

***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.



***Early Birds, Mudpuppies & Alley Cats are wonderful native plants that can fill specific needs in local gardens. Butterflies, insect & birds love them.***

***Early Birds:*** Overplant a Shady Lady or Half & Half Pocket Prairie<sup>SM</sup> with Early Birds to add spring color & needed food; most won't crowd their summer neighbors.

- ❖ Blood Root ^ 🌱 (*Sanguinaria canadensis*): April to May; pollen for native bees & insects - food for baby birds.
- ❖ Pasque Flower ^ 🌱 (*Anemone patens*): April to May; pollen for native bees & insects - food for baby birds.
- ❖ Yellow Trout Lily ^ 🌱 (*Erythronium americanum*): April to May; nectar/pollen for native bees, skippers & butterflies.
- ❖ American Columbine ^ 🌱🦋 (*Aquilegia canadensis*): April to June; host to the Columbine Duskywing; early nectar/pollen for butterflies, ruby-throated hummingbirds & bees.
- ❖ Prairie Smoke 🌱 (*Geum triflorum*): April to June; nectar/pollen for bumblebees & butterflies, & seeds for birds.
- ❖ Common Blue Violet 🦋🌱 (*Viola sororia*): April to June; nectar/pollen/seeds; sole host to fritillary butterflies & 29 other species of butterflies/moths; Illinois State Flower.
- ❖ Wild Hyacinth ^ 🌱 (*Camassia scilloides*): May to June; nectar/pollen for bees & butterflies; insects for baby birds.
- ❖ Sundrops 🌱 (*Oenothera pilosella/fruticosa*): May to June; nectar/pollen/seeds for bees/butterflies/insects for baby birds.



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

- ❖ Golden Alexanders 🦋🌱 April to June; see *Half & Half*.
- ❖ Common Bur Sedge 🦋🌱 (*Carex grayi*): May to July; star-like seed heads - food source for waterfowl & songbirds; Carexes - host to 36 species of butterflies/skippers & moths.

^ Spring ephemerals are perennials that emerge quickly in spring but die back to their underground parts after short growth & flowering.  
\* Exceed the Pocket Prairie<sup>SM</sup> height targets.

***Mudpuppies (cont.)***

- ❖ Swamp Milkweed\* 🦋🌱 (*Asclepias incarnata*): July to Aug.; nectar/pollen/seeds; host to Monarchs; 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 ohioensis*): July to Sept.; see *Sunnyside Up*.
- ❖ Great Blue Lobelia 🦋🌱 (*Lobelia siphilitica*): July to Oct.; nectar/pollen for bumblebees; host to 4 butterfly/moth species
- ❖ Calico Aster 🦋🌱 (*Symphotrichum 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; pollen/nectar for bees/butterflies; seeds for birds; host to Wild Indigo Duskywing, Marine Blue & Orange Sulfur 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.
- ❖ New England Aster 🦋🌱 (*Aster* or *Symphotrichum novae-angliae*): Aug. to Oct.; see *Sunnyside Up*.
- ❖ 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 *Half & Half*.

***Register Your Garden***

- Check these websites to certify a Pocket Prairie<sup>SM</sup> Garden as a:
- ✓ Monarch Waystation: [www.monarchwatch.org/waystations](http://www.monarchwatch.org/waystations)
  - ✓ Certified Butterfly Garden with the North American Butterfly Assn.: [www.naba.org](http://www.naba.org)

Little Garden Club of Wilmette developed Pocket Prairie<sup>SM</sup> 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](mailto:littlegardenclub.wilmette@gmail.com)



***Plant & Gardening Resources***

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| <b>Chalet Nursery</b><br>3132 Lake Ave.<br>Wilmette, IL 60091<br>(847) 256-0561<br><a href="http://www.chaletnursery.com">www.chaletnursery.com</a>                | <b>West End Florist &amp; G.C.</b><br>3800 Old Glenview Rd<br>Evanston, IL 60201<br>(847) 251-1943<br><a href="http://www.westendflorist.com">www.westendflorist.com</a>   |
| <b>Lurvey's Landscape &amp; G. C.</b><br>2550 East Dempster St.<br>Des Plaines, IL 60016<br>(847) 824-7411<br><a href="http://www.lurveys.com">www.lurveys.com</a> | <b>Possibility Place Nursery</b><br>7548 W. Monee-Manhattan<br>Monee, IL 60449<br>(708) 534-3988<br><a href="http://www.possibilityplace.com">www.possibilityplace.com</a> |

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|---|--|
| <b>Prairie Nursery</b><br>800-476-9453<br><a href="http://www.prairienursery.com">www.prairienursery.com</a>  | <b>Prairie Moon Nursery</b><br>866-417-8156<br><a href="http://www.prairiemoon.com">www.prairiemoon.com</a>                        |
| <b>Monica Buckley at:</b><br>Red Stem Native Landscapes<br>(773) 454-4800<br><a href="http://www.redstemlandscapes.com">www.redstemlandscapes.com</a> | <b>Heidi Natura at:</b><br>Living Habitats<br>(773) 467-1634<br><a href="http://www.livinghabitats.com">www.livinghabitats.com</a> |

- Books:**
- *The Midwestern Native Garden - Native Alternatives to Nonnative Flowers and Plants, An Illustrated Guide* by Charlotte Adelman & Bernard L. Schwartz
  - *Bringing Nature Home* by Douglas Tallamy
  - *Birdscaping in the Midwest: A Guide to Gardening with Native Plants to Attract Birds* by Mariette Nowak

**Additional Helpful Websites:**

- Illinois Wildflowers: [www.illinoiswildflowers.info/](http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/)
- Plants Database: [https://plants.usda.gov/about\\_plants.html](https://plants.usda.gov/about_plants.html)
- Midwest Invasive Plants: [www.mipn.org/plantlist/](http://www.mipn.org/plantlist/)
- Wild Ones: [www.wildones.org](http://www.wildones.org)

"Pocket Prairie<sup>SM</sup> Gardens": Service Mark - Little Garden Club of Wilmette  
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***Pocket Prairie<sup>SM</sup> 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***



# Pocket Prairie<sup>SM</sup> Gardens – Safe Havens for Monarchs and Other Natives - A Yard at a Time



## House Hunting

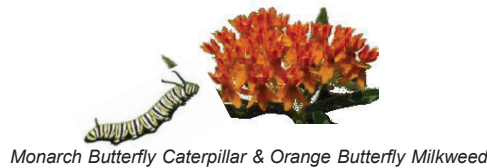
**Monarch butterflies, bees & other native insects & birds have lost homes & food as open spaces turned into housing, agriculture or industrial areas.**

**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<sup>SM</sup> garden now!**



## Six Easy Steps

**1. Pocket Prairie<sup>SM</sup> 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 for faster results & group them for impact.

**3. Garden Layout:** Don't crowd the plants – give each about a foot on center. Tuck in native plants wherever possible or start a prairie with 10 plants in a 3' x 7' plot. Add a couple rocks for butterflies to sunbathe.

**4. Soil Preparation:** Just remove lawn or other plants. Then rake the soil. Amend heavy clay soils with sand &/or compost. Prairie plants aren't too fussy.

**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!

## Celebrate when host plants' leaves are chewed!

**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.

**Enjoy the show from Spring through Fall!**

## *Pocket Prairie<sup>SM</sup> Plant Selection*

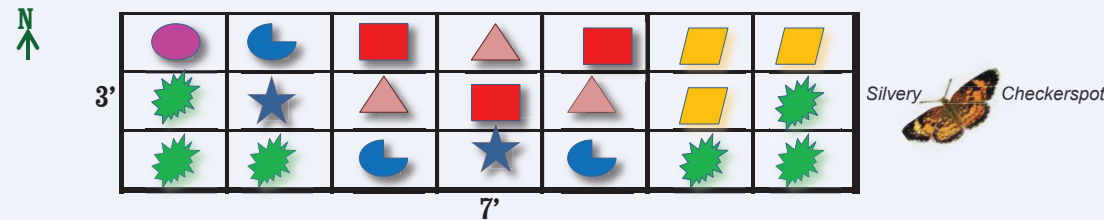
## Little Garden Club of Wilmette created four pocket prairies:















- ❖ *Sunnyside Up*
❖ *Half & Half*  
❖ *Shady Lady* (a woodland mix)
 ❖ *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.

### *Sunnyside Up Pocket Prairie<sup>SM</sup> Butterfly Garden Layout*

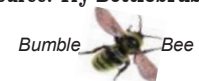
*(Loves 6+ hours of daily sun.)*



-  **Wild Geranium**  (*Geranium maculatum*): Apr. to July; host to 23 moth species; pollen/nectar/seeds for early insects & birds.
  -  **Milkweed**  (*Asclepias*): June thru Aug.; sole Monarch host; pollen/nectar/seeds for adult butterflies, bees, insects & birds; try Orange Butterfly Milkweed (*A. tuberosa*); Prairie/Sullivan's (*A. sullivantii*); or Rose/Swamp (*A. incarnata*).
  -  **Purple Coneflower**  (*Echinacea purpurea*): July to Sept.; Silvery Checkerspot butterfly host; pollen/nectar/seeds for late-season butterflies, insects & birds.
  -  **Blazing Star**  (*Liatris*): July thru Oct.; Flower moth host; pollen/nectar/seeds for butterflies & birds; try Dwarf/Cylindrical (*L. cylindracea*) or Meadow (*L. ligulistylis*).
  -  **Aster**  (*Symphotrichum*): Aug. thru Oct.; host to 112 butterfly/moth species, including Silvery Checkerspot & Pearl Crescent; pollen/nectar/seeds for adult butterflies, bees, insects & birds. Try Sky Blue (*S. oolentangiense*) or Aromatic (*S. oblongifolius*).
  -  **Goldenrod**  (*Solidago*): Aug. to Oct.; pollen/nectar/seeds for late season adult butterflies, birds, bees & insects; host to 115 butterfly/moth species. Try Ohio (*O. ohioensis*), Stiff (*O. rigida*) or Showy (*O. speciosa*). Does not cause hay fever.
  -  **Prairie Grasses**  Pollen/seeds for bees, insects & birds; Skipper butterfly host. Try short Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*), medium Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) or tall Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*).

***The Half & Half:*** Likes a bit of shade every day.

- ❖ **Virginia Bluebells** 🌱 ( *Mertensia virginica* ): March to May; pollen/nectar for butterflies, bees & insects-food for baby birds\*.
- ❖ **Bradbury's Bee Balm/Monarda** 🌸🌱 ( *Monarda bradburiana* ): June to July; pollen/nectar/seeds for butterflies, insects & birds\*.
- ❖ **Purple Coneflower** 🌸🌱 July to Sept.; see *Sunnyside Up*.
- ❖ **Orange Coneflower** 🌸🌱 ( *Rudbeckia fulgida* ): July to Sept.; host to 17 species of moths/butterflies, such as Pearl Crescent; pollen/nectar /seeds for adult butterflies, insects & birds\*.
- ❖ **Golden Alexanders** 🌸🌱 ( *Zizia aurea*, *Z. aptera* ): April to June; pollen/nectar /seeds; Ozark Woodland & Black Swallowtail butterflies host.
- ❖ **Aster** 🌸🌱 Aug. thru Oct.; see *Sunnyside Up*.
- ❖ **Goldenrod** 🌸🌱 ( *Solidago* ): Aug. to Oct.; pollen/nectar/seeds for insects & birds. Try Blue Stem ( *S. caesia* ); see *Sunnyside Up*.
- ❖ **Woodland Grasses** 🌸🌱 Northern Pearly-eyed butterfly host; pollen/seed source. Try Bottlebrush Grass ( *Elymus hystrix* ).



***The Shady Lady:*** Handles more shade in style

- ❖ **Virginia Bluebells** 🌱 March to May; see *Half & Half*.
- ❖ **Woodland/Wild Blue Phlox** 🌸🌱 (*Phlox divaricata*): April to June; Phlox Moth host; pollen/nectar for early insects/birds\*.
- ❖ **Wild Geranium** 🌱 April to July; see *Sunnyside Up*.
- ❖ **Bride's Feathers/Goatsbeard** 🌸🌱 (*Aruncus dioicus*): April to May; sole Dusky Azure butterfly host; pollen/nectar/seeds for bees, butterflies, insects & birds\*.
- ❖ **Solomon's Seal** 🌱 (*Polygonatum biflorum*): May to June; pollen/nectar /berries for insects/birds\*.
- ❖ **Aster** 🌸🌱 Aug. thru Oct.; try Calico (*S. lateriflorus*) or Short's (*S. shortii*): see *Sunnyside Up*.
- ❖ **Goldenrod** 🌸🌱 Aug. to Oct.; try Elm-Leaved (*S. ulmifolia*); see *Half & Half*. Does not cause hay fever.
- ❖ **Canadian Wild Ginger** 🌱 (*Asarum canadense*): Spring thru Fall heart-shaped-leaf ground cover; ants distribute seeds.

 **Host plants** provide habitat for insects, like butterflies & bees, to lay eggs and reproduce.  **Food plants** provide nectar, pollen and/or seeds for insects & birds. \*Early nectar/pollen sources attract insects that adult birds capture to feed their young.

Note: Native wildlife depends on native plants for laying their eggs (hosting) & food. Introduced Eurasian species or nativars (native plant cultivars) have no ecological value to this area's local wildlife.