



Black-eyed Susan



Butterfly Milkweed



Purple Coneflower



Spreading Cotoneaster



Gayfeather

Hardy Plants for Acreage Landscapes

Are you trying to raise plants on your acreage and not having much luck? You are not alone. Your landscape plants have a lot of obstacles against them. Drought, rabbits, deer, the list goes on and on. Here is a list of plants drought tolerant once they are established and less likely to be eaten by our wildlife friends. (MJF)



Potentilla



Bridal Wreath Spirea

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	PLANT TYPE	FLOWER COLOR	BLOOM TIME	HEIGHT	LOCATION
Barberry, Japanese	Berberis thunbergii	Shrub	Yellow	May	4–6'	Sun
Beebalm	Monarda fistulosa	Perennial	Lavender	June–Aug	24"	Sun to part shade
Black-eyed Susan	Rudbeckia fulgida	Biennial or short lived perennial	Yellow, brown center	July–Aug	24"	Sun
Blanket Flower	Gaillardia aristata	Perennial	Red with yellow	June–Aug	18"	Sun
Boltonia	Boltonia asteroides	Perennial	White	Aug–Oct	48"	Sun to part shade
Butterfly Milkweed	Asclepias tuberosa	Perennial	Orange	July	24"	Sun
Coneflower, Purple	Echinacea purpurea	Perennial	Purple	July–Aug	36"	Sun
Coreopsis	Coreopsis lanceolata	Perennial	Yellow	June–Aug	24"	Sun
Cotoneaster, Spreading	Cotoneaster divaricatus	Shrub	Rose	May	5–6'	Sun to part shade
Dogwood, Redosier	Cornus sericea	Shrub	White	May	8–10'	Sun to part shade
Gayfeather, Rough	Liatris aspera	Perennial	Deep purple	Aug–Sept	36"	Sun
Gayfeather	Liatris spicata	Perennial	Purple	Aug–Sept	18–24"	Sun
Honeylocust	Gleditsia triacanthos	Tree	Greenish yellow	May	40–50'	Sun
Lilac, Common	Syringa vulgaris	Shrub	White, Pink, Purple	May	8–15'	Sun
Potentilla	Potentilla fruticosa	Shrub	Yellow	June–Oct	2–4'	Sun
Sedum, Tall	Sedum telephium	Perennial	Rose to salmon	Aug–Oct	18"	Sun
Spirea, Bridal Wreath	Spiraea prunifolia	Shrub	White	May	6–10'	Sun
Spruce, Colorado Blue	Picea pungens	Tree			40–60'	Sun
Sumac, Staghorn	Rhus typhina	Shrub	Greenish yellow	July–Aug	15–20'	Sun
Wormwood	Aartemisia absinthium	Perennial	Gray	July–Aug	24–36"	Sun
Yucca	Yucca filamentosa	Perennial	Creamy white	June–Aug	36"	Sun



Colorado Blue Spruce



Staghorn Sumac

Septic Tanks Must Be Pumped By Certified Professionals

Sharon Skipton
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It is illegal for anyone to pump septic tanks, including homeowners

pumping their own tank, unless they are certified by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ). Septage that is improperly handled and applied can be a public health hazard due to the pathogens it contains, and can be harmful to the environment if pathogens, organic matter or nutrients enter lakes, streams or groundwater. There are also Federal regulations and record keeping requirements for the proper disposal, including land application, of septage.

The Private On-site Wastewater Treatment System Contractors Certification and System Registration Act requires anyone who works on a septic system to apply to NDEQ to become



certified to perform the work. The requirement for certification includes pre-installation tasks such as doing a site evaluation, a soil evaluation, or a percolation test. It also covers all aspects of working on a system including designing, installing, inspecting, repairing, or altering. And, it includes pumping and disposal of the septage.

If a homeowner wants to pump a tank, including his or her own, he or she must be certified. Individuals pumping a tank without proper certification would be in violation of NDEQ regulations and subject to enforcement action including potential fines.

Hiring a certified professional to pump a septic tank is the best option available for most homeowners. NDEQ has posted a list of certified professionals on their Web site at www.deq.state.ne.us. For more information, contact NDEQ at 471-2186.

Staying Connected in the Country

For people who live in the country, options for staying connected in a digital age may be limited and/or more expensive than if you lived somewhere with a denser population.

INTERNET—Dial-up connections are readily available, but finding an Internet Service Provider (ISP) with a local number may be more of a challenge. Distance may also play a factor in the quality of connection you may get once you set up your account.

Broadband options are usually not as varied also. Cable often does not extend past city limits. A Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) from the phone company is limited by the number of 'wire miles' a subscriber is located from the central office that serves your phone. Point-to-point wireless may be available. This type of connection works much like a broadcast television station, but the communication is two-way. An external, directional antenna is required. Connections via satellite are literally available anywhere, but are two to three times more expensive

than wired broadband services.

For more information, look in the yellow pages of your phone book under Internet – Access Providers or contact your local cable, satellite or phone company.

CELL PHONE—While signing up for cell phone service may be as easy as in the city, the quality of service may not be as homogeneous. Generally, cell tower concentrations mimic population densities, providing service in rural areas that is sometimes described as 'hill-top cellular.'

ELECTRICAL RELIABILITY—Electrical service to power your equipment may not be as reliable in the country. A range of devices that can prevent digital disaster start with an Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) and end with a portable electric generator. A UPS is a battery back-up you can purchase separately to power your computer or other devices for a short time if the power goes out. Another option would be to use a laptop, most of which have a built-in battery.

—By Jim Wies,
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