

Izabella Redlinski - The Field Museum

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1 *Actaea pachypoda*
White baneberry/ Doll's eyes
Collect in Sept. Ivory white berries, each with a black dot; large compound leaves.



2 *Alisma subcordatum*
Common water plantain
Collect Sept.– Oct. Conspicuous seed in small balls at the end of a peduncle.



3 *Allium cernuum*
Nodding onion
Collect Sept. – Oct. Black & round seed when ripe. Capsules straw colored before dispersal.



4 *Allium tricoccum*
Wild leek
Collect in Oct., in mesic woods. Seed is round, black and shiny.



5 *Amorpha canescens*
Lead plant
Collect mid-Aug. – Oct. Remove hulls when cleaning, each pod contains 1 round seed.



6 *Andropogon gerardii*
Big bluestem
Collect Oct. – Nov. Don't introduce too much seed into early restoration.



7 *Anemone cylindrica*
Thimbleweed
Collect mid-Aug. – Oct. Seeds ready to harvest if peduncle brown. Leaves w/ 3 distinct lobes.



8 *Arisaema triphyllum*
Jack-in-the-pulpit
Collect mid-Aug. – Sept. Clean seed within few days of collection while pulp is still soft.



9 *Asclepias incarnata*
Swamp milkweed
Collect Sept. – Oct. Wait to collect until pods become brown. Do not burn the fluff to clean the seed.



10 *Asclepias syriaca*
Common milkweed
Collect Sept. – Oct. Large pods with spikes. If pods do not have spikes and plant is shorter then it is *A. sulivantii*.



11 *Asclepias tuberosa*
Butterfly weed
Collect Sept-mid Oct. Look for hirsute pod and stem. Seed ready when pod and seed are brown. Usually few pods/plant.



12 *Baptisia* spp.
Wild indigo
Collect mid-Aug. – Sept. Remove seed from pods to prevent weevils from foraging. Scarify seed.

Seed Heads of Common Native Plants of the Tallgrass Prairie Region

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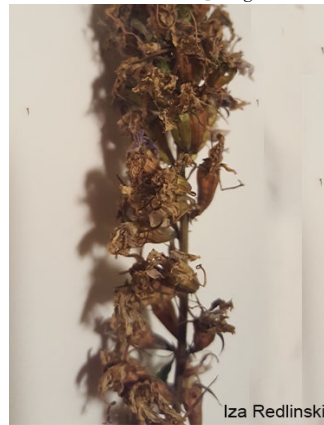
13 *Bouteloua curtipendula*
Side-oats grama

Collect mid-Sept.– Nov.
Knee-high grass with the seeds placed to one side. Dry prairies.



14 *Camassia scilloides*
Wild hyacinth

Collect mid-June to July.
Careful while picking place entire seed head in bag.



15 *Campanulastrum americanum*
Tall bellflower

Collect mid-Sept.– Oct.
Look for 5 sepals surrounding the seedpod. Place in bag to dry out.



16 *Caulophyllum thalictroides*
Blue cohosh

Collect mid-Aug. – early Nov.
Keep seed refrigerated until sown.



17 *Ceanothus americanus*
New Jersey tea

Collect Mid Sept.– Oct.
Seeds eject from capsules – bag seed heads. Scarify w/ hot water.



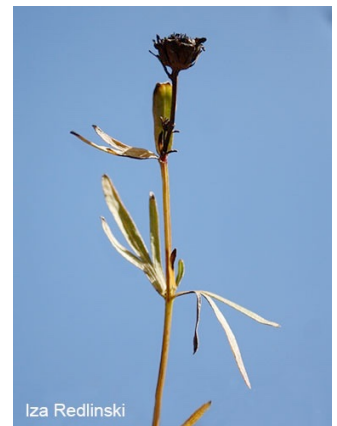
18 *Cephalanthus occidentalis*
Buttonbush

Collect Sept. – Oct.



19 *Cinna arundinacea*
Common wood reed

Collect mid-Oct. – Nov.
When ready the panicle is brown, seed comes off easily.



20 *Coreopsis palmata*
Prairie coreopsis

Collect early Sept.– Nov.
Look for distinctive 3-lobed leaves, plant up to 2.5 ft tall.



21 *Coreopsis tripteris*
Tall coreopsis

Collect mid-Sept – Nov.
Pick entire dried flower head.
Plant 3-8' tall, 3-lobed leaves.



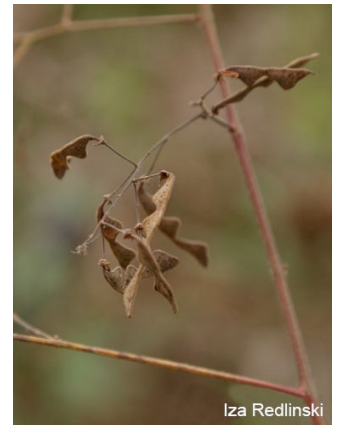
22 *Corylus americana*
American hazelnut/filbert

Collect early Sept. – Oct.
Sow fresh.



23 *Dalea purpurea*
Purple prairie clover

Collect early Sept. – Nov.
Scarify seeds. If leaflets > 2mm wide then *D. candida*.



24 *Desmodium* spp.
Tick trefoil

Collect Sept. – Nov.
Pick entire loments. ID species based on other characteristics.

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25 *Echinacea purpurea*
Purple coneflower

Collect mid-Sept.– Nov.
Wear gloves while collecting
or cut off seed head.



26 *Elymus canadensis*
Canada wild rye

Collect mid-Sept. – Nov.
Great in early restorations. Do
not confuse with giant foxtail.



27 *Elymus virginicus*
Virginia wild rye

Collect mid-Sept.- Oct. Stems
erect, found in more moist
habitats. Good in early restoration.



28 *Eryngium yuccifolium*
Rattlesnake master

Collect late Aug. – Nov.
Rough seed head, look for
yucca-like leaves, cut seed head.



29 *Euphorbia corollata*
Flowering spurge

Collect early Sept. (fruit
explodes) Lime-green foliated
stalk with umbel-like 3
chamber seed head



30 *Eutrochium* spp.
Joe Pye weeds

Collect mid Sept. – Oct. Check
number whorled leaves & stem
hairiness for species ID



31 *Fragaria virginiana*
Wild strawberry

Collect June-early July
Fruit is red when ripe. Often
overlooked species in prairies.



32 *Gentiana alba*
Cream/yellowish gentian

Collect mid-Sept – Oct.
Flowers less closed than bottle
gentian, more than prairie
gentian.



33 *Geranium maculatum*
Wild geranium

Collect mid to late June.
Seeds explode – collect when
brown and store in closed bag or
net flower after fertilized.



34 *Helenium autumnale*
Sneezeweed

Collect Sept. – Nov.
Globe-like seed heads with
fading petals underneath,
delicate wings on stem.



35 *Hystrix patula*
Bottlebrush grass

Collect Aug. – Oct.
Unmistakable grass of savannas
& woodlands. Collect by running
your fingers up the culm.



36 *Juncus torreyi*
Torrey's rush

Collect mid Aug. – Oct.
0.5 inch wide globoid seeds
w/ long pointy capsules.

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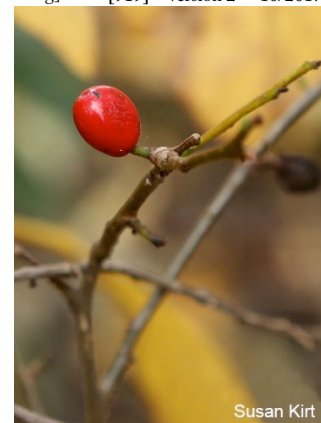
37 *Lespedeza capitata*
Round-headed bush clover
Collect Aug. – mid-Sept.
Pick entire head, beans can be shaken out of ripe seed head.



38 *Liatris aspera*
Rough blazing star
Collect Oct. – Nov.
Pick when pappus is fluffy and brownish at bottom



39 *Liatris spicata*
Marsh blazing star
Collect late Sept. – mid Oct.
L. pycnostachya looks very similar except w/ reflexed bracts.



40 *Lindera benzoin*
Spicebush
Collect late Summer.
Soak in water for 24 hours and cold stratify for 120 days.



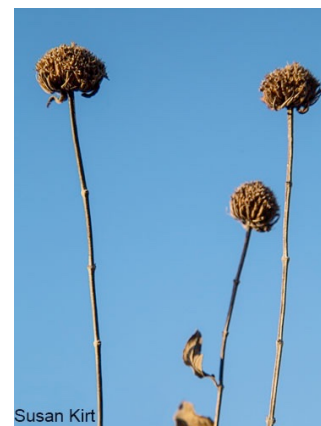
41 *Lithospermum canescens*
Hoary puccoon
Collect mid-to late July. Seed white, marble-like, rolls off easily.



42 *Lobelia cardinalis*
Cardinal flower
Collect Oct. – Nov.
Not all pods develop at once.



43 *Ludwigia alternifolia*
Seedbox
Collect end of Aug. – Sep.



44 *Monarda fistulosa*
Wild bergamot
Collect early Sept. – Nov.
Pick entire head when brown.



45 *Panicum virgatum*
Switchgrass
Collect Sept. – Oct.
Can be aggressive, plant minimally in a restoration.



46 *Parthenium integrifolium*
Wild quinine
Collect Aug. – Nov.
Check for seeds, harvest entire seed head, produces little seed.



47 *Penstemon digitalis*
Foxglove beardtongue
Collect Oct. – Nov.
Capsule needs to be crushed to release seed, can use rolling pin.



48 *Physostegia virginiana*
Obedient plant
Collect mid-late Sept.
Cut seed head, place upside down in paper bag.

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49 *Polygonatum bliforum* var. *commutatum*
Solomon's seal
Collect Sept. – Nov.
If possible do not let berries dry.



50 *Pycnanthemum virginianum*
Common mountain mint
Collect early Sept – early Nov.
Ready seed is brown with grayish hue.



51 *Ratibida pinnata*
Yellow coneflower
Collect mid-Aug. – Nov.
Seed head crumbles in fingers when ready, pick entire head.



52 *Rhus copallinum*
Winged sumac
Collect early to mid – Nov.
Spread before it dries out completely.



53 *Rosa blanda*
Pasture rose
Collect mid Sept.– Oct.
Scarify seed with sandpaper, might need double dormancy.



54 *Rudbeckia subtomentosa*
Sweet black-eyed susan
Collect late Sept. – Oct.
Multiple seedheads from 1 stalk, while *R. hirta* 1 head/stalk.



55 *Ruellia humilis*
Prairie petunia
Collect mid-Aug. – Nov.
Collect seed when capsules still green but seed inside brown.



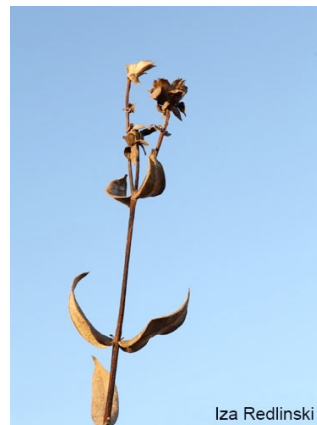
56 *Schizachyrium scoparium*
Little bluestem
Collect mid-Sept. – Nov.
Collect the fluff from the grass.



57 *Scirpus atrovirens*
Dark green rush
Collect early Aug.– Sept.
Produces a lot of tiny seed.



58 *Scirpus cyperinus*
Woolgrass
Collect mid to late Aug.
Species can be aggressive.



59 *Silphium integrifolium*
Rosinweed
Collect Sept. – Oct.
Collect entire seed head.



60 *Silphium laciniatum*
Compass plant
Collect mid-Aug. – Nov.
Collect entire seed head.

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61 *Silphium terebinthinaceum*
Prairie dock

Collect in Sept. Look at leaf to identify species.



62 *Smilacina racemosa*
Feathery false Solomon's seal

Collect Sep. – Oct.
Conspicuous seed in small balls



63 *Smilax* spp.
Carrion flower

Collect Sept. – Oct. Black & round seed when ripe inside fruit.



64 *Oligoneuron rigidum*
Stiff goldenrod

Collect in Oct. when pappus turns fluffy.



65 *Sorghastrum nutans*
Indian grass

Collect late Oct. – Nov.
Seed strips easily with fingers, avoid using a lot in restoration.



66 *Spartina pectinata*
Prairie cordgrass

Collect mid-Oct. – Nov.
Recognizable by very long blades, golden yellow once ready.



67 *Sporobolus heterolepis*
Northern prairie dropseed

Collect mid-Sept. – Oct.
Each floret produces 1 shiny, round seed.



68 *Thalictrum dasycarpum*
Purple meadow rue

Collect Aug. – Sept.



69 *Tradescantia ohioensis*
Common Ohio spiderwort

Collect June – Sep.
Has long bracts, collect when 2/3 of seeds are yellow or brown.



70 *Verbesina alternifolia*
Wingstem

Collect Sept – Nov.
Wings on the stem but unlike sneezeweed, seed is flat.



71 *Vernonia* spp.
Ironweed

Collect mid-Sept-Nov.
Use other characteristics to distinguish among species.



72 *Zizia aurea*
Golden Alexanders

Collect Aug. – Nov.
Seed easily comes off the umbel, remove entire seed head.

References: North Branch Restoration Project Seed Book from EPA Greenacres <https://archive.epa.gov/greenacres/web/html/index-3.html>; Williams, Dave. 2016. The Prairie in Seed Identifying Seed-Bearing Prairie Plants in the Upper Midwest. University of Iowa Press; DuPage County Forest Preserves Seed Collectors Database; Wilhelm & Rericha. 2017. Flora of the Chicago Region; SusanKirtPhotography.com.