# Wildflowers

*https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/Parks/Pages/AdelineJayGeo-KarisIllinoisBeach.aspx*

*Lake Shelbyville Eco-Meet 2018*

**Varsity**

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – ST. LOUIS DISTRICT

LAKE SHELBYVILLE

1989 State Highway 16

SHELBYVILLE, IL 62565

(217) 774-3951

US Army Corps of Engineers®

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## INTRODUCTION

Wildflowers can be found all throughout the world. In Illinois alone there are hundreds of wildflowers! Wildflowers are not only a sight to appreciate on the side of the road, but they also fill an important niche in our ecosystem. Wildflowers are a food source for many herbivores. Some attract beneficial insects such as pollinators. This is one of the most important uses of wildflowers, as many domestic flowers have deficient pollen amounts or the petals do not allow insects to reach the pollen. Wildflowers may also attract other animals and insects including butterflies and hummingbirds. On the other hand, some wildflowers may repel animals, such as deer. This makes certain flowers very attractive to gardeners. Wildflowers require less care than domestic flowers. They prefer poorer soil, which can be found anywhere in the area, and they do not require rose water or fertilizer. These flowers are hardier and are easier to care for. Wildflowers can also be used as a natural cover crop to prevent erosion. This is a more appealing approach to erosion control because of the beautiful flower blooms. Many wildflowers are also edible and/or have medicinal value.

## FLOWER ANATOMY

Simple and compound are the two main types of flowers.

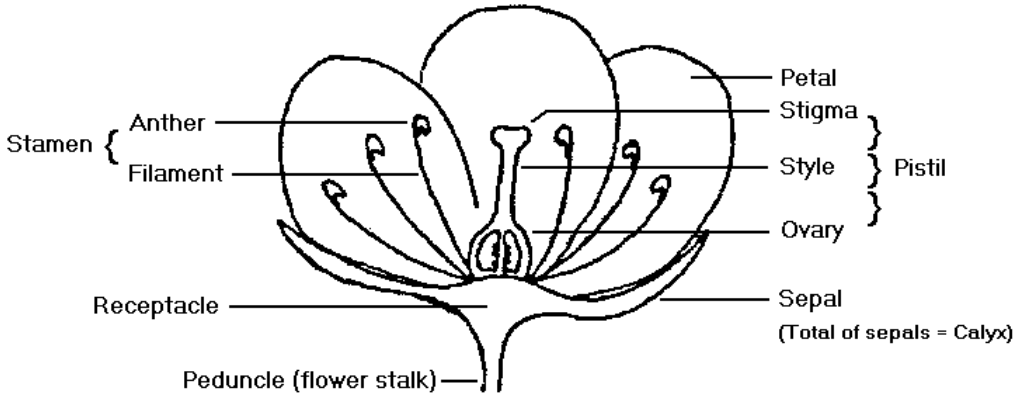
*Simple*

Below is a drawing of a simple flower. The petals, or corolla, of flowers are flat, broad, bright, and colorful, which helps to attract pollinators. Before the flower blooms, the petals are located inside of a bud. The outer layer of the bud is made of sepals that protect the petals inside. Sepals are usually green, but on some flowers they can resemble the petals. Each flower has many sepals, and all of the sepals together are called a calyx. The receptacle is where the calyx attaches to the plant, and it holds the base of the flower.

The anther and filament are the male reproductive parts of the flower. The filament supports the anther that creates and holds pollen to be collected by pollinators. These two parts as a whole are called the stamen, the male organ of the flower.

The female reproductive organ, called the pistil, includes the stigma, style, and ovary. The stigma is an opening at the top of the pistil that allows pollen to enter into the narrow part of the pistil where the ovaries and stigma connect. This is called the style

and leads down to the ovary, the swollen base of the pistil where the egg is contained. The fertilized egg will then grow into a seed or multiple seeds.

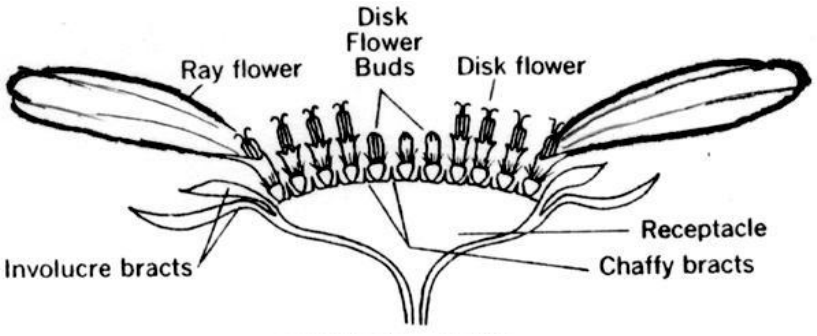



http://anpsa.org.au/APOL2006/aug06-s1.html

Not all flowers have both male and female reproductive organs. Squash, for instance, requires a male and female plant to produce a seed. Apples have both male and female parts, but an apple tree cannot fertilize itself. Nature prevents this from happening by allowing the trees male and female parts to mature at different times. If the egg is not mature when the pollen is, the pollen will only be able to fertilize the flowers on another tree with matured female parts.

*Compound*

Compound flowers reproduce in the same way as simple flowers but have a slightly different anatomy, as seen in the diagram below. A compound flower contains two types of flowers in one—ray flowers and disc flowers. A ray flower is a flower that appears around the edge of the head in many members of the Sunflower family. Each ray flower resembles a single petal and is sterile. The disc flowers/florets are located in the center of the ray flowers. Each disc flower has reproductive parts and non-reproductive parts. The disc flowers are held in place by the chaffy bracts.

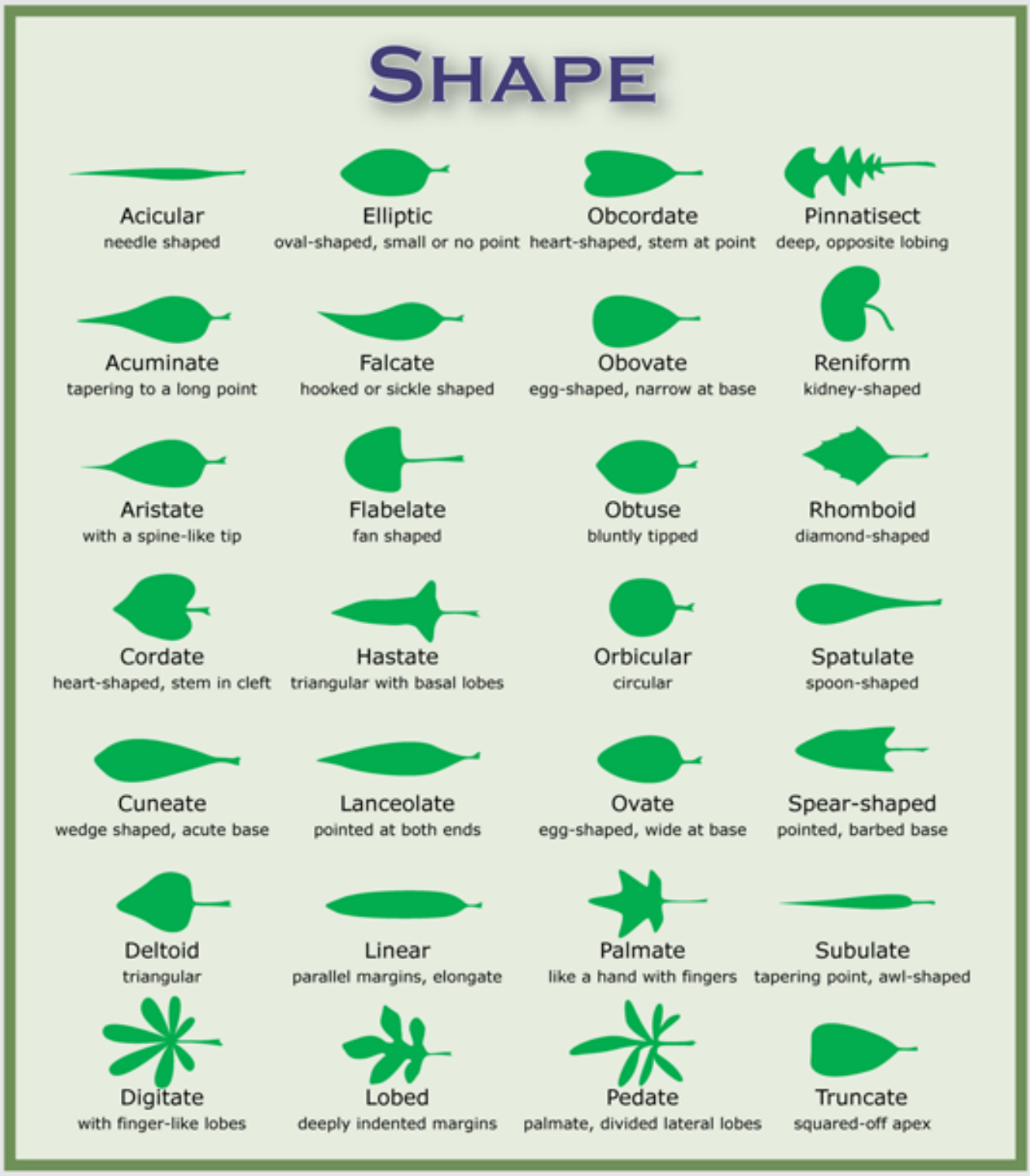



https://csuvth.colostate.edu/poisonous_plants/Glossary

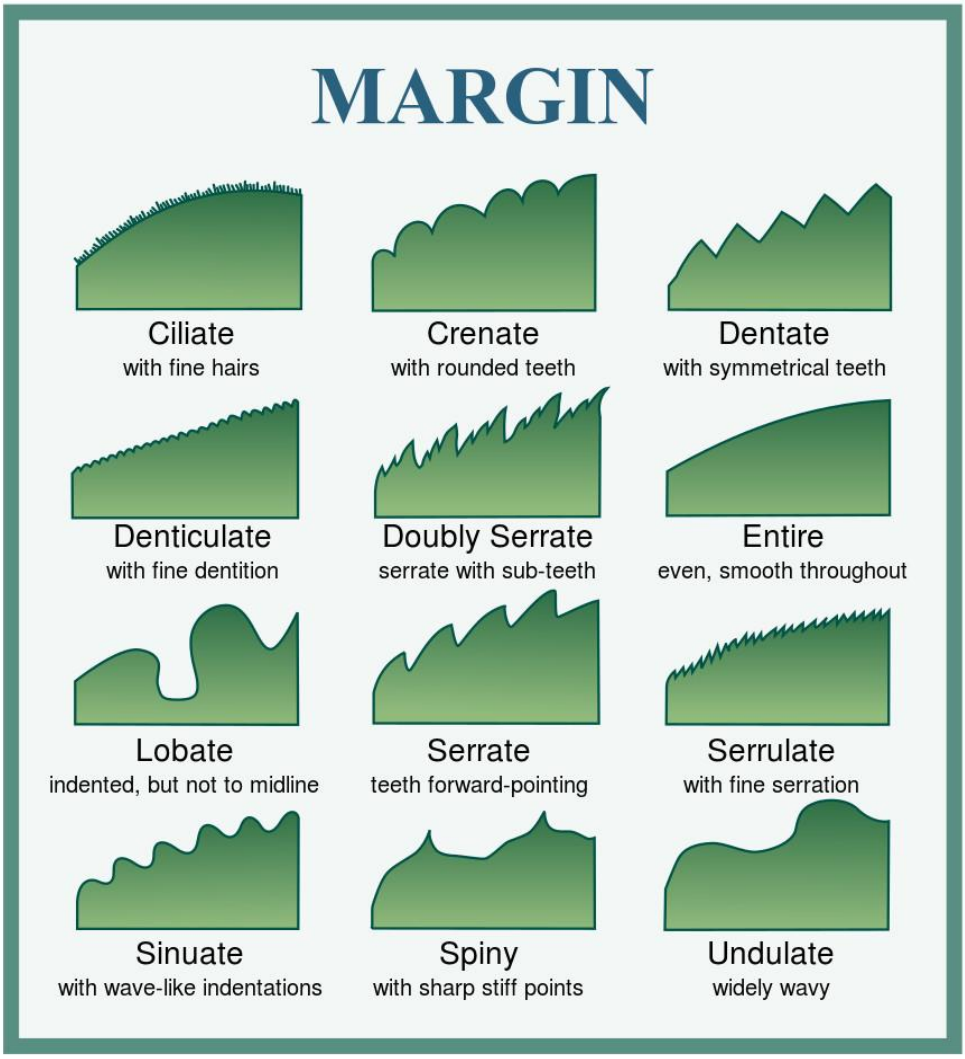
*Leaves*

The leaves of wildflowers come in many different shapes and sizes and can be very useful for identification purposes. Not only do plant leaves have different shapes, but they can also have different margins or edges. The way the leaves are arranged on the stem of the plant also factors into its identification. Leaves extend from the node, which is the place on the stem where leaves or branches attach. The angle that is formed by the upper side of the leaf and the stem is referred to as the axil. The blade of a leaf is the flat portion. This is the same for petals and sepals. The following are various types of leaves:

- Alternating Leaves: singly along the stem, not in pairs or whorls (circle of 3 or more leaves/branches/pedicels at a node)
- Basal Leaves: located at the base of the stem
- Compound Leaves: divided into smaller leaflets
- Pinnate Leaves: compound leaf with leaflets along the sides of a common stalk, much like a feather
- Opposite Leaves: occur in pairs at a node with one leaf on either side of the stem
- Bract Leaves: modified leaves that are usually smaller than the foliage leaves, often are situated at the base of a flower or inflorescence
- Rosette: crowded cluster of leaves, usually basal or circular and appearing to grow directly out of the ground




http://elements.spiritalchemy.com/articles/ArtOfNature.html




http://natures-restaurant-online.com/id.html

## Leaf Arrangement


https://weedid.missouri.edu/

## CONSERVATION

Park Rangers at Lake Shelbyville work to support the local wildflower populations. The Lake Shelbyville Project was selected as a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year 17 Handshake Partnership Program recipient. Lake Shelbyville received $20,000 to improve pollinator habitat around the lake. This pollinator habitat improvement project converted 100 acres of old field habitat choked out with invasive species into a diverse pollinator mix of native wildflowers, vital to numerous insects species which pollinate native plants. The goals developed and outlined by all partners are simple: restore native plants, create viable habitat and provide a quality experience for those who enjoy the forest, fields, and wildlife at Lake Shelbyville. Through the help of the U.S. Army Handshake Partnership Program, hard work, and team effort, this pollinator habitat will provide numerous benefits to pollinators and the ecosystem. Be on the lookout for other pollinator and native wildflower improvements at Lake Shelbyville.

## BLUE AND PURPLE FLOWERS

COMMON IRONWEED
*Vernonia fasciculata*
Aster family (Asteraceae)

*https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=vefa2*

**Description:** Stout plant to 4’ tall with smooth, hairless stems and leaves. The leaves are alternate, finely and regularly toothed along their edges, widest at the middle and gradually tapering to narrow bases and pointed tips. The largest leaves can be 6” long and over 1” wide but are often much narrower. There are numerous tiny pits on the underside of each leaf. Flower heads are in a dense, rounded cluster at the top of the plant. Each head is typically about $^{3}/_{8}$” wide with 15-25 radiating, purple disk flowers. Each flower has a tiny, 5-petaled, tubular corolla and 2 protruding, threadlike style branches.

**Bloom Season:** Midsummer—Fall

**Habitat/Range:** Common in wet prairies and moist prairie depressions, often growing with Prairie Cord Grass. Distributed through most of the tallgrass region.

NEW ENGLAND ASTER
*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*
Aster family (Asteraceae)

*http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/ne_asterx.htm*

**Description:** Showy asters to 6’ tall with hairy stems and leaves. The alternate leaves are up to 4” long and 1” wide, with broad, clasping bases and pointed tips. The individually stalked flower heads are in an open, rounded cluster at the tops of the main stem branches. The flower stalks and bracts at the base of each flower head are covered with gland-tipped hairs. Each head is about 1½“ wide, with 40 or more bright purple petal-like ray flowers surrounding a central yellow disk. The ray flowers are sometimes pinkish purple or pale lavender.

**Bloom Season:** Late Summer—Fall

**Habitat/Range:** Frequent throughout the tallgrass region in wet to mesic prairies and moist open areas.

**Comments:** This is a handsome and widely cultivated aster, which can be grown easily from seed. It has some weedy tendencies and may spread into moist ditches and open thickets. A related species, Swamp Aster, (*A. puniceus*) occurs in wetter sites in wet prairies and fens; it has hairs in lines along the stems, and lacks gland-tipped hairs.

PALE PURPLE CONEFLOWER
*Echinacea pallida*
Aster family (Asteraceae)

*http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/pale_coneflowerx.htm*

**Description:** Plants to 3’ tall, with coarse, bristly hairs on the stout stems and leaves. The leaves are rough, up to 10” long and 1½“ wide, and tapering at either end, with several parallel veins running along their lengths. The basal leaves are on long stalks, while the stem leaves are few, alternate, and usually lack long stalks. There is a single showy flower head at the top of each stem, with many drooping, pale purple, petal-like ray flowers, each up to 3½“ long, surrounding a broad, purplish brown, cone-shaped central disk.

**Bloom Season:** Late Spring—Midsummer

**Habitat/Range:** Locally common and widely distributed in dry and mesic prairies and open savannas from southeastern Nebraska and north-central Iowa south and east to southwestern Arkansas and northwestern Indiana. Farther east it is rare, with most populations representing escapes from cultivation.

**Comments:** A related plant, Narrow-Leaved purple Coneflower (*E. angustifolia*), occurs in upland prairies throughout the western tallgrass region and westward; it is a shorter plant with smaller ray flowers and yellow pollen—typical Pale Purple coneflower has white pollen. Some scientists think that the two types are varieties of a single species. All of the Purple Coneflowers were used as medicinal plants by Native Americans. There is still a market for the roots, which are used to make herbal medicines and tonics. Illegal root digging pose a major threat to the plants in some areas.

PRAIRIE BLAZING STAR
*Liatris pycnostachya*
Aster family (Asteraceae)

*http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/pr_blazingstarx.htm*

**Description:** Slender, spikelike plants to 5’ tall, with abundant grasslike leaves and usually hairy stems. The lowest leaves can be well over 1’ long and up to ½” wide, with the stem leaves smaller and progressively reduced upward. The flower heads are in a dense spike at the top of the plant. Each small head is about ¼” wide, with an overlapping series of bracts that have hairy, outward-curving, pointed tips. There are mostly 5-10 small, 5-lobed, purple disk flowers per head, with 2 prominent threadlike style branches protruding from each flower. Forms of this plant with white flowers occasionally occur among groups of purple-flowered plants.

**Bloom Season:** Midsummer—Early Fall

**Habitat/Range:** Common throughout the tallgrass region in seepage areas in upland prairies, moist prairie depressions, and mesic to dry prairies.

WILD BERGAMOT
*Monarda fistulosa*
Mint family (Lamiaceae)

*http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/wld_bergamotx.htm*

**Description:** Fragrant mints with branching, square stems to 5' tall, with the upper stems usually finely hairy. The leaves are opposite, up to 5" long and 2" wide, sharply toothed, broadest near the base and tapering to long pointed tips, and on stalks about $^{1}/_{2}$-1" long. Flowers are in dense, rounded heads at the tops of the stems, with each head surrounded by a whorl of pale, leafy bracts. The calyx is a narrow tube less than ½" long, with 5 spiny points and numerous white hairs at the mouth. The tubular, lavender corolla has 2 long lips at the summit, the upper of which is narrow and hairy and the lower 3-lobed. Two threadlike stamens and the style protrude below the upper lip.

**Bloom Season:** Late Spring—Early Fall

**Habitat:** Common throughout the tallgrass region in prairie thickets, pastures, old fields, and occasionally in open dry prairies.

## PINK FLOWERS

COMMON MILKWEED
*Asclepias syriaca*
Milkweed family (Asclepiadaceae)

*https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/asclepias_syriaca.shtml*

**Description:** Mostly unbranched, finely hairy plants usually 3-4’ tall, but occasionally up to 6’, with white, milky sap. The large, mostly opposite, thick, oval, short-stalked leaves are up to 8” (rarely 12”) long and 4½“ wide, usually with pinkish veins. Flowers are in rounded clusters of 24-140 at the tops of the stems or on stalks arising from the bases of the upper leaves. Each pinkish purple flower is about ¼“ wide, with 5 purplish, reflexed petals surrounding 5 spreading, pinkish purple hoods, each with a tiny, pointed horn arising from it. The fruits are 2-4” long, fat pods covered with many tiny projections and filled with fluffy seeds.

**Bloom Season:** Late Spring—Summer

**Habitat/Range:** Abundant in open disturbed areas, including fields, upland pastures, roadsides, and even planted fields, as well as occasionally in prairies, especially degraded prairies; found throughout the tallgrass region, but becoming less common at the extreme southern edge

**Comments:** Young shoots and pods of this plant have been used as a vegetable, although the cooking water must be changed several times to remove toxins. The fluffy seed hairs formerly were used to stuff life jackets. Native Americans used milkweeds for medicine and made sugar from the flowers. Common Milkweed is similar to Prairie Milkweed, which is smooth and hairless, has slightly larger flowers, and grows in high-quality, moist prairies.

PRAIRIE ONION
*Allium stellatum*
Lily family (Liliaceae)

*http://echinaceaproject.org/field-guides/plants/prairie-onion/*

**Description:** Very similar to Nodding Wild Onion, except that the stems are erect, and the flower heads are not drooping or nodding. The leaves are all basal, but typically wither and disappear before flowering time. The flowers of Prairie Onion are often a deep reddish pink, contrasting with the pale pink hue of Nodding Wild Onion.

**Bloom Season:** Midsummer—Fall

**Habitat/Range:** Frequent in dry prairies and on hill prairies, especially in rocky sites associated with limestone; found from western Ontario and scattered sites in Illinois westward.

VIOLET WOOD SORREL
*Oxalis violacea*
Wood Sorrel family (Oxalidaceae)

*http://www.jaxshells.org/sorrel.htm*

**Description:** Small plants to about 6” tall, with all leaves basal and long-stalked. Each leaf is up to 1” wide and divided into 3 leaflets radiating from a common point. Each leaflet is folded, notched at the tip, and heart-shaped, frequently with a dark reddish spot near the base. The undersides of the leaflets are sometimes tinged with purple. The flower stems are taller than the leaves, with several individually stalked flowers at the top. Each flower is ½” wide or slightly wider, with 5 small, pointed, orange-tipped, green sepals and 5 pink or purple petals enclosing 10 stamens and 5 styles.

**Bloom Season:** Late Spring—Early Summer; also in Fall

**Habitat/Range:** Common in dry to mesic prairies and open woodlands throughout the tallgrass region.

## RED AND ORANGE FLOWERS

INDIAN PAINTBRUSH
*Castilleja coccinea*
Snapdragon family (Scrophulariaceae)

*https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=caco17*

**Description:** Annuals with unbranched, hairy stems to 2’ tall, but usually 1’ or less. The leaves are alternate, yellowish green, and usually divided into 3 narrow, widely spreading lobes. The flowers are at the top of the plant in a dense spike which elongates as the season progresses. The actual flowers are inconspicuous, each with a thin, tubular, 2-lipped calyx about 1” long and a greenish, tubular corolla. The showiness of the plant comes from the brightly colored, leafy bract that grows under each flower. These are often divided like the stem leaves and are typically bright vermilion, although yellow forms also occur.

**Bloom Season:** Spring—Summer

**Habitat/Range:** Common in mesic, dry, and sandy prairies, usually in sites that have some seepage during the spring; found through the tallgrass region from western Minnesota and eastern Kansas eastward.

**Comments:** Indian Paintbrush is a partial parasite, attaching to the roots of several species of prairie plants.

MICHIGAN LILY
*Lilium michiganense*
Lily family (Liliaceae)

*http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/mich_lilyx.htm*

**Description:** Stout, smooth plants to 6’ tall with most of the stem leaves in whorls of 4-7, but with the upper stem leaves usually alternate. The leaves are thick and waxy, broadest near the middle, up to 6” long and less than 1” wide, with pointed tips and several parallel veins along their lengths. Each flower is on a spreading to drooping stalk, usually with several stalks above a whorl of leaves at the top of the plant. The flowers typically face downward. Each flower is up to 3” wide and has 6 petal-like, orange segments with many dark purple spots. These segments curl back away from the flower, exposing the 6 prominent, reddish brown-tipped stamens and a central style.

**Bloom Season:** Early—Midsummer

**Habitat/Range:** Occasional in moist prairies, prairie swales, and open seepage areas; scattered through the tallgrass region.

**Comments:** This plant is also called Turk’s Cap Lily.

## YELLOW FLOWERS

BLACK-EYED SUSAN
*Rudbeckia hirta*
Aster family (Asteraceae)

*http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/be_susanx.htm*

**Description:** Plants up to 3’ tall, but typically 1-2’ tall, with bristly-hairy leaves and stems. The leaves are alternate, sometimes toothed, widest at the middle and tapering to pointed tips, with the lowest leaves usually stalked, and most of the stem leaves less than 4” long. There are several parallel veins running along the length of each leaf. Flower heads are single at the top of each stem branch, with each head about 2-3” wide and composed of a dark brown, rounded to conical, buttonlike central disk surrounded by 8-20 yellow, petal-like ray flowers.

**Bloom Season:** Midspring—Fall

**Habitat/Range:** Widely distributed, but never abundant, in high-quality dry to mesic prairies, more common in grazed prairies, dry pastures, hay meadows, old fields, and along roadsides throughout the tallgrass region.

**Comments:** A tea made from the leaves of Black-Eyed Susan was used in folk medicines, and a yellow dye can be made from the plant.

COMPASS PLANT
*Silphium laciniatum*
Aster family (Asteraceae)

*http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/compassx.htm*

**Description:** One of the largest-leaved plants of the prairie, the Compass Plant has huge basal leaves, and a 3-8' tall flower stalk with a few similar, but progressively smaller, alternate leaves along its length. The basal leaves are broadly triangular in general outline and can be over 1' long. They are deeply divided into a series of narrow segments that are themselves sometimes divided. At the top of the hairy stalk are several alternate, green-bracted flower heads. Each head is 2½"-4½" wide, with many yellow petal-like ray flowers surrounding a yellow center with many sterile disk flowers.

**Bloom Season:** Late Spring—Summer

**Habitat/Range:** Common in mesic and drier prairies, often along roadsides and in slightly disturbed sites; from southeastern South Dakota southward, becoming more sporadic from Indiana eastward.

**Comments:** Native American children used the dried resinous sap as chewing gum.

PRAIRIE COREOPSIS
*Coreopsis palmata*
Aster family (Asteraceae)

*http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/pr_coreopsisx.htm*

**Description:** Plants usually 1-2½' tall and unbranched below the flower stalks. There are no basal leaves, and the stem leaves are opposite, with each leaf divided into 3 long, narrow segments, and the central segment often itself divided into 1-2 segments. The leaves have prominent veins along the lengths of the segments. Flower heads are at the tops of individual erect stalks, typically with 8 yellow, petal-like ray flowers per head. The ray flowers are not as fan-shaped or coarsely toothed at the tips as other species of Coreopsis found on prairies, and the flowers are paler yellow.

**Bloom Season:** Late Spring—Midsummer

**Habitat/Range:** Frequent in dry prairies and open savannas, typically in sandy, gravelly, or rocky sites; scattered through all but the northernmost tallgrass region, from eastern South Dakota to northeastern Oklahoma and east through northwestern Indiana into Michigan.

STIFF GOLDENROD
*Oligoneuron rigidum*
Aster family (Asteraceae)

*https://www.ct-botanical-society.org/Plants/view/414*

**Description:** Coarse plants to 5’ tall, usually somewhat hairy, with unbranched lower stems and broad, thick leaves. The large basal leaves are on long stalks and up to 10” long and 5” wide, sometimes with weakly toothed edges. The alternately arranged stem leaves are progressively smaller upward, with shorter stalks or stalkless. The flower heads are in a rounded to flattened cluster at the top of the plant, with the branch below each head having many small leaflike bracts. Each flower head is about ½” wide, with 7-14 yellow, petal-like ray flowers surrounding the central disk flowers, which have protruding threadlike stigmas. This species has larger flower heads than most of our goldenrods.

**Bloom Season:** Late Summer—Fall

**Habitat/Range:** Frequent in well-drained prairies throughout the tallgrass region.

**Comments:** The deep roots of Stiff Goldenrod allow it to survive severe overgrazing and other disturbances. It can become abundant in old fields and pastures that were formerly prairie.

WILD LETTUCE
*Lactuca canadensis*
Aster family (Asteraceae)

*http://jimbotany.com/Monastery_Plants/Lactuca%20canadensis.htm*

**Description:** Light green, biennial plants to 8’ tall, with alternate leaves and milky, orange-tan sap. The leaves are up to 12” long and 6” wide, but in prairies are usually about 3-6” long and less than 2½“ wide. Leaves vary from deeply lobed to rounded and unlobed, with edges that may be toothed or smooth. The small flower heads are on individual stalks in a large, branching cluster at the tops of the main stem branches. Each head is less than ½” wide when fully opened, with several pointed, green bracts surrounding 15-22 yellow, petal-like ray flowers resembling a miniature Dandelion.

**Bloom Season:** Summer

**Habitat/Range:** Common throughout the tallgrass region in pastures, upland prairies, open thickets, and along woodland edges, usually in sites with a history of previous disturbance.

YELLOW CONEFLOWER
*Echinacea paradoxa*
Aster family (Asteraceae)

*http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/yl_coneflowerx.htm*

**Description:** Shiny, smooth to inconspicuously hairy plants typically 2-3’ tall, with stout erect stems. The narrow alternate leaves are mostly near the base of the plant, and up to 9” long, but less than 2” wide, each with several parallel lengthwise veins. Each stem is topped with a spectacular head that resembles a single flower up to 5” across, with many golden yellow petal-like ray flowers which usually angle downward, and a rounded central brown cone of disk flowers and sharp bracts.

**Bloom Season:** Late Spring—Early Summer

**Habitat/Range:** Local in exposed, well-drained, calcium-rich soil in glades and prairies in the Ozarks from central Missouri to northern Arkansas.

**Comments:** This unusual yellow-flowered relative of the purple coneflower has a restricted native range, but is hardy, commercially available, and should be used more in gardens because of its stunning appearance. A variant with pinkish to white ray flowers, variety neglecta, occurs in southwestern tallgrass sites in Oklahoma and Texas.

## WHITE FLOWERS

RATTLESNAKE MASTER
*Eryngium yuccifolium*
Parsley family (Apiaceae)

*http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/rattlesnakex.htm*

**Description:** Stout, hairless plants to 4' tall, with a blue-green cast. The leaves resemble Yucca leaves and are long, strap-shaped, and less than 1½" wide, with small, needlelike teeth scattered along the edges. The basal leaves grow up to 2½' long, with the leaves progressively smaller upward along the stem. The flowers are in several individually stalked heads at the top of the plant, forming an open, flattened cluster of dense ball-like flower heads. These heads are covered with numerous tiny, white, 5-petaled flowers and pointed whitish bracts. Each flower has 2 protruding, threadlike styles.

**Bloom Season:** Summer

**Habitat/Range:** Frequent in prairies and open, rocky savannas through most of the tallgrass region north and west to Iowa and southern Minnesota; becoming more local east of Illinois.

YARROW
*Achillea millefolium*
Aster family (Asteraceae)

*http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/weeds/plants/yarrow.htm*

**Description:** Mostly unbranched, hairy plants typically 1½' tall, with alternate, aromatic, finely divided leaves that appear feathery and fernlike. The leaves are up to 6" long and 1" wide. Basal leaves are on stalks, while all but the lowest stem leaves are stalkless. Flower heads are in a flat, branching cluster at the top of the plant. Each head is less than $^1/_2$" wide, with about 5 white, petal-like ray flowers surrounding a central disk with mostly 10-20 small, tubular, yellowish disk flowers.

**Bloom Season:** Late Spring—Fall

**Habitat/Range:** Abundant and widespread in fields, pastures, disturbed sites, and along roadsides, as well as in prairies, especially prairies with a history of previous disturbance; found throughout the tallgrass region.

**Comments:** Yarrow is native to Eurasia as well as North America, and some of our populations are introduced weeds. The plant has antiseptic properties and was formerly used to pack wounds and for a variety of other medicinal purposes, including treatment of tooth and ear aches.

## WEEDS

CANADA THISTLE
*Cirsium arvense*
Aster family (Asteraceae)


*https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/canada-thistle*

Narrow-leaved thistles to 4’ tall, with spineless stems, alternate spiny leaves, and abundant pale pink flower heads each less than 1” wide, with spineless bracts at their bases; an abundant weed in disturbed areas throughout the northern half of the tallgrass region, and often a problem in degraded prairies and prairie plantings. Unlike other thistles in the region, male and female flowers are on separate plants.

QUEEN ANNE'S LACE / WILD CARROT
*Daucus carota*
Parsley family (Apiaceae)

*http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/weeds/plants/wild_carrot.htm*

Spindly biennials with hairy, ribbed stems and widely spaced alternate leaves each divided into many narrow segments; many tiny white 5-petaled flowers occur in a circular cluster at the tops of the stems, usually with a single purple flower at the center of each cluster. An abundant weed of old fields, roadsides, and pastures that can become pervasive in degrade, unburned, or overgrazed prairies.

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This study guide was adapted from previous study guides and the following sources:

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