

# Native flowers and their important roles



**Smooth Penstemon:**  
A favorite of hummingbirds



**Switchgrass:**  
gives wildlife cover and nesting for birds in a prairie setting - seeds can be food source



**Butterfly Milkweed:**  
host plant for monarch caterpillars



**Black Eyed Susan:**  
important food source for pollinators, Goldfinches eat the seed heads in fall



**Purple Coneflower:**  
important food source for pollinators, birds eat the seed heads in fall (butterfly magnet)



**Smooth Aster:**  
important food source for late season pollinators, birds eat the seed heads over winter (butterfly magnet)



**Little Blue Stem:**  
provides wildlife cover and nesting for birds in a prairie setting

## WHY USE NATIVE PERENNIALS INSTEAD OF ANNUAL FLOWERS?

- 1) They need less water and fertilizer, making it easier and less costly to maintain for the city.
- 2) Because they should over-winter, there will be less cost annually to re-plant.
- 3) Help to create "islands of habitat" for native pollinators and insects, and even local bird populations that feed on the insects and seeds!

