

# PROPOSED BIODIVERSITY CENTRE GARDEN

## A POLLINATOR FRIENDLY GARDEN

**Concept:** The southwest facing nature of the proposed native wildflower garden in front of the Biodiversity Institute is hot, dry and sunny which makes it an ideal site for a short grass prairie which is the most productive habitat in Ontario in terms of biomass. The grasses and forbs in a short grass prairie are not tall and hence will not obscure the signage already in place. After appropriate preparation in the spring, the garden will be planted on one foot centres with plugs of drought-tolerant species. The plants chosen for this site are all native to Wellington County and will show the diversity of plants typical of this type of habitat. Although the prairie habitat is a fire climax ecosystem, it can be maintained by an annual mowing.

### **Biodiversity Centre Garden Species:**

*Aquilegia canadensis*, Wild columbine. 1-2 ft, full to part sun, dry to moist soil, red/yellow, June.

*Arabis giabra*, Tower mustard. 1-2 if, full sun, dry to moist soil, white, May-June.

*Asclepias tuberosa*, Butterfly milkweed. 18-30 in, full sun, dry soil, orange, July.

*Aster ericoides*, Heath aster. 1-2 if, full sun, dry to moist soil, white, Sep-Oct.

*Aster laevis*, Smooth blue aster. 2-3 ft, full sun, dry to moist soil, blue, Aug.

*Campanula rotundifolia*, American harebell. 12-18 in, full sun, dry to moist soil, blue, June-Sep.

*Carex eburnea*, Ebony sedge. 6-10 in, full to part sun, dry to moist soil, green, June.

*Fragaria virginiana*, Wild strawberry. 3-6 in, full to part sun, dry to moist soil, white, April-May.

*Monarda fistulosa*, Wild bergamot. 2-3 if, full to part sun, dry to moist soil, pink, July-Aug.

*Oenothera perennis*, Small sundrops. 6-12 in, full sun, moist to dry soil, yellow, July.

*Penstemon hirsutus*, Hairy beard-tongue. 1-2 ft, full to part sun, dry to moist soil, pink, June-Aug.

*Potentilla arguta*, Tall cinquefoil. 2-3 ft, full sun, dry to moist soil, white, June-Aug. *Rudbeckia hirta*, Black-eyed susan. 2-3 ft, full to part sun, dry to moist soil, yellow, July-Aug.

*Schizachyrium scoparium*, Little bluestem. 2-3 ft, full sun, dry to moist soil, brown, Aug-Sep.

*Sisyrinchium montanum*, Blue-eyed grass. 6-12 in, full to part sun, dry to moist soil, blue, May-June.

*Carex eburnea*, Ebony sedge. 6-10 in, full to part sun, dry to moist soil, green, June.

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*Sisyrinchium montanum*, Blue-eyed grass. 6-12 in, full to part sun, dry to moist soil, blue, May-June.

*Solidago nemoralis*, Gray goldenrod. 1-2 ft, full sun, dry soil, yellow, Aug-Sep.

*Verbena stricta*, Hoary vervain. 2-3 ft, full sun, moist to dry soil, purple, July-Aug.

*Zizia aurea*, Golden alexanders. 1-3 ft, part sun, dry to moist soil, yellow, May-June.

This example was created by Allan Anderson (Field Botanist), Barbara Hallett (Committee Chair, Waterloo-Wellington Wildflower Society), Ross Hallett (Liaison).