



9.3 West-Central Semi-Arid Prairies



Common Sunflower

(*Helianthus annuus*)



LIGHT: Full sun
WATER: Low to average
SEASON OF INTEREST: Mid through late summer
HEIGHT: 3-10 ft (dwarf varieties available)
DURATION: Annual
 These tall and showy flowers are easy and fun to grow, and the seeds are great for birds. Put only one plant in each pot and provide support as the plant grows.



Nuttall's Sunflower

(*Helianthus nuttallii*)



LIGHT: Full sun
WATER: Average to high
SEASON OF INTEREST: Fall
HEIGHT: 3-8 ft
DURATION: Perennial
 This late season flowering plant is an important source of nectar for migrating monarch butterflies in the fall and other pollinators. The seeds attract many birds, and are favored by goldfinches.



Silvery Lupine

(*Lupinus argenteus*)



LIGHT: Full sun
WATER: Low
SEASON OF INTEREST: Summer
HEIGHT: 1-3 ft
DURATION: Perennial
 This species has stunning silvery-green leaves with spikes of blue to violet flowers. They are particularly attractive to hummingbirds and butterflies. Plant in a deep pot due to long roots.
 *Not native to eastern half of ecoregion



Mexican Hat Plant

(*Ratibida columnifera*)



LIGHT: Full sun
WATER: Low
SEASON OF INTEREST: Late spring through fall
HEIGHT: 1-3 ft
DURATION: Perennial
 This long-blooming plant offers consistent pollen, as well as seeds for birds well into the fall. It is relatively disease and pest free.



Stiff Goldenrod

(*Solidago rigida*)



LIGHT: Full sun
WATER: Low to average
SEASON OF INTEREST: Late summer through fall
HEIGHT: 3-5 ft
DURATION: Perennial
 A beautiful late season bloom that produces thick clusters of yellow flowers. It is attractive to pollinators and seed birds. It is deer resistant and thrives in poor, dry soil.



White Heath Aster

(*Symphyotrichum ericoides*)



LIGHT: Full sun
WATER: Low to average
SEASON OF INTEREST: Late summer through fall
HEIGHT: 1-3 ft
DURATION: Perennial
 This densely blooming and compact plant resembles a spreading Juniper shrub when not in bloom. This low maintenance species does not have any serious pests or diseases.



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Smooth Aster

(*Symphyotrichum laeve*)



LIGHT: Full sun
WATER: Low to average
SEASON OF INTEREST: Late summer through fall
HEIGHT: 2-4 ft
DURATION: Perennial
These small and densely blooming flowers are a striking blue to purple color with a golden-yellow center. This species has no serious pests or diseases.



Aromatic Aster

(*Symphyotrichum oblongifolium*)



LIGHT: Full sun
WATER: Low to average
SEASON OF INTEREST: Late summer through fall
HEIGHT: 1-2 ft
DURATION: Perennial
Colorful and aromatic, this plant produces many blue-purple flowers and the foliage emits a pleasant scent when crushed. Attracts birds and butterflies while being unattractive to deer and rabbits.

**Not native to western parts of ecoregion*



Prairie Ironweed

(*Vernonia fasciculata*)



LIGHT: Full sun
WATER: Average to high
SEASON OF INTEREST: Mid summer through fall
HEIGHT: 2-6 ft
DURATION: Perennial
This flower provides a pop of purple color that will bloom again when deadheaded. This species may need support, is deer resistant, and has no serious diseases or pests.

**Not native to western parts of ecoregion*