

Parthenium integrifolium Wild Quinine

Parthenium integrifolium (Wild Quinine) is a unique prairie wildflower with striking form and presence. Strong upright stems emerge from a tap-rooted rosette, carrying coarse, dark green, sandpapery leaves. From June to August, the stem terminates in a cluster of white flowers, resembling small white pearls from a distance. The pure white, wooly looking flowers are long lasting and contrast nicely with the bright summer blooms of companion species such as butterfly milkweed, coneflowers, and blazing stars. A high diversity of pollinator types are attracted to the pollen and nectar, while most herbivores ignore the bitter-tasting, rough foliage. This plant does well in loamy, well-drained, fertile soils in full sun, but can tolerate dry or rocky soils and part shade. As a tap-rooted species, it does well in dry or mesic prairie-like settings and in dry open woods. As the flowers die, they transition into attractive taupe brown, rounded seed clusters.

Botanical Name: Parthenium integrifolium

Common Name: Wild Quinine

Family: Asteraceae

Nativity: Great Lakes Native

USDA Zone: 4-8

Light Type: Full Sun

Soil Type: Clay, Loam, Sand

Soil Preferences: Fertile loam, well-drained

Soil Moisture: Dry, Medium

Typical height (ft): 3-4'

Typical width (ft): 1-2'

Foliage: Dark Green

Bloom Time: June, July, August

Bloom: White

Ecological features: Attracts bees, birds, and butterflies

Tolerance of: Drought, Deer, Salt, Erosion, Clay Soil, Dry Soil, Shallow or Rocky Soil

Additional notes: Fragrant leaves

Companion plants: Wild Onion (*Allium cernuum*), Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), Blazing Star (*Liatris aspera*), Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), and Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*)

For more information see:

http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/wild_quininx.htm

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=g580>

<http://www.newmoonnursery.com/plant/Parthenium-integrifolium>

<https://www.midwestgroundcovers.com/plant/Parthenium-integrifolium-NGN>

<https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/wild-quinine>

Images of Parthenium integrifolium



Left: Parthenium integrifolium kz3.jpg Plant form - toothed aromatic leaves



Parthenium_integrifolium_wild_quinine_MN_2007 Plant form - toothed aromatic leaves & white flower heads



Parthenium integrifolium.jpg Flower heads



Parthenium-integrifolium-wild-quinine-0a.jpg Close look at flower heads



Parthenium integrifolium kz2.jpg winter seed heads



Restored tallgrass prairie in DuPage County, Illinois.jpg White flowers of Parthenium integrifolium with other perennials

Image choices for narrative:

Parthenium integrifolium kz3.jpg -- Plant form - toothed aromatic leaves & white flower heads

Parthenium integrifolium.jpg -- Flower heads