

Field Museum Rice Foundation Native Gardens

Laura Milkert & Iza Redlinski, Keller Science Action Center, The Field Museum, Chicago IL

Photo by Laura Milkert and Iza Redlinski. Produced by Juliana Philipp, Nigel Pitman and the authors. [fieldguides.fieldmuseum.org] Rapid Color Guide #831 version 2 4/2021



Installed in 2016–2017, the sustainable landscaping on the southern terraces of the Museum highlights plants native to Illinois—the same species that grow wild in our prairies and woodlands—and transforms the Museum into an urban haven for butterflies, bees, wasps, birds, and other animals. These native gardens add another link to the inspiring corridor of restored prairie taking shape along the Chicago lakeside and serve as a living exhibit that extends the Museum’s mission of discovery outdoors, where visitors and passersby can learn about local biodiversity and the Museum’s work in conservation, ecology, and climate change.

☀ Full sun, ☀ Part shade



Nodding Wild Onion
Allium cernuum
☀☀ July-August (18 in.)



Swamp Milkweed
Asclepias incarnata
☀☀ June-August (4 ft.)



Butterfly Weed
Asclepias tuberosa
☀☀ June-August (2 ft.)



New England Aster
Symphyotrichum novae-angliae
☀☀ August-October (5 ft.)



White Wild Indigo
Baptisia alba
☀☀ June-July (4 ft.)



Purple Prairie Clover
Dalea purpurea
☀☀ July-September (2 ft.)



Pale Coneflower
Echinacea pallida
☀☀ June-July (3 ft.)



Purple Coneflower
Echinacea purpurea
☀☀ June-July (18-24 in.)



Rattlesnake Master
Eryngium yuccifolium
☀☀ July-September (4 ft.)



Queen of the Prairie
Filipendula rubra
☀☀ June-August (5 ft.)



Horse Mint
Monarda punctata
☀☀ July-August (2 ft.)



Switch grass
Panicum virgatum
☀☀ July-September (4 ft.)



Little Bluestem
Schizachyrium scoparium
☀☀ July-October (3 ft.)



Prairie Drop Seed
Sporobolus heterolepis
☀☀ August-October (3 ft.)



Hoary Vervain
Verbena stricta
☀☀ August-October (3 ft.)

We acknowledge that the Field Museum resides within the traditional homelands of many Indigenous nations. The Museum recognizes and is grateful for the Original Peoples who laid the foundation for the City of Chicago, and for the diverse Indigenous nations that reside in Chicago today. When you visit the Field and our outdoor spaces, we invite you to join us in offering respect and gratitude to the many Indigenous peoples that reside in Chicago and across Illinois, as well as their ancestors.