Louisville List for Contractors:Approved/Suggested Species

Revised 04/21/2025

Scientific Name	*Common Name*	*Height*	*Width*	*Water*	*Exposure*	*Color*	*Bloom Time*	*re Rating(CSU*	*Native*	*Pollinators*	*Notes*
Perennials											
Achemilla mollis	Lady's Mantle	12-14"	12-14"	medium	sun/part shade	yellow/white	June-Sept	8	N	b,bf	accordian shaped leaves
Achillea millefolium	Common Yarrow	1-2'	1-2'	high	sun/part shade	white	July	9.5	Y	b,bf	extremely hardy
Agastache spp.	Hyssop	3-5'	1-3'	low-medium	sun	multi colors	June-Aug		Y	b,bf,hb	very fragrant
Ajuga reptens	Bugleweed	6-12"	6-12"	low-medium	sun/part shade	blue/violet	June-July	8	N	b,bf,hb	can spread easily
Amsonia tabernaemontana	Blue Star	2-3'	2-3'	medium-high	sun/part sun	blue/purple/white	March-May		N	b,bf,hm,m	willow like leaves
Aquilegia chrysantha	Golden Columbine	1-2'	1-2'	med-high	sun/part shade	yellow	June-Aug	8	Y	hb	reseeds readily
Asclepias tuberosa	Butterfly Weed	1-2.5'	1-2.5'	low	sun	orange/yellow/red	April-Sept	8	Y	b,bf,hb,m	great plant for monarchs
Astilbe spp.	False Spirea	18-24"	6-60"	low-medium	part sun	red/pink/purple/white	May-July		N	b,bf,op	don't like drought conditions
Berlandiera lyrata	Chocolate Flower	1-4'	1-2'	low	sun/part shade	yellow with maroon center	April/Nov		Y	midges	wonderful chocolate scent
Callirhoe involucrata	Poppy Mallow	5"	2-3'	low	sun	pink/white	All summer	8	Y	b,bf,op	long bloomer, heat loving
Cerastium tomentosum	Snow in Summer	6-8"	9-12"	low-medium	sun	white	May-June	8	N	b	groundcover
Coreopsis spp.	Tickseed Coreopsis	2-4'	1-2'	medium	sun	red/orange/yellow/pink/white	May-Sept	8	Y	b,bf,hb	easy to propagate
Delosperma basuticum	Hardy Ice Plant	2-3"	12-24"	med-high	sun	multi colors	April-June	10	N	b,op	groundcover, bright bloomer
Erigeron annuus	Daisy Fleabane	10"-2'	2'	low	sun/part shade	purple/white	May-Sept		Y	bf	daisylike flowers
Eutrochium purpureum	Joe Pye Weed	4-7'	2-4'	medium	sun/part sun	mauve pink/purple pink	June-Sept		Y	bf,op	good fall color
Gaillardia aristata	Blanket Flower	1-1.5'	1-2'	low-medium	sun	yellow/red	July-Sept	8	Y	b,bf	reseeds readily
Galium odoratum	Sweet Woodruff	6-12"	9-18"	medium	part sun/shade	white	April-May	8	Y	b,bf	groundcover
Gaura lindheimeri	Wandflower	36"	20"	low	sun	pink,white	May-Sept		N	b,bf,hb,op	long bloomer, showy plant
Geranium ibericum	Cranesbill	6-36"	1-3'	medium	sun/part sun	blue/pink/white/magenta	May-Sept	8	N	b,bf	long bloom time
Geum triflorum	Prairie Smoke	1.5'	1.5'	med-high	sun/part shade	reddish pink	June	8	Y	bb	pink fuzzy seedheads
Hermerocallis spp.	Daylily	1-1.5'	1-2'	low	sun	orange,pink,purple,red,white,yellow	May-Aug	10	N	bf	extremely hardy
Huechera spp.	Coral Bells	8-18"	12-24"	low-medium	sun/shade	red/white/pink/orange	May-July		Y	b,bf,hb	planted for foliage
Iris germanica	Bearded Iris	1-3'	12-18"	low-medium	sun	multi colors	May-June	8	N	b,bf	showy flowers
Kniphofia uvaria	Red Hot Poker	3-4'	1-3'	medium	sun	red/orange/yellow	May-Sept	8	N	b,bf,B	deadhead to rebloom
Lobelia cardinalis	Cardinal Flower	2-4'	2'	high	sun/light shade	scarlet/crimson/vermilion	July-Sept		Y	b,bf,hb,op	self seeder
Lupinus argenteus	Silvery Lupine	1-3'	1'	low	sun	blue/violet	June-July	8	Y	b,bf,op	palm shaped leaves
Nepeta spp.	Catmint	10-24"	1-2'	low	sun/part shade	purple/pink/white	May-Sept		N	b,bf,op	deadhead to rebloom
Papaver orientale	Oriental Poppy	2-3'	1-2'	high	sun/part shade	orange/pink/red	May-June	9	N	b,bf,op	need divided at some point
Penstemon strictus	Rocky Mt. Penstemon	2-2.5'	1-3'	low-medium	sun	purple/violet	May-July	8	Y	b,bf,hb	prone to powdery mildew if crowded
Platycodon grandiflorus	Balloon Flower	2-4'	2-4'	medium	sun/part shade	purple	June-Aug		N	b	can need staking
Rudbeckia fulgida	Black eyed Susan	2-3'	1-2'	medium	sun/part shade	yellow	July-Oct		N	b,bf,hb,m	vibrant yellow hues
Salvia sylvestris	May Night Salvia	15-18"	18"	low	sun	purple	May-Aug	7.5	N	b,bf,hb,B	member of the mint family
Sedum spp.	Stonecrop	1-1.5"	12-24"	low	sun/part shade	yellow	July-Aug	10	Y	bf	tiny star-shaped flowers
Sempervivum spp.	Hens and Chicks	6"	6"	low	sun	white/yellow/pink	June-Aug	10	N	b,bf	low maintenance
Sphaeralcea ambigua	Globe Mallow	1-3'	1-3'	low	sun	orange/apricot/pink	April/May		N	b,bf,op	drought tolerant
Solidago sphacelata	Golden Fleece Goldenrod	1-2'	2-3'	low	sun/part shade	yellow	Sept-Oct	8	N	b,bf,B	easy to grow
Symphyotrichum laeve	Smooth Aster	1-3'	2-4'	low-high	sun/part shade	blue/lavender	Aug-Sept	8	Y	b	good prairie plant
Tricyrtis hirta	Toad Lily	2-3'	1-2'	medium-high	part sun/shade	purple/white	May-Aug	10	N	b,hb	prefer moist soils
Verbena peruviana	Verbena Red Devil	8"	1-2'	medium	sun	red	June-Aug		N	b,bf,bb	groundcover
Veronica oltensis	Thyme Leaf Speedwell	1"	2-24"	low	sun	blue/purple	Mar-May	8	N	b	groundcover
Vinca minor	Common Periwinkle	3-6"	18"	low-medium	sun/part shade/shade	blue/lavender	March-April	8	N	b,bf,op,hb	groundcover, purple flowers
Shrubs											
Amelanchier spp.	Serviceberry	4-15'	4-8'	very low-med	sun	white	May	7.5	Y	B,wl	usually multi-stemmed
Amorpha nana	Dwarf False Indigo	1-3'	1-3'	low	sun/part shade	purple	May-June		Y	bf,b,hb	clusters of purple flowers
Artemesia spp.	Silver Mound	1-5'	1-10'	low-medium	sun	silver	June-Sept		Y	b,bf,op,B	planted for foliage
Buddleja davidii	Butterfly Bush	3-12'	3-8'	low-medium	sun	purple/pink/blue/white/yellow	May-Aug		N	b,bf,hb,m	fragrant
Cercocarpus betuloides	Mountain Mahogany	8-20'	10-12'	very low	sun	yellow/cream/white	May-June		Y	b,bf,hb	ability to fix nitrogen
Cornus sanguinea	Redtwig Dogwood	6-9'	8-12'	low-medium	sun/part shade	white	April-May		Y	B	showy red branches
Cylindropuntia spp.	Cholla	3-5'		very low-med	sun	pink	June		N	b,hb	cactus-like
Cotoneaster	Cotoneaster	1-3'	5-15'	low	sun/part shade	white/pink	May-June		N	b,bf,op	vibrant fall color
Ericameria nauseosa	Dwarf Rabbit Brush	1-3'	1-3'	low	sun	golden yellow	June-July		Y	b,bf,op,B	can be aggressive
Euonymus alatus compactus	Dwarf Burning Bush	3-20'	3-12'	low-medium	sun/part shade	yellow/green	May-June		Y	b,B	red fall color
Jamesia americana	Waxflower	4-6'	4-6'	low-medium	sun/part sun/shade	white	May-June		Y	b,bf,hb,m	fragrant blooms
Philadelphis lewisii	Cheyenne Mock Orange	6-9'	5-8'	medium	sun	white	April-June	8	Y	b,bf	fragrant
Rhus glabra	Smooth Sumac	3-5'		low	sun/part shade	yellow	April		Y	B,wl	outstanding fall color
Ribes aureum	Golden Currant	6-10'	5-10'	very low-med	sun	yellow/orange	March-April		Y	hb,B,wl	berries are food for wildlife
Sambucus canadensis	Common Elderberry	5-12'	5-12'	medium	sun/part sun	white	June-July		Y	b,bb,B,op	berries good for jam
Symphoricarpos albus	Snowberry	2-3'	3-6'	medium	sun/part shade	white/pink	May-Aug	8	Y	b,bf,B	impressive white berries
Syringa pubescens patula 'Miss Kim'	Miss Kim Lilac	6-8'	6-8'	medium	sun	lavender/purple	April-May		N	b,bf,hb	bloom on old wood
Viburnum carlesii	Korean Spice Viburnum	4-6'	4-7'		sun/part sun	pink turning white	April-May		N	B	ornamental fall color

Viburnum opulus var. americanum	Amercian Cranberry Bush	3-20'	3-12'	medium	sun/part shade	white/pink	April-June		N	b,bf,B	bloom on old wood
Weigela florida	Weigela	6-10'	9-12'	medium	sun	pink	May-June		N	b,bf,hb	bloom on old and new wood
Yucca glauca	Soapweed	2-3'		very low-low	sun/part shade	white	June	8	Y	m	drought tolerant
Ornamental Grasses											
Calamagrostis x acutiflora 'Karl Foerster'	Feather Reed Grass	5-6'	1-2'	medium	sun/part sun	pinkish purple	May-July		N	B	tendency to be overused
Festuca glauca	Blue Fescue	6-12"	6-18"	low	sun	green/yellow	May-July		N	B	beautiful blue green foliage
Helictotrichon sempervirens	Blue Avena Grass	2-5'	1-2'	low	sun	bluish green	May-July		N	Bf	blue color during all four seasons
Miscanthus gracillimus	Chinese Silver Grass	5-6'	3-4'	medium	sun	purple	June-July		N	B	grass blades are sharp
Miscanthus sinensis 'Zebrinus'	Zebra Grass	5-7'	4-6'	medium	sun	pinkish copper	July-Sept		N	B	grass blade color is striped
Muhlenbergia capillaris	Pink Muhly Grass	1-3'	2-3'	low-med	sun/part sun	pink/pinkish red	Aug-Sept		Y	B,bf	pretty,showy blooms
Panicum virgatum	Switch Grass	3-6'	2-3'	medium	sun/part sun	pink	June-July		Y	B,bf	personal favorite
Pennisetum alopecuroides	Dwarf Fountain Grass 'Hamelr	1-3'	1-3'	medium	sun/part sun	yellowish brown	May-July		N	B	great for smaller areas
Schizachyrium scoparium	Little Bluestem	2-5'	2-5'	low-med	sun	purple	June-Sept		Y	B,b,bf	beautiful fall color
Sorghastrum nutans	Indian Grass	5-7'	1-2'	low	sun/part sun	yellow/orange	Aug-Sept		Y	B	golden brown seed heads
Sporobolus heterolepis	Prairie Dropseed	2-3'	2-3'	low	sun/part sun	pink/brown/copper	july-Sept		Y	B	easy to grow

Key: Water requirements

very low = .5" per week
low = 1 " per week
medium = 1.5" per week
high = 2" + per week
Note - dependent on weather conditions water needs may be increased by 50%.

Key: Pollinators

Bees = b
Bumblebees = bb
Butterflies = bf
Hummingbirds = hb
Moths = m
Other pollinators = op
Birds = B
Wildlife = wl

FireWise Plant Materials - 6.305 - Extension

Key: Fire rating(CSU)

0-3 = High Flammability
4-7 = Moderate Flammability
7-10 = Low Flammability