

FULL SUN	KEY: * = Beneficial to Insects and Birds, RG = Rain Garden Plants, e = Edible	
Flowers (Forbs)		
24-36 inch [†]	Lead Plant	<i>Amorpha canescens</i>
8-12 inch	Pasque Flower	<i>Anemone patens</i>
24-72 inch ^{RG*}	Swamp Milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>
18-24 inch	Butterfly Weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>
24 inch [†]	Heath Aster	<i>Aster ericoides</i>
60 inch	New England Aster	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>
24-48 inch	White Wild Indigo	<i>Baptisia alba</i>
18-36 inch [†]	Sand Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>
12-30 inch ^{RG†}	Prairie Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis palmata</i>
30 inch [†]	Purple Prairie Clover	<i>Dalea purpurea</i>
30 inch	Showy Tick Trefoil	<i>Desmodium canadense</i>
36 inch [†]	Pale Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea pallida</i>
36-42 inch [†]	Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>
24-60 inch ^{RG*}	Rattlesnake Master	<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>
6 inch ^{RG†}	Prairie Smoke	<i>Geum triflorum</i>
36-60 inch [†]	Early (False) Sunflower	<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>
12-42 inch	False Boneset	<i>Kuhnia eupatorioides</i>
24-60 inch [†]	Round Headed Bush Clover	<i>Lespedeza capitata</i>
24-60 inch ^{RG*}	Rough Blazing Star	<i>Liatris aspera</i>
48 inch ^{RG†}	Prairie Blazing Star	<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>
36-48 inch [†]	Spiked (Dense) Blazing Star	<i>Liatris spicata</i>
24 inch	Pale Spiked Lobelia	<i>Lobelia spicata</i>
24-36 inch	Wild Quinine	<i>Parthenium integrifolium</i>

24-48 inch	Garden Phlox	<i>Phlox paniculata</i>
24 inch	Prairie Phlox	<i>Phlox pilosa</i>
36 inch	Prairie Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla arguta</i>
48 inch	Yellow Coneflower	<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>
12 inch	Wild Petunia	<i>Ruellia humilis</i>
18-24 inch	Gray Goldenrod	<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>
36 inch	Riddell's Goldenrod	<i>Solidago reddellii</i>
24-48 inch	Ironweed	<i>Vernonia fasciculata</i>
6 inch	Prairie Violet	<i>Viola pedatifida</i>
Grasses		
48-96 inch	Big Bluestem	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>
24-36 inch	Little Bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>
24-30 inch	Side Oats Grama	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>
48 inch	Blue Joint Grass	<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>
24 inch	Purple Love Grass	<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>
24 inch	June Grass	<i>Koeleria cristata</i>
36-72 inch	Switch Grass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>
36-84 inch	Indian Grass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>
24 inch	Prairie Dropseed	<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>
36-48 inch	Porcupine Grass	<i>Stipa spartea</i>
Shrubs		
6-12 ft	American Filbert	<i>Corylus americana</i>
5-15 ft	Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>
5-12 ft	Elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>
2-6 ft	Meadowsweet	<i>Spiraea alba</i>

6-12 ft	Highbush Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>
6-12 ft	Arrowwood Viburnum	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>
PART SHADE	KEY: * = Beneficial to Insects and Birds, RG = Rain Garden Plants, e = Edible	
Flowers (Forbs)		
12-24 inch	Nodding Wild Onion	<i>Allium cernuum</i>
12-24 inch	Prairie Thimbleweed	<i>Anemone cylindrica</i>
18-36 inch	Smooth Blue Aster	<i>Aster laevis</i>
60 inch	New England Aster	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>
18-36 inch	Sky Blue Aster	<i>Aster oolentangiensis</i>
24-48 inch	White Wild Indigo	<i>Baptisia leucantha</i>
18-24 inch	Shooting Star	<i>Dodecatheon meadia</i>
36-60 inch	Spotted Joe Pye Weed	<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>
24-48 inch	Common Boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>
24-36 inch	Blue Flag Iris	<i>Iris virginica shrevei</i>
48-60 inch	Cardinal Flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>
30-48 inch	Wild Bergamot (Bee Balm)	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>
24-36 inch	Foxglove Beardtongue	<i>Penstamon digitalis</i>
15-30 inch	Smooth Phlox	<i>Phlox glaberrima interior</i>
24-36 inch	Black-Eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>
18-30 inch	Ohio Goldenrod	<i>Solidago ohioensis</i>
24-48 inch	Spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia ohioensis</i>
5-15 ft	Culver's Root	<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>
12-30 inch	Heart-Leaved Meadow Parsnip	<i>Zizia aptera</i>
30 inch	Golden Alexander	<i>Zizia aurea</i>
Grasses		

12-30 inch ^{RG}	Sedges	<i>Carex sp.</i>
24-36 inch*	Northern Sea Oats	<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>
36-60 inch	Common Wood Reed	<i>Cinna arundinacea</i>
36-60 inch	Canada Wild Rye	<i>Elymus canadensis</i>
12-48 inch	Virginia Wild Rye	<i>Elymus virginicus</i>
24-42 inch*	Fowl Meadow (Manna) Grass	<i>Glyceria striata</i>
30-60 inch	Bottlebrush Grass	<i>Hystrix patula</i>
24-42 inch	Rice Cut Grass	<i>Leersia oryzoides</i>
4-8ft	Great Bulrush	<i>Scirpus validus</i>
30-48 inch*	Dark Green Rush	<i>Scirpus atrovirens</i>
3-7ft	Prairie Cord Grass	<i>Spartina pectinata</i>
Shrubs		
6-10 ft	Red Chokeberry	<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>
10-15 ft*	Common Witch Hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>
3-5 ft	Smooth Hydrangea	<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>
5-10 ft	Ninebark	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>
3-5 ft	Wild Black Currant	<i>Ribes americanum</i>
6-8ft	Swamp Rose	<i>Rosa palustris</i>
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Flowers (Forbs)		
12-36 inch*	Wild Columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>
12-36 inch*	Jack-in-the-Pulpit	<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>
4-8 inch	Wild Ginger	<i>Asarum canadense</i>
24-36 inch	White Turtlehead	<i>Chelone glabra linifolia</i>
4-8 ft	Dutchman's Breeches	<i>Dicentra cucullaria</i>

12 inch	Yellow Trout Lily	<i>Erythronium americanum</i>
12-36 inch*	Bigleaf Aster	<i>Eurybia macrophylla</i>
12-30 inch	Wild Geranium	<i>Geranium maculatum</i>
12-24 inch	Virginia Waterleaf	<i>Hydrophyllum virginianum</i>
12-30 inch	Virginia Bluebells	<i>Mertensia virginica</i>
12-18 inch	Mayapple	<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>
12-36 inch	Jacob's Ladder	<i>Polemonium reptans</i>
24-42 inch*	Solomon's Seal	<i>Polygonatum canaliculatum</i>
12-14 inch	Bloodroot	<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>
30 inch	False Solomon's Seal	<i>Smilacina racemosa</i>
12 inch	Foamflower	<i>Tiarella spp.</i>
12-18 inch	Trillium	<i>Trillium spp.</i>
6-16 inch	Canada Violet	<i>Viola canadensis</i>
Grasses		
2.5-5 ft	Bottlebrush Grass	<i>Elymus hystrix</i>
Shrubs		
6-12 ft	Bottlebrush Buckeye	<i>Aesculus parviflora</i>
3-12 ft	Oak Leaf Hydrangea	<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>

This list was adopted from the USEPA [Greenacres Program's](#) Native Plant List for the Great Lakes region. This list is not comprehensive, however does include species that are commonly available at garden centers and nurseries and are relatively easy to grow. The list is provided for residents doing a modest first planting.

If you are interested in purchasing species native to the region, beyond those listed here, you are welcome and encouraged to apply for the rebate program. We will add new commonly purchased native species to this list over time. Please send suggestions or comments on this list to info@sustainablebackyards.org.

Species eligible for the [Chicago Sustainable Backyard Program](#) Native Plant Rebate are those perennials native to the Midwestern region and not listed on [Chicago's discouraged invasive species list](#). Please note some eligible native shrubs are listed on the [City's Recommended Tree List](#).