



Chrysogonum virginianum

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This plant is low growing making clumps of mid green leaves that are covered in simple clear yellow starry flowers all summer long. It makes a reliable, colourful, ground cover and will grow almost anywhere, both in sun and partial shade.

Height 25cm Spread 30cm

Cirsium rivulare ‘Atropurpureum’

This ornamental thistle has deeply incised foliage, but it is not prickly. In early summer it throws up branched stems that carry numerous dark, purple red thistle flowers like dumpy paint brushes. The bold display lasts several weeks at a time that few other perennials are making a bold display in our gardens. Cut down after flowering, it will renew its foliage and look attractive for the rest of the year.

Height 150cm Spread 60cm



Cirsium rivulare ‘Atropurpureum’



Ligularia fischeri

Monarda ‘Scorpion’

Mounds of aromatic foliage on stiff square stems carry numerous flower heads in summer. The flowers are collected in to wreaths at the top of the stems and when faded they turn into bobble forms that remain a feature through till late in the winter. A wide selection of cultivars is available in different colours and heights, but always question their susceptibility to mildew which can be a real problem in situations that become too dry in summer; purple ‘Scorpion’ is one of the best.

Height 120cm Spread 60cm

Ligularia fischeri

Ligularias make fantastic foliage plants. Most make large plants quickly and often a single clump can dominate a garden space. This species is no exception with large heart shaped green leaves and dramatic flower spikes bearing yellow flowers in late summer. It needs rich, moist soil to reach its full potential. Surprisingly, this is not a widely available plant and one of the more familiar dark leaved cultivars may have to be substituted.

Height 160cm Spread 90cm

Molinia caerulea subsp. arundinacea ‘Transparent’

Basal clumps of soft green arching leaves throw up stiff, slim stems in summer that bear finely divided flower heads well above head height. The stems and flowers create a see through veil that can arch open dramatically when wet. In autumn the whole plant turns golden, but generally collapses in a heap around Christmas time.

Height 240cm Spread 80cm



Monarda ‘Scorpion’

Molinia caerulea subsp. arundinacea ‘Transparent’



Carex - Geranium - Astilbe - Ageratina - Calamagrostis

This is not a scheme for the feint hearted as it is filled with strong contrasts of both colour and form. It will grow well in average to moist conditions as all of the plants are tough and easy. The indispensable grass, calamagrostis appears once more, but this time in the lower growing variegated form that is probably the best choice for smaller gardens.

- 1 × 2 *Carex elata* 'Aurea'
- 1 × 1 *Geranium* 'Jolly Bee'
- 2 × 1 *Astilbe chinensis* var. *taquetii*
'Purpurlanze'
- 1 × 2 *Ageratina altissima* (Syn. *Eupatorium rugosum*) 'Chocolate'
- 1 × 1 *Calamagrostis* × *acutiflora* 'Overdam'

Complementary plants

Ranunculus ficaria 'Brazen Hussy', *Primula florindae*,
Thalictrum delavayi 'Album', *Lythrum salicaria*
'Zigeunerblut'.

