

Full Sun-Moist Native Perennial Garden Kit

For garden areas with 6+ hours of sun per day; soil remains moist most of the time, can be irrigated when needed, rarely saturated for long periods.



Little Goldstar Black-eyed Susan *Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *sullivantii*

(This is a complex species, introduced here from further south, with several cultivars on the market. Avoid the *Rudbeckia fulgida* 'Goldstrum' cultivar commonly sold in garden centers)
Height: 12" – 18" in flower, leaves in basal rosette grow in a neat mound up to 1'

Spacing at planting: 18" – 24"

Flower period: July – Aug. 2" across, daisy-like flowers have

yellow-orange rays and brown centers. Bloom time can be prolonged by removing spent blossoms (dead-heading).

Seed collection: Sept – Oct.

Propagation: To produce viable seed, flowers must be cross-pollinated with those of genetically distinct *Rudbeckia* plants growing nearby. This plant is easy to propagate by division in early spring or fall.

Notes on care: Grows well in full or part sun. It is not aggressive. It can form colonies vegetatively by its root system more so than by seed. Leaves can develop black spots in humid or damp weather without enough good air circulation.

Rudbeckia fulgida var. *sullivantii* is more vigorous and blooms longer than the cultivar *Rudbeckia fulgida* 'Goldstrum' and is more resistant to the disease that causes blackened leaves in humid conditions.



Prairie Dropseed *Sporobolus heterolepis*

Height: 2' – 3'

Spacing at planting: 2' – 3'

Flower period: Aug – Sept

Seed collection: Oct – Nov

Propagation: Store seed in a cold, dry place over winter and sow where desired in early spring.

Notes on care: Plants turn tan in fall and can be left as is until early spring (or trimmed back before snow if voles are a problem in winter). By spring, last year's top growth should be trimmed back with sharp hand snips, a hand scythe or a soil knife to allow for new growth. If soil is heavy clay, this species will grow better if Espoma "Organic Soil Perfector" is added in and around the hole when planting and compost is incorporated into the surrounding soil to improve drainage.



Prairie Blazing Star *Liatris pycnostachya*

Height: 4' – 6'

Spacing at planting: 18" – 24"

Flower period: July – Aug. Rose-purple flowers in a long terminal spike. Butterflies and native bees are attracted to the flowers.

Seed collection: Oct.

Propagation: Seed can be stored in a cold, dry location (hang a bag from the ceiling of an unheated garage or shed) and sown in early spring when ground is ready. Or seed can be sown in fall.

Notes on care: Grass-like new growth in spring grows into tall stems with long, thin leaves. A single plant will expand in diameter over time to 12" – 15" if provided the space. Prairie Blazing Star tolerates poor soil, and once established is fairly drought tolerant. It generally stays very upright and needs no support, unless planted on an edge near a path. Like many other native plants, *Liatris* may grow too fast and flop over if grown in too rich of a soil. The finely textured foliage stays attractive all summer and turns bronze in fall. Prairie Blazing Star is pretty planted with (behind) Little Goldstar Black-eyed Susan and Prairie Dropseed. A great combination of native plants!