

Recommended Native Plants for Northfield

These recommendations were generated as a part of the Northfields Plants and Pollinators - Lawns to Legumes grant. These are the plants we believe will thrive in Northfield and promote bumblebee presence.

* = Bumblebees in Northfield love
 † = Rusty patched bumblebee loves

Native Plant	Description	Blooming Season
Wild Native Lupine*	Clusters of blue/purple , pea-like towers at the top of 1 foot stems.	April - July
Smooth Penstemon	Large trumpet-shaped purple flowers on tall glossy green-leaved stems. 18-20 inches tall.	June, July
Cockspur Hawthorn	Globular deciduous tree with white/pink blooms. Size range: 12-36 feet.	May, June
Prairie Rose*	Small clusters of green prickly stems with 5 white/pink petals. 1-3 inches	May-September
White Wild Indigo*	Tall, lupine like stem with pea-like white/pale-blue flowers. Can be 2-5 feet.	April-July
Butterfly Milkweed*	Bushy, flat-top clusters of bright orange flowers. 1-2 feet tall. Attracts butterflies.	May-September
Dotted Mint*	An aromatic, tubular petaled flower. Yellowish with purple spots . Range from 6 inches to 3 feet tall.	April-August
Great Blue Lobelia	Tall, lavender-blue tubular flowers. Blooms bright in late summer. 1-2 feet	July-October

Purple Coneflower	Tall green stems with droopy thin purple/pink petals around a center disk. 2-4 ft stems	April-September
Purple Prairie Clover* †	Upright wiry stems with tiny cone-like purple flower buds at the top. 2 feet tall max.	June-September
Virginia Mountain Mint	Tiny, white mint-like flowers atop clusters of green. 1-3 feet.	June-August
Wild Bergamot*	Tall, upright, lavender flowers with large leaves on the stem. Flowers have shrilled petals. 2-3 feet.	July-September
Leadplant*	Spike-like stems with purple blossoms covering them. Grows in shrubs. 1-2 feet.	June -August
New Jersey Tea	Leafy, dense shrub with clusters of white fragrant flowers at the stem ends. 3-4 feet.	May-July
Culver's Root* †	Unbranched, spiked stems with small white flowers (oval, dark green leaves) on top. 3-5 feet.	June-August
White Prairie Clover*	Plant with textured leaves and ridged stems. Tiny white flowers packed onto dense cylindrical spikes. 1-2 feet.	June-August
Purple Vetch (American Vetch)	A vine with a single stem. Has purple flowers clumped together in flower stalks. 1-2 feet.	May-August
Swamp Milkweed	Large blossoms consisting of small, purple-pink flowers clustering at the top of branching stems. 3-4 feet.	June-August

Native Plant	Description	Blooming Season
Common Milkweed	An herb with a single, tall, hairy stem. Small flowers with green/purple petals and large leaves. 3-4 feet.	July-September
Heliopsis	Upright, sunflower-like perennial. Has daisy-like flowers and yellow/orange tints. 3-5 feet.	June-August
Cup Plant	Tall perennial with large yellow flowers. Large green leaves on the stem. 3-6 feet.	July-September
Prairie Blazing Star*	Spiked stems with purple stalkless flower heads on a coarse, leafy stem. 2-3 feet.	July-September
Purple Giant Hyssop*	Purplish-red flowers on spiky stems. Leaves are ovaled and toothed. 2-5 feet.	July-September
Rattlesnake Master	Perennial with a thick crown and parallel-veined leaves . 2-5 feet.	June-September
Joe Pye Weed	Grow 2-8 feet tall with 3-5 inch pink or purple flowers.	July-September
Showy Tick Trefoil*	Flowers are pea-shaped, about ½ inch long, pink to purple . Plant grows 2-5 feet tall.	July-September
Stiff Goldenrod*	Yellow flowers, grows 1-4 feet tall, sun-loving.	August-September
Partridge Pea*	Yellow and maroon flowers, grows 12-30 inches tall.	July-September
Meadow Blazing Star*	Pinkish-purple flowers, grows 12-40 inches tall.	August-September
Rough Blazing Star*	Pink flowers, grows 1-2 feet tall.	July-September
Bottle Gentian*	Flowers may be blue, purple,	August-September

	pink, or white. Plant grows 1 foot tall.	
Calico Aster	White flowers, 1-4 feet tall.	August-October
Field Thistle*	Flowers are pink, lavender or white , and the plant grows 3-6 feet tall.	July-October
New England Aster*	Flowers are pink or purple and 1 to 1 ½ inches across. Plants are 3-6 feet tall.	August-October
Showy Goldenrod*	Sun-loving plant with small, yellow flowers. Plant grows 1-5 feet tall.	July-October
Sky Blue Aster	Flowers are blue to blue-violet , grows 12-40 inches tall.	August-October
Smooth Aster	Medium blue to purple flowers, height of 1-3 feet.	August-October

Source:<https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/>

List produced by Gwen Hughes, Liv Gossard, and Sara Sarmiento Ruiz as part of St. Olaf Environmental Studies 237, Spring 2020.