

The Half & Half Plant (cont.)

- ❖ Golden Alexanders 🦋🌿 (*Zizia aurea*): April to June; Ozark Woodland & Black Swallowtail butterflies host.
- ❖ Aster 🦋🌿 Aug. thru Oct.; see *Sunnyside Up*.
- ❖ Goldenrod 🌿 (*Solidago*): Aug. to Oct.; nectar/seeds for insects and birds. Try Blue Stem (*S. caesia*); see *Sunnyside Up*.
- ❖ Woodland Grasses 🦋🌿: Northern Pearly-eye butterfly host; nectar/seed source. Try Bottlebrush Grass (*Elymus hystrix*); or River/Sea Oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*).



The Shady Lady: Handles more shade in style

- ❖ Virginia Bluebells 🌿 March to May; see *Half & Half*.
- ❖ Woodland/Wild Blue Phlox 🦋🌿 (*Phlox divaricata*): April to June; Phlox moth host; nectar for early insects /birds.
- ❖ Wild Geranium 🌿 April to July; see *Sunnyside Up*.
- ❖ Bride's Feathers/Goatsbeard 🦋🌿 (*Aruncus dioicus*): April to May; Dusky Azure butterfly host; nectar/seeds for insects/birds.
- ❖ Solomon's Seal 🌿 (*Polygonatum biflorum*): May to June; nectar /seeds for insects/birds.
- ❖ Aster 🦋🌿 Aug. thru Oct.; try Calico (*S. lateriflorus*) or Short's (*S. shortii*): see *Sunnyside Up*.
- ❖ Goldenrod 🌿 Aug. to Oct.; try Elm-leaved (*S. ulmifolia*); see *Half & Half*. Does not cause hay fever.
- ❖ Canadian Wild Ginger 🌿 (*Asarum canadense*): Spring thru Fall ground cover.



The Sun Loving Prairie Container: Plant a mix of:

Wild Geranium, Blue Wild Indigo, Coreopsis, Prairie Dropseed, Purple Poppymallow, Pale Purple Coneflower, Prairie Alumroot and Blue Stem Goldenrod. Don't worry about crowding.



Register your Garden

Check these websites to certify a Pocket PrairieSM Garden as a:

- ✓ Monarch Waystation thru Monarch Watch
monarchwatch.org/waystations
- ✓ Certified Butterfly Garden thru the North American Butterfly Assn. (NABA). naba.com

Little Garden Club of Wilmette developed Pocket PrairieSM Gardens to promote the use of native Midwestern plants and create sustainable habitats & food for native insects and birds – a yard at a time.

For information, please send us an email to:
littlegardenclub.wilmette@gmail.com

Plant and Gardening Resources

Chalet Nursery

3132 Lake Ave
Wilmette, IL 60091
847-256-0561
chaletnursery.com

West End Florist & G.C.

3800 Old Glenview Rd
Evanston, IL 60201
847-251-1943
westendflorist.com

Lurvey Landscape Supply & G.C.

2550 East Dempster St. (847) 824-7411
Des Plaines, IL 60016 lurveys.com

Prairie Nursery

800-476-9453
prairienursery.com

Prairie Moon Nursery

866-417-8156
prairiemoon.com

Monica Buckley at:

Red Stem Native Landscapes
773-454-4800
redstemlandscapes.com

Carol Becker at:

Sage Advice Landscape Design
847-830-5945
sage-advice.net

Books:

- *The Midwestern Native Garden-Native Alternatives to Nonnative Flowers and Plants, An Illustrated Guide* by Charlotte Adelman and Bernard L. Schwartz
- *Bringing Nature Home* by Douglas Tallamy
- *Birdscaping in the Midwest: A Guide to Gardening with Native Plants to Attract Birds* by Mariette Nowak

Additional Helpful Websites:

- Chicago Botanic Garden: chicagobotanic.org
- Go Green Wilmette: gogreenwilmette.org
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service: nres.usda.gov
- Wild Ones: wildones.org

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Pocket PrairieSM Gardens



Monarch Safe Havens a Yard at a Time

Six Easy Steps - Hours of Enjoyment

Visit us on Facebook at:
Little Garden Club of Wilmette



Monarch Butterfly

Pocket PrairieSM Gardens – Safe Havens for Monarchs and Other Natives - A Yard at a Time



Ruby Throated Hummingbird

House Hunting

Monarch butterflies, bees and other native insects and birds have lost homes and food as open spaces turned into housing, agriculture or industrial areas.

Please help replace these crucial habitats by adding attractive, native plants to your yard, planters or alley. Even a few native plants can make a difference.

Monarchs and other native pollinators, and birds need native host  and food  plants that gardens lack.

Many beautiful native plants are available locally and in catalogues. They do well in North Shore gardens - whether sunny or moderately shady - and need little care, saving on fertilizers, pesticides and water.

Don't delay. Start your Pocket PrairieSM garden now!



Monarch Butterfly Caterpillar & Orange Butterfly Milkweed

Six Easy Steps

1. Pocket PrairieSM Location and Size: Take a look at your yard -sunny or shady? Butterflies prefer sun.

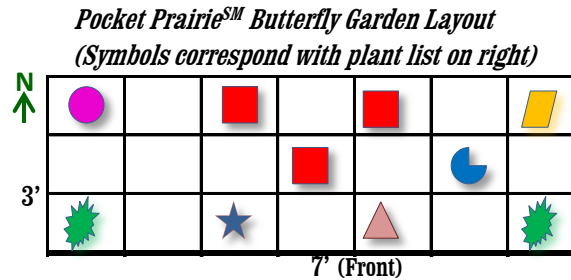
2. Plant Selection: Local nurseries and catalogues carry (see back page) true, native perennials – host and food plants. Buy at least three of each as potted plants for faster results and group them for impact.

3. Garden Layout: Don't crowd the plants – give each about a foot on center. Tuck in native plants wherever possible or start a prairie with 10 plants in a 3' x 7' plot. Add a couple rocks for butterflies to sunbathe.

4. Soil Preparation: Just remove lawn or other plants. Then rake the soil. Amend heavy clay soils with sand and/or compost. Prairie plants aren't too fussy.

5. Year One: Plant as directed and hand weed in Year One. Mulch with leaves, grass or bark chips to control weeds. Water until established and when drooping in dry weather. Avoid herbicides and insecticides. Put a border around the garden and tell the Lawn Service to leave this butterfly garden alone!

When a host plant's leaves are chewed, it's a success!



6. Fall/Winter Preparation: Little fall or winter preparation is needed. Gather seeds to expand your garden or to share. Don't rake tree leaves from the plants – butterflies and moth larvae overwinter there.

Enjoy the show from Spring through Fall!



Silvery Checkerspot

Pocket PrairieSM Plant Selection

Little Garden Club of Wilmette created four prairies:

- ❖ *Sunnyside Up*
- ❖ *Half & Half*
- ❖ *Shady Lady* (a woodland mix)
- ❖ *Sun Loving Prairie Container*







This mix of compact host and food plants grows colorful gardens providing food – nectar and seeds - from spring to fall, with winter visual interest. Ranging in height from 12" to 36", these versatile plants are not overly aggressive. And many do well in sun or shade.

The Sunnyside Up : Loves 6+ hours of daily sun:

-  **Wild Geranium ** (*Geranium maculatum*): pink flowers April thru July; nectar/seeds for early insects and birds.
-  **Milkweed  ** (*Aselepias*): June thru Aug.; sole Monarch host; nectar /seeds for adult butterflies, insects and birds; try Orange Butterfly Milkweed (*A. tuberosa*); Prairie/Sullivant's (*A. sullivantii*); or Rose/Swamp (*A. incarnata*).
-  **Purple Cone Flower  ** (*Echinacea purpurea*): July thru Sept.; Silvery Checkerspot butterfly host; nectar /seeds for adult butterflies, insects and birds.
-  **Blazing Star  ** (*Liatris*): July thru Oct.; Flower moth host; nectar /seeds for adult butterflies & birds; try Dwarf/Cylindrical (*L. cylindracea*) or Meadow (*L. ligulistylis*).
-  **Aster  ** (*Symphotrichum*): Aug. thru Oct.; Silvery Checkerspot and Darting Pearl Crescent host; nectar /seeds for adult butterflies, insects and birds. Try Sky Blue/Azur (*S. oolentangiense*) or Aromatic (*S. oblongifolius*).
-  **Goldenrod ** (*Solidago*): Aug. to Oct.; nectar /seeds for adult butterflies, birds, bees/insects. Try Ohio (*S. ohioensis*), Stiff (*S. rigida*) or Showy (*S. speciosa*). Does not cause hay fever.
-  **Prairie Grasses ** : Nectar/seeds for bees & birds. Try short Prairie Drop Seed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*); medium Switch Grass (*Panicum virgatum*); or  Skipper butterfly host - tall Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*).

Bumble Bee

The Half & Half: Likes a bit of shade every day:

- ❖ **Virginia Bluebells ** (*Mertensia virginica*): March to May; nectar/seeds for butterflies, insects and birds.
- ❖ **Bradbury's Bee Balm/Monarda ** (*Monarda bradburiana*): June to July; nectar/seeds for butterflies, insects and birds.
- ❖ **Purple Cone Flower  ** : July to Sept.; see *Sunnyside Up*.
- ❖ **Orange Cone Flower  ** (*Rudbeckia fulgida*): July to Sept.; host to many moths and butterflies, including the Pearl Crescent; nectar /seeds for adult butterflies, insects and birds.

 **Host plants** provide the habitat for insects, like butterflies, to lay eggs and reproduce.

 **Food plants** provide nectar, pollen and/or seeds for insects and birds.

Note: Native wildlife depends on native plants – not introduced Eurasian species or nativars (native plant cultivars) for hosting and food.