

Mesic Full Sun Pollinator Garden Design

What is a “Mesic Full Sun” design?

This pollinator garden is designed for sunny locations with average soil moisture. Flagstone pathways meander through groupings of well-behaved Illinois native forbs, shrubs, and grasses that attract a wide variety of pollinators from spring through fall. Leave foliage standing through winter to provide overwintering habitat for wildlife and visual interest throughout the season.

What plants are included in this design?

The native plants used in this design were selected to support pollinators with floral resources throughout the growing season. Plants of various sizes and textures were included in an arrangement created to mix the various sizes, shapes and colors into a visually appealing design. Plants were included in groupings of 3-5 to increase pollinator foraging success by concentrating bloom density into these small clusters of plants. For each plant, we have included a backup, which is another plant of similar visual appeal and pollinator attraction which can be substituted into the design if the original plant is not available.

- **Orange Coneflower** (Latin name *Rudbeckia fulgida*) –
 - Full sun to part shade
 - Dry to medium soil moisture
 - Yellow to orange flowers in late summer
 - Attracts bees, butterflies, flies, beetles, and caterpillars
 - Grows 2 to 3 feet tall and 1 to 2 feet wide
 - Backup plant: Wild Petunia (Latin name: *Ruellia humilis*)
- **Sky Blue Aster** (Latin name *Symphyotrichum oolentangiense*) -
 - Full sun to part shade
 - Dry to medium soil moisture
 - Purple to blue flowers in fall
 - Attracts bees, butterflies, flies, beetles, and caterpillars
 - Grows 2 to 3 feet tall and 2 to 3 feet wide
 - Backup: Smooth Blue Aster (Latin name *Symphyotrichum laevis*)
- **Purple Coneflower** (Latin name *Echinacea purpurea*) -
 - Full sun to part shade
 - Medium soil moisture
 - Purple flowers in summer
 - Attracts bees, butterflies, flies and caterpillars
 - Grows 2 to 4 feet tall and 1 to 2 feet wide
 - Backup plant: Pale Purple Coneflower (Latin name *Echinacea pallida*)
- **Black Chokeberry** (Latin name *Aronia melanocarpa*) -
 - Full sun to part shade
 - Medium to wet soil moisture
 - White flowers in late spring
 - Attracts bees and caterpillars
 - Grows 3 to 6 feet tall and 3 to 6 feet wide

- Backup plant: New Jersey Tea (Latin name *Ceanothus americanus*)
- **Bradbury's Bee Balm** (Latin name *Monarda bradburiana*) -
 - Full sun to part shade
 - Dry to medium soil moisture
 - Pink to purple flowers in late spring or early summer
 - Attracts bees, butterflies, flies, moths, hummingbirds and caterpillars
 - Grows 1 to 2 feet tall and 1 to 2 feet wide
 - Backup plant: Wild Bergamot (Latin name *Monarda fistulosa*)
- **Blue Star** (Latin name *Amsonia tabernaemontana*) -
 - Full sun to part shade
 - Medium soil moisture
 - Blue flowers in May
 - Attracts bees, butterflies, moths and hummingbirds
 - Grows 2 to 4 feet tall and 1 foot wide
 - Backup plant: Anise Hyssop (Latin name *Agastache foeniculum*)
- **Foxglove Penstemon** (Latin name *Penstemon digitalis*) -
 - Full sun
 - Dry to medium soil moisture
 - White flowers in late spring and summer
 - Attracts bees, wasps, butterflies, moths and caterpillars
 - Grows 3 to 4 feet tall and 1 to 2 feet wide
 - Backup: Wild Quinine Latin name (*Parthenium integrifolium*)
- **Butterflyweed** (Latin name *Asclepias tuberosa*) -
 - Full sun to part shade
 - Dry to medium soil moisture
 - Orange flowers in summer and early fall
 - Attracts bees, butterflies, flies, moths and caterpillars
 - Grows 1 to 3 feet tall and 1 to 2 feet wide
 - Backup: Whorled Milkweed (Latin name *Asclepias verticillata*)
- **Prairie Dropseed** (Latin name *Sporobolus heterolepis*) -
 - Full sun
 - Dry to medium soil moisture
 - Green flowers in fall
 - Attracts leaf hopper larvae
 - Grows 2 to 3 feet tall and 2 to 3 feet wide
 - Backup: Little Bluestem (Latin name *Schizachyrium scoparium*)