



Sun Perennials

Amsonia hubrichtii

1. Blue Star

Blue Star is mostly overlooked as a perennial choice for gardens in Wisconsin, but should be given another look. Blue Star does great in medium soil and full sun conditions. The plant will form a clump 3-5' tall and wide, with threadlike foliage. The five-petaled, star-shaped flowers are baby blue and bloom in clusters at the end of the stem. An added bonus is brilliant yellow fall foliage. **Recommended Cultivars:** 'Bluebird'

Symphotrichum laevis

2. Smooth Aster

Smooth Aster is a perfect perennial for late season interest. The white to violet flowers can appear from late August to October. Foliage is medium green with a blue tinge and smooth in texture. This aster grows 2-4' tall with approximately a spread of 1-2'. It is usually upright and rarely needs to be staked. Like most asters, it is extremely drought tolerant.



Echinacea purpurea

3. Purple Coneflower

Purple Coneflower is a great plant that can be found in a number of growing situations. Most often it is seen growing in a prairie-type setting, although it does equally well in a more display style setting. It does very well in average to poor soils, and is tolerant of drought. The species has lavender petals with a reddish-orange center. Many new cultivars have been introduced lately with a wide variety of colors and sizes.

Recommended Cultivars: 'Kim's Knee High', 'Magnus', 'Fatal Attraction'



Perovskia atriplicifolia

4. Russian Sage

Russian Sage is a large member of the mint family, with most plants growing 2-4' tall and approximately 2-3' wide. The blue-grey foliage is fragrant, and the numerous small flowers grow on long, attractive spikes. Flowers are tubular in shape, and are light blue in color. Russian Sage does very



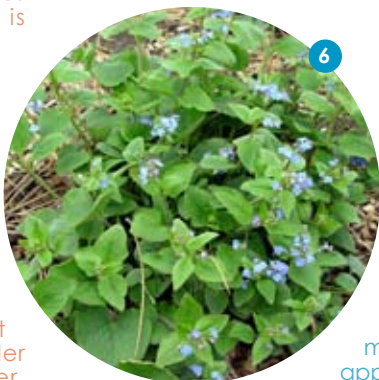
well in poor to average soil, and requires full sun. This is a great perennial for late season interest with the summer blooming flowers, and attractive foliage afterwards. **Recommended Cultivars:** 'Little Spire', 'Filigran'

Nepeta species

5. Catmint



There are many different catmint species that will perform well in your garden. *Nepeta racemosa*, *Nepeta x fassennii*, and *Nepeta subsessilis* are just three great choices that are readily available on the market. Catmint has fragrant, blue-grey foliage with small purple flowers. Flowers appear in late May, and will repeat bloom if spent flowers are removed. Catmint does well in poor, dry soils, as well as more rich ones. Size varies depending on the species and cultivar, but most catmints have an arching, mounding type habit and grow to about 1-2' tall, with slightly larger spread. **Recommended Cultivars:** 'Walker's Low', 'Kit Cat', 'Candy Cat'



Shade Perennials

Brunnera macrophylla

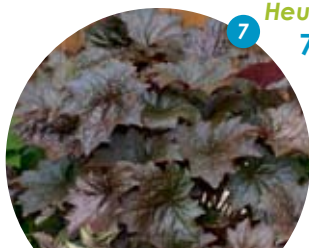
6. Siberian Bugloss

Siberian Bugloss is a great spring ephemeral ideal for the woodland garden. The foliage is heart-shaped and mounds into small clumps, approximately 1.5' - 2.5' wide. The little blue flowers resemble forget-me-nots and appear for a few weeks in late April-May. The flowers bloom above the foliage on airy stems, making them all the more apparent. Siberian Bugloss does best in part shade with moist, well-drained soil. Bugloss will slowly spread to form a nice groundcover in the right conditions.

Recommended Cultivars: 'Jack Frost', 'Dawson's White'

Heuchera species

7. Coral Bell



There has been an explosion recently in breeding programs of Coral Bells. While many of us have seen the popular *Heuchera* 'Palace Purple,'

there is now a plethora of colors and textures of the foliage, as well as different colors of the flowers. Most Coral Bells do best in part shade, but can also take full sun with additional moisture. Coral Bells grow in small mounds, with the foliage reaching 8-14", while tiny bell shaped flowers are borne on long slender stalks 1-2' above the leaves.

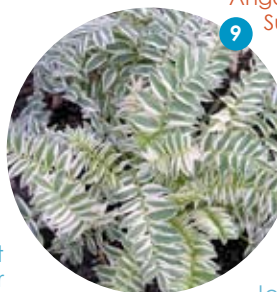
Recommended Cultivars: 'Peach Melba', 'Crème Brulee', 'Key Lime Pie'



Hosta species

8. Hosta

Hostas are an incredibly popular and resilient shade perennial. With over 2,000 cultivars, there is one to fit every garden! Hostas can be mere inches tall, or up to 3-4' in height and spread. Leaves can be green, blue-grey, yellow, or variegated, as well as smooth, puckered, round, or long and narrow. Flowers are white or a shade of lavender. The bell-shaped flowers appear on long stalks above the foliage in mid-summer. While hostas generally prefer rich, well-drained soil, they can tolerate less than ideal situations, and some even thrive in sun. **Recommended Cultivars:** 'Blue Angel', 'Guacamole', 'Halcyon', 'Sum and Substance', 'June'



Polemonium caeruleum

9. Jacob's Ladder

Jacob's Ladder is a great little shade perennial, especially suited for the cool summers of northeast Wisconsin. The foliage forms a clump of foliage, reaching 18-24" tall and wide. The small leaflets are arranged on the stem in a way that is reminiscent of a ladder, hence the common name. Jacob's Ladder prefers rich, moist soil with adequate organic matter in partly shady conditions. Bright blue bell shaped flowers hang above the foliage in early-mid spring. **Recommended Cultivars:** 'Brise d'Anjou'

Tiarella cordifolia

10. Foamflower

Foamflowers are gaining in popularity, and with good reason. This great little perennial does well in part to full shade, and adds unique texture with its flowers and foliage. Most of the cultivars on the market are medium green with dark veining or center markings. The tiny flowers bloom along a flower stalk roughly 6' above the foliage. The white or pink flowers appear in mid-spring.

Recommended Cultivars: 'Iron Butterfly', 'Ninja'



Symphotrichum laevis
(Smooth Aster)

Gardens

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Plant All-Stars

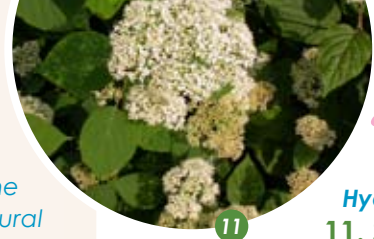
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Plant All-Stars

The Plant All-Stars program was funded through a grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust. Its purpose is to offer the public specific plant information on plants that are best-suited for the growing conditions in northeast Wisconsin. Disease resistance, multi-season interest, water requirements, and overall maintenance needs were considered before selecting a plant to the All-Stars program. Horticulturists from Green Bay, Appleton, and Oshkosh worked collaboratively on the list provided here. We feel they are some of the best choices for the novice to expert gardener.

Included with some All-Star plant descriptions are a few recommended cultivars for use in your own garden.



Shrubs

11. Smooth Hydrangea

Hydrangea arborescens
Smooth Hydrangea is a loosely arching shrub that can tolerate full sun to shade. The round clusters of white flowers are extremely showy, and are at their peak in late spring to early summer. At maturity, this shrub can grow to be 3-5' tall and equally wide. Recommended Cultivars: 'Annabelle', 'Grandiflora'

12. Ninebark

Physocarpus opulifolius
Ninebarks are incredibly hardy and easy to care for. Ninebarks can grow in all conditions, but generally do best in sunny locations. The branches are arching and overall the shrub has a loose form, although it can become more dense as it matures. Leaf color can be medium green, golden, or the most common dark purple. Creamy white flowers are very small, but bloom in attractive clusters. The bark also has a papery quality to it that adds to its winter interest.

Recommended Cultivars: 'Coppertina', 'Dart's Gold', 'Diabolo'

13. Staghorn Sumac

Rhus typhina
Sumacs are incredibly adaptable, and can thrive under some of the harshest conditions. Sumacs are great for interesting foliage and fruit, but really shine in the fall with great autumn colors. Specimens can be quite large or small, depending on the cultivar. The species form can be invasive, and large, but different cultivars, such as 'Tiger Eyes' and 'Laciniata' are both better behaved.

14. Koreanspice Viburnum

Viburnum carlesii
Viburnums are a great group of woody shrubs that should be included in every garden or landscape. There are species that tolerate sun, shade, wet soils, dry soils, and most situations in between. Koreanspice Viburnum is special because of the unique, spicy-sweet fragrance

14
Viburnum carlesii
Koreanspice Viburnum



15. Shrub Rose

Rosa
Roses don't have to be constant work, even for harsh winter climates like Northeast Wisconsin. Most of these hybrids have good disease and insect resistance, and are truly winter hardy. All have a slightly sprawling habit, averaging about 2-4' tall, and approximately a 4-5' spread. Full sun is required for the best blooms. No pruning is required of any of the cultivars. Recommended Cultivars: 'Carefree Wonder', 'Knock Out', 'Carefree Beauty', 'Carefree Sunshine'



Grasses

16. Sideoats Gramma

Bouteloua curtipendula
A fantastic, versatile grass that can adapt to any situation a Wisconsin gardener can introduce it to. Although it grows best in fertile soil, it will thrive in sandy soil as well as heavy clay. The grass grows to about 2' tall with equal spread. The flowers emerge in June. They are unique in that they are lined up on one side of the flower stem, making an attractive display through fall when the entire plant turns a light buff color.

17. Northern Sea Oats

Chasmanthium latifolium
Northern Sea Oats is another great grass for Midwest gardens. It is a relatively small grass, averaging 2-3' tall and wide, but mostly valued for its large, unusual flowers. They emerge in mid-summer and are approximately 1" long, and almost as wide. The numerous flowers turn from green to brown in the fall, along with the foliage. Northern Sea Oats is a great choice for slightly shady, moist conditions.



18. Switch Grass

Panicum virgatum
Switch Grass is a tall, upright clumping grass. Many cultivars have been developed in recent years that showcase unique foliage color, flower size, shape and color, as well as other characteristics. Grasses range from 4-7' tall, with 2-4' spread, depending on the cultivar. Switch Grass will tolerate a wide range of soil conditions, but demands full sun to grow properly. The erect stems will flop if subjected to too much shade. Recommended Cultivars: 'Heavy Metal', 'Cloud Nine', 'Northwind'

19. Little Bluestem

Schizachyrium scoparium
Little Bluestem is a U. S. native that has been invaluable in the landscape. The average size is 2-3' tall, with equal spread. Little Bluestem needs full sun, and is extremely drought tolerant. In fact, it will tolerate most soils except those that are consistently wet. Little bluestem's habit is different from other grasses because the stems tend to naturally flop over themselves. Fall color of the foliage is often as attractive as the seed heads. Little Bluestem is a wonderful choice for the garden and is essentially care-free.

20. Prairie Dropseed

Sporobolus heterolepis
Prairie Dropseed is a fine-textured grass that adds another component of texture and form to the landscape. As it matures, it forms clumps of arching stems approximately 2-3' tall with equal spread. Prairie Dropseed is especially happy in dry, hot conditions, and like other grasses, needs to be in full sun to perform at its best.

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Photos in this brochure were provided by Denver Botanical Gardens and Missouri Botanical Garden