

# Pocket Garden Planting Guide

*Recommended combinations of native flowers*



*Helping birds, bees,  
butterflies & other  
pollinators*



Golden Alexander  
Virginia bluebell  
Ostrich fern



Spike gayfeather  
Autumn goldenrod  
Hyssop-leaved boneset



Brown-eyed Susan  
Purple coneflower  
Panic Grass



Ox-eye daisy  
Purple coneflower  
Spike gayfeather



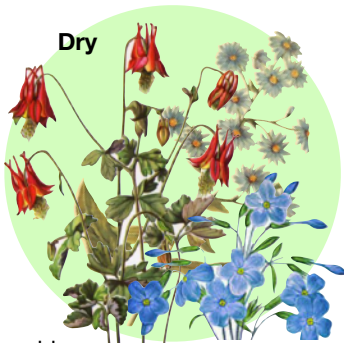
Wild geranium  
Threadleaf tickseed  
Obedient plant



Butterfly weed  
Aromatic aster  
Foxglove beardtongue



Narrow-leaved sunflower  
Spotted beebalm  
Blue mist flower



**Dry**  
Moss phlox  
White wood aster  
Eastern Columbine



Cranesbill  
Blue-stemmed goldenrod  
White wood aster



Jacob's ladder  
Golden Alexander  
Blue wood aster



*Plants are  
for full to  
part sun &  
normal  
moisture  
unless  
otherwise  
noted*

## *Native flowering shrubs*



Shubby St John's Wort



New Jersey Tea (Dry)



Highbush blueberry



Spicebush

- 1. Choose a spot.** A sunny area gives the most options for plants, but part sun part shade is also fine. For full shade use our Flower Finder guide. Gardens can be as tiny as a circle a few feet in diameter, or as large as your budget allows.
- 2. Decide on plant types.** Pick the flower combination(s) you'll use. You'll be planting perennials, which come up year after year. If you have a larger space, consider using multiple combinations or adding a few woody shrubs shown in this guide. The guide shows flowers native to much of the East coast and parts of the Midwest. If you are in a different region, choose plants from [Pollinator Partnership](https://www.pollinator.org/guides) (<https://www.pollinator.org/guides>). Enter your zip code to get your regional guide.
- 3. How many plants do you need?** Plan on spacing your native flowers 12 inches apart, even if recommended spacing is wider. This will help your garden fill in faster, giving a visual punch without your having to wait a few years. Purchase at least 3 of each flower type to help pollinators find them. Native flowers typically cost between \$8 and \$13 each. Seeds cost less but the visual payoff takes patience.
- 4. Choose a nursery and purchase your plants.** Options include:
  - A local nursery that specializes in native plants. Search online to find locations or get suggestions from your state native plant society or local garden groups.
  - Online native plant nurseries that deliver by mail. Examples - [Prairie Moon Nursery](#), [Izel Plants](#), [Keystone Wildflowers](#), [Toadshade Wildflower Farm](#).
- 5. Build your garden.** Are you converting an existing lawn? Remove the grass and turn the soil to loosen it. It helps (but is not essential) to mix in some compost or nutrient-rich soil with the top soil layer. Then arrange your plant containers in your garden space, paying attention to mature plant height. Dig individual holes just large enough for each plants' roots. Backfill and lightly compact. Lightly mulch to reduce weed growth. Native plants don't need fertilizer or other soil amendments. Water right away.
- 6. Water weekly (at least)** – and enjoy the garden! Water several times a week in the first few weeks after planting, and then weekly during dry weeks in the first two years. You'll water regularly during the growing season for the first two years, skipping weeks with substantial rain. You won't need to water after the plants are established. Avoid pesticides - even safer types can harm insects.
- 7. Tweak your garden design over time.** You'll find that some of your plants thrive and others struggle. Supplement your garden after the first year with more of what's thriving or with a different native plant you'd like to try. Gardens are always a work in progress.



### Did you know?

*The flower combos in this guide can support over 100 butterflies, more than 50 bee species, and 96% of backyard birds that need insects to feed their young.\**

\*Source: National Wildlife Federation.