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Container Gardening Keystone Plants List



Eastern Temperate Forests



Blue Wood Aster

(Symphyotrichum cordifolium)*



LIGHT: Full sun to partial sun WATER: Low to average SEASON OF INTEREST: Late summer through fall

HEIGHT: 2-5 ft

DURATION: Perennial
This densely flowering plant is a stunning late season choice, providing nectar to butterflies

providing nectar to butterflies and visual interest. This species is generally pest free and deer resistant.

* not native to LA



Smooth Aster

(Symphyotrichum laeve)*



LIGHT: Full sun

WATER: Low to average SEASON OF INTEREST: Late summer through fall

HEIGHT: 2-4 ft

DURATION: Perennial

These small and densely blooming flowers are a striking blue to purple color with a golden-yellow center. This species has no serious pests or diseases.

* rare in southern parts of

ecoregion



Woodland Sunflower

(Helianthus divaricatus)



LIGHT: Partial sun WATER: Low

SEASON OF INTEREST:

Summer through fall

HEIGHT: 2-6 ft
DURATION: Perennial

This sunflower produces a profusion of 2 inch across yellow flowers that are attractive to many species. This plant is deer resistant, relatively pest and disease free, and can be divided

every few years.



Black-Eyed Susan

(Rudbeckia hirta)



LIGHT: Full sun

WATER: Low to average SEASON OF INTEREST: Summer through fall HEIGHT: 2-3 ft DURATION:

Short-lived perennial

This short-lived perennial with 3 inch blooms self-seeds and can tolerate a wide range of growing conditions. It has no serious pests or diseases and is deer resistant.



Cutleaf Coneflower

(Rudbeckia laciniata)



LIGHT: Full sun

WATER: Average to high SEASON OF INTEREST: Mid summer through fall

HEIGHT: 3-9 ft

DURATION: Perennial

This 3-4 inch flower grows well in a large pot with support, and its attractive seedheads extend the season of interest into the winter. It has no serious pests or diseases and is deer resistant.



Lanceleaf Coreopsis

(Coreopsis lanceolata)



LIGHT: Full sun WATER: Low

SEASON OF INTEREST: Late spring through mid

summer

HEIGHT: 1-2 ft

DURATION: Perennial

Relatively free of pests and naturally resistant to deer, this attractive yellow flower draws a wide array of native pollinators. In the right conditions this plant grows quickly and can self-seed.

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Orange Coneflower

(Rudbeckia fulgida)*



LIGHT: Full sun to partial sun

WATER: Average

SEASON OF INTEREST: Mid summer through fall

HEIGHT: 2-4 ft

DURATION: Perennial

This bright flower blooms profusely in full sun but can tolerate some shade. It is low maintenance, highly disease tolerant, deer resistant, and attractive to butterflies.

* not native in LA or northern parts of ecoregion

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Common Evening Primrose

(Oenothera biennis)



LIGHT: Full sun to partial sun WATER: Low to average SEASON OF INTEREST: Summer through fall HEIGHT: 3-5 ft

DURATION: Perennial

This fragrant flower produces a profusion of yellow flowers that open in the evening and close in the morning. This species blooms in its second year, and the whole plant is edible.



Blanketflower or Firewheel

(Gaillardia pulchella)*



LIGHT: Full sun WATER: Low

SEASON OF INTEREST:

Spring through fall **HEIGHT:** 1-2 ft

DURATION: Short-lived Perennial

This showy flower has a striking red center up to 2 inches across and abundant nectar. This easy to grow plant has no serious pests or diseases, and readily self-seeds.

* not native to northern parts of

ecoregion



Wrinkleleaf Goldenrod

(Solidago rugosa)*



LIGHT: Full sun

WATER: Average to high SEASON OF INTEREST: Late summer through fall

HEIGHT: 3-5 ft **DURATION:** Perennial

This compact goldenrod has arching sprays of bright yellow flowers that support over 100 species of insects. This species is deer resistant with no serious pests or diseases.

* not native in MN



Wreath Goldenrod

(Solidago caesia)*



LIGHT: Full sun to partial sun WATER: Low to average SEASON OF INTEREST: Late summer through fall

HEIGHT: 1-3 ft
DURATION: Perennial

This plant blant bears a profusion of flowers in late summer that are highly attractive to a variety of species. This less aggressive goldenrod is deer resistant with no serious pests or diseases.

* not native in MN



Grass-Leaved Goldenrod

(Euthamia graminifolia)*



LIGHT: Full sun
WATER: Low to average
SEASON OF INTEREST:
Summer through fall
HEIGHT: 3-6 ft

DURATION: Perennial

This bushy plant has dense yellow flowers that support a wide variety of insect species and songbirds. This species has no serious pests or diseases.

* not native to southwestern parts of ecoregion

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