Perennials for Northern North Dakota

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USDA hardiness zone map
Aster

- Fall blooming
- Excellent cut flower
- 2-4 feet tall
- Full sun
- Blue, lavender, and purple
Astilbe

- Feathery, graceful, arching spikes
- White, pink, or red flowers
- Many varieties and types
- 2-3 feet tall
- Heavy feeders
- Divide often
- Shade
- Zone 4
Beebalm

- Member of the mint family
- Monarda
- Vigorous spreading habit
- Bees, hummingbirds
- Powdery mildew
- 12 inches to 3 feet tall
- Blooms July to August
- Deadhead
- Divide clumps every 3-4 years
- Zone 4
Black-eyed Susan

- Easy to grow
- Blooms in late summer
- Perennial plant of the year in 1999
- Most common wildflower
- Member of the sunflower family
- Short lived
- Rudbeckia
Balloon flower

- Long lived perennial
- Flowers showy in late summer
- Takes time to establish
- Blue, pink, or white
- 18 inches tall
- Zone 4

‘Fiji Mix’
‘Kamachi’

‘Sentimental Blue’
Bleeding Heart

- Heart-shaped flowers
- Pink, white
- Shade loving
- Prefers moist soil
- 2.5-3 feet tall
- Spring flowering
- Dries down by mid summer
Fringed Bleeding Heart

- Clump forming
- Does not go dormant
Western Bleeding Heart

- More drought tolerant
- Does not do well with hot and humid weather
Blanket Flower

- Gaillardia
- Short lived perennial or annual!
- Low maintenance
- Blooms all summer
- Prefers heat
- Tolerates drought

‘Arizona Sun’
Butterfly Weed

- Tolerates dry soil
- Slow to emerge
- Summer blooming
- Difficult to transplant
- Full sun
‘Gay Butterflies’

‘Hello Yellow’
Campanula

- Bellflower
- Carpathian harebell
- Clump forming
- Does poorly when hot and humid
- Deadhead
- Deer resistant
- Summer blooming
- Full sun, easy to care for

‘Pearl Deep Blue’
Common Yarrow

- Broad range of colors
- Easy to grow
- Some varieties spread
- Aromatic
- Drought tolerant
- Reproduces by seed and rhizomes
- Variety of sizes
- Low maintenance
Columbine

- Showy, spurred flowers
- Wide variety of colors
- Cool, well drained soils,
- Sun or semi-shade
- 6-36 inches tall
- Lose their vitality after a few years
- Blooms May-July
Coralbells

- Deadhead
- Does not do well in heavy clay soil
- Part sun
- Unique foliage

'splendens'
Daylilies

- 35,000 registered cultivars
- Thrive in most soil conditions
- Height varies from 9 inches to 4 feet
- Tolerates light shade
- Divide clumps when overcrowded
- Summer flowering
Garden Phlox

- Long bloom period
- Very showy
- 24-36 inches
- Choose mildew resistant varieties
- Shade will reduce blooms
- Deadhead
- 2-4 feet tall
- Summer blooming
Hostas

- Very popular as shade plant
- 2,500 varieties
- Slugs can be a problem
- Well drained soil
- Regular fertilization and watering
Hens & Chicks

- Grows in rosettes
- Very tough
- Stalks of purplish-red flowers in summer
- Great for rock gardens
• Long time garden favorite
• Long lived
• Many types and cultivars
• Thick, fleshy, rhizomes
• Prefer moist soil
Lady’s Mantle

- Fuzzy blue green leaves
- Grown mostly for foliage and shape
- Excellent cut flower
- Light shade
- Zone 4
- Summer flowering
Liatris

- Tall spikes of purple or white flowers
- Ideal cut flower
- 1-3 feet tall
- Spikes open at the top
- Prefers sandy soil
- Divide clumps every 3-4 years
- Replacement for Lythrum-purple loosestrife
- Fall flowering
- Native to North Dakota
Lupine

- Blooms in early summer
- Does not like hot stressful locations
- 1-3 feet tall
- Perennial herb
- Attractive foliage
- Divide clumps every 3-4 years
- Zone 4
Lungwort

- Early bloom
- Prefers shade
- White, blue, pink flowers
- Usually grown for foliage—white spotted leaves
- 12 inches tall
Oriental Poppy

- Paper like blooms
- Short bloom period
- Foliage disappears after bloom
- 36 inches tall
- Provide mulch for winter survival
Peony

- Rich, organic soil in full sun
- Plant with care
- Single blooms hold up better
- Planting depth very important
Purple Coneflower

- Showy wildflower
- Long lasting flowers
- Echinacea
- 2-3 feet tall
- Herbal remedy
- Drought tolerant
- Do not dig without permission
- Many new colors
- Summer flowering
Russian Sage

- Finely, divided, fragrant, silver-gray leaves
- Spikes of lavender-blue flowers
- Drought tolerant
- Attracts butterflies
- Zone 4
- Summer blooming
- 1995 perennial plant of the year
‘Blue Spires’  

‘Little Spire’
Shasta Daisy

- May re-bloom if dead headed
- Mulch for winter
- Single and double flowers
- Perennial plant of the year in 2003
- Butterfly gardens
- Cut flower
- 18-36 inches tall
- Zone 4
Sedum

- Attractive in the winter
- Tolerates drought
- Easy to care for
- Full sun
- Fall blooming
‘Indian Chief’

‘Stardust’

‘Autumn Joy’
Feather Reed Grass

• Narrow clumps of green foliage
• Good vertical accent
• 3-5 feet tall, shorter in dry areas
• Zone 4

‘Karl Forester’
Festuca Elijah Blue

- Clump forming
- 8-12 inches tall
- Zone 4
Ribbon Grass

- Bright green and white arching grass
- Vigorous spreader
- Will tolerate poor soil
- Cool season
- 2-5 feet tall
- Zone 4
Big Bluestem

- Hardy, clump-forming
- 5-6 feet tall
- Robust native grass
- Turns light reddish after frost
- Seed head resembles turkey foot
- Little Blue Stem also good
Acknowledge Harlene Htterman-Valenti
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January is Folic Acid Awareness Month across North Dakota as proclaimed by Governor Hoeven. Folic acid is a B vitamin that, when taken before and during the early weeks of pregnancy, has been shown to prevent birth defects. These birth defects include conditions like spina bifida, which is mild to severe damage to the spinal cord, resulting in paralyzed legs, learning disabilities and other neurological abnormalities. more

A Grant Writer’s Roundtable has been formed in the Minot area. Several individuals involved in grant writing gathered on December 16 for the initial meeting of the Minot Area Grant Writer’s Roundtable. Contact Ward County Extension for information about the Roundtable. more