



## Four-star Nativars | October 10, 2025

Richard Hawke, Director of Ornamental Plant Research

**Agastache 'Queen Nectarine'** – anise hyssop (Zone 5-9) Full Sun *bees, skipping fruitfulness*  
Soft peach flowers with pinky purple calyces, 1¼ in. long, mid-June to frost; robust, upright habit, 47 in. tall × 50 in. wide; pollinator plant; well-drained soils **GGP, BS**

**Amsonia 'String Theory'** – bluestar (Zones 4-9) Full Sun to Partial Shade *butterflies, hummingbirds, summer moths*  
Periwinkle blue flowers, early May to mid-June; threadlike dark green leaves, turn golden in fall; compact version of *A. hubrichtii*; 30 in. tall × 60 in. wide **GC, USP**

**Andropogon gerardii 'Blackhawks'** – big bluestem (Zones 3-9) Full Sun *butterfly larvae*  
Deep green leaves begin turning purple in late June; becoming dark burgundy to nearly black in midsummer and fall; 62 in. tall × 24 in. wide; blooms August and September **AM, IZ, USP**

**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 **DO**

**Baptisia 'Pink Lemonade'** – false indigo (Zones 4-8) Full Sun *bumblebees, bees*  
Soft yellow and raspberry purple flowers, 20 in. long, late May to mid-June; 48 in. tall × 58 in. wide; blue-green leaves **BS, GC, RG**

**Baptisia 'Honey Roasted'** – false indigo (Zones 4-8) Full Sun *bumblebees, bees*  
Dark mahogany and yellow flowers, 10 inches long, late May to early July; prodigious bloomer; 33 inches tall × 44 inches wide **BS, FG, USP**

**Coreopsis tripteris 'Gold Standard'** – tall tickseed (Zones 3-8) Full Sun *native bees, bumblebees, butterflies*  
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 **HCG, BS**

**Echinacea tennesseensis 'Rocky Top'** – Tennessee coneflower (Zones 5-9) Full Sun *bees & butterflies*  
Pink flowers, 2-3 in. wide, June to Aug and into October; 18-24 in. tall and wide; upward-facing ray florets; long-lived species **HCG, USP, DD** *longer lived than straight species*

**Echinacea 'Sensation Pink'** – coneflower (Zones 4-9) Full Sun  
Vibrant magenta-pink flowers, 3 in. wide, mid-June to early September; 24 in. tall × 28 in. wide **BS, WFF**

\* **Helianthus salicifolius 'Autumn Gold'** – willowleaf sunflower (Zones 5-9) Full Sun *could be nice in alley or along back porch - !!*  
Golden yellow flowers, 2 in. wide, early September to frost; 16 in. × 26 in. wide; dense, mounded habit  
**NGP, RG, RR, PP** *flies, wasps, butterflies, bees -*

**Heuchera 'Carnival Cinnamon Stick'** – coral bells (Zones 4-9) Partial Sun to Shade  
Mix of red, orange, and rusty brown leaves; foliage color intensifies in summer; best color if protected from afternoon sun; compact habit; 18 in. tall (9 in. to top of leaves) × 18 in. wide **AM, BS, RG**

*bees, butterflies, hummingbirds - by grill - ~~same~~ smaller - ?*

vibrant blooms -

**Heuchera 'Black Forest Cake'** – coral bells (Zones 4-9) Partial Sun to Shade  
Bright cherry red flowers,  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. wide, mid-May to mid-August; glossy burgundy leaves; 19 in. tall (11 in. to top of leaves) × 18 in. wide **BS**

**Hibiscus 'Midnight Marvel'** – rose mallow (Zones 4-9) Full Sun to Partial Shade  
Scarlet-red flowers, 8 in. wide, late July to mid-September; 56 in. tall × 58 in. wide; dark burgundy, maple-like leaves **NGP, PDN, SHN, VB, WFF**

**Hydrangea arborescens 'Haas' Halo'** – smooth hydrangea (Zones 3-8) Full Sun to Partial Shade  
Creamy white flowers, lacecap, 9 in. wide (up to 12 in. wide), mid-June to mid-August; bushy mounded habit, 50 in. tall × 72 in. wide; excellent pollinator plant **AM, WFF**

**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 **DD, HCG, WFF, DO**

**Phlox 'Fashionably Early Princess'** – phlox (Zones 4-8) Full Sun to Partial Shade  
Fuchsia-pink flowers, late May to early August; some repeat bloom in late season; good mildew resistance; 24 in. tall × 40 in. wide **AEP, WFF**

**Phlox paniculata 'Jeana'** – garden phlox (Zones 3-8) Full Sun to Partial Shade *Eastern Swallowtail*  
Lavender-pink flowers,  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. wide, midsummer to early fall; 36-60 in. tall × 36-48 in. wide; powdery mildew resistant; pollinator plant; 2024 Perennial Plant of the Year® **BS, HCG, USP, WFF**

**Rudbeckia 'American Gold Rush'** – black-eyed Susan (Zone 4-9) Full Sun  
Golden yellow flowers,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  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 **BS, DD, FG, RG, RR, WFF, IZ, PP**

**Salvia reptans West Texas Form** – cobalt sage (Zones 5-10) Full Sun *big hummer plant -*  
Blue flowers with purple calyces,  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. wide, early August to frost (November 8, 2017); 38 in. tall and wide; robust bushy habit, fine-textured leaves; xeric plant **DD, HCG**

**Schizachyrium scoparium 'Sandhill'** – little bluestem (Zones 4-10) Full Sun  
Silvery blue-green, turning orange and purple in fall; 49 in. tall × 27 in. wide; erect habit; larval host for many species of butterflies and moths **RG**

★ **Solidago 'Wichita Mountains'** – goldenrod (Zones 4-8) Full Sun *would look good mixed in with NE asters*  
Yellow flowers, erect plumes to 12 in. long, mid-September to mid-November; 36 in. tall × 24 in. wide; clumping habit; drought-tolerant **HCG, DD**

★ **Spigelia marilandica 'Little Redhead'** – Indian pink (Zones 5b-9) Full Sun to Light Shade *back garden ?*  
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 clonal selection **GC, PDN, SHN, USP**

**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 **BS, DD, USP**

*- alley - mixed w/ helianthus  
autumn gold -*

**Stokesia laevis 'Honeysong Purple'** – Stokes' aster (Zones 5-9) Full Sun to Light Shade

Dark purple flowers, 3 inches wide, early July into September; 18 in. tall; most consistent performer in our trials; uniform habit; does not like wet feet in winter **BS, NGP, PDN, RG, RR**

**Symphotrichum ericoides 'Snow Flurry'** – heath aster (Zones 5-8) Full Sun *beautiful over rocks -*

Small white flowers, mid-September to late October; low, mounding habit, 8 in. tall × 48 in. wide **BA, RG, DO, IZ**

**Symphotrichum 'Bridal Veil'** – hybrid heath aster (Zones 5-8) Full Sun *Cascades -*

White flowers, ½ in. wide, late September to late October; 24 in. tall × 54 in. wide; Chicagoland Grows introduction **DD**

**Vernonia 'Summer's Swan Song'** – ironweed (Zones 4-9) Full Sun

Deep purple flowers, ⅞ in. wide, late August to early October; 36 in. tall × 40 in. wide; compact hybrid **DD, RG, AEP**

**Vernonia 'Summer's End'** – ironweed (Zones 4-8) Full Sun

Red-purple flowers, ⅝ in. wide, early September to mid-October; 42 in. tall and wide; highly resistant to powdery mildew and rust; more attractive to pollinators than others in series; drought tolerant

### Mail Order Sources

| Code | Mail Order Source      | Location         | Website                                                                                 |
|------|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AEP  | Almost Eden Plants     | Merryville, LA   | <a href="https://www.almostedenplants.com/">https://www.almostedenplants.com/</a>       |
| AM   | American Meadows       | Shelburne, VT    | <a href="https://www.americanmeadows.com/">https://www.americanmeadows.com/</a>         |
| BS   | Bluestone Perennials   | Madison, OH      | <a href="https://www.bluestoneperennials.com/">https://www.bluestoneperennials.com/</a> |
| DO   | Dancing Oaks Nursery   | Monmouth, OR     | <a href="https://dancingoaks.com/">https://dancingoaks.com/</a>                         |
| DD   | Digging Dog Nursery    | Albion, CA       | <a href="https://www.diggingdog.com/">https://www.diggingdog.com/</a>                   |
| FG   | Fieldstone Gardens     | Vassalboro, ME   | <a href="https://www.fieldstonegardens.com/">https://www.fieldstonegardens.com/</a>     |
| GC   | Garden Crossings       | Zeeland, MI      | <a href="https://www.gardencrossings.com/">https://www.gardencrossings.com/</a>         |
| GGP  | Great Garden Plants    | Grand Haven, MI  | <a href="https://www.greatgardenplants.com/">https://www.greatgardenplants.com/</a>     |
| HCG  | High Country Gardens   | Santa Fe, NM     | <a href="https://www.highcountrygardens.com/">https://www.highcountrygardens.com/</a>   |
| IZ   | Izel Plants            |                  | <a href="https://www.izelplants.com/">https://www.izelplants.com/</a>                   |
| NGP  | New Garden Plants      | Hudsonville, MI  | <a href="http://newgardenplants.com/">http://newgardenplants.com/</a>                   |
| PP   | Perennials Plus        | Westfield, IN    | <a href="https://perennials-plus.com/">https://perennials-plus.com/</a>                 |
| PDN  | Plant Delights Nursery | Raleigh, NC      | <a href="https://www.plantdelights.com/">https://www.plantdelights.com/</a>             |
| RG   | Romence Gardens        | Grand Rapids, MI | <a href="https://romencegardens.com/">https://romencegardens.com/</a>                   |
| RR   | Roots & Rhizomes       | Randolph, WI     | <a href="https://www.rootsrhizomes.com/">https://www.rootsrhizomes.com/</a>             |
| SHN  | Spring Hill Nursery    |                  | <a href="https://www.springhillnursery.com/">https://www.springhillnursery.com/</a>     |
| USP  | U.S. Perennials        | Bloomington, IN  | <a href="https://www.usperennials.com/">https://www.usperennials.com/</a>               |
| VB   | K. van Bourgondien     | Cleves, OH       | <a href="https://www.dutchbulbs.com/">https://www.dutchbulbs.com/</a>                   |
| WFF  | White Flower Farm      | Litchfield, CT   | <a href="https://www.whiteflowerfarm.com/">https://www.whiteflowerfarm.com/</a>         |

# Secrest Select Plants

2025 Master Gardener State Conference

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## 2023 Plants

- 20 to 25' tall gorgeous! Interesting bark - multi season interest*
- ? • *Acer triflorum* – Three-flowered maple
  - *Cercidiphyllum japonicum* f. *pendulum* – Weeping katsura tree
  - *Maackia amurensis* – Amur maackia
    - 'Starburst' *8 mile - 20-30' tall non-native*
    - Summertime™ ('Selection #1')
    - MaackNificent® ('JFS-Schichtel1')
  - \* • *Malus* 'Strawberry Parfait' – Flowering crabapple *disease resistant*
  - *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* – Dawn-redwood
    - 'Ogon'
  - *Amorpha canescens* – Leadplant *Native - 3-4' tall/wide gold magnet - low maint -*
  - *Hamamelis virginiana* – Common witch-hazel
  - *Ilex verticillata* 'Winter Red' – Winter Red winterberry *plant w/ Southern gentleman*
  - *Lindera angustifolia* – Oriental spicebush
  - *Prunus incisa* 'Kojo-no-mai' (= *P. incisa* 'CarltonLT' Little Twist®) – Fuji cherry
  - *Chelone lyonii* 'Hot Lips' – Hot Lips turtlehead
  - *Heuchera* 'Caramel' – Caramel coralbells
  - \* • *Pachysandra procumbens* – Allegheny spurge
- Secrest select. Corn Plant Sale - Springfield cemetery - Cincinnati*

## 2024 Plants

- *Abies concolor* – White fir, Concolor fir
    - 'Blue Cloak' *instead of Colorado Spruce -*
  - *Cryptomeria japonica* – Japanese-cedar
    - 'Radicans'
    - 'Globosa Nana'
  - *Taxodium distichum* – Baldcypress
    - Shawnee Brave™
    - Green Whisper®
  - *Hydrangea quercifolia* – Oakleaf hydrangea *Quercus after flowering in Spring -*
    - 'Snowflake'
    - 'Ruby Slippers'
  - *Viburnum nudum* 'Winterthur' – Smooth witherod *native - not fragrant - green fruit turns pink glossy red fall foliage -*
  - *Helleborus* – Lenten rose
    - 'Spanish Flare'
    - Walburton's® Rosemary
- dry shade - front - ?*

- *Cercis canadensis* – Eastern redbud

- sun/shade -

Acidic Anils

- excellent plant for pollinators -  
sunny / sweet

pink

3' to 4' - pretty -

Not a long lived plant - 3 to 4 yrs -

1. What is the purpose of the experiment?  
 2. What are the independent and dependent variables?  
 3. What is the hypothesis?  
 4. What are the materials and equipment used?  
 5. What is the procedure?  
 6. What are the results?  
 7. What is the conclusion?  
 8. What are the limitations of the experiment?  
 9. What are the sources of error?  
 10. What are the implications of the experiment?



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