

Plant a Pocket Prairie This Spring!

A native garden that's low effort, high reward

Want a low-maintenance, high-impact native garden? Got a dry, sunny spot in your yard? Skip the fertilizer and watering — plant a **Pocket Prairie** instead!

What's a Pocket Prairie?

A mini-meadow made up of native grasses and flowering plants (forbs). It thrives with sun, poor soil, and minimal fuss — great for wildlife and for people who don't want to water.

5 Easy Native Plants to Get You Started

(All available at the Upstate Spring Native Plant Sale)



Splitbeard Bluestem

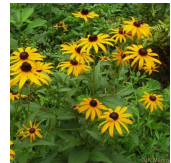
Andropogon ternarius

- Fall color and great wildlife cover
- Supports 20+ butterfly and moth species, including the Common Wood Nymph

Common Eastern Coneflower

Rudbeckia fulgida

- Bright yellow blooms
- Seeds feed birds in winter, while summer foliage feeds caterpillars like the Camouflaged Looper



Slender Mountain-mint

Pycnanthemum tenuifolium

- Pollinator magnet — constantly buzzing with butterflies, bees, and wasps
- Delicate, airy blooms

Little Bluestem

Schizachyrium scoparium

- Year-round structure and texture
- Hosts caterpillars like the Cobweb Skipper and feeds birds in winter



Late Eupatorium

Eupatorium serotinum

- White blooms in late summer to fall
- Attracts bees, flies, beetles, and 30+ species of caterpillars

How to Plant Your Pocket Prairie

1. **Pick a sunny spot** — dry soil is just fine.
2. **Skip the fertilizer & mulch** — these natives thrive on tough love.
3. **Plant densely** — mix grasses and flowers together.
4. **Water until established** — then let nature handle it.
5. **Leave seedheads** — birds love them, and they add texture through winter.

Photo credits: Janie Marlow/namethatplant.net

Adapted from: <https://scnps.org/plant-a-pocket-prairie-this-spring/>