



**Recommended Species  
for the  
Eastern Great Plains**

## Perennials for Sun

**Agastache** – *Agastache rupestris* – rose/orange/purple tubular blooms create a lovely sunset effect above silvery hyssop-scented foliage from summer-fall; best in hot, sunny areas in poor soil; desert-type needing low humidity and open exposure; 18-24” h.

**Alyssum**, hardy – *Alyssum* spp. – small silvery leaves on 8” mounds; bright yellow flowers cover plants in May; plant in full sun with a well-drained soil; excellent for the rock garden and cascading over stone walls.



**Amsonia** or bluestar – *Amsonia* spp. – easy to grow with light blue star-like flowers atop thin stems growing to 3' h. in spring; bluestar (*A. tabernaemontana*) tolerates wet sites, has willow-like leaf; shining bluestar (*A. illustris*) tolerates drought, has glossy leaf; threadleaf bluestar (*A. ciliata*) has narrow leaf turns yellow in fall.

**Artemisia** – *Artemisia* spp. – soft, gray foliage a must for the hot, sunny border; must have a well-drained site to perform best; fringed sage (*A. frigida*) is an 18” native similar to ‘Silver Mound’ (*A. schmidtiana*); ‘Sea Foam’ (*A. versicolor*) gives a frothy appearance; ‘Silver Brocade’ (*A. stelleriana*) forms a dense

ground hugging mat; all benefit from a summer or late winter pruning.



**Aster** – *Aster* spp. – easy to grow for the fall garden; combine well with grasses; pinch stems in early summer for compact habit; ‘Bluebird’ (*A. laevis*) and prairie asters prefer drier soils; ‘Woods’ (*A. x dumosus*) is clean, compact, mildew and rust resistant.

**Aster, aromatic** – *Aster oblongifolius* – mounded form with narrow leaves covered with sky blue flowers in fall; native to dry, upland prairies; looks great with little bluestem and goldenrods; spreads by rhizomes; 2' high; pinch in early summer to prevent flopping; ‘October Skies’ is nice.

**Aster, ‘My Antonia’** – *Aster fendleri* – pure white flowers with yellow centers in fall on 12” plants with glossy dark green leaves; pinch in late spring to encourage compact habit and more flowers; tough as nails.

**Bachelor Button**, perennial – *Centaurea* spp. – prefers full sun and good drainage; 18-24” tall; knapweed (*C. dealbata*) has deeply fringed lavender to pink flowers and mountain bluet (*C. montana*) has deep blue flowers with a reddish-tinged

center; blooms in late spring to early summer; shear after blooming to remove seed for new flush of growth.

**Basket-of-Gold** – *Aurinia saxatilis* – nice gray-green mounds of foliage to 15”; clusters of bright yellow flowers in early spring; requires full sun and good drainage; shear back half after flowering.



**Blanket Flower** – *Gaillardia x grandiflora* – coarsely toothed, gray-green leaves; 3-4” solitary flowers of yellow and maroon; seedheads form lovely red spheres; nice dwarf selections; prefers well-drained soil; can be short lived, allow to reseed.

**Boltonia** – *Boltonia asteroides* – blue-green bushy plants with topped with white daisy-like flowers in early fall; ‘Snowbank’ is an excellent 4’ selection; ‘Pink Beauty’ has soft pink flowers; full sun and deep, organic soils are best; easy to grow and combines well with Russian sage and Autumn Joy sedum.

**Broomflower**, winged – *Genista sagittalis* – mat forming plant with dark evergreen, winged stems to 8” tall and 2’ wide; golden-yellow flowers in tips of stems in summer; grows well in poor dry or well-drained soils; slow growing but worth the wait.

**Butterfly Plant** – *Buddleja davidii* – shrubby plants with long panicles of fragrant lavender-blue, white, pink, or purple flowers in summer; cut woody stems to the ground in spring; late to break dormancy in spring.

**Candytuft** – *Iberis sempervirens* – attractive dark evergreen, needle-like leaves; nice ground cover to 15”; a profusion of cute 4-petaled white flowerheads in spring; prune in spring and after flowering for new growth; ‘Autumn Snow’ blooms on a 12” plant in spring and fall; ‘Compacta’ is a 4-6” dwarf.



**Caryopteris** – *Caryopteris x clandonensis* – attractive narrow gray-green foliage on woody, shrub-like plants; may die back to the ground in winter; cut back hard in spring to new growth; 1-2” blue flower clusters with long showy stamens along upper stems in late summer to fall; easy to grow; often referred to as blue-mist spirea, although it is not a true spirea.

**Catmint** – *Nepeta* spp. – spreading mass of dark green to grayish green foliage, spiked blue flowers bloom mid to late summer; leaves are aromatic when crushed; cut back when flowers fade to encourage another flush; ‘Walker's Low’ (*N. x faassenii*) is a compact mound 10-12” with long flowering stems; ‘Sweet

Dream' (*N. subsessilis*) has large, two-tone soft pink flowers on 18" stems.

**Daisy, shasta** – *Leucanthemum* spp. – hardy perennial forming dense colonies once established; white flowers with yellow centers borne on individual 1-3' stems from June-July; leaves are evergreen; 'Snow Lady' is a 10" dwarf; 'Crazy Daisy' has fully double creamy white flowers.



**Dianthus** hybrids – *Dianthus* spp. – compact, sun-loving plants; blooming late spring to early summer usually in shades of white to red with a spicy fragrance; easy to grow when provided great drainage; 'Prairie Pink' has large double bright pink flowers on 18" stems, blooms all season; 'First Love' has flowers changing from pure white to deep rose from April-frost.

**Flax, blue** – *Linum perenne* – azure blue flowers emerge in spring on 18" wiry stems and needle-like leaves, making the blooms appear to be floating from a distance; prune back after flowering; will not return if winter drainage is poor; 'Lewisii' is a light blue native flax; 'Album' is white flowered.

**Fleabane** – *Erigeron* spp. – daisy-like flowers with many, slender petals of white, blue or pink; many excellent

ground covers with finely hairy, silvery leaves; 'Alpine Snow' (*E. compositus*) has sparkling white blooms on 6" stems, needs sharp drainage; *E. aurantiacus* has large copper-orange blooms on 15" stems.

**Gaura** or apple blossom grass – *Gaura lindheimeri* – loose sprays of airy white or pink flowers held above 2-4' stems, said to represent butterflies; blooms in late summer, profusely in cool nights of autumn; prefers rich, well-drained soils.



**Geranium**, hardy – *Geranium* spp. – dependable workhorse; use massed as a groundcover or accent; prefers wet or dry soils in full sun to part shade; shear back by half after flowering to promote a new flush of growth; foliage often has excellent fall color remaining semi-evergreen in winter; 'Biokovo' has delicate pink flowers; 'Bevan's Variety' has deep magenta flowers; 'Johnson's Blue' is long blooming with bright blue flowers; 'Album' has snow white flowers.

**Jupiter's Beard** – *Centranthus ruber* – small, coral red flowers are domed above upright stems growing 1-3' h.; grows well in a wide soil range, especially useful in rocky crevices where soil is limited; shear back by half after flowering to promote a new flush of growth; 'Albus' has white flowers.

**Knautia** – *Knautia macedonica* – dark purple to dark red scabiosa-like flowers from July to frost attracts butterflies and is wonderful for cutting; short lived in heavy, wet soils; pinch in spring to promote compact growth; 2-3' h.; 'Mars Midget' is a 16" dwarf with ruby-red flowers; 'Melton Pastels' blooms a variety of pink, red, salmon, and light blues on 4' tall plants.

**Lamb's Ear** – *Stachys byzantina* – 6" h. mats of velvety white, woolly leaves; can spread aggressively, but can be controlled by dividing; fuzzy flower spikes with small pink flowers arrive in late spring, can be removed as they develop; 'Silver Carpet' is a non-flowering variety.

**Mullein** – *Verbascum* spp. – large leaves form basal rosettes of dark green or silvery, woolly leaves; grows upright 2-6' h.; dense clusters of 1" yellow flowers with dark reddish-purple eyes; blooms second year then dies, allow to reseed; 'Jackie' is a 16-18" dwarf with pale peachy-pink flowers; 'Violetta' has dark purple flowers on a 3' plant; 'White Bride' has snow white flowers on a 2' plant.

**Onion**, ornamental – *Allium* spp. – clumps of grasslike leaves topped by rounded or nodding flower heads; blooms spring-fall; grows best in full sun with any well-drained garden soil; especially nice in rock gardens; 'Forescate' (*A.*

*schoenoprasum*) has attractive deep pink ball-like flowers in spring, growing 12-18" h.; 'Cowlick' (*A. senescens* ssp. *glaucum*) has mauve flowers in fall, growing 6-12" h.



**Penstemon** hybrids – Penstemon spp. – beautiful summer blooming perennials with erect flower spikes; tubular flowers and showy seed heads; allow to reseed to perpetuate in the garden; needs well-drained, dry soils; shell-leaf penstemon (*P. grandiflorus*) is a 2-4' native with light pink, purple or white flowers; hairy penstemon (*P. hirsutus*) is a 8" dwarf covered with long-lasting violet flowers, fuzzy all over!

**Peony** – *Paeonia* spp. – 2-3'h. herbaceous shrub; large single or double flowers bloom purple, red, pink, white, or yellow in late spring; thrives in a wide soil

range; top dress in late fall; 'Sarah Bernhardt' (*P. lactiflora*) has late blooming, fragrant, deep pink double flowers on 35" stems; 'Anemoniflora' (*P. officinalis*) has single red flowers with large centers filled with orange-yellow stamens on 14" stems.

**Phlox**, garden – *Phlox* spp. – panicles of flowers in various colors top this plant mid-late summer; upright plant growing up to 3-4' h.; requires well-drained, fertile soil; avoid top watering plants during hot, humid months; deadhead after flowering for repeat blooming; 'Alpha' (*P. maculata*) is a mildew-resistant variety with bright rose flowers, 'David' (*P. paniculata*) has fragrant snow white flower heads, also highly mildew-resistant.



**Pincushion Flower** – *Scabiosa* spp. – ruffly petals in shades of blue, pink, white, and yellow edge the mounded heads of this 2-3" flower; 1-2' stems are loosely clothed in lance-shaped to three-lobed leaves; grows best in average, well-drained soil; deadheading promotes new blooms; *S. lucida* has reddish-lilac flowers on 10" plants with glossy leaves, excellent for rock gardens; 'Mongolian Mist' (*S. superba*) has dark purple-blue flowers above deep green textured mounds.



**Plumbago** or leadwort – *Ceratostigma plumbaginoides* – deep blue flowers cluster at the tip of 12" stems that creep through the garden; foliage turns orange in fall and dies back to the ground each winter; new growth emerges in late spring; prefers sunny, well-drained areas, will tolerate dry areas, won't tolerate dry shade.

**Rock Cress** – *Arabis caucasia* – compact 6" plants with dense masses of snow white flowers in early spring; 1" leaves have soft hairs and are evergreen; excellent when combined with spring bulbs; best in full sun and well-drained soil; 'Variegata' has striking cream-edged leaves with white flowers.

**Rock Rose** – *Talinum calycinum* – succulent thin leaves resemble moss rose; purplish-pink flowers on 1" stems open in the afternoon; reseeds to form colony of plants; native to the Nebraska Sandhills.

**Russian Sage** – *Perovskia atriplicifolia* – 4' spikes of lavender-blue flowers arise from silver foliage from mid-late summer; prefers average to rich well-drained soil, drought tolerant; tough and dependable; pinch back in spring for more compact blooming habit.

**Salvia** – *Salvia azurea* – slender stalks reach 4' in late summer; topped with clusters of

bright, clear blue flowers; can get lanky, pinch by early summer for compact habit; very drought tolerant; a rare white flowered strain exists and is available through the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum from a native seed source.

**Sea Lavender** – *Limonium latifolium* – leathery, shiny green leaves form 18” mounds; slender 3' branches give rise to airy clusters of tiny lavender flowers in late summer; grows best in average, well-drained soil, drought tolerant; easy to grow; 'Violetta' has dark purple-blue flowers.

**Sea Thrift** – *Armeria maritima* – dense tufts of grass-like, gray-green evergreen leaves; 8” stems are topped with 1” rounded, rosy-pink flower heads; prefers well-drained moist soil, drought tolerant once established, perfect for rock gardens; 'Alba' has pure white flowers; 'Rubrifolia' has fine, shiny reddish-purple foliage.

**Sedum, stonecrop** – *Sedum* spp. – fleshy dark green to blue-gray leaves, often turning red in the fall and evergreen; starry flower clusters of red, pink, or yellow top the plants; prefers average, well-drained soils; durable groundcover or rock garden plant. 'Himalayan Skies' (*S. dasyphyllum*) is a more robust and showy sedum growing to 2” with blue-gray foliage and pink flowers; 'Angelina' (*S. rupestre*) has golden conifer shaped leaves on 6-8” trailing stems, orange fall color.

**Sedum, tall** – *Sedum* spp. – succulent, fleshy leaves; 2' stems topped with large flower heads in fall; extremely drought and heat tolerant; clumps can get full with age and flower load, pinch by early summer for compact form; 'Autumn Joy'

has rosy-salmon flowers; 'Neon' (*S. sieboldii*) has deep purplish-pink flowers on 15” stems; 'Indian Chief' (*S. telephium*) has coppery red flowers on 15” stems.



**Skullcap** – *Scutellaria* spp. – 'Smoky Hills' (*S. resinosa*), the native prairie skullcap, has mouse-eared leaves and deep purple flowers on 10” plants; 'Mongolian Skies' (*S. scoridifolia*) has shiny leaves and bluish-purple flower spikes in early summer; shear back by ½ after flowering for new flush; very drought tolerant.

**Snow-in-Summer** – *Cerastium tomentosum* – small, silvery, woolly leaves form a dense 8” h. carpet; plant is covered in late spring by 1” white flowers; the five petals are deeply notched, giving the appearance of a 10-petaled flower; shear after flowering to promote new compact growth; needs full sun and excellent drainage.

**Soapwort** – *Saponaria ocymoides* – 10” tall ground cover with dark green leaves; masses of small bright pink flowers cover the plant for a full month in late spring; shear back by half after flowering for new compact growth; works well as an edger and in rock or wall gardens; 'Rubra Compacta' has brilliant red flowers over 2” clumps of foliage; 'Snow Tips' is a nice white selection.

**Spiderwort** – *Tradescantia* species – clumps of green grass-like foliage topped with three-petaled flowers; plant in full sun with well-drained soils; many colorful hybrids are available that perform best in moist soils; cut back hard after flowering for a new flush; Ohio spiderwort (*T. ohioensis*) and Western spiderwort (*T. occidentalis*) are more drought tolerant and have lavender-blue flowers.



**Spiderwort, dwarf** – *Tradescantia tharpia* – narrow, hairy, 12” leaves emerge early spring; flowers, hued from blue to purple to rose to pink, cover plants in May; semi-dormant in the heat of summer, reappearing in fall for another flush.

**Spurge, cushion** – *Euphorbia polychroma* – dark green leaves form a 1' mound; bracts turn bright yellow in early spring which make them a good companion with bulbs; performs best in well-drained soil in full sun; also grows well in poor, gravelly soil.

**Sulphur Flower** – *Eriogonum umbellatum* – long flowering 10” alpine plant with gray-green foliage, rounded yellow flowers appear in early summer; grows best in full sun with well-drained soil, and will also tolerate drought; long lived plant; combines well with snow-in-

summer and dianthus; also called buckwheat.

**Sundrops** – *Calylophus serrulatus* – ‘Prairie Lode’ is an outstanding native plant that blooms butter yellow flowers all summer long; flowers are borne on a 6” subshrub ground cover.

**Sunray Flower** – *Inula ensifolia* – compact, 16” plant with sword-like leaves; a profusion of small, golden, daisy-like flowers last for over one month in the summer; grows best with full sun in average soil.

**Tansy, snowy** – *Tanacetum niveum* – fragrant, lacy, silvery leaves grow to 18” h.; covered with ½” white daisies in late spring; grows well in a wide range of soil types and is very drought tolerant; short lived, allow reseeding.

**Thyme** – *Thymus* spp. – attractive ground covers or cushion plants with purple to pink flowers for the rock or herb garden; woolly thyme (*T. praecox* ‘Pseudolanuginosus’) and mother of thyme (*T. serpyllum*) are best suited as ground cover; English and French thyme are the hardiest for the Midwest; excellent drainage or raised beds are essential for survival.

**Veronica** – *Veronica* spp. – excellent perennial selections available as mat-forming ground covers or sturdy plants to 2' tall; flowers in spike form; all need well-drained, sunny sites for best growth; moderately drought tolerant; Woolly veronica (*V. pectinata*) is a 2-3” h. rock garden plant with white fuzzy serrated leaves; Turkish veronica (*V. liwanensis*) is a 1-2” h. mat-forming plant covered with dark blue flowers April-June.

**Woodwaxen** – *Genista multibracteata* – 2-3' subshrub with dark green foliage appearing narrow and winged; showy yellow flowers cover the plant in summer; prefers sunny areas in dry soil.



**Yarrow, fernleaf** – *Achillea millefolium* – feathery leaves grow on stems 1-2' tall; flowers rise above in flat-topped clusters; easily cultivated in any garden soil; drought tolerant, 'Appleblossom' has soft pink flowers on compact plants; 'Debutante' has a wide variety of colors in dense, 6" flower heads; 'Hoffnung' has antique yellow flowers on 18" stems.

**Yarrow, woolly** – *Achillea tomentosa* – lacy, silvery-gray carpet of foliage; golden-yellow flat-topped flowers on 12" stems rise above the leaves in spring; needs excellent drainage, great in rock gardens; 'Aurea' has bright yellow flowers in early spring; 'Maynard's Gold' has golden flowers over 6" h. foliage.

**Yucca** – *Yucca* spp. – erect, sword-like, bluish-green leaves form handsome clumps to 30" wide; leafless flower stalks rise to 5' in late spring with many creamy-white nodding flowers; drought tolerant plants thrive for many years with little care; 'Bright Edge' and 'Variegata' are beautiful yellow and white variegated leaf forms; soap tree (*Y. elata*) is a 7-8'

plant with creamy-white flowers tinged green to rose.

## Native Wildflowers



**Artemisia, fringed** – *Artemisia frigida* – soft, silver-gray foliage with arching stems growing to 30" h.; a must for the hot, sunny border; needs a well-drained site for best performance; cut back after flowering for a new flush; a native similar to 'Silver Mound'.

**Artemisia, Silver King** – *Artemisia ludoviciana* – bright white leaved plant growing to 3' tall; prefers a sunny, well-drained site; 'Valerie Finnis' is a more compact form with wide, white, jagged leaves.

**Aster, aromatic** – *Aster oblongifolius* – mounded form with narrow leaves

covered with sky blue flowers in fall; native to dry, upland prairies; looks great with little bluestem and goldenrods; spreads by rhizomes; 2' high; pinch in early summer to prevent flopping; 'October Skies' is nice.



**Aster, 'My Antonia'** – *Aster fendleri* – pure white flowers with yellow centers in fall on 12” plants with glossy dark green leaves; pinch in late spring to encourage compact habit and more flowers; tough as nails.

**Aster, smooth** – *Aster laevis* – 3½' h. native with narrow leaves; covered with masses of sky blue flowers in fall; 'Bluebird' has large, cone-shaped clusters of violet-blue flowers with golden centers; tolerates a wide range of moisture levels and soil types; does not require staking.

**Baptisia, dwarf blue** – *Baptisia minor* – gray-green, usually 3-parted leaves; spikes of indigo-blue, pea-like flowers in spring; followed by 2-3”, showy, black seed pods; 1-2' h.; full sun, deep soils; slow to establish.

**Baptisia, white wild** – *Baptisia lactea* – gray-green, usually 3-parted leaves; spikes of white, pea-like flowers in June; followed by 2-3”, showy, black seed pods; 3-4' h.; full sun, deep soils; slow to establish.

**Black-eyed Susan, Missouri** – *Rudbeckia missouriensis* – large, showy, yellow, daisy-like flowers with black center cones in summer; 18” h. stems over a 12” mound of fuzzy leaves, prefers almost any well-drained, dry soil.



**Catchfly, royal** – *Silene regia* – upright stems to 3' h.; brilliant crimson flowers in summer; flowers have fringed tips; needs well-drained, sunny location for best growth; allow plant to reseed to perpetuate; great for rock gardens.

**Clematis, Fremont's** – *Clematis fremontii* – bush type (non-vining) clematis quickly emerging to 15” in early spring; purple, urn-shaped, nodding flowers appear in late April followed by silky seedheads; needs dry, well-drained site and several

years to reach maturity; long lived if planted in the proper location.

**Compass Plant** – *Silphium laciniatum* – large, deeply cut leaves to 15” long, resembles an oak leaf; upright stalks to 6' with many yellow sunflower-like flowers in late summer; bold, long lived prairie native.



**Coneflower, narrowleaf** – *Echinacea angustifolia* – 2' plant covered from July-August with long, narrow, drooping petals in shades from pink to white; prefers sunny areas with well-drained soils native to Nebraska.

**Coneflower, pale purple** – *Echinacea pallida* – similar to *E. angustifolia*, except larger overall; growing to at least 4' h.

**Coneflower, prairie** – *Ratibida pinnata* – bright yellow petals droop down from a 4-5' h. stalk, long, summer-bloomer; prefers sunny areas with well-drained soils.

**Coreopsis, lanceleaf** – *Coreopsis lanceolata* – bright yellow flowers float above 2-3' native plants from June-frost; easy to grow; prefers sunny areas with well-drained soil; 'Sterntaler' is a 16” plant with a brown ring around yellow petals.

**Coreopsis, threadleaf** – *Coreopsis verticillata* – fine, thread-like leaves create an airy quality for this 1-3' h. plant; starry, butter-yellow flowers bloom in masses throughout the summer; grows best in rich, well-drained soil, drought tolerant once established; 'Moonbeam' has pale yellow flowers; 'Zagreb' is a compact 15” plant.

**False Indigo, fragrant** – *Amorpha nana* – tiny, grayish leaves form a bushy 2' plant; attractive pink flower spikes with a honey fragrance; tough and drought tolerant native; a gem for the rockery.

**Fameflower** – *Talinum* spp. – thin, succulent-leaves resemble moss rose; grows best in dry conditions, drought tolerant, perfect for rock gardens ; reseeds to form colony of plants; Rock Rose (*T. calycinum*) has 1” purplish-pink flowers on a 4” plant, native to the Nebraska Sandhills; *T. okanoganense* has white flowers on a gray-green, cushion-forming, 2-3” plant.



**Gayfeather, dotted** – *Liatris punctata* – lavender flower heads appear in 1-3” spikes on a 1' h. plant; blooms in September; prefers well-drained soils, drought tolerant.

**Gayfeather, rough** – *Liatris aspera* – lavender buttons bloom along stems

growing up to 2½' h.; prefers well-drained sandy soils in open areas, drought tolerant.

**Golden Alexander** – *Zizia aurea* – yellow flowers arranged like umbrellas rise above dark green foliage from spring-early summer; 30” tall prairie native.



**Goldenrod** – *Solidago* spp. – showy golden-yellow plumes from late summer-fall; combines well with grasses; easy-to-grow perennials botanically cannot cause hay fever; 'Fireworks' (*Solidago rugosa*) has lacy, golden blooms from mid September-October; grows up to 4' h.; 'Golden Fleece' (*S. sphacelata*) grows 15-18” h.; rich textured with heavy flowers.

**Leadplant** – *Amorpha canescens* – native shrubby plant with small gray-white leaves forming 4' h. bushy plants; topped with rich, blue-purple flower spikes in early summer; very drought tolerant; prune hard in early spring for compact growth.

**Milkweed, butterfly** – *Asclepias tuberosa* – vibrant orange flowers top 2' tall plants in late spring; ornamental seed pods follow; plant in late spring and water sparingly to establish; grows well poor to average, sandy soil; once established, plants are extremely drought tolerant and thrive

with little care; 'Hello Yellow' has showy yellow flowers from June-August.

**Milkweed, swamp** – *Asclepias incarnata* – 2-4' native plant is covered with dusty pink flower heads in summer; followed by interesting seed heads; extremely drought tolerant; 'Ice Ballet' has long-lasting white flowers on 40” plants

**Mountain Mint** – *Pycnanthemum virginianum* – fragrant minty foliage forms bushy 2' h. plants; white or lavender flowers spotted with purple top the plants in summer; easy to grow, does not spread by runners; pinch for compact habit.

**New Jersey Tea** – *Ceanothus americanus* – Handsome, durable, 18-36” shrub with clean foliage; abundant clusters of white flowers in late spring; slow to establish but worth the wait; limit competition from aggressive plants; grows best in well-drained soil; dried leaves make an excellent prairie tea.



**Obedience Plant** – *Physostegia virginiana* – clusters of tubular pink flowers top 3-4' stems; grows best in sunny areas with moist to wet soil; control the spreading habit of this plant by dividing it every couple of years; 'Alba' has white flower on a 2' h. plant.

**Onion, nodding pink** – *Allium cernuum* – 1-2' h. clumps of whitish, grasslike leaves; topped by nodding flowers in shades from pink to white; blooms in mid-late summer; prefers full sun and well-drained soil.

**Onion, prairie** – *Allium stellatum* – 8-15" clumps of grasslike leaves; topped by rounded lavender-pink flower heads; blooms in mid-late summer; best in full sun in any well-drained garden soil.



**Pasque Flower** – *Pulsatilla* spp. – western native with silky, hairy leaves; delicate cup-shaped flowers in early spring followed by feathery seed heads; *P. patens* is native pasque flower with lavender flowers; *P. vulgaris* is a European species including 'Alba' with white flowers, 'Heiler Hybrids' with a wide variety of floral hues on 12" stems, 'Papageno' with fringed, semi-double flowers, and 'Rubra' with crimson-violet flowers; all need well-drained, dry soils.

**Penstemon cobaea** – beautiful 1-2' perennial with erect flower spikes; large tubular flowers bloom in May in shades of purple, pink, and white; followed by showy seed heads; allow to reseed to perpetuate in the garden; needs sunny, well-drained to dry soils.

**Penstemon, shell-leaf** – *Penstemon grandiflorus* – tubular spike flowers bloom in early summer on a 2-4' plant; showy seed heads help penstemon perpetuate in the garden; needs sunny, well-drained, dry soils; 'Prairie Snow' has large white flowers; 'War Axe' has a wide color range, including pinks, reds, and purples.

**Phlox, prairie** – *Phlox pilosa* – 1-2' h. plant with soft, hairy stems; fragrant, pink, star-like flowers bloom from May-July; grows best full sun with dry to moist soils; 'Eco Happy Traveler' has an abundance of flowers on 12" stems.



**Primrose, Missouri** – *Oenothera macrocarpa* – 6" creeping plant with glossy, dark green leaves; bright yellow, saucer-shaped flowers bloom late spring-early summer; prefers average, well-drained soil; extremely heat- and drought-tolerant once established.

**Poppy Mallow, purple** – *Callirhoe involucrata* – low growing, cut-leaf native to 12" tall and 4' wide; dies back to crown each year; bright purple, cup-shaped flowers all summer; easy to grow, drought tolerant.

**Prairie Clover, purple** – *Dalea purpureum* – erect prairie plant with tiny, bright purple, cylindrical heads blooming in

summer; thin, stiff stems grow 2-3' h.; fernlike foliage; 'Stephanie' is a compact plant growing 15-18" h.; foliage is darker green; same flower heads are more abundant.

**Pussytoes** – *Antennaria dioica* – tiny, silver-green leaves in low-growing rosettes are covered with pink-tipped, off-white flowers in early spring; grows well in rock gardens, as it prefers poor soil areas that are dry and sandy; 'Rubra' has silver-white foliage with wine-red flowers.



**Rattlesnake Master** – *Eryngium yuccifolium* – 4' blue-gray, sword-like foliage is very similar to that of yucca; bristly, greenish-white flower heads appear from mid- to late-summer

**Sage, pitcher** – *Salvia azurea pitcherii* – slender stalks reach 4' in late summer;

topped with clusters of bright, clear blue flowers; can get lanky, pinch by early summer for compact habit; very drought tolerant; 'Nekan' is a native with sky blue flowers.

**Skullcap, prairie** – *Scutellaria resinosa* – 'Smoky Hills' is a native with 4-12" square stems and mouse-eared leaves; deep purple flowers with two white patches are somewhat similar to snapdragon flowers; slightly hairy all over; shear back by ½ after flowering for new flush; very drought tolerant.

**Spiderwort, prairie** – *Tradescantia bracteata* – native plant growing 1' tall with green, grass-like foliage; multi-colored, three-petaled flowers are long-blooming; plant in full sun with well-drained soils; cut back hard after flowering for a new flush.

**Spiderwort, Western** – *Tradescantia occidentalis* – clumps of green grass-like foliage topped with lavender-blue, three-petaled flowers; plant in full sun with well-drained soils; cut back hard after flowering for a new flush.



**Wild Petunia** – *Ruellia humilis* – 1-2' h. native plant; small, petunia-like, lavender flowers are long-blooming; slightly hairy all over; prefers sunny areas in dry to slightly moist soils.

**Wild Quinine** – *Parthenium integrifolium* – wide, green leaves are grown on 2-4' stems topped by huge, flat-topped clusters of flowers; rounded, star-like flowers bloom white in mid-summer; this native prefers dry, sunny areas.

**Yucca** – *Yucca* spp. – erect, sword-like, bluish-green leaves form handsome clumps to 30" wide; leafless flower stalks rise to 5' in late spring with many creamy-white nodding flowers; drought tolerant plants thrive for many years with little care; 'Bright Edge' and 'Variegata' are beautiful yellow and white variegated leaf forms.

### Perennials for Part Shade

**Anemone, Japanese** – Anemone hybrids – a diverse group of plants; Japanese anemone bloom in fall with pink flowers; snowdrop (*A. sylvestris*) has pure white nodding flowers in spring; best in rich, evenly moist soils.

**Astilbe** – *Astilbe* spp. – excellent for shady, moist locations; plume-like flowers in spring to midsummer, complimented by fernlike foliage; wide range of plant habit and flower colors (white to purple).

**Blackberry Lily** – *Belamcanda chinensis* – narrow iris-like foliage; 2" orange flowers in summer followed by seed heads that resemble blackberries; well-drained, organic soils; 'Hello Yellow' is a dwarf with abundant clear yellow flowers.

**Bleeding Heart** – *Dicentra* species – old fashioned bleeding heart as lovely dissected leaves and heart-shaped flowers in rosy red or white in spring; goes dormant in heat of summer; fern-leaf bleeding heart only 12" high with rosy pink blooms and persistent foliage.

**Campanula** – *Campanula* spp. – bell-shaped flowers in various shades of blue, plus white and pink; with a wide variety of species, there's a campanula for almost any garden situation; *C. carpatica* has violet-blue bell-shaped flowers atop 15" h. heart-shaped foliage from June-August; *C. elatinoidea* is perfect for rock garden with starry blue flowers above 4" h. plants; *C. persicifolia* has large bells in a variety of colors on 40" stems.



**Columbine** – *Aquilegia* spp. – bright green deeply lobed leaves; beautiful "spurred" flowers in all colors in late spring; best in rich, well-drained soil; many excellent cultivars and hybrids available.

**Coral Bells** – *Heuchera* spp. – mostly evergreen leaves form basal mounds of foliage to 12"; naked stalks topped with cherry red to pale pink flowers in spring; many new and exciting selections; purple leaf selections prefer 2/3 shade and green leaf forms prefer 2/3 sun.

**Daylily** – *Hemerocallis* spp. – clumps of grass-like foliage growing around 2' h.; trumpet-shaped flowers bloom a day at a time from early summer to early fall in a wide variety of colors; tolerates heat, drought, and shade; 'Catherine Woodbury' has long-lasting, 6", mauve flowers on 30" plants; 'Happy Returns' is early and continuously blooming with 3" pale yellow flowers on a 18" plant.

**Foxglove** – *Digitalis* spp. – biennial or perennial; basal foliage first year, flowering 2nd year with pendulous flowers; allow to reseed to perpetuate in the garden; needs consistent moisture;



**Goat's Beard** – *Aruncus dioicus* – handsome feathery foliage resembles astilbe or fern; showy plumes of white flowers top plants in early summer; best in moist, organic soils; 4' high, 2' wide.

**Jacob's Ladder** – *Polemonium* spp. – cup-shaped flowers in shades of blue, white, and pink bloom above finely divided foliage in spring-summer; taller species grow well in moist, average garden soil; dwarf species need well-drained, gravelly areas.

**Lady's Mantle** – *Alchemilla mollis* – gray-green 18" mat forming foliage covered with tiny yellow-green flowers in spring; shear back after flowering for a new flush of growth; best in rich, moist soils but tolerates dry soils.

**Lily, Oriental** – *Lilium* spp. – trumpet-shaped flowers on upright stems in a wide variety of colors, shapes, and sizes; prefers well-drained, fertile soil in sunny to lightly-shaded areas.

**Loosestrife, Gooseneck** – *Lysimachia clethroides* – pure white flowers appear in widely arching spikes from July to September; foliage turns a lovely burnished color in fall; prefers moist,

cool soil in full sun, will tolerate drier soil in part-shade.

**Meadow Rue** – *Thalictrum* spp. – fern-like foliage reminiscent of columbine; 2' foliage topped with flowering stalks to 3'+; puffs of airy flowers in summer; 'Hewitt's Double' is a popular selection.



**Mist Flower** – *Eupatorium* spp. – attractive leaves in whorls; up to 12" clusters of mauve to purple flowers in early fall; favorite of butterflies; 'Gateway' (*E. purpureum*) is more compact to 5' h.; 'Chocolate' (*E. rugosum*) is a selection with white flowers and purple foliage to 4' h.

**Monkshood** – *Aconitum* spp. – attractive, dark green, glossy leaves; hooded purple flowers top 3-4' high stems in autumn; best in semi-shaded, moist and fertile soil; avoid windy, exposed sites.

**Plumbago** or Leadwort – *Ceratostigma plumbaginoides* – dark green summer foliage turns bronzy-red in fall with gentian blue flowers to frost; emerges late in spring; best in well-drained soils; excellent groundcover, spreading slowly but surely.

**Violet** – *Viola* spp. – fragrant flowers in shades and combinations of blue, purple, yellow, pink, and white; plants to 3-6" h.; spreads by seeds and creeping stems; prefers cool, moist soil in part-shade.

## Perennials for Shade

**Ajuga** – *Ajuga* spp. – dense mats of dark purple to silver-green and white foliage; best on moist, fertile soil, protected from winter winds; 8” purple flower spikes in spring. Combines well with sweet woodruff.

**Aralia** – *Aralia racemosa* – 3-5'h. native with green heart-shaped leaves; greenish-white plumes of flowers appear from June-August; followed by clusters of black fruits; prefers sunny to part shade areas with well-drained soils.



**Arum** – *Arum italicum* – stemless, showy arrow-shaped leaves blotched with cream in spring; dormant in mid-June, resumes growth in early fall; columns of vivid red fruits later in fall; the 12” leaves best in fall into early winter; excellent combined with bergenia or coral bells.

**Astilbe** – *Astilbe* spp. – excellent for shady, moist locations; plume-like flowers in spring to midsummer, complimented by fernlike foliage; wide range of plant habit and flower colors (white to purple)

**Barren Strawberry** – *Waldsteinia ternata* – native to Siberia; glossy dark green strawberry-like leaves form 8” mounds of foliage in early spring; yellow flowers in loose clusters in April to May; tough, dependable; nice combined with bleeding hearts.

**Bergenia, Heartleaf** – *Bergenia cordifolia* – large, glossy dark green leaves with clusters of showy rosy-pink flowers in early spring to 15”; foliage has reddish tones in fall; rich, organic soils.

**Bishops Weed** – *Aegopodium podagraria* – dense foliated ground cover that spreads aggressively; best confined to restrict growth; beautiful creamy-white variegation on leaves; flat-topped white flowers in summer not significant; foliage burns in hot summer months is not provided some shade; 18” h.

**Bleeding Heart** – *Dicentra* species – old fashioned bleeding heart as lovely dissected leaves and heart-shaped flowers in rosy red or white in spring; goes dormant in heat of summer; fern-leaf bleeding heart only 12” high with rosy pink blooms and persistent foliage.

**Bloodroot** – *Sanguinaria canadensis* – wavy, deeply lobed leaves are bluish green topped with solitary white flowers in spring; dormant by early to midsummer; best in rich, organic soils.



**Bluebells, Virginia** – *Mertensia virginica* – blue-green mouse-ear shaped leaves emerge early spring; tubular blue flower clusters in spring; plant disappears in early summer to reappear next spring; 12” h.

**Brunnera** – *Brunnera* spp. – sky blue flowers in spring and handsome lush 1' foliage all season; best in rich, moist, well drained soil; does well around shaded water features in the garden.



**Celandine Poppy** – *Stylophorum diphyllum* – light green deeply lobed leaves emerge in early spring to 20"; bright yellow 2" flowers in April; excellent woodland wildflower from Missouri; can reseed.

**Columbine** – *Aquilegia* spp. – bright green deeply lobed leaves; beautiful "spurred" flowers in all colors in late spring; best in rich, well-drained soil; many excellent cultivars and hybrids available.

**Comfrey** – *Symphytum grandiflorum* – hairy stems and oval leaves form 15" clumps topped with tubular blue flowers in spring; 'Variegata' has cream and green foliage; 'Hidcote Blue' rich blue selection.

**Corydalis lutea** – blue-green, fernlike foliage and abundant golden yellow flowers in spring; reliable easy plant for moist or dry shade; will happily reseed in moist gardens; 12-15" high.

**Doll's Eye's** – *Actaea* spp. – native woodland perennial with coarse, dark green leaves; topped with pearl white

berries on red stalks in fall; easy to grow in rich, organic soils.

**English Ivy** – *Hedera helix* – rich dark green leaves with prominent veins; spreads to form ground cover or climbing vine; can be aggressive in rich, moist soils; plant hardy, drought tolerant selections.

**Epimedium** – *Epimedium* spp. – attractive delicate foliage and interesting red or yellow flowers in spring; slow to establish but worth the wait; consistent moisture for best growth.

**Euonymus, Winter Creeper** – *Euonymus fortunei* – classic evergreen ground cover that spreads rapidly; dark green, green & white or green & gold leaves; bright accent for shade; 18" high.

**Fern** – attractive, soft tropical looking woodland perennials; cultivate in a humus-rich soil, out of the wind, mulched with leaf mold for the best results; excellent in full or dappled shade.



**Hosta** – *Hosta* spp. – tough, lovely plants with blue-green, dark green, variegated or gold leaves that are narrow, broad, wavy or twisted; dwarf forms or giant 3' plants; nice flower spires in summer to early fall.

**Jack-in-the-Pulpit** – *Arisaema triphyllum* – a 2-3' high woodland native with large 3-part leaves and unique green flower with

brown stripes in spring; needs rich, organic soil and consistent moisture to perform best; beautiful red-orange seed heads in fall resemble a mini corn cob.

***Lamium galeobdolon*** – ‘Herman's Pride’ has handsome foliage with dapples of silver on dark green leaves forms 10” upright clumps; small yellow flowers whorled around the stems in spring; shear back by ½ after flowering.

**Lamium** – *Lamium* spp. – beautiful leaves with bright silvery-white leaves and bright pink or white flowers in spring; prune back by ½ after flowering for new growth; if plants repeatedly dry out, bare patches appear.

**Lenten Rose** – *Helleborus orientalis* – leathery, evergreen foliage; nodding white, cream, pink to purple, cup-shaped flowers in spring; easy to grow and long lived; 18” high and wide; tolerates wet or dry.

**Lily-of-the-Valley** – *Convallaria majalis* – nice old-fashioned ground cover with lush 8” leaves and arching, one-sided flower stalks with white fragrant blossoms in early spring; aggressive to plant in a confined space or keep the site dry to deter spreading.

**Lobelia** – *Lobelia* spp. – stiffly, erect plant to 3’ high with lance-shaped leaves; bright blue flowers in late summer; hardy, undemanding native woodland plant that grows along streams.

**Lungwort** – *Pulmonaria longifolia* – long lance-shaped dark green leaves with silvery spotting to 12” h; clusters of blue tubular flowers top plants in spring; nice combined with spring bulbs.

**Mahonia**, creeping – *Mahonia repens* – evergreen growing up to 1’ h. and spreads

by underground stems; holly-like foliage is bluish-green turning purplish in winter; golden flowers appear in spring, followed by clusters of dark bluish-purple fruit maturing in late summer; grows best in average, well-drained soil in sun to part shade.

**Pachysandra** – *Pachysandra* spp. – leathery, toothed leaves; valuable semi-evergreen ground cover forming dense stands; flowers not significant; performs best with consistent moisture but tolerates some drought; 8” h.



**Phlox**, Woodland – *Phlox divaricata* – showy 2-3” clusters of lilac blue to white flowers in spring on 12” plants; early summer dormancy after scattering seeds; excellent weaver between hostas.

**Rodgersia** – *Rodgersia henricii* – attractive large basal leaves with up to seven 10”

long leaflets making up one big leaf; astilbe-like pink flower stalk in summer to 5' h; best in rich, organic soil and consistent moisture.

**Sedge** – *Carex* spp. – many different grass-like plants in wide variety of color, form, and size for wet or dry soils, sun or shade; there is a *Carex* for any garden situation; too little known and too little used.

**Shooting Star** – *Dodecatheon meadia* – delicate white, cascading flowers with yellow tips set above rosette of leaves; flowers in early spring and goes dormant by May; rich, organic soils.



**Solomon's Seal** – *Polygonatum* spp. – attractive woodland native forms colonies with dark green leaves arranged along arching stems and small, pendulous white flowers hang below the 2-4' stems in spring; variegated forms from Japan are showy and brighten a shady corner of the garden; tolerates wet or dry.

**Sweet Woodruff** – *Galium odoratum* – dark green whorled leaves give rise to loose clusters of fragrant white flowers in spring; crushed leaves scented; nice with Ajuga or Solomon's seal.

**Toadlily** – *Tricyrtis hirta* – forms patches with arching stems and soft, hairy pointed leaves clasp stems; small orchid-like spotted flowers open in fall; moist

fertile soil is ideal, but they tolerate dry shade.

**Variegated Bishop's Weed** – *Aegopodium* spp. – lovely variegated leaves bear white flat-topped flowers in summer; an aggressive groundcover but dry soil will help keep it at bay; great filler between large shrubs; 18" h.

**Vinca** – *Vinca minor* – glossy, evergreen leaves are dark green, or variegated white or gold, forming dense ground cover; blue, white or purple flowers in early spring; aggressive so plant in confined space.



**Wild Geranium** – *Geranium maculatum* – five-petaled flowers in various shades of purple appear atop deeply divided leaves from April-June growing to 2' h.

**Wild Ginger** – *Asarum canadense* – woodland 6-8" native with heart-shaped leaves for attractive ground cover; rich, organic soils for best growth.

**Trees for the Eastern Great Plains**  
**Large Deciduous Trees (over 25' tall)**

**Ash, black** – *Fraxinus nigra* – native to wet sites from Iowa to Canada; very cold tolerant; 'Fall Gold' selected from native stand in Manitoba, seedless, holds yellow fall color late; 'Northern Gem' is a hybrid with broad oval shape and excellent hardiness.

**Ash, green** – *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* – native, amazingly adaptable; often overplanted; 'Cimmaron' is rated one of the best by commercial growers; 'Prairie Spire' is an upright selection; 'Patmore' has an oval shape.

**Ash, Manchurian** – *Fraxinus mandshurica* – 'Mancana' is a seedless selection from Manitoba; native to northeast China; dense oval crown; transplants easily; tolerates drought and excess moisture; clear yellow fall color; reported resistance to leaf curling aphid and ash borer; narrow leaf gives tree a fine texture; young trees planted west of Memorial Stadium in Lincoln.

**Ash, white** – *Fraxinus americana* – native to eastern Nebraska; good reddish-purple fall color; avoid planting in stressed sites; 'Autumn Applause' and 'Autumn Blaze' from a Minnesota tree, 'Windy City' from Illinois; all highly prone to borers and frost cracks.

**Baldcypress** – *Taxodium distichum* – fine, feathery foliage is sage green in summer turning cinnamon in fall with interesting cones; nice central leader, bark and horizontal branches for winter interest; tolerates wet or dry soils; avoid stressful sites.

**Birch, river** – *Betula nigra* – a beautiful tree with exfoliating cinnamon brown bark; avoid high pH soils; 'Heritage' has

lighter bark; 'Little King' is a nice dwarf form; native to wet areas as far west as Iowa; performs well on upland soils.

**Birch** – *Betula* spp. – 'Whitespire', an Asian white birch selection, is considered resistant to bronze birch borer; the native paper birch is highly desirable when properly sited; avoid planting in heavy clay and stressed sites.



**Buckeye, Ohio** – *Aesculus glabra* – very adaptable Midwestern native; distinctive rounded tree with dense deer-resistant foliage; interesting greenish-yellow flower panicles in spring followed by clusters of tan, leathery seed pods.

**Buckeye, yellow** – *Aesculus flava* – more upright and taller than Ohio buckeye; dense, dark green summer leaves; handsome, trouble-free tree with greenish-yellow flowers in spring; smooth fruit capsule.

**Corktree, Amur** – *Phellodendron amurense* – unusual tree from China; thick, corky bark and picturesque habit; very tough, adaptable tree; handsome dark green leaves can turn yellow in fall; slow growing.

**Elm, hybrids** – *Ulmus* spp. – several species and cultivars deserve to be planted;

disease resistant hybrid selections include 'Pioneer', 'Discovery', 'Morton', and 'Triumph' are all good.



**Ginkgo** – *Ginkgo biloba* – very interesting fan-shaped leaves that turn golden yellow in fall; with age becomes an imposing, beautiful specimen; very adaptable to soil extremes; has existed, unchanged for over 150 million years.

**Hackberry** – *Celtis occidentalis* – excellent, old Great Plains tree with legendary tolerance; irregular habit when young; matures to stately, rounded crown; interesting corky, knobbed bark; 'Prairie Pride' resistant to nibble gall and witches broom.

**Hickory , bitternut** – *Carya cordiformis* – our most common native hickory; does not transplant easily, plant when young; beautiful tree with large, compound

leaves that turn golden yellow in fall; smooth bark.

**Hickory, shagbark** – *Carya ovata* – great shaggy bark; difficult to transplant, plant a nut or small tree; beautiful tree with large, compound leaves that turn golden yellow in fall; plant in deep, rich well-drained soils for best growth; slow-growing, but worth it.

**Hickory , shellbark** – *Carya laciniosa* – similar to shagbark hickory in many ways, especially with the shaggy bark; shellbark hickory has leaves with 7-9 leaflets whereas shagbark only has 5.

**Kentucky Coffeetree** – *Gymnocladus dioica* – amazingly adaptable native; beautiful winter outline with rugged branches; interesting ridged bark on older trees; rich bluish-green foliage turning yellow in fall; female trees produce leathery seed pods.

**Linden, American** – *Tilia americana* – also known as basswood; develops nice oval-rounded crown with age; large, lustrous leaves turn yellow in fall; fragrant flower clusters in June; needs room to grow; a very adaptable tree native to the Great Plains.

**Linden, littleleaf** – *Tilia cordata* – very pyramidal shape; good yard tree that tolerates wet or dry soils; densely branched; leaves turn a reasonable yellow in fall; 'Greenspire', 'Glenleven', 'Legend' and 'Chancellor' are excellent selections.

**Linden , silver** – *Tilia tomentosa* – nice silvery undersides of leaves; tough, drought tolerant; 'Green Mountain' and 'Satin Shadow' are improved selections.

**Maple, Freeman** – *Acer x freemanii* – a fast growing hybrid between red and silver maples; good on tough sites; 'Autumn

Blaze' has nice central leader and fall color; 'Celebration' has upright habit; 'Marmo' is selected from the Morton Arboretum near Chicago.

**Maple, sugar** – *Acer saccharum* – beautiful tree; choose proven cultivars such as 'Legacy', 'Green Mountain', 'Caddo', 'Commemoration', 'Fall Fiesta'; prefers deep, rich soil and avoid planting in stressed landscape sites; in the future, look for 'Table Rock', from mature trees growing in Table Rock, Nebraska having consistent fall color, and drought and heat tolerance.

**Oak, bur** – *Quercus macrocarpa* – one of the best native trees; large, lustrous, deep green leaves; grayish, flaky bark develops into rugged ridged trunks; tolerates drought, wind, extreme cold and heavy soils; interesting mossy capped acorns



**Oak, black** – *Quercus velutina* – tough native similar to red oak but native to more upland forests; handsome glossy leaf and great orange-red fall color; excessive taproot, transplant when young; needs full sun; tolerates variety of soil types.

**Oak, blackjack** – *Quercus marilandica* – slow-growing with dense, twiggy crown; leaves cling through winter making it a

great windbreak tree; handsome spatula shaped leaves; tough, scrubby oak.

**Oak, chestnut** – *Quercus prinus* – native to eastern U.S.; dark green, lustrous leaves turn yellow to orange-yellow in fall; will show chlorosis (yellow leaves) on high pH soil; good for wet sites; pretty, rich dark brown acorns.



**Oak, chinkapin** – *Quercus muehlenbergii* – very well adapted to alkaline soils; chestnut-like leaves turn yellow in fall; nice bright bark and picturesque branching for winter interest; a tough, adaptable tree that should be planted more; native to southeastern Nebraska .

**Oak, English** – *Quercus robur* – good across Nebraska ; matures into a massive, round-topped tree; handsome leaves.

**Oak, overcup** – *Quercus lyrata* – handsome tree with oval-rounded crown; tolerates wet or dry soils; acorn almost completely covered by the cap; this could become an important landscape tree; branches upturned; leaves drop earlier in the fall.

**Oak, post** – *Quercus stellata* – dense, round-topped crown; handsome leathery leaves almost star-shaped; native to Oklahoma and Kansas ; dense wood once used for fence posts.

**Oak, red** – *Quercus rubra* – a very reliable native oak with large lustrous leaves and

beautiful fall color from russet to bright red in fall; try to locate trees that came from seeds collected in the Midwest for reliable performance and fall color.

**Oak, sawtooth** – *Quercus acutissima* – fast growing oak with sawtooth-edged leaves; long lustrous leaves look like a chestnut and have nice yellow fall color; avoid high pH soils and heavy clay; appears to thrive in our climate and is drought tolerant.

**Oak, scarlet** – *Quercus coccinea* – rich, glossy leaves turn a beautiful scarlet color in fall; avoid high pH soils; more rounded outline when mature; drought tolerant; prefers a protected site; native as far west as Missouri and Minnesota.

**Oak, shingle** – *Quercus imbricaria* – interesting narrow leaves held through winter; rich, glossy green in summer and bronze in fall; drought tolerant and grows well in heavy clay; native as far west as Kansas.



**Oak, swamp white** – *Quercus bicolor* – lustrous, dark green leaves with bronze-yellow fall color; flaky, grayish-brown bark and round-topped crown; tolerates drought or wet; 45-50' h.

**Oak, white** – *Quercus alba* – native to southeastern Nebraska; great majestic tree; good rich red to wine fall color; a

durable long-lived tree; somewhat slow-growing, worth the wait.

**Persimmon** – *Diospyros virginiana* – nice corky bark; attractive glossy, dark green leaves; interesting fruit great for wildlife.

**Tulip Tree** – *Liriodendron tulipifera* – nice large shade tree with large, flag-like leaves that turn a beautiful yellow in fall; prefers deep, well-drained soil, but rather adaptable; avoid planting in stressful sites such as street trees or parking fringe.

**Walnut, black** – *Juglans nigra* – the old standard, tough and reliable; plants can grow under walnuts, including the full palette of shade lovers: viburnum, yews, hosta, and vinca.

**Yellowwood, American** – *Cladrastis kentukea* – medium size tree with pendulous clusters of fragrant white flowers in spring; handsome smooth bark; the attractive compound leaves turn yellow in fall.

#### Small Deciduous Trees (under 25' tall)



**Buckeye, red** – *Aesculus pavia* – leaves are dark, lustrous and early to emerge in spring; nice flowers clusters of carmine red in late spring; good, rich soil for best results; from full sun to almost heavy

shade; drops leaves early in fall without any coloring.

**Crabapple** – *Malus* spp. – dozens of cultivars available; consider disease resistant cultivars with persistent fruit: 'Adams' with pink flowers, 'David' with white flowers, and 'Indian Summer' with rose red flowers.

**Dogwood, corneliancherry** – *Cornus mas* – large; very hardy; sulfur yellow flowers in early spring; clean summer foliage; nice winter habit; 'Golden Glory' is a nice small tree form; tolerates drought and full sun to part shade; red fruit in fall for wildlife.

**Dogwood, gray** – *Cornus racemosa* – large native with good reddish-purple fall color, white fruit clusters in fall; attractive purple fruit clusters enjoyed by songbirds.



**Dogwood, pagoda** – *Cornus alternifolia* – beautiful layered small tree; white flowers in spring followed by black fruit clusters.

**Fringetree, American** – *Chionanthus virginicus* – this southeastern U.S. native grows with multiple stems, spreading

crowns; best in open shade; cloud-like, pure white flowers in late spring; thick, green leaves; fruits of female trees mature to dark blue and are ornamental.



**Goldenrain Tree** – *Koelreuteria paniculata* – beautiful in flower and fruit set; tough, adaptable tree; very drought tolerant.

**Hawthorn** – *Crataegus* spp. – good, tough, small tree; nice fruit effect in fall; white flower clusters in spring; better types worth trying include cockspur hawthorn, 'Winter King' hawthorn, Russian hawthorn, and Washington hawthorn.

**Hophornbeam, American** – *Ostrya virginiana* – good, tough, native tree; slow-growing, worth the wait; resistant to ice storm breakage; interesting hoplike fruits in summer; yellow fall color; also known as ironwood.

**Ironwood** – *Carpinus caroliniana* – also called musclewood; wonderful, sinewy bark; tolerates shady conditions; nice slow-growing tree; grown in a clump or single stem.

**Japanese Pagoda** – *Sophora japonica* – late summer flowers add extra beauty to this mid-size tree; suffers twig dieback; tolerates heat, drought, and pollution.

**Japanese Tree Lilac** – *Syringa reticulata* – great ornamental with fragrant white flower clusters in late spring; beautiful

cherry-like bark; 'Ivory Silk' is a heavy bloomer, even in youth, and its dark green leaves are not bothered by pests.

**Maple, Amur** – *Acer ginnala* – multi-stemmed habit; dark green foliage leaves out early in spring and turns a brilliant red or yellow in early fall; pretty red samaras (winged seeds) persist through winter.

**Maple, Korean** – *Acer pseudosieboldianum* – six-lobed, serrated foliage turns red and orange in fall; blooms in spring are purple instead of the usual maple color of green or yellow.



**Maple, Shantung** – *Acer truncatum* – great ornamental from Asia ; small star-shaped leaves turn yellow in fall; drought tolerant.

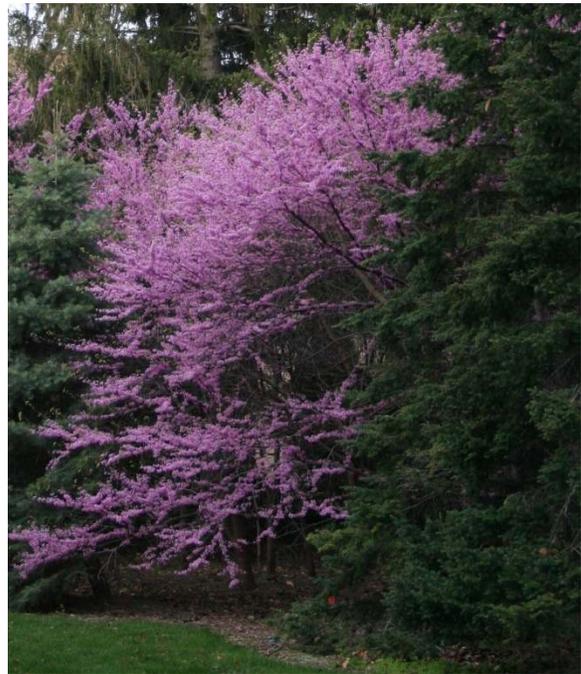
**Oak, gambel** – *Quercus gambelli* – shrubby growth habit with glossy green foliage turning golden yellow in fall; tolerates dry conditions and alkaline soil.

**Oak, dwarf chinkapin** – *Quercus prinoides* – great small native tree; shiny, leathery leaves; excellent for small spaces.

**Pawpaw** – *Asimina triloba* – large, dark green tropical foliage in summer to golden yellow in fall; interesting dark brown flowers in early spring and large edible fruit in fall that tastes like custard-

banana; tolerates wet or dry soils and up to  $\frac{3}{4}$  shade.

**Pear, ornamental** – *Pyrus calleryana* – glossy green foliage turning shades of purple, red, and orange in fall; fruit is small and an insignificant litter problem; adapts well to drought and a wide variety of soil types; 'Aristocrat' has wide-angled branches making them capable of withstanding snow load; 'Chanticleer' has a narrow habit also making it snow tolerant, and is also disease resistant.



**Redbud** – *Cercis canadensis* – great native ornamental prefers growing in some shade; select from northern seed source; pretty purple flowers in spring; attractive heart shaped leaves turn butter yellow in fall.

**Serviceberry, Allegheny** – *Amelanchier laevis* – multi-stemmed habit with foliage emerging purple, turning dark green in summer, and yellow-orange-red in fall; showy flowers in late April.

**Serviceberry, apple** – *Amelanchier x grandiflora* – native; great four-season tree—flower, leaf, fruit, bark, and branching habit. The apple serviceberry selections 'Autumn Brilliance', 'Forest Prince', 'Robin Hill' are all excellent.

**Serviceberry, downy** – *Amelanchier arborea*— multi-stemmed habit with green foliage turning yellow-orange to red in fall; red berries in June are enjoyed by birds.

## Evergreen Trees

**Cedar, eastern red** – *Juniperus virginiana* – upright evergreen tolerates wide range of soils and climate; 'Canaerti' is a great cultivar with tufted foliage; 'Taylor' is an outstanding GreatPlants selection from central Nebraska noted for its narrow, upright habit.



**Douglasfir** – *Pseudotsuga menziesii* – one of the noblest conifers; unique cones are adorned with “tails”; not as drought tolerant as spruce; fails on dry, poor soils; injured by high winds

**Fir, balsam** – *Abies balsamea* – nice fragrance; 'Canaan' is a variety that should be tried more.

**Fir, concolor** – *Abies concolor* – one of the most beautiful evergreens; bright blue new growth eventually makes for soft,

blue-green needles; should be planted more.

**Fir, Fraser** – *Abies fraseri* – very similar to balsam fir, not quite as hardy, needs consistent moisture.

**Fir, Korean** – *Abies koreana* – deep purple cones amid short, green needles with white banding underneath; heat tolerant, but prefers cooler areas.

**Fir, Nikko** – *Abies homolepis* – glossy, green, 1” needles on a fairly narrow tree holding its pyramidal shape in old age; fairly wind tolerant, except in dry, winter winds.

**Pine, Bosnian** – *Pinus heldreichii* var. *leucodermis* – similar to Austrian pine; worth a look.

**Pine, Jack** – *Pinus banksiana* – extremely cold hardy; gnarly growth habit.

**Pine, Lacebark** – *Pinus bungeana* – beautiful mottled bark; avoid windy, exposed sites.

**Pine, Limber** – *Pinus flexilis* – native to Kimball county; very flexible branches are plume-like with twisted blue-green needles; for well-drained, dry soils only.

**Pine, Ponderosa** – *Pinus ponderosa* – reliable native with long needles and beautiful bark; for well-drained dry soils; avoid overwatering.

**Pine, Red** – *Pinus resinosa* – attractive reddish bark; very cold hardy and drought tolerant.

**Pine, White** – *Pinus strobus* – tolerates wetter conditions than most pines; nice soft needles.

**Spruce, Black Hills** – *Picea glauca* var. *densata* – nice alternative to blue spruce;

short, dark green needles; likes to be kept moist; tolerates tough sites and conditions; extremely hardy.

**Spruce , Norway** – *Picea abies* – beautiful weeping habit and attractive long cones on this durable tree from Europe ; dislikes windy, dry sites.



**Spruce, Serbian** – *Picea omorika* – arching, ballerina effect on branches; deep green with white undersides; adaptable; a young tree is doing well in Kimball , Nebraska .

**Large Shrubs for eastern Nebraska (over 7' tall at maturity)**

**Bayberry, northern** – *Myrica pennsylvanica* – semi-evergreen to deciduous shrub; dark, leathery green foliage is aromatic

when crushed; chalky blue-gray berries are used to make wax.

**Buckeye, bottlebrush** – *Aesculus parvifolia* – typical buckeye leaflets on a multi-stemmed, shrubby plant; beautiful 8-12”, white panicles in July; doesn't readily fruit; more pest-resistant compared to other *Aesculus*.

**Burning Bush** – *Euonymus alatus* – interesting winged stems and dense form; dark green leaves turn crimson in fall; avoid alkaline soils.

**Buttonbush** – *Cephalanthus occidentalis* – native; grows in moist or dry sites; interesting white flower balls in summer a favorite of bees and butterflies; glossy green leaves; prune in spring to return to summer condition.

**Cherry, Nanking** – *Prunus tomentosa* – early white, fragrant flowers; tart, showy cherries in early summer; 'Bionca' is a nice white fruited form from Siberia ; exfoliating bark; densely branched; handsome shrub that should be used more.

**Dogwood, gray** – *Cornus racemosa* – large native with good reddish-purple fall color, white fruit clusters in fall; attractive purple fruit clusters enjoyed by songbirds.

**Dogwood, redosier** – *Cornus sericea* – wonderful red stems on this dependable suckering shrub; many improved selections available.

**Dogwood, roughleaf** – *Cornus drummondii* – woolly foliage with creamy white flowers and white berries; tolerates drought and a wide soil range; good for erosion control.

**Dogwood, silky** – *Cornus amomum* – pretty white flowers top this plant from May-

June;  
followed by showy, blue berries; great for moist sites.

**Holly, Meserve** – *Ilex x merserveae* – cold hardy evergreen holly; nice, shiny, blue-green foliage;  
white flowers in summer; females have red berries in fall.

**Holly, winterberry** – *Ilex verticillata* – green to dark green foliage, somewhat shiny above, somewhat hairy below; berries turn bright red and glossy in October and hold well through winter.

**Lilac, common** – *Syringa vulgaris* – large, showy, fragrant flowers bloom lilac in May; many cultivars are available with a wide variety in blooms; many are susceptible to mildew.

**Lilac, late** – *Syringa villosa* – small, fragrant, purple-white, trumpet-shaped blooms appear in clusters in June; most pest and disease resistant than common lilac.



**Seven Son Flower** – *Heptacodium miconioides* – small, white, fragrant flowers in late summer; showy, burgundy

sepals remain for about another month; attractive, tan, exfoliating bark.

**Sumac, cutleaf** – *Rhus typhina* ‘Laciniata’ – large, green leaves have a feathery-like appearance, fall color is shades of yellow, orange, and red; yellowish-green, pyramidal flowers give way to hairy, red, berry-like clusters in fall

**Sumac, fragrant** – *Rhus aromatica* – leaves are arranged in leaflets of three that are dark, shiny green above and hairy below; foliage turns bright orange to reddish-purple in fall.

**Sumac, staghorn** – *Rhus typhina* – furry branch tips like a stag's horn; nice crimson fruit clusters in fall tip branches.

**Viburnum, American cranberrybush** – *Viburnum trilobum* – ‘Wentworth’ has flat-topped white flower in spring; handsome maple-like leaves turn red in fall; showy orange-red fruit set lasts well into winter.

**Viburnum, arrowwood** – *Viburnum dentatum* – shiny, green, toothed leaves are puckered between the veins and turn yellow or dark reddish-purple in fall; flat-topped white flowers are followed by blue fruit.

**Viburnum, blackhaw** – *Viburnum prunifolium* – a large shrub that can be pruned to form a small tree; glossy dark green leaves turn a beautiful yellow-orange-red fall color; white flat-topped flowers lead to showy rose to blue-black fruit clusters in summer and fall.

**Viburnum, Koreanspice** – *Viburnum carlesii* – rounded leaves are densely hairy below and somewhat above, turning bright red in fall; pinkish-white flowers in late April are extremely fragrant.

**Viburnum, nannyberry** – *Viburnum lentago* – nice, large native shrub; glossy green leaves turn orange-red in fall; flat-headed creamy white flower clusters followed by blue-black fruit; great for song birds; tough as nails!



**Wahoo, eastern** – *Euonymus atropurpureus* – large; native shrub with good rose red fruit capsules and orange-red fall color.

**Yellowhorn** – *Xanthoceras sorbifolia* – this Chinese native has large, shiny compound leaves; showy upright clusters of tubular white, red-centered flowers in spring; plant in enriched garden soils; surprisingly adaptable; protect from wind and avoid overhead watering during establishment.

**Small/Medium Shrubs for eastern Nebraska (under 5' tall at maturity)**

**Beautyberry** – *Callicarpa americana* – tiny, lilac flowers appear among large, green leaves in spring; bright magenta to violet fruit matures in the fall is clustered around the stems..`

**Boxwood, Korean** – *Buxus microphylla koreana* – tiny, round, evergreen leaves; grows well in fertile, well-drained soil with protection from extreme elements.

**Chokeberry, black** – *Aronia melanocarpa* – upright; nice, black fruit clusters can persist all winter; glossy green leaves have nice wine red fall color; tough, adaptable plant; 'Viking' for large fruit, 'Elata' for glossy leaves, 'Autumn Magic' fall color.

**Coralberry** – *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus* – native suckering shrub good for massing, tough sites and shady areas; great red-purple fruit clustered along arching stems all through winter; 'Chenault' is a nice low-growing cultivar.

**Cotoneaster** – *Cotoneaster* spp. – cranberry cotoneaster has small glossy leaves on arching branches, showy red berries in late summer. Spreading cotoneaster has attractive foliage that turns yellow, orange, red in fall.



**Currant** – *Ribes* spp. – good for massing, wildlife and tough sites; clove currant (*R. odoratum*) has yellow trumpet shaped flowers, spicy fragrance; black fruit in summer; alpine currant (*R. alpinum*) is one of the first shrubs to leaf out, very hardy; 'Red Lake' (*R. rubrum*) has bright red berries.

**Honeysuckle, dwarf bush** – *Diervilla lonicera* – sprawling habit forming mounds of green foliage with yellow to red tube-like flowers from June-July.



**Hydrangea, oakleaf** – *Hydrangea quercifolia* – oak-like leaves are dark green above and hairy, white below turning red to reddish-purple in fall; showy, pyramidal flowers clusters bloom throughout summer beginning in white and aging to pink and tan; old stems have exfoliating cinnamon bark.

**Hydrangea, ‘Annabelle’** – *Hydrangea arborescens* – 12” wide, rounded flower clusters of white sterile flowers bloom upright throughout summer; dies to the ground in winter, should be cut back by spring; prefers well-drained soil in shade to part-shade.

**Juniper, horizontal** – *Juniperus horizontalis* – 1-2’ h. x 4-8’ w. groundcover with green to blue-green needles turning purplish in winter; bark exfoliates a cinnamon-brown color; adaptable to most conditions.

**Kerria, Japanese** – *Kerria japonica* – extremely textured and toothed leaves are borne on gracefully arching stems that are loaded with bright yellow flower from April-May; prefers well-drained soil in shade to part-shade; shear back periodically to rejuvenate growth.

**Lilac, dwarf Korean** – *Syringa meyeri* – 4’ h. x 6’ w. is a good, compact, late-flowering form.

**Lilac, Miss Kim** – *Syringa patula* – 6’ h. x 4’ w. is a good, compact, late-flowering form.

**Ninebark, common** – *Physocarpus opulifolius* – dense, bushy shrubs for hedge plantings; nice papery bark; arrow-shaped leaves; dwarf ninebark (*P. opulifolius* ‘Nana’) grows 4-6’ h. with white flowers; ‘Nugget’ is a yellow-leaved selection growing to 6’ tall and wide.

**Potentilla** – *Potentilla fruticosa* – very tough, dense, bushy shrub; wide color range; ‘Prairie Snow’ an excellent white flowered selection and ‘Jackman’ a golden-yellow variety both from USDA Cheyenne Station.

**Rose, Chuckles** – *Rosa* x ‘Chuckles’ – flowers are close to the wild form with single, wide-open blossoms; deep pink petals with a white central blush; slightly fragrant.

**Rose, redleaf** – *Rosa rubrifolia* – purple foliage in sunny areas with reddish-violet stems, light pink flowers and bright red hips lasting into winter.

**Rose, Sea Foam** – *Rosa* x ‘Sea Foam’ – double, white flowers with a light fragrance appear among dark green, glossy foliage.

**Rose, Theresa Bugnet** – *Rosa* x ‘Theresa Bugnet’ – dark red buds open to large, double pink flowers among bluish-green foliage; fragrant.

**Serviceberry, Regent** – *Amelanchier alnifolia* – ‘Regent’ is a 3-4’ h selection from North Dakota with large sweet fruit; pendulous white flowers in spring; attractive rounded leaves turn yellow-orange in fall.

**Snowberry** – *Symphoricarpos alba* – clusters of white fruit tip thin arching stems in late fall; blue-green scalloped leaves; suckers to create a dense thicket; best in confined space or erosion control.

**Spirea, Grefsheim** – *Spiraea cineria* – gray-green leaves densely cover arching branches that are covered with small, star-like, white flowers in late spring.

**Spirea, Korean** – *Spiraea fritschiana* – large, flat-topped, white flower clusters to 7” across compliment the rich green leaves; very reliable.



**Sumac, 'Gro-low'** – *Rhus aromatica* – 'Gro-Low' is an excellent woody groundcover for challenging growing conditions; small yellow flowers in spring; shiny, dark green foliage turns orange red in fall

**Viburnum, 'Alfredo'** – *Viburnum trilobum* – a compact variety growing to 6' h. with small, red berries in late summer and bright orange-red foliage in fall

**Viburnum, 'Blue Muffin'** – *Viburnum dentatum* – a true dwarf growing to 4' h.; heavy blooms are followed by a good set of dark blue fruit.

**Viburnum, compact Korean spice** – *Viburnum carlesii* 'Compactum' – 3' h. plant with dark green and disease resistant foliage; light pink blooms in spring are highly fragrant.

**Viburnum, dwarf fragrant** – *Viburnum farreri* 'Nanum' – white flowers bloom in early spring on this 2-3' h. shrub; red turning black fruit in late summer is followed by reddish-purple fall foliage.

**Viburnum, 'Mohawk'** – *Viburnum x burkwoodii* 'Mohawk' – dark, leathery green foliage on a semi-evergreen 8-10' h. shrub; dark red flower bud open to reveal fragrant, pinkish-white flower clusters in late spring; fall foliage is a brilliant orange-red.

**Weigela** – *Weigela florida* – dark green summer foliage on a 4-6' shrub; slightly fragrant tubular flowers in shades of purple, red, pink, and white in early summer; adaptable to a wide range of soil conditions.

**Yew, Japanese** – *Taxus cuspidata* – an evergreen with dark green foliage with many variety with many different growing habits; extremely site adaptable; 'Nana' is a creeper; 'Capitata' is a small, conical tree; 'Densa' is a low-growing, dwarf shrub.