

## DROUGHT TOLERANT PERENNIALS

March 2009, Helen Hamilton

Common Name	Scientific Name	Flower Color	Light	Bloom Time	Habitat	Plant Height	Comments	Source
White Snakeroot	<i>Ageratina altissima</i> ( <i>Eupatorium rugosum</i> )	white	SU-SH	SM-F	woods	6'		
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	red	SU-SH	ESM	rocky woods, slopes		shade, woodland gardens; butterflies and hummingbirds	SF
Milkweeds	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i> , <i>tuberosa</i>	greenish, orange	SU	SM	fields,	1-3'	Deer Resistant, good for slopes; butterfly host plant	SF1; SP
Wild indigo	<i>Baptisia tinctoria</i>	yellow	SU	SM	dry open places	1-3'	pea family	SF
Partridge Pea	<i>Chamaecrista</i> (Cassia) <i>fasciculata</i>	yellow	SU	SM-F	sandy fields	3'		
Blue mistflower	<i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i> (aka <i>Eupatorium coelestinum</i> )	blue, lavender	SU-SH	SM	thickets, wood edges, fields	1'-3'		
Lanceleaf coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	yellow	SU	SM	dry sandy	1'-2'	Deer Resistant, poor soil, butterflies, finches	SP
Threadleaf coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>	yellow	SU-SH	SM	dry woods	.5'-3'	Deer Resistant, poor soil, butterflies, finches	SF, SP
Wild comfrey	<i>Cynoglossum virginianum</i>	blue, lavender	SH	SPG	open woods	1-2'		
Robin's Plantain	<i>Erigeron pulchellus</i>	violet	SU-SH	SPG	open woods, fields	2'	needs limy soil	
Boneset	<i>Eupatorium hyssopifolium</i> , <i>perfoliatum</i> , <i>rotundifolium</i> , <i>serotinum</i>	white	SU	SM	dry fields	3'		
Rattlesnake Master	<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	greenish- white	SU	F	fields, prairies	2-5'	Clay soil, butterflies; dry stems with seeds	SF, SP
Oxeye Sunflower	<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	yellow	SU-SH	SM	open woods, meadows	1'-5'		
Hairy sunflower	<i>Helianthus mollis</i>	yellow	SU	SM-F	dry soil, open woods	2-3'	SF	
Narrowleaf Silkgrass	<i>Heterotheca</i> ( <i>Pityopsis</i> ) <i>graminifolia</i>	yellow	SU	SM-F	dry, sandy places	1-2'	SF	
Grass-leaved blazing star	<i>Liatris graminifolia</i>	purple	SU	SM-F	dry soil	1-3'		

Blue toadflax	<i>Linaria canadensis</i>	blue, lavender	SU	SPG	sandy soil	1-2'		
	<i>Lupine perennis</i>						likes dry gravelly soils, goes dormant after blooming in late spring, not for the average cultivated perennial border, but is a wonderful addition to harsher situations such as roadside and rock garden plantings.	SF, SP
Wild bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	pink	SU-SH	SM-F	dry hillsides, wood edges	2-3'		SF
Horsemint	<i>Monarda punctata</i>	yellow-purple	SU	SM-F	dry fields, roadsides	1-3'		SF
Evening primrose	<i>Oenothera biennis</i>	yellow	SU	SM-F	dry open places	1-6'	flowers open at twilight	
Sundrops	<i>Oenothera fruticosa</i>	yellow	SU	SM-F	dry open places	1-3'	Deer resistant, hot sites, poor, dry soils, butterflies, can grow under walnut trees; flowers open during the day	SP
Cut-leaved evening primrose	<i>Oenothera laciniata</i>	yellow	SU	SM-F	dry open places	1-3'	flowers open at twilight; weak-stemmed	
Prickly pear	<i>Opuntia humifusa</i>	yellow	SU	SM	sandy, rocky places	low	Deer resistant, sandy soil, barbed bristles	SP
Wild Quinine, American fever-few	<i>Parthenium integrifolium</i>	white	SU-SH	SM	open woods, meadows	1-3'		SF
Passionflower vine	<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	white-purple	SU-SH	SM	fields, roadsides, open woods	vine		
Smooth beardtongue	<i>Penstemon laevigatus</i>	white	SU-SH	SPG-SM	rich woods, meadows	1-4'		SF
Hoary mountain mint	<i>Pycnanthemum incanum</i>	white/pale lilac	SU-SH	SU-F	dry woods and hillsides	1-3'	good for slopes	
Pasture rose	<i>Rosa carolina</i>	deep pink	SU	ESM	dry, rocky, sandy soil	1-3'		
Black-eyed Susan, orange coneflower	<i>Rudbeckia hirta, fulgida, triloba</i>	yellow	SU	SM	dry open places	1'-4'	Deer resistant	SF2, SP1
Lyre-leaved sage	<i>Salvia lyrata</i>	violet	SU-SH	SPG	dry open woods	1-2'	Deer resistant, butterflies, hummingbirds, needs moist, well-drained soil	SP
Wild stonecrop	<i>Sedum ternatum</i>	white	SU-SH	SPG	rocks, banks	1'		SF
Whorled rosinweed	<i>Silphium trifoliolate</i>	yellow	SU-SH	SM-F	woods, borders	3-7'		SF
Sweet, gray, seaside, late, wrinkleleaf goldenrod	<i>Solidago sp (nemoralis, odora, rugosa, sempervirens)</i>	yellow	SU-SH	SM-F	fields, open woods	2-6'	Deer resistant; poor soil, dry or wet, dry shade, clay soil, does NOT cause hayfever, butterflies	SF, SP2
Aster (blue wood, smooth)	<i>Symphotrichum (cordifolium, laeve, linariifolius, patens)</i>	lavender, violet	SU-SH	SM-F	dry fields, open woods	1'-3'	good for slope; tolerates shade	SF3
Goat's Rue	<i>Tephrosia virginiana</i>	yellow-pink	SU	ESM	dry sandy soil	1-2'	pea family	SF

Culver's root	Veronicastrum virginicum	white, tubular	SU-SH	SM	woods, meadows	2-7'	Rich, moist soil, bog tolerant	SF, SP
Spanish bayonet	Yucca filamentosa	white	SU	SM	sandy	5-10'		
	<b>Grasses</b>							
Big bluestem	Andropogon gerardii	reddish	SU	F	fields, meadows	6'	Deer Resistant, tall in fall	
Split Bluestem	Andropogon ternarius	tan	SU	F	fields, meadows, roadsides	2-5'		
purple lovegrass	Eragrostis spectabilis	purple	SU	SM-F	fields, sandy soil	1-3'		SP
Switchgrass	Panicum virgatum 'Shenandoah', 'Heavy Metal', 'Dallis Blue', 'Northwind'	red, purple	SU	SM-F	fields, meadows	4-6'	Deer Resistant	SP
Little Bluestem	Schizachyrium scoparium	blue foliage, red fall foliage	SU	SM	fields, roadsides	3-5'	clumps	SP
SF1: A. tuberosa								
SF2: R. fulgida, triloba								
SF3: S. Cordifolium, laeve								
SP1: R.fulgida								
SP2: S.rugosa								

**SF: Sassafras Farm, 7029 Bray Road, Hayes, VA 23072, 804-642-0923**

**SP: Sandy's Plants, 8011 Bell Creek Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111, [www.sandysplants.com](http://www.sandysplants.com), 804-746-7092. Many cultivars.**

**Be sure to check out the John Clayton Chapter's Plant Sale, [Plants Galore](#), usually in April**