

ARROWHEAD (aka: Duck Potato)

(*Sagittaria latifolia*)

Water Plantain Family (90 species): Aquatic herbs

- Common name from its Arrow-shaped basal leaves
- 1-4 ft. in height
- White flowers bloom July-September (in whorls of 3)
- Rhizomes produce edible, starchy tubers sometimes called "duck potatoes" because ducks and muskrats love to eat them. They pull the plant up to get to the "potatoes."

[GET A LAUGH]: It's like McDonald's french fries to ducks!

WILD BERGAMOT

(*Monarda fistulosa*)

Mint Family (*monarda didyma*=Bee Balm)

- Common name from aroma (citrus/mint) of its crushed leaves that, according to 17th Century horticulturalists, smelled like oranges from Bergamo, Italy.
- Latin name "fistulosa" means hollow or "full of pipes" descriptive of the long tubular florets on each flower head.
- 2-5 ft. in height / Can be pink, lilac or purplish.
- Loved by bees & butterflies because of nectar stored in each floret. Plant pollinated by such insects. Ruby-throated hummingbird drinks its nectar.

PRAIRIE DOCK

(*Silphium laciniatum*)

Sunflower Family (19K species)

- The deepest root system of all prairie plants (16+ feet deep).
- Large ovate, heart-shaped basal leaves can be up to 2 ft. long and look like "elephant ears".

[TOUCH] - Leaves soak up so much water from the plant's deep roots, they are cool to touch on even on hottest days.

JOE PYE WEED

(*Eupatorium maculatum* = Spotted / *purpureum*=Sweet)
Sunflower Family (19K species)

[GET A LAUGH]: This plant is neither a weed nor a pie!

- Folklore says common name from an American Indian named Joe Pye who used the plant to cure typhoid fever.
- 2-6 ft. in height/ cluster of pinkish purple fuzzy (disk) flower heads and whorled, toothed leaves. Blooms July - September.
- Spotted variety has a sturdy purple or purple-spotted stem and flat-topped flower cluster.
- Sweet variety has greenish stem and dome-shaped flower cluster. Crushed leaves smell like vanilla.

BLACK-EYED SUSAN

(*Rudbeckia hirta*)
Sunflower Family (19K species)

- Biennial (blooms every two years) but flowers among the most long lasting (up to 30 days).
 - 1-3 ft. in height / Yellow ray flower with brown cone (center).
 - Blooms June - October
 - Common name comes from song lyrics of an English ballad written c. 1720 in England by John Gay.
 - Latin name "hirta" means "hairy" descriptive of rough stem and leaves.
- [CAUTION]:** Do not confuse with Brown-Eyed Susan.

BLUE VERVAIN

(*Verbena hastata*)
Vervain Family (3K species)

- Dark purple/blue flower clustered on showy candelabra-like spikes. Blooms from bottom to top of each spike.
- 3-6 ft. in height / Blooms July - September
- Bumblebees most important pollinators.
- Latin name means "sacred plant" and thought to be, in ancient Rome, a cure-all medicinal plant.

DAISY FLEABANE

(*Erigeron annuus*)

Sunflower Family (19K species)

- Common name originated from belief that these flowers could rid a house of fleas when dried and hung in the home.
- 1-5 ft. in height / Tiny, white daisy flower with yellow center.
- Native wildflower, but weedy and aggressive.
- Blooms June - October

CUP PLANT

(*Silphium perfoliatum*)

Sunflower Family (19K species)

[TOUCH]: SQUARE STEM

- Square stem has opposite leaves that form a **cup-like space around stem.**
- "Cup" collects rainwater from which birds and insects drink.
- 3-12 ft. in height / One of the tallest prairie plants.
- Native but aggressive.
- Blooms July - September (yellow ray flower)

SWAMP MILKWEED

(*Asclepias incarnata*)

Milkweed Family (2K species)

[CAUTION]: POISONOUS PLANT, DO NOT TOUCH.

- Common name from the Greek god of medicine, Aesculapius. Some species used medicinally in ancient times.
- Latin name *incarnata* means "flesh-colored."
- 1-4 ft. in height / Deep pink flower clusters.
- Blooms June - August in moist areas near shoreline.
- Unlike other milkweeds, this one has less milky juice.
- Larval host for Queen & Monarch butterflies.

PURPLE CONEFLOWER

(Echinacea purpurea)

Aster Family

- One of the longest blooming plants: April - Sept.
- Attracts butterflies, hummingbirds and bees.
- Showy, purple ray flower.
- 2-5 ft. in height.
- Each flower grows on a single stalk with branched stems.
- Thought to be a natural antibiotic ("echinacea").

SPINY-LEAVED SOW THISTLE

(Sonchus asper)

Sunflower/Aster Family (19K species)

- Annual plant (grows one season, then dies).
- Looks like a tall dandelion.
- 1-6 ft. in height / Native but weedy.
- Blooms June - October.
- Smooth stem contains a milky juice.

EVENING PRIMROSE

(Oenothera biennis)

Evening Primrose Family (650 species)

- Biennial (blooms every two years).
- Night-flowering plant that closes by morning.
- Yellow bloom with **four petals** on a hairy stem.
- Blooms June - September
- 2-5 ft. in height / Low-quality native but weedy.
- Seeds provide food for birds and moths.

AMERICAN SENNA (aka: Wild Senna)

(*Cassia hebecarpa*)

Pea Family

[TOUCH]: Very soft leaves!

- Smooth, oval leaves are very soft.
- Tiny, orchid-shaped yellow/brown flowers bloom July/Aug.
- 3-6 ft. in height / Native but aggressive.
- Produces flat fruit pods
- Attracts butterflies, hummingbirds, and bumble bees.
- Larval host for Cloudless Sulphur butterflies.

COMMON MILKWEED

(*Asclepias syriaca*)

Milkweed Family

- Drooping pink/purplish flower clusters on a downy stem.
- Leaves exude milky juice when bruised.
- Pod fruit splits open to disburse seeds covered with silky hairs
- 2-6 ft. in height / Native but aggressive.
- Blooms June - August

[COOL FACT]: Larvae of the monarch butterfly eat the foliage, which contains glycosides that make them toxic to birds and predators.

SNEEZEWEED

(*Helenium autumnale*)

Aster Family

[CAUTION]: Poisonous plant. Do not touch.

- Flowers 1-1/2" wide with fan-shaped petals and yellow disk.
- 2-5 ft. in height / blooms Aug - Nov
- Opposite leaves have a leafy tissue extending down the stem called "wings."
- Pioneers dried its flowers or leaves and used as snuff. Amer Indians said it caused sneezing to rid body of evil spirits.

ROSINWEED

(*Silphium integrifolium*)
Sunflower Family (19K species)

- Related to Prairie Dock, Cup Plant, and Compass Plant.
- 2-5 ft. in height
- Blooms July - September / Yellow disk flower
- Opposite, rough, stalkless leaves that are untoothed or slightly toothed.
- Loved by bumble bees.

QUEEN OF THE PRAIRIE

(*Filipendula rubra*)
Rose Family (3K species)

- Large feathery clusters of small **fragrant** pink flowers.
- 3-6 ft. in height
- Blooms June - August
- Grows in moist soils close to the shoreline.
- Enjoyed by butterflies.

RATTLESNAKE MASTER

(*Eryngium yuccifolium*)
Carrot/Parsley Family (3K species)

- Round, ball-like flower head with thistle-like spikes. Bloom can range from white to greenish.
- Smooth stem.
- 2-6 ft. in height
- Blooms June - August
- Common name may come from use by American Indians who dried the flower heads and shook them like rattles to ward off snakes hiding in the grass.

TALL COREOPSIS (aka: Tall Tickseed)

(*Coreopsis tripteris*)

Aster Family

- 3-9 ft. in height with smooth, hairless stalk.
- Yellow blooms at top of slender stalks with brown disk. Only other yellow ray flower at North Pond with a brown disk is the Black-Eyed Susan.
- Blooms July - Sept.
- Opposite leaves.
- Attracts birds, butterflies, and bees.

QUEEN ANNE'S LACE

(*Daucus carota*)

Carrot/Parsley Family (3K species)

- Biennial (blooms every two years).
- 1-3 ft. in height / Low quality native, but weedy.
- Lacy, flat-topped cluster of white flowers (umbrels) with one central red floret.
- Blooms May - October
- Commonly used in floral arrangements.

CARDINAL FLOWER

(*Lobelia cardinalis*)

Bellflower Family

[CAUTION]: Poisonous Plant. Do Not Touch.

[ASK A QUESTION]: Where do you think the common name of this plant comes from?

- Red tubular flowers in elongated cluster on single stem
- 2-4 ft. in height / Blooms July - Sept.
- Pollinated by hummingbirds that feed on its nectar.
- Common name refers to bright red robes worn by Roman Catholic cardinals.

GREAT BLUE LOBELIA

(*Lobelia siphilitica*)
Bellflower Family

[CAUTION]: Poisonous Plant. Do Not Touch.

- Sister plant to the Cardinal Flower. Grows 1-4 ft. tall.
- Bright bluish flowers grow in elongated clusters on a single stalk. Blooms July - Sept.
- Native to woods and meadows/likes moist soils.
- Attracts birds, hummingbirds, and bumble bees.
- Thought to be a cure for syphilis in olden times.

MONKEY FLOWER

(*Mimulus ringens*)
Snapdragon Family

[TOUCH]: SQUARE STEM.

- Two-lipped flowers with 2 yellow spots on inside - thought to look like the face of a monkey.
- Blooms July - Sept.
- 1-3 ft. tall
- Likes moist soils.
- Larval Host to the Common Buckeye and Baltimore Checkerspot.

GREAT ANGELICA

(*Angelica atropurpurea*)
Carrot Family

- 6-12 feet in height.
- Smooth purple stems.
- Native to swamps and marshes.
- Larval host for the short-tailed swallowtail butterfly.
-

OBEDIENT PLANT

(*Physostegia virginiana*)

Mint Family

[TOUCH & SHOW]: Square Stem & Rotation Demo

- Spike-like flower clusters on upper stems with pink, cup-like flowers that bloom from bottom to top.
- Blooms June - Sept.
- 1-4 ft. in height / toothed, opposite leaves with no stems.
- Nectar source for butterflies and hummingbirds.
- Common name comes from fact that the flowers can be manually rotated around stem and will remain in place.

TALL BONESET

(*Eupatorium altissimum*)

Aster Family

- Flat-topped clusters of white flowers on hairy stalks.
- Blooms July - Oct.
- Opposite leaves
- Attracts native bees. / Native but aggressive.
- Common name comes from pioneer days when plant was thought to be useful in setting broken bones. Leaves were wrapped in bandages around splints. Medicinal tea also made.

AMERICAN BUGLEWEED

(aka: Common Water Horehound)

(*Lycopus americanus*)

Mint Family

[TOUCH]: SQUARE STEM

- Tiny, white flowers form dense heads surrounding the stem at each leaf axis. Blooms June - Sept. Up to 2 ft. tall.
- Non-aromatic (no smell) like other mint species.
- Opposite leaves, toothed, 3-1/2" long.
- Likes wet/marshy soil in the shade.

PRAIRIE CORDGRASS

(*Spartina pectinata*)
Grass Family

- Native grass that grows 5-10 ft. tall. Spreads by rhizomes.
- Straw-colored flowers bloom in a **comb-shaped** arrangement.
- Blooms mid-summer.
- Native to prairies and marshes.
- Has been used for thatching and as a fuel source.

NODDING WILD ONION

(*Allium cernuum*)
Lily Family

[CAUTION]: Poisonous if eaten.

- Single head of flowers that nod downwards can be white or pink in color. Blooms May - July.
- Smooth, round, **leafless stem**.
- Attracts the Hairstreak Butterfly. Bulbs eaten by bears and ground squirrels.

[COOL FACT]: Chicago gets its name from the Algonquin Indian name for this plant - "Chigagou."

JERUSALEM ARTICHOKE

(*Helianthus tuberosus*)
Aster Family

- Yellow disk flower / 6-10 ft. in height
- Blooms Aug - Oct. / Native, but aggressive.
- Provides good wildlife cover.
- Birds eat its seeds. Bees also like it.

PINNATE PRAIRIE CONEFLOWER

(aka: Grey-headed Coneflower, Yellow Coneflower)

(*Ratibida pinnata*)

Aster Family

[TOUCH & SMELL]: When crushed, disk exudes anise scent.

- Yellow flower with thin, drooping leaves around a brown, bullet-shaped central disk.
- Blooms June - Sept.
- 3-5 ft. in height with hairy stem and alternate leaves.
- Attracts birds, butterflies, and bees.

HOARY VERVAIN

(*Verbena stricta*)

Vervain Family

- Annual plant (grows one season, then dies).
- Purple flowers bloom on erect narrow spikes.
- Blooms July - Sept. / 1-4 ft. in height.
- Hairy stem. Gray, hairy leaves are rounded with no stems and toothed.
- Larval Host to Buckeye Butterfly. Also attracts bees.

BIG BLUESTEM (aka: Turkey Foot)

(*Andropogon gerardii*)

Grass Family

- One of the "BIG 4" native grasses of the tallgrass prairie (with Indiangrass, Switchgrass, and Little Bluestem).
- 6-12 ft. in height
- Summer bloom shaped like a turkey's foot.
- Portions of round stems frequently bluish/purplish color.
- Larval Host for Delaware & Dusted Skippers.
- Provides cover, seed, and nesting materials for sparrows & wrens. Also attracts butterflies and bees.

COMMON BONESET

(*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)

Aster Family

- Fuzzy white flower clusters
- Blooms July - Oct.
- Hairy stems. Paired basal leaves.
- Attracts butterflies, birds, and bees.

[CAUTION]: Do not confuse with Tall Boneset.

GRASS-LEAVED GOLDENROD

(*Solidago/Euthamia graminifolia*)

Aster Family

- Spindly, hairless stalks with alternate grass-like leaves only 1/8" wide and branched on upper half of plant.
- Yellow flowerhead clusters bloom Aug - Oct.
- Grows up to 3 ft. in height.
- Attracts bees.

STIFF GOLDENROD

(aka: Hard-leaved Goldenrod)

(*Solidago/Oligoneuron rigidum*)

Aster Family

- Dark yellow flower clusters on a single, hairy stalk.
- Blooms Aug - Oct.
- Upper leaves are oval / Large basal leaves at bottom of plant.
- 2-5 ft. in height
- Attracts bees.

ILLINOIS BUNDLEFLOWER

(Desmanthus Illinoensis)

Pea Family

- Tiny white flowers and curved bean pods.
- **Fern-like leaves.**
- Blooms May - Sept.
- 3-5 ft. in height with **grooved stems.**
- Important food for wildlife. Birds like its seeds. Attracts butterflies.

PRAIRIE DROPSEED

(Sporobolus heterolepis)

Grass Family

- Grows in large tufts that looks like a circular water fountain.
- Keeps its structure throughout the winter.
- Flowering stalks emerge from the center of each tuft with pink/brown flowers.
- Blooms mid-summer to early fall.
- American Indians made flour from the seeds.

BUTTERFLY MILKWEED

(aka: Butterflyweed or Pleurisy Root)

(Asclepias tuberosa)

Milkweed Family

- Small **orange** flowers can also be pale yellow or deep red.
- Sprawling or bushy shaped plant grows up to 3 ft. in height.
- Blooms June - Sept.
- Unlike other milkweed species, it has a clear sap.
- Indians/Pioneers chewed sap as medicine for pleurisy.
- Larval Host - Monarch & Queen butterflies.
- **MONARCH LIFE CYCLE:** Larva eat leaves, make chrysalis on plant, bfly drinks nectar, lays eggs on leaves. Cycle repeats.

AMERICAN (WILD) COLUMBINE

(*Aquilegia canadensis*)

Buttercup Family

- Showy, drooping, bell-like red and yellow flowers with distinct backward-pointing tubes perfectly shaped for hummingbirds to drink the nectar contained in them.
- Can reach 2 ft. in height and blooms May to July.
- Bumblebees and the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird visit the flowers for nectar.
- The larvae of various insects feed on Wild Columbine, including those of the Columbine Duskywing

PRAIRIE SMOKE

(*Geum triflorum*)

Rose Family

- **6-18 inches** in height with fern-like, blue-green, hairy leaves and reddish-purple, bell-shaped flowers that hang in groups of three.
- When they go to seed they develop dense clusters of "archenes" that look like long, feathery, **pink cotton candy**, which resemble smoke.
- The flowers are cross-pollinated by bumblebees.

JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT

(*Arisaema triphyllum*)

Arum Family

- The spathe (aka: "the pulpit") wraps around and covers the spadix (aka: "Jack") that contained tiny flowers of both sexes.
- The flowers are unisexual. Young plants have mostly male flowers, but as the plant ages, it produces more female flowers.
- Blooms April to June.
- Pollinated by flies that are attracted to its heat and smell.
- Native Americans used its roots as a treatment for sore eyes.

SHOOTING STAR

(Dodecatheon meadia)

Primrose Family

- Petals are white, light pink, or rosy pink. Looks like a group of shooting stars in the sky!
- Each flower has 5 petals that converge at the base of the flower in the shape of a pointed yellowish tube.
- Queen bumblebees obtain pollen from the flowers by the rapid vibration of their thoracic muscles, which is sometimes called 'buzz pollination.'

WILD GINGER

(Asarum canadense reflexum)

Pipevine Family

- 2-8 inches tall and often grows in colonies.
- Small red flower blooms close to the ground and is often obscured by the leaves.
- Used in gardens as a shady ground cover.
- Called 'Wild Ginger' because the aromatic rhizomes have a ginger-like fragrance and flavor.

MAY APPLE

(Podophyllum peltatum)

Barberry Family

- Known for its 2 large, umbrella-like leaves that each grow to 6" to 8" inches across.
- Produces only one nodding, white flower with 6-9 broad white petals, that grows in the axil of the leaves.
- Grows 12 - 16 inches in height and often forms colonies.
- Like many other spring ephemerals, it emerges from below ground before the canopy of the forest opens, and then slowly withers later in the summer.

