

This garden is for dry, sunny spots where you'd still like a splash of color— garden beds well out of reach of a hose, steep banks that are difficult to mow, property lines that could use some quick privacy, parking medians, business frontages, etc. Once established, all of the plants in this plan are extremely resistant to water stress.

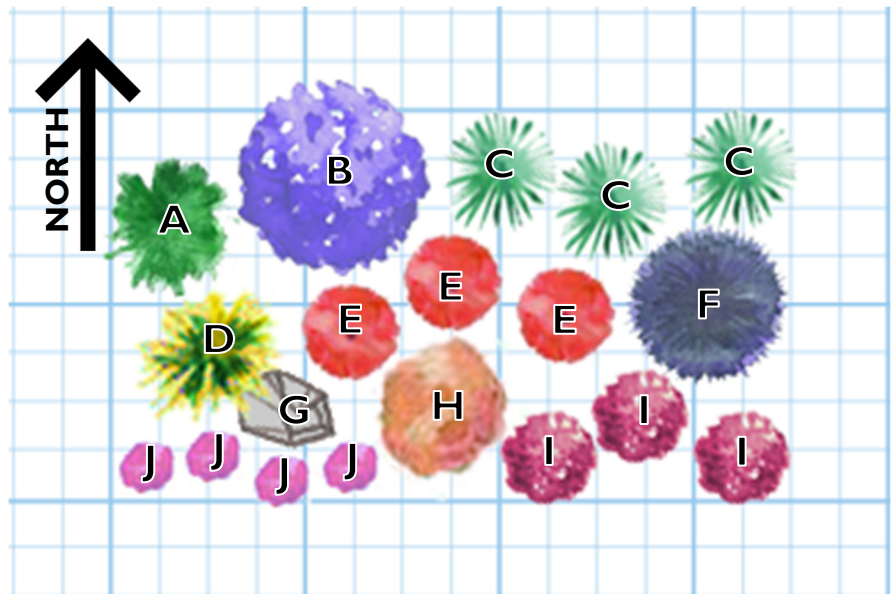
Your new garden will need full sun and little water once established. The plants are placed close together for a prairie look, arranged for a pleasing contrast of texture and color. Add one or more small boulders and a thick layer of wood mulch from Stone Market to give the garden extra visual appeal.

The plan is presented below. We'll help you get to know the plants on the next page.

The Plan

Plant List:

- A. One **Northwind Switchgrass**
or **Indian Grass**
- B. One **Blue Wild Indigo**
- C. Three **Big Bluestem**
- D. One **Color Guard Yucca**
- E. Three **Coneflower**
- F. One **Russian Sage**
- G. One **Stone** (optional)
- H. One **Yarrow**
- I. Three **Stonecrop Sedum**
- J. Four **Groundcover Sedum**



Each small square represents one square foot

Approximate cost of plant material: \$265

Dimensions as shown: 14'x8'

The Plants



A. Northwind Switchgrass catches every tiny breath of wind, adding motion and interest to the back of the garden bed. The leaves turn striking gold in autumn, and the airy seed heads persist into winter, providing food for birds.

Very undemanding— the only maintenance required is to cut the grass back about six inches above the ground in early spring, before the new growth emerges.



B. Blue Wild Indigo features attractive blue-green foliage and a vase-shaped form. The late spring flowers look similar to lupine, but this plant is far easier to grow in Central Illinois. Flower spikes are followed by attractive, chocolate brown seedpods, which may be cut for flower arrangements.

Despite its graceful appearance, this plant is very tough and drought tolerant!



C. Big Bluestem is a tall, stately native grass that puts on a spectacular color show as Autumn approaches. Its plumes sway with the wind, and provide food for overwintering songbirds.

Like most other ornamental grasses, Big Bluestem should be cut off just above the ground in early spring.



D. Color Guard Yucca may look like it belongs in the desert, but it's actually native to the southeastern United States, winter hardy down to -30°F, and evergreen as well! An intriguing plant year round, with spikes of creamy white, bell-shaped flowers that rise to six feet above the yellow striped leaves in summer.

Choose a well-drained spot in full sun, and 'Color Guard' will pretty much fend for itself!



E. Coneflower, also known as Echinacea, is a signature prairie plant that will rebloom without deadheading. Cultivars have been bred in pretty much every color except blue, so choose your favorite!

If left unpruned going into winter, the seed heads will attract goldfinches.

Plant with root stimulator as early as possible in the season for best winter hardiness.

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F. Russian Sage begins blooming in midsummer, picking up where the earliest blooming plants in this plan leave off, and continuing all the way to the first frost. The leaves and flowers have a lacy look, but Russian Sage is tough as nails, flowering even when the weather turns hot and dry.



G. Stones work particularly well in drought tolerant gardens. We've included a small one in the plan as a suggestion, but you could add more, or to leave the rock out entirely.

If you're interested in incorporating ornamental boulders into your landscape, feel free to visit Stone Market and browse our varied selection.



H. Yarrow is an herb with a long history dating as far back as ancient Greece, and a Mediterranean tolerance for hot, dry conditions. Lush, ferny leaves form an emerald green or dusky gray mat that sets off bright clusters of flowers in an exciting array of colors. Any color is fine for this plan, as long as it harmonizes well with the flowers around it.



I. Stonecrop Sedum is a widely varied group of succulents, many with colorful leaves that are just as interesting as their flowers! Their height ranges considerably, but since this plant is at the front of the bed, any variety will work. The shorter types with small, brightly colored leaves look particularly good when planted among stones.



I. Creeping Sedum typically flowers in late spring or early summer, with small clusters of starry blooms that are either yellow or pink, depending on the variety. Many types feature interesting leaf shades and/or Autumn color as well.

You can transform this section of the plan into a succulent feature by piling a few outcropping stones together, packing soil into the chinks, then planting hardy Hens and Chicks or creeping sedum in the cracks, with additional creeping sedum around the base of the succulent garden.

If you have questions, we're here for you! To speak with one of our experts you can visit the Garden Center, email us at expert@hoerrnursery.com, message us on Facebook or Instagram, or call (309) 691-4561 any time during business hours.