

Native Plants for Northeast Kansas

Using native plants in the garden can make landscapes more resilient, sustainable, and vibrant. Since native species have already adapted to local climate, they need less water, fertilizer, and maintenance. Native plants also support local ecosystems, providing food and habitat for pollinators, birds, and wildlife. By choosing native plants, gardeners can create beautiful spaces that thrive with minimal intervention.

Plants have been separated into six groups: perennials, annuals, shrubs, grasses / sedges, vines, and ferns. Within each group the plant's botanical name and common name are listed along with their sun/shade and soil moisture needs per the following definitions.

Sun/Shade Definitions

Full Sun – At least 6 hours direct sunlight every day, such as meadows or open prairies

Part Sun – 4 to 6 hours direct sunlight every day; many plants prefer morning sun which is cooler and less intense than afternoon sunlight

Part Shade – 2 to 4 hours direct sunlight every day, such as meadow's forest edge

Shade – less than 2 hours direct sun every day

Soil Moisture Definitions

Dry – Can handle low moisture, considered drought tolerant

Medium – Soil does not need to be excessively wet or dry; water at least 1-inch per week during the growing season

Wet – best for low-lying areas that are consistently wet or often saturated

Native Perennials

Botanical Name	Common Name	Sun/Shade Needs	Soil Moisture Needs
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Western Yarrow	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Amsonia illustris</i>	Shining Blue Star	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium
<i>Anemone virginiana</i>	Thimbleweed	Full Sun to Part Shade	Dry to Medium
<i>Antennaria neglecta</i>	Prairie Pussytoes	Full Sun to Part Shade	Dry to Medium
<i>Antennaria parlinii</i>	Pussytoes	Full Sun to Part Shade	Dry to Medium
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Canada Columbine	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium
<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	Goat's Beard	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium to Wet
<i>Artemisia ludoviciana</i>	White Sage	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Asarum canadense</i>	Wild Ginger	Part Shade to Shade	Medium to Wet
<i>Asclepias hirtella</i>	Tall Green Milkweed	Full Sun to Part Shade	Dry to Medium
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp Milkweed	Full Sun	Wet
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly Milkweed	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Asclepias verticillata</i>	Whorled Milkweed	Full Sun to Part Shade	Dry to Medium

<i>Baptisia alba</i>	White False Indigo	Full Sun to Part Shade	Dry to Medium
<i>Baptisia australis</i>	Blue False Indigo	Full Sun to Part Shade	Dry to Medium
<i>Baptisia bracteata</i>	Cream Wilk Indigo	Full Sun to Part Shade	Dry to Medium
<i>Callirhoe involucrata</i>	Purple Poppy Mallow	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Clematis pitcheri</i>	Pitcher's Leather Flower	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium
<i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i>	Blue Mist Flower	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium
<i>Coreopsis grandiflora</i>	Bigflower Coreopsis	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	Lanceleaf Coreopsis (Tickseed)	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Coreopsis palmata</i>	Prairie Coreopsis	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Dalea candida</i>	White Prairie Clover	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Dalea purpurea</i>	Purple Prairie Clover	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Dodecatheon meadia</i>	Shooting Star	Part Shade	Medium
<i>Echinacea pallida</i>	Pale Purple Coneflower	Full Sun to Part Shade	Dry to Medium
<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	Rattlesnake Master	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	Boneset	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium to Wet
<i>Eupatorium purpureum</i>	Joe Pye Weed	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium
<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	Wild Geranium	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium
<i>Gillenia stipulata</i>	Indian Physic	Part Shade	Medium
<i>Glandularia canadensis</i>	Rose Verbena	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	Common Sneezeweed	Full Sun	Medium to Wet
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	Rough Oxeye	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Heuchera richardsonii</i>	Coral Bells	Full Sun to Part Shade	Dry to Medium
<i>Hibiscus laevis</i>	Rose-mallow	Sun	Medium to Wet
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Common Rush	Full Sun	Wet
<i>Lespedeza capitata</i>	Round-head Bush Clover	Full Sun to Part Shade	Dry to Medium
<i>Liatris aspera</i>	Tall Gayfeather	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Liatris squarrosa</i>	Hairy Gayfeather	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Liatris punctata</i>	Dotted Gayfeather	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	Virginia Bluebells	Part Shade to Shade	Medium
<i>Oenothera macrocarpa</i>	Missouri Evening Primrose	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Penstemon cobaea</i>	Cobea Beardtongue	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	Smooth Beard Tongue	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Penstemon pallidus</i>	Pale Beardtongue	Full Sun to Part Shade	Dry to Medium
<i>Phemeranthus calycinus</i>	Fame Flower	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	Wild Sweet William	Part Shade to Shade	Medium
<i>Phlox pilosa</i>	Prairie Phlox	Full Sun	Medium
<i>Phlox paniculata</i>	Garden Phlox	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium
<i>Polemonium reptans</i>	Jacob's Ladder	Part Shade	Medium
<i>Polygonatum biflorum</i>	Solomon's Seal	Part Shade to Shade	Medium to Wet
<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>	Prairie Coneflower	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	Grayhead Coneflower	Full Sun	Medium
<i>Rudbeckia subtomentosa</i>	Sweet Coneflower	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium

<i>Ruellia humilis</i>	Fringe-leaf Ruellia	Full Sun to Part Shade	Dry to Medium
<i>Salvia azurea</i>	Blue Sage	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	Bloodroot	Part Shade to Shade	Medium
<i>Senecio obovatus</i>	Squaw-weed	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium to Wet
<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>	Gray Goldenrod	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	Showy Goldenrod	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Stylophorum diphyllum</i>	Celadine Poppy	Part Shade to Shade	Medium to Wet
<i>Symph. drummondii</i>	Drummond Aster	Full Sun to Part Shade	Dry to Medium
<i>Symphyotrichum laeve</i>	Smooth Aster	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Symph. novae-angliae</i>	New England Aster	Full Sun	Medium
<i>Symph. oblongifolium</i>	Aromatic Aster	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Symph. oolentangiensis</i>	Azure Aster	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Uvularia grandiflora</i>	Large Flower Bellwort	Part Shade to Shade	Medium
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	Culver's Root	Full Sun	Medium to Wet
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Golden Alexanders	Part Shade to Shade	Medium

Native Annuals

Botanical Name	Common Name	Sun/Shade Needs	Soil Moisture Needs
<i>Acalypha virginica</i>	Virginia Copperleaf	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium
<i>Bidens polylepis</i>	Bur Marigold	Full Sun to Part Shade	Dry to Medium
<i>Cassia fasciculata</i>	Partridge Pea	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	Sunflower	Full Sun	Medium to Wet
<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>	Thickspike Gayfeather	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium to Wet
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Blue Lobelia	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium to Wet
<i>Packera obovata</i>	Roundleaf Groundsel	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium to Wet
<i>Rudibeckia hirta</i>	Black-eyed Susan	Full Sun	Medium
<i>Vernonia baldwinii</i>	Western Ironweed	Full Sun	Dry to Medium

Native Shrubs

Botanical Name	Common Name	Sun/Shade Needs	Soil Moisture Needs
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	Serviceberry	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium
<i>Amorpha canescens</i>	Leadplant	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	False Indigo	Full Sun	Medium to Wet
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	Chokeberry	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium
<i>Ceanothus americana</i>	New Jersey Tea	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Common Buttonbush	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium to Wet
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Red Twig Dogwood	Part Sun to Part Shade	Medium to Wet
<i>Corylus americana</i>	American Hazelnut	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium
<i>Euonymus atropurpureus</i>	Eastern Wahoo	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium

<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Witch Hazel	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium
<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>	Smooth Hydrangea	Part Shade	Medium
<i>Ilex decidus</i>	Possum Haw	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium
<i>Itea virginica</i>	Virginia Sweetspire	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium to Wet
<i>Lindera benzpoin</i>	Spicebush	Part Shade	Medium
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	Ninebark	Full Sun to Part Shade	Dry to Medium
<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	Fragrant Sumac	Full Sun to Part Shade	Dry to Medium
<i>Rhus glabra</i>	Smooth Sumac	Full Sun to Part Shade	Dry to Medium
<i>Ribes odoratum</i>	Golden Currant	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium
<i>Rubus occidentalis</i>	Black Raspberry	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium
<i>Senna marilandica</i>	Maryland Senna	Full Sun	Medium
<i>Symphoricarpos orbiculatus</i>	Coralberry	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium
<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	Nannyberry Viburnum	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium
<i>Viburnum rufidulum</i>	Rust Black-haw Viburnum	Full Sun to Part Shade	Dry to Medium

Native Grasses / Sedges

Botanical Name	Common Name	Sun/Shade Needs	Soil Moisture Needs
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	Big Bluestem	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	Sideoats Grama	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Carex albicans</i>	Oak Sedge	Part Shade to Shade	Medium
<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	Canada Wild Rye	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	Prairie June Grass	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Switch Grass	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium to Wet
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little Bluestem	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Indian Grass	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Spartina pectinata</i>	Prairie Cordgrass	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium to Wet
<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	Prairie Dropseed	Full Sun	Dry to Medium
<i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>	Eastern Gama Grass	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium
<i>Bouteloua gracillis</i>	Blue Grama	Full Sun	Dry to Medium

Vines

Botanical Name	Common Name	Sun/Shade Needs	Soil Moisture Needs
<i>Apias Americana</i>	Groundnut	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium to Wet
<i>Aristolochia tomentosa</i>	Dutchman's Pipe Vine	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium
<i>Campsis radicans</i>	Trumpet Creeper	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium
<i>Celastrus scandens</i>	Bittersweet	Full Sun	Medium
<i>Clematis pitcheri</i>	Leather flower	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium
<i>Clematis virginiana</i>	Virgin's Bower	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium to Wet
<i>Cynanchum leave</i>	Climbing Milkweed	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium
<i>Humulus lupulus</i>	Common Hop	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium
<i>Ipomoea lacunose</i>	White Morning Glory	Full Sun	Medium
<i>Lonicera flava</i>	Yellow Honeysuckle	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia Creeper	Full Sun to Part Shade	Medium
<i>Vitia Cinerea</i>	Graybark Grape	Full Sun	Medium

Ferns

Botanical Name	Common Name	Sun/Shade Needs	Soil Moisture Needs
<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	Maidenhair Fern	Part Shade to Shade	Medium
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Lady Fern	Part Shade to Shade	Medium
<i>Dryopteris goldiana</i>	Goldie's Fern	Part Shade to Shade	Medium
<i>Matteucia struthiopteris</i>	Ostrich Fern	Part Shade to Shade	Medium
<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	Cinnamon Fern	Part Shade to Shade	Medium
<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	Christmas Fern	Part Shade to Shade	Dry to Medium

Resources:

Kansas Native Plant Society: www.plantnativeks.org

Missouri Botanical Garden: www.missouribotanicalgarden.org

K-State Extension Central Kansas District: www.centrankansas.k-state.edu

Landscaping with Native Plants: www.johnson.k-state.edu

Douglas County K-State Research and Extension www.douglas.kstate.edu

Grassland Heritage Foundation: www.grasslandheritage.org

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service: www.plants.usda.gov

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(913) 715-7050
garden.help@jocogov.org

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