



## CARING FOR YOUR CONTAINER PRAIRIE

Prairie plants like smooth blue aster, purple prairie clover, and wild petunia are excellent resources for pollinators! These plants are hearty and generally grow well in pots with some maintenance. Here's how to care for your container prairie year after year:

### Step-by-Step Instructions

#### 1. WATERING

- Spring–Fall: Water deeply when the top 1–2 inches of soil are dry.
- Prairie plants are drought-tolerant, so don't overwater.
- Summer: May need water 2–3x per week in heat.
- Fall–Winter: Minimal to no watering unless there's a warm/dry spell.

#### 2. SUNLIGHT

- Prairie plants thrive in full sun (6+ hours daily).
- Place your container in a sunny spot — south or west-facing is ideal.

#### 3. FERTILIZING

- Prairie plants don't need much. You can add a little compost in spring.
- Avoid synthetic fertilizers — they promote weak, leggy growth.

#### 4. PRUNING & DEADHEADING

- Deadhead blooms if you want more flowers or tidier look.
- Or leave seed heads for wildlife and winter interest.

#### 4. WINTER CARE

- Plants will go dormant — that's normal!
- Leave stems and seed heads for structure and to help wildlife.
- You can insulate the container:
  1. Wrap in burlap
  2. Group pots together
  3. Move to an unheated garage if mobile
  4. Water occasionally during warm/dry spells to prevent root desiccation

#### 4. SPRING CLEANUP

- Cut back dead stems in early spring (March–April).
- Add compost/top-dressing to refresh the soil.
- Watch for new shoots!

#### 4. REPOTTING (EVERY 2-3 YEARS)

- Prairie plants can get root-bound in containers.
- Divide perennials or transplant to a bigger pot or your garden.

For more resources or questions,  
contact: [info@buroaklandtrust.org](mailto:info@buroaklandtrust.org)