

LAYOUT SUGGESTIONS FOR PLANTING

Our high-value kits of 38 plants boast 14 species. A kit will start a garden of approximately 75 square feet; this could be an area measuring six by twelve feet. With a smaller planting such as this (or even up to a couple hundred square feet) there are some basic design ideas to consider when placing plants within the garden.

DISPERSED: By trying to evenly disperse each species of plant in the kit throughout the planting area, you will maximize the visual interplay between plants and take maximum advantage of the self-seeding and natural spreading capacity of each plant. It may be practical to place the taller plants toward the center or back so that they are better contained within the garden. For a true naturalized garden this may be the best way to start.

GROUPS AND DRIFTS: Sometimes people like to see a bit more immediate order to their planting. This could be achieved by grouping each species in its own sector of the garden or elongating these groups into loose lines or drifts of plants. Our kits can be augmented with a Mix & Match tray of four to six species to add larger groupings or drifts of favorite species.

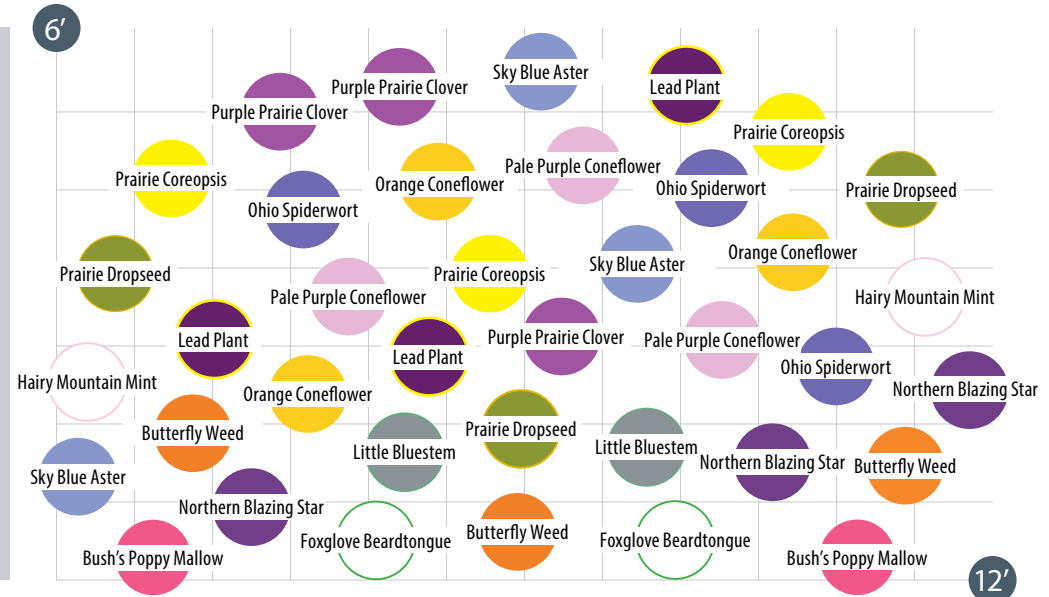


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POLLINATOR GARDEN, DRY

FOR **DRIER** SOILS AND NEAR FULL SUN EXPOSURE.

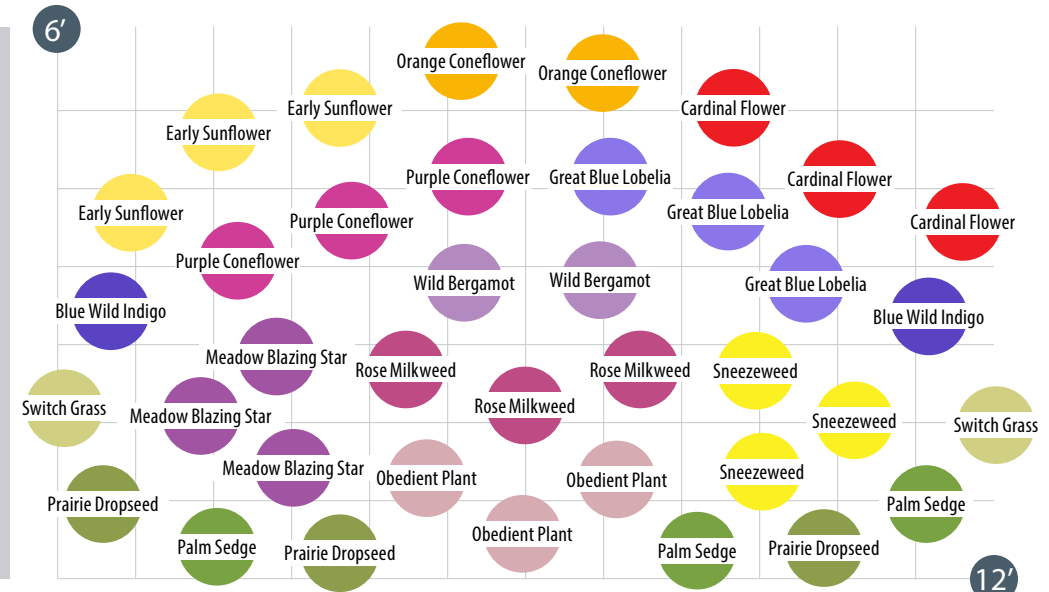
Here we **dispersed** the plants in a rectangular/kidney bean shape to elongate each species to a greater degree, giving a non-formal appeal typical of a natural prairie. Tall plants may best be placed as focal points against a wall or fence or, in an open area, in the center. A layout like this would encourage plants to self-seed and spread, filling up the spaces to achieve the look of a small drier or upland prairie. *This layout is just a suggestion.*



POLLINATOR GARDEN, MOIST

FOR **MOIST** SOILS AND FULL TO PART SUN EXPOSURE.

This layout has most of the plants in single-species **groups**. The texture of an ornamental grass like Switch Grass and the wide, shrub-like Blue Wild Indigo flanking both sides, gives this 75 sq.-ft. area a more structured, formalized look than the naturalized layout shown above. A layout of this type might require continued use of mulch over the years, pulling of new seedlings and/or dead-heading seed heads to keep plants in their groups. The taller species, Rose Milkweed and Wild Bergamot, might be best placed in the center of the planting for support. *This layout is just a suggestion.*



SEMI-SHADE WOODLAND GARDEN



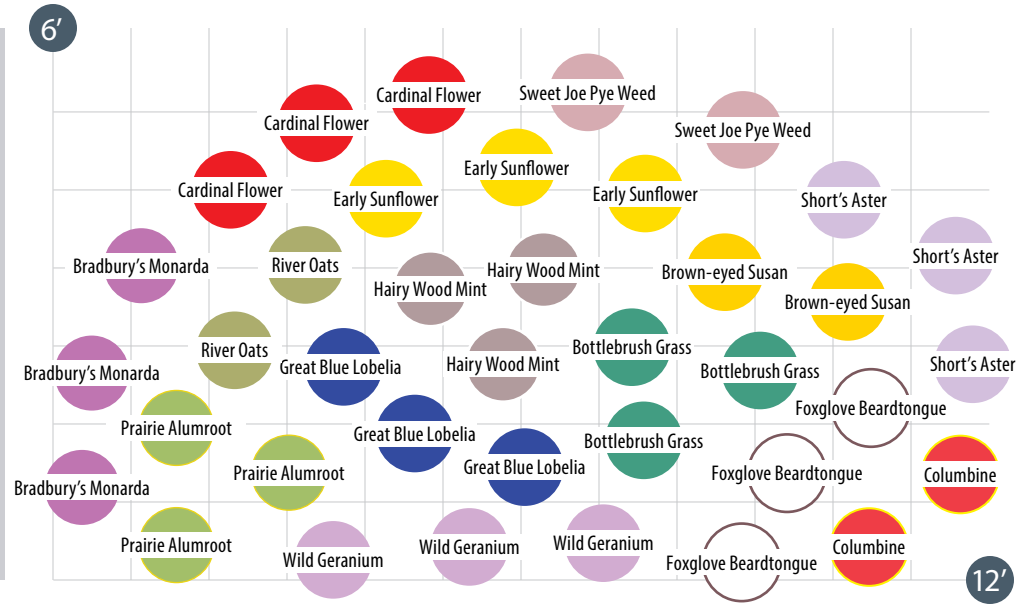
CONSIDERATIONS

Knowing your site's sun exposure and soil moisture-holding capacity, as well as the sun and soil preference of the plants, will help you place them to their best growing advantage.

- Be aware of the eventual height of each plant. A common planting convention is to plant the taller species in the back or center, depending on viewing orientation.
- Place species indicated for wetter soil in the portion of the planting where the soil may be the wettest. In a rain garden this would be the lowest part of the depression.
- Bloom time can influence plant placement. Consider whether you want certain plants with similar bloom times adjacent to each other or a distance apart in your garden.

FOR MEDIUM SOILS

In this kit we placed plants according to height and sun-exposure. Taller plants like Sweet Joe Pye Weed, and Early Sunflower in the back assume the site is up against a fence, house or hillside. To replicate a scenario where half of the planting site receives a little more sun, Bradbury's Monarda, Prairie Alumroot and Cardinal Flower were placed on the "sunnier" edge. Since many woodland species are often difficult or slow to grow from seed, this kit could be augmented with individual bare roots of non-ephemeral species such as Ferns, Wild Ginger, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, May Apple or Solomon's Plume. *This layout is just a suggestion.*



CLASSIC TALLGRASS PRAIRIE GARDEN

FOR MEDIUM TO DRY SOILS AND NEAR FULL SUN EXPOSURE.

The tallgrass prairie is one of the most endangered ecosystems on our planet. It seems only fitting then that this is re-created in an informal way reminiscent of how the prairie might have looked centuries ago. To achieve this we are showing a possible layout with plants scattered rather than clumped. This setting will allow for self-seeding and will not need mulch or dead-heading once established; it will take on the look of a mini-prairie, exploding with color and texture late summer. These plants are tough and will develop deep root systems and strong stems capable of supporting themselves with little to no artificial support. *This layout is just a suggestion.*

