

## Five-star Nativars | March 17, 2021

Richard Hawke, Plant Evaluation Manager

***Allium cernuum* 'Falling Stars'** – nodding onion (Zones 4-9) Full Sun to Light Shade

White nodding flowers, 2½ in., mid-August to mid-September; 30 in. tall × 30 in. wide; thicker gray green leaves than pink-flowered species; purple-brown fruit; local introduction

***Amsonia tabernaemontana* 'Fontana'** – eastern blue star (Zones 5-9) Full Sun to Partial Shade

Blue flowers, late May to late June; 32 in. tall × 50 in. wide; compact habit; purple stems; yellow fall color; local introduction

***Amsonia ciliata* var. *tenuifolia* 'Verdant Venture'** – fringed bluestar (Zones 5-9) Full Sun to Partial Shade

Light blue-violet flowers, mid-May to mid-June; 28 in. tall × 60 in. wide; dark green threadlike leaves; golden yellow fall color; not yet commercially available; Chicagoland Grows introduction

***Andropogon gerardii* 'Dancing Wind'** – big bluestem (Zones 3-9) Full Sun

Bright green leaves with purple tips in summer, turning purple in September; purple-red and coppery culms and deep red-purple inflorescences from late July onward; robust habit, 75 in. tall × 38 in. wide; species is a larval host for many butterflies; local introduction

***Baptisia* 'Vanilla Cream'** – false indigo (Zones 4-8) Full Sun

Creamy yellow flowers, 15-18 in. long, late May to mid-June; 39 in. tall × 56 in. wide; purple calyces and stems

***Chasmanthium latifolium* 'Little Tickler'** – dwarf northern sea oats (Zone 3-8) Full Sun to Partial Shade

Compact bushy habit; 21 in. tall and wide; less than half the species' height; flowers sit on top of leaves and are ornamental from August onward; bronze cast to leaves and inflorescences in fall

***Coreopsis tripteris* 'Gold Standard'** – tall tickseed (Zones 3-8) Full Sun

Yellow flowers, 2 in. wide, late July to mid-October; 68 in. tall × 48 in. wide; 2 feet shorter than species; Mt. Cuba Center introduction

***Echinacea purpurea* 'Pica Bella'** – purple coneflower (Zones 3-8) Full Sun to Part Shade

Deep pink flowers, 4 in. wide, mid-June to mid-September; 30 in. tall and wide; strong-stemmed habit

***Echinacea tennesseensis* 'Rocky Top'** – Tennessee coneflower (Zones 5-9) Full Sun

Pink flowers, 2-3 in. wide, June to Aug and into October; 18-24 in. tall and wide; upward-facing ray florets; long-lived plants; may be hybrids

***Eryngium yuccifolium* 'Prairie Moon'** – rattlesnake master (Zones 3-8) Full Sun

Greenish white flowers in globe-shaped head with silvery green bracts; 2½ in. wide, late June to late August; short selection, 39 inches tall and wide (species is 4-5 feet tall) ; local introduction

***Eupatorium perfoliatum* 'Polished Brass'** – American boneset (Zones 3-8) Full Sun to Partial Shade  
White flowers, late August to late September; purple-bronze terminal leaves and stems before flowering; glossy leaves; robust bushy habit, 43 in. tall × 48 in. wide; prefers moist soils; pollinator plant; local introduction

***Helianthus salicifolius* 'Autumn Gold'** – willowleaf sunflower (Zones 5)6-9) Full Sun  
Golden yellow flowers, 2 in. wide, early September to frost; 16 in. × 26 in. wide; dense, mounded habit

***Hibiscus* 'Starry Starry Night'** – rose mallow (Zones 4-9) Full Sun to Partial Shade  
Pink flowers, 10 in. wide, late July to early September; 48 in. tall × 58 in. wide; burgundy leaves

***Monarda* 'Bee-Happy'** – bee balm (Zones 4)5-9) Full Sun  
Bright pink-red flowers, 3 inches wide, late June to late August; 30 in. tall × 30 in. wide; mildew-resistant; moist, well-drained soils; pollinator-friendly

***Muhlenbergii reverchonii* 'PUMD01S' UNDAUNTED®** – ruby muhly (Zones 5-9) Full Sun  
Pink plumes in late summer, soft-texture; clumping grass, 40 in. tall × 60 in. wide; xeric plant, tolerant of drought and poor soils; best with consistent moisture, well-drained soils

***Panicum virgatum* 'Apache Rose' – Prairie Winds®** switch grass (Zones 4-9) Full Sun  
Rose-pink flowers, late August; strictly upright, dense clumps, 50 in. tall × 44 in. wide; blue-green leaves with rosy red tips in fall; moist, well-drained soils

***Penstemon* 'Blackbeard'** – beardtongue (Zones 4-8) Full Sun  
Purple flowers, 1 in. long, early June to early July, repeat to September; deep burgundy leaves, stems and fruit; 34 in. tall × 24 in. wide

***Phlox paniculata* 'Ditomdre' – CORAL CRÈME DROP™** garden phlox (Zones 4-8) Full Sun to Part Shade  
Coral flowers, 1¾ in. wide, mid-June to October; 32 in. tall × 22 in. wide; upper leaves and calyces are deep burgundy; excellent mildew resistance

***Rudbeckia* 'American Gold Rush'** – black-eyed Susan (Zone 4-9) Full Sun  
Golden yellow flowers, 2¼ in. wide, drooping rays, late July to mid-October; dense bushy mounds, 27 in. tall × 40 in. wide; hairy foliage resistant to *Septoria* leaf spot; local introduction

***Rudbeckia maxima* 'Golda Emanis'** – giant coneflower (Zones 5-9) Full Sun  
Bold-textured yellow-green basal leaves; drooping bright yellow rays and black cones to 5 in. long, early July to mid-October; clump-forming, 74 in. tall × 39 in. wide; slightly more robust than species

***Salvia reptans* West Texas Form** – cobalt sage (Zones 5-10) Full Sun  
Blue flowers with purple calyces, ½ in. wide, early August to frost (November 8, 2017); 38 in. tall and wide; robust bushy habit, fine-textured leaves; xeric plant

***Schizachyrium scoparium* 'Jazz'** – little bluestem (Zones 4-10) Full Sun  
Blue-green leaves; 24-30 in. tall and 18-24 in. wide; stays upright; similar to but shorter than 'The Blues'; larval host for many species of butterflies and moths; local introduction

***Solidago* 'Wichita Mountains'** – goldenrod (Zones 4-8) Full Sun  
Yellow flowers, erect plumes to 12 in. long, mid-September to mid-November; 36 in. tall × 24 in. wide; clumping habit; drought-tolerant

***Spigelia marilandica* 'Little Redhead'** – Indian pink (Zones 5b-9) Full Sun to Light Shade  
Dark red and yellow flowers, 2 in. long, one-sided inflorescences, mid-June to late August (includes second bloom); dark green oval leaves; 24 in. tall × 24 in. wide; prefers moist soils; superior selection

***Sporobolus heterolepis* 'Tara'** – prairie dropseed (Zones 4-8) Full Sun to Light Shade  
Fine-textured green leaves; vase-shaped habit; 24 in. tall (w/flowers) × 18-24 in. wide; fragrant flowers in August; darker seed heads than species; orange fall color; moist, well-drained soils; local introduction

***Stokesia laevis* 'Blue Frills'** – Stokes' aster (Zones 5-9) Full Sun to Light Shade  
Lavender-blue flowers, 3 in. wide, mid-July to mid-October; 20 in. tall × 24 in. wide; persistent and strong performer

***Symphotrichum ericoides* 'Snow Flurry'** – heath aster (Zones 5-8) Full Sun  
Small white flowers, mid-September to late October; low, mounding habit, 8 in. tall × 48 in. wide

***Symphotrichum* 'Bridal Veil'** – hybrid heath aster (Zones 5-8) Full Sun  
White flowers, ½ in. wide, late September to late October; 24 in. tall × 54 in. wide; Chicagoland Grows introduction

***Symphotrichum oblongifolium* 'Raydon's Favorite'** – aromatic aster (Zones 3-8) Full Sun  
Blue-purple flowers, 1¼ in. wide, in early August to early November; sticky and aromatic green leaves; mounded rhizomatous habit; 38 in. tall × 54 in. wide; powdery mildew-resistant

***Vernonia lettermannii* 'Iron Butterfly'** – slimleaf ironweed (Zones 4-9) Full Sun  
Purple flowers (disk florets only), ½ in. wide, late August to early October; 30 in. tall × 45 in. wide; soft, needlelike foliage; tolerant of dry conditions but not overly wet soils; more compact than species

***Vernonia* 'Summer's Swan Song'** – ironweed (Zones 4-9) Full Sun  
Deep purple flowers, 7⁄8 in. wide, late August to early October; 36 in. tall × 40 in. wide; compact hybrid; Chicagoland Grows introduction