



**Common fleabane
(*Erigeron philadelphicus*)**

This plant's flower head, with 50-100 petal-like rays, closes at night. It is found in fields and open woods. Flowers May-Jul, Ht: 8-28"

Goat's Beard (*Aruncus dioicus*)

Arching cream colored plumes resembling the beard of a goat give this plant its name. An admired choice for the perennial border, this low maintenance selection is deer resistant. Flowers May-Jul, Ht: 3-7'



American Spikenard (*Aralia racemosa*)



A member of the ginseng family, spikenard grows with flowers at the leaf axils producing reddish-purple berries in late summer.

American Indians used the plant medicinally for respiratory disorders. Flowers Jun-Aug, Ht: 4-5'

**Black Cohosh
(*Actaea racemosa*)**

With tall spikes of white flowers, black cohosh is a popular wildflower selection for the home perennial garden. Historically, it was a common herb used medicinally for a variety of ailments. Flowers Jun-Sept, Ht: 3-8'



**Jewelweed
(*Impatiens capensis*)**



**Yellow Touch-Me-Not
(*Impatiens pallida*)**



Closely related, jewelweed and yellow touch-me-not are often found growing side by side. The name touch-me-not refers to their explosive seed pods that, when mature, disperse seed forcefully on contact. The common name jewelweed refers to the glistening quality created by the morning dew. The juice from the stems of these plants was used by the American Indians as a salve to relieve the itch from poison ivy or stinging nettle. Flowers Jul-Sept, Ht: 2-6'

Directions to Duff Park:
One quarter mile south from the intersection of Route 22 and School Road South in Murrysville, Pennsylvania.

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Summer
Wildflowers
of Duff Park

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All photographs taken at Duff Park by Pat Comas, Tom Morton, Kyle Selcer & Theo van de Venne

Look for summer wildflowers along woodland edges and open fields where direct sunlight prevails. Few wildflowers are able to grow under the leaf canopy in woodland habitats where sunlight reaching the forest floor is drastically reduced.

Pokeweed
(*Phytolacca americana*)



The entire plant is poisonous to mammals. Birds, however, favor the berries and disperse the seed as it passes through their digestive system intact. Greenish-white flowers give way to dark purple berries in the fall. Flowers Jul-Sept, Ht: 4-9'

Wood Nettle
(*Laportea canadensis*)

Stinging hairs, that cause irritation when in contact with skin, cover the stems of wood nettle. Male flowers are present in the axils of the leaves and females flowers at the plant apex. Flowers Jul-Aug, Ht: 2-3'



White Vervain
(*Verbena urticifolia*)

The flower spikes of white vervain, at times branched, originate from leaf axils. Their flowers bloom sequentially over the course of months, a characteristic that optimizes pollination. Flowers Jun-Sept, Ht: 3-5'

Tread lightly as you pass through and please stay on the trail. Enjoy and preserve our parklands.

Joe-Pye Weed
(*Eupatorium purpureum*)

Growing to impressive heights, joe-pye weed has fragrant pink-purple flowers. It hybridizes easily with other species of Eupatorium, making an accurate identification sometimes difficult. According to legend, an American Indian named Joe Pye treated typhus fever with this plant. Flowers Jul-Sept, Ht: 6-8'



Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)



Poisonous, this plant becomes less toxic when dried. The American Indians introduced boneset to the colonists as a remedy for influenza. The name boneset came from its use as a cure for "break bone fever" (dengue fever). Flowers Jul-Sept, Ht: 2-4'

Never pick, collect or transplant wildflowers.

Common Milkweed
(*Asclepias syriaca*)

In a long evolved relationship with common milkweed, female monarch butterflies lay their eggs on the underside of the milkweed leaf. Hatching larvae feed on the plant and ingest a toxin, making them poisonous to predators. Milkweed is not only a host plant for the monarch, but also a nectar source for several butterflies. Flowers Jun-Aug, Ht: 2-5'



Monarch caterpillar



Tall Meadow Rue
(*Thalictrum pubescens*)

Tall meadow rue does not have true petals. Instead, the white portion of the flower that appears to be a petal is actually stamens, which produce pollen. Flowers Jul-Sept, Ht: 3-8'

The beautiful flowers of joe-pye weed, milkweed, boneset and tall meadow rue attract butterflies, bumble bees and other pollinators. The pollinators benefit from the nectar food source while the plant benefits from pollination as the insects move pollen from plant to plant.

Butterflies are attracted to tubular or flat-topped blooms that are pink, red, orange, yellow, blue or purple in color. These are the colors butterflies see best. Bees, on the other hand, who cannot see the color red, are attracted to fragrant yellow, blue and white flowers.

