Sunny and Low Garden for Pollinators

These plants were selected for their drought tolerance and height. Most are 24” or under, ranging to 36” in the center. Plants in this design are tough enough for a dry boulevard.

Prairie Dropseed
Fine leaves create 2’ high mounds of texture that will offset the height and color of the blooms around it. Prairie Dropseed is most beautiful in groups.

Wild Strawberry
This low ground-cover will spread throughout this planting, helping to stabilize soil and conserve moisture and providing tiny but delicious early summer fruit.

Purple Prairie Clover
A low-growing native corolla bell, Alumroot provides early blooms and its crisp leaves will look great against the textures of Butterfly Milkweed and Prairie Dropseed grass.

Narrow Leaved Coneflower
Minnesota’s only native coneflower, it is shorter than its relative Purple coneflower, but with similar flowers. Host plant of the Ottoe Skipper butterfly.

Butterfly Milkweed’s bright mid-summer fireworks attract butterflies and bees alike. Vibrant color and tough, this plant can handle boulevard conditions. Butterfly Milkweed is amazing!

Wild Bergamot
One of the best plants for attracting native pollinators, some people call it ‘Sweet Leaf’ because the edible foliage can be made into a minty tea.

Pearly Everlasting
Attracts bees and butterflies and blooms in the hottest time of the summer when pollinator foods are sometimes scarce. Beautiful fuzzy silver foliage.

Silky Aster
This aster has a sprawling habit and is best supported by other plants. It is a host plant for Silvery Checkerspot larva. Blooms last from summer into late fall.

Bloom Time

May

June

July

August

September-Oct.

Note: To make this planting smaller, eliminate the center portion of the design, shown in the dotted black line.

Keep plants in groups to create more visual impact and make it easier for pollinators to forage efficiently.

Low growing plants are on the edges, taller plants in the center.

Featured Pollinator:
Minnesota’s State Bee
Rusty-Patched Bumble Bee
Bombus affinis
Key nectar and pollen plants include Purple Prairie Clover, Narrow Leaved Coneflower, Butterfly Milkweed, Wild Bergamot and Silky Aster

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Substitutions for selected species

Use plants found within their natural range, this helps protect nearby native plant communities and provides plant species that are sure to be compatible with local insect populations.

Planting Tips for new gardeners

- Prepare your new garden bed. Use methods found on BWSR's Creating Residential Pollinator Habitat page.
- Dig a hole as deep and 2-3 sizes wider than the pot. Remove the pot.
- Loosen roots and remove any roots that have growing a circle around the base of the plant.
- The soil level should be just below the flare of the tree or shrub and the base of your plant.
- Spread roots, then re-fill hole. Tamp soil down gently around the roots. Mulch around the plant, but don’t place much against the trunk.
- Water immediately after planting, then once a week for the first summer.

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