



What's Growing at the Park?

A plant guide to the East Recreation Center Neighborhood Park.

New England Aster

Aster Novae-Angliae



Size: Up to 4 feet.

Habitat/Range: It is a common plant. Habitats include moist to mesic black soil prairies, clay prairies, thickets, moist meadows in woodlands, open areas along rivers and lakes, fens, abandoned fields, open areas along railroads and roadsides, and miscellaneous waste areas. This plant colonizes disturbed areas readily, but it also occurs in high quality habitats. [1]

Medicinal Uses: The root is analgesic, astringent, expectorant and febrifuge. The ooze of the roots has been sniffed in the treatment of a runny nose. A decoction of the whole plant has been used in the treatment of all kinds of fevers and in the treatment of weak skin. [2]

Flower: Clusters of composite flowers occur at the ends of the upper stems. Each composite flower consists of numerous gold or yellow disk florets, which are surrounded by 30 or more ray florets that are purple, lavender, or light pink. Each composite flower is about 1½" across. A mature plant may bear two dozen or more of such flowers, putting forth a showy display. There is no noticeable floral scent. The blooming period occurs from late summer to fall, and lasts about 2 months. [1]

Facts: New England Aster can be variable in terms of its size, color of the flowers, and other characteristics. This plant has attractive flowers with a long blooming period, but it often appears messy by the fall as a result of drought, insects, and disease. It is easy to distinguish this aster from others, because its compound flowers are larger in size and have more numerous ray florets.[1]

Blue Wild Indigo

Baptisia Australis



Alternate Names: blue false indigo, wild indigo, plains wild indigo, false indigo, baptisia, plains baptisia, rattlepod, rattlebush, rattlebush wild indigo.[3]

Size: Up to 4 feet tall and 1.5 feet wide.

Habitat/Range: It occurs from Nebraska to Texas on the west to the eastern seaboard states. It reaches into Canada in its middle range and New Hampshire is the extreme northeast area it occurs as a native. It is rarely found near the Gulf or Atlantic coasts. [3]

Medicinal Uses: . Some Indian tribes used it for medicinal purposes. The Osage made eyewash from the plant. The Cherokees would make a tea from it. A hot tea was taken as a purgative and a cold tea to prevent vomiting. A pulverized root or hot tea was held over a sore tooth to relieve the pain. Indian children would use the dried pods with the loose seeds inside as rattles. [3]

Facts: Presently, *Baptisia australis*, is grown by many as an ornamental in outdoor flower gardens or as a decorative border. It has become popular because it grows well in many areas outside its native range when planted, does well without watering, requires no fertilizer or pesticide treatments and needs no pruning. The pods have been used in dried flower arrangements. When in bloom the brightly colored blue flowers arranged in spikes make it very attractive. However, a bouquet of fresh cut flowers does not last very long. The flowers and stems turn black as soon as they begin to dry. [3]

Interesting fact: The Cherokees used the plant as a source of blue dye for their clothes. Early pioneer settlers copied this practice. A common name, false indigo, indicates it is not the true indigo plant which was introduced from the India subcontinent and cultivated for blue dye by many landowners during the early settlement of America. [3]

Eastern Purple Coneflower

Echinacea Purpurea



Size: Up to 1 foot

Habitat/Range: Eastern purple coneflower can be found throughout most of the eastern and central United States. It can be found as far west as Colorado and north to Wisconsin, Michigan, and New York. It is not present in the extreme north east, and becomes increasingly rare as its range extends westward, past Missouri. [4]

Medicinal Uses: Eastern purple coneflower was one of the most important medicinal plants used by Native Americans. It was used by many tribes throughout North America to treat a variety of ailments. It was used as a pain reliever, anti-inflammatory, a treatment for toothaches, coughs, colds, and sore throats. It was also used as an antidote for various forms of poisonings, including snake bite. Portions of this plant were used to dress wounds and treat infections. [4]

Facts: Eastern purple coneflower is an erect, long-lived, perennial herb that grows one to three feet in height, and produces a woody rhizome. It has a very distinctive flower with reddish-purple petals. The petals may be pink or white in some rare instances. [4]

Interesting fact: There is a characteristic “cone” at the center of the flower, from which its name is derived

Rattlesnake Master

Eryngium Yuccifolium



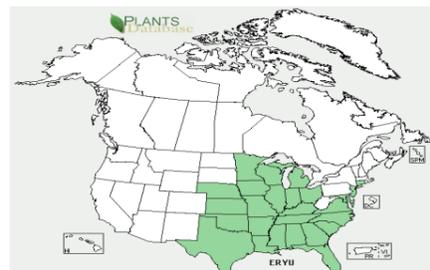
Size: 2 to 6 feet tall

Medicinal Uses: The root of rattlesnake master has been used medicinally by American Indians and pioneers. [5]

Facts: Rattlesnake master is a warm-season perennial native forb which grows well on wet or dry mesic prairie soil. Plants grow 2 to 6 feet tall from a short, thick rootstock. The bluish green basal leaves are up to 3 feet long and up to 1½ inches wide. The leaves along the stem are much shorter, but they may be as wide as the basal leaves. All the leaves are thick and parallel veined and have soft or weak prickles spaced far apart along the edges. The leaf bases clasp the single, erect stem. Flower heads are on stout peduncles at the tip of the stem. Each nearly spherical flower head is from 1/2 to 1 inch in diameter and is made up of many small flowers. Whitish bracts stick out sharply from the flowers, which gives the flower head a rough, prickly feel and appearance. The heads have a honey-like odor and are in bloom June to September. [5]

Interesting fact: *Eryngium* is Greek for “prickly plant” and *yuccifolium* is Greek for “yucca leaves.” [5]

Habitat/Range: Rattlesnake master is found generally in wet or dry prairies and open woods in the southeast US, north to Virginia, and throughout the Midwest to Minnesota, Kansas and Texas. [5]



Old Man's Whiskers

Geum Triflorum



Alternate Names: *Prairie smoke* or *purple avens*

Size: 1 to 3 feet

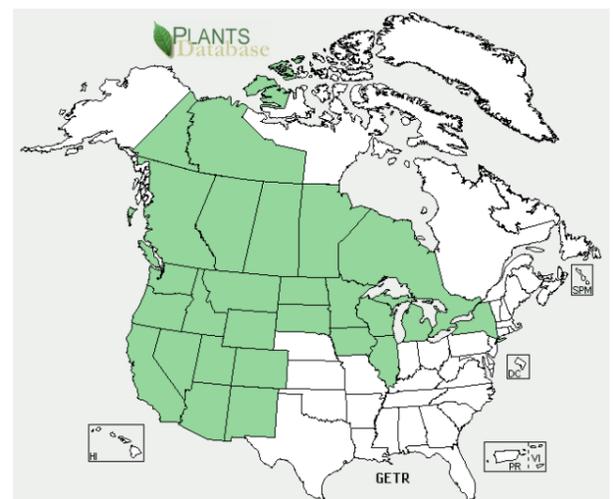
Habitat/Range:

Medicinal Uses: Native Americans boiled the roots to make a tea. [7]

Flowers: The flowers are terminal, with one to nine flowers in a cyme. The calyx is reddish-purple to pink or yellow in color. The 5 petals are light yellow, white, pink, or red-purple tinged. When in bloom, the flowers nod or arch downward. As the fruits mature, the flower becomes erect. The fruits are elongate, feathery achenes. [7]

Facts: This delightful spring wildflower spreads by rhizomes to form large clumps. The nodding reddish-pink to purplish flowers are individually rather plain, but make a nice display when clumped together. As the flowers fade, they turn upright. The styles elongate (to 2 inches long) to form feathery gray tails that collectively resemble miniature feather dusters. The plants attract the most attention when these plumes cover the landscape, giving rise to the common name prairie smoke. [6]

Interesting fact: It looks best when flowering in the spring and again in the fall when the leaves form bright green fern-like clumps. [6]



Little Bluestem

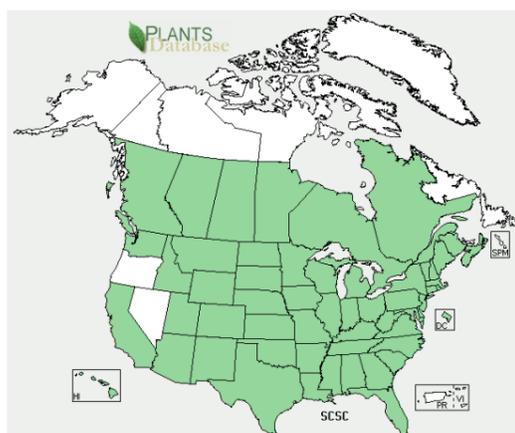
Schizachyrium Scopari



Common Name: Little Bluestem

Size: 1.5-3 feet tall.

Habitat/Range:



Medicinal Uses: None Known.

Facts: Little bluestem is a medium height grass with coarse stems and basal leaves. As a warm season grass it begins growth in late spring and continues through the hot summer period until the first killing frost. It is easily mistaken for common broomsedge. Little bluestem has very flat bluish basal shoots. Plants are green, but often purplish at base of stem and the entire plant has a reddish cast after frost. Leaves are smooth, but frequently are covered with hair at the base next to the sheath. Leaves tend to fold with maturity. Seed head clusters about three inches long. The cluster stems are hairy. Plant height varies from 18 inches on droughty sites to 3 feet on deep, fertile soils. [84]

Interesting fact: With its blue-green leaves during the growing season and attractive rusty color with white fluffy seedheads in the fall, little bluestem is useful in ornamental plantings. [84]

Indian Grass

Sorghastrum Nutans



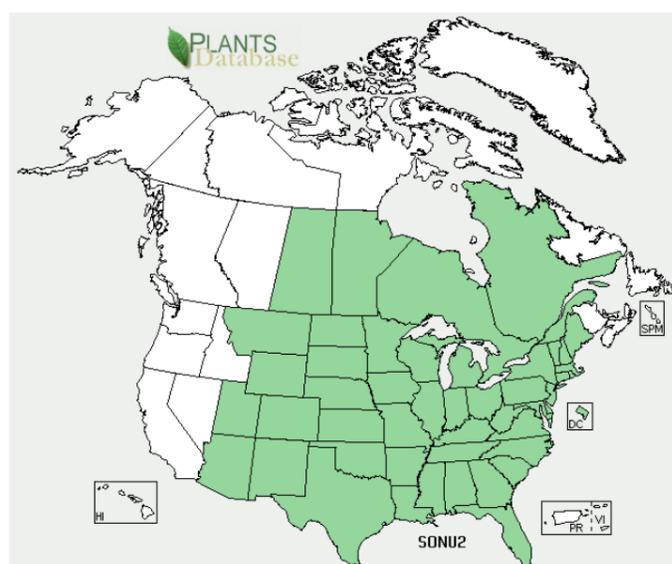
Size: 3 to 7 feet tall

Medicinal Uses: None known.

Facts: This native perennial grass is 3-7' tall and unbranched. It typically consists of tight bunches of flowering culms and their leaves. Indian Grass is a perennial bunchgrass native to the United States. It is known as a warm season grass and will start growing in May and go to seed in July and August. It has yellow spikelets (seed heads) that have white hairs, which make it look silver and gold in the sunlight. The grass has long, flat, and narrow leaves that usually are called blades. The blades are 1/4 to 1/2 inch wide, 5 to 12 inches long, and pointed at the end. They have a rough texture to them. They become yellowish bronze in the fall and become dormant in the winter. [8]

Interesting fact: Indiagrass is used in restoration of native prairie areas and longleaf pine understory sites. [63]

Habitat/Range: The grass grows on the prairies in North American, but can grow as far north as southern Manitoba, Canada, and as far south as Texas. It can extend west to about the 100th meridian and can now also be found in Europe, Asia, and Africa. It grows best where it is moist. Habitats include savannas and sandy savannas, black soil prairies, clay prairies, sand prairies, gravel prairies, dolomite prairies, hill prairies, cemetery prairies, barrens with scrubby vegetation, limestone glades, grassy fens, fallow fields, roadsides, and areas along railroads (particularly where prairie remnants occur). Indian Grass is often used in tall grass prairie restorations. [8]



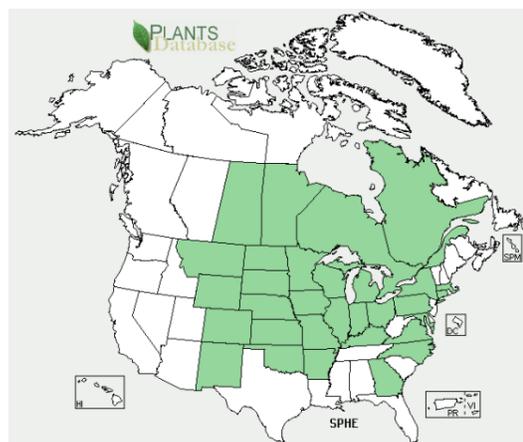
Prairie Dropseed

Sporobolus Heterolepis



Size: 2 to 3 feet tall

Habitat/Range:



Medicinal Uses: None known.

Facts: Prairie dropseed is a fine-textured, distinctive bunchgrass with leaves that curve gracefully outward forming large, round tufts. Delicate seedheads appear above the tuft in midsummer, rising 2 ft. high. Fall color is tan-bronze. Prairie dropseed is a perennial. Snow does not flatten the plant, so it is visible even in winter. Prairie Dropseed produces a magnificent fountain of fine-textured, emerald green leaves, adding a touch of elegance to any planting. Considered by many to be the most handsome of the prairie grasses, it makes a well-defined and distinctive border when planted 18 to 24 inches apart. The highly nutritious seeds are much sought after by birds. As the seed ripens, it droops over. The plant turns a golden yellow in the fall. [9]

Interesting fact: The seed heads have a faint but unmistakable fragrance that can be detected by some people. It's been described as having a 'burning crayon' or chemical smell to the comforting smell of popcorn, the opinions vary. [9]

Wild Bergamot

Monarda Fistulosa



Size: Up to 5 feet.

Medicinal Uses: This plant has been used extensively in the past for a variety of medicinal uses. Some of these include curing a runny nose or headache by putting the leaves in a hot tea and grounding the plant into a powder to be rubbed on the body to cure fever, colds, and nausea. [10]

Facts: This aromatic herbaceous perennial has branched, hairy stems and spreads by seeds and rhizomes. The opposite leaves are distinctly petioled and deltoid-lanceolate to lanceolate and slightly toothed. Wild bergamot has square stems with gray-green foliage. The flowers bloom from June to September. They are solitary and terminal on the flowering branches and the two stamens surpass the upper lip. The flowers are tubular, 13-15 nerved, with lobes much shorter than the tube. The corolla is lavender and strongly bilabiate. The upper lip is narrow, entire, and softly pubescent while the lower lip is broader. [10]

Interesting fact: Wild bergamot is used in flower arrangements. Bees, butterflies and hummingbirds use the plant for nectar. [10]

Habitat/Range:



Yellow Coneflower

Ratibida Pinnata



Alternate Names: gray-head prairie coneflower, drooping coneflower, pinnate prairie coneflower

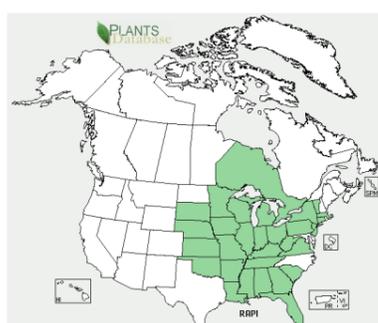
Size: Up to 3 feet.

Medicinal Uses: In the past, this plant has been used to help cure toothache. [11]

Facts: Yellow coneflower is a native perennial herb growing from a woody caudex up to one meter or taller. The leaves are pinnately compound, mostly with five to seven lanceolate segments, with harsh and scurfy surfaces (Bruggen 1976). The disk flowers are usually gray at first becoming brown with age. When the disk heads are crushed, an odor of anise is emitted. Each flower has its own stalk and five to eight yellow, drooping petals arranged in a cone shape. [11]

Interesting fact: Yellow coneflower is a strong survivor of former prairies where the majority of the original plants have perished. This is a long live species and is best to plant where there is competition from other plants. The seed heads are eaten by birds in the late fall. The flowers attract several different butterfly species. [11]

Habitat/Range:



Black-eyed Susan

Rudbeckia Hirta



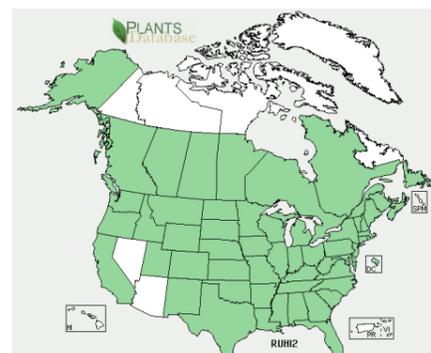
Size: About 1 foot tall.

Medicinal Uses: Certain Native American tribes used the flower in the 1800s for medicinal treatments. The Cherokee, for example, used the cheerful-looking flower to ease urinary tract infections and earaches as well as for gynecological issues. *Rudbeckia hirta* also was used traditionally by the Cherokee for back pain and swelling, and they mixed it with other flowers such as fairywand and hepatica. Some other tribes, including the Iroquois and the Seminole, used *Rudbeckia hirta* for the treatment of snakebites and wounds. Other common uses include the treatment of worms, fever, diarrhea, earaches and headaches. [13]

Facts: Black-eyed Susan, is a biennial forb about 1 m tall with yellow ray flowers and dark brown spherical centers. After germination, the seedling grows into a rosette with oblong leaves. Sometimes flower stalks will appear in the first summer, but typically black-eyed Susan blooms from June to September of the second year. After flowering and seed maturation, the plants die. The seed is very small and black, about 2 mm long and 0.5 mm in diameter. [12]

Interesting fact: This plant offers protection and food to several song and game birds.[12]

Habitat/Range:



Prairie Spiderwort

Tradescantia Bracteata



Size: 2 to 3 feet tall

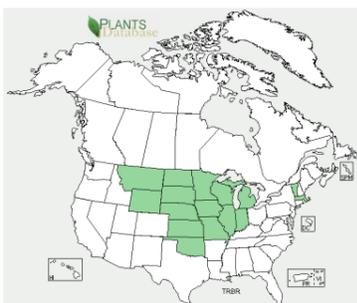
Alternate Names: Cow Slobber, Indian Paint, Widow's Tears, Moses in the Bulrushes, Dayflower,

Medicinal Uses: The Cherokee used the plant to make a tea used in the treatment of "female" problems and as a laxative to treat ailments of the stomach and kidney. The Lakota made a blue paint from the flowers that they used to decorate their clothing, hence the alternate name Indian Paint. Perhaps most importantly, a poultice made by crushing the leaves of the plants was used as a treatment for insect bites and stings. [14]

Facts: This erect, usually unbranched native perennial grows up to 18 inches tall. Long, narrow, alternate leaves 4-12 inches long and 1/2 inch wide have pointed tips with bases that wrap around the stem. Several flowers on short stalks occur in groups (cymes) at the top of the stem. Beneath the flowers are two long, narrow green bracts similar to the leaves. Of Minnesota's 3 native Spiderworts, Long-bracted Spiderwort is dominant in the west and southern tall-grass prairie region and the most widespread in the state. Spiderwort flowers open in the morning, lasting only one day. Rather than dropping, they turn into a mucilaginous jelly that flows like a tear, a feature responsible for some of its rather picturesque common names like Cow Slobbers and Snotweed. It is also known as Blue Jackets. [15]

Interesting fact: Named after John Tradescant, the royal gardener of King Charles I of England. In 1637 his son brought the plant from North America back to England where it became a favorite as a garden exotic. [14]

Habitat/Range:



Blue Vervain

Verbena Hastata



Alternate Names: Swamp vervain, Blue verbena, Swamp verbena, Simpler's joy

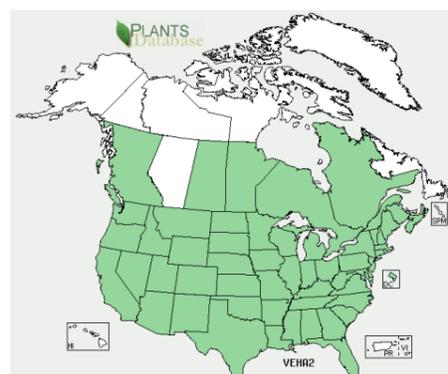
Size: Up to 5 feet tall.

Medicinal Uses: Blue vervain is used internally to treat depression, fevers, coughs, cramps, jaundice, and headaches. Externally, it is used for acne, ulcers, and cuts. [64]

Facts: Blue vervain is a native, perennial wildflower that grows from 2 to 5 feet tall. Its hairy, square stems can be green or red. The toothed, lance shaped leaves progress in pairs up the stem and are about 6 inches long by 1 inch wide. Purplish-blue flowers bloom in multiple, showy, elongated panicles (flowers arranged on a stem) and are up to 5 inches long. Each bloom is about 1/4 inch across and conspicuously lobed. Blue vervain blooms in mid to late summer; approximately 1 1/2 months after blooming each bloom gives way to four oblong, reddish-brown, triangular-convex "nutlets." Blue vervain spreads through rhizomes, horizontal roots that produce new plants. [64]

Interesting fact: The cardinal, swamp sparrow, field sparrow, song sparrow, and slate-colored junco eat the seeds of blue vervain. The cottontail rabbit will sometimes eat the foliage; most other mammalian herbivores avoid it due its bitter taste. [64]

Habitat/Range:



Priarie Ironweed

Vernonia Fasciculata



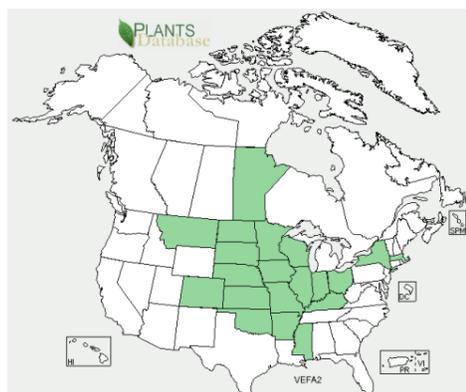
Size: 2 to 6 feet tall.

Medicinal Uses: The root is taken in the form of a powder or a decoction primarily to stimulate appetite and promote digestion. Useful for female complaints, amenorrhea, dysmenorrhea, leucorrhea, and menorrhagia. A remedy for chills and fevers, scrofula, diseases of the skin, syphilis. A decoction of the leaves is used as a gargle for sore throat. [65]

Facts: The stout, unbranched, 2-5 ft. stems bear numerous lance-shaped, coarsely-toothed, dark-green leaves. Attractive floral sprays are composed of densely clustered, rose-purple flowers. Deep purple flower heads up to 6 inches across in bloom from July to September; stems often reddish color; leaves are sharp-toothed and have pits on the undersides. The common name "Ironweed" is derived from the tough nature of this plant. It is unpalatable to both humans and animals, so it is often left standing in grazed areas; it is also very fibrous. [16]

Interesting fact: Vernonia is named in honor of English botanist, William Vernon and fasciculata is from the Latin word for "clustered, grouped together". [16]

Habitat/Range:



Birdfoot Violet

Viola Pedata



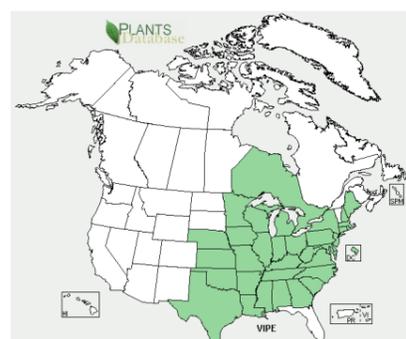
Size: 3-6" Tall.

Medicinal Uses: A poultice of the leaves has been used to allay the pain of a headache. An infusion of the plant has been used in the treatment of dysentery, coughs and colds. A poultice of the crushed root has been applied to boils. [17]

Facts: The individual leaves and flowering stems emerge directly from the rootstock. Each leaf is deeply divided into 3-5 palmate lobes, while a lobe may be further subdivided into 2-3 smaller lobes. The lobes are usually broader toward their tips than at the base of the leaf, and their tips may have 1 or 2 small teeth. A typical leaf is about 1" long and across (excluding the petiole). The petiole of each leaf is rather long and slender. The slender flowering stems are at least as long as the petioles; they are either green or purple. Each stem curves abruptly downward near the flower. The entire plant is hairless, or nearly so. The flowers have 5 petals and 5 sepals; they are $\frac{3}{4}$ -1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " across. The sepals are green, while the petals are pale blue-violet to dark purple-violet. The blooming period is mid- to late spring, and this plant may bloom during the fall. There may be a mild floral scent in some local ecotypes. [17]

Interesting fact: Birdfoot violet gets its name from its leaves, which are not heart-shaped like those of so many other violets, but instead are deeply divided, resembling a bird's claw-like foot. [66]

Habitat/Range:



German Garlic

Allium Senescens Glaucum



Size: Up to 1 foot tall.

Medicinal Uses: None known.

Facts: This German garlic variety is an ornamental onion which is noted for its unusual swirling and twisting leaves which are bluish-gray and its compact size. Twisted, thin-but-flattened, grass-like, linear, basal leaves form dense, spreading clumps which typically grow to 6" tall and as wide. Lilac/lavender florets appear in globular clusters atop leafless stems rising above the foliage to 12" tall in mid-summer. Unlike most other alliums, the flowers of this variety are mildly fragrant. Although the leaves are edible, this plant is considered to be an ornamental and is not usually used for culinary purposes. [67]

Interesting fact: All parts of this plant have an oniony smell when cut or bruised. [67]

Habitat/Range: Zones 4-8.



Goat's Beard

Aruncus dioicus



Alternate Names: bride's feathers.

Size: 3 to 6 feet tall.

Habitat/Range: Native to the northern hemisphere in North America, Europe, and Asia, this plant generally grows in moist woods, meadows, and along streams. It is also known to grow in moist to wet ravines, rocky ledges, and avalanche chutes. In south-central and southeastern Alaska, goatsbeard grows abundantly in forest edges and along roads and railroad embankments. [18]

Medicinal Uses: The poulticed root is applied to bee stings. A tea made from the roots is used to allay bleeding after child birth, to reduce profuse urination and to treat stomach pains, diarrhea, fevers and internal bleeding. The tea is used externally to bathe swollen feet and rheumatic joints. [18]

Facts: Goat's Beard is a majestic perennial growing 3 to 6 feet tall with ornamental sprays of tiny white flowers that bloom briefly but spectacularly in early summer. This is a native wildflower of the semi-shade of woodland clearings and when planted in the wildflower garden need little care as long as the soil remains moist; they will survive indefinitely if left undisturbed. Aruncus will grow in sun or partial shade and in almost any soil but will be best in soils with plenty of humus or planted in good garden soil and mulched. [18]

Interesting fact: Goats beard is a dioecious plant meaning each plant has either all female flowers or all male flowers. Plants with male flowers produce showier blooms than plants with female flowers. The word "Aruncus" comes from the Greek word aryngos (goat's beard) and refers to the plume of flowers. [18]

Twilite Prairieblues

Baptisia x variicolor 'Twilite'



Size: 3-5 feet tall with 3-5 foot spread.

Medicinal Uses: None known.

Facts: Baptisia 'Twilite Prairieblues' is a newer hybrid Baptisia with smoky purple flowers with a yellow midrib, blooming in early summer on 2' long spikes over a huge mound of blue-green foliage. This is a very large Baptisia creating a 4' x 5' clump and possibly growing larger. It is one of the most vigorous Baptisias out there and it makes a very bold statement in the landscape. [69]

Interesting fact: Baptisia is a genus of about 35 species of North American perennials, a handful of which are excellent garden plants. They look well on their own against walls and fences, or combined in a border with other June bloomers. These plants are extremely long lived and can hardly be pried out of the garden once established. [68]

Habitat/Range: Zones 4-8.



Winter Glow

Bergenia cordifolia



Alternate Names: Pig Squeak, heart- leaved bergenia

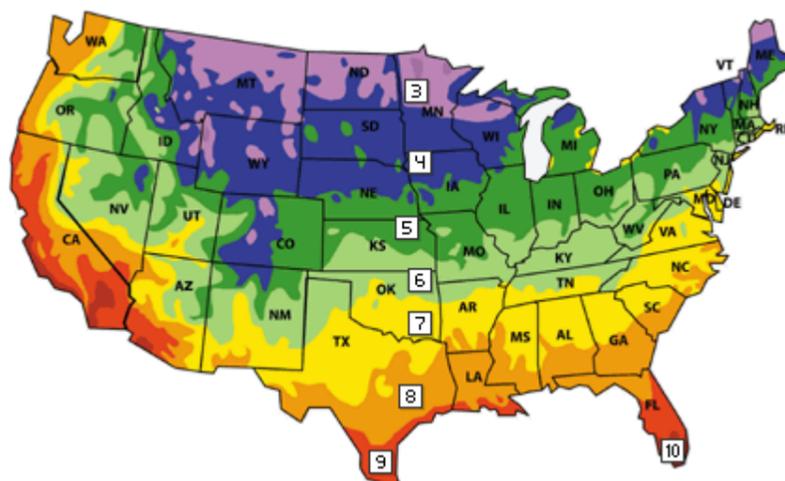
Size: 1.5 feet tall by 1 foot wide

Medicinal Uses: None known.

Facts: Bergenia 'Winter Glow' is an evergreen that is sure to be noticed with its shiny, cabbage-like leaves. These leaves have an unusually thick rubbery feel that makes a "pig squeak" sound when rubbed between your fingers. The plant has clusters of bright red/pink flowers from early to late spring that provide long lasting cut blooms for bouquets. During the fall and winter months the leaves of 'Winter Glow' turn a reddish-bronze hue and return to green in the spring. [19]

Interesting fact: Winter Glow Bergenia is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. Its wonderfully bold, coarse texture can be very effective in a balanced garden composition. [70]

Habitat/Range: Zones 4-8.



Moonbeam

Coreopsis verticillata



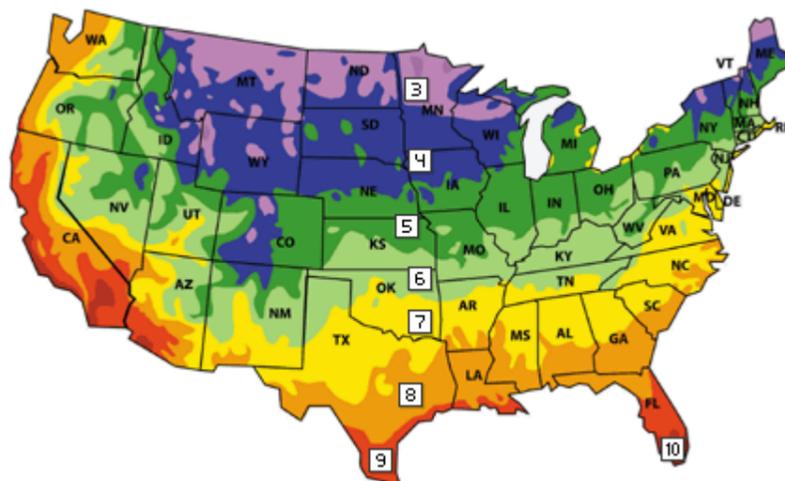
Size: Up to 1.5 feet by 1 foot.

Medicinal Uses: None known.

Facts: *Coreopsis* can be annuals or perennials, with paired, simple, palmate or pinnately divided leaves and long-stalked, daisy-like flower-heads. 'Moonbeam' is a compact perennial with finely divided leaves and single daisy-like flower-heads in summer. Creamy yellow flowers take the heat and bloom faithfully all summer. [20]When *Coreopsis verticillata* 'Moonbeam' came on the market, nurseries couldn't keep it in stock. The buttery yellow flowers were too irresistible for any gardener to walk past and not lust after.[21]

Interesting fact: Moonbeam has been known to have mysterious attributes that can cause the plant to disappear from wherever it was planted within 3 years, the only way of finding out if it will stick in your particular area is to plant it and find out yourself. [20]

Habitat/Range: Zones 3-9



Ingwersen's Variety

Geranium macrorrhizum



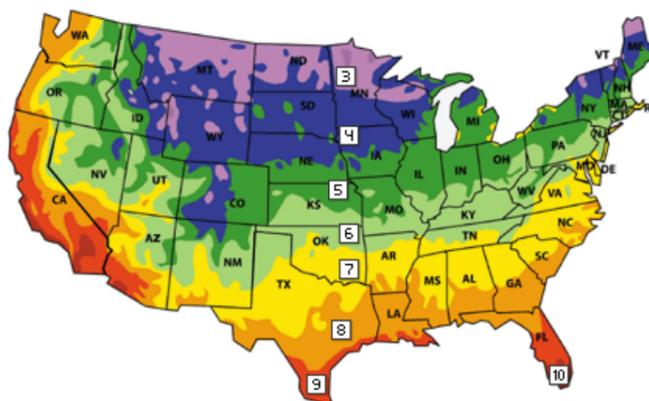
Size: 1-1.5 feet tall.

Medicinal Uses:

Facts: *Geranium* can be annuals, biennials and perennials, herbaceous or evergreen, with rounded, usually palmately lobed or divided leaves, and lax inflorescences of rounded, 5-petaled flowers. 'Ingwersen's Variety' is a rhizomatous perennial to 1.5 ft. in height, with aromatic, rounded, deeply lobed leaves and flowers 25mm in width, with pale pink petals and contrasting deep pink calyces, in early summer. [86] The flower is pale pink in summer and the foliage is green in spring/summer and orange/red in autumn. [85]

Interesting fact: Geraniums are valued for their diversity of flower color, leaf shape and also easy care. Geraniums bloom in shades of white, pink, blue, violet and magenta. It's a favorite for its excellent habit and late spring to summer blooming period. [85]

Habitat/Range: Zones 4-8.



Ingwersen's Variety

Geranium macrorrhizum



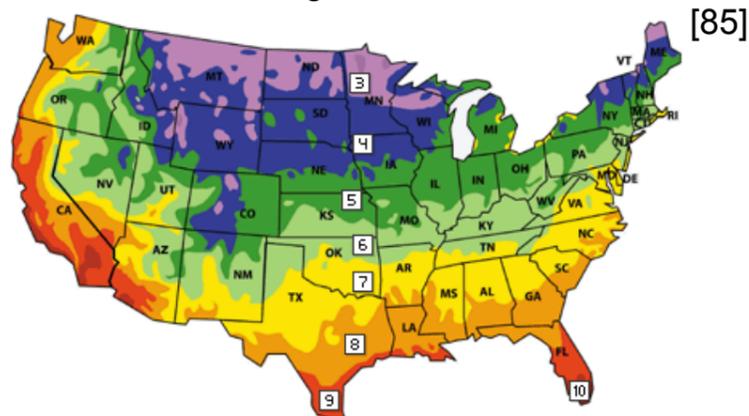
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Habitat/Range: Zones 4-8.



Big Blue Stem

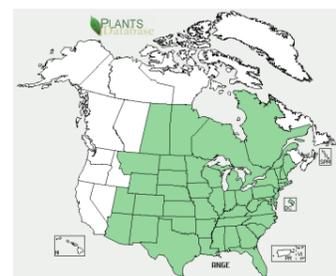
Andropogon Gerardi



Alternate Names: Bluejoint beardgrass, poptillo gigante, turkeyfoot

Size: 6-8 feet tall but it tends to be shorter in northern ranges. [87]

Habitat/Range: Zones 4-9



Medicinal Uses: The plant is analgesic, carminative and diuretic. A decoction of the roots is used in the treatment of stomach-aches and flatulence. A tea made from the leaves is used as a wash to relieve fevers and general debility. [22]

Facts: This native perennial grass is 3-8' tall, more or less erect, and little branched. Each culm is terete, tan, and hairless; its nodes are dark-colored, slightly swollen, and glaucous. There are several alternate leaves that become smaller as they ascend the culm. The leaf blades are dull green to glaucous blue, linear in shape, mostly hairless, and rather floppy. The leaf sheaths wrap tightly around the culms; they are dull green to glaucous blue, and mostly hairless. Each culm terminates in 2-6 narrow racemes of spikelets. These racemes originate near the base and spread outward, forming a claw-like V-shape. [22]

Interesting fact: Big bluestem is the dominant grass species of the Midwestern tall grass prairie. It is mixed with other native prairie species for prairie restoration and highway revegetation. While it does best in moist soils, it can be used for mine reclamation, logging road restoration and other restoration areas that have sandy or droughty conditions. If used in a garden, too much water and fertilizer can cause it to get top-heavy and fall over. [22]

Karl Foerster

Calamagrostis x acutiflora



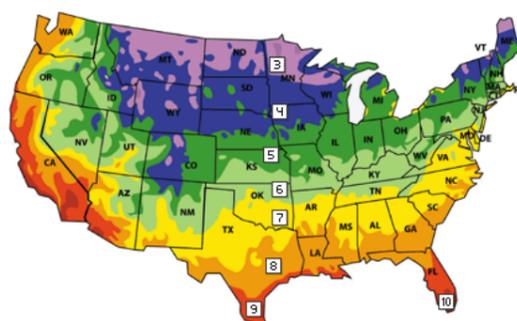
Size: 3 to 4 feet tall.

Medicinal Uses: None known.

Facts: Calamagrostis are prized for the bold vertical accent that they lend to the border. Deep green blades with extra fluffy sandy blossoms which flower in June. Among the earliest flowering grasses, they are very mannerly and stay attractive all winter and sways gracefully in the lightest breeze. A row or a mass planting of Karl is spectacular on a windy day! Who would have thought that a grass could win Perennial Plant of the Year, but in 2001 'Karl Foerster' took the honor. [23]

Interesting fact: 'Karl Foerster' is reported to be a natural hybrid of *Calamagrostis epigejos* and *Calamagrostis arundinacea*. It was introduced to the nursery trade and general public in 1950 by Karl Foerster in his book *Einzag der Graeser and Fame die Gaerten* (The Use of Grasses and Ferns in the Garden), under the name of *Calamagrostis epigejos* 'Hortorum'. It was imported into the United States from Denmark in 1964. [23]

Habitat/Range: Zones 4-9.



Japanese Sedge

Carex morowii 'Ice Ballet'



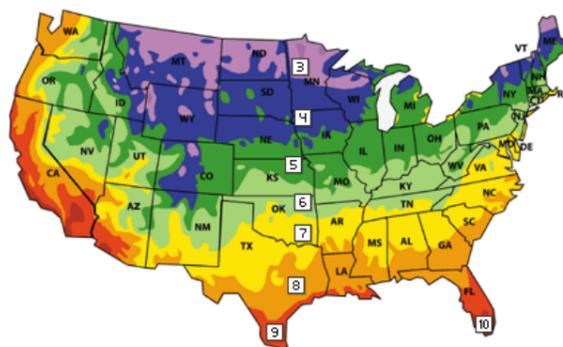
Size: 1 foot tall by 1-2 feet wide.

Medicinal Uses: None known.

Facts: This variegated sedge is a gorgeous, little, evergreen, grass-like plant with narrow, curving foliage that reflexes out and then downwards from the center of clumps to display a dominant creamy-yellow central stripe and thin, marginal, dark green edges. [24]

Interesting fact: The botanical name, Carex, comes from the Greek word keiro which means to cut, referring to the sharp leaf edges on some species. Over 1,000 species are thought to exist, growing mainly in the cooler parts of the temperate world. [24]

Habitat/Range: Zones 5-9



Scottish Tufted Hair Grass

Deschampsia cespitosa



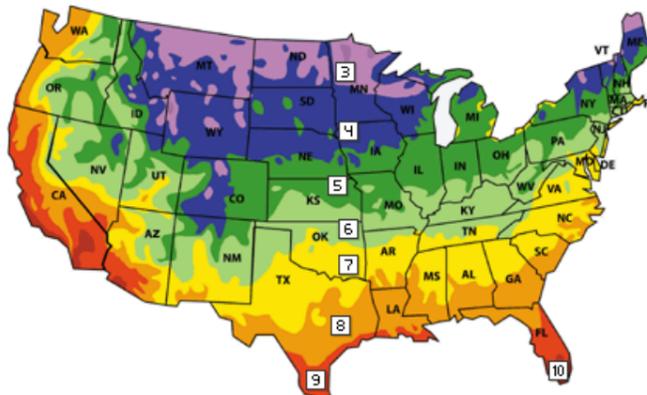
Size: Up to 4 feet tall and 2 feet wide.

Medicinal Uses: None known.

Facts: Schottland Hair Grass will grow to be about 30 inches tall at maturity extending to 4 feet tall with the flowers. *Deschampsia* is a superb, ornamental, clump-forming grass whose panicles range in color from pale straw to shades of bronze, verging upon purple depending upon time of season. The loose, airy panicles act as filler softening the lines of neighboring plants. [71]

Interesting fact: As one of the most widely distributed grasses on earth, tufted hairgrass is found in many arctic and temperate regions. It occurs from sea level to 14,000 ft in the mountains. Habitats include coastal terraces, upper tidal marshes, seasonally wet prairies, moist subalpine mountain meadows, open forests, and alpine areas above timberline. [71]

Habitat/Range: Zones 4-9.



Skyracer Grass

Molinia arundinacea



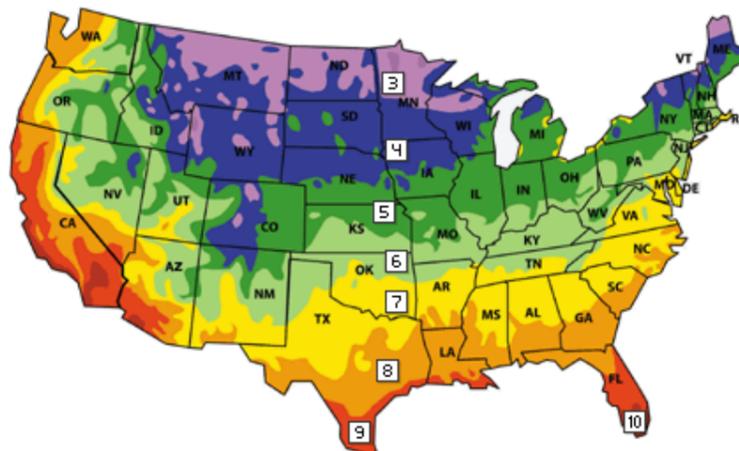
Size: Up to 3 feet tall and 2-3 feet wide.

Medicinal Uses: None known.

Facts: This moor-grass cultivar is a deciduous ornamental grass which features narrow, arching, blue-green foliage typically rising in a clump 2-3' tall. Profuse, narrow, erect, stiff, see-through flower spikes with tiny purplish flowers rise well above the foliage clump in July to a total height of 6-8 feet. Spikes quiver in the slightest breeze. Spikes and foliage turn golden yellow to orange-yellow in fall and eventually a light tan. This grass has no winter interest since the plant somewhat disintegrates in late fall with both the foliage and flower spikes breaking away. [25]

Interesting fact: This species is native to bogs and moors in Europe and Asia. [25]

Habitat/Range: Zones 4-9.



Switchgrass

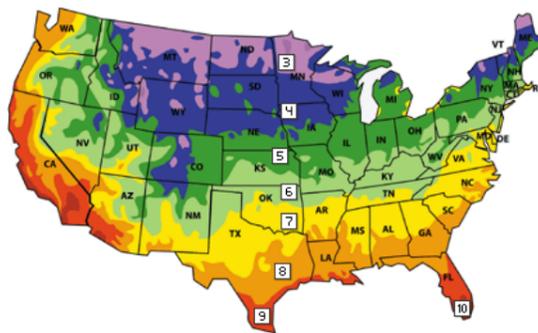
Panicum Virgatum 'Ruby Ribbons'



Size: 3 to 5 feet tall.

Habitat/Range: Zones 4-8.

Medicinal Uses: None known.



Facts: Switchgrass is native in the continental United States except California and the Pacific Northwest. It is a perennial bunch grass averaging 3 to 5 feet tall and may spread from short, stout rhizomes. The stem (culm) is round and can have a red to straw colored tint. The seed head is an open, spreading panicle. Switchgrass is climatically adapted throughout most of the United States when planted on suitable soils. Moderately deep to deep, somewhat dry to poorly drained, sandy to clay loam soils are best. It does poorly on some heavy soils. In the East, it performs well on shallow and droughty soils. Switchgrass occurs naturally on prairies, open oak and pine woodlands, shores, and riverbanks. [26]

Interesting fact: Switchgrass is a native perennial warm season grass with the ability to produce moderate to high biomass yields on marginal lands. These characters have resulted in the use of switchgrass in several bioenergy conversion processes, including cellulosic ethanol production, biogas, and direct combustion for thermal energy applications. [26]

Tall bearded iris

Iris Pallida Albo Variegata



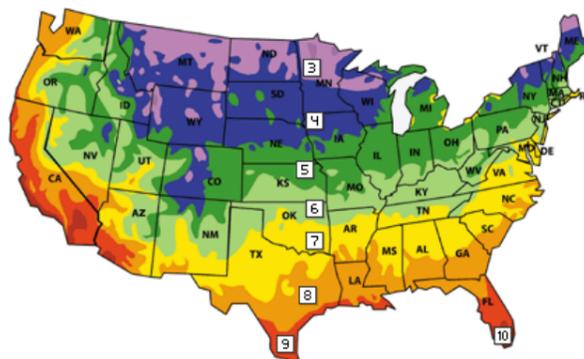
Size: 2-3 feet tall and 2 feet wide.

Medicinal Uses: Although it was once important in western herbal medicine, it isn't generally used for any medicinal reasons anymore. [27]

Facts: *Iris pallida* is commonly known as Dalmatian iris because it is native to Dalmatia, a province of Croatia. It is also native to the southern Alps. It is a rhizomatous bearded iris that features sword-shaped, gray-green leaves (to 24" long) and sweetly fragrant, pale lavender-blue flowers with yellow beards. Flowers (3-5" across) appear in late spring to early summer atop sparsely-branched scapes rising to 40" tall. Spathes are white and papery. [72]

Interesting fact: One of the species of Iris which from ancient times were used to produce 'Orris Root'. The dried root has a violet like odour and was widely used in perfumery. It was made into face powder and tooth powder, and distilled to produce Oil of Orris which was used to made scents. [27]

Habitat/Range: Zones 4-9



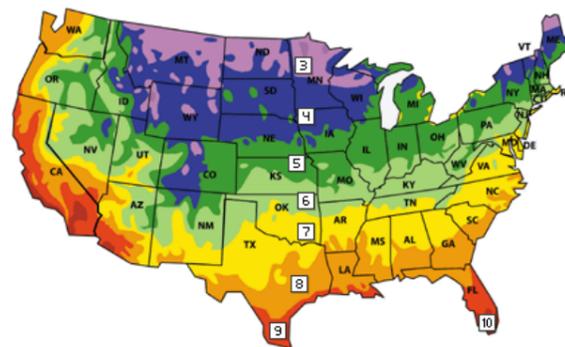
Blazing Star

Liatris Kobold



Alternate Names: Gayfeather, Button Snakeroot

Habitat/Range: Zones 4-9.



Size: 2-3 feet tall and about 1 foot wide.

Medicinal Uses: The leaves and root are anodyne, antibacterial, astringent, carminative, diaphoretic, diuretic, emmenagogue, expectorant, stimulant and tonic. The plant is said to be extremely efficacious when used as a local application in the treatment of sore throats and gonorrhoea. It is also used in treating kidney diseases. The leaves are harvested in the summer, the roots in the autumn. Both can be used fresh or dried. Liatris stimulates the stomach mildly, and is used as a tonic and antispasmodic, relieving colic and soothing irritation. [29]

Facts: This Liatris is a perennial known for its long lasting spikes of button like flower heads, bearing dense clusters of tubular, deep purple florets. Spikes resemble fluffy feather dusters. Tufts of narrow, lance shaped leaves grow from the base of the stiff stem. The flowers start showing in late summer and attracts butterflies and bees. [28]

Interesting fact: This species is unusual in that it opens from the top of the flower spike downward in late summer to early autumn. [28]

Raspberry Wine

Monarda Raspberry Wine



Size: 2 to 3 feet tall and 1 foot wide.

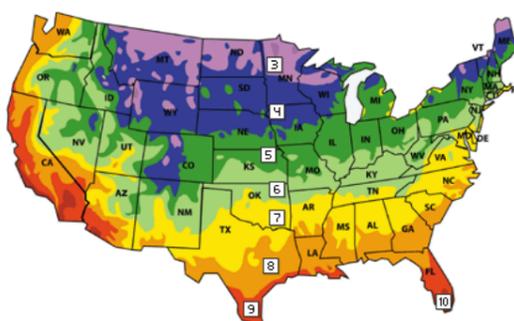
Medicinal Uses: None known.

Facts: Monarda 'Raspberry Wine' gets its name from its flower buds which resemble raspberries. The buds open up to reveal beautiful wine-red flowers. Plants spread rapidly by underground stems and need to be divided every three years to keep them looking their best.[30]

Interesting fact: This genus was named after Dr. Nicolas Monardes, a Spanish physician whose *Joyfull Newes Out of the New Founde Worlde* was the first book to be published about the flora of the Americas. A summer blooming member of the Mint family, everything about t

is plant is intriguing. [30]

Habitat/Range:



Hens & Chicks

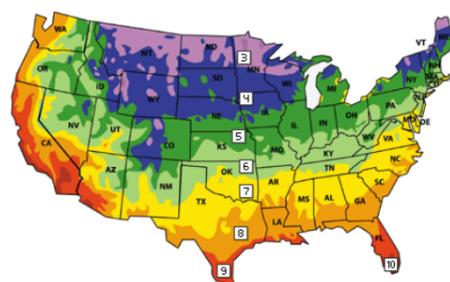
Sempervivum Cobweb



Alternate Names: Houseleek

Habitat/Range: Zones 3-8.

Size: 3-4 inches.



Medicinal Uses: The leaves are emollient, haemostatic, ophthalmic and sedative. The crushed plant, or its juice, is applied externally to boils, wounds etc and is also used to stop nose bleeds. The slightly warmed juice has been used to relieve ear inflammations and toothaches can be relieved by chewing on the leaves. When macerated and infused in vinegar, the plant can be used to get rid of warts and corns. The leaves are harvested in the summer and are best used when fresh since they are difficult to dry properly. The leaf pulp is used to make a cooling face mask for reddened or sun burnt skin. [32]

Facts: One of the most distinctive types of Sempervivum. Aptly named, 'Cobweb' is covered with fine, white threads which crisscross between the leaves' tips like a cobweb. Each rosette of pointy, blue-green leaves grows about 1 inch wide. Their color may vary from season to season. Unusual rose-pink flowers are produced on leafy stalks in midsummer. [31]

Interesting fact: Sempervivum is comprised of one large rosette called the "hen" which sprouts many smaller rosettes around it called "chicks". As the plants age, the "hen" may die out and be replaced by the "chicks". Plants can be divided easily at any time by pulling up some of the "chicks" and replanting them elsewhere. [31]

Hen & Chicks

Sempervivum Red Beauty



Alternate Names: Live Forever, Houseleek

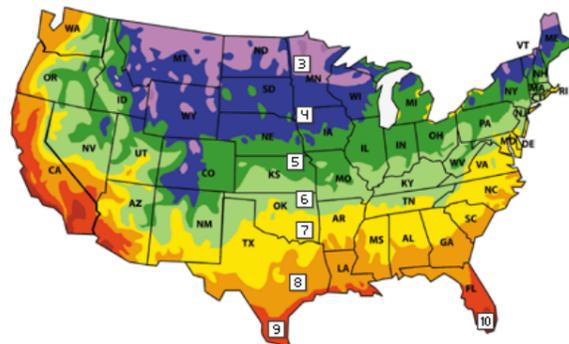
Size: 3-4 inches.

Habitat/Range: Zones 4-9.

Medicinal Uses: None known for this particular sempervivum.

Facts: 'Red Beauty' sports medium sized, fairly open rosettes of grey-green leaves with blood-red tips. This color may vary from season to season. Clusters of light pink flowers are produced in midsummer. [33]

Interesting fact: Sempervivum is comprised of one large rosette called the "hen" which sprouts many smaller rosettes around it called "chicks". As the plants age, the "hen" may die out and be replaced by the "chicks". Plants can be divided easily at any time by pulling up some of the "chicks" and replanting them elsewhere. [33]



Lamb's Ear

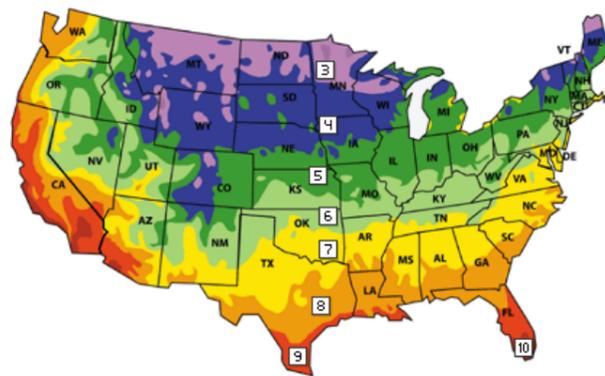
Stachys byzantina 'Big Ears'



Size: 1 foot tall by 1-2 feet wide.

Habitat/Range: Zones 4-9.

Medicinal Uses: None known.



Facts: 'Big Ears' is noted for its silver-green foliage which forms an attractive ground cover. Dense rosettes of thick, soft, velvety, silver-green leaves (to 8" long) form a mat approximately 8" off the ground. Flowering stems are rare. Leaf shape and texture resemble a lamb's ear, hence the common name. Leaves are evergreen in warm climates, but will depreciate considerably in harsh winters. [34]

Interesting fact: Lamb's Ear is a commonly grown plant for children's gardens or used as an edging plant, in Brazil is also used as a edible herb, called Lambari, as they are easy to grow and the thick felt like leaves are fun to touch. [34]

Viola

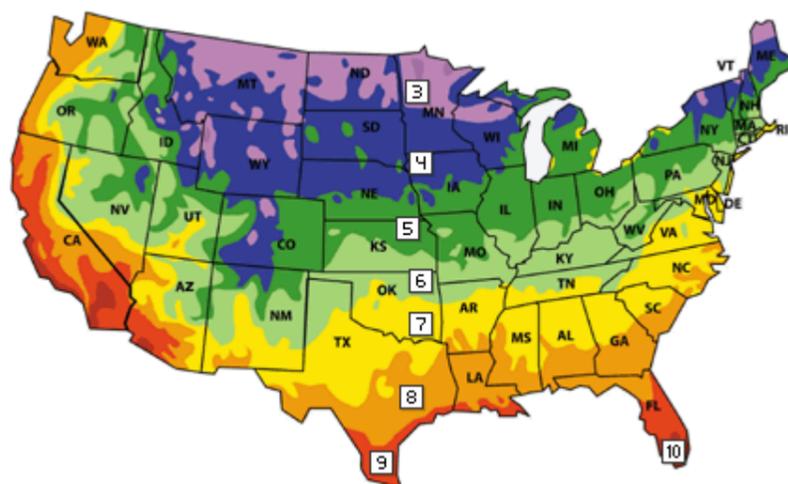
Viola Etain



Size: About 6-8 inches tall.

Habitat/Range: Zones 4-8

Medicinal Uses: None known.



Facts: This cultivar, 'Etain' is an evergreen perennial with egg-shaped, bright green leaves on spreading stems. Pale lemon-yellow flowers, 1 3/4 inches across with lavender edges and short spurs, that bloom in the spring. [35]

Interesting fact: Viola are nostalgic in any garden. Some are sweetly scented, others "jump up" in surprising spots, and all offer glorious spring color. [73]

Adam's Needle

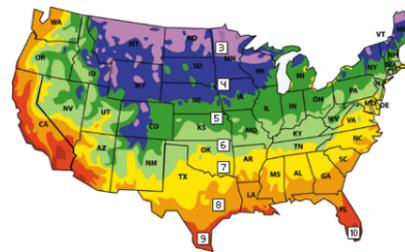
Yucca filamentosa 'Ivory Tower'



Alternate Name: Yucca

Size: 3-4 feet tall.

Habitat/Range: Zones 4-7.



Medicinal Uses: The Catawba, Cherokee, Nanticoke and other Native American tribes used *Yucca filamentosa* for a variety of purposes including food, medicine, cordage and even soap. The roots, which contain saponin, were prepared by boiling and pounding for use as soap. Roots were beaten into a salve or poultice that would then be used to treat sprains or applied to sores on the skin. The roots were used to treat gonorrhea and rheumatism. Skin diseases were treated by rubbing the roots on the skin and by taking a decoction of the roots. The plant was used as a sedative to induce sleep. An infusion of the plant was used to treat diabetes. [37]

Facts: Tough as nails, yuccas are the ideal plant for a no-maintenance garden. Their sword-like foliage radiates upward from a central crown, remaining upright all year round except in the heaviest snows. It combines nicely with all kinds of mounded foliage plants. The leaves of 'Ivory Towers' have grey-green edges and grey-green streaks within the ivory white center. From early to midsummer, spectacular sturdy flower stalks rise 3-4 feet tall from the center of the plant. The individual bell-shaped, creamy white flowers are 2-3 inches long and dangle from the stems like earrings. [36]

Interesting fact: The leaves of *Yucca filamentosa* contain the strongest fibers native to North America. [37]

Carpet Bugle

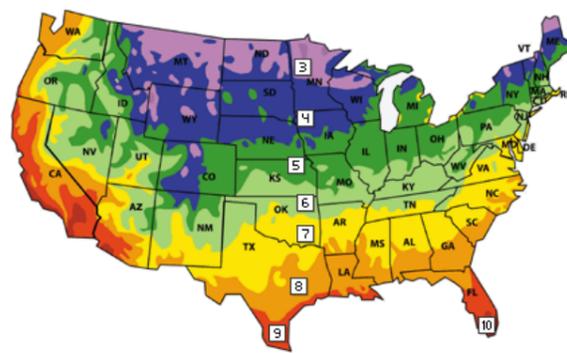
Ajuga Black Scallop



Size: 3 inches tall.

Habitat/Range: Zones 3-9. picture

Medicinal Uses: None known.



Facts: Simply the best *Ajuga* for midnight-dark foliage, rich blue blooms, and great adaptability to varying soils and moisture levels, 'Black Scallop' is a stunning groundcover with very dark, uniform, glossy scalloped foliage and a dense compact habit. The leaves are larger than 'Mahogany' and the foliage color is intensified both in full sun and cold temperatures. 'Black Scallop' has been found to be resistant to powdery mildew and it is heat resistant. This stunning black ground cover is topped in late spring/early summer with intense deep blue flowers held on small flower spikes. [38]

Interesting fact: As with many *ajugas*, this plant spreads by above ground runners. After it flowers in spring, it sends out runners in all directions, making that the best time to cut them back, making sure the plant stays in bounds. If the runners are rooted, they are easily dug up before they are too well established. The rest of the year, the plants sit quietly until the following year's spring fling. [39]

Stonecrop

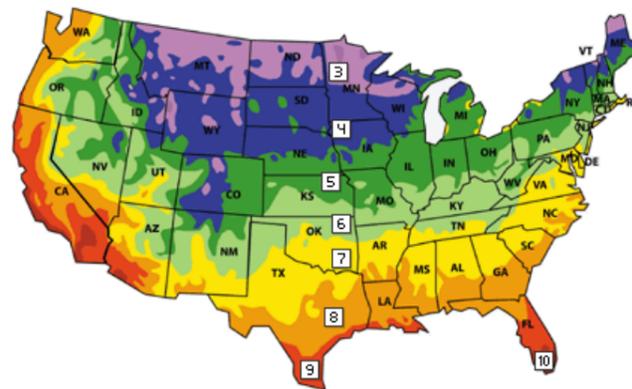
Sedum Blue Spruce



Size: About 3-6 inches.

Habitat/Range: Zones 3-9. picture

Medicinal Uses: None known.



Facts: Bluish-green (spruce colored) linear, fleshy needle-like foliage forms in a whorl around the 6" stems offering an unusual texture. Bright yellow flowers in summer top the foliage at 10". This evergreen's fast growing ground cover is a superb choice for the rock garden, garden wall or green roof. [75] All sedums have thick, fleshy, succulent-like leaves and divide well. Sedum's tolerance of cold makes it popular in northern zones. They are moderately salt tolerant, generally ignored by deer and rabbits, and attractive to butterflies. Sedums prefer well drained soil but will adapt to moist conditions. They spread moderately fast but not aggressively. [74]

Interesting fact: Stonecrops are part of a group of plants that are referred to as Succulents because they store water in their leaves. Most Stonecrops are edible and are consumed in Europe in salads. A new trend in construction is to build living roofs and walls with sedum to reduce the heat load on the building and for beautification. [40]

Coral Carpet

Sedum Coral Carpet

Size: 3 inches.

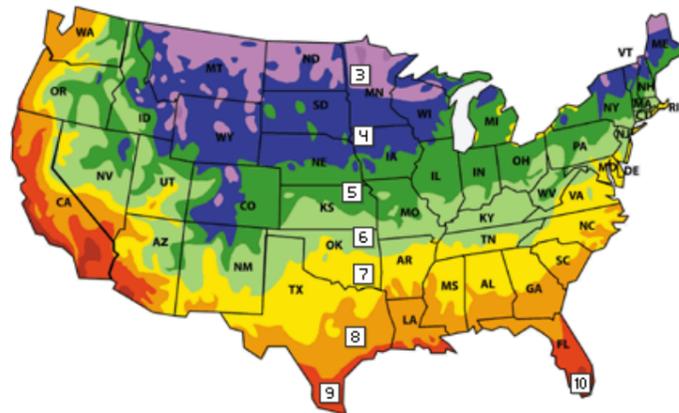
Medicinal Uses: None known.

Facts: A very tough, low-growing groundcover with mossy, lime green foliage, and makes a very dense mat. Small clusters of tiny pink flowers ice the foliage in early summer. It forms a low carpet of small, rounded green leaves that are clustered together like little beads, taking on rich red tones in summer and winter. All sedums have thick, fleshy, succulent-like leaves and divide well. Sedum's tolerance of cold makes it popular in northern zones. They are moderately salt tolerant, generally ignored by deer and rabbits, and attractive to butterflies. Sedums prefer well drained soil but will adapt to moist conditions. They spread moderately fast but not aggressively. [41]

Interesting fact: The plant is known for its small, mossy and succulent foliage that makes this plant look like coral from the oceans. [41]



Habitat/Range: Zones 2-8.



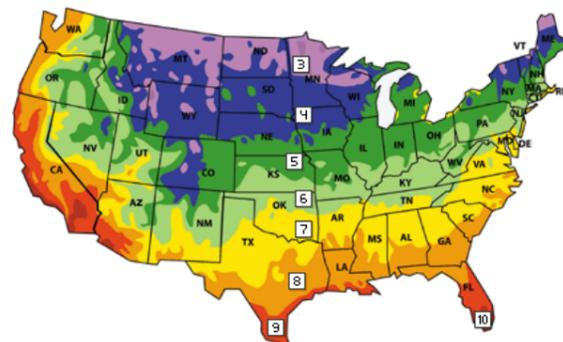


Alternate Names: Autumn Stonecrop, Showy Stonecrop

Habitat/Range: Zones 3-9.

Size: 3 inches with 1 foot spread.

Medicinal Uses: None known.



Facts: Immergrunchen Stonecrop features beautiful clusters of yellow flowers at the ends of the stems from late summer to late fall, which emerge from distinctive creamy white flower buds, and which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. It's attractive succulent round leaves emerge chartreuse in spring, turning bluish-green in color. The foliage often turns coppery bronze in fall. The fruit is not ornamentally significant.[89] Its leaves are actually semi-evergreen, some of them shed during the winter months and the remainder turn a vibrant amber color during winter. [88]

Interesting fact: Immergrunchen Stonecrop will grow to be only 2 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 inches. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 15 years. [89]



Size: 4 inches.

Habitat/Range: Zones 3-9.

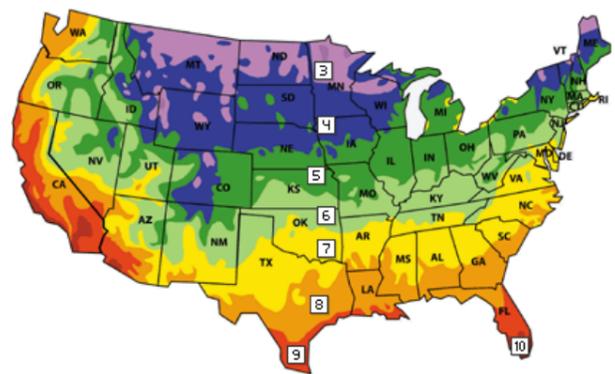
Medicinal Uses: None known.

Alternate Names: Two Row Stonecrop, Dragon's Blood Stone-

crop

Facts: Red Carpet Stonecrop is a semi-evergreen groundcover which matures to a height of 4" in foliage but 6" tall when in flower. It quickly spreads to form mats of dense stems and miniature foliage. This Sedum cultivar features reddish foliage throughout the growing season, becoming a deep crimson in the fall and winter. On good sites the plant may become invasive. [42]

Interesting fact: Small but showy pink flower clusters (star-shaped flowers with five petals) first appear in early summer and last for 2-4 weeks. [42]





Habitat/Range: Zones 5-8.

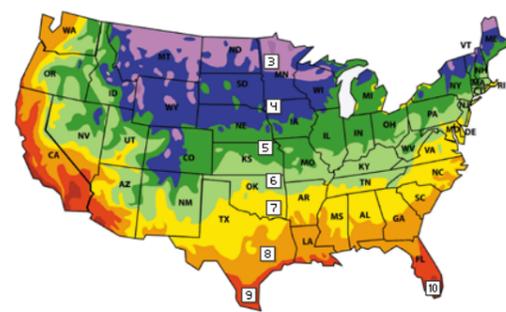
Alternate Names: Creeping thyme, Mother-of-thyme

Size: About 3 inches.

Medicinal Uses: This plant is commonly used as a domestic remedy for its effectiveness on the digestive system and its antiseptic properties. It is used both as a spice and for healing purposes. It is popular among gardeners for its lemony and sweet aroma. [44]

Facts: This wild thyme cultivar is a creeping ground cover which features long-blooming, salmon-pink flowers and tiny, rounded, aromatic, fuzzy, dark olive green leaves. Numerous stems spread out to form a flat mat (2-3" tall) with clusters of tiny, tubular, salmon-pink flowers appearing in both terminal and axillary spikes (to 1/4" long) in early to mid summer. Its flowers are known to be attractive to bees. [43]

Interesting fact: The leaves may be used for culinary purposes; however strength and taste will vary according to habitat and season. [44]



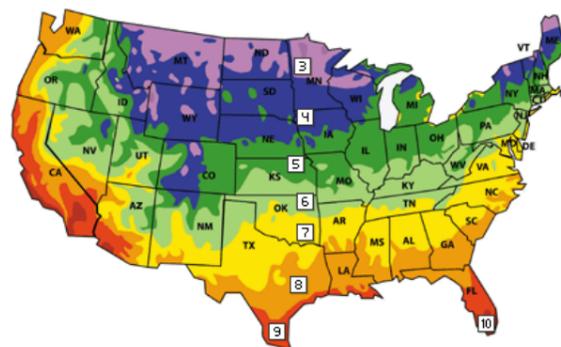
Size: About 3 inches.

Medicinal Uses: Not known to be of culinary or medicinal use,

Facts: The tiny, gray-green, wooly leaves of this fragrant herb are soft and appealing. Wooly thyme is a mat-forming perennial that originates from regions in Europe, North Africa and Asia. In early to midsummer these soft, subdued plants produce small clusters of light pink flowers. Thyme is tolerant heat and drought and grows best in full sun and sandy, well drained, infertile soil. This species is not as aggressive as other thymes and looks great when planted between stepping stones, in containers, troughs or herb gardens. [45] 'Wooly' Thyme is faintly aromatic and has beautiful pink or lavender blooms. Best loved for its carpet like spread, this fuzzy Thyme is the softest and one of the most hardy of the Thyme family. [46]

Interesting fact: It is commonly said that when bruised by foot traffic it releases a pleasant spicy odor, but in reality wooly thyme is the least pungent of the thymes, for which reason it not used for cooking. [46]

Habitat/Range: Zones 4-8.



Poem about this plant:

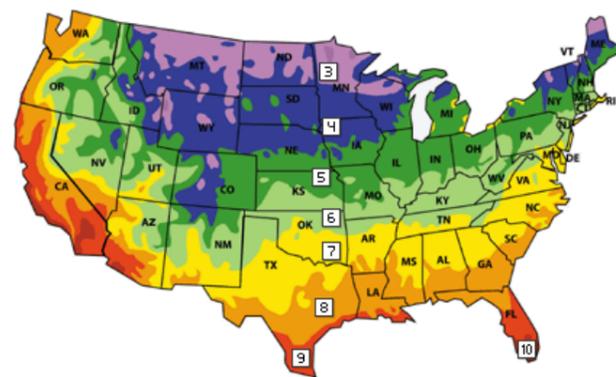
"From humble violet--modest thyme --
Exhaled, the essential odours climb,
As if no space below the sky
Their subtle flight could satisfy."
-William Wordsworth (1770-1850)



Size: Up to 1.5 feet tall by 3 feet wide.

Habitat/Range: Zones 2-9.

Medicinal Uses: None known.



Alternative Names: Ramanas rose, Japanese rose, Sea tomato

Facts: An Explorer series rose, featuring fragrant semi-double deep pink flowers in early summer, repeat-blooming; low growing and compact, adaptable and disease-resistant, and makes an excellent flowering groundcover. [49] This rose blooms with fragrant clusters of mauve-red flowers that recur throughout the season. A resilient rose that's resistant to disease, it has a vivid autumn display of orange-red fruit along with orange and yellow fall foliage. This rose has its own root. The advantage of own root roses is that once established they are very resilient. If winter's freezing breezes kill the top growth, the rose will grow back in the spring, and the recovered rose will look the same as it did before dying. [47]

Interesting fact: In September 1998, the Montreal Botanical Garden (Le Jardin Botanique de Montreal) carried out a survey of its roses' resistance to blackspot, powdery mildew and rust. This is one of the outstanding varieties which showed a 0% to 5% infection rate. The data were taken on well-established roses. [48]



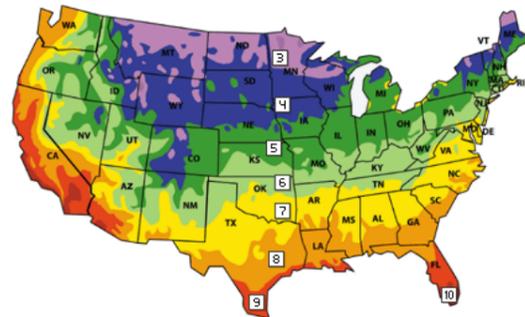
Habitat/Range: Zones 3-7.

Size: 8-10 feet tall.

Medicinal Uses: No known medicinal uses.

Facts: William Baffin is one of the hardiest climbing roses you will find. It bears semi-double, deep pink flowers in abundance in late June, with recurrent bloom well into fall. The 2 to 3 inch deep pink double flowers are borne in clusters of up to 30 blossoms. It is very free-flowering, blooming repeatedly throughout the growing season. This gorgeous climber is also exceptionally vigorous and disease resistant. [50]

Interesting fact: This plant is the only recurrent climber available to gardeners in Zones 3 and 4. [50]





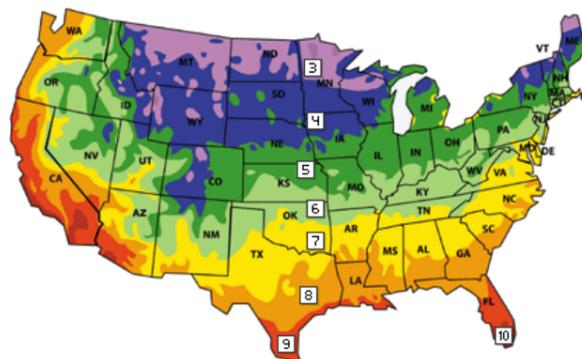
Size: 4 feet tall by 4 feet wide.

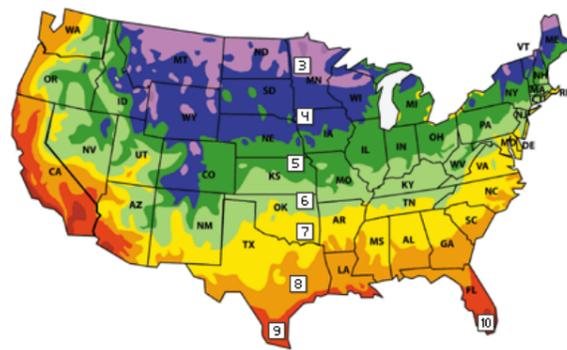
Medicinal Uses: No known medicinal uses.

Facts: Super Hero Rose is smothered in stunning lightly-scented crimson flowers at the ends of the stems from late spring to early fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. It has dark green foliage throughout the season. The oval compound leaves do not develop any appreciable fall color. The fruits are red hips displayed from early to late fall. Super Hero Rose will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. [51]

Interesting fact: This plant grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years. [51]

Habitat/Range: Zones 4-9.





Habitat/Range: Zones 3-7.

Size: Up to 3 feet tall.

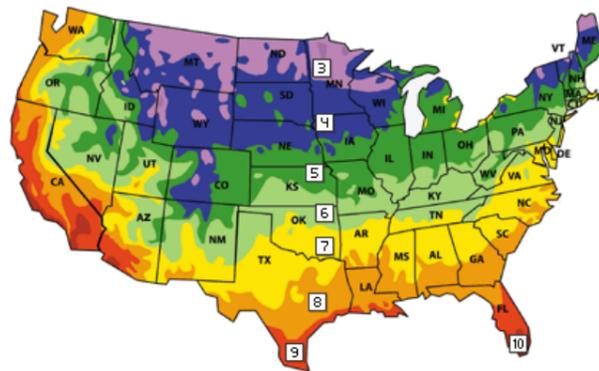
Medicinal Uses: Many medicinal uses for Native Americans including the leaves being used to relieve stomach pain and the infusion of bark as eyewash. [76]

Facts: Diervilla loniceras are easily grown, summer flowering deciduous shrubs. Exfoliating bark reveals an orangish inner bark for added interest. Leaf color progresses from dark green to burgundy tinged in fall. [77] Bush Honeysuckle is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a more or less rounded form. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage. [78]

The dwarf bush honeysuckle will grow best in exposed rocky sites, or areas with good drainage. A dwarf bush honeysuckle will live for nearly one hundred years if allowed.[90]



Habitat/Range: Zones 3-8.

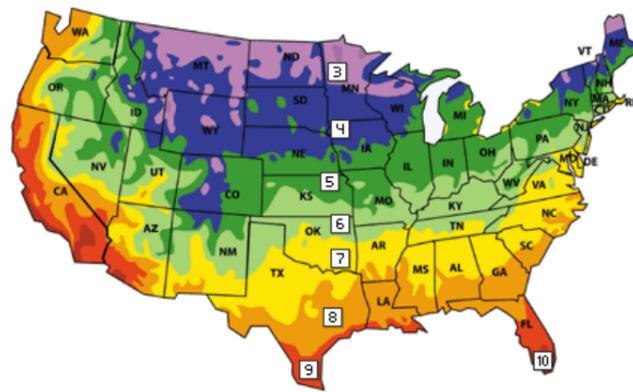


Size: About 4 feet tall and 3 feet wide.

Medicinal Uses: An infusion of the berries has been used in the treatment of colds. [54]

Facts: Black chokeberry is an open, upright, spreading, somewhat rounded, deciduous shrub that typically grows 4' tall and is noted for its clusters of 5-petaled white spring (May) flowers, glossy obovate dark green leaves (to 3" long), black autumn berries (blueberry size) and purple/red fall color. 'Autumn Magic' is a cultivar that is distinguished from the species by having better plant form, larger fruit and superior fall color. [53]

Interesting fact: The common name of chokeberry is in reference to the tart and bitter berries which are technically edible but so astringent that they cause choking in those who try. Fruits are sometimes used to make tasty juices, jams and jellies. [53]



Habitat/Range: Zones 3-9.

Size: Up to 8 feet tall with 8 foot spread.

Medicinal Uses: None known.

Facts: Hedge Cotoneaster, '*Cotoneaster lucidus*', is an upright shrub that withstands pruning well, and it makes an excellent hedge because of its height and clean, glossy foliage. The small pink flowers in spring are followed by small black fruit in late summer. The dark green foliage turns yellow to red in the fall. It likes full sun; prefers a moist, well-drained soil, but can tolerate dryness; is wind tolerant; tolerates alkaline soil, and somewhat tolerant of salt. Hedge Cotoneaster's excellent dense screen is good for hedges, bank covers, groupings, and wildlife habitat or shelterbelt filler [55]

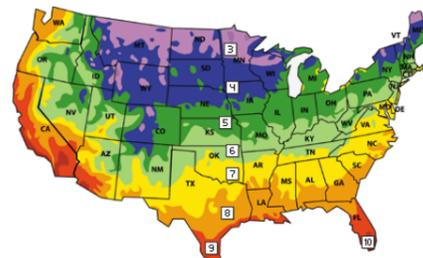
Interesting fact: The birds appreciate the bright red fruits, turning deep red/black in autumn. [55]



Size: 3-4 feet tall by 3-4 feet spread.

Habitat/Range: Zones 3-7.

Medicinal Uses: None known.



Facts: Arctic fire is a dwarf redbud dogwood cultivar that is primarily grown for its bright red winter stems which are particularly showy against a snowy backdrop. It typically grows to 3-4' tall and as wide with dense stems. It lacks the stoloniferous, spreading habit of the species. Tiny white flowers appear in flat-topped clusters (to 2.5" diameter) in late spring, with sparse, intermittent, additional flowering sometimes continuing into summer. Flowers give way to clusters of whitish (sometimes with a bluish tinge) drupes in late summer. However, it is the red winter stems that really distinguish this shrub. Ovate to lanceolate, dark green leaves (2-4" long). Leaves turn reddish purple in autumn. [92]

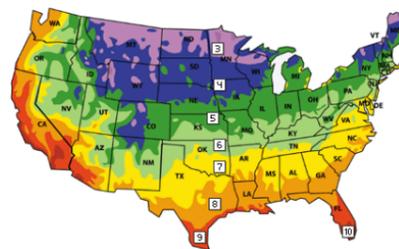
Interesting fact: The fruit is quite attractive to birds and is generally considered to have as much if not more ornamental interest than the flowers. [92]



Size: Up to 8 feet tall and 7 foot spread.

Habitat/Range: Zones 3-7.

Medicinal Uses: None known.



Facts: 'Budd's Yellow' is a yellow twig dogwood cultivar that is noted for its bright yellow twigs in winter and has green foliage throughout the season. The pointy leaves turn yellow in fall. It has clusters of creamy white flowers at the ends of the branches in late spring. It produces white berries in midsummer. The yellow branches are extremely showy and add significant winter interest. [56]

Interesting fact: Although pruning is not required, many gardeners choose to remove 20-25% of the oldest stems in early spring of each year to stimulate growth of new stems which will display the best yellow color. Its fruit is quite attractive to birds and is generally considered to have as much if not more ornamental interest than the flowers. [56]



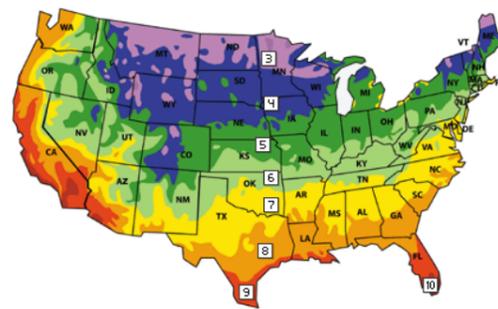
Habitat/Range: Zones 2-3.

Size: 5 feet tall with 5 foot spread.

Medicinal Uses: None known.

Facts: Alleman's Compact Dogwood has dark green foliage which emerges chartreuse in spring. The pointy leaves turn an outstanding burgundy in the fall. It has clusters of creamy white flowers at the ends of the branches in late spring. It produces white berries in late summer. The red branches are extremely showy and add significant winter interest. Brilliant red stems are a great feature during the dormant season, also outstanding fall color and attractive berries; this compact and well-behaved shrub has year-round interest. [93]

Interesting fact: This plant is an amazingly adaptable plant, tolerating both dry conditions and even some standing water. [93]

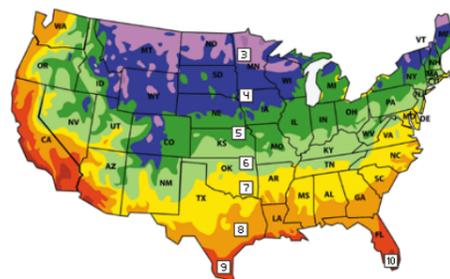




Habitat/Range: Zones 4-7.

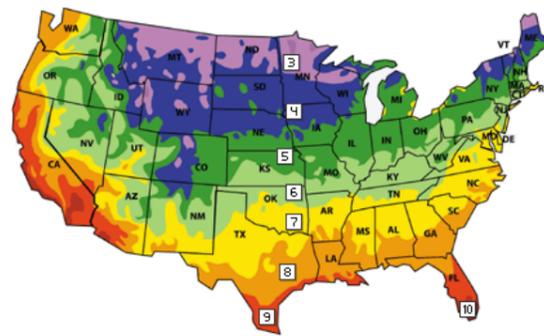
Size: About 7 feet tall with 7 foot spread.

Medicinal Uses: None known.



Facts: Red Majestic Corkscrew Hazelnut is draped in stunning burgundy catkins hanging below the branches from late winter to early spring before the leaves. The flowers are excellent for cutting. It has attractive dark green foliage with hints of burgundy which emerges burgundy in spring. The large crinkled round leaves are ornamentally significant and turn an outstanding red in the fall. The fruit is not ornamentally significant. [79]

Interesting fact: The twisted dark brown bark and brown branches are extremely showy and add significant winter interest. [79]



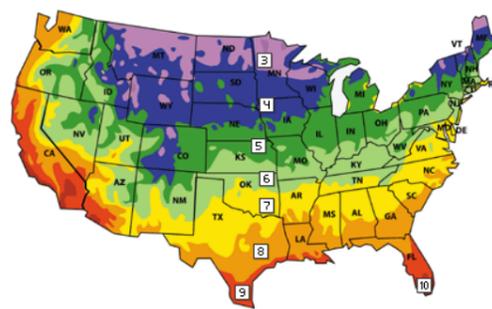
Habitat/Range: Zones 3-7.

Size: 10-15 feet tall with around a 12 foot spread.

Medicinal Uses: None known.

Facts: Considered by many to be the most sensational of all hybrid lilacs and the only one with picotee edges to the flowers.[57] Picotee flowers are those where the petals have a distinctive edging in a color that is different than the main hue.[91] The bi-colored flowers are striking and the large upright trusses are sensational, creating a spectacle where-ever they are planted. It is care-free and hardy, providing armfuls of cut flowers for indoor bouquets. [57]

Interesting fact: In one of his famous poems, Walt Whitman said of Lilacs that every leaf is a “miracle”. Once you’ve seen or planted a Lilac Sensation, you’ll see how he could feel that way. The flowers are hardy and long-lasting in cut floral arrangements. [57]



Habitat/Range: Zones 3-7.

Size: 6-8 feet tall with 6-8 foot spread.

Medicinal Uses: A tea made from the inner bark is laxative and emetic. It is used internally to treat women's complaints and to enhance fertility. It is also used as a wash on scrofulous glands in the neck. Some caution is advised, this herb is best used only under the supervision of a qualified practitioner.[59]

Facts: 'Center Glow' is a mounded, vase-shaped, ninebark cultivar that typically matures to 6-8' tall and as wide, and is most noted for its attractive foliage. Ovate to rounded, usually 3-lobed, maple-like leaves (to 4" long) emerge greenish-gold in spring but age to burgundy, with leaves showing both colors as they mature. Foliage is nicely complemented by small pinkish-white, five-petaled flowers that bloom in dense, flat, rounded, spiraea-like clusters in late spring. This bark provides winter interest but is usually hidden by the foliage during the growing season. [58]

Interesting fact: Plants in this genus exhibit exfoliating bark on mature branches. The bark peels in strips to reveal several layers of reddish to light brown inner bark, hence the common name. [58]



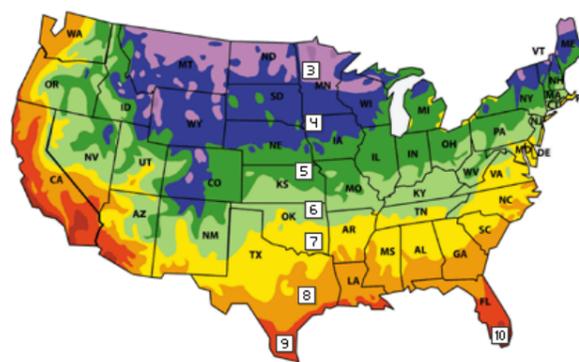
Habitat/Range: Zones 3-8.

Size: 6 feet tall with 6 foot spread.

Medicinal Uses: None known.

Facts: Tiger Eye Sumac is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a stunning habit of growth which features almost oriental horizontally-tiered branches. It lends an extremely fine and delicate texture to the landscape composition which can make it a great accent feature on this basis alone. Tiger Eye Sumac has gold foliage which emerges chartreuse in spring. The deeply cut ferny compound leaves turn an outstanding orange in the fall. Neither the flowers nor the fruit are ornamentally significant. The smooth brown bark is not particularly outstanding. [60]

Interesting fact: It was discovered in a cultivated nursery setting in July of 1985 as a whole plant mutation of *R. typhina* 'Laciniata'. It is considered to be a superior landscape plant to 'Laciniata' as well as to the species *Rhus typhina* because of its dwarf size, quality yellow foliage and minimal suckering. [61]

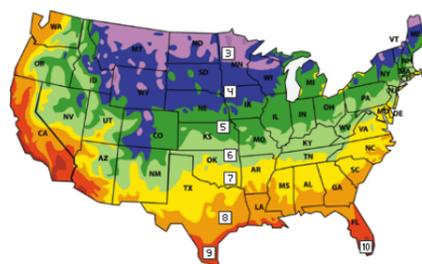




Size: 8- 10 feet tall with 10 foot spread.

Habitat/Range: Zones 3-7

Medicinal Uses: None known.



Facts: Firebird Crabapple is a dense deciduous shrub with a stunning habit of growth which features almost oriental horizontally-tiered branches. Firebird Crabapple is covered in stunning clusters of fragrant white flowers along the branches in mid spring, which emerge from distinctive rose flower buds before the leaves. It has dark green foliage throughout the season. The pointy leaves turn yellow in fall. The fruits are showy red pomes carried in abundance from early to mid fall. The rough brown bark and brick red branches add an interesting dimension to the landscape. [81]

Interesting fact: Its persistent red fruit can be helpful in adding winter interest to landscapes. In addition, it has less of a tendency to flower and fruit alternate years than other *Malus sargentii* cultivars. [80]



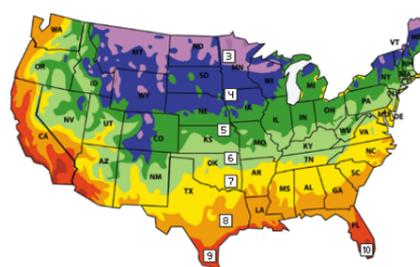
Size: 15-20 feet tall with 20 foot spread.

Habitat/Range: Zones 4-8.

Medicinal Uses:

Facts: This deciduous tree grows to a mature height of 20' with a spread. It bears purple leaves in the spring which later turn to reddish green as they mature. The leaves are arranged alternately, and are simple. In May flowers form all over the tree. They have a pinkish red color and are 1.5" in diameter. The flowers keep their wonderful color all through the blooming period. Flowers give rise to dark-red fruit which are .5" in diameter. The fruit hang on the tree during the fall and winter providing food that larger song-birds greatly enjoy. During the long days of winter the reddish-brown bark of a Prairifire crabapple resembles that of a stone fruit tree. [83]

Interesting fact: When the other trees in the area are leafing out in the usual green hues, the Prairifire will display a unique show of purple leaves that later transform to a green with a reddish tint. [82]



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