

Arkansas Native Wildflowers

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21 common native wildflowers

- Common name, scientific name, family name
- Identification by foliage and flower characteristics
- Height or spread
- Growing requirements: soil, moisture, sun
- Habitat
- Bloom time

Mexican Hat – *Ratibida columnifera*

Asteraceae (Aster Family)



Image Courtesy Joseph Marcus, Lady Bird Johnson Wildlife Center (LBJWC)



Image Courtesy Joseph Marcus, LBJWC

- Branched, feathery, deeply cleft foliage. Mainly on lower half of stem.
- Long leafless stalks with flower heads that protrude $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches. Dark red and yellow, to all red or all yellow.
- Flower heads are reminiscent of a Sombrero.

Mexican Hat



Image Courtesy Sally & Andy Wasowski, LBJWC

- 2-3 feet tall. Full sun. Perennial.
- Easy to grow from seed but may not bloom until the second year.
- Prairies, meadows, open areas, pinelands.
- Drought tolerant; deer resistant.
- Attracts bees and butterflies. Winter food source for seed-eating songbirds.
- Blooms June – October. Statewide.

Lance-leaved Coreopsis – *Coreopsis lanceolata*

Asteraceae (Aster Family)



Image Courtesy Joseph Marcus, LBJWC



Image Courtesy LBJWC Staff

- Narrow, lance-shaped leaves. Most are at or near the base.
- Large, yellow, daisy-like flowers. Up to 2 ½ inches wide.
- Eight ray flowers. Toothed at tips. Flat yellow center disks.
- Flowers occur singly atop long slender stalks.

Lance-leaved Coreopsis



Image Courtesy Sally & Andy Wasowski, LBJWC

- 3 feet tall. Perennial.
- Dry to medium moisture. Well-drained soil. Full sun. Very showy when massed.
- Open areas, roadsides, fields, prairies, plains.
- Not deer resistant.
- Attracts butterflies, native bees.
- Blooms April – June. Statewide.

Plains Coreopsis - *Coreopsis tinctoria*

Asteraceae (Aster Family)



Image Courtesy Dr. John Hilty, Illinois Wildflowers



Image Courtesy Sally & Andy Wasowski, LBJWC

- Pinnately-compound foliage. Finely cut leaves with linear-lanceolate leaflets.
- Numerous smooth, slightly angled branches.
- Abundant, showy, daisy-like flower heads with yellow rays, reddish-brown central disk.
- Notch-tipped petals.

Plains Coreopsis



Image Courtesy LBJWC Staff

- 3 feet tall. Annual.
- Moist, sandy soil. Prairies, plains, fields, ditches, roadsides.
- Provides nectar and pollen to a wide variety of insects: bees, butterflies, wasps, beetles. Seeds for birds.
- Blooms June – September. Statewide.

Cardinal Flower – *Lobelia cardinalis*

Campanulaceae (Bellflower Family)



Image Courtesy Sid Vogelpohl, Arkansas Native Plant Society (ANPS)



Image Courtesy Stephanie Brundage, LBJWC

- Forms clumps, mounds of lance-shaped basal leaves in spring.
- Multiple, erect, smooth stems.
- Showy, brilliant red flowers in 8-inch terminal spikes.
- Three spreading lower lobes and two slender upper lobes, united into a tube.

Cardinal Flower



Image Courtesy Sid Vogelpohl, ANPS

- 3 feet tall. Perennial.
- Year-round moist to wet soils. Streams, lakes, ditches, wetlands.
- Excellent for water gardens, moist garden beds. Must have near-constant moisture.
- Attracts Ruby-throated hummingbirds, butterflies.
- Blooms August – October. Statewide.

Yellow Passionflower - *Passiflora lutea*

Passifloraceae (Passion-Flower Family)



Image Courtesy Joseph Marcus, LBJWC



Images Courtesy Joseph Marcus, LBJWC



- Climbing, trailing vine, 14 feet long.
- Alternate leaves, with three smoothly rounded, shallowly cut lobes.
- Intricate light greenish-yellow, 1-inch flowers. Followed by small berries.

Yellow Passionflower



Image Courtesy Joseph Marcus, LBJWC

- Bright shade to partial sun.
- Moist bottomland, medium-dry, rocky woodlands, thickets.
- Attracts bees, small wasps. Larval host plant for the Gulf Fritillary. Wildlife eat berries.
- Blooms May – July. Statewide.

Carolina Larkspur - *Delphinium carolinianum* Ranunculaceae (Buttercup Family)



Image Courtesy Sid Vogelpohl, ANPS



Image Courtesy Sid Vogelpohl, ANPS

- Rosette of basal leaves and a flowering stem with alternate leaves.
- Basal leaves are palmately divided into 3-5 segments. Alternate leaves are similar in appearance, finely cut.
- Central stem terminates in an elongated raceme with many small spurred flowers.
- 5 petal-like sepals and 4 petals.

Carolina Larkspur



Image Courtesy Sid Vogelpohl, ANPS

- 4 feet tall. Very showy.
- Deeply blue, purplish or white.
- Sunny to partially sunny glades, prairies, fields, rocky slopes, roadsides.
- Attracts bees, including bumblebees.
- Blooms May – July. Mostly statewide, except low lying areas of the AP and CP.

Indian Pipe - *Monotropa uniflora*

Monotropaceae (Indian Pipe Family)



Image Courtesy Sid Vogelpohl, ANPS



Image Courtesy Sid Vogelpohl, ANPS

- Solitary nodding flower resembles a shepherd's hook.
- Stems, scale-like leaves and the flower are all waxy.
- Extremely fragile, white or sparingly infused with pink and black flecks.
- Lacks chlorophyll, sometimes called ghost or corpse plant.

Indian Pipe



Image Courtesy Sid Vogelpohl, ANPS

- Less than a foot tall. Perennial.
- Plant matures, flower becomes erect, turns black with age.
- Grows in cool, moist, shaded conditions with thick deposits of leaf litter.
- Blooms September – Frost. Scattered over the state.

Bird's Foot Violet – *Viola pedate* Violaceae – (Violet Family)



Image Courtesy Stephanie Brundage, LBJWC



Image Courtesy Carolyn Fannon, LBJWC

- Each leaf is deeply divided into 3-5 palmate lobes. Wider at the tip. 1 inch long and across. Like the foot of a bird.
- Blue, lavender, dark violet, purple, bi-color. Center of the united stamens is orange.

Bird's Foot Violet



Image Courtesy Campbell & Lynn Loughmiller, LBJWC

- Low, clumping perennial. 6 inches tall. Self-seeds.
- Open places in the woods, along roadsides. Dry, rocky or sandy well-drained soil. A bit fussier than other violets. Susceptible to crown rot.
- Attracts long-tongued bees, small butterflies, skippers.
- Blooms March – May. Statewide.

Goldenrod – *Solidago canadensis* Asteraceae (Aster Family)



Image Courtesy Linda Soffer, JCMG



Image Courtesy Linda Soffer, JCMG

- Numerous lance-shaped, narrow, serrated, hairy leaves.
- Long arching stems with yellow plumes, 9-15 rays per flower head.

Goldenrod



Image Courtesy Linda Soffer, JCMG

- Grows 5 – 6 feet tall. Showy.
- Blamed for causing hay fever. Heavy pollen, not carried by the wind.
- Woodland openings, roadsides, fields. Full sun.
- Nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies, wasps.
- Blooms July – September. Statewide.

Mayapple – *Podophllum peltatum*

Berberidaceae (Barberry Family)



Image Courtesy Stephanie Brundage, LBJWC



Images Courtesy James Reveal, LBJWC



- One to two large, showy, palmately lobed leaves per stalk.
- Umbrella-like shape.
- Two-leaved plants have a 2-inch nodding white flower at the fork. Many stamens. Large lemon-shaped berry.
- Fragrant.

Mayapple



Image Courtesy Sid Vogelpoh, ANPS

- 1–1 ½ feet tall. Spring ephemeral.
- Colonizes by rhizome. Forms dense mats.
- Shady, moist woodlands.
- Blooms resemble apple blossoms. Fully ripe fruit is edible. Green fruit and other parts are toxic.
- Blooms March – May. Statewide.

Showy Evening Primrose – *Oenothera speciose*

Onagraceae (Evening Primrose Family)



Image Courtesy Sally & Andy Wasorski, LBJWC



Image Courtesy Janice Lynn, LBJWC

- Downy stems. Alternate, wavy-edged leaves.
- Upright to sprawling.
- Cup-shaped, four-petaled. White or pink flowers, yellow centers, pink veins. 2 inches across.

Showy Evening Primrose



Image Courtesy Lee Page, LBJWC

- 1–1 ½ feet tall. Perennial.
- Hardy, drought resistant. Dense colonies in sunny locations.
- Dry open areas, roadsides, disturbed sites.
- Variety of insects, moths most common since flowers are mostly open at night.
- Blooms April – July. Statewide.

Tickseed – *Bidens aristosa* Asteraceae (Aster Family)



Image Courtesy Sally & Andy Wasowski, LBJWC



Image Courtesy Missouri Department of Conservation Staff

- Opposite, pinnately compound leaves with sharply toothed leaflets.
- Four-sided (rounded) stems, often purplish or mottled.
- Composite flowers with bright yellow ray flowers and multiple small disk flowers clustered at the center.

Tickseed



Image Courtesy Missouri Department of Conservation Staff

- Multi-branched annual. Up to 6 feet tall.
- Seeds are short, wedge-shaped with two barbs, 'beggars-ticks'. Attach when touched.
- Moist prairies, fields, open marshy sites, ditches, stream banks.
- Attracts butterflies, bees and other insect pollinators.
- Blooms August – November. Statewide.

Pale Purple Coneflower – *Echinacea pallida*

Asteraceae (Aster Family)



Image Courtesy George Wallace, LBJWC



Image Courtesy RW Smith, LBJWC

- Coarse-haired, narrowly lanceolate leaves near base.
- Stout hairy stem.
- Drooping rays surround a prominent cone of disk florets.
- Color varies from nearly white to pale reddish-purple.

Pale Purple Coneflower



Image Courtesy Thomas Muller, LBJWC

- 3 feet tall. Perennial.
- Easy to grow. Full sun.
Tolerant of heat, humidity.
- Pinelands, prairies, disturbed soils.
- Attracts bees, butterflies.
- Blooms May – July. Nearly statewide.

Rose Vervain – *Glandularia canadensis* Verbenaceae (Verbena Family)



Image Courtesy Dr. John Hilty, Illinois Wildflowers



Image Courtesy Alan Cressler, LBJWC

- Distinctive double toothed leaves, cleft lobes.
- Low, bushy, hairy perennial. < 2 feet high.
- Rounded clusters, ½ inch wide with 5 notched petals and a short corolla tube.

Rose Vervain



Image Courtesy Alan Cressler, LBJWC

- Sunny sites.
- Sandy or rocky, moist but well-drained soils.
- Woodlands, pastures, prairies, roadsides. Good addition for rock gardens. Earliest Verbena.
- Attracts butterflies, beneficial insects.
- Blooms March – September. Nearly statewide.

Butterfly Weed – *Asclepias tuberosa*

Asclepiadaceae (Milkweed Family)



Image Courtesy Linda Soffer, JCMG



Image Courtesy Thomas Muller, LBJWC

- Narrow, lance-shaped, mostly alternate leaves.
- Upright to reclining, hairy stems. No toxic milky sap.
- Showy, bright orange or reddish orange flower clusters.

Butterfly Weed



Image Courtesy Dr. John Hilty, Illinois Wildflowers

- 1-3 feet tall. Perennial. Deep taproot.
- Full sun. Well-drained soil in open areas, disturbed soil. Drought tolerant.
- Spindle-shaped seed pods release silky-tailed seeds.
- Host plant for Monarch Butterfly. Nectar source for other butterflies/pollinators.
- Blooms May – September. Statewide.

Black-eyed Susan – *Rudbeckia hirta* Asteraceae (Aster Family)



Image Courtesy James Reveal, LBJWC



Image Courtesy Linda Soffer, JCMG

- Hairy, long-oval leaves. Coarse, rough stem.
- Large daisy-like flowerhead. Bright-yellow rays with dark cone-shaped centers.
- Sun/light shade.

Black-eyed Susan



Image Courtesy Linda Soffer, JCMG

- 2-3 feet tall. One flowerhead per slender, hairy stem.
- Dry, sunny habitats. Prairies, meadows, old fields, roadsides.
- Nectar for butterflies, bees. Birds eat seeds.
- Blooms May – October. Statewide.

Wild Bergamot – *Monarda fistulosa*

Lamiaceae (Mint Family)



Image Courtesy Sandy Smith, LBJWC



Image Courtesy Stephanie Brundage, LBJWC

- Square, hairless stems.
- Opposite, gray-green leaves. Serrated margins. Lanceolate to ovate. Aromatic.
- Showy clusters of hairy, tubular flowers. Pink, lavender or lilac.

Wild Bergamot



Image Courtesy Sally & Andy Wasowski, LBJWC

- 2 ½–4 feet. Perennial. Colonizes by rhizomes.
- Full to partial sun, dryish conditions. Needs good air circulation.
- Fields, prairies, meadows, roadsides.
- Attracts birds, bees, butterflies, hummingbirds.
- Blooms June – September. Statewide.

Spider Lily – *Hymenocallis liriosme*

Amaryllidaceae (Amaryllis Family)



Image Courtesy Eric Hunt, ANSP



Image Courtesy Eric Hunt, ANSP

- Long, strap-shaped, glossy leaves.
- Conspicuous flower. Distinctive spidery shape.
- White, cupped flowers. Prominent yellowish-green eye.
- Very fragrant.

Spider Lily



Image Courtesy Eric Hunt, ANSP

- 2-3 feet tall. Perennial.
- Large colonies in wet habitats. Full sun to part shade.
- Marshes, ditches, low areas, roadsides. Rain, bog and water gardens.
- Blooms mid-Spring. River Valley, Grand Prairie, Coastal Plains.

Blue Star – *Amsonia tabernaemontana*

Apocynaceae (Dogbane Family)



Image Courtesy Sid Vogelpohl, ANSP



Image Courtesy James Reveal, LBJWC

- Lanceolate, alternate leaves. Sharply pointed. Smooth margins, hairless.
- Erect, leafy stems. Long-lived, clump-forming.
- Multiple light blue, star-like flowers.

Blue Star



Image Courtesy James Reveal, LBJWC



Image Courtesy Sid Vogelpohl, ANSP

- 2 feet tall. Sun to part shade.
- Woodlands, glades, stream banks, roadsides, wet prairies.
- Deer resistant – acrid, milky sap.
- Attracts Ruby-throated hummingbirds, carpenter bees, butterflies.
- Blooms April – June. Statewide. Foliage turns yellow in the fall.

White Wild Indigo – *Baptisia alba*

Fabaceae (Pea Family)



Image Courtesy Mississippi State Extension



Image Courtesy Mississippi State Extension

- Velvety, alternate trifoliate leaves. Grayish green or blue green.
- White, pea-like flowers in erect, spike-like racemes. Showy. Not fragrant.
- Blooming begins from the bottom up.
- Flowers are replaced by black seedpods – also showy.

White Wild Indigo



Image Courtesy Mississippi State Extension

- 2-5 feet tall, mound-shaped perennial.
- Sun to part shade. Moist to dry soil. Drought tolerant.
- Prairies, glades, stream banks, roadsides.
- Attracts butterflies, bumblebees.
- Blooms May – throughout summer. Statewide.

Rough Blazing Star – *Liatris aspera*

Asteraceae (Aster Family)



Image Courtesy Julie Makin, LBJWC



Image Courtesy Julie Makin, LBJWC

- Narrow, grass-like foliage. Short rough hairs on leaves and stem.
- Erect slightly zig-zag central stem.
- Button-like purplish flowers – “blazing stars”.

Rough Blazing Star



Image Courtesy Sally & Andy Wasowski, LBJWC

- 2-3 feet tall spikes. Perennial.
- Drought tolerant. Well-drained, dry, or sandy and rocky soils.
- Prairies, open areas, roadsides.
- Attracts butterflies, hummingbirds, native bees, birds. Deer resistant.
- Blooms July – October. Statewide.

Questions?

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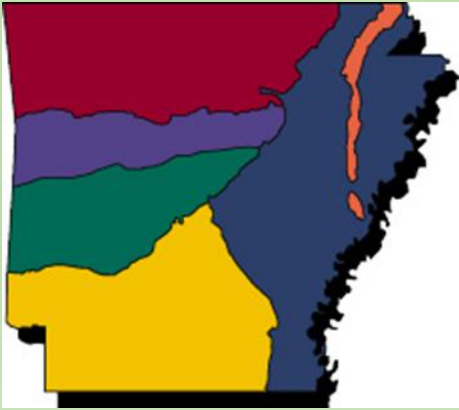
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NATURAL DIVISIONS OF ARKANSAS



-  Ozark Plateau - OZ
-  Arkansas River Valley - RV
-  Ouachita Mountains - OU
-  West Gulf Coastal Plain - CP
-  Mississippi Alluvial Plain - AP
-  Crowley's Ridge – CR

Courtesy of the Arkansas State Department of Parks & Tourism

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GLOSSARY

Term

Explanation

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Alternate | Leaves occurring singly on opposite sides of a stem, rather than in pairs. |
| Annual | Plant, living and producing fruit in one growing season. |
| Axil | The space between the petiole and the stem. |
| Basal | Leaves at the base of a stem. |
| Bulb | Food storage organ formed by a cluster of fleshy leaf bases |
| Calyx | All of the sepals or outer parts of the plant. |
| Corolla | All of the petals of a flower. |
| Disk | The central tubular flowers in the flower head of some members of the Sunflower family. |
| Ephemeral | Lasting a very short time. |
| Glabrous | Without hairs, smooth. |
| Herbaceous | A plant that dies down to ground level at the end of the growing season |
| Inflorescence | The flower cluster. |
| Lanceolate | Lance-shaped. Long, wider in the middle. |
| Lobe | Rounded parts of a leaf. |
| Ovate | Oval, egg-shaped, with a tapering point. |
| Palmate | Consisting of leaflets or lobes radiating from the base of the leaf. |
| Perennial | Living from year to year. |
| Petiole | The stalk of the leaf. |
| Pinnate | A compound leaf with two rows of leaflets. |
| Raceme | An inflorescence, usually elongated, with stalked flowers along the main stem. |
| Rhizome | An underground fleshy stem, usually horizontal, from which modified leaves arise at nodes as in the iris. |
| Sepal | A single part of the calyx or outer group of flower parts. |
| Sessile | Without a stalk. |
| Simple | Leaves not divided into leaflets. |
| Spike | Unbranched inflorescence of stalkless flowers. |
| Spur | A tubular extension, usually of a flower part. |
| Taproot | A large, elongated root, usually vertical. |
| Terete | A stem with a round cross section. |
| Trifoliate | Having three leaflets, as in clovers. |