

White

Daisy Fleabane (*Erigeron annuus*)

Daisy fleabane is found in open woodlands, meadows, and along roads, often in large patches. The name “fleabane” comes from the belief that the plant repels fleas and other insects. When opening, the flower appears pinkish.



Oxeye Daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*)

This large white daisy with a bright yellow central disk appears in June in dry, open areas. The leaves are dark green with many lobes. Pyrethrum, a natural insecticide, is made from daisy species native to Asia.



Queen Anne's Lace (*Daucus carota*)

A flat cluster forms the “lace” of this flower. A tiny purple floret can be found in the center. The leaves are finely divided. Look for it in dry fields and along roadsides. Garden carrots have been cultivated from this plant.



Pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*)

Woodland edges are the best places to find pokeweed. The long stalk of small white flowers develops into dark purple berries that are eaten by birds, but are poisonous to humans. Juice from the pokeberry once served as dye and ink.



Common Arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*)

The arrow-shaped leaves with two backward projecting lobes give this aquatic plant its name. White flowers in whorls of three are situated on a tall stalk rising from large basal leaves. Starchy underground tubers, called “duck potatoes,” are eaten by ducks and muskrats.



White Snakeroot (*Eupatorium rugosum*)

Fuzzy white flowers form branching clusters with heads as broad as they are high. The leaves have long points and are toothed. The plant grows to one to three feet tall and blooms in late summer. Cows eating this toxic plant may produce milk which can be fatal to humans.



Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)

Old fields and roadsides are likely places to find yarrow. The leaves are fernlike and stalkless. Small whitish flowers form flat-topped clusters. Leaves are aromatic and were used medicinally to staunch blood flow.



White Avens (*Geum canadense*)

White Avens is a common summer wildflower, but it is easily overlooked since the small white flowers are rather sparse on the one to two foot tall plants. The flowers develop into very bristly seed pods. Look for this plant in thickets and open woods.



Yellow

Yellow Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis stricta*)

The Latin name, *Oxalis*, refers to the sour taste produced by oxalic acid found in all parts of the plant. Wood sorrel is a low growing plant with clover-like leaves that close at night. The yellow flowers have five spreading petals.



Early Goldenrod (*Solidago juncea*)

This flower first blooms in mid-August in thickets and open woods. Tiny flowers are often seen growing in the leaf axils. Many other species of goldenrod are found in Indiana; most do not have flowers growing in leaf axils. Goldenrod's legions of showy flowers are unjustly blamed for hay fever and fall allergies, while the true culprits – the abundant and inconspicuous ragweeds – go unseen.



Woodland Sunflower (*Helianthus divaricatus*)

The name sunflower comes from the myth that flowers in this group turn with the sun. Sunflowers are found in open woodlands and wood edges. The bright yellow flowers are two to four inches across, on a plant three to seven feet tall.



Evening Primrose (*Oenothera biennis*)

The large, yellow, lemon-scented flowers are at the top of a leafy stalk. The stem is hairy. The flowers of this biennial open in the evening and close by noon because they are adapted to pollination by moths. The seeds provide excellent food for birds.



Common Mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*)

This alien species in the Snapdragon family was once known as the “Torch Flower” by Roman soldiers. The long stalks were dipped in melted fat and burned to provide light. Quaker girls, who were forbidden to use makeup, rubbed the hairy leaves on their cheeks to produce a rosy glow, giving rise to another name: Quaker Rouge.



Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)

This yellow, daisy-like flower is easy to recognize by its dark brown center disk. It is commonly found in dry, open places and first blooms in early July.



Orange

Butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

This member of the milkweed family is a favorite food plant for the caterpillars of a number of butterflies, including the Monarch. The brilliant orange flower blooms in early July.



Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*)

Also known as “Touch-Me-Not”, because the drying seed pods burst when touched, it is found in moist woodlands, especially along streams. “Jewelweed” refers to the droplets of dew which sparkle on the leaves. Indians used the juice to relieve the itch from stinging nettles. It may also soothe the itching associated with poison ivy if applied soon after exposure. Flowers may be orange or yellow, depending on the species.



Pink-Red

Hollow Joe-Pye Weed

(*Eupatorium fistulosum*)

This pink to lavender flower has a stem that can be deep purple or purple spotted. It is found blooming in wet meadows in July. Look for a tall plant, ranging in height from two to eight feet. According to folklore, it was named after an herb doctor who used it to treat fevers.



Naked Tick Trefoil

(*Desmodium nudiflorum*)

Tick trefoil is often found in open dry woods. Small pink blooms are borne on a slender stalk separate from the leaf stalk. The jointed seed pods break into one-seeded segments that stick to clothes and animal fur. In this way, the plant disperses its seeds.



Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)

This plant is an easily recognized summer wildflower, found in open fields and along roads. It has a unique flower: a five-parted cup with five swept-back petals beneath. Flowers are borne in an umbel-like cluster and produce a long pod (fruit) with seeds attached to tufts of floss or silk. This silk has been used for stuffing pillows and weaving cloth.



Blue

Downy Skullcap (*Scutellaria incana*)

Like all members of the mint family, skullcap has a square stem. It is found in clearings and open woods. The two-lipped flowers have a hump on the top, hence the name "skullcap."



Calico Aster (*Aster lateriflorus*)

Several kinds of asters are found in both open woodlands and abandoned fields. The colorful blue, purple, or white petals have a yellow/orange central disk. These flowers are seen from late July to first frost and are attractive to butterflies. The leaves are alternate and numerous.



Asiatic Dayflower

(*Commelina communis*)

The two showy, blue petals are easily seen on this flower, but a third, smaller, white lower petal can be found on closer examination. The flowers will bloom for only part of one day. The common name refers to this trait.



Great Lobelia

(*Lobelia siphilitica*)

Blooming occurs in mid-August in wet woods. Lobelia flowers have two narrow lobes forming "ears" above, and three wider lobes forming a lower lip which is striped with white. The plant grows one to four feet tall and contains powerful alkaloids once used to treat syphilis and other diseases. It is considered poisonous.



Tall Bellflower

(*Campanula americana*)

The flowers of this plant are not bell-shaped. The five-petaled flowers are flat, arising from the axils of the upper leaves which form a spikelike cluster. The plant is two to six feet high with alternate leaves. Tall bellflower is found in moist, rich soils.



Purple-Pink

Tall Ironweed

(*Vernonia altissima*)

This alternate-leaved plant displays clusters of deep purple flowers. It will grow from three to seven feet tall. The name arises from the toughness of the stem.



Heal-all (*Prunella vulgaris*)

Heal-all or selfheal is one of the most common (but nonnative) mints. Mints can be identified by their square stems and opposite leaves.

Many are strongly aromatic, although selfheal is not. The flowers are in a compact cluster at the end of the stem. The name refers to its medicinal use by pioneers.



Wild Bergamot

(*Monarda fistulosa*)

This member of the mint family can be used to make mint tea and has been used as a medicinal herb. It is found in open woods and along trails. The ragged flower head is made up of many one-inch long pink to purple tubes.



Hairy Ruellia (*Ruellia humilis*)

Also known as wild petunia, this plant is found in rocky or sandy soils. The lavender, trumpet-shaped flower has five lobes rising from a hairy stem.



The mission of the Interpretive Services is to provide information and offer interpretive experiences with Indiana's natural and cultural resources to visitors, staff and a diverse public.

Wildflower drawings by Rosemary Bauman

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SUMMER AND FALL WILDFLOWERS

OF INDIANA STATE PARKS AND RESERVOIRS



Spotted Jewelweed

DNR

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