Pocket PrairieSM Gardens

Monarch Safe Havens a Yard at a Time

Six Easy Steps - Hours of Enjoyment

Visit us on Facebook at: Little Garden Club of Wilmette

The Sun Loving Prairie Container: Plant a mix of Wild Geranium, Wild Blue Indigo, Coreopsis, Prairie Dropseed, Purple Poppymallow, Pale Purple Coneflower, Prairie Alumroot & Blue Stem Goldenrod. Don’t worry about crowding.

Mudpuppies: Place these plants in areas to manage water challenges attractively.

Golden Alexanders
Common Bur Sedge

Pocket PrairieSM

Leading Native Garden Centers:

Heidi Natura at:
Red Stem Native Landscapes
(773) 467-1834
www.redstemlandscapes.com
www.livinghabitats.com

Prairie Nursery
800-476-9453
www.prairie nursery.com
www.prairie moon nursery.com

Prairie Moon Nursery
866-417-8156
www.prairie nursery.com
www.prairie moon nursery.com

Prairie Nursery
800-476-9453
www.prairie nursery.com
www.prairie moon nursery.com

Mudpuppies (cont.)

Swamp Milkweed* * (Asclepias incarnata): July to Aug.; nectar/ pollen/seeds; host to Monarch; nectar for many species of adult butterflies; see Sunnyside Up.

Cardinal Flower* * (Lobelia cardinalis): July to Sept.; nectar/pollen; Lobelias - host to 4 butterfly/moth species.

Ohio Goldenrod (Solidago ohionensis): July to Sept.; see Sunnyside Up.

Great Blue Lobelia (Lobelia siphilitica): July to Oct.; nectar/pollen/humblebees; host to 4 butterfly/moth species

Calico Aster (Symphyotrichum lateriflorus): see Sunnyside Up.

Alley Cats*: Find the right spot. While few plants provide more benefit for native insects & birds, the Alley Cats are tall & often exuberant growers. An alley or quiet section of yard may be best for this rowdy group.

Blue Wild Indigo (Baptisia australis): May to July; nectar/nectar for bees/butterflies; seeds for birds; host to Wild Indigo Duskywing, Marine Blue & Orange Sulphur butterflies.

Common Milkweed (Asclepias syriaca): June to Aug.; see Sunnyside Up.

Cup Plant (Silphium perfoliatum): July to Sept.; pollen/ nectar for bees/butterflies; seeds for birds, like goldfinches.

Sweet Joe Pye Weed (Eupatorium purpureum): July to Sept.; nectar/pollen/seeds; host to 42 butterfly/moth species; this species is a bee & butterfly magnet.


Prairie Grasses Aug. to Oct.; try Big Bluestem (Andropogon gerardii), Little Bluestem (Schizachyrium scoparium), and/or Indiangrass; see Sunnyside Up.

Woodland Grasses Try River/Northern Sea Oats; stems & leaves used for nesting materials; see Hal & Hall.

Register Your Garden

Check these websites to certify a Pocket PrairieSM Garden as a:

Monarch Waystation: www.monarchwaystation.org/waystations
Certified Butterfly Garden with the North American Butterfly Assn.: www.naba.org

Little Garden Club of Wilmette developed Pocket PrairieSM Gardens to promote the use of native Midwestern plants & create sustainable habitats & food for native insects & birds — a yard at a time.

For information, please send an email to: littlegardenclub.wilmette@gmail.com

Little Garden Club of Wilmette

Pocket PrairieSM

Pocket PrairieSM is a service mark of Little Garden Club of Wilmette • Little Garden Club of Wilmette

©Little Garden Club of Wilmette 3-6-2017

*Pocket PrairieSM Gardens*: Service Mark - Little Garden Club of Wilmette

Cover Photo: Courtesy of Bernard L. Schwartz®

Spring ephemerals are perennials that emerge quickly in spring but die back to their underground parts after short growth & flowering.

© Little Garden Club of Wilmette 3-6-2017

Spring ephemerals are perennials that emerge quickly in spring but die back to their underground parts after short growth & flowering.

* Exceed the Pocket PrairieSM height targets.

Spring ephemerals are perennials that emerge quickly in spring but die back to their underground parts after short growth & flowering.

* Exceed the Pocket PrairieSM height targets.
House Hunting

Monarch butterflies, bees & other native insects & birds have lost homes & food as open spaces turned into housing, agriculture or industrial areas. Please help replace these crucial habitats by adding attractive, native plants to your yard, planters or alley. Even a few native plants can make a difference.

Monarchs & other native pollinators, & birds need native host & food plants that gardens lack. Many beautiful native plants are available locally & in catalogues. They do well in North Shore gardens - whether sunny or moderately shady - & need little care, saving on fertilizers, pesticides & water.

Don't delay. Start your Pocket Prairie® garden now!

Pocket Prairie℠ Gardens – Safe Havens for Monarchs and Other Natives - A Yard at a Time

Pocket Prairie℠ Gardens

- Safe Havens for Monarchs and Other Natives - A Yard at a Time

Monarch Butterfly Caterpillar & Orange Butterfly Milkweed

Six Easy Steps

1. Pocket Prairie℠ Location & Size: Take a look at your yard - sunny or shady? Butterflies prefer sun.

2. Plant Selection: Local nurseries & catalogues carry true, native perennials – host & food plants (see back page). Buy at least three of each as potted plants if tired of looking at them.

3. Garden Layout: Don't crowd the plants – give each a foot on center. Tuck in native plants wherever native host & food plants (see back page). Buy at least three of each as potted plants if tired of looking at them.

4. Soil Preparation: Just remove lawn or other plants that gardens lack. Try Dwarf/Prarie/Small/Shady Lady (a woodland mix) - for late season adult butterflies, birds, bees & insects; host to 23 moth species; pollen/nectar/seeds for early insects & birds. Try Sweet Gentian (Asarum canadense): Spring thru Fall; host to 23 moth species; pollen/nectar/seeds for early insects & birds.

5. Year One: Plant as directed & hand weed. Mulch with leaves, grass or bark chips to control weeds. Water until established & when drooping in dry weather. Avoid herbicides & insecticides. Put a border around the garden & tell the Lawn Service to leave this butterfly garden alone!

6. Seasonal Preparation: Little fall or winter preparation is needed. Gather seeds to expand your garden or to share. Don’t rake tree leaves from the plants – bee, butterfly & moth larvae overwinter there. In spring, work the leaves into the soil & cut stems only if tired of looking at them.

Celebrate when host plants’ leaves are chewed!

Enjoy the show from Spring through Fall!

Pocket Prairie℠ Plant Selection

Little Garden Club of Wilmette created four pocket prairies:

- **Sunnyside Up**
- **Shady Lady** (a woodland mix)
- **Half & Half**
- **Sun Loving Prairie Container**

This mix of compact host & food plants grows colorful gardens, providing food – pollen, nectar & seeds - from spring to fall, with winter visual interest. Ranging in height from 12” to 36”, these versatile plants are not overly aggressive. Many do well in sun or shade. Start with as few as 10 plants or fill in all the spaces with 21.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunnyside Up Pocket Prairie℠ Butterfly Garden Layout</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wild Geranium</strong> (Geranium maculatum): Apr. to July; host to 23 moth species; pollen/nectar/seeds for early insects &amp; birds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Milkweed</strong> (Asclepias): June thru Aug.; sole Monarch host; pollen/nectar/seeds for adult butterflies, bees, insects &amp; birds; try Orange Butterfly Milkweed (A. tuberosa); Prairie/ Sulphur’s (A. suillus); or Rose/Swapw (A. incarnata).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purple Coneflower</strong> (Echinacea purpurea): July to Sept.; Silvery Checkerspot butterfly host; pollen/nectar/seeds for late-season butterflies, insects &amp; birds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Blazing Star</strong> (Liatris): July thru Oct.; Flower moth host; pollen/nectar/seeds for butterflies &amp; birds; try Dwarf/Cylindrical (L. cylindracea) or Meadow (L. Ligustriformis).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aster</strong> (Symphyotrichum): Aug. thru Oct.; host to 112 butterfly/moth species, including Silvery Checkerspot &amp; Pearl Crescent; pollen/nectar/seeds for adult butterflies, bees, insects &amp; birds. Try Sky Blue (S. canadense) or Aromatic (S. oblongifolius).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goldenrod</strong> (Solidago): Aug. to Oct.; pollen/nectar/seeds for late season adult butterflies, birds, bees &amp; insects; host to 115 butterfly/moth species. Try Ohio (S. oolentangiense) or Showy (S. speciosa). Does not cause hay fever.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prairie Grasses</strong> (Goatsbeard) (Phlox divaricata): April to May; Sulfur’s Bee Balm/Monarda (Monarda bradburiana): Likes a bit of shade every day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bumble Bee</strong> (Bumble Bee) (Elymus hystrix).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wild Geranium</strong> (G. virginiana): March to May; Virginia Bluebells (Mertensia virginica): March to May; pollen/nectar for butterflies, bees &amp; insects-food for baby birds*.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bradbury’s Bee Balm/Monarda</strong> (Monarda bradburiana): June to July; pollen/nectar/seeds for butterflies, insects &amp; birds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purple Coneflower</strong> (Rudbeckia fulgida): July to Sept.; host to 17 species of moths/butterflies, such as Pearl Crescent; pollen/nectar/seeds for adult butterflies, insects &amp; birds*.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Orange Coneflower</strong> (R. hirta): July to Sept.; see Sunnyside Ep.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goldenrod</strong> (Solidago): Aug. to Oct.; pollen/nectar/seeds for insects &amp; birds. Try Blue Stem (S. caesia); see Sunnyside Ep.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Woodland Grasses</strong> (Asclepias): June thru Aug.; host; pollen/seed source. Try Bottlebrush Grass (Elymus byssoides).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Shady Lady</strong>: Handles more shade in style.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Virginia Bluebells</strong> (M. virginiana): March to May; see Sunnyside Ep.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Woodland/Blue Phlox</strong> (P. divaricata): April to June; Phlox Moth host; pollen/nectar for early insects/birds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wild Geranium</strong> (G. virginiana): April to July; see Sunnyside Ep.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bride’s Feathers/Goatsbeard</strong> (A. discinum): April to May; see Dusky Azure butterfly host; pollen/nectar/seeds for bees, butterflies, insects &amp; birds*.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Solomon’s Seal</strong> (Polygonatum biflorum): May to June; pollen/nectar/berries for insects/birds*.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prairie Grasses</strong> (Goatsbeard) (P. divaricata): April to May; see Sunnyside Ep.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bumble Bee</strong> (B. virginica): March to May; see Sunnyside Ep.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Canadian Wild Ginger</strong> (Asarum canadense): Spring thru Fall heart-shaped-leaf cover; ants distribute seeds.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>