



# Northerly Island Native Plants

**Plant Rescue – October 27 & November 3rd, 2012; 10am – 2pm**

**\*When digging up native plants make sure to get as much of the root system as possible**

## Grasses



**Little Bluestem** (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) – This perennial prairie grass is an all-around winner. The plant naturally grows in clumps, making it a well behaved accent plant for landscape purposes. It can be used individually or planted in groups. The plant has a bluish tint in the spring and summer, hence its name, but its fluffy seed heads and reddish hues make it a true fall beauty. Field Sparrows, Tree Sparrows, Juncos, and other small songbirds eat the seeds, particularly during the winter. The plant prefers well-drained sunny sites but can tolerate light shade. 1-5ft tall



**Side Oats Grama** (*Bouteloua curtipendula*) – This delicate, arching perennial grass is native to our region's hill prairies. Able to tolerate dry, thin soils the plant does well in most sunny urban sites. Side Oats Grama is an important food source for grasshoppers, leafhoppers, and stink bugs. 1-3ft tall

## Flowers



**New England Aster** (*Aster novae-angliae*) – A late bloomer! This deep-hued purple aster can add color to your garden throughout October, long after other plants have lost their blooms. It prefers partial to full sun and average to moist soil conditions. This plant can grow up to 4' tall and can get leggy and flop over. To avoid this, trim off the top 1/3 of the plant in early July. By fall you will have a compact, densely-flowering, native alternate to mums. 2-4ft tall



# Northerly Island Native Plants



**Grey Headed Coneflower** (*Ratibida pinnata*) – This long-blooming yellow-flowered attractive prairie plant makes a nice addition to any yard. It requires full to partial sun and loam to clay-loam soil. It may flop over if given too much water or planted in rich soil. This plant will grow up to 4' tall so plant it with other tall prairie plants for support or at the back of a perennial bed. The flowers are a favorite of many species of bees, wasps, flies, beetles, and small butterflies. 2-4ft tall



**Stiff Goldenrod** (*Solidago rigida*) – A very unique goldenrod not to be confused with its weedy cousin, tall goldenrod (*Solidago altissima*). This beautiful, yellow-flowered, upright perennial provides much needed fall color. This plant requires full to partial sun and prefers dry to medium soil. 1-3ft tall



**Wild Bergamot / Bee Balm** (*Monarda fistulosa*) – A beautiful summer-blooming perennial that adapts well to landscape use. It can be used in prairie plantings and in the middle to back of perennial borders. The flowers attract bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. This plant prefers average to rich, well drained soil in full sun to light shade. 2-4ft tall

For more information on the Northerly Island Habitat Restoration Project please visit:

[http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/assets/1/23/U.S. Army Corps Increases Grant Funding for Northerly Island Habitat Development Project.pdf](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/assets/1/23/U.S._Army_Corps_Increases_Grant_Funding_for_Northerly_Island_Habitat_Development_Project.pdf)

**Special thanks to our co-sponsors:**



Audubon



openlands



[www.chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com)