

Native Garden Kit Planting Guide



Chicago Parks District

Friends of the Rouge - along with its many partners - encourages the use of native plants in your landscape.

**Friends
of
the ROUGE**

WHY NATIVE PLANTS?

Native plants have many ecological benefits. They provide wildlife habitat, stabilize the soil, decrease storm water runoff, and sequester carbon. Your native plants are well adapted to the Midwest, so they require less maintenance over time. They do not require the fertilizers, water, and care during establishment that non-native plants require. Many non-native plants used in landscaping have become invasive and can reduce the biodiversity of an area. By using native plants, you are likely to increase the diversity of the area and re-establish territory for the plants and animals that once thrived here.

The plants provided in your garden kit were selected to succeed in a variety of soil conditions. They will require full sun. Early in their development, watering may be necessary. Choose a site with easy access to water.

How much space will you need?

Your kit includes **50** plants, which should be planted 12-18 inches apart. If your planting bed is 10 foot long and 5 foot wide, planting a square pattern every 18 inches will use 22 plants, a triangle (5x4) will use 26. A 5 foot by 5 foot bed square pattern uses 25 plants, a triangle (5x4) uses 23 plants.

When you bring your plants home, place them in a cool, semi-shaded area until you are ready to plant. If the soil around the plant roots is dry, water to keep the roots

moist, but not saturated. If watered properly and protected from extreme conditions, such as excessive heat, sun, strong winds, or frost or freezing, plants can be kept in their original plug trays for up to several weeks.

When you are ready to plant, remove the plugs by gently pushing up from the bottom of each plug in the tray.

Use a hand trowel to dig a hole just slightly larger than the root mass of the plug. When the plug is placed in the hole, the top of the root mass should be level with the soil surface. Fill any gaps around the root mass, using the soil removed from the hole.

Note: If you used landscape fabric to smother the weeds, remove it or cut an X in the fabric to create room for the holes you will dig for each plant. This is best done with a sharp utility knife. Using edging can keep grass out of your planting area.

PLANTING TIPS

Research the species in your kit. Write down height, color, and bloom time. This information may be provided on the plant tag. Group your plants with taller species in the back. Grouping the same species together can have a greater effect when in bloom. Have fun with color placement.

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SAMPLE (HALF) Butterfly/Bird Qty/kit

Botanical Name	Common Name	Amount	Bloom Color	Bloom	Height
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly Weed	5	Orange	Jun-Sept	1'-3'
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Broad-leaved Purple Coneflower	5	Purple	Jun-Aug	3'-4'
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	Foxglove beardtongue	5	White	May-Jul	2'-4'
<i>Symphotrichum laeve</i>	Smooth Blue Aster	5	Blue/Yellow	Aug-Oct	3'-5'
<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	Prairie Dropseed	5	Green	Aug-Sept	2'-3'



Butterfly Weed



Broad-leaved Purple Coneflower



Foxglove beardtongue

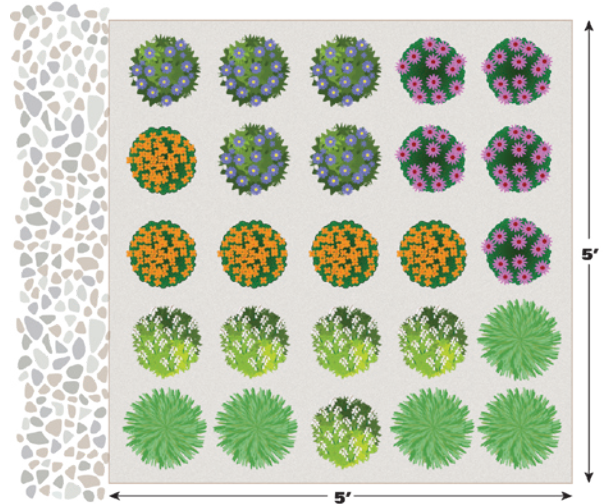


Smooth Blue Aster



Prairie Dropseed

Species subject to change



SAMPLE (HALF) Wetland Qty/kit

Botanical Name	Common Name	Amount	Bloom Color	Bloom	Height
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp Milkweed	5	Pink	Jun-Sept	3'-5'
<i>Carex comosa</i>	Bristly Sedge	5	Green	May-Jun	2'-3'
<i>Iris virginica</i>	Blue Flag Iris	5	Blue	May-Jul	2'-3'
<i>Liatris spicata</i>	Marsh Blazing Star	5	Pink	Jul-Nov	2'-3'
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Great Blue Lobelia	5	Blue	Jul-Oct	1'-4'



Swamp Milkweed



Bristly Sedge



Blue Flag Iris

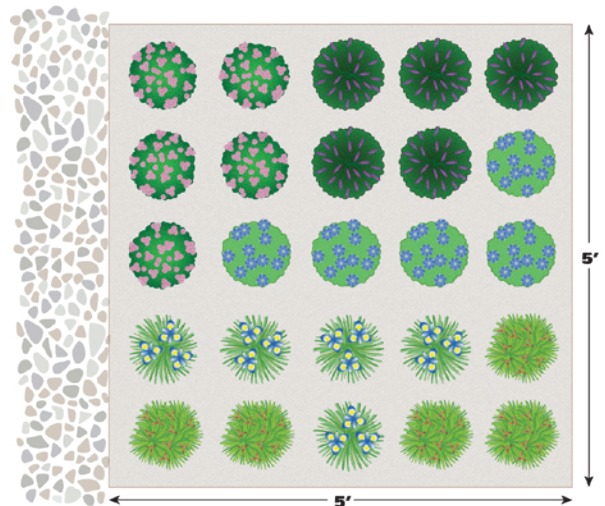


Marsh Blazing Star



Great Blue Lobelia

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