

Yards dominated by native plants support more insects and birds than yards with mostly non-native plants. A typical suburban yard has 50% or more non-native plants. Planting additional native species can help!

More than 1/3 of all plants or plant products (fruit, nuts, etc.) we eat depend on insects for pollination.

Insects are a critical food source for birds and other wildlife. A clutch of baby chickadees eats more than 6000 caterpillars before they leave the nest!

Local birds and insects are adapted to when native plants leaf, bloom, and develop fruits, berries, and seeds. Nutritional value of native plants often differ from cultivars or non-native substitutes.

NATIVE TREES, SHRUBS AND GRASSES OF CENTRAL ILLINOIS

Trees: American Basswood, Hackberry, Hickory (shellbark, shagbark, mockernut & bitternut), Maple (black, sugar & silver), Oak (black, bur, northern red, pin, shingle, swamp white & white), Pecan, Persimmon (American), Sycamore, Walnut (black)

Small Trees & Shrubs: Buttonbush, Dogwood (gray, red osier), Elderberry, Hawthorn (downy, cock-spur), Nannyberry, New Jersey Tea, Ninebark, Redbud, Serviceberry (downy), Sumac (fragrant, shining, smooth)

Grasses: Big Bluestem, Canada Wild Rye, Indian Grass, June Grass, Little Bluestem, Prairie Drop Seed, Prairie Switchgrass

More on native plants and building habitat for birds is available at: decatur-audubon.org

TIPS FOR YOUR PLANTER OR GARDEN

- Try to provide 3 different flowers each month. Think variety in color, size & shape!
- Plant in groups of 3-5 for feeding efficiency.
- Many pollinators overwinter underground, in brush piles, tree bark, or leaf litter. Leave an area of your yard undisturbed.
- Limit your use of pesticides and herbicides. Select products specific to your problem pest. Look into alternative control methods.
- Cultivars with 'double' flowers are often not beneficial for pollinators. Choose native plants rather than cultivars when available. Ask for them by their scientific (Latin) name.

AREA GARDENS CURRENTLY GROWING NATIVE SPECIES:

Rock Springs Nature Center
Decatur Public Library
Lincoln Trail Homestead State Park

Special thanks to Friends of Lincoln Trails Homestead State Park, Glacier's Edge Master Naturalists, Macon County Conservation District Volunteers, and Macon County Master Gardeners for their care of these native gardens in our community.



PLANTS FOR BIRDS

A PROJECT OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY AND
PROMOTED BY DECATUR AUDUBON IN CENTRAL ILLINOIS



Decatur
Audubon 

A GUIDE TO NATIVE PLANTS USED TO
BEAUTIFY YOUR LANDSCAPE AND BUILD
HABITAT FOR BIRDS, BUTTERFLIES, AND
OTHER BENEFICIAL INSECTS

NATIVE SPECIES OF CENTRAL ILLINOIS

YOUR GARDEN CAN BE AS BIG AS YOUR BACKYARD OR SMALL AS A SINGLE POT. EVERY GARDEN IS IMPORTANT AND NO EFFORT IS TOO SMALL! FOR MORE RESOURCES RELATED TO NATIVE PLANTS FOR BIRDS AND POLLINATORS IN THE CENTRAL ILLINOIS AREA VISIT US AT DECATUR-AUDUBON.ORG

Wild Geranium | *Geranium maculatum*



Height: 1.5-2' Blooms: Apr-May Light: Full sun to part shade Soil: Medium
Nectar for early pollinators.
Best in shady areas.

Columbine | *Aquilegia canadensis*



Height: 24" Blooms: May-June Light: Full sun to part shade Soil: Medium
Attracts butterfly and hummingbirds.
Self-sowing.

Bloodroot | *Sanguinaria canadensis*



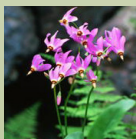
Height: 4-8" Blooms: Apr-May Light: Partial to full shade. Soil: Medium/high
Fragrant. Best in shady well drained areas.
Goes dormant in summer.

Wild Ginger | *Asarum canadense*



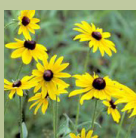
Height: 4+" Light: Medium sun to part shade Soil: Medium
Excellent ground cover in partial to full shade.
Too aggressive for mixed shade border.

Shooting Star | *Primula meadia*



Height: 12" Blooms: Apr-May Light: Full sun to partial shade Soil: Dry, Moderate
Clusters of white to rose flowers. Spring ephemeral, dormant in summer.

Black-eyed Susan | *Rudbeckia hirta*



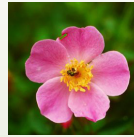
Height: 1-3' Blooms: May-August Light: Full sun Soil: Dry
Attracts butterflies, feeds birds and pollinators.
Self seeds in open ground. Short lived perennial.

Mountain Mint | *Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*



Height: 2-3' Blooms: June-August Light: Full sun Soil: Dry to Medium
Aromatic, use in herb garden, perennial border, butterfly garden, wildflower meadow or prairie.

Pasture Rose | *Rosa carolina*



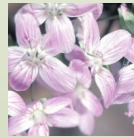
Height: 1-2' Blooms: May-June Light: Full sun Soil: Dry, Moderate
Attracts pollinators & beneficial insects.
Cover and nesting for birds. Loose ground cover.

Joe Pye-weed | *Eutrochium maculatum*



Height: 2-4' Blooms: Jul-Sept Light: Full sun Soil: Moist, along shores
Nectar plant. Seeds for birds.
Large plant that needs space.

Spring Beauty | *Claytonia virginica*



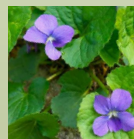
Height: 5-10" Blooms: February to May Light: Partial to full shade Soil: Dry to moderate
Nectar attracts butterflies and moths.
Great natural ground cover.

Bird's Foot Violet | *Viola pedata*



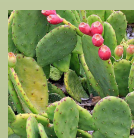
Height: 3-6" Blooms: May-June Light: Full to partial sun Soil: Dry to Medium
Attracts butterflies. Good for banks and slopes as a ground cover.

Blue Violet | *Viola sororia*



Height: 6-10" Blooms: May-June Light: Light to partial shade Soil: Medium well drained
Good groundcover that spreads rapidly. A host plant for Fritillary Butterfly caterpillars.

Prickly Pear Cactus | *Opuntia humifusa*



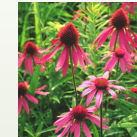
Height: .5-1' Blooms: June-August Light: Full sun Soil: Dry, Loam or sand
Attracts birds, perfect for banks and slopes, in beds or borders.

Marsh Marigold | *Caltha palustris*



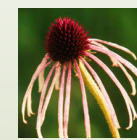
Height: 1-2' Blooms: April - June Light: Full to partial sun Soil: Moist
One of the first native wildflowers to bloom in the spring. Attracts bees.

Purple Coneflower | *Echinacea purpurea*



Height: 2-3' Blooms: June-September Light: Full sun to average shade Soil: Moderate
Attracts butterfly, pollinators and beneficial insects. Birds feed on dry seed.

Pale Purple Coneflower | *Echinacea pallida*



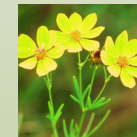
Height: 2-3' Blooms: June-September Light: Full sun Soil: Dry to Medium
Attracts butterfly, pollinators and beneficial insects. Birds feed on dry seed.

Wild Quinine | *Parthenium integrifolium*



Height: 2-4' Blooms: June-September Light: Full sun Soil: Dry to Medium
Excellent perennial border, native garden, wildflower meadow or prairie.

Coreopsis | *Coreopsis palmata*



Height: 18-30" Blooms: June-August Light: Full sun to average shade Soil: Dry to Medium
Attracts butterfly, pollinators and beneficial insects.

Showy Goldenrod | *Solidago speciosa*



Height: 3-4' Blooms: July-September Light: Full sun Soil: Dry to Medium
Attracts butterfly, pollinators and beneficial insects.

Mayapple | *Podophyllum peltatum*



Height: 12-18" Blooms: June-August Light: Medium sun to average shade Soil: Dry, Medium to Moist
A wonderful groundcover for the shade.

Senna | *Senna marilandica*



Height: 3-5' Blooms: June-August Light: Full sun Soil: Dry to Medium
Shrubby perennial serves as larval food source for two sulphur butterflies.