**1-3 Feet Tall. Large Green Vase with Curled Cover. Red Fruit.** *Arisaema triphyllum* (Jack-in-the-Pulpit)

#### Flowers:

- 3-4 inches tall and up to 2 inches wide
- Inner long solid club referring to "Jack" (spadix)
- Vase-like tube surrounding "Jack" is the "pulpit" (spathe)
- Spathe ranges from light green to purplish, often has white stripes running its length

#### Stem/Leaves:

- Leaves made of 3 leaflets up to 7 inches long and 4 inches wide
- Smooth leaves and stem that can be green with purple
- Leaves tend to hide the flower
- Distinct veins, one continuous vein bordering the edge
- Can grow a cluster of green to red berries each <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inch long. Berries are poisonous!

Area for Notes

Illustrations by Various Artists USDA, NRCS. 2018. The PLANTS Database (http://plants.usda.gov, 2018). National Plant Data Team, Greensboro, NC 27401-4901 USA.

Pamphlet by Christian Heuchert '20

Identifying Information from https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/

# A Guide to Common Fall Forest Wildflowers of Carleton College Cowling Arboretum

Carleton College's Cowling Arboretum (Arb) consists of approximately 800 acres adjacent to the College. This guide is for flowers that are commonly found during the *fall* season. These species listed can be found on the edge of various trails that run through *forested areas*.

Flowers in the guide are organized by color. The best way to identify a flower is to look for its color and size. Then, look at corresponding drawings and see if it matches the more detailed information. The flowers listed are the most common, so there is a chance a particular flower you find is not listed in this guide.

# 1-4 Feet Tall. White Flower With Yellow Center.

Symphyotrichum lanceolatum (Panicled Aster), or Symphyotrichum pilosum (Awl Aster), or Symphyotrichum lateriflorum (Calico Aster). The White Aster family includes a few species that all look very similar. Identifying the specific

variety requires a full guide.

## Flowers:

- Branching clusters of small white flowers 1/2 3/4 inches across
- The central disk is yellow and turns reddish brown with age
- The flower to stem connection has overlapping green folds called bracts tipped with a tiny spine

#### Leaves/Stems:

- Leaves are < 1 inch wide and 1-4 inches long
- The leaf surface is sparsely to densely covered in long hairs.

Arboretum Office 507-222-4543

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# 1-4 feet tall. White Flower Cluster.

Ageratina altissima (White Snakeroot)

#### Flowers:

- Dense flower clusters about the size of the pinkie nail at the end of the stem
- 5-parted disk flowers
- Thin vertical extensions above flower heads

#### Leaves/stem:

- The leaves have coarse saw-like teeth on the edges
- Leaves 2-6 inches long, 1-4 inches wide
- Stem is green and hairless

# 1-4 Feet Tall. White Flower with Hairy Bulb.

Silene latifolia (White Campion)

- Invasive species from Europe

## Flowers:

- Flowers are 1-1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches wide
- Five petals deeply cleft (split down the middle) into two wide lobes that look like individual petals
- Behind the flower is an inflated hairy bulb called a calyx
- Bulbs are strong smelling

#### Stem/Leaves:

- Leaves 1-4 inches long and < 1 ½ inches wide
- Leaves are smaller on the upper stem
- Leaves/ stem can both be hairy and sticky



# 1-3 feet tall. Green/White flowers, Shiny Black Seeds.

Laportea canadensis (Canadian Wood Nettle)

#### Flowers/Fruits:

- Two kinds of flowers are found on the same plant
- One type has four green petals of unequal size that look like tiny curly leaves in branching clusters
- The other kind are in tiny loose
  white branching clusters less than
  1/8 inch diameter. These are precursors
  to shiny black seeds/fruits which may
  be present instead

#### Leaves/Stem:

- Leaves are 4 inches wide and 6 inches long
- The stem to leaf distance is quite long, stem is covered in stinging hairs. Avoid touching!

# 1-3 Feet Tall. Blue Berries. Flowers are Leafy Green.

Caulophyllum thalictroides (Blue Cohosh)

#### Flowers:

- Flowers are about 1 inch wide
- They grow in clusters of five or more
- There are six green petals and a yellow ring around the center
- The yellow ring is made up of tiny yellow corn-like kernels

#### Leaves/Stem:

- Leaves grow 2-4 inches long and 2-4 inches wide in clusters of three or four
- Leaflets are lobed up to five times giving them forked ends
- Stems may be tinged purple or blue

## 2-6 Feet Tall. Light Purple Flower With White Center.

Campanula americana (American Bellflower)

Flowers:

- Star shaped flowers are 1 inch across with five petals and a white-colored center ring
- Petals have wavy edges and a central vein down the middle
- A long curly white filament called a style sticks out from the center of the flower

Leaves/Stem:

- Leaves are 3-6 inches long and ½-2 inches wide
- Small hairs make the leaves feel rough, edges are serrated
- Leaves become smaller towards the top and more lance shaped. The stem and leaf shoots are hairy

# 3-7 Feet Tall. Light Pink Wispy Fluff Ball.

Two species exist that are hard to differentiate without a full guide.

*Cirsium discolor* (Field Thistle) *Cirsium arvense* (Canada Thistle)

- Canada Thistle is an invasive species from Europe. Field Thistle is native

#### Flowers:

- 1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 2 inches around, color varies from white to purple
- Many branching flower heads
- Flower-stem connection has overlapping green bracts each with a <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inch long needle-like spine at the tip

## Stem/Leaves:

- Leaves are up to 9 inches long and 3 inches wide
- Leaf shape is divided into several pointed lobes with spines
- Stem/ Underside of leaves are white and fuzzy



# 2-10+ Foot Vine. Curly tendrils. Thin White Flowers. Large Hanging Spiky Fruit.

Echinocystis lobata (Wild Cucumber)

# Flowers/Fruit:

- Small <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inch wide with six thin, twisty, and fuzzy white petals
- Some flowers have a big green spiky bulge (ovary) beneath the petals
- Spiky fruit pod up to 2 inches long, looks like a prickly kiwi

## Stem/Leaves:

- Leaves are up to 7 inches both in length and width
- Stems are vines that snare and curl around surrounding plants

# 2-10 feet tall. Yellow Flowers. Brown/Green Center.

Rudbeckia laciniata (Cut-leaf Coneflower Or Golden Glow)

## Flowers:

- 2-3 inches wide with around twelve droopy yellow petals
- The center disk has yellow spines with brown points. As the flower ages the seed spines fall out leaving a green dome like cone

## Leaves/stem:

- Lower leaves up to 10 inches long and wide
- Leaves are deeply lobed (multiple segments with deep curves in the leaf shape)
- Top leaves are smaller and lance shaped with toothed edges
- The stem is green, can be tinted with purple, and is waxy

## 1-2 Feet Tall. Light Yellow Flower with Dark Yellow Center.

*Linaria vulgaris* (Butter and Eggs)

- Invasive species from Europe

#### Flowers:

- Irregular yellow and orange flowers, each <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> 1 inches long. Flowers are Snapdragon like
- Three large rounded lobes form the bottom and two small lobes form the top
- Every flower has a spur that hangs down where nectar is stored

#### Stem/Leaves:

- Leaves are up to 2 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches long, very thin, and pointed
- Leaves grow all around a thin green stem

**2-5 Feet Tall. Yellow to Orange Irregular Cornucopia. Speckled.** *Impatiens capensis* (Spotted Touch-me-not) Orange with speckles *Impatiens pallida* (Pale Touch-me-not) Yellow

Flowers/Seedpods:

- Flowers are 1 inch long and  $\frac{1}{2}$   $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch wide
- Snapdragon shaped with a narrow spur that curls underneath the back of the flower used for nectar storage
- Two large rounded lobes form the bottom and one small lobe forms the top
- When even slightly touched, the seed pods will pop open, dispersing seeds

#### Stem/Leaves:

- Leaves 1-3 inches long and up to 1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches wide
- Stem has many small shoots ranging from green to purple
- Stem is tubular and very wet when broken open



# Less than a Foot Tall. Yellow Flower or Puffball of Seeds.

Taraxacum officinale (Common Dandelion)

- Invasive species from Eurasia

## Flowers:

- Flower head around 1 inch wide
- Each petal is flat and tongue-like
- On the underside of the flower there are two layers of bracts (long green wisps)
   One row cups the flower and one curls down

#### Stem/Leaves:

- Leaves create a weedy cluster around the base of the stem
- 6-8 inches long and 2 inches wide
- Stem/ leaves are usually fuzzy, can be purplish
- When broken the stems leak a white sticky sap

# 1-3 Feet Tall. Yellow Flower with Tiny Extending Yellow Stalks.

Solidago flexicaulis (Zigzag Goldenrod)

## Flowers:

- Flowers are 3/8 inches wide with three to five petals
- Flowers have multiple thin long yellow filaments
- Flowers grow in clusters 2-6 inches long at the top of the plant and tend to grow vertically

## Stem/Leaves:

- Leaves are up to 3 inches wide and 5 inches long
- Leaves are softly haired
- Stems range from mostly straight to zigzagging between the alternate leaves

