

Native Perennials With Cu *Flower Potential*

Horticulture Web Wednesday
September 2025

Project Background

Benefits of Native Perennials

Initial investment - long term returns

Attractive in landscape and as cut flower

Unusual

Adapted to KY growing conditions (cold hardiness, resistant to pests/diseases)

Minimal inputs (low water/ fertility demand)

Ecosystem benefits



Project Objectives



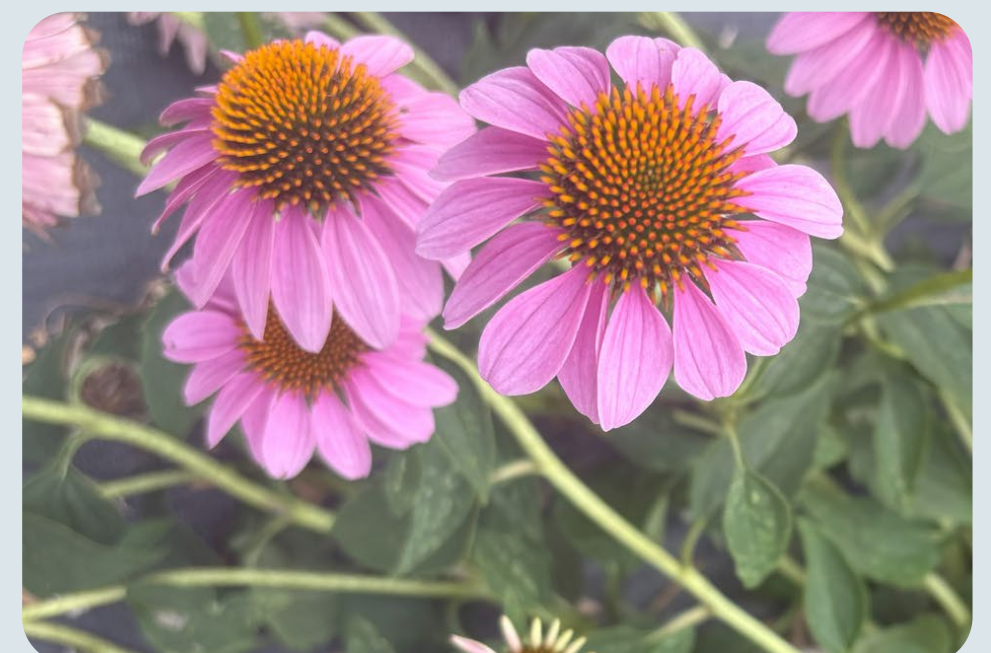
Mortality

- In-season
- Overwintering



Floral Production

- Flower Number
- Stem Length



Flower Quality

- Pest Pressure
- Post-harvest
Performance

Wild Quinine

Parthenium integrifolium

Characteristics

Creamy white

Broad, flat -topped, terminal corymbs

Spring - Summer

2'-4' (h) x 1'-2' (w)

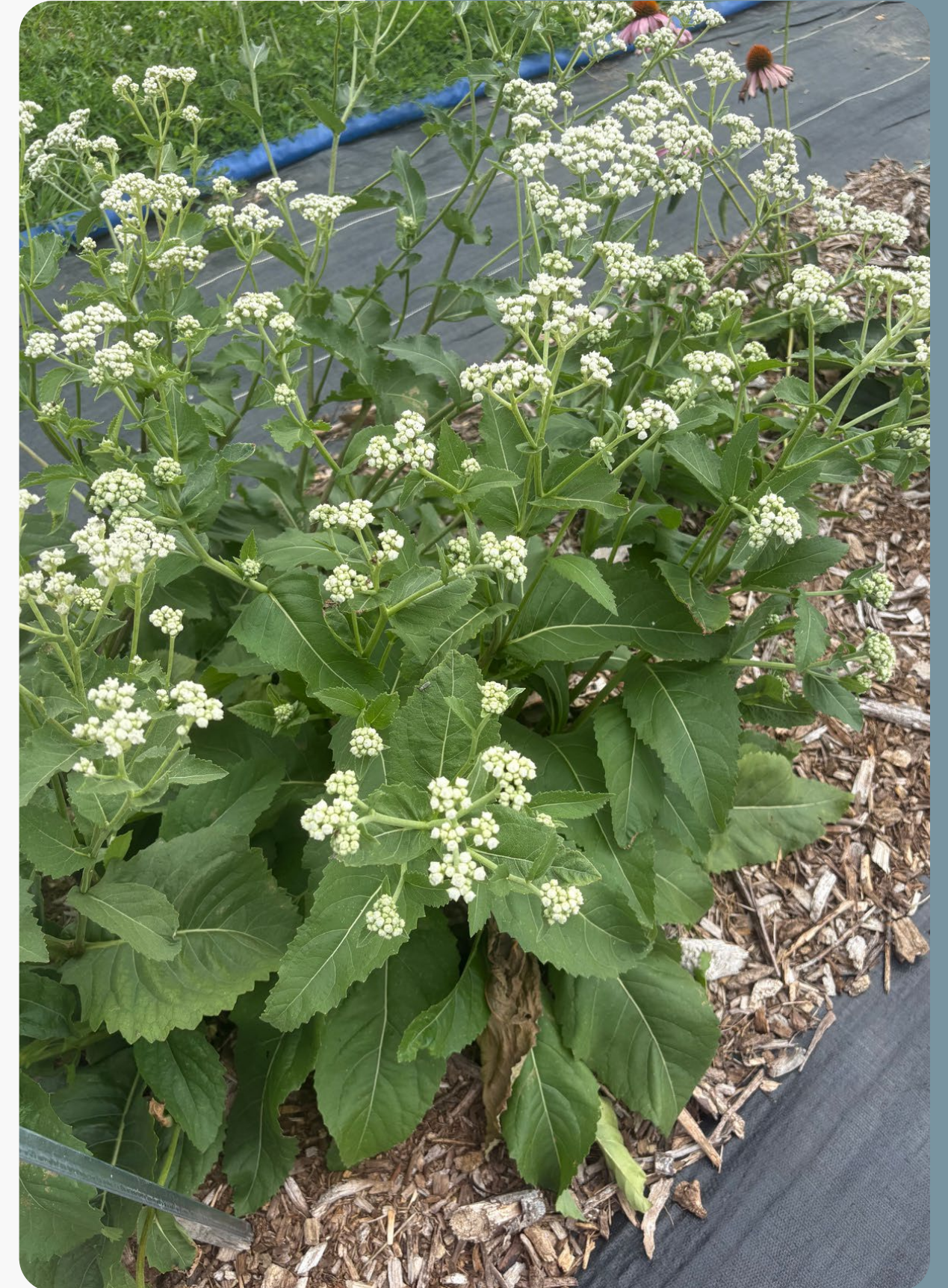
Sun

Y1 Performance:

Avg. 4.5 stems/plant

Avg. 25"/stem (16" -33")

No pests/diseases



Orange Coneflower

Rudbeckia fulgida

Characteristics

Orange -yellow

Branched daisy -like flowers

Summer-Fall

2'-3' (h) x 2'-3' (w)

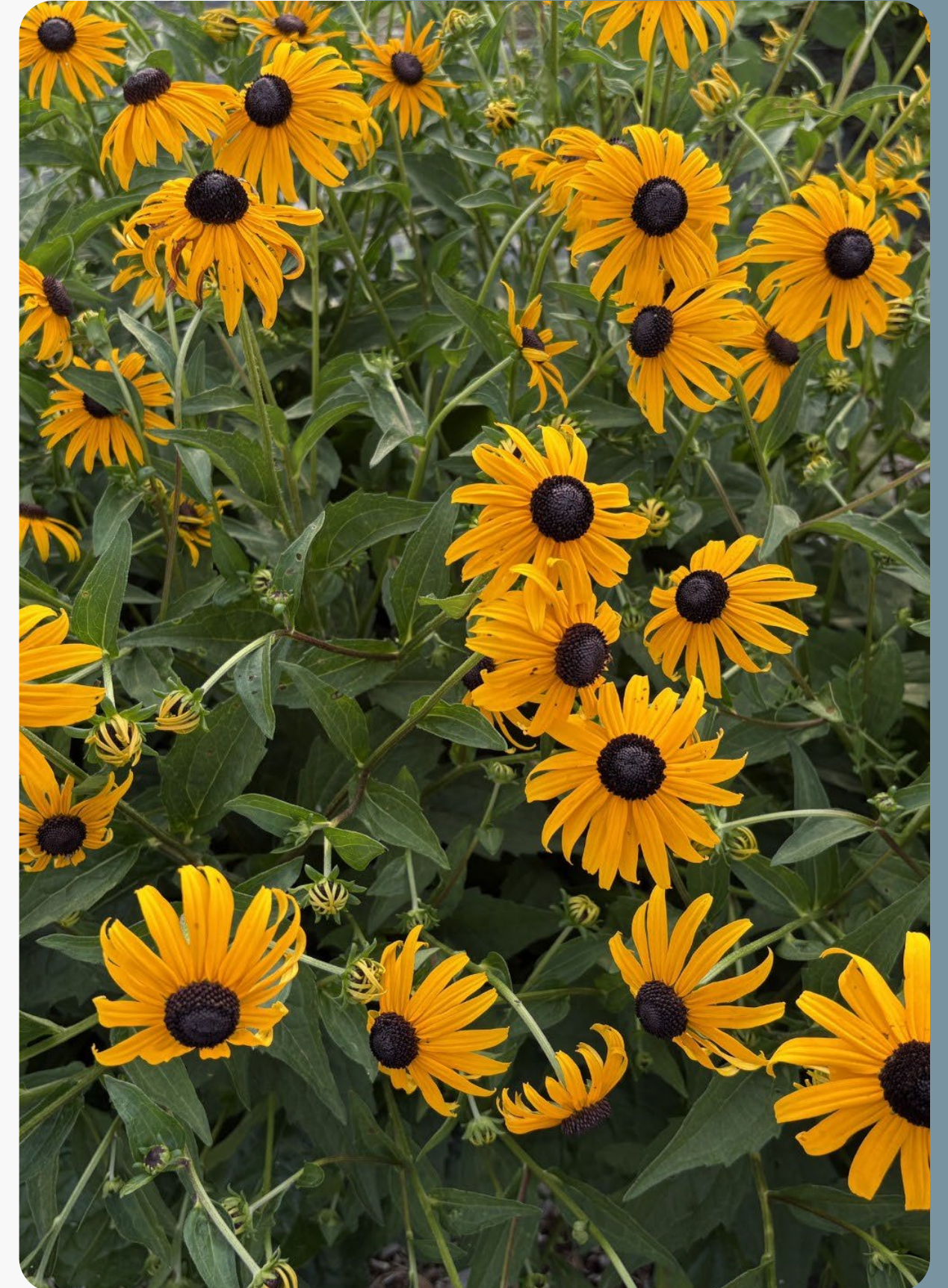
Sun

Y1 Performance:

Avg. 10 stems/plant

Avg. 24"/stem (16 "-30")

No pests/diseases



Culver's Root

Veronicastrum virginicum

Characteristics

White

Branched spikes

Summer

4'-7' (h) x 2'-4' (w)

Sun

Y1 Performance:

Avg. 3 stems/plant

Avg. 16"/stem (10"-28")

No pests/diseases



Hardy Sunflower

Heliopsis helianthoides scabra

Characteristics

Yellow

Daisy-like flowers

Summer

3'-4' (h) x 1.5'-2' (w)

Sun

Y1 Performance:

Avg. 7 stems/plant

Avg. 32"/stem (16" -48")

No pests/diseases

August dieback



Rattlesnake Master

Eryngium yuccifolium

Characteristics

Greenish-white

Globular heads with branching

Summer - Fall

4'-5' (h) x 2'-3' (w)

Sun

Y1 Performance:

Avg. 1 stem/plant

Avg. 28"/stem (16" -36")

No pests/diseases

September flush



Boneset

Eupatorium perfoliatum

Characteristics

Creamy white

Broad, flat -topped, terminal corymbs

Summer - Fall

4'-6' (h) x 3'-4' (w)

Sun to Shade

Y1 Performance:

No pests/diseases



Tennessee Coneflower

Echinacea tennesseensis

Characteristics

Purple

Single flower

Summer

1.5'-2' (h) x 1'-1.5' (w)

Sun to Shade

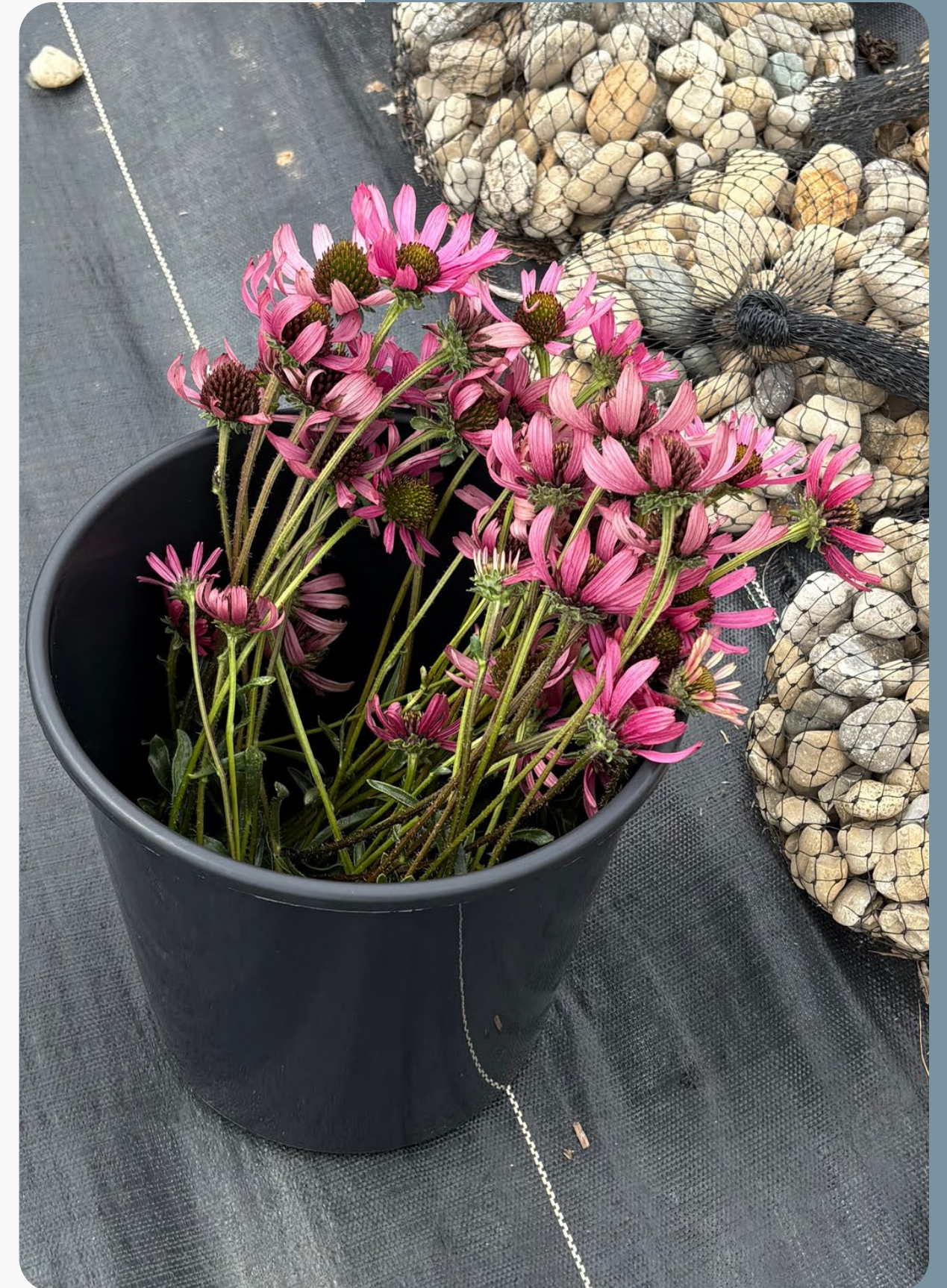
Y1 Performance:

Avg. 11 stems/plant

Avg. 13"/stem (10"-19")

No pests/diseases

Shorter later in season



Mountain Mint

Pycnanthemum spp. (*P. flexuosum*, *P. incanum*, *P. muticum*, *P. pilosum*, *P. tenuifolium*, *P. virginianum*)

Characteristics

Foliage

Non-descript flowers

Summer

1'-3' (h) x 1'-3' (w)

Sun to Shade

Y1 Performance:

No pests/diseases

Needs trellising/corralling



Early Goldenrod

Solidago juncea

Characteristics

Bright yellow

Dense, plume-like panicles

Late summer

2'-4' (h) x 2'-3' (w)

Sun

Y1 Performance:

Avg. 6 stems/plant

Avg. 35"/stem (19" -51")

Some powdery mildew

Summer dieback



Golden Alexanders

Zizia aurea

Characteristics

Bright yellow

Flat-topped clusters

Spring

1.5'-3' (h) x 1.5'-2' (w)

Sun to Shade

Y1 Performance:

Extremely early flowering

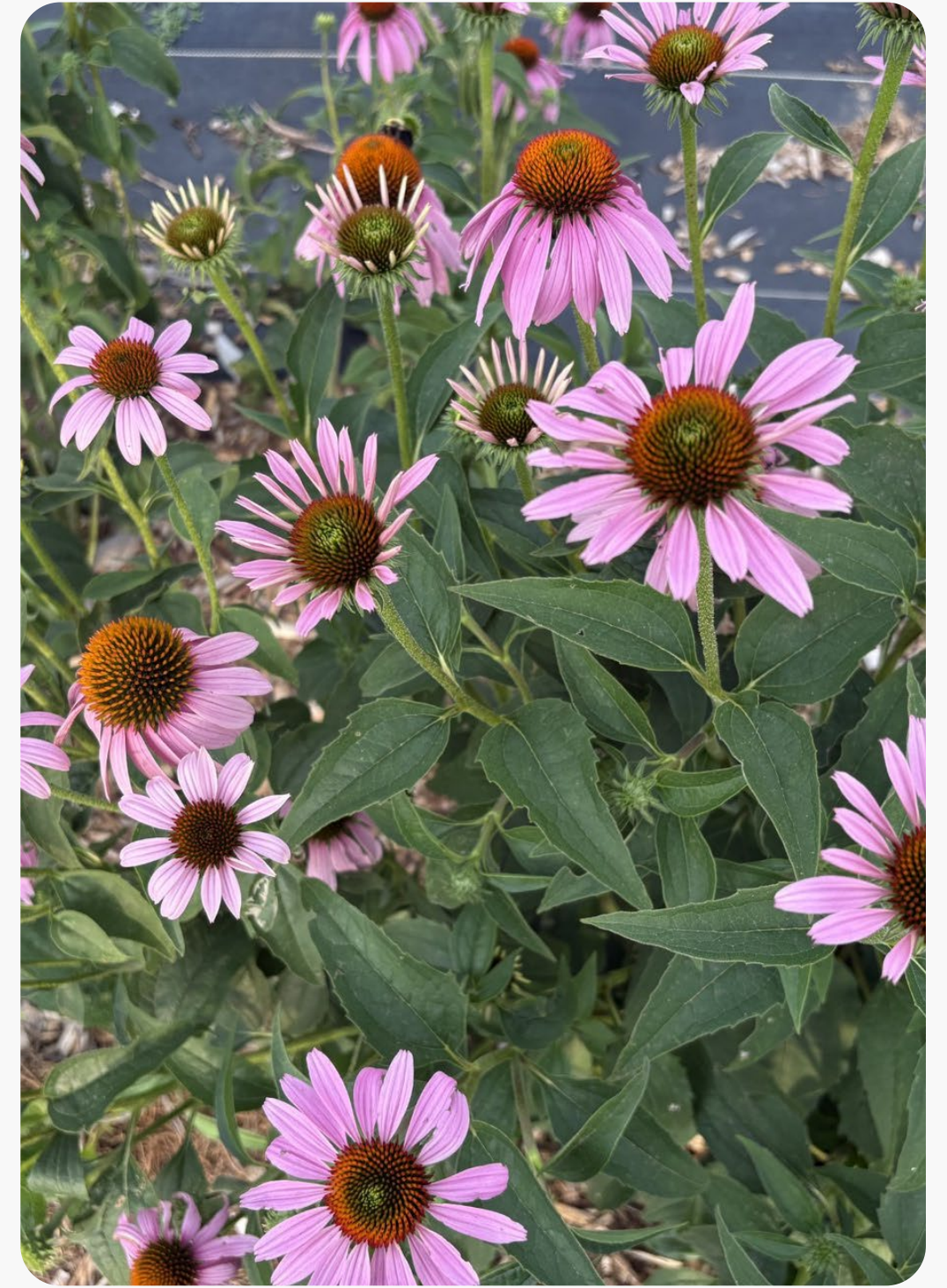
No pests/diseases

Summer dieback

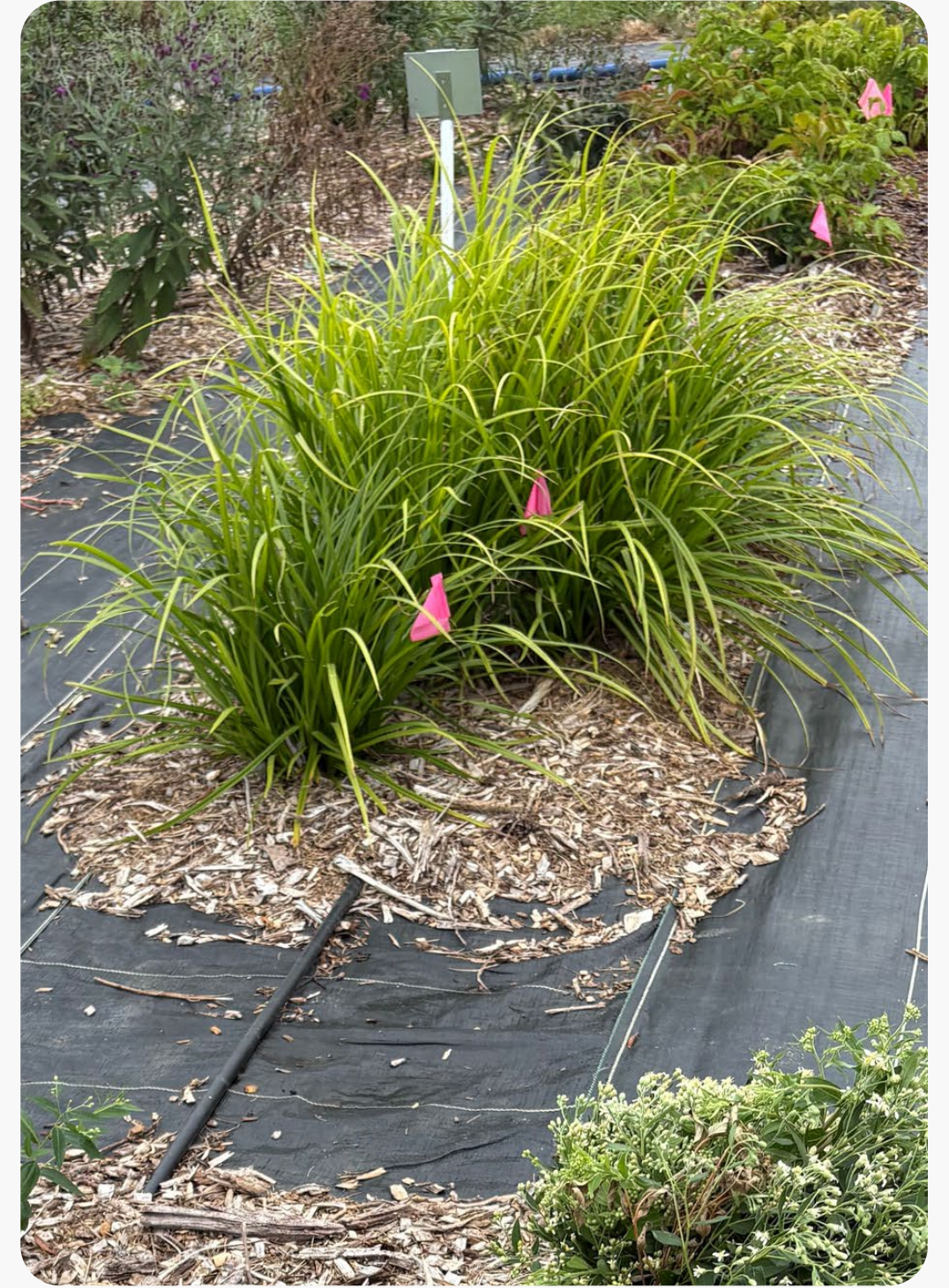


<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org>

Others Worth Mentioning



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Minimal Flowering Year 1



Wild Indigos

Baptisia spp. (B. alba, B. australis, B. sphaerocarpa)

Goatsbeard

Aruncus dioecus

Beebalm

Monarda spp.

Ozark Bluestar

Amosonia illustris

Tall Larkspur

Delphinium exaltatum

Sundial Lupin

Lupinus perennis subsp perennis

Growing Tips



Site selection
Plant selection
Plugs vs seeding
Plant fall or early winter
Initial irrigation
Weed control
Trellising or corraling
Wildlife





KENTUCKY

*Fruit &
Vegetable
Conference*

2026

BOWLING GREEN, KY | JANUARY 11-13



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