

# New Perennials for Modern Gardens

*With all the interest in the New Perennial Movement and a market shift towards sustainable gardening, a new palette of perennials has emerged at the intersection of form and function.*

## Grasses

*Grasses form the basis for functional layers—the green mulch that creates a sustainable, living ground cover and tapestry to weave additional plant material into.*

1. *Andropogon gerardii* 'Dancing Wind' (Dancing Wind big bluestem)
2. *Andropogon gerardii* 'Blackhawk' (Blackhawk big bluestem)
3. *Andropogon hallii* 'Silver Sunrise' (Silver Sunrise Hall's bluestem)
4. *Eragrostis spectabilis* (purple lovegrass)
5. *Koeleria macrantha* (junegrass)
6. *Melinis nerviglumis* 'Savannah' (Savannah ruby grass)

## Sedges

*Grass-like and easily lumped into the latter, sedges have increased dramatically in popularity in the last five years for their versatility, particularly in shady circumstances.*

1. *Carex appalachica* (Appalachian sedge)
2. *Carex comosa* (bristly sedge)
3. *Carex pennsylvanica* (Pennsylvania sedge)
4. *Carex vulpinoidea* (fox sedge)

## Asters, etc.

*The aster family contains two of the top 10 perennial crops (USDA 2014 Census of Horticultural Specialties), echinacea and coreopsis, along with many other favorites. Their adaptability and variation offer gardeners significant opportunities.*



Greater Des Moines  
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1. *Coreopsis rosea* (rose tickseed)
2. *Helenium amarum* (yellowdicks)
3. *Helenium autumnale* 'Salsa'
4. *Helenium autumnale* 'Fuego'
5. *Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *deamii* (Deam's black-eyed Susan)
6. *Rudbeckia subtomentosa* 'Henry Eilers' (Henry Eilers coneflower)
7. *Vernonia* 'White Lightning' (White Lightning ironweed)
8. *Vernonia noveboracensis* (New York ironweed)
9. *Symphyotrichum cordifolium* (heartleaf aster)
10. *Symphyotrichum parviceps* (small white aster)
11. *Symphyotrichum* 'Lalla' (Lalla hybrid stoloniferous aster)
12. *Symphyotrichum oblongifolium* 'Raydon's Favorite' (Raydon's Favorite pine-scented aster)
13. *Solidago missouriensis* (Missouri goldenrod)
14. *Echinacea atrorubens* (Topeka coneflower) and *E. tennesseensis* (Tennessee coneflower)
15. *Echinacea* hybrid
16. *Echinacea paradoxa* (yellow coneflower)
17. *Echinacea pallida* (pale purple coneflower)

## Silphiums

These taller aster family members form the basis of big, herbaceous architecture in modern, naturalistic gardens but have limitations in smaller landscapes.

1. *Silphium mohrii* (Mohr's rosinweed)
2. *Silphium perfoliatum* 'The Holy Grail' (The Holy Grail cup plant)
3. *Silphium perfoliatum* (cup plant) in cultivation
4. *Silphium perfoliatum* in the wild
5. *Silphium perfoliatum* x *S. integrifolium* hybrid
6. *Silphium laciniatum* (compass plant)
7. *Silphium pinnatifidum* (cutleaf prairie dock)
8. *Silphium trifoliatum* (trifoliate rosinweed)
9. *Silphium wasiotense* (Appalachian rosinweed)



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## **Pokers, Bobbers and Balls**

*Plants with dynamic geometry add depth, interest and contrast to modern designs, especially when they evoke wildness and authenticate sense of place.*

1. *Kniphofia* 'Ember Glow' (Ember Glow red hot poker)
2. *Kniphofia* 'Poco Red' (Poco Red red hot poker)
3. *Allium cernuum* 'Wine Drop' (Wine Drop nodding onion)
4. *Allium* 'Millenium' (Millenium ornamental onion)
5. *Sanguisorba tenuifolia* (Japanese burnet)
6. *Monarda* 'Bergamo' (Bergamo bee balm)
7. *Dalea enneandra* (nineanther prairie clover)
8. *Senna hebecarpa* (American senna)

## **Pollinatorpalooza**

*Milkweeds, agastaches, pycnanthemums and more continue to rise in popularity for their pollinator appeal. Their persistence and durability as perennial plants guarantees multiple seasons of garden interest.*

1. *Agastache* 'Ava' (Ava hybrid hyssop)
2. *Agastache nepetoides* (giant golden hyssop)
3. *Pycnanthemum muticum* (short-toothed mountain mint)
4. *Pycnanthemum tenuifolium* (slender mountain mint)
5. *Monarda bradburiana* (eastern horsemint)
6. *Asclepias tuberosa* (butterfly weed)
7. *Asclepias tuberosa* Dwarf Yellow Form (yellow butterfly weed)
8. *Asclepias speciosa* (showy milkweed)
9. *Asclepias purpurascens* (purple milkweed)
10. *Asclepias variegata* (redring milkweed)
11. *Matelea decipiens* (oldfield milkvine)
12. *Eriogonum* 'Little Rascal' (Little Rascal buckwheat)



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## **Kitschy?**

*This last section is a grab bag assortment of ascendant varieties or perennials that have the capacity for ornamental improvement and horticulture.*

1. *Iliamna remota* (Kankakee mallow)
2. *Iliamna grandiflora* (large-flowered wild hollyhock)
3. *Iliamna rivularis* (streambank wild hollyhock)
4. *Euphorbia corollata* (redneck baby's breath)
5. *Astragalus laxmannii* var. *robustior* (Laxmann's milkvetch)
6. *Eryngium leavenworthii* (Leavenworth's eryngo)
7. *Phlox pilosa* ssp. *ozarkana* (Ozarks phlox)
8. *Silene regia* (royal campion)
9. *Napaea dioica* (glademallow)
10. *Arnoglossum atriplicifolium* (pale indian plantain)



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