

Johnson Prairie Wildflowers



LEGACY
Land Conservancy
Protecting and Preserving
Southern Michigan



Pycnanthemum virginianum
Mountain Mint

☼ Jul - Sep

Part of the mint family, Mountain Mint possess dark green leaves that emit a strong mint-like odor when crushed.



Silphium laciniatum
Compass Plant

☼ Apr - Aug

The common name derives from the pioneer belief that the leaves of this plant pointed in a north-south direction.



Silphium perfoliatum
Cup Plant

☼ Jul - Sep

The cup-shaped leaves can hold water to attract birds looking for a drink.



Ratibida pinnata
Yellow Coneflower

☼ Jul - Aug

Center is a rounded cone shape, unlike daisy-type flowers (black-eyed susan) that feature flat, central disks.



Verbena hastata
Blue Vervain

☼ Jun - Sep

Blue Vervain belongs to the genus Verbena, meaning sacred plant in Latin, and has long been associated with herbalism.



Liatris spicata
Marsh Blazing Star

☼ Jul - Aug

Unlike most flowers, this plant blooms from top to bottom.



Monarda fistulosa
Wild Bergamot

☼ Jun - Aug

Bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds love the fragrant flowers, but herbivores (deer) find the aromatic leaves and stems unpleasant.



Eryngium yuccifolium
Rattlesnake Master

☼ May - Aug

Spiny leaves make this plant unappetizing to grazing livestock.



Chamaecrista fasciculata
Partridge Pea

☼ Jun - Sep

Also known as 'Sensitive-plant' because its leaves collapse when touched.



Symphyotrichum novae-angliae
New England Aster

☼ Aug - Oct

Native Americans called this plant "it brings the fall" because of its late summer blooms.



Symphyotrichum pilosum
White Oldfield Aster

☼ Aug - Oct

The common name comes from the miniature white hairs that cover its stems and leaves.



Achillea millefolium
Yarrow

☼ Apr - Aug

Similar in appearance to Queen Anne's Lace, Yarrow can be differentiated by its hairless stems and feather-like leaves.



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The Prairie at Lloyd & Mabel Johnson Preserve

In 2007, Legacy accepted the generous donation of 51 acres of farmland, oak hickory forest, and buttonbush swamp from the Lloyd & Mabel Johnson Foundation. In 2016, Legacy began the process to restore 15 acres of the farmland into prairie. In 2017, a seed mix containing species from dry and wet-mesic prairie types was chosen based on the site's soil profile and hydrologic conditions, and installed.

Prairie restorations take about three years to become truly established, and the prairie at Johnson is well on its way. In addition to native grasses like big bluestem, Indian grass, switchgrass, and Canada and Virginia wild rye, it currently supports a variety of wildflowers.

Prior to European settlement, the southern section of Michigan's lower peninsula was estimated to have supported about 60,500 acres of upland prairie. However, due to a combination of factors - land clearing for agriculture, timber production, development and the ceasing of regular fires - less than one percent of the original extent of upland prairie remains in this region today.

Prairie vegetation like that found at Johnson Preserve brings about numerous short and long-term benefits, such as providing food and habitat to native pollinators, beneficial insects and other wildlife, reducing soil erosion, and improving local water quality.

A list of some of the wildflowers featured in the prairie of Johnson Preserve can be found on the back of this sheet.



LEGACY
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