

Pollinator Plant Kit | Shade Plant Descriptions

Common Name: Columbine Scientific Name: <i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	
Habitat:	Zone: 3 - 8 Light: Shade, partial or full sun Soil: Woodlands, dry to rocky terrain
Mature Size:	Height: 1' - 2' Footprint: 1'
Foliage:	Leaf size: 4" - 6" Color: Light-green to bluish-green Shape: Alternate, thin stalks, rounded 3 lobed leaflets
Flower:	Size: 1" - 2" Blooms: May, June Color: Red to orange with yellow nectar-filled spurs Shape: Unique lantern or bell shape with 5 rounded petals alternating with 5 backwards petals.
Pollinators:	Honeybees, Hummingbirds, long-tongued Moths
Larva Host:	Columbine Duskywing Butterfly (<i>Erynnis lucilius</i>), Columbine Borer Moth (<i>Papaipema leucostigma</i>).



Columbine Plant Fact:
Hummingbirds returning from migration rely on *Aquilegia canadensis* nectar as an energy source.

Common Name: Great Blue Lobelia Scientific Name: <i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	
Habitat:	Zone: 3 - 9 Light: Partial to full sun Soil: Medium to wet prairies, meadows, water edges, marshland
Mature Size:	Height: 3' Footprint: 1' - 1.5'
Foliage:	Leaf size: 1" - 6" Color: Bright-green, yellow-green Shape: Alternate, oblong, finely toothed edges and pointed tips
Flower:	Size: 1" - 1.5" Blooms: July, August, September, October Color: Blue to deep blue to violet Shape: Dense, irregular, tubular blooms with upper and lower lobes. 3 lower petals form a landing pad, perfect for pollinators.
Pollinators:	Bumblebees, Monarchs, Swallowtails, Hummingbirds
Larva Host:	Pink-washed Looper Moth (<i>Enigmogramma basigera</i>)



Great Blue Lobelia Plant Fact:
Lobelias produce a compound that deters herbivores from eating the plant known as "lobeline."

Common Name: Prairie Alumroot Scientific Name: <i>Heuchera richardsonii</i>	
Habitat:	Zone: 3 - 8 Light: Shade, partial or full sun Soil: Moist, medium, to dry well drained soil
Mature Size:	Height: 2' Footprint: 1'
Foliage:	Leaf size: 2 - 4" Color: Green Shape: Basal rosettes with hairy undersides, each leaf 5-9 lobes
Flower:	Size: .25" Blooms: May, June, July Color: Pale green to cream Shape: Long stalks with tubular, nodding bell shape flowers
Pollinators:	Small Bee species visit for nectar and pollen



Photo courtesy of Prairie Moon Nursery

Prairie Alumroot Plant Fact:
Flowers hang downwards on the stems to protect them from rain.

Common Name: Beak Grass Scientific Name: <i>Diarrhena obovata</i>	
Habitat:	Zone: 4 - 8 Light: Partial sun to shade Soil: Fertile, average to wet loam, silt, sand or clay
Mature Size:	Height: 2' Footprint: 1'
Foliage:	Leaf size: 1' - 2' Color: Dark-green to golden-tan in the fall Shape: Glossy, long, single blades
Flower:	Size: Inconspicuous, minute florets Blooms: July, August, September Color: Greenish to yellow Shape: Beak shaped, large, blunt seeds
Pollinators:	Wind pollinated
Larva Host:	Dwarf Buff Moth (<i>Elachista subalbidella</i>)



Photo courtesy of Prairie Moon Nursery

Beak Grass Plant Fact:
Seed source for Wild Turkeys, songbirds and small mammals.

Common Name: Palm Sedge Scientific Name: <i>Carex muskingumensis</i>	
Habitat:	Zone: 4 - 8 Light: Shade, partial or full sun Soil: Wet to medium loamy or clay, woodlands, streambanks
Mature Size:	Height: 3' Footprint: 1' - 2' creeping rhizome roots can form patches
Foliage:	Leaf size: 10" Color: Bright green to yellow-copper color in fall Shape: Narrow, grass like leaves. Attractive 'palm' formation, clumping behavior.
Flower:	Size: Less than 0.5" in size Blooms: July Color: Greenish-brown Shape: Small, inconspicuous, beaked seed capsules give a textured look rather than showy blooms.
Pollinators:	Wind-pollinated
Larva Host:	Mitchell's Satyr Butterfly (<i>Neonympha mitchelliana</i>)

Photo courtesy of Prairie Moon Nursery

Palm Sedge Plant Fact:
Provides seed and shelter for Birds, Moths and Butterflies.

Common Name: Zigzag Goldenrod Scientific Name: <i>Solidago flexicaulis</i>	
Habitat:	Zone: 3 - 8 Light: Partial sun to shade Soil: Tolerates dry to wet, clay, loam or sand
Mature Size:	Height: 1' - 3' Footprint: 1' - 2' creeping rhizome root can form patches
Foliage:	Leaf size: 1" - 3" Color: Dark to bright-green Shape: Zigzagging stems with coarsely toothed leaves
Flower:	Size: 1" - 2" Blooms: August, September Color: Yellow Shape: Wispy petals located at each leaf axis
Pollinators:	Bumblebees, Bees, Butterflies
Larva Host:	Bilobed Dichomeris (<i>Dichomeris bilobella</i>), Brown Hooded Owlet (<i>Cucullia convexipennis</i>), Twirler Moth (<i>Gnorimoschema gallaeasterella</i>).

Zigzag Goldenrod Plant Fact:
Keystone plant and vital late season nectar source. Supports more than 50 specialist bee species.

Common Name: Wood Poppy Scientific Name: <i>Stylophorum diphyllum</i>	
Habitat:	Zone: 4 - 8 Light: Partial sun to shade Soil: Average to wet conditions, high organic content
Mature Size:	Height: 1' - 1.5' Footprint: 1' slow to grow to maturity
Foliage:	Leaf size: 6" Color: Blue-green Shape: Deeply lobed with a fuzzy texture. Fern-like appearance when young.
Flower:	Size: 1 - 2" Blooms: April, May Color: Bright, yellow or yellow-orange Shape: 4 petals, Poppy-like appearance
Pollinators:	Bees. Flowers offer generous pollen, but no nectar.
Larva Host:	Ant larvae. Ants act as the primary means of seed dispersal for the plant.




Photo courtesy of Prairie Moon Nursery

Wood Poppy Plant Fact:
Foliage contains toxic yellow sap which deters mammals including deer and rabbits.

Planting Your Plants

When you bring your plants home, water your plants if they are dry. Plant right away. If you are unable to plant right away, place plants in a shaded area, away from direct sun and wind.

1. Double check your planting site matches the light and habitat preference listed above for your plant.
2. Prepare planting site, ex: removing lawn grass, or brush.
3. Dig a hole the depth of the container, and two times as wide.
4. Hold around the base of the plant, tip and squeeze the container to remove, planting it in the dug hole.
5. Fill in the soil that was removed, packing the soil around the plant to provide stability without over-compacting. This creates a slight depression around the plant. This will help water flow to the roots, encouraging root growth.
6. For easy identification, stick the plant label from the container in the soil by the plant.
7. Water thoroughly to soak the plant roots.
8. Cover the soil around the plant with mulch such as shredded dry leaves, straw, or similar fine textured material to deter weed germination and help the plant maintain moisture to keep from drying out.
9. If you are likely to have hungry critters visiting your yard, like bunnies and deer, place protective barriers around your plant until it is established.

Everyone's site has its own conditions that will affect how much and how often you water while plants establish. For example, sandy soil dries out quickly and heavier clay soils hold water longer. How much sun, wind, and rain are all factors at play. As your new plants acclimate, monitor and water generously during the growing season.

Plant Layout Example

Common and <i>Scientific Name</i>	Quantity	Height (ft)	Spacing apart (ft)
Columbine, <i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	3	1' - 2'	1'
Great Blue Lobelia, <i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	2	3'	1' - 1.5'
Prairie Alumroot, <i>Heuchera richardsonii</i>	2	2'	1'
Beak Grass, <i>Diarrhena obovata</i>	3	2'	1'
Palm Sedge, <i>Carex muskingumensis</i>	2	3'	1' - 2'
Zigzag Goldenrod, <i>Solidago flexicaulis</i>	3	1' - 3'	1' - 2'
Wood Poppy, <i>Stylophorum diphyllum</i>	3	1' - 1.5'	1' - 1.5'

