> | May-August |
| C | Columbine | <i>Aquilegia Canadensis</i> | May-June |
| RBS | Rough Blazing Star | <i>Liatris aspera</i> | August-September |
| SG | Stiff Goldenrod | <i>Solidago rigida</i> | August-October |
| ML | Michigan Lily | <i>Lilium michiganense</i> | June-August |
| LP | Lead Plant | <i>Amorpha canescens</i> | June-July |
| AH | Anise Hyssop | <i>Agastache foeniculum</i> | June-October |
| WL | Wild Lupine | <i>Lupinus perennis</i> | May-June |

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Prairie Garden

Overview

- Full sun requirements.
- Dry and sandy soil.
- Short, low-growing plants.



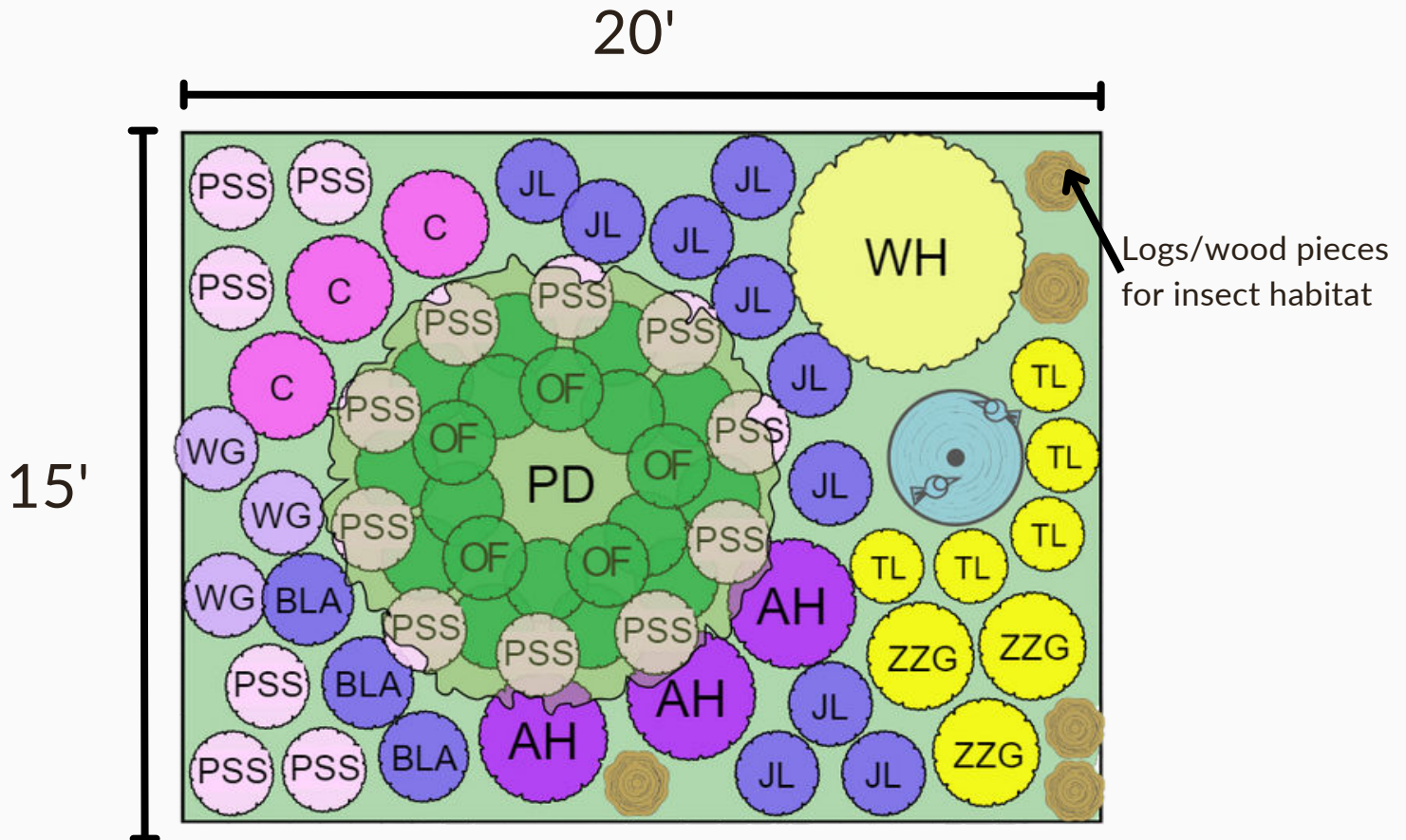
| Key | Common Name | Scientific Name | Bloom Time |
|------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| FG | Field Goldenrod | <i>Solidago nemoralis</i> | August-October |
| HV | Hoary Vervain | <i>Verbena stricta</i> | June-September |
| LLC | Lance Leaf Coreopsis | <i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i> | May-August |
| JG | June Grass | <i>Koeleria macrantha</i> | May-June |
| SBB | Spotted Bee Balm | <i>Monarda punctata</i> | July-September |
| PS | Prairie Smoke | <i>Geum triflorum</i> | April-June |
| LB | Little Bluestem | <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> | August-October |
| PF | Pasque Flower | <i>Anemone patens</i> | April-May |
| RM | Rattlesnake Master | <i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i> | June-August |
| PPPC | Plains Prickly Pear Cactus | <i>Opuntia macrorhiza</i> | May-July |
| CWI | Cream Wild Indigo | <i>Baptisia bracteata</i> | May-June |

*The color of the symbol represents the color of the flower

Shade Garden

Overview

- Shade loving plants.
- Average moisture requirements.



| Key | Common Name | Scientific Name | Bloom Time |
|-----|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| PSS | Prairie Shooting Star | <i>Dodecatheon meadia</i> | April-June |
| C | Columbine | <i>Aquilegia Canadensis</i> | May-June |
| WG | Wild Geranium | <i>Geranium maculatum</i> | May-June |
| WH | Witch Hazel | <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> | September-November |
| OF | Ostrich Fern | <i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i> | N/A |
| PD | Pagoda Dogwood | <i>Cornus alternifolia</i> | April-May |
| AH | Anise Hyssop | <i>Agastache foeniculum</i> | June-October |
| JL | Jacob's Ladder | <i>Polemonium reptans</i> | May-June |
| BLA | Big Leaf Aster | <i>Aster macrophyllus</i> | August-September |
| TL | Trout Lily | <i>Erythronium americanum</i> | April-May |
| ZZG | Zig Zag Goldenrod | <i>Solidago flexicaulis</i> | August-October |

Sample plants by season, light requirements, and moisture requirements:

SPRING BLOOMING

Shade:

Bellwort, Bloodroot, Columbine, Jack In the Pulpit, Jacob's Ladder, Large Flowering Trillium, Sharp-lobed Hepatica, Trout Lily, Wild Geranium

Part Shade:

Columbine, Golden Alexander, Downy Serviceberry Tree, Hairy Beardtongue, Pennsylvania Sedge, Sharp-lobed Hepatica, Prairie Violet, Trout Lily, Wild Geranium, Wild Lupine

Sun:

Cream Wild Indigo, June Grass, Lance-leaf Coreopsis, Pasque flower, Prairie Willow, Prairie Shooting Star, Wild Hyacinth, Prairie Smoke, Blue Eyed Grass, Wood Betony



Pasque Flower (*Anemone patens*)



Columbine (*Aquilegia Canadensis*) (pink flower) and Golden Alexander (*Zizia aurea*) (yellow flower)



Prairie Shooting Star (*Dodecatheon meadia*)



Wild Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*) (blue flower) and Prairie Smoke (*Geum triflorum*) (pink flower)

Dry:

Lance-leaf Coreopsis, Pasque Flower, Pennsylvania Sedge, Blue-eyed Grass, Prairie Phlox, Prairie Shooting Star, Prairie Smoke, Wild Lupine, Cream Wild Indigo, Hairy Beardtongue

Moist:

Bellwort, Bloodroot, Fox Sedge, Golden Alexanders, Jacob's Ladder, Lance-leaf Coreopsis, Large Flowered Trillium, Prairie Shooting Star, Sharp-lobed Hepatica, Trout Lily, Wild Hyacinth

Wet:

Black Chokeberry, Fox Sedge, Jack In the Pulpit, Nannyberry

SUMMER BLOOMING



Anise Hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*)

Shade:

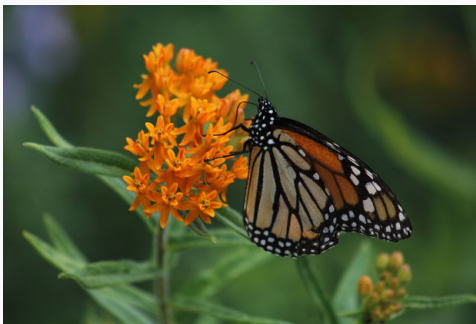
Anise Hyssop, Big Leaf Aster

Part Shade:

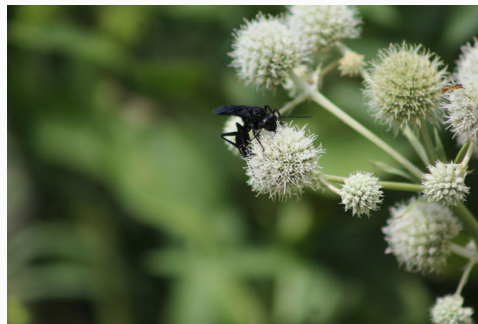
Anise Hyssop, Rough Blazing Star, Cardinal Flower, Common Milkweed, Culvers Root, Goat's Rue, Great Blue Lobelia, Harebell, Michigan Lily, New Jersey Tea, Nodding Pink Onion, Partridge Pea, Prairie Alumroot

Sun:

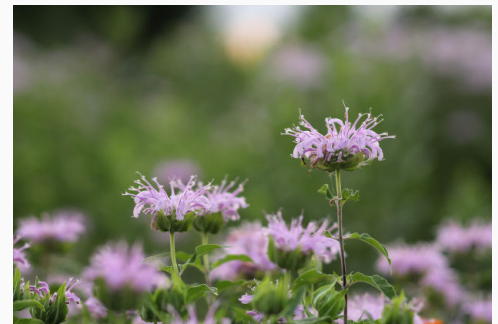
Blue Vervain, Boneset, Butterfly-weed, Garden phlox, Goats Rue, Hoary Vervain, Joe Pye Weed, Leadplant, Meadow Blazing Star, Pale lobelia, Pale Purple Coneflower, Prairie Blazing Star, Purple Prairie Clover, Swamp Milkweed, Wild Petunia



Butterfly-weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)



Rattlesnake Master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*)



Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)

Dry:

Anise Hyssop, Wild Bergamot, Butterfly-weed, Rough Blazing Star, Dwarf Blazing Star, Hoary Vervain, Partridge Pea, Plains Prickly Pear Cactus, Rattlesnake-master, Round-Headed Bush Clover, Spotted Bee Balm, Whorled Milkweed

Moist:

Anise Hyssop, Big Leaf Aster, Blue Vervain, Cardinal Flower, Carolina Rose, Culvers Root, Garden phlox, Great Blue Lobelia, Iron Weed, Meadow Blazing Star, Michigan Lily, Prairie Blazing Star, Rattlesnake-master, White Wild Indigo

Wet:

Blue Flag Iris, Blue Vervain, Boneset, Cardinal Flower, Carolina Rose, Common Milkweed, Nodding Pink Onion, Oval Sedge, Pale lobelia, Red/Swamp Milkweed



Rough Blazing star (*Liatris aspera*)

FALL BLOOMING

Shade:

Large-leaved Aster, Short's Aster, White Snake Root, Witch Hazel

Part Shade:

Bottle Gentian, Field Goldenrod, Large-leaved Aster, New England Aster, Short's Aster, Silky Aster, Sky Blue Aster, Sweet Black-eyed Susan, White Snake Root, Witch Hazel

Sun:

Aromatic Aster, Bottle Gentian, Copper-shouldered Oval Sedge, Field Goldenrod, New England Aster, Panicked Bulrush, Showy Goldenrod, Silky Aster, Sky Blue Aster, Smooth Aster, Sneezeweed, Stiff Goldenrod, Oval Sedge



New England Aster (*Aster novae-angliae*)



Showy Goldenrod (*Solidago speciosa*)



Sweet Black Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia subtomentosa*)



White Snakeroot (*Ageratina altissima*)

Dry:

Aromatic Aster, Field Goldenrod, Large-leaved Aster, Short's Aster, Showy Goldenrod, Silky Aster, Sky Blue Aster, Smooth Aster, Stiff Goldenrod, White Snake Root, Witch Hazel

Moist:

Bottle Gentian, Copper-shouldered Oval Sedge, Large-leaved Aster, New England Aster, Panicked Bulrush, Short's Aster, Sneezeweed, Sweet Black-eyed Susan, White Snake Root, Witch Hazel

Wet:

Sweet Black-eyed Susan

NON FLOWERING PLANTS



Ostrich Fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*)

Shade: Palm Sedge, Ostrich Fern

Part Shade: June Grass, Pennsylvania Sedge, Big Bluestem (grass), Oval Sedge, Little Bluestem (grass), Ostrich Fern, Lady Fern

Sun: June Grass, Pennsylvania Sedge, Big Bluestem (grass), Oval Sedge, Prairie Dropseed (grass), Sideoats Grama (grass), Fox Sedge, Panicked Bulrush (rush), Little Bluestem (grass), Ostrich Fern, Switchgrass



Palm Sedge (*Carex muskingumensis*)



June Grass (*Koeleria macrantha*)

Dry: June Grass, Pennsylvania Sedge, Big Bluestem (grass), Prairie Dropseed (grass), Sideoats Grama (grass), Little Bluestem (grass), Switchgrass

Moist: Pennsylvania Sedge, Big Bluestem (grass), Oval Sedge, Prairie Dropseed (grass), Little Bluestem (grass), Ostrich Fern, Lady Fern, Switchgrass

Wet: Oval Sedge, Fox Sedge, Panicked Bulrush (rush), Palm Sedge, Ostrich Fern, Switchgrass



Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)



CLEAR THE AREA

You have a few options for weed/lawn removal:

Smothering - Putting down multiple layers of cardboard or a tarp will smother anything under it to clear out an area for planting. This should be left for a minimum of 6 months but the longer you leave it the less likely you are to have unwanted plants returning.

Rototiller - This method can be quick and effective but you run the risk of a weedy garden from seeds being brought to the top.

Sod-cutter - This method is another quick option to remove lawn and you don't have the risk of exposing weed seeds.

Manual Removal - Don't forget that manual removal is always an option and very doable if you are dealing with a small space you need cleared.



Smothering



Rototiller



Sod-cutter



Manual Removal



PURCHASE & START PLANTS

Seeds vs plugs:

Seeds

Pros:

- Cheap
- See the whole growing process

Cons:

- Can be more labor intensive if started indoors and then transplanted outside
- Harder to care for in the beginning

Plugs

Pros:

- Quicker result
- Typically transplant better than seeds grown indoors and brought outside

Cons:

- More expensive



Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) seedlings

**If you decide to get your plants as plugs, plant at any point when the ground is thawed up until 6 weeks before the first hard frost.

Scattering seeds in the fall vs starting them indoors:

Scattering seeds in the fall eliminates the need for extra care for the seeds. It can be an easy and effective way to plant seeds – just make sure you know what the seedlings look like so you don't pull them in the spring! If you want to start seeds indoors during the winter – research the specific needs of the seeds you have. Some seeds need particular steps to be done before they can be planted such as **scarification** and/or moist **stratification** for varying amounts of time.

Scarification – Altering the coat of a seed to slightly weaken or open it to encourage germination. This is typically done by scratching, blanching, filing, igniting, etc.

Moist stratification – Putting seeds in a moist and cold environment to encourage germination. Ex: Covering seeds in a wet paper towel in the fridge.

Where to buy seeds/plugs:



PRAIRIE MOON
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CARE

It's time to care for your garden!

- It is crucial to water your plants well and frequently when they are first getting established, as well as after they are transplanted, even if they do not typically require much water.
 - During the first year, plants are working to grow their root systems, so you might not see a lot of above-ground growth!
- Weed often to avoid other plants choking out your natives.
- No fertilizer needed - many native plants thrive in nutrient poor soils!
- Leave stems and leaves in the fall to provide habitat to overwintering insects.