Choosing the Right Grasses and Wildflowers



environmental conditions.

- Reputable nurseries and garden centers choose native and introduced plant material that is adapted to the area. A plant's adaptation to a certain environment can be researched. However, the only way to ensure a plant's true identity is by the scientific name, which provides positive identification of the species. Common names vary in time, place, and culture.
- When purchasing plants and seed, be on the lookout for information on winter hardiness. The best indicator is a designated USDA Winter



Blacksampson echinacea, a native wildflower, is grown and sold at many nurseries.

Nature's Defenses

Hairy, sticky or wavy leaf

evaporation.

and modify leaf

Spines, prickles, and

thirsty predators.

grazing animals.

aromatic foliage defend

against loss of stem tissue

and moisture from hungry,

Small, less showy flowers

predaceous insects and

with little or no fragrance

attract less attention from

temperatures.

surfaces deflect wind and

White or silvery-colored leaves reflect the sun's rays

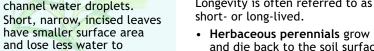
Hardiness Zone listed on the tag or label. Ask questions about local adaptation and the plant's origin. Plants or seed from a milder climate or a more southern location may not be hardy.

- Replacement guarantees may be available and will vary from within six months up to one year from purchase. Guarantees are limited by the fact that proper plant care after purchase is beyond the control of the seller.
- Digging and transplanting plants from the wild into a home landscape is usually unsuccessful. Wildland plants have extensive root systems and often have special needs that cannot be retained. In many places, it is illegal to dig plants in the wild.

Plant Attributes and Features

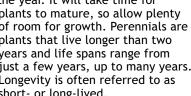
When choosing plants, strive for contrast, harmony and boldness to provide interesting variety throughout the year. It will take time for

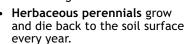
plants to mature, so allow plenty of room for growth. Perennials are plants that live longer than two years and life spans range from just a few years, up to many years. Longevity is often referred to as



- Annual and biennial life spans require replanting every one or

Some plants have developed strategies to cope with low-water environments. These are defense mechanisms designed to gather and preserve precious water. Look for plants with leaves that are fuzzy, light-colored, seem blue-tinged, or have spines.





- Woody perennials are trees and shrubs that persist above ground year after year.
- two years.







Sheep fescue.



Little bluestem used as ornamental.

Grasses are common components in a landscape. They reproduce by seed and above- or below-ground stems. Grasses can be compact and tufted, erect in bunches, creeping on the ground's surface, or spreading as sod. Height varies from ground-hugging to several feet tall.

- Cool-season species green up early and actively grow from spring until mid-summer.
- Warm-season species begin growth in early summer and remain active until mid-autumn. In fall they have attractive foliage and are generally the most attractive grasses of the season.



Aster.

Two varieties of penstemon.



Lupine.

Some wildflowers require direct sunlight for 6 to 8 hours per day. As sunlight decreases, plant height and bloom size decrease. Bloom season and duration of bloom vary, so coordinate the extension and overlap to ensure interesting color throughout the entire growing season.

Phacelia.

Arnica.