



Native Wildflowers (mid-season)

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For the purpose of this handout, the mid- season wildflowers are those that begin blooming in May or June. Times are approximate and will be dependent on weather.

Scientific name Common Name Hardiness zone	Height Bloom time	Ornamental Features	Culture	Comments
<i>Actaea pachypoda</i> Doll's Eyes, White Baneberry Zone 3	1-2 feet May-June	Clusters of small white flowers, followed by white berries in mid-summer.	Partial shade; moist, fertile soil.	Berries are poisonous; this plant is commonly found in rich deciduous woods.
<i>Actaea rubra</i> Red Baneberry Zone 4	1-2 feet May-June	Clusters of small white flowers, followed by red berries in mid-summer.	Partial shade; moist, fertile soil.	Berries are poisonous; this plant is commonly found in rich deciduous woods.
<i>Allium canadense</i> Wild Garlic Zone 3	8-24 inches May-July	Clusters of small white or pink flowers; small bulblets are often mixed in with the flowers.	Full sun; moist well drained soils.	Foliage has a strong onion scent; found in open woods and prairies.
<i>Allium tricoccum</i> Wild Leek, Ramps Zone 3	½- 1 ½ feet June-July	Clusters of small white flowers.	Partial to full shade, consistently moist soils.	Foliage has a strong onion scent. The leaves wither before the flowers bloom. Found in woods.
<i>Amorpha canescens</i> Leadplant Zone 2	1-3 feet June-Aug	Spikes of small purple flowers in summer; gray- green foliage.	Full sun; moist, well-drained soil to dry soil.	Deeply rooted (up to 4 feet deep). Found on prairies.
<i>Anemone canadensis</i> Canada Anemone Zone 3	1-2 feet May-July	White flowers from late spring into summer.	Full sun to partial shade; prefers moist to wet soils.	Spreads by rhizomes. Found on prairies.

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<i>Apocynum cannabinum</i> Indian Hemp Zone 4	1-4 feet June-Aug	Small white flowers in summer; thin, pod-like fruit in late summer.	Full sun; moist, well-drained soil to wet sites; can also tolerate some dryness.	This plant is s strong grower and can become aggressive.
<i>Arisaema dracontium</i> Green Dragon Zone 4	1-4 feet May-July	Unusual 'Jack in the Pulpit' flowers; a stalk of tiny flowers ('Jack') surrounded by a spathe (the 'pulpit'). orange berries.	Partial to full shade; moist, well drained soils to wet organic soils.	Found in woods and along stream banks.
<i>Aruncus dioicus</i> Goatsbeard Zone 3	3-6 feet May-July	Numerous tiny creamy white flowers in branched clusters.	Partial shade; moist, well drained soils.	Male and female flowers are found on separate plants, but both are showy.
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i> Swamp Milkweed Zone 3	2-4 feet June-Aug	Clusters of pink flowers followed by narrow seedpods filled with seeds attached to long white hairs.	Full sun; moist, well drained soils to wet sites.	Found in wet areas. Monarch butterfly larvae feed on the foliage of this plant and absorb chemicals that make them toxic to predators.
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i> Common Milkweed Zone 3	3-5 feet June-Aug	Clusters of light pink or lavender flowers followed by warty seedpods filled with seeds attached to long white hairs.	Full sun; moist, well drained soils to dry soils.	Found in fields and along roadsides; Monarch butterfly larvae feed on the foliage of this plant and absorb chemicals that make them toxic to predators. This plant can grow very aggressively.
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> Butterfly Weed Zone 4	1-2 feet June-Sept	Clusters of orange flowers followed by narrow seedpods filled with seeds attached to long white hairs.	Full sun; very tolerant of dry, infertile soils.	Found in fields and dry soils. Caterpillars of Monarch butterfly will feed on this plant.
<i>Asclepias verticillata</i> Whorled Milkweed Zone 3	1-2 feet June-Sept	Clusters of white flowers followed by narrow seedpods filled with seeds attached to long, white hairs.	Full sun; tolerant of dry soils.	Found in open woods and dry areas. Caterpillars of Monarch butterfly will feed on this plant.
<i>Baptisia australis</i> Blue False Indigo Zone 3	3-4 feet May-June	Purple, pea-type flowers in long spike-like clusters; pods that change from green to medium gray; blue green foliage.	Full sun to partial shade; moist, well-drained soil. Tolerates dry soils and infertile soil.	Has a taproot which makes transplanting difficult.

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<i>Calla palustris</i> Wild Calla Zone 3	6-12 inches May-Aug	Broad white 'petal' (really a spathe), surrounding a spike-like group of tiny flowers; heart-shaped leaves; clusters of red berries.	Full sun to partial shade; moist to wet sites are needed.	Found in bogs and along the edges of ponds. An endangered plant in Illinois.
<i>Callirhoe involucrata</i> Purple Poppy-Mallow, Wine Cups Zone 4	6-12 inches May-June	Cup shaped flowers are deep red-purple; attractive lobed leaves.	Full sun; tolerates droughty soils.	Found in dry prairies and fields. Has a deep taproot which makes transplanting difficult. Mat forming.
<i>Camassia scilloides</i> Wild Hyacinth Zone 5	1-2 feet May-June	6 petaled blue flowers on a spike-like cluster.	Sun to partial shade; moist, well drained; tolerates some dryness.	Found in meadows and open woods. Grows from a bulb.
<i>Campanula americana</i> (<i>Campanulastrum americanum</i>) Tall Bellflower Zone 3	1-2 feet June-Sept	Flat, blue flowers in a tall spike-like cluster.	Full sun to partial shade; moist, well-drained soil.	Found in prairies and open woodlands; attracts hummingbirds. This plant is considered an annual (but it self sows easily giving a perennial appearance).
<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i> Lance Leaved Coreopsis Zone 4	1-2 feet June-July	Bright yellow, daisy-like flowers in summer.	Full sun; moist, well-drained soil is best, but this plant is very drought tolerant.	Found in prairies and fields. Often self-sows extensively.
<i>Coreopsis palmata</i> Stiff Tickseed Zone 3	1-3 feet June-July	Yellow daisy-like flowers; 3 lobed leaves resembling a bird's foot.	Full sun; moist, well drained soils. Drought tolerant.	Found in prairies. Plants spread by rhizomes and seeds.
<i>Dalea candida</i> White Prairie Clover Zone 3	1-2 feet May-July	Numerous, small white flowers arranged in short, dense spikes.	Full sun; moist, well drained soils. Tolerant of drought.	Found in prairies. May be difficult to move, due to a taproot.
<i>Dalea purpurea</i> Purple Prairie Clover Zone 3	1-3 feet June-Sept	Numerous, small purple flowers arranged in short, dense spikes.	Full sun; moist, well drained soils. Tolerates drought.	Found in prairies. May be difficult to move, due to a taproot.

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<i>Echinacea pallida</i> Pale Purple Coneflower Zone 4	2-3 feet June-July	Large, purple daisies with narrow, reflexed petals and a prominent cone in the middle.	Full sun; moist, well drained sites, but tolerant of drought and heat.	Found in prairies and savannahs.
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> Purple Coneflower Zone 3	2-4 feet June-Oct	Large, purple daisies with reflexed petals and a prominent cone in the middle.	Full sun; moist, well drained sites, but tolerant of drought and heat.	Found in prairies.
<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i> Rattlesnake Master Zone 3	3-4 feet June-Sept	White to greenish white flowers in ball-like heads; sharp strappy foliage that resembles that of yucca.	Full sun; moist, well drained sites; tolerates dry sites.	Found in prairies and savannahs; has a taproot, so is difficult to transplant.
<i>Filipendula rubra</i> Queen of the Prairie Zone 3	6-8 feet June-Aug	Large clusters of pink flowers; deeply divided leaves.	Full sun; moist, well drained sites; avoid dry sites.	Found in moist prairies and meadows. An endangered plant in Illinois.
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i> Oxeye Sunflower Zone 3	3-6 feet June-Aug	Bright yellow daisies.	Full sun; moist, well drained to dry sites	Found in open woods and prairies.
<i>Heuchera richardsonii</i> Prairie Alumroot Zone 3	2-4 feet June-July	Cluster of rounded leaves and a tall open spike of small, greenish flowers.	Light shade to full sun; moist, well drained to slightly dry sites.	Found in prairies.
<i>Iris versicolor</i> Larger Blue Flag Zone 3	2-3 feet May-July	Purple iris flowers.	Full sun; moist to wet sites.	Found in wet meadows. Will spread by rhizomes and by self seeding.
<i>Iris virginica</i> Blue Flag Zone 5	2-3 feet May-July	Purple iris flowers.	Full sun; moist to wet sites.	Found in wet areas. Can tolerate submersion of roots in water.
<i>Lilium philadelphicum</i> Wood Lily Zone 4	1-3 feet June-July	Orange, upward facing lilies with spotted petals.	Full sun to light shade; moist, well drained sites; drought tolerant.	Found in meadows and open woods.

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<i>Lysimachia ciliata</i> Fringed Loosestrife Zone 3	1-4 feet June-Aug	Bright yellow flowers, facing outward or nodding.	Full sun to partial shade; moist, well drained to wet soils.	Found in swamps and wet thickets. Can spread aggressively.
<i>Lysimachia thyrsoiflora</i> Tufted Loosestrife Zone 5	1-2 ½ feet May-June	Small, yellow flowers in rounded clusters growing out of the leaf axils.	Full sun to partial shade; consistently moist to wet soils.	Found in swamps and bogs.
<i>Oenothera fruticosa</i> Common Sundrops Zone 4	1-3 feet June-Aug	Yellow flowers with four petals; distinctly ribbed seed pods.	Full sun; moist, well drained soils.	Found in meadows and fields. Can spread aggressively.
<i>Oenothera macrocarpa</i> Missouri Evening Primrose Zone 3	9-12 inches June-Aug	Large yellow flowers (3-4 inches in diameter) with four petals; large, 4-winged seed pod; flowers open late in the day.	Full sun; moist soils with excellent drainage; drought tolerant.	Found in dry sites (rocky hillsides, prairies). Flowers in the evening.
<i>Oenothera speciosa</i> Showy Evening Primrose Zone 3	6-24 inches June-Aug	Pink to white flowers with four petals; flowers open in the evening.	Full sun; moist, well-drained soil.	Found in prairies. This plant can spread aggressively. Flowers during the day.
<i>Osmorhiza claytonii</i> Sweet Cicely Zone 3	1 ½ -3 feet May-June	Small, white flowers and fern-like foliage.	Full sun to partial shade; consistently moist to wet soils.	Found in moist woods.
<i>Parthenium integrifolium</i> Wild Quinine Zone 3	1 ½ -3 feet June-Sept	Flat-topped clusters of white flowers.	Full sun; moist, well drained soils.	Found in dry woods and prairies.
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i> Foxglove Beardtongue Zone 4	2-4 feet May-July	Tubular white flowers.	Full sun; moist, well drained soils.	Found in prairies and open woods.
<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i> Hairy Penstemon Zone 3	2-3 feet June-July	Tubular lavender flowers on an upright spike.	Full sun; moist, well drained soils. Avoid wet sites.	Found in rocky woods and fields.

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<i>Physalis heterophylla</i> Ground Cherry Zone 4	1-3 feet June-Sept	Nodding yellow flowers with brown centers; yellowish, cherry tomato-like fruit in a green, papery covering.	Full sun to partial shade; moist, well drained soils. Tolerates some dryness.	Found in prairies.
<i>Physostegia virginiana</i> Obedient Plant Zone 3	1-4 feet June-Sept	Tubular lavender flowers in an upright spike; a white flowered variety exists.	Full sun to partial shade; moist, well drained to wet soils.	Flowers can be pushed to the right or left and they will stay in place, leading to the name obedient plant. Found in wet areas.
<i>Ratibida pinnata</i> Gray headed Coneflower Zone 3	3-5 feet June-Sept	Yellow daisies with drooping petals and a pronounced center cone.	Full sun; moist, well drained soils.	Found in prairies and fields.
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> Black Eyed Susan Zone 3	1-3 feet June-Oct	Yellow daisies with drooping petals and a dark cone in the center.	Full sun; moist, well drained soils. Avoid crowding plants to reduce fungal problems. Tolerates some dryness.	Found in fields and open woods. This species may be biennial or perennial, but is often utilized in the garden as an annual.
<i>Ruellia humilis</i> Wild Petunia Zone 4	8-12 inches June-Sept	Light purple, petunia-like flowers (each flower is open only one day).	Full sun to partial shade; moist, well drained soils. Tolerates some dryness.	Found in prairies and open woods. Self sows.
<i>Silene regia</i> Royal catchfly Zone 4	2-4 feet June-Aug	Red, star-shaped flowers.	Full sun; moist, well drained soils. Good drainage is essential.	Found in prairies and dry woods. An endangered plant in Illinois.
<i>Thalictrum dasycarpum</i> Tall Meadow Rue Zone 3	2-6 feet May-July	Clusters of white flowers; compound foliage with lobed leaflets.	Partial shade and consistently moist soils.	Found in swamps and other wet sites. Plants are dioecious and male flowers tend to be showier.
<i>Verbena stricta</i> Hoary Vervain Zone 3	2-3 feet June-Sept	Small, purple flowers blooming a few at a time, on a pencil-thin spike	Full sun; moist, well drained soils.	Found in prairies.
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i> Culver's Root Zone 3	2-7 feet June-Sept	Spikes of small, white flowers; leaves whorled around stem	Full sun to partial shade; moist, well drained soils.	Found in moist meadows and woods.