

## NATIVE PERENNIALS

### Black-eyed Susan

*Rudbeckia fulgida*

Yellow-orange daisy-like flowers with dark centers cover plants late-summer to fall. Similar to Rudbeckia 'Goldstrum' but flowers later. Good cutflower. Seed-heads allowed to stand over winter provide birdfood. Grows to 2 feet.

**Photo Credit:** Big Sioux Nursery, Inc., Watertown, SD



## NATIVE PERENNIALS

### Coneflower, Purple

*Echinacea purpurea*

Native in U.S., east of SD. Produces large quantities of showy pinkish-purple flowers in midsummer. Very popular garden plant. Seedheads left over winter provide bird food. Favorite of Monarch butterflies. Grows 2-3 ft. tall.

**Photo Credit:** Big Sioux Nursery, Inc., Watertown, SD



## NATIVE PERENNIALS

### Coneflower, Yellow

*Echinacea paradoxa*

Native in US. Large yellow flowers appear in early to mid-summer. Petals droop down from central seedhead. Flowers similar to other Echinacea but with yellow petals. Grows to 2-4 feet.

**Description:** Yellow coneflower is an herbaceous perennial which produces attractive large daisy-like flowers with drooping yellow to orange-yellow petals during July-September. Plants grow 2-4 ft. tall and spread 1-2 ft. Flowers are produced on rigid, glabrous stems. Smooth dark green leaves are lance-shaped and 4-8" long with linear veining. Yellow coneflower is a tap-rooted plant which requires several growing seasons to reach full size, so be patient! Attracts bees and butterflies and is deer resistant.

**Distribution/Habitat:** Native in Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas but appears to be hardy in South Dakota and other northern states.

**Comments:** Yellow coneflower is easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soil in full sun. No serious insect or disease problems are common. Dead-heading improves appearance in the garden and landscape. Seedheads are a good winter food source for birds, especially goldfinches, if left in place. May self-seed if at least some of the seed heads are left over winter. Yellow coneflower is the only Echinacea to have yellow flowers instead of the usual purple flowers, this being the paradox suggested by the species name! Yellow coneflower is a somewhat lanky grower so plant them in groups of 3 or more for best effect in the garden or landscape. Contrasts nicely with the related purple coneflowers.

**Credit:** Missouri Botanical Garden

**Photo Credit:** Prairie Moon Nursery & Thomas G Barnes, USDA-NRCS Plants Database



Prairie Moon Nursery



Prairie Moon Nursery



Thomas G Barnes, USDA-NRCS Plants Database

## NATIVE PERENNIALS

### Sunflower, Maximilian 'MedicineCreek'

*Helianthus maximiliani*

Native. Showy yellow flowers. Prefers moist soil. Grows along streams, sloughs, road ditches, and moist prairies. Large rain garden plant. Leaves folded lengthwise and curve downward. Produces seeds favored by small birds. Grows 3-6 ft. tall.

**Description:** Maximilian sunflower is a perennial forb spreading from short, thick rhizomes. Upright stems, typically 3 to 8 feet tall, appear in tight clusters or colonies. Showy flower heads with yellow rays to 1-1/2 inch long appear in mid to late summer in clusters from leaf axils along the stem and at the stem tip. This sunflower can be separated from others by its distinctive leaves which are commonly folded and lengthwise and curved downward. Blades are 4 to 6 inches long, rough on the upper surface, and tapered from the middle to both ends.

**Distribution/Habitat:** This showy sunflower grows naturally in prairies east of the Rocky Mountains from southern Saskatchewan and Manitoba to Texas and in some eastern states. As an associate of the Great Plains big bluestem communities, it prefers moist sites on heavier soils. Although it is more abundant in eastern South Dakota than western, it is found along streams, near springs, irrigation and road ditches, and wet areas in the western part, possibly in every county.

**Comments:** Maximilian sunflower is a palatable livestock and wildlife forage. Unlike its annual relatives, its presence is an indicator of well managed range. Chickadees, finches, nuthatches, and other small birds flock to its seeds as they ripen. Maximilian sunflower is very showy, towering over grasses and remaining green when many prairie forbs have matured and lost their beauty.

**Credit:** James E. Johnson & Gary E. Larson, Grassland Plants of South Dakota and the Northern Great Plains. SDSU, Brookings, SD. B-566 (rev.) August 1999. Page 122.

**Photo Credit:** USDA-NRCS Plant Database and SDSU Ag Experiment Station



USDA-NRCS Plant Database



SDSU Ag Experiment Station

## NATIVE PERENNIALS



### Columbine, American

*(Aquilegia canadensis)* This is a herbaceous perennial that can grow to 24" tall and wide. The flower spikes can reach up to 3' in height at maturity. It is a fast grower and can live up to three years. However, this plant is self seeding which makes it ideal for naturalizing and woodland gardens and should maintain for many years. This perennial should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. This late spring flowering perennial has red to orange bell-shaped flowers with yellow eyes and spurs at the ends of the stem. The foliage is light green throughout the season and has a finer texture than most other garden plants. Deer will usually leave columbine alone in favor of more tasty treats.

**Photo Credit:** USDA-NRCS Plants Database



Jennifer Anderson



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Thomas G Barnes



Thomas G. Barnes

## GARDEN PERENNIALS



### Sedum 'Neon'

*(Sedum spectabile 'Neon')*

An upright variety, 'Neon' sports beautiful flat clusters of radiant rosy-magenta flowers that seem to glow in contrast with the light green foliage. 'Neon' is a sport of Sedum 'Brilliant' with broader flower clusters and more consistent color. Displays a nice gold fall color.

Tall, upright sedums like 'Neon' form substantial clumps of foliage which can be substituted for shrubs in the landscape. Their stout, sturdy stems support the massive flower heads which develop in summer and burst into bloom in fall. If left standing, they provide winter interest and food for birds. Grows 24" tall.



Photo Credit: Meyers Landscape Nursery



Photo Credit: North Creek Nurseries



Photo Credit: Kickapoo Creek Nursery



Photo Credit: Walters Gardens, Inc.