

# FreshkillsPark / Native Plants



## BUTTERFLY WEED

*Asclepias tuberosa*

Butterflies are attracted to its bright orange flowers and nectar. Blooms: early Summer to early Fall. Grows: 1.5 to 2 ft tall.



## WHITE WOOD ASTER

*Asteraceae divaricatus*

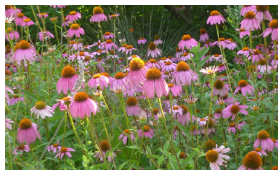
This shade-loving plant produces many small daisy-like flowers. Blooms: September to October. Grows: 1 to 3 ft tall.



## BUGBANE

*Cimicifuga racemosa*

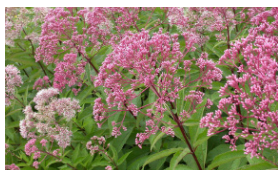
The white flowers on this tall and slender plant attract butterflies. Blooms: May to August. Grows: 3 to 6 ft tall.



## PURPLE CONEFLOWER

*Echinacea purpurea*

This plant is topped by long lasting lavender flowers. Blooms: April to September. Grows: 1 to 3 ft tall.



## PURPLE JOE-PYE WEED

*Eupatorium purpureum*

The small purple flowers emit a vanilla scent to attract bees and butterflies. Blooms: September to October. Grows: 1 to 3 ft tall.



## SENSITIVE FERN

*Onoclea sensibilis*

This medium-sized fern gets its name from its tendency to wither at the first sign of frost. Grows: 1 to 2 ft tall.



## LITTLE BLUESTEM

*Andropogon scoparium*

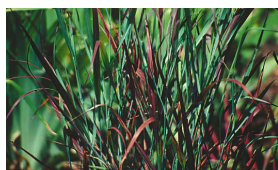
The slender stems of this bunching grass turn blue-green in August and a mahogany-red by September. Grows: 3 to 6 ft tall.



## SIDE-OATS-GRAMA GRASS

*Bouteloua curtipendula*

This blue-green grass species develops small oat-like seeds on one side of the stalk. Grows: 1 to 3 ft tall.



## SWITCH GRASS

*Panicum virgatum*

One of the most common tall prairie grasses. In early summer, leaves begin turning red and become dark by late fall. Grows 3 to 6 ft tall.



## GRASS

*Bouteloua gracilis*

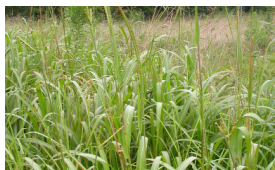
This short prairie grass has blue-green blades with distinctive flag like flowers at the end of each stem. Grows: 1 to 1.5 ft tall.



## INDIAN NUT GRASS

*Sorghastrum nutans*

One of the tallest prairie grasses, it has broad blue-green blades and large, plume-like, golden seed heads. Grows: 3 to 8 ft tall.



## GAMA GRASS

*Tripsacum dactyloides*

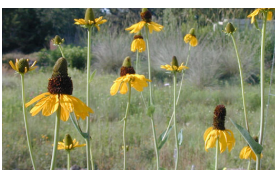
This grass species has very wide blades and a terminal jointed seed head, similar to corn. Grows: 2 to 10 ft tall.



## BLACK-EYED SUSAN

*Rudbeckia fulgida*

This wildflower is known for its bright yellow petals and dark center. Blooms: June to October. Grows: 1 to 3 ft tall.



## GREAT CONEFLOWER

*Rudbeckia maxima*

This sturdy plant produces large golden flowers with tall dark brown cones. Blooms: June and July. Grows: 3 to 6 ft tall.



## GOLDENROD

*Solidago sphacelata*

This bushy plant with heart shaped leaves creates a dense ground cover. Blooms: August to September. Grows: 1 to 1.5 ft tall.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What are native plants?

A native plant is a plant that occurs naturally in a particular region or ecosystem without direct or indirect human intervention. Typically plant species found in North America prior to European settlement are considered native plants.

### Why are native plants important?

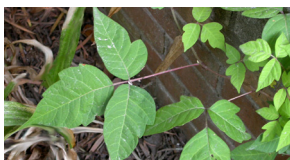
Since native plants have evolved in a particular region over thousands of years, they have adapted to the local soils and climate, and are more likely to thrive with minimal care than exotic species. This means that they require less water, and very limited pest control or fertilizers. Native plants are also essential to a healthy ecosystem and support local biodiversity.

### What is the state of native plants at Freshkills?

Freshkills Park, formerly the world's largest landfill, is being transformed into a natural area that supports a wide array of ecosystems, including wetlands, woodlands, and grasslands. The design and restoration of the site focuses on building natural assets to cultivate a diverse and resilient landscape. The former landfill mounds have been seeded with native plants and grasses that support an enormous variety of wildlife including migrating birds, butterflies, and small mammals.

## The Native Nuisance

### Identifying Poison Ivy



## Invasive Plants

Invasive plants are a major threat to native plant biodiversity. An invasive plant is a species that grows aggressively, spreads, and displaces other plants. Many invasive species are exotic or non-native plants that were either intentionally or accidentally introduced from outside of North America. An invasive species that colonizes a new area may gain an ecological edge since the insects, diseases, and foraging animals that naturally keep its growth in check in its native range are not present in its new habitat.