



**Common Name:** Bee balm

**Scientific Name:** *Monarda fistulosa*

**Root Type:** Mostly fibrous with numerous lateral branches and shallow rhizomes.

**Blooming Period:** Early summer to late summer

**Distribution:** Most of lower Canada and continental U.S.

**Average Height:** Two and a half to four feet

**Flower ID:** The purple/lavender flowers look like tubes and are quite distinct from other flowers in N.W. Indiana.

**Fun Fact:** The common name is true as more than 60 species of bees visit the flower for nectar or pollen just in Illinois.



**Common Name:** Prairie Dock

**Scientific Name:** *Silphium terebinthinaceum*

**Root type & Depth:** Taproot with lateral branches; the taproot can extend twelve feet into the soil

**Blooming Period:** Late summer to early fall with yellow flowers

**Distribution:** Iowa eastwards excluding Quebec and Florida

**Average Height:** Seven to ten feet

**Leaf ID:** The basal leaves are spear shaped with fine edges and prominent veins; very large in late summer.

**Fun Fact:** The height of the flowering stem offers orientation and visibility for the composite flowers which can help insects find it.



**Common Name:** Compass Plant

**Scientific Name:** *Silphium laciniatum*

**Root type & Depth:** Taproot with lateral branches; the taproot can extend fifteen feet into the soil for an older individual

**Blooming Period:** Mature individuals bloom for six weeks in the middle of summer with yellow flowers

**Distribution:** primarily central North America with some range in eastern North America

**Average Height:** Six to twelve feet

**Leaf ID:** The leaf is long and has many deep lobes. The midvein has what looks like smaller leaves.

**Fun Fact:** The leaves of a compass plant point north-south usually or approximately providing better water use efficiency.



Gabis Arboretum at



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## *Field Guide to*

# Plants of the Eastern Tallgrass Prairie



**Common Name:** Rattlesnake Master

**Scientific Name:** *Eryngium yuccifolium*

**Root Type & Depth:** taproot and lateral branches with roots several feet into the soil

**Blooming Period:** Mid to late summer

**Distribution:** Central and eastern North America; south of Pennsylvania mostly

**Average Height:** two and half to five feet

**Flower ID:** The flowers look like white balls and will fade in color to brown tinges late in the season.

**Fun Fact:** The rattlesnake master leaves are resistant to grasshopper damage because of how the cellulose strands are arranged in the plant cells.



**Common Name:** Purple Coneflower

**Scientific Name:** *Echinaceae purpurea*

**Root type & Depth:** Fibrous with rhizomes; the roots can extend eight feet into the soil

**Blooming Period:** Throughout summer

**Distribution:** Mostly eastern North America and some range in central North America

**Average Height:** three to four feet when a few years old

**Flower ID:** The 'flower' is a group of many small flowers with light to dark purple 'petals' and a dome of disc flowers.

**Fun Fact:** Purple coneflower is deer and insect damage resistant but is not common in the wild under natural conditions.