

## Plant Descriptions

All plants in these containers are native to the SE US and were propagated, not wild collected, by local nurseries from local sources. Some plants are quite rare. These plants were specifically chosen for summer and fall bloom and are just beginning to show off for you. The birds and butterflies they attract will keep you entertained' til frost! See care instructions on the card with the container.

**ENJOY!!**

*(These descriptions may also be found on our webpage)*



### **Stokes Aster – *Stokesia laevis***

A perennial with large, 2 inch, lavender-blue flowers on upright 18 inch stems from mid-summer on. The deep green foliage forms tidy 12 inch clumps and is evergreen. Give this one full sun and average soil. It would look great with Ratibida, Russian Sage, and 'Prairie Skies' Switch Grass.



### **Tennessee Coneflower – *Echinacea tennesseensis***

Tennessee Coneflower has 2 to 3 inch daisy-like pink flowers with greenish-brown centers or cones. The petals extend out or up as though reaching for the sun. They are not reflexed backwards as do those of the Purple Coneflower. The leaves are linear, giving plants an open appearance. The 1 to 1 1/2' tall plants form low sprawling mounds, so are best planted several together. Although the species is on **the Federal Endangered Species List**, it is very easy to grow, needing full sun and dry, well-drained conditions. It would be an attractive focal point for the front of the garden with its unusual flower colors. Flowering persists from June to September.



### **Coreopsis 'Crème Brulee' – *Coreopsis verticillata X***

Here is a very long blooming, mounding, spreading Coreopsis that is a Blooms of Bressingham introduction. It has bright creamy butter yellow flowers that cover its mounds of bright green, ferny leaves for months from early summer into the fall. The flowers are larger and a darker yellow than Moonbeam. Shear periodically to keep it producing like mad. Creme Brulee would be great in the front of the border in full sun and average soil. It tolerates heat and humidity very well.



### **Blue Lobelia – *Lobelia siphilitica***

This is one of the most beautiful and popular wildflowers for a moist, sunny or partly shaded spot in the perennial border, meadow, or alongside a stream. Two- to four-foot tall stems are laden with medium blue flowers from July through September. They are a favorite feeding ground for hummingbirds. Species to grow along with Blue Lobelia include Great Blue Lobelia, Pink Turtlehead, Obedient Plant, Wild Ageratum, Joe Pye Weed, and Bee Balm. Blue Lobelia tends to be short-lived, but also tends to self-sow prolifically, so expect to have babies. Plants form evergreen clumps.



### **Orange Coneflower – *Rudbeckia fulgida v. fulgida***

Sturdy, 2- to 3-foot tall, long-lived perennial with hundreds of 1 1/2-inch flowerheads on unbranched stems. Flowers are rich yellow with crisp black centers. This is a no-fuss-no-muss plant. It is disease and pest resistant, can take some drought, doesn't need staking, and flowers forever from August to the first hard frost when the birds take over and feed on the seeds. Looks great with Goldenrod, Prairie Blazing Star, grasses, Sedum 'Autumn Joy,' Asters, Sunflowers, and Ironweed.



### **Silkgrass – *Pityopsis graminifolia***

This Golden Aster can be very useful. It is a tough, vigorous, evergreen groundcover for sunny dry places. Airy clusters of bright golden yellow daisy-like flowers on 2 1/2 foot stems are gorgeous in late summer. Although it has silvery leaves, it retains its color and will not melt out in our typical muggy August. Keep it lean and mean!



### **Alumroot – *Heuchera americana***

Alumroot is a low-growing perennial, valued especially for its very attractive evergreen foliage. Alumroot grows naturally on basic (limy) rock outcrops and well-drained, rich, wooded slopes. It is quite at home in part sun or shade, making it very adaptable for garden use. Use it in along a path for edging, in the rock garden, or for color accent. The foliage is outstanding. **H. villosa** has similar growing conditions but with solid colored leaves of green or maroon.



### **Pink Muhly – *Muhlenburgia capillaris***

Pink Muhly occurs in dry, gravely open woods, pine barrens, prairies, and savannahs. In spite of its toughness though, it is a highly ornamental grass for a dry place in full sun or light shade. Sage green, glossy, very narrow leaves that are semi erect are topped at 3 feet with masses of bright pink, delicate, flower panicles that create a pink haze above the foliage. Blooming starts in early fall and continues on into late fall, the color changing to beige. Pink Muhly is attractive individually but really makes a big show when used in masses and drifts. Perfect companions would be Sumac, Tennessee Aster, Aster Snow Flurry, and late flowering Black-eyed Susan.



### **Limestone Fameflower - *Talinum calcinum***

Fameflower is a beautiful little succulent that occurs only in the open, gravelly, limestone glades of Tennessee, Kentucky, and Alabama where it is **rare** throughout. It forms small clumps of plump, needle-like, succulent, 2" long, gray-green leaves. One-foot tall flower stalks support dozens of brilliant, 1", 5-petaled flowers from early summer to fall. Curiously, the flowers only open during the late afternoon and only on sunny days. We grow this perennial like a rock garden plant - with excellent drainage in sharp grit in full sun and also in planters with other drought loving succulents. Good companions would be any of the sun loving Sedums, birdsfoot violet, Tennessee Coneflower, and Silkgrass. This is really an unusual, neat, and pretty little plant. Who knows, it may be the next roof garden star!



### **American Aloe - *Manfreda virginiana*:**

An interesting rosette of fleshy, unarmed green leaves that are decorated with purple spots. From the center comes a tall flower spike in the summer. The individual flowers start off creamy white, aging to a light purple color and are very fragrant esp. at night. Hummingbirds and moths are attracted to the tubular blossoms. Individual plants grow to about one foot tall and wide, but form clumps quite rapidly. In fact, it could be planted at 2-foot intervals to form a unique and hardy groundcover. It grows in clay or rocky soils, handles either high or low amounts of irrigation, and thrives in full sun to full shade exposures. However, the purple spots are more pronounced in sunny locations.



### **False Goldenrod – *Solidago sphacelata***

Over its natural range in the east, *Solidago sphacelata* grows on rocky bluffs and in open woods flowering in early fall on two-foot stems. Plants grow in just about any soil in sun or part shade and can form an evergreen nearly weed proof groundcover. Bright yellow flowers are densely packed in narrow wand-like racemes in late summer and early fall. Good flowers for butterflies and bees. Its low, spreading growth and ease of culture make it a good choice for naturalizing in difficult places when a low plant is wanted.



### **Woodland Aster – *Aster divaricatus***

White Wood Aster is fairly common throughout the woods of the eastern United States, where it forms very loose sprawling clumps. It is, however, an excellent choice for the difficult shady corner or border for late summer and fall flowers. Fragrant, starry, white-fading-to-pink, one inch flowers are borne very prolifically along black, wiry, drooping stems to 3 feet in length. These flowers look terrific growing and poking through other plants. Or let the stems cascade over a shady wall.



### **Riveroats – *Chasmanthium latifolium***

Common in damp open woods, stream margins, and ditches, River Oats is an attractive, upright arching grass resembling somewhat the more familiar Sea Oats of southern sand dunes. In full sun, it grows 3 feet. In some shade, expect taller plants. The flower/seed heads of River Oats which are effective from midsummer through mid-fall are especially attractive. These appear in arching sprays above the foliage and gracefully shimmer in the breeze. Grow River Oats in sun to part shade, and dry to wet. It spreads moderately by rhizomes and also naturalizes heavily by seed. We like it with Boltonia, Turtlehead, Orange Coneflower, and New England Aster.



### **Bottlebrush Grass – *Elymus hystrix***

This graceful ornamental grass of rich woods & woods edges produces pale greenish-white seed heads that look like delicate bottle brushes (up to 1.5" wide & 6" long), the seed heads develop in June & persist all summer, excellent textural accent plant, pick immature seed heads for drying or use in flower arrangements, leaves are dark green & come up from a creeping base, is a host plant for Northern Pearly Eye butterfly (*Enodia anhedon*) caterpillars. Interestingly it has always been sought out by all dogs as a snack and does not cause them to barf. Go figure???



### **Sundrops – *Oenothera fruticosa***

Sundrops is a cheerful perennial forming clumps one to two feet tall and blooming in early summer. Two inch bright yellow 4-petaled flowers clustered at the ends of stems are open during the day unlike those of the related Evening Primrose. The rich dark green leaves turn bronze for the winter. Grow Sundrops in a dry or average well-drained site in sun or light shade. Place it in the front of the garden with other drought-tolerant species or naturalize it on a sunny bank. Good companions include Butterfly Weed, Black-eyed Susan, Beard-tongue, and Coneflowers.