

Agastache foeniculum

Common Name: Anise Hyssop

Plant Type: short-lived perennial

Family: Lamiaceae

Height: 2-3½' feet

Bloom Time: June, July, August, September

Bloom Color: Purple

Sun: Sun to part shade

Water: Medium, Dry Medium

Anise Hyssop is in the Mint family and produces many showy purple flower spikes over fragrant, dark green foliage. Excellent for semi-shaded spots or in full sun, this biennial will reproduce readily by itself once established. The leaves and flowers emit a strong licorice odor when crushed and can be used in cooking and for tea. The flowers are cross-pollinated primarily by honeybees, bumblebees, digger bees, leaf-cutting bees, Halictid bees, and Masked bees, which seek nectar or pollen. Other occasional floral visitors are hummingbirds and various butterflies, skippers, and moths. Mammalian herbivores normally avoid consumption of this plant as the anise scent of the foliage is repugnant to them. Grown by **Natives in Harmony** nursery of Marengo, Ohio. For hours and information call 419-688-9800 or visit www.nativesinharmony.com.



Oenothera pilosella

Common Name: Prairie Sundrops

Family: Evening Primrose family (Onagraceae)

Height: 2-3 feet

Spread: .5 to 1.5 feet

Bloom Time: May-July

Bloom Color: yellow

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: moist to medium

The flowers are pollinated by long-tongued bees, butterflies, and skippers. Halictid bees and Syrphid flies often visit the flowers, but they are attracted by the abundant pollen and cannot be considered very effective at pollination. Among the long-tongued bees, are such visitors as Little Carpenter bees and large Leaf-Cutting bees, which suck nectar or collect pollen. This lovely plant should be grown more often. During the 19th century, this was a more popular garden plant, but it has since passed from favor and is not widely available. Grown by **Natives in Harmony** nursery of Marengo Ohio. For nursery hours and information call 419-688-9800 or go to www.nativesinharmony.com.



Salvia lyrata

Common Name: Lyreleaf Sage

Family: Lamiaceae

Height: 1 to 2 feet

Spread: 6 to 12 inches

Bloom Time: April-June

Bloom Color: Blue

Sun: Full sun to partial shade

Water: Dry to moist

This wildflower forms a basal rosette of 3-8 in elongated leaves that may be solid green or blotched with a dark wine-purple along the midrib. Heaviest flowering is typically period between April and June, but the plants may produce a few flowers at almost any time of year. Can take full sun to light shade, but the foliage color is stronger in brighter light. Lyreleaf sage tolerates both flooding and drought very well but grows best in moist soil. Butterflies, hummingbirds, and bees are attracted to the flowers. Songbirds such as goldfinches eat the seeds. The young leaves have a mildly minty flavor and can be eaten in salads or cooked as a green. The seeds and leaves can also be brewed as a tea. Grown by **Natives in Harmony** nursery of Marengo Ohio. For nursery hours and information call 419-688-9800 or go to www.nativesinharmony.com.



Symphotrichum oolentangiense

Common Name: Sky Blue Aster, Azure Aster

Family: Aster family (Asteraceae)

Height: 1½-3'

Spread: 1½-2'

Bloom Time: September to October

Bloom Color: Blue rays w/ yellow centers

Sun: Full sun

Water: Dry to medium

This plant is rather indifferent to soil characteristics - it can flourish in soil that is loamy, sandy, rocky, or contains clay. It is easy to grow and drought resistant. The nectar and pollen of the flowers attract bumblebees, digger bees, leaf-cutting bees, Halictid bees, Andrenid bees, Syrphid flies, bee flies, butterflies, skippers, miscellaneous beetles, and other insects. Larvae of the Silvery Checkerspot (above) and Pearl Crescent feed on asters, as do larvae of the Aster Borer Moth. The Ruffed Grouse and Wild Turkey browse on the leaves and seeds of asters; the Tree Sparrow also eats the seeds during the winter. The Cottontail Rabbit and White-Tailed Deer browse on the foliage, while the White-footed Mouse eats the seeds. Grown by **Natives in Harmony** nursery of Marengo, Ohio. For hours and information call 419-688-9800 or visit www.nativesinharmony.com.

