



Plants of Concern

a project of the Chicago Botanic Garden

Chicago Park District Rapid Assessment Species: Descriptions

A

***Acalypha rhomboidea* (THREE-SEEDED MERCURY)**

Woodland. Leaves serrated with shallow, blunt teeth. May appear whorled around upper stem but just tightly packed. Stems typically dispersed with hairs. Flowers petal-less with palmately lobed bracts at leaf axils.

***Acer negundo* (BOXELDER)**

Woodland, savanna, dune. Odd-pinnate leaves of 3-7 leaflets. Stems and bark furrowing with age. Young plants resemble poison ivy.

***Acer rubrum* (RED MAPLE)**

Woodland, savanna, wetland, prairie. Leaves 3 to 5 lobes, sharply angled sinuses, central lobe squarish, basal lobes reduced or absent. Hairs along leaf veins, underside. Winged fruits approximately 45-90° angle.

***Acer saccharinum* (SILVER MAPLE)**

Woodland, savanna, wetland, wet prairie, dune. Leaves have 5 deep lobes with deep, sharply angled sinuses. The terminal lobe usually widest well above the base. Underside of leaf is silvery-white. Winged fruits 90° angle.

***Acer saccharum* (SUGAR MAPLE)**

Woodland, savanna, prairie, shrubland. 5-lobed leaves with pointed tips. Rough, gray-brown bark. Leaves lighter on undersides. Winged samaras U-shaped.

***Agrimonia gryposepala* (TALL AGRIMONY)**

Woodland. Leaves compound with 3-9 major leaflets with 1-4 pairs of small leaflets between larger leaflets. Stems covered in white hairs. Elongated spike-like raceme of 5-petaled yellow flowers.

***Allium canadense* (WILD GARLIC)**

Woodland, wetland, savanna, prairie. Flowering stalk terminates with a sack-covered inflorescence that opens to an umbel of 6-12 white to pink flowers or sessile maroon bulblets. Fragrant.

***Allium cernuum* (NODDING ONION)**

Wet prairie, prairie, woodland, savanna. Leaves grass-like with flowering stalk up to 1 ½' long terminating in a nodding umbel of pinkish pompom-like flowers. Fragrant.

***Allium tricoccum* (WILD LEEK)**

Woodland. 2-3 basal leaves, smooth edges. Leaf stalk has red tinge. Small, round cluster of greenish, white, creamy flowers of 6 tepals.

***Ambrosia artemisiifolia* (COMMON RAGWEED)**

Prairie, savanna, wetland, dune. Leaves fern-like, deeply lobed. Lower leaves opposite, upper leaves alternate. Stems covered in white hairs and petal-less flowers occur on spike-like racemes.

***Ambrosia trifida* (GIANT RAGWEED)**

Woodland, savanna, prairie, wetland, wet prairie. Leaves 3-5 deep lobes, finely toothed. Stems, leaf stalks, and leaf frequently hairy. Petal-less flowers that occur along a spike-like raceme of 3-8" long.

***Ammophila breviligulata* (MARRAM GRASS)**

Dune/swale. Stiff, erect beach grass. Inner surfaces of leaves have a bluish tint. Flower spikes are long, soft, and tightly packed, turning a bright golden color in the fall.

***Amorpha canescens* (LEAD PLANT)**

Prairie, wet prairie, savanna, dune, shrubland. Pinnately compound leaves and stem covered with fine white hairs. Leaflets grey-green. Purple flowers have red stamens.

***Amorpha fruticosa* (INDIGO BUSH)**

Wetland, wet prairie, dune/swale, prairie. Compound leaves with oval, toothless, leaflets alternately attached. Spiked clusters of deep purple flowers with yellow-orange stamens. Stem hairless.

***Andropogon gerardii* (BIG BLUESTEM)**

Prairie, savanna, dune. 3-8' tall. Linear, alternate leaves dull green to glaucous blue. Leaf sheaths wrap tightly around culm. Narrow racemes of purplish spikelets resemble a turkey foot.

***Anemonella thalictroides* (RUE ANEMONE)**

Woodland. Twice compound leaves with 3 groups of 3 leaflets. Leaflets with 3 or more shallow lobes. Flowers pink to white with 5-10 petal-like sepals. Stems green to reddish purple.

***Anemone virginiana* (TALL THIMBLEWEED)**

Woodland, savanna, prairie, wetland, dune. Leaves palmately compound in groups of 3. Petioles long with white hairs. Greenish white flowers of 5 petals, stalks hairy. *A. cylindrica* has taller flower cone and wedge-shaped outer leaflet lobes.

***Aquilegia canadensis* (WILD COLUMBINE)**

Savanna, woodland, prairie. Leaves compound in groups of 3 with leaflets notched in 2-3 segments. Branching cluster of bell-shaped flowers with 5 yellow petals and 5 red sepals. Stem green to reddish, slightly hair.

***Aralia nudicaulis* (WILD SARSAPARILLA)**

Woodland, savanna. Leaves compound in groups of 3-7 with a whorl of 3 at the tip. Finely toothed leaflets, sometimes wavy edges ending in a sharp point. Round clusters of white to green-white flowers with 5 white tipped stamens.

***Argentina anserina* (SILVERWEED)**

Dune/swale. Leaves compound, 7 or more leaflets with small leaflets in between. Leaflets widely sharply toothed with underside silvery from long white hairs. Single yellow flower at the end of stalk.

***Arisaema triphyllum* (JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT)**

Woodland, savanna. One or two trifoliate leaves occur on a stout stalk with a flower cluster (spadix) occurring inside a modified leaf (spathe). Spathe ranges from light green to reddish green.

***Arnoglossum atriplicifolium* (PALE INDIAN PLANTAIN)**

Savanna, prairie, dune. Large, heart-shaped leaves with palmate veins. Both basal and alternate leaves. Stem and underside of leaf pale green-white. Flat-topped panicle of white flowers.

***Artemisia campestris* subsp. *caudata* (BEACH WORMWOOD)**

Dune/swale, prairie, savanna. Reddish tinted, upright, central stem. Leaves divided, silvery, feather-like. Small nodding, yellow flowers.

***Asclepias syriaca* (COMMON MILKWEED)**

Prairie, savanna, woodland, dune/swale. Stems 2-6' tall. Umbels of light pink to reddish purple flowers. Underside of leaf covered with wooly hairs. Seed pods green and bumpy.

***Asclepias tuberosa* (BUTTERFLY MILKWEED)**

Prairie, savanna, shrubland, dune. Leaves toothless with fine hairs along veins on underside. Stems densely hairy. Flat-topped clusters of orange flowers are replaced with narrow spindle-shaped pods.

***Asclepias verticillata* (WHORLED MILKWEED)**

Prairie, wet prairie, dune. Sessile leaves very narrow with prominent central vein. Stem slender with fine, hairy lines. White flowers in rounded clusters from axils of middle to upper leaves.

B

***Baptisia lactea* (WHITE WILD INDIGO)**

Prairie, savanna. Compound leaves in groups of 3. Leaflets toothless and hairless. White flowers appear in a spike-like raceme. Later replaced by green pods that become dark purple when ripened.

***Boehmeria cylindrica* (SWAMP FALSE NETTLE)**

Savanna and wet habitats. Leaves perpendicular to the pair below along a four-sided smooth stem. Minute white flowers in spikes from leaf axils.

***Bouteloua curtipendula* (SIDE-OATS GRAMMA)**

Prairie, savanna, woodland, dune/swale. Numerous dangling spikes arranged alternately along arching stem. Leaves mostly on lower part of the stem with sparse hairs along edge. Sheath creates a large “v” along the culm.

***Bromus pubescens* (WOODLAND BROME)**

Woodland, savanna. Leaves floppy, upper surface shiny, lower surface dull. Sheaths blue-green, enclosing much of the stem. Leaves and stem may be covered in short hairs. Panicle of drooping hairy, spikelets, 5-11 bristled lemmas.

C

***Calamagrostis canadensis* (BLUE JOINT GRASS)**

Wetland, dune/swamp, woodland, savanna. Panicle open, pyramidal with hints of purple and green but become tannish in late summer. 5-10 alternate leaves. Grows in dense clumps.

***Calamovilfa longifolia* var. *magna* (SAND REED)**

Dune/swale, prairie. Leaves gray-green to blue-green, floppy, tapering to thread-like tip. Sheath white hairy along edges, ligule fringed. Lance-linear cluster of spikelets.

***Caltha palustris* (MARSH MARIGOLD)**

Wetland. Leaf edges toothless to scalloped. Small clusters of bright yellow flowers with 5-9 rounded sepals. Spring blooming.

***Carex hirtifolia* (HAIRY SEDGE)**

Woodland. Entire plant softly pubescent. Each culm terminates in 2-4 pistillate spikes and a single terminal staminate spike. Bases wrapped in hairy reddish brown to green sheath.

***Carex pensylvanica* (PENNSYLVANIA SEDGE)**

Woodland. Culms with red, fibrous bases and fine dark green leaves. Staminate spikes have creamy yellow stamens and pistillate spikes have white thread-like styles. Common to grow near oaks.

***Carex stricta* (COMMON TUSsock-SEDGE)**

Wetland, swales. Lowest leaves have fibrous sheaths, forming ladder-like structures up the reddish stem base. Culm sharply 3-angled. Staminate spikes terminal, pistillate spikes under staminate spikes.

***Carpinus caroliniana* var. *virginiana* (BLUE BEECH)**

Savanna, woodland, shrubland, prairie. Leaves doubly serrated with 10-13 lateral un-forked veins. Smooth reddish gray bark has muscle-like ridges. Leaves resemble *Ostrya virginiana* (hop hornbeam) except for forked veins.

***Celtis occidentalis* (HACKBERRY)**

Woodland, savanna, dune, prairie. Leaves have serrated edges, wide asymmetrical bases, and taper to point. Trunk bark deeply furrowed with corky ridges/warts.

***Cephalanthus occidentalis* (BUTTONBUSH)**

Prairie, woodland, wetland, wet prairie, savanna. Leaves shiny, dark green, entire edges. White flowers resemble pincushion. Twigs green to red with mature bark gray-brown and flaky.

***Cicuta maculata* (WATER HEMLOCK)**

Wet prairie, wetland, savanna, woodland. Double compound leaves with veins ending in the sinus (ditch) between two teeth. White umbels of flowers arise from leaf axils and end of branching stems. Toxic foliage and roots.

***Circaea canadensis* (ENCHANTER'S NIGHTSHADE)**

Woodland and savanna. Stem and raceme covered in small white hairs. Loose cluster of white or pinkish flowers. Fruit capsules densely covered with hooked hairs.

***Cirsium discolor* (PASTURE THISTLE)**

Savanna and prairie. Leaves dark-green on upper-side with white wooly hairs on under-side; spiny. Stems covered in white hairs (not spines) and are heavily branched along upper stem. Pink flower occurs individually on erect stems.

***Claytonia virginica* (SPRING BEAUTY)**

Woodland, prairie. Pairs of linear, smooth edged leaves occur at base and along stem. Stem ends in a floppy raceme of pink-striped flowers with pink anthers. Spring blooming.

***Comandra umbellata* (BASTARD TOADFLAX)**

Prairie, savanna. Leaves sessile, toothless, and elliptic-shaped. Stems smooth. White, star-like flowers occur in dense clusters. Fruit develops into round drupes. Spring blooming, early summer.

***Coreopsis palmata* (PRAIRIE COREOPSIS)**

Prairie, savanna, dune, wet prairie, wetland. Leaves sessile, 3 lobes with the middle longest. Each lobe has a light green center vein. Yellow flowers have 2 impressed veins that run down each ray. Flowers solitary to a few.

***Coreopsis tripteris* (TALL COREOPSIS)**

Prairie, dune/swale, wetland, savanna. Odd-pinnate leaves of 3-5 leaflets with entire (toothless) margins. Lateral leaflets sessile while terminal leaflets have petiolules (stalk). Cluster of yellow flowers with dark purple/maroon centers.

***Cornus racemosa* (GRAY DOGWOOD)**

Wet prairies, dune/swale, savanna, prairie, woodland. Leaves entire with 3-4 pairs of lateral veins. Underside pale green to white. Twigs and bark smooth gray. Dome-shaped panicles of white flowers develop into white fruits.

***Cornus sericea* (RED STICKS)**

Savanna, wet prairie, wetland, woodland, dunes/swale. Leaves with 5 pairs of lateral veins. Smooth red branches have a white pith. White flowers occur in an open, flattish cluster, later developing into white fruits.

***Corylus americana* (AMERICAN HAZELNUT)**

Savanna, woodland. Petioles (stalk) and twigs usually hairy with young twigs covered in reddish brown hairs. Female flowers develop a nut enveloped in a pair of ruffled bracts.

***Cycloloma atriplicifolium* (WINGED PIGWEED)**

Dune/swale. Irregular toothed or lobed leaves are either sessile or on short pedicels. Flowers are indistinct either in spikes or panicles. Resembles tumbleweed after aging.

D

***Dalea purpurea* (PURPLE PRAIRIE CLOVER)**

Prairie, savanna, dune/swale. Compound leaves have 3-7 linear leaflets less than 1/8 inch wide. Stem unbranched, hairless, and slightly ridged. Thimble-shaped flower heads with purple flowers and yellow-orange tipped stamens.

***Dasiphora fruticosa* (SHRUBBY CINQUEFOIL)**

Wet prairie, dune/swale. Palmately compound leaves with leaflets dark green above and silver below, both covered in silvery hairs. Bright yellow flowers single or branched clusters at the tip. Red-brown branches.

***Desmanthus illinoensis* (ILLINOIS BUNDLEFLOWER)**

Prairie, dune, savanna. Even-pinnate leaflets with 20-40 pairs of sub-leaflets. Small white flowers on peduncles consisting of about 50 florets. Fruit resembles pea-pod but arranged spirally around head. Brown pod splits open when dry.

***Dodecatheon meadia* (SHOOTING STAR)**

Prairie, woodland, savanna. Basal leaves are lance-oblong and entire. Umbel of 8-20 nodding pink to white flowers. Spring blooming.

***Drymocallis arguta* (PRAIRIE CINQUEFOIL)**

Prairie, savanna, dune, woodland. Mostly compound basal leaves with 7-11 leaflets. Both stem and leaves are densely hairy with clusters of 2-6 white flowers.

E

***Echinacea pallida* (PALE PURPLE CONEFLOWER)**

Prairie, savanna. Leaves 5 times as long as wide or longer, often curled upward. Stem and leaf covered in fine, white hairs with flower at the end of stalk. Flower petals thinner than *Echinacea purpurea*.

***Echinacea purpurea* (BROAD-LEAVED CONEFLOWER)**

Prairie, wet prairie, savanna, woodland. Sharply toothed and rough leaves less than 5 times as long as wide. Stem covered in hairs. Purplish rays curve down with maturity.

***Ellisia nyctelea* (AUNT LUCY)**

Woodland. Leaves deeply divided into 7-13 leaflets with bristly hairs. Lower leaves opposite, upper leaves alternate. Stems thick, succulent pale green to pale purple. Inconspicuous flowers with star-shaped hairy bracts. Spring blooming.

***Elymus canadensis* (CANADA WILD RYE)**

Prairie, savanna, woodland, wetland. Leaves green above and bluish below. 5-9" nodding flower spike with awns curving outward with age. Distinct collar at tip of the sheath.

***Enemion biternatum* (FALSE RUE ANEMONE)**

Woodland. Compound, trifoliate leaves, each leaflet with 2 or 3 deep lobes. Flowers have no more than 5 white petaloid sepals. Spring blooming.

***Eryngium yuccifolium* (RATTLESNAKE MASTER)**

Wet prairie, wetland, dune/swale, prairie. Leaves long and sword-like, clasp to central stem. Surfaces waxy with widely spaced spiny teeth. White greenish flowers produced in dense rounded umbels.

***Erythronium albidum* (WHITE TROUT LILY)**

Woodland. Leaves patchy green-brown with smooth edges. Two-leaved plants produce a single white nodding flower. *Erythronium americanum* has yellow flowers. Spring blooming.

***Eupatorium altissimum* (TALL BONESET)**

Prairie, savanna, wet prairie, dune, woodland. Leaves contain 3 prominent parallel veins, hairy underneath. Mature leaves widely toothed at upper half tip. White-pubescent stems terminate in flat-topped clusters of white flowers.

***Eupatorium serotinum* (LATE BONESET)**

Prairie, wet prairie, wetland, savanna, dune, woodland. Leaves sharply serrated edges with 5 prominent veins. Stems generally pubescent and terminate in flat-topped clusters of white flowers.

***Euphorbia corollata* (FLOWERING SPURGE)**

Dune/swale, savanna, wet prairie, prairie. Leaves slightly blue-green, stem light green. Stems and leaves exude milky latex when broken; can cause skin irritations. Branched clusters of white flowers, 5-petals.

***Eurybia macrophylla* (BIG LEAF ASTER)**

Woodland, dune/swale. Large, heart-shaped basal leaves. Underside of leaf hairy along major veins. Purple to reddish stems with possible winged leaf stalks. Narrow ray flowers ranging white to lavender.

***Euthamia graminifolia* (GRASS-LEAVED GOLDENROD)**

Prairie, wet prairie, savanna, dune. Leaves toothless, linear shaped with 3 prominent veins, often with black spots. Upper stem branched creating a bushy crown. Flat clusters of small yellow flowers.

***Eutrochium purpureum* (PURPLE JOE PYE WEED)**

Prairie, savanna, dune/swale. Leaves in whorls of 3 or 4. Stem is pale-green, leaf nodes dark purple. Dome-shaped clusters of pale pink flowers. Vanilla scented.

***Equisetum arvense* (HORSETAIL)**

Dune/swale, wetland, wet prairie, savanna, woodland. 'Leaves' reduced to a sheath that whorl around the hollow stem. Sterile stems green; fertile stems brown and unbranched.

***Equisetum hyemale* (TALL SCOURING RUSH)**

Dune/swale, wetland, woodland. Green shoots have a single, hollow central stem made up of multiple joints. Black ring at base of pale gray sheaths. Bamboo-like.

F

***Fragaria virginiana* (WILD STRAWBERRY)**

Woodland, prairie, savanna, dune/swale, wet prairie. Trifoliate leaves are oval and coarsely toothed along the middle to outer edges. Produces white flowers with 5 petals that develop into a red edible fruit. Spring blooming.

***Fraxinus lanceolata* (GREEN ASH)**

Woodland, savanna, prairie, wetland. Odd-pinnate with leaflets smooth to slightly serrated. Twigs with half-moon shaped bud scars. Bark grayish-brown with irregular, shallow ridges in diamond-shaped patterns.

G

***Galium aparine* (WILD VELCRO)**

Savanna, woodland, prairie, shrubland. Leaves whorled in groups of 6-8 with leaflets covered in hooked hairs ending in a spine-like point. Square, hairy stem. Groups of 2-5 stalked flowers extend up from the leaf axils.

***Geum canadense* (WHITE AVENS)**

Woodland, savanna, prairie. Leaves mostly palmately compound, coarsely serrated with trifoliate leaves. Stem hairy. Upper stems terminate in a white 5-petaled flower and 5 triangular green sepals.

***Gleditsia triacanthos* (HONEY LOCUST)**

Prairie, savanna, woodland. Compound leaves have 6-12 pairs of ellipsoid shaped leaflets. Trunks have scaly plates, sometimes with thorns. Flattened purple-brown seedpods long, hooked, or spirally twisted as they mature.

***Glyceria striata* (FOWL MANNA GRASS)**

Wetland, wet prairie, savanna, woodland, prairie. Tufts of unbranched culms 2-3 ½' tall terminate in a nodding panicle of 3-7 flowered spikelets. Bracts and sheaths purplish. Ligule is translucent and ragged at tip.

***Gymnocladus dioicus* (KENTUCKY COFFEE TREE)**

Prairie, savanna, woodland. Very large bi-pinnate compound leaves. Leaflets taper to a point. Scaly, gray-brown bark. Leathery green pod becomes dark brown as it matures.

H

***Hackelia virginiana* (STICKSEED)**

Prairie, woodland, wet prairie, savanna, shrubland. Elongated, horizontal racemes with small white flowers. Stems pubescent, with soft leaves. Round fruits covered in dense velcro-like prickles.

***Hamamelis virginiana* (WITCHHAZEL)**

Woodland, savanna. Leaves have wavy edges and asymmetrical bases. Flowers have yellow, ribbon-shaped petals and bloom in the fall. Calyx yellow and hairy.

***Helianthus grosseserratus* (SAWTOOTH SUNFLOWER)**

Wet prairie, wetland, dune/swale. Leaves coarsely toothed, rough textured, and tend to fold along center vein. Flowers have 10-20 yellow petals with multiple layers of hairy bracts. Glabrous stem, green or purple.

***Helianthus mollis* (DOWNY SUNFLOWER)**

Prairie. Leaves sessile or clasping with hairs on both sides, surface appearing greyish green to blueish green. Stem and bracts covered in fine hairs. Composite yellow flower, with disk initially brown, later turning yellow.

***Helianthus occidentalis* (WESTERN SUNFLOWER)**

Prairie, dune/swale. Basal and cauline (upper) leaves triangular and rough to touch. Basal rosettes have petioles, cauline leaves lack petiole. Reddish brown stem terminates with 1-few yellow flowers.

***Heracleum maximum* (COW PARSNIP)**

Savanna, woodland. Palmately compound leaves into three leaflets. Petiole base partially enclosed with hairy sheaths. Central stalk 4-8 feet tall with flat topped umbels of white flowers.

***Heuchera richardsonii* (PRAIRIE ALUM ROOT)**

Dune/swale, savanna, prairie, woodland. Palmately lobed leaves are cordate with serrate, wavy margins. Stems densely covered in long glandular hairs. Narrow panicle of green flowers with orange tipped stamens.

***Hydrophyllum virginianum* (VIRGINIA WATERLEAF)**

Woodland. Leaves scattered with white marks but fade with age. Stems terminate in white, pink, or light lavender rounded clusters. Stem purplish at leaf nodes. Sepals and stamens hairy. Spring flowering.

***Hypericum punctatum* (SPOTTED ST. JOHN'S WORT)**

Dune/swale, prairie, woodland. Leaves entire, sessile, hairless, with 3-5 prominent veins. Flower petals and underside of new leaves dotted with black glands. Clustered yellow flowers at the tips of branches. *H. perforatum* dots on petal edge.

I

***Impatiens capensis* (ORANGE JEWELWEED)**

Woodland, prairie, wetland, savanna, dune. Leaves hairless with widely toothed edges. Orange flowers funnel-shaped with elongated lip. Explosive seed pods when touched.

J

***Juglans nigra* (BLACK WALNUT)**

Savanna, woodland, prairie, wet prairie, shrubland. Terminal leaflet small or absent. Compound leaf stalk covered in sticky hairs. Mature trees have furrowed, grey-black bark. Nut is round 1.5-3"

***Juncus balticus* (LAKE SHORE RUSH)**

Dune/swale. Chestnut-brown inflorescence originates from side of the culm. Bracts appear to be continuation of leafless stem. Stems typically grow in regular intervals along rhizomes.

***Juncus effusus* (COMMON RUSH)**

Dune/swale, wetland, wet prairie. Green or light brown inflorescence originates from side of the culm. Bracts appear to be continuation of leafless stem. Culm base has dark-colored basal sheath. Grows in clumps.

L

***Leersia oryzoides* (RICE CUT GRASS)**

Wetland, wet prairie, prairie. Leaves very rough textured on surface and edges. Sheaths create a V-shaped opening and is covered with short hairs. Nodes hairy. Culms terminate in a panicle of spikelets with hairs.

***Lespedeza capitata* (ROUND-HEADED BUSH CLOVER)**

Prairie, dune/swale. Compound leaves made up of 3 leaflets. Stem is densely covered in white hairs. White flowers densely packed in round to oval clusters with hairy calyxes.

***Lilium michiganense* (MICHIGAN LILY)**

Savanna, wet prairies, dune/swale. Leaves in whorls of 5-9 with obvious parallel veins. Stem smooth, round and terminates in 1 to 8 nodding flowers. 6 reddish-orange tepals curve backwards exposing 6 brown tipped stamens.

***Lobelia spicata* (PALE SPIKED LOBELIA)**

Savanna, prairie, dune/swale. Leaves primarily on lower half and reduce in size up the stem. Leaves range from slightly toothed, entire, hairy, and hairless. Small, tubular shaped pale blue-white flowers occur on a spike-like raceme.

***Lonicera reticulata* (GRAPE HONEYSUCKLE)**

Woodland. Round leaves smooth-edged. Yellow flowers and red fruits develop in sessile whorls from fused terminal leaves (perfoliate). Descending, waxy leaves may have short petiole or stalkless.

M

***Mertensia virginica* (VIRGINIA BLUEBELLS)**

Woodland, prairie. Basal leaves larger than cauline (upper) leaves. Racemes of trumpet-like blue or purple flowers. Flower buds pink. Spring blooming.

O

***Oenothera biennis* (COMMON EVENING PRIMROSE)**

Prairie, wet prairie, wetland, savanna, dune. Leaves may fold along center vein, wavy edges. Stems reddish or green covered in white hairs. Yellow flowers with 4 heart-shaped petals and cross-shaped stigma in the center.

***Oligoneuron riddellii* (RIDDELL'S GOLDENROD)**

Wet prairie, prairie, savanna, dune. Leaves linear, leathery, clasping, and folded along midrib. Stem and leaves glabrous (smooth, without hairs). Rounded flat top of yellow flower heads.

***Oligoneuron rigidum* (STIFF GOLDENROD)**

Prairie, wet prairie, savanna. Stem stiff, upright, and hairy. Numerous basal leaves extending from stalks. Upper leaves clasp stem. Leaves hairy. Flat-topped bloom of yellow flowers.

***Onoclea sensibilis* (SENSITIVE FERN)**

Wetland, woodland, prairie. Up to 3' tall. Deep pinnatifid leaves, most with 8 pairs of opposite lobes. Network of veins on underside. Winged central stalk on infertile leaves. Fertile stems produce round spore clusters. Infertile more common.

***Osmundastrum cinnamomeum* (CINNAMON FERN)**

Woodland, wetlands. Fiddleheads covered with light, brownish wool but turns cinnamon color as plant matures. Base of pinnae and erect fronds covered with brownish woolly-pubescent.

***Osmunda spectabilis* (ROYAL FERN)**

Savanna, wetland. Leaves twice compound with branches opposite and leaflets alternate. Fertile stalks initially bright green and turn rusty dark brown after spores released. From a distance, appears shrub-like.

***Ostrya virginiana* (HOP HORNBEAM)**

Woodland, savanna, prairie. Leaves sharply double-toothed, veins forking near leaf edges. Trunks gray-brown with narrow, peeling strips. Also known as Ironwood.

***Oxalis stricta* (COMMON YELLOW OXALIS)**

Savanna, prairie, woodland, dune/swale. Stems, branches, and leaf stalks variously haired from smooth to dense. Trifoliate leaves with yellow flowers of 2-7 at upper axils. Fruit capsules (banana shaped) glabrous to thinly villous.

P

***Panicum virgatum* (SWITCH GRASS)**

Prairie, savanna, wet prairie, wetland. Alternate leaves with long, silky hairs at the base and ligule forming a triangle. Leaves up to 2' long. Sheath forms a V shape. Flowers occur in an airy panicle of spikelets.

***Parthenium integrifolium* (WILD QUININE)**

Prairie, savanna, woodland, wet prairie. Leaves generally toothed, rough, and crinkly. Basal leaves winged, alternate leaves clasping and sessile. Flat-topped, branching clusters of white flowers.

***Parthenocissus quinquefolia* (VIRGINIA CREEPER)**

Woodland, savanna. Leaves palmately divided into 5 leaflets, dark green above and light green below. Leaves turn red in fall. Panicles of yellow green flowers. Vines scramble on ground or climb up trees.

***Pedicularis canadensis* (WOOD BETONY)**

Dune/swale, prairie, savanna. Leaves mostly basal and deeply lobed with toothed edges (resembles fern-leaf). Stem densely hairy with a thick spike of yellow tubular flowers. Leaves/stem may be tinted red.

***Phlox divaricata* (WOODLAND PHLOX)**

Woodland, savanna. Leaf pairs at right angles to the pair above and below. Leaves, stem, calyxes pubescent. 5-petaled blue-violet to reddish purple flowers form flattish clusters. Petals narrow at base with round tip.

***Physostegia virginiana* (OBEDIENT PLANT)**

Prairie, wet prairie, wetland, savanna. Leaves sharply toothed, pointed tip, and hairless. Square stem, hairless, with swollen nodes. Tall spike of pink tubular flowers with 4 purple tipped stamen.

***Phytolacca americana* (POKEWEED)**

Savanna, prairie, woodland. Leaves rather large, smooth margins, and pointed tip. Stems smooth and vary from green to red. Spike-like raceme of numerous white to pink flowers arranged around a flower stalk.

***Pilea pumila* (CLEARWEED)**

Woodland, wetland. Leaves thin with 3 prominent veins and sparse hairs. Margins toothed. Stems smooth and almost translucent. Green to pale yellow flowers packed horizontally along upper leaf axils.

***Plantago rugelii* (RED-STALKED PLANTAIN)**

Prairie, savanna, wetland, woodland, dune. Basal leaves with wavy edges and deep purple red bases. Pencil-thin green spike with inconspicuous flowers and extended stamen and filament-like style.

***Polemonium reptans* (JACOB'S LADDER)**

Woodland, savanna, wetland, prairie, dune. Compound basal leaves with odd-pinnate leaflets of 11-17. Stems green to reddish green. Racemes of blue, bell shaped flowers.

***Pontederia cordata* (PICKERLWEED)**

Wetland, wet prairie. Large basal leaves smooth, waxy, and arrowhead shaped with cordate bases. A dense hairy spike of purple flowers is produced per stalk.

***Populus deltoides* (COTTONWOOD)**

Wet prairie, wetland, savanna, woodland, dune. Leaves roundly-triangular on flattened petioles, teeth slightly hooked. Mature trees with deeply furrowed dark gray bark. Buds often sticky.

***Potentilla norvegica* (ROUGH CINQUEFOIL)**

Wet prairie, prairie, savanna, woodland. Basal and alternate leaves trifoliolate, coarsely serrated, and hairy. Reddish stems hairy and end in 1 to few yellow flowers. 5 sharply pointed sepals longer than petals.

***Potentilla simplex* (COMMON CINQUEFOIL)**

Prairie, dune. Palmate, compound leaves have 5 coarsely serrated leaflets (except at base) with prominent venation. Middle leaf largest with slight hair underside. Heart-shaped 5 petal yellow flowers.

***Prunus americana* (WILD PLUM)**

Prairie, savanna, woodland, shrubland. Leaves sharply toothed, sometimes doubly toothed. White flowers in groups of 2-5, with the fruit maturing from green to a purplish drupe. Bark peels as it matures.

***Prunus serotina* (BLACK CHERRY)**

Woodland, savanna, prairie, shrubland. Leaves finely serrated along inward curving margin. Leaf tip acute. Young bark has horizontal lenticels. Mature bark resembles potato chips with rough squared scales.

***Prunus virginiana* (CHOKECHERRY)**

Woodland, savanna, prairie, shrubland, dune. Leaves finely serrated ending with abrupt tapered point; widest in middle. Mature bark is brown and smooth with prominent lenticels. Young bark has diamond grooves. Smaller than *P. serotina*.

***Pycnanthemum tenuifolium* (SLENDER MOUNTAIN MINT)**

Prairie, wet prairie, wetland, dune. Leaves fragrant with prominent central vein in leaflets; no more than ¼" wide. Glabrous (no hair) stems terminate into flat heads of white flowers.

***Pycnanthemum virginianum* (MOUNTAIN MINT)**

Prairie, wet prairie. Leaves toothless while square stems hairy along the edges. Leaves up to ½" wide. White flowers in dense flat clusters. Whole plant is fragrant.

Q

***Quercus alba* (WHITE OAK)**

Savanna, woodland, wetland, prairie, wet prairie, dune. Leaves evenly and deeply lobed with dark green color above and light green below. Branches can become scaly. Nut 3 times larger than cap; no fringing.

***Quercus bicolor* (SWAMP WHITE OAK)**

Wet prairie, wetland, woodland, shrubland. Leaves widest above middle with shallow lobes; shiny dark-green above and white hairy, pale-green, gray below. Peeling gray to brown bark. Fringed nut cap.

***Quercus imbricaria* (SHINGLE OAK)**

Prairie, woodland, savanna, wet prairie. Leaves entire with a bristle at the tip, underside may be slightly pubescent. Leathery leaves clustered near the tips of twigs. Mature bark gray to brown with narrow scaly ridges.

***Quercus macrocarpa* (BUR OAK)**

Savanna, woodland, prairie, wet prairie, shrubland, dune. Deep lobe at mid-leaf. Branch structure distinctive, widely spreading and somewhat crooked. Branch bark is corky. Acorns largest of oaks with bristly, fringed cap.

***Quercus rubra* (RED OAK)**

Woodland, savanna, prairie, shrubland. Leaves have sharp bristle at point and lobe no more than ½ way to center. Gray bark rough, with red fissures between flat topped ridges. Scarlet oak/pin oak deeper lobes.

***Quercus velutina* (BLACK OAK)**

Prairie, woodland, dune. Leaves have sharp bristle at point with very deep sinuses. Leaves glossy dark green above and medium dull green below. Reddish-brown tan hairs at forks of veins, underside. Mature bark fissured, young bark smooth.

R

***Ranunculus abortivus* (SMALL-FLOWERED BUTTERCUP)**

Woodland, savanna, wetland, prairie. Basal leaves heart-shaped with scalloped edges. Lower leaves may be lobed. Upper leaves long, narrow with smooth edges. Flowers with 5 tiny yellow petals and green center. Spring blooming.

***Ratibida pinnata* (YELLOW CONEFLOWER)**

Wet prairie, prairie, savanna, wetland, dune. Leaves deeply divided into 3-7 narrow lobes, rough texture. Long stems ridged with rough hairs; terminate in drooping composite yellow flowers and gray-brown disk flowers.

***Rhus aromatica* (FRAGRANT SUMAC)**

Prairie, savanna, shrubland, wetland, woodland. Leaves fragrant, trifoliolate, and softly hairy underneath. Terminal leaflet larger than lateral leaflets. Typically low growing shrub.

***Rhus glabra* (SMOOTH SUMAC)**

Prairie, savanna, shrubland, dune, woodland. Odd-pinnate compound leaves with 9-23 sessile leaflets. Shallow toothed. Leaf stalks, reddish, waxy and glabrous. Pyramidal cluster of flowers, later berries hairy.

***Rhus typhina* (STAGHORN SUMAC)**

Savanna, prairie, woodland, shrubland, wetland, wet prairie, dune. Odd-pinnate, sharply toothed leaves, underside hairy. Hairy leaf stalks green to red. Pyramidal cluster of flowers, later berries hairy. Larger than *Rhus glabra*.

***Rosa carolina* (PASTURE ROSE)**

Wetland, prairie, savanna, dune. Odd-pinnate leaves with 5-7 strongly toothed leaflets. Opposite straight prickles. Stipules entire. *Rosa setigera* differs by having compound leaves with 3-5 leaflets and short curved prickles.

***Rosa setigera* sp. (DOWNY ILLINOIS ROSE)**

Prairie, savanna, woodland, wetland, dune, shrubland. Compound leaves of 3 (sometimes 5) leaflets with a pair of winged stipules at each leaf. Prickles sparse and slightly curved. Climbing behavior.

***Rubus occidentalis* (BLACK RASPBERRY)**

Woodland, wet prairie, savanna, prairie, dune. Leaves with 3 leaflets, double toothed, silver hairy underside. Stems are a waxy red or green with prickles. Flower stalk ending with white flowers and triangular sepals of 5.

***Rudbeckia hirta* (BLACK-EYED SUSAN)**

Prairie, savanna, wet prairie, woodland, dune. Leaves covered in short, dense hairs. Stems, stalks, and bracts covered in long, stiff hairs. Each stem produces a single yellow, cone-shaped, composite flower.

***Rudbeckia triloba* (BROWN-EYED SUSAN)**

Wet prairie, wetland, prairie, woodland, savanna. Basal leaves typically 3 lobed, upper leaves elliptic. Smooth or finely toothed edges. Bracts, leaves, and reddish stem hairy. *Rudbeckia subtomentosa* highly toothed lobes.

S

Sagittaria latifolia (COMMON ARROWHEAD)

Wetland, prairie, wet prairie, dune. Large basal leaves arrowhead shaped, glaucous, with palmate venation. Flowers whorled in groups of 3 up a raceme-like spike.

Salix humilis (PRAIRIE WILLOW)

Prairie, dune. Leaf medium gray green upper-side and silvery gray underside. Nearly smooth margins. New shoots and leaf undersides hairy. Occurs in drier areas.

Salix interior (SANDBAR WILLOW)

Wet prairie, wetland, savanna, prairie, dune. Slender leaves with widely spaced teeth, upper surface medium green and lower surface pale green. New stem growth reddish-brown. Most common in Illinois.

Salix myricoides (BLUE-LEAVED WILLOW)

Wet prairie, wetland, savanna, dune. Leaves thick, leathery, glaucous, and dark-green. Prominent oval shaped stipules. Stems densely hairy, especially when young.

Salix nigra (BLACK WILLOW)

Wetland. Leaves often hooked with fine serrations along the edges. Stipules ovate. Twigs orange-brown, bark gray-black with deep furrows. Largest native willow.

Sambucus canadensis (ELDERBERRY)

Prairie, savanna, woodland, wetland, wet prairie, dune. Compound leaves with 7 serrated leaflets, tapering to a point. Twigs with large, scattered lenticels. Dome-shaped cluster of white flowers turning to black-purple berries.

Sanguinaria canadensis (BLOODROOT)

Woodland, savanna. Rounded basal leaves with 3-9 lobes with scalloped edges. Leaf initially wraps around flower stalk. Single white flower with 8-10 petals. Spring blooming.

Schizachyrium scoparius (LITTLE BLUESTEM)

Prairie, savanna, wet prairie, dune. 2-3' tall and densely tufted at the base. Culms tan or reddish brown. Panicle of purplish flower heads 3-6" wide.

Silene antirrhina (SLEEPY CATCHFLY)

Prairie, savanna, dune. Leaves stalkless, possibly rough. Stems slender with sticky, red patches between leaf nodes to catch flies. Branching cluster of white to pink flowers, 5 petals each divided into 2 lobes. Bell-shaped fruit.

Silphium integrifolium (ROSINWEED)

Prairie, savanna, wet prairie, wetland, dune. Leaves toothless/few small teeth, with sand paper-textured surface. Stalkless leaves rotate 90° up the stem. Stems covered in stiff short hairs. 2-3" yellow composite flower.

Silphium laciniatum (COMPASS PLANT)

Prairie, wet prairie, savanna, dune. Basal leaves large (1-2 feet), erect, and lobed. Leaves, bracts, flower stalks, and stem covered in stiff hairs. Small cluster of yellow composite flowers up to 4" across on a 3-10' stem.

Silphium perfoliatum (CUP PLANT)

Prairie, savanna, wet prairie. Large leaves join together around the stem to form a cup. Leaves toothed, rough, and coarsely toothed. Stems have a square shape, often red, and terminate with yellow flowers.

Silphium terebinthinaceum (PRAIRIE DOCK)

Prairie, wetland, wet prairie, savanna, dune. Basal leaves large, coarsely toothed, and heart-shaped at base. Rough textured like sandpaper. Tall flowering stalks produce a panicle of yellow composite flowers.

***Smilacina racemosa* (FALSE SOLOMON'S SEAL)**

Woodland, prairie. Sessile leaves with impressed veins. Stem light green, slightly hairy, sometimes zigzag terminating in a panicle of white flowers. *Polygonatum spp.* have flowers that droop below each leaf. Spring blooming.

***Solanum ptycanthum* (BLACK NIGHTSHADE)**

Woodlands. Leaves wavy, toothless, or with blunt edges. Star-shaped flowers, white to violet, with curled back petals. Stems hairless to slightly hairy.

***Solidago altissima* (TALL GOLDENROD)**

Woodland, prairie, wetland, savanna. Leaves slightly toothed, sessile, and 3-veined. Stem is pubescent with stem leaves approximately the same size upward. Flower head pyramid-shape of yellow flowers. Weedy.

***Solidago caesia* (BLUE-STEMMED GOLDENROD)**

Woodland, savanna. Leaves sessile with prominent central vein and serrated edges. Stem covered with white waxy coating. Small clusters of yellow flowers develop in the axils of the middle to upper leaves.

***Solidago flexicaulis* (ZIG-ZAG GOLDENROD)**

Woodland, prairie, shrubland. Leaves broadly ovate, coarsely toothed on a winged leaf stalk. Stem zig-zag shape. Axillary flowers. Moderately hairy stem.

***Solidago gigantea* (LATE GOLDENROD)**

Savanna, prairie, woodland, wetland. Leaves sessile with 3 prominent parallel veins. Stem hairless with panicle of yellow flowers on one side. Similar to *S. altissima*, but the later species will have a pubescent stem.

***Solidago juncea* (EARLY GOLDENROD)**

Wet prairie, savanna, shrubland. Predominately basal leaves. Leaves reduced in size upward along smooth stem. Spreading panicles of yellow flower heads. Blooms earlier than other goldenrods.

***Solidago nemoralis* (OLD-FIELD GOLDENROD)**

Prairie, savanna, dune. Leaves stalkless with small leaflets at the axils; leaves gray-green rough textured. Stems reddish on lower stem covered in fine gray hairs.

***Solidago ulmifolia* (ELM-LEAVED GOLDENROD)**

Woodland, savanna, shrubland. Leaves sharply toothed, reducing in size upward along the stem. Lower leaves taper to short, winged petioles; upper leaves sessile. Panicle of yellow flowers arching.

***Sorghastrum nutans* (INDIAN GRASS)**

Prairie, savanna, wet prairie, dune. 2-3 Spikelets golden brown with yellow stamens and feathery styles. Blue-green leaves with rough textured surface and edges. Ligules white membranous and very stiff.

***Sporobolus heterolepis* (PRAIRIE DROPSEED)**

Prairie, savanna, dune. Spikelets loosely arranged giving an airy appearance. Forms dense tufts of sprawling, fine-textured leaves, 2-3' across. Very fragrant (similar to the smell of popcorn.)

***Staphylea trifolia* (BLADDERNUT)**

Woodland, wetland, prairie. Leaves trifoliolate, finely serrated, with abrupt taper to a point. Underside of leaf hairy. Flowers in drooping clusters later becoming an inflated pod. New twigs reddish green.

***Symphotrichum ericoides* (HEATH ASTER)**

Prairie, savanna. Stems hairy and often brown as plant matures. Leaves toothless with fine pubescence. Dense cluster of daisy-like flowers with white rays. Bracts white at base and peel back. Less petals than most native asters.

***Symplocarpus foetidus* (SKUNK CABBAGE)**

Wetland. Rosette of large basal leaves (2' long, 1' wide), toothless, smooth, and slightly heart-shaped. Spike of minute flowers enclosed in dark purplish, brown spathe. Spathe disappears as plant matures. Spring blooming.

***Symphyotrichum laeve* (SMOOTH BLUE ASTER)**

Prairie, savanna. Leaves smooth, waxy, and clasping. Stem green or reddish, hairless or sparse hairs on upper stem. Pale purple flowers occur in open branching clusters from upper leaf axils.

***Symphyotrichum shortii* (SHORT'S ASTER)**

Woodland, savanna, prairie. Leaves narrowly heart-shaped extending from hairy petiole; smooth margins and underside hairy. Upper stem hairy with branching cluster of purple flowers. Flower base surrounded by layers of sharp hairy bracts.

T

***Tephrosia virginiana* (GOAT'S RUE)**

Savanna, woodland. Compound leaves with 15-31 elliptic leaflets that are pubescent to hairless adaxially (upperside) and with silky hairs abaxially (underside). Stems densely hairy with bi-colored flowers at end of stems.

***Teucrium canadense* (CANADIAN GERMANDER)**

Savanna, prairie, woodland, dune. Leaf pairs alternating by 90 degrees up the stem. Square stem covered in short appressed hairs. Light pink flowers in spike-like raceme with spotted elongated lip and hairy calyx.

***Thalictrum dioicum* (EARLY MEADOW RUE)**

Woodland, savanna, prairie. Leaves double or triple odd-pinnate. Each kidney-shaped leaflet lobed in 3-12 rounded parts. Flowers petal-less. Males droop with long yellow anthers, females have thick white to greenish pistils. Spring blooming.

***Tilia americana* (AMERICAN BASSWOOD)**

Prairie, savanna, woodland, dune. Leaves heart-shaped with asymmetrical bases, edges with sharp teeth. Mature bark dark and furrowed with flat-topped ridges.

***Toxicodendron radicans* (POISON IVY)**

Woodland. Trifoliate leaves are variable in shape (smooth, large teeth, shallow lobes). Growing as a shrub or woody vine. Round, green berry fruits appear in fall

***Tradescantia ohiensis* (SPIDERWORT)**

Wetland, savanna, prairie, woodland, dune. Leaves long grass-like, waxy, with prominent mid-vein; wraps around stem. Racemes of blue-purple flowers, each with 3 egg-shaped petals.

U

***Ulmus americana* (AMERICAN ELM)**

Woodland, savanna, prairie, wetland. Leaves coarsely double toothed, abruptly tapered to a point, base asymmetrical. Unforked veins. Mature bark furrowed. *Ulmus rubra* has forked veins near tips.

***Uvularia grandiflora* (BELLWORT)**

Woodland. Leaf bases perfoliate (completely surround stem) with several prominent veins. Hanging yellow flower composed of 6 narrow tepals that later develop into 3 sectioned triangular capsules. Spring blooming.

V

***Verbena stricta* (HOARY VERVAIN)**

Prairie, savanna, wet prairie, wetland, woodland. Leaves sessile, egg-shaped, coarsely toothed, and covered in downy-pubescence. Square hairy stems (possibly red) terminate in 1-3 dense spikes of purple flowers. *V. hastata* narrow leaves.

***Verbena urticifolia* (WHITE VERVAIN)**

Prairie, woodland, savanna, wetland. Leaves ovate, coarsely toothed, softly hairy, and tapered point. Square, hairy stems terminate in numerous slender white flowering spikes.

***Verbesina alternifolia* (WINGSTEM)**

Savanna. Leaves slightly serrated, upper-side rough. Stems are winged with long white hairs in-between the ridges. Yellow flowers terminate with drooping rays.

***Vernonia fasciculata* (SMOOTH IRONWEED)**

Prairie, wetland, savanna. Stalkless leaves with small sharply pointed teeth, hairless. Stems green reddish purple. Flat-topped clusters of 10-30 tubular purple/magenta flowers. *V. gigantea* is pubescent and has larger leaves.

***Veronicastrum virginicum* (CULVER'S ROOT)**

Wet prairie, prairie, savanna, woodland, wetland. Leaves sharply serrated in whorls of 3-7 (4 or 5 most common). Smooth stems terminate in dense spiked clusters of white flowers, resembling a candelabra.

***Viburnum lentago* (NANNYBERRY)**

Savanna, woodland, prairie. Simple leaves have sharp teeth (resembling a saw), wavy winged margins, and abrupt taper to sharp point. Rounded clusters of creamy white flowers. Twigs gray-brown, slender.

***Viola pedata var lineariloba* (BIRDS' FOOT VIOLET)**

Prairies, savanna, woodland. Leaves deeply divided into 3-5 palmate lobes, which can be further subdivided. Lavender 5-petaled flowers arise from green or purple stems with orange tipped stamens. Spring blooming.

***Vitis riparia* (RIVERBANK GRAPE)**

Woodland, prairie, savanna, wetland, wet prairie, dune. Leaves sharply toothed, hairy edges. Lower leaf surface paler and hairy along major veins. Leaf stalks often reddish. Fruit clusters ripen from green to blue-black. Weedy behavior.

Z

***Zanthoxylum americanum* (PRICKLY ASH)**

Woodland, savanna. Odd-pinnate leaves with stipular prickles. Underside leaf is light green and hairy. Flowers greenish yellow which develop into a red berry-like capsule. Leaves give off lemon scent when crushed. Spring blooming.

***Zizia aurea* (GOLDEN ALEXANDER)**

Prairie, wetland, woodland, savanna. Leaves shiny, odd-pinnate; 3 or 5 serrated leaflets. 2-3 times compound. Terminal leaflet largest with variable shape. Flat, stalkless, umbels of yellow flowers. Wild Parsnip larger, 1 compound.

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