

Forbs  
(perennial)

# *Agastache foeniculum*

## Anise Hyssop (perennial)



Photo credit: Prairie Moon  
Nursery

- BLOOM: Purple, June-Sept
- HEIGHT: 3 feet
- LIGHT: Full, partial
- WATER/SOIL: Medium, Med-Dry. Performs well in moist soils, but good drainage is essential. Plants tolerate dry soils, particularly once established.
- HABIT/FORM: clumping, self-sows readily.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Long-bloom season, attracts wide variety of pollinators including butterflies, hummingbirds, honeybees, bumblebees, many native bees
- OTHER: Not ecotypic in CT, but widely used in pollinator gardens. Anise-scented foliage. May be short-lived, but self-seeds. Tolerates deer, rabbits, drought, urban environment. Great for sensory garden.

# *Ageratina altissima*

## White Snakeroot (perennial)



Photo credit: Prairie Moon  
Nursery

- BLOOM: White, Aug-Oct
- HEIGHT: 2 feet
- LIGHT: Partial, Shade
- WATER/SOIL: Thrives in moist, well-drained soils, but can adapt to various soil conditions including dry soils. Grows best in moist soils
- HABIT/Form: Clumping growth habit
- WILDLIFE VALUE: The tiny white flowers attract a variety of insects including bees, butterflies, and moths. A number of caterpillars are known to feed on the foliage, including the Ruby Tiger Moth caterpillar.
- OTHER: The plant contains a toxic substance called tremetol, which can be poisonous to livestock and humans if consumed.

# *Allium cernuum*

## Nodding Wild Onion (perennial)



Photo credit: Prairie Moon  
Nursery

- BLOOM: Pink to lavender, Jul-Aug
- HEIGHT: 12 to 18 inches tall
- LIGHT: Full sun, light shade.
- WATER/SOIL: Grows well in well-drained soils, prefers sandy or rocky soils but adapts to various soil types. It tolerates drought once established.
- HABIT/FORM: Upright, clumping, with nodding flower heads on slender stems.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Highly attractive to pollinators, particularly bees and butterflies, due to its nectar-rich flowers. Also attracts beneficial insects like hoverflies.
- OTHER: It is a low-maintenance plant that is deer-resistant and can naturalize in meadows or rock gardens.

# *Baptisia australis*

## Blue Wild Indigo (perennial)

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Photo credit: Prairie Moon  
Nursery

- BLOOM: Blue to violet, May- Jun
- HEIGHT: 3 to 4 feet tall
- LIGHT: Full sun, light shade.
- WATER/SOIL: Prefers well-drained soils, particularly sandy or loamy soils. It can tolerate poor soils and dry conditions once established.
- HABIT/Form: Upright, bushy, clumping perennial with tall flower spikes.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: In addition to its many pollinators, Wild Blue Indigo is one of the host plants for the Wild Indigo Duskywing.
- OTHER: A nitrogen-fixing plant, enriching the soil by converting nitrogen in the air into a usable form for plants. This plant is also deer-resistant and relatively free of pests and diseases.

# *Anemone virginiana*

## Tall Thimbleweed (perennial)



Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: White, Jun - Aug
- HEIGHT: 3 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial, Shade
- WATER: Med to Dry. Prefers moist, sandy-humusy soils.
- HABIT/FORM: One inch diameter flowers are borne on erect stems above the foliage and feature five, white, petal-like sepals and a thimble-like, center mound of yellowish stamens.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Small bees, small butterflies and small flies visit the flowers.
- OTHER: Deer Resistant, Toxic only if eaten in large quantities. Not as aggressive as some other anemone species.

# *Aquilegia canadensis*

## Eastern Columbine (perennial)



Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: Red-yellow, May-Jun
- HEIGHT: 2 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial, Shade
- WATER: Medium to Dry
- SOIL: Sandy, well-drained, medium loam, sandy loam, limestone-based, humusy
- HABIT/FORM: Grows in a bushy, upright clump.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: The nectar in the plant's flower spurs attracts hummingbirds, bumblebees, hawk moths, and other long-tongued insects. Host plant for some butterflies.
- OTHER: Deer Resistant, highly recommended for the home garden.

# *Amsonia hubrichtii*

## Ozark or Threadleaf Bluestar (perennial)



Photo credit: Missouri Botanical Garden

- BLOOM: Pale blue, April-June
- HEIGHT: 2-3 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER: Medium
- SOIL: Average, well-drained
- HABIT/FORM: erect, clumping
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Attracts bees and butterflies. Host plant for the Snowberry Clearwing.
- OTHER: Not ecotypic in CT, but popular for landscaping. Deer and rabbit-resistant, Brilliant yellow fall color. Blooms slightly later than *Amsonia tabernaemontana*.



# *Asarum canadense*

## Canadian Wild Ginger (perennial)



Photo credit: Doug Sherman,  
NPIN ID 2820

- BLOOM: Reddish-brown, Apr-June
- HEIGHT: 4-8 inches
- LIGHT: Part, Shade
- WATER: Med-Wet to Medium
- SOIL: Moist, rich, pH 6-7 best
- HABIT/FORM: Spreading low groundcover
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Pollinated by ants that also disperse seed after eating the fatty elaisome. Larval host for Pipevine Swallowtail butterfly.
- OTHER: Leave are less glossy than European ginger. Excellent low groundcover for eastern woodlands, shade gardens

# *Asclepias incarnata*

## Swamp or Rose Milkweed (perennial)



Photo credit: Prairie Moon  
Nursery

- BLOOM: Pink, July-August
- HEIGHT: 4 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER: Wet to Medium
- SOIL: Neutral to slightly acidic, including heavy clay soils
- HABIT/FORM: Clump-forming (not rhizomatous)
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Attracts many insects and butterflies seeking nectar. A larval host plant for Monarch butterflies.
- OTHER: While naturally found in wet sites, it adapts well to average garden conditions. Good choice for small gardens (alternative to common milkweed). Pair with blue flag iris, boneset, blue vervain, New England aster.

# *Asclepias tuberosa*

## Butterfly Milkweed (perennial)



Photo credit: Prairie Moon  
Nursery

- BLOOM: Orange, June-Sept (main bloom in early summer)
- HEIGHT: 2-3 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER: Medium to Dry
- SOIL: sandy, rocky, infertile, but must be well-drained
- HABIT/FORM: bushy clump
- WILDLIFE VALUE: All color forms (including yellow, red) are attractive to pollinators. Larval host for Monarch butterflies.
- OTHER: Plant in groups since clumps are slow to form. Tuberous tap root makes transplanting difficult.

# *Baptisia tinctoria*

## Small Yellow Wild Indigo (perennial)



Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: Yellow, June-August
- HEIGHT: 2 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER: Med-wet to Dry
- SOIL: Usually found in dry, sandy and barren soils. Tolerates drought and average to poor, well drained soil.
- HABIT/FORM: Round, shrub-like shape and may occasionally spread via rhizomes
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Attracts bees and butterflies. It also hosts moth and butterfly larvae, including the Io moth, Indigo Duskywing, Orange Sulfur, and Frosted Elfin butterflies. The Wild Indigo Dusky Winged butterfly larvae can only be found on this plant. The plant's bushy shape also provides cover for songbirds.
- OTHER: Deer Resistant, highly recommended for the home garden.

# *Coreopsis tripteris*

## Tall Coreopsis (perennial)



- BLOOM: Yellow, Jul-Oct
- HEIGHT: 7 feet
- LIGHT: Full - Partial
- WATER: Med-Wet to Med-Dry
- SOIL: Thrives in poor, sandy or rocky soils with good drainage.
- HABIT/FORM: Features solitary, yellow, daisy-like flowers. Tends to sprawl.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: The flowers of *Coreopsis tripteris* attract pollinators such as butterflies and bees. Seeds are eaten by birds.
- OTHER: Tall Coreopsis can be aggressive, especially in recently disturbed, moist soils, and therefore may not be suitable for small landscape plantings.

Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

# *Coreopsis verticillata* 'Zagreb'

## Zagreb Threadleaf Coreopsis (perennial)



Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: Yellow, June-Sept
- HEIGHT: 1.5-2 feet
- LIGHT: Full
- WATER: Medium to Dry
- SOIL: Plants thrive in infertile sandy and rocky soils and tolerate drought, low levels of salt, infertile soil, heat, and humidity.
- HABIT/FORM: Spreads by rhizomes.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Attracts a variety of pollinators, including bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Coreopsis seed heads attract birds, especially if the plants are allowed to form seeds.
- OTHER: Deer Resistant. A popular garden flower since the 19th century. 'Zagreb' is shorter than the straight species and uniform in height. It scored more pollinator visits than the straight species in research conducted by Dr. E.J.Holcomb, Penn State University Extension (2015).

# *Doellingeria umbellata*

## Tall White Aster (perennial)

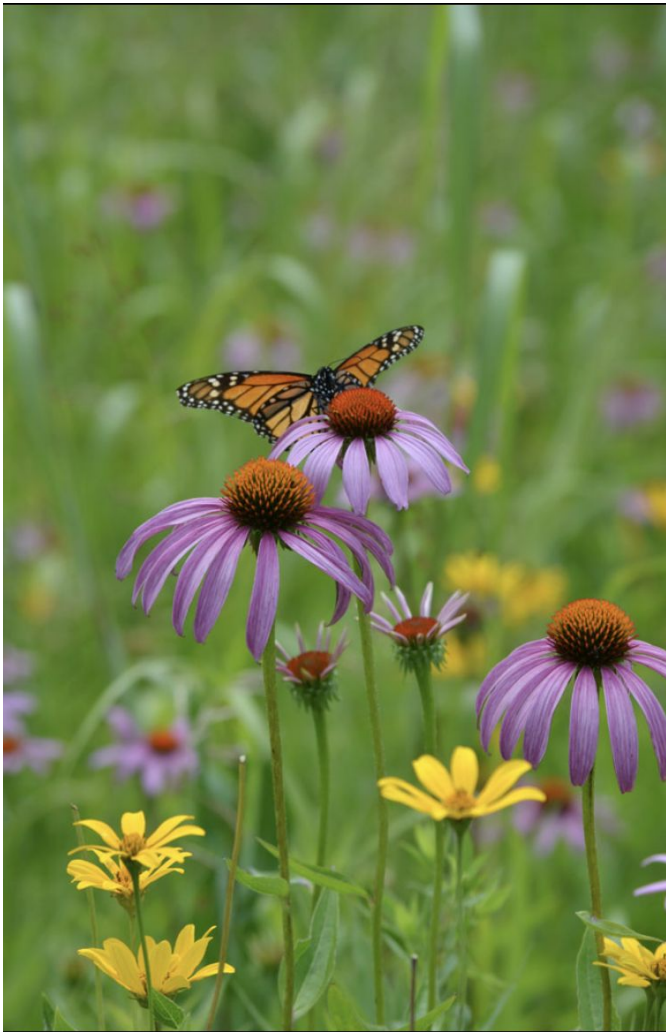


- BLOOM: White with yellow centers, Aug-Sep
- HEIGHT: 3-6 feet
- LIGHT: Full - Partial
- SOIL: Grows best in moist, well-drained soils but can tolerate average soils. It thrives in habitats such as wetlands, meadows, and forest edges.
- HABIT/Form: Upright, clump-forming perennial with flat-topped clusters of small daisy-like flowers.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: A wide variety of pollinators are attracted to the nectar and pollen of the flowers. These species include long- and short-tongued bees, wasps, flies, beetles and butterflies. But, larger animals, like swamp sparrows, wild turkey, white-tailed deer and cottontail rabbits, also enjoy the foliage.
- OTHER: Is rhizomatous, meaning it spreads by underground rhizomes as well as by seed.

Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

# *Echinacea purpurea*

## Purple Coneflower (perennial)



- BLOOM: Purple, Jul-Sep
- HEIGHT: 4 feet
- LIGHT: Full - Partial
- SOIL: Prefers well-drained soils but is adaptable to a range of soil types, including clay, sandy, or loamy soils. It is drought-tolerant once established.
- HABIT/FORM: Upright, clump-forming perennial with sturdy stems and large, daisy-like flowers.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Highly attractive to a variety of pollinators, especially bees and butterflies, due to its abundant nectar. The seed heads also attract birds, particularly finches, in the fall and winter.
- OTHER: It is drought-tolerant, deer-resistant, and can naturalize in the garden without being aggressive.

Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery



# *Eryngium yuccifolium*

## Rattlesnake Master (perennial)



Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: Greenish White, Jul-Sep
- HEIGHT: 4 feet
- LIGHT: Full Sun
- SOIL: Prefers dryish, sandy soils. Self-seeds in optimum growing conditions.
- HABIT/FORM: This is a taprooted plant which transplants poorly and is best left undisturbed once established.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Small native bees, moths and flies will nectar on Rattlesnake Master. Rattlesnake Master is one of the host plants of the Black Swallowtail.
- OTHER: Taller plants may need support.

# Blue Mistflower (perennial)

## *Eupatorium coelostinum*



Photo credit: Prairie Moon  
Nurseries

- BLOOM: Light blue, Sept-Oct
- HEIGHT: 2 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER/SOIL: Prefers soil rich in organic matter that stays consistently moist, but tolerates alkaline, heavy clay soils. Grows in drier sites with light shade.
- HABIT/FORM: Compact form, rapid rhizomatous growth into large colonies or groundcover.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Important nectar source for migrating butterflies and skippers. Nectar and pollen source for native bees.
- OTHER: Erosion control, butterfly and pollinator gardens. Deer resistant. Not ecotypic in CT.

# *Eupatorium hyssopifolium*

## Hyssop-leaved Thoroughwort (perennial)



Photo: Doug McGrady, Flickr

- BLOOM: White, June-Sept
- HEIGHT: 3 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER: Medium to Dry
- SOIL: Plants thrives in a variety of well-drained soils but does best in dry, sandy soils.
- HABIT/FORM: Clumping habit. It spreads by rhizomes and self-seeds.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Eupatoriums are larval host plants to 35 species of butterflies and moths.
- OTHER: It is tolerant of drought, deer, rabbits, salt and urban conditions.

# *Eupatorium perfoliatum*

## Boneset (perennial)



Photo credit: North Creek  
Nurseries

- BLOOM: White, July-Sept
- HEIGHT: 4 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER/SOIL: It prefers soil rich in organic matter that stays consistently moist, adapts well to average garden conditions.
- HABIT/FORM: Will slowly spread by means of rhizomes to form large clumps and small colonies.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Attracts birds and butterflies. Of special value to native bees and beneficial insects
- OTHER: Well-behaved and low maintenance. Long bloom period. Very cold hardy.

# *Eurybia macrophylla*

## Big-leaved Aster (perennial)



Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: White, August-October
- HEIGHT: 12 inches
- LIGHT: Partial to Shade
- WATER: Medium-wet to Dry
- SOIL: Aster macrophyllus is common to northern woodlands, where it often forms a dense ground cover.
- HABIT/FORM: Spreads by rhizomes.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Attracts butterflies and larval host of the Pearl Crescent (*Phyciodes tharos*).
- OTHER: Could overwhelm small landscapes. Leaves are showier than the flowers.

# *Eurybia spectabilis*

## Showy Aster (perennial)



Photo: Go Botany

- BLOOM: Light purple, August-October
- HEIGHT: 12 inches
- LIGHT: Full Sun - Partial Shade
- WATER: Medium-wet to Dry
- SOIL: Does well in sand or clay and is drought tolerant.
- HABIT/FORM: Aster spectabilis is a softly sprawling perennial that forms colonies from underground rhizomes. Flowers are relatively large for small plants.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Flower heads are frequented by bees and butterflies.
- OTHER: Deer Resistant.

# *Eutrochium dubium*

## Coastal Plain Joe-Pye Weed (perennial)



- BLOOM: Deep pink to purple, July-Sept
- HEIGHT: 2-5 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER/SOIL: Loves moisture, even occasional flooding. Prefers well-drained soil but tolerates some clay.
- HABIT/FORM: Smallest of the Joe-Pye weeds, with a clumping habit suitable for garden settings
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Nectar-rich flowers attract many pollinators.
- OTHER: More shade-tolerant than *E. maculatum*. May be browsed by deer.

Photo Credit: © 2010 Amanda McClean, IzelPlants.com

# *Eutrochium fistulosum*

## Hollow Joe Pye Weed (perennial)



Photo: Missouri Botanical  
Garden

- BLOOM: Purple, Jul-Sep
- HEIGHT: 6 feet
- LIGHT: Full, partial, shade
- WATER: Wet, Medium-Wet
- SOIL: Temporary standing water is tolerated. Typical habitats include wet sand prairies, seeps, soggy thickets, and shorelines.
- HABIT/FORM: It is an erect and clump-forming plant.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Host plant for 32 species of Lepidoptera larvae, including wavy-lined emerald moth, clymene moth, and red-humped caterpillar moth.
- OTHER: Taller plants may need support, esp in shade.



# *Eutrochium maculatum*

## Spotted Joe-Pye Weed (perennial)



Photo credit: Prairie Moon  
Nursery

- BLOOM: Pink, Lilac, Purple, July-Sept
- HEIGHT: 6 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER/SOIL: Loves moisture, even occasional flooding. Prefers well-drained soil but tolerates some clay.
- HABIT/FORM: Rigid Stems topped by domed flower clusters spread by rhizomes to form colonies
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Nectar-rich flowers attract many pollinators.
- OTHER: Flowers best in full sun. Plant with New York ironweed and Boneset in wet meadows or near water's edge

# *Eutrochium purpureum*

## Sweet Joe Pye Weed (perennial)



Photo: New Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: Pink to pale purple, August-Sept
- HEIGHT: 2 feet
- LIGHT: Partial (more shade tolerant than other Joe Pye-weeds)
- WATER: Medium to Dry
- SOIL: Well-drained, clay, loamy, or sandy soils. It can also grow in slightly acidic to circumneutral pH levels.
- HABIT/FORM: Spreads vigorously by rhizomes.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: The flowers attract bees and butterflies, and the seeds are eaten by birds and small mammals. It's also a host plant for the Pearl Crescent and Checkerspot butterflies.
- OTHER: Deer Resistant. Shearing the plant to 6 inches in early summer produces a more compact plant.

# *Fragaria virginiana*

## Wild Strawberry (perennial)



Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: White, May-June
- HEIGHT: 6 inches
- LIGHT: Full, Partial, Shade
- WATER: Med Wet to Dry. Grows in a wide variety of soil conditions.
- HABIT/FORM: Clumps that spreads indefinitely by runners (stolons) which root to form new plants as they sprawl along the ground, often forming large colonies over time.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Supports 75+ species of butterflies and moths throughout their life cycles, supplying food for caterpillars and nectar for adult insects. The fruits attract chipmunks, squirrels, and birds.
- OTHER: Deer Resistant, Great lawn replacement.
- CHECK OUT THIS PODCAST:  
<https://awaytogarden.com/rethinking-the-lawn-with-ecological-horticulturist-dan-wilder/>

# *Helenium autumnale*

## Common Sneezeweed (perennial)



Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: Yellow, August-October
- HEIGHT: 4 feet
- LIGHT: Full - Partial
- WATER: Wet to Med-wet
- SOIL: Moist, well-drained, slightly acidic soil with a pH between 5.5 and 7.0
- HABIT/FORM: Clump-forming, upright perennial with an erect habit and winged, branching stems.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Sneezeweed is one of the host plants of the Dainty Sulphur.
- OTHER: Highly recommended for the home landscape. Deer Resistant.

# *Helenium flexuosum*

## Purple-headed Sneezeweed (perennial)



- BLOOM: Yellow, Aug-Oct
- HEIGHT: 3 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER: Wet to Med
- SOIL: average, moist
- HABIT/FORM: erect, clump-forming,
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Attractive to long-tongued bees, short-tongued bees, wasps, flies, butterflies, and skippers. Larval host for 7 species.
- OTHER: Good rain garden plant, unpalatable to mammalian herbivores

Photo credit: Prairie Moon  
Nursery

# *Helianthus decapetalus*

## Thinleaf sunflower (perennial)



Photo: New Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: Yellow, July-August
- HEIGHT: 6 feet
- LIGHT: Full - Partial
- WATER: Med-wet to Dry
- SOIL: Prefers evenly moist, loamy, well-drained soils, but can tolerate some drought after establishing itself.
- HABIT/FORM: Erect
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Flowers are visited by bees, butterflies other pollinators. This is a larval host plant that supports Silvery Checkerspot (*Chlosyne nycteis*).
- OTHER: Use this plant in a naturalized area, woodland edge or meadow. Great for naturalizing. Deer and rabbits will nibble this plant.

# *Helianthus pauciflorus*

## Stiff or Showy Sunflower (perennial)



Photo: New Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: Yellow, Aug-Oct
- HEIGHT: 4 feet
- LIGHT: Full - Partial
- SOIL: Prefers well-drained soils, tolerates dry, sandy, or rocky soils, and is drought-tolerant once established.
- HABIT/FORM: Upright, clumping perennial with stiff stems and large sunflower-like blooms.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Attracts a wide variety of pollinators, especially bees and butterflies, due to its large, nectar-rich flowers. Seeds provide food for birds, especially in late fall and winter.
- OTHER: The plant is also deer-resistant and provides excellent habitat for various pollinators, making it a valuable addition to native plant gardens or wildlife-friendly landscapes.

# *Hibiscus moscheutos*

## Swamp rose mallow (perennial)



Photo credit: New England Wetland  
Plants

- BLOOM: Pink to White with red eye, July-August
- HEIGHT: 3-7 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER: Wet to Med-Wet
- SOIL: coarse to fine, organically rich
- HABIT/FORM: multi-stemmed shrub-like form
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Showy, 6-inch blooms are pollinated by bees. Good food source for many species of birds, including hummingbirds.
- OTHER: Moderate salt tolerance. Plant as a living fence, hedgerow. Use in riparian buffer or wet meadow.



# *Iris versicolor*

## Blue Flag Iris (perennial)



- BLOOM: Blue, June-July
- HEIGHT: 2.5-3 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER: Wet to Med
- SOIL: muddy or humusy soils
- HABIT/FORM: fans of sword-shaped leaves, rhizomatous
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.
- OTHER: Showy flowers, sculptural foliage. Roots are poisonous to humans and animals (may cause skin irritation).

Photo credit: Prairie Moon Nursery

# *Lobelia cardinalis*

## Cardinal Flower (perennial)



- BLOOM: Red, July-Sept
- HEIGHT: 2-3 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER: Wet to Med
- SOIL: moist soils, germinates in disturbed areas with bare soil
- HABIT/Form: Flower spikes open from bottom to top over several weeks. Sometimes short-lived but can reseed to maintain itself.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.
- OTHER: Showy flowers. Deer resistant. Encourage reseeding by lightly raking soil around base of plants

# *Monarda fistulosa*

## Wild Bergamot (perennial)



Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: Purple, June-Aug
- HEIGHT: 4 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER: Med Wet - Dry, good drainage.
- HABIT/FORM: Clump-forming. Self sows easily.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Favorite of butterflies, bees and hummingbirds. Wild bergamot is also one of the host plants of the Raspberry pyrausta butterfly.
- OTHER: Tolerates deer, rabbits, drought, black walnut. Great plant for sensory garden.

# *Opuntia cespitosa*

## Tufted prickly pear (perennial)



Photo credit: SR Turner

- BLOOM: Bright yellow with reddish centers, Jun-Jul
- HEIGHT: 6-18 inches
- LIGHT: Full Sun
- SOIL: Prefers well-drained, sandy, or rocky soils. It thrives in dry conditions and is highly drought-tolerant.
- HABIT/FORM: Low-growing, spreading succulent with flattened, pad-like stems (also known as cladodes) covered in spines.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Attracts many bees and butterflies.
- OTHER: Produces small, edible fruits that ripen in late summer or early fall, which can be used in jams or eaten fresh.

# *Opuntia humifusa*

## Eastern prickly pear (perennial)



Photo credit: Lydia Pan

- BLOOM: Yellow, Early summer
- HEIGHT: 6-18 inches
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER: Med-Dry to Dry
- SOIL: Coarse, sandy or rocky mineral soils, well-drained
- HABIT/FORM: Spreads rhizomatously to form colonies
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Attracts many bees bumblebees and sweat bees.
- OTHER: New England's only native cactus (winter hardy). Moderate salt tolerance. Succulent pads lack spines but have fine bristles (glochids) that can get embedded in skin. Evergreen.

# *Packera obovata*

## Running groundsel (perennial)



Photo credit: Lydia Pan

- BLOOM: Yellow, April-May
- HEIGHT: 12-18 inches (in bloom)
- LIGHT: Sun, Partial, Shade
- WATER: Moist to Dry
- SOIL: grows in a wide range of soils, acidic to neutral, average moist, well-drained to dry-mesic, loam, sand, clay, gravel/rock
- HABIT/FORM: Spreads via stolons to form colonies
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Important early season food source for native bees.
- OTHER: Basal foliage forms an attractive, semi-evergreen ground cover (4-6" tall) Deer-resistant.

# *Penstemon digitalis*

## Foxglove Beardtongue (perennial)



Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: White, pale pink or lavender, June-July
- HEIGHT: 4 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER: Med to Med Dry. Prefers wet or moist acid loamy soil.
- HABIT/FORM: The plant forms clumps but will self-sow.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Attracts long-tongued bees, honeybees, bumblebees, miner bees, mason bees, and hummingbirds.
- OTHER: Deer Resistant. Highly recommended for home landscapes. Seed heads provide winter interest

# ***Penstemon hirsutus***

## ***Hairy Beardtongue (perennial)***



Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: Purple, June - Sept
- HEIGHT: 18 inches
- LIGHT: Full, Partial, Shade
- WATER: Med Wet to Dry.
- HABIT/FORM: The plant forms clumps but will self-sow.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: The nectar attracts bumblebees, butterflies and hummingbirds.
- OTHER: Deer Resistant, Highly recommended for home landscapes. Wonderful rock garden and rain garden plant. Seed heads provide winter interest.



# *Penstemon pallidus*

## Pale Beardtongue (perennial)



Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: White, May-Jun
- HEIGHT: 12 inches
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- SOIL: Thrives in well-drained soils, particularly in sandy, rocky, or loamy soils. It is drought-tolerant once established.
- HABIT/FORM: Upright, clumping perennial with slender stems and tubular flowers.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: The nectar attracts bumblebees, butterflies and hummingbirds.
- OTHER: Drought-tolerant and deer-resistant, making it a great option for low-maintenance gardens and xeriscapes.

# *Phlox paniculata* “Jeana”

## Garden Phlox (shrub)



Photo: Gardenia.net

- BLOOM: White, May
- HEIGHT: 6-8 feet
- LIGHT: Full - Partial
- WATER: Average - Wet
- SOIL: Wetlands, Upland Wetlands
- HABIT/FORM: Bogs, cliffs, balds, or ledges, fens, meadows and fields, shores of rivers or lakes, swamps, wetland margins
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Flowers attract many pollinating insects and fruits feed numerous local songbirds in winter.
- OTHER: Protect from deer browse!

# *Potentilla canadensis*

## Dwarf Cinquefoil (perennial)



Photo: Lady Bird Johnson

- BLOOM: Bright yellow, Apr-Jun
- HEIGHT: 3 to 6 inches tall
- LIGHT: Full - Partial
- SOIL: Grows well in a wide range of soil conditions, including dry, sandy, or rocky soils. It prefers well-drained soils and is drought-tolerant.
- HABIT/FORM: Low-growing, mat-forming perennial with trailing stems and small, five-petaled yellow flowers
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Attracts small bees, particularly native bees, and some butterflies, which are drawn to its nectar and pollen.
- OTHER: It is useful for erosion control on slopes due to its mat-forming, spreading nature.

# *Pycnanthemum incanum*

## Hoary Mountain Mint (perennial)



Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: White or Purple, July-Sept
- HEIGHT: 3 feet
- LIGHT: Full - Partial
- WATER: Medium to Med-Dry
- SOIL: Thrives in acidic sites with rocky, gravelly or sandy soil. Plants tolerate part sun, clay, heat and drought.
- HABIT/FORM: *Pycnanthemum incanum* spreads to form small colonies and so is better suited for larger gardens or meadow and prairie plantings than a tidy garden.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Attracts a wide variety of pollinators and predatory and parasitoid insects that help control pests.
- OTHER: Strongly minty foliage is generally unpalatable to deer and other mammalian herbivores.

# *Pycnanthemum muticum*

## Clustered Mountain Mint (perennial)

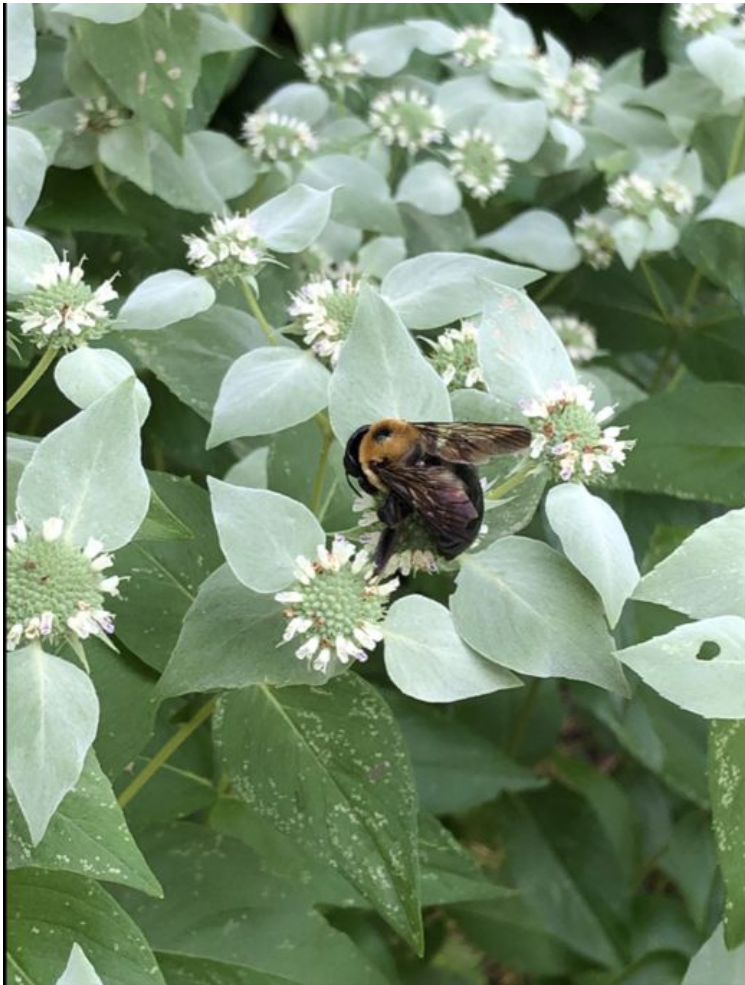


Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: Pink, July-Sept
- HEIGHT: 3 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER: Med to Med Dry. Clay Loam to Sandy Loam
- HABIT/FORM: Spreads by rhizomes
- WILDLIFE VALUE: A key plant for the pollinator garden, it blooms over a long period and is visited by many native bees, butterflies, and other small insect pollinators.
- OTHER: Deer & Rabbit Resistant.

# *Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*

## Slender Mountain Mint (perennial)



Photo © Uli Lorimer

- BLOOM: White, June-Sept
- HEIGHT: 2 feet
- LIGHT: Sun, Partial
- WATER: Med to Dry
- SOIL: acid, average, loam, sand, gravel/rock
- HABIT/FORM: Multi-branching stems. Spreads via rhizomes to form colonies
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Pollinator magnet for bees, flies, wasps, butterflies.
- OTHER: Fine, needle-like foliage has strong mint aroma. Deer-resistant. Rock garden plant. Use to fill between robust clump-forming wildflowers and grasses.

# ***Rudbeckia hirta***

## ***Black-eyed Susan (biennial)***



Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: Yellow, June-Oct
- HEIGHT: 2 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER: Med Wet to Med Dry. Clay Loam to Sandy Loam. Tolerates drought.
- HABIT/Form: Blooms and completes its life cycle in its second year but will persist by re-seeding.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Key pollinator plant attracts native bees, pollinating flies, beneficial wasps and butterflies. Host plant to Silvery Checkerspot Butterfly. Seeds are consumed by goldfinches.
- OTHER: Deer & Rabbit Resistant. Highly recommended for home landscapes. Plants will self-seed readily.

# *Rudbeckia subtomentosa*

## Sweet Coneflower (perennial)



Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons

- BLOOM: Yellow, July-Oct
- HEIGHT: 5 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER: Med-Wet to Med-Dry
- SOIL: Average (not drought-tolerant)
- HABIT/FORM: erect
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Pollinator favorite (attracts bees, beetles, butterflies, skippers), seed eaten by birds.
- OTHER: Not ecotypic in CT. Long-lived perennial with a long season of bloom. More shade-tolerant than most Rudbeckias. Good cut flowers, fragrant, stream margin plant.



# *Ruellia humilis*

## Wild Petunia (perennial)



Photo credit: Lydia Pan

- BLOOM: Lavender, Lilac, June-Sept
- HEIGHT: 1-2 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial (favor sun)
- WATER: Med to Dry,
- SOIL: Intolerant of wet feet and full shade, but will grow under just about any other conditions
- HABIT/FORM: Compact, bushy, blooms profusely.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Larval host for common Buckeye butterfly.
- OTHER: Not ecotypic in CT. Spreads by seed that is ejected forcefully from ripe pods. Rock garden or mass planting at front of bed.

# *Sanguinaria canadensis*

Bloodroot (perennial, spring ephemeral )



Photo credit: Lydia Pan

- BLOOM: White, Mar-April
- HEIGHT: 6 inches in bloom (mature leaves reach 1-2 feet)
- LIGHT: Part, Shade
- WATER/SOIL: Rapidly forms colonies in moist, well-drained, humus-rich soil
- HABIT/FORM: Single leaf emerges wrapped around the flower bud. Flower opens (lasts 1 day only) before leaf unfurls. Leaves form an attractive groundcover until plants go dormant in mid-late summer.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Seeds dispersed by ants (after consuming fatty elaiosome).
- OTHER: Deer-resistant. Contains toxic alkaloids; red sap in roots and stems may irritate skin.

# *Scrophularia lanceolata*

## Early Figwort (perennial)



Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: Red, Green, May-July
- HEIGHT: 5 feet
- LIGHT: Partial, Shade
- WATER: Med Wet to Dry.
- HABIT/Form: Herbaceous, clumping habit.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Attracts a huge number of bees, wasps, flies, and hummingbirds – especially when planted in large clusters. Special value to native bees.
- OTHER: Rarely browsed upon by herbivores. Woodlands, rain garden

# *Senna hebecarpa*

## Wild Senna (perennial)



- BLOOM: Yellow, July-Aug
- HEIGHT: 5 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER/SOIL: Moist to average soil, sand to heavier loam.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Flowers attract bees and butterflies. Important larval host for several species of Sulphur Butterflies. Seeds eaten by turkeys and large birds.
- OTHER: For a legume, the flowers are not typically pea-like. Ripe pods split and drop seeds. Strong roots support stems in high wind.

Photo credit: Prairie Moon  
Nursery

# *Solidago bicolor*

## White Goldenrod (perennial)



Photo: North Carolina Botanical Garden

- BLOOM: White July-October
- HEIGHT: 3 feet
- LIGHT: Partial to shade
- WATER: Med-wet to Med-Dry
- SOIL: Grows well in dry, often poor, soil and prefers soil with a heavy clay content.
- HABIT/FORM: Has a narrow, upright, clumping habit form. Blossoms climb the stem in a spiral formation.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Attracts a wide variety of pollinators and is a host plant for 122 species of Lepidoptera larvae, including the Wavy-lined Emerald (*Synchlora aerata*).
- OTHER: Deer and rabbit resistant.

# *Solidago caesia*

## Blue-stemmed Goldenrod (perennial)



Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: Yellow, August-October
- HEIGHT: 3 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial, Shade
- WATER: Med - Med Dry, tolerates poor, dry soils.
- HABIT/FORM: Forms attractive loose clumps with arching stems and long, thin leaves (also called wreath goldenrod). Does not spread aggressively.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Important late season nectar plant for bees and butterflies.
- OTHER: Tolerates Deer, Drought, Clay Soil.

# *Solidago flexicaulis*

## Zig Zag Goldenrod (perennial)



Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: Yellow, August-October
- HEIGHT: 3 feet
- LIGHT: Partial to shade
- WATER: Med-wet to Dry
- SOIL: Moist, Dry, Mesic, Loamy, Clay, Rocky, Sand, and Acidic
- HABIT/FORM: Has a vase-shaped habit and forms dense colonies through spreading rhizomes.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Attracts a wide variety of pollinators and is host plant for many moth caterpillars as well as the bilobed dichomeris, brown hooded owlet, and twirler moth.
- OTHER: Deer and rabbit resistant. Can be aggressive and may not be suitable for small woodland gardens.

# *Solidago odora*

## Sweet Goldenrod (perennial)



Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: Yellow, August-September
- HEIGHT: 3 feet
- LIGHT: Full - Partial
- WATER: Medium to Med-Dry
- SOIL: Tolerates drought, controlled burns and sandy, loamy, clay or gravelly soils.
- HABIT/FORM: Upright clumping perennial wildflower with glossy anise scented foliage.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Attracts a wide variety of pollinators including solitary blue-winged wasps, beneficial pollinators that also help control Japanese beetles.
- OTHER: Deer and rabbit resistant. Nice fall addition to any dry, even sandy, garden because it does not spread aggressively as some other Goldenrods.



# *Symphotrichum cordifolium*

## Blue Wood Aster (perennial)



- BLOOM: Blue, Sept-Oct
- HEIGHT: 2-3 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial, Shade (favoring some shade)
- WATER/ SOIL: Moist to Dry, well-drained soil, but highly adaptable. Good air circulation.
- HABIT/FORM: Dense airy clouds of small flowers on bushy plant
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Late season bloom is important for bees and butterflies.
- OTHER: Woodland edges, disturbed areas, under trees. Pair with white snakeroot, blue-stem goldenrod, white wood aster.

Photo credit: Native Plant Trust  
Garden Plant Finder

# *Symphotrichum lateriflorum*

## Calico Aster (perennial)



Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: White, Purple, August-October
- HEIGHT: 2 feet
- LIGHT: Full - Partial - Shade
- WATER: Med-Wet to Med-Dry
- SOIL: Can grow in a variety of well-drained soils, including loam, organic, and sandy.
- HABIT/FORM: Clumping, Colonizing, Spreading.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Attracts a wide variety of pollinators and is host plant for the larvae of 112 species of Lepidoptera, including moths such as the aster flowerhead, aster-head phaneta, and Hoffman's cochlid.
- OTHER: Occasionally rabbits and deer browse the foliage.

# *Symphotrichum novae-angliae*

## New England Aster (perennial)



Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: Purple, Pink August-Sept
- HEIGHT: 5 feet
- LIGHT: Full - Partial
- WATER: Wet to Med-Dry
- SOIL: Can grow in a variety of well-drained soils, including loam, organic, and sandy.
- HABIT/FORM: Robust, upright habit.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Attracts a wide variety of pollinators and the specialist mining bee, *Andrena simplex*, only collects pollen from New England aster and related plants.
- OTHER: Occasionally rabbits and deer browse the foliage.

# *Tradescantia ohiensis*

## Ohio Spiderwort (perennial)



Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: Purple, May-July
- HEIGHT: 3 feet
- LIGHT: Full - Partial
- WATER: Med-Wet to Dry
- SOIL: Can grow in a variety of acidic, calcareous, limestone-based, sandy, sandy loam, medium loam, clay, gravelly, or average garden soil.
- HABIT/FORM: Upright, clumping habit.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Attracts a wide variety of pollinators and the specialist mining bee, *Andrena simplex*, only collects pollen from New England aster and related plants.
- OTHER: Deer and rabbit resistant. Blooms in the morning sun and closes from mid-day heat.

# *Verbena hastata*

## Blue Vervain (perennial)



Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: Blue violet, July-Sept
- HEIGHT: 5 feet
- LIGHT: Full - Partial
- WATER: Wet to Medium
- SOIL: Likes wet, even soggy, conditions but also will grow in medium soils.
- HABIT/FORM: Upright, clumping habit.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Attracts a wide variety of pollinators and the larval host for the common buckeye butterfly and other moth and butterfly larvae. Many birds, including cardinals, field sparrows, swamp sparrows, song sparrows, and slate-colored juncos, eat the seeds.
- OTHER: Deer and rabbit resistant.

# *Verbesina alternifolia*

## Wingstem (perennial)



Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: Yellow, Aug-Oct
- HEIGHT: 5 feet
- LIGHT: Full - Partial
- SOIL: Thrives in moist, well-drained soils but can tolerate average to slightly dry soils. It grows best in rich, loamy soil.
- HABIT/FORM: Tall, upright perennial with winged stems and clusters of small yellow flowers that resemble sunflowers.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation recognizes *Verbesina alternifolia* as having special value to pollinators because it supports a great diversity of bees and wasps. It is also a host plant for the Silvery Checkerspot butterfly, Summer Azure butterfly, and Gold Moth.
- OTHER: Deer resistant.

# *Vernonia noveboracensis*

## New York Ironweed (perennial)



- BLOOM: Purple, July-Sept
- HEIGHT: 5-7 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial (favors sun)
- WATER/SOIL: Wet to medium. Prefers rich, slightly acidic soil but tolerates other soil types.
- HABIT/FORM: Vivid flowers on tall, narrow plants with sturdy stems and long, serrated leaves
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Flowers attract bees and butterflies. Songbirds eat seeds.
- OTHER: Wet meadows, moist thickets along stream banks, back or center of flower bed (fronted by shorter plants)

Photo credit: North Creek  
Nurseries

# *Veronicastrum virginicum*

## Culver's Root (perennial)



Photo: Rare and Exotic Seeds

- BLOOM: White, July-August
- HEIGHT: 5 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER: Med Wet to Dry. This species will adapt to sandy, loamy or clay soils and brief periods of drought.
- HABIT/FORM: They originate from a sturdy taproot and can expand into larger clumps from underground rhizomes.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Both long and short tongued bees collect pollen and nectar. Other insect visitors include sphecid wasps, butterflies, moths and syrphid flies.
- OTHER: An asset to Cottage Gardens, Low Maintenance Plantings, Rain Gardens or Perennial Borders



# *Zizia aurea*

## Golden Alexander (perennial)



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- BLOOM: Yellow, May-June
- HEIGHT: 1-3 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER/SOIL: Moist to medium, well-drained soil; tolerates dry conditions in late season if it receives enough moisture while growing and blooming
- HABIT/FORM: Upright perennial with attractive green, divided and serrated leathery leaves.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Important nectar source for short-tongued insects during spring-summer transition. Larval host for Black Swallowtail.
- OTHER: May be short-lived but persists by self-seeding into many different garden sites.

# Grasses, Sedges and Rushes

# *Andropogon gerardii*

## Big Bluestem (grass)



Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: Seeds, June-Sept
- HEIGHT: 7 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER: Med Wet to Dry
- HABIT/FORM: Clumping
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Big Bluestem is the host to many insects, including Northern Pearly-eye, Common-Wood Nymph, Ottoe Skipper, Cobweb Skipper, Dusted Skipper, Delaware Skipper, Arogos Skipper, and Indian Skipper.
- OTHER: Deer Resistant, can be aggressive in small landscapes.

# *Carex pensylvanica*

## Pennsylvania Sedge (graminoid)



- BLOOM: Seeds, April-June
- HEIGHT: 8 inches
- LIGHT: Full - Partial - Shade
- WATER: Medium to Dry
- SOIL: Prefers sandy loam with organic matter to retain moisture and nutrients.
- HABIT/FORM: A cool season grower that spreads slowly to form colonies
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Supports various Satyr larvae and provides cover for many migratory birds, including waterfowl, sandhill cranes, mallards, prairie chickens, and sharptail grouse.
- OTHER: Deer and rabbit resistant. It's fine texture makes it a lawn-like groundcover in your woodland garden.

Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

# *Carex stricta*

## Tussock Sedge (graminoid)



Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: Seeds, June-July
- HEIGHT: 3 feet
- LIGHT: Full - Partial
- WATER: Med-wet to Wet
- SOIL: Prefers moist to wet soils including standing water
- HABIT/FORM: Forms tussocks or hummocks that can sit slightly above water level and spread by rhizomes to form colonies.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: A few associated Lepidoptera species are Bog Lithacondia moth, Black Dash, Appalachian Brown, Eyed Brown, and Mulberry Wing.
- OTHER: Good selection for low spots, stream/pond margins or areas with seasonal flooding.

# *Cinna arundinacea*

## Wood Reed Grass (graminoid)



Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: Seeds, Aug-Sep
- HEIGHT: 3 feet
- LIGHT: Partial-Shade
- SOIL: Thrives in moist, well-drained soils, particularly in wetlands, moist meadows, and along streambanks. It prefers rich, loamy soils but can tolerate a range of soil types as long as they retain moisture.
- HABIT/FORM: Upright, clumping grass with arching, graceful stems and feathery seed heads.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Provides habitat and shelter for various small insects and wildlife.
- OTHER: This plant is useful for erosion control along stream banks and in other wetland areas, due to its dense root system and ability to stabilize soil.

# *Elymus hystrix*

## Bottlebrush Grass (graminoid)



Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: Seeds, Jun-Jul
- HEIGHT: 3 feet
- LIGHT: Partial-Shade
- SOIL: Grows well in a variety of soils, including dry, rocky, or sandy soils. It thrives in well-drained, loamy soils but is also drought-tolerant once established.
- HABIT/FORM: Upright, clumping perennial grass with distinctive spiky seed heads resembling a bottlebrush.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: A larval host to the Northern Pearly Eye (*Lethe anthedon*)
- OTHER: This grass is deer-resistant and can tolerate drought, making it ideal for low-maintenance landscapes.

# *Juncus effusus*

## Common Rush (graminoid)



Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: Seeds, July-Sept
- HEIGHT: 2-4 feet
- LIGHT: Full - Partial
- WATER: Medium to Wet
- SOIL: thrives in sunny sites with saturated mucky soil or shallow standing water.
- HABIT/FORM: Clumping, erect, and spreading habit.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Eaten by many animals, including waterfowl, muskrats, songbirds, quail, gophers, rabbits, and cattle. Muskrats also eat the rootstalks of soft rush and use the plant to build their homes.
- OTHER: Good selection for erosion control and water purification.



# *Schizachyrium scoparium*

## Little Bluestem (grass)



- BLOOM: Purplish-bronze, August-Sept
- HEIGHT: 2-4 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER/SOIL: Any conditions except shade and wet (soggy) soil.
- HABIT/FORM: Warm season bunch grass emerges blue-green, turning orange-red-purple in fall. Leaves and seedheads stand through the winter.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Multi-season ornamental interest. Larval host for several skipper species. Other insects feed on foliage. Seeds eaten by birds. Shelters overwintering birds and insects including queen bumblebees.

Photo credit: Prairie Moon  
Nursery

# Sorghastrum nutans

## Yellow Prairie Grass (grass)



Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: Awns red/rust color, August-October
- HEIGHT: 6 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER: Dry to Medium. Tolerant of a wide range of soils including heavy clays. Does well in poor, dry, infertile soils.
- HABIT/FORM: Perennial, warm-season bunchgrass. Spreads by rhizomes.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Host plant for *Amblyscirtes hegon*, Salt & Pepper Skipper. Provides nesting materials/structure for native bees.
- OTHER: Aggressive, not suited for very small landscapes. Also known as Indian grass.

# *Sporobolus heterolepis*

## Northern Dropseed (graminoid)



Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: Seeds, August-October
- HEIGHT: 2 feet
- LIGHT: Full - Partial
- WATER: Med - Wet to Dry
- SOIL: Likes dry, rocky, loamy, gravelly, and heavy clay soils.
- HABIT/FORM: Arching, dense mounding habit.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Host plant for a variety of moths and skipper butterflies, including the federally threatened Dakota Skipper (*Hesperia dacotae*) and the federally endangered Poweshiek Skipperling (*Oarisma poweshiek*). Sparrows and songbirds enjoy the seeds.
- OTHER: Deer and rabbit resistant. Takes on a nice golden hue all throughout the fall and winter. Plant of merit for the home garden.

Ferns

# *Onoclea sensibilis*

## Sensitive Fern



Photo: Holmes, J.G.  
(NPIN Image Id: **56860**)

- BLOOM: Non-flowering
- HEIGHT: 1-2 feet
- LIGHT: Part shade to full shade
- WATER: Medium to Wet
- SOIL: Although native to swampy and marshy areas, it grows quite well in average garden soil as long as soil is not allowed to dry out
- HABIT/Form: Spreads by both creeping rhizomes and spores.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Host plant for the Sensitive Fern Borer (*Papaipema inquaesita*), which feeds on its stems and rhizomes. Provides shelter to salamanders and frogs.
- OTHER: Good selection for erosion control and water and soil purification.

# Ostrich Fern

## *Matteucia struthiopteris*



Photo: Reveal, J.L. (NPIN Image 64543)

- BLOOM: Non-flowering
- HEIGHT: 2-4 feet
- LIGHT: Part shade to full shade
- WATER: Medium to Wet
- SOIL: Prefers rich, humusy soil but grows well in average garden soil as long as soil is not allowed to dry out
- HABIT/FORM: Individual vase-shaped clumps spread by upright rhizomes to form colonies. Good for mass planting in shade.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Foliage browsed by large herbivores, provides cover for small mammals and ground-foraging birds. Larval host for several moth species.
- OTHER: Ostrich fern has edible fiddleheads. Good for erosion control, shaded (north facing) foundation plantings.. Intolerant of foot traffic or trampling.

Trees and Shrubs

# *Aronia floribunda*

## Purple Chokeberry (deciduous shrub)



Photo: Gardenia.net

- BLOOM: White, Apr-May
- HEIGHT: 4 to 8 feet tall
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- SOIL: Thrives in moist, well-drained soils but is moderately drought-tolerant once established.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Attracts pollinators like bees during its blooming period. The fruits are eaten by birds and small mammals in late summer and fall.
- OTHER: Deer resistant. The foliage turns attractive shades of red and purple in the fall, making it a visually appealing addition to landscapes.



# *Ceanothus americanus*

## New Jersey Tea (deciduous shrub)



Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: White, June-Aug
- HEIGHT: 3 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER: Med - Dry Best in sandy loams or rocky soils with good drainage.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Host plant for the caterpillars of the spring azure, summer azure, and mottled duskwing as well as a few moth species. Turkey and quail will commonly eat the seeds.
- OTHER: Deer and rabbits do like this shrub, especially when it is young so protect new transplants in the early years. Difficult to transplant once established due to deep taproot.

# *Cephalanthus occidentalis*

## Common Buttonbush (shrub)



Photo credits: Missouri Botanical Garden

- BLOOM: White, June-Sept
- HEIGHT: up to 12 feet
- LIGHT: Full
- WATER: Wet to Med
- SOIL: sandy
- HABIT/FORM: multi-stemmed shrub, open irregular form
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Flowers attract bees, butterflies, humminbirds. Host plant for 23 Lepidopterans including Beautiful Wood Nymph, Prometheus, Cecropis, Buttonbush Owlet. Seeds eaten by waterfowl, songbird and small mammals.
- OTHER: Good for rain gardens (not drought tolerant). Can be pruned for

# *Cercis canadensis*

## Eastern Redbud (Tree)



Photo credits: Lady Bird Johnson  
Wildflower Center

- BLOOM: Pink to rosy-purple, Apr-May
- HEIGHT: 20 to 30 feet tall
- LIGHT: Full sun to partial shade
- SOIL: Prefers moist, well-drained soils but can tolerate a range of soil types, including clay, loam, and sandy soils. It's drought-tolerant once established.
- HABIT/FORM: Small deciduous tree with a rounded to vase-like shape. Its branches are often graceful and spreading.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Attracts early-season pollinators, especially bees, which are drawn to its nectar and pollen during its bloom period.
- OTHER: The tree produces small, flat seed pods (legumes) that persist into the winter, providing food for birds.

# *Chionanthus virginicus*

## Fringe Tree



- BLOOM: Creamy White, May-Jun
- HEIGHT: 10-20 feet
- LIGHT: Full - Partial - Shade
- WATER: Average - wet
- SOIL: Prefers moist, well-drained soils but can tolerate a range of soil types, including sandy and loamy soils. It thrives in slightly acidic soils and is somewhat drought-tolerant once established.
- HABIT/Form: Can be pruned to be a small tree or shrub. Ornamental when blooming in spring, yellow fall foliage
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Flowers attract many pollinating insects and fruits provide winter food for songbirds.
- OTHER: Fragrant blooms. Dioecious (only females produce blue-black berries)

Photo: Native Plant Trust  
Garden Plant Finder

# *Comptonia peregrina*

## Sweet Fern (shrub)



Photo credit: Lydia Pan

- BLOOM: Tan (male), Red (female), Apr-May
- HEIGHT: 2-4 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER: Moist to Dry, well-drained
- SOIL: infertile sandy or rocky soils, but tolerant of many soil types
- HABIT/FORM: A small, clump forming, deciduous shrub with fragrant, leathery foliage, spreads by underground runners to form colonies. Does not transplant well but can be propagated from root suckers. Fixes nitrogen.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Keystone plant used by 62 species of butterflies and moths as a caterpillar host plant.
- OTHER: Erosion control, semi-evergreen, , rock garden plant, leaves for herbal teas . Fixes nitrogen. Wind pollinated. Does not transplant well but can be propagated from root suckers.

# *Cornus (Swida) alternifolia*

## Pagoda Dogwood (small tree)



- BLOOM: Creamy White, May-Jun
- HEIGHT: 15 to 25 feet tall
- LIGHT: partial - Shade
- WATER: Average - wet
- SOIL: Prefers moist, well-drained soils rich in organic matter.
- HABIT/Form: Small, deciduous tree with a distinctive horizontal, layered branching pattern that gives it a pagoda-like appearance.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Flowers attract many pollinating insects and fruits provide winter food for songbirds.
- OTHER: In the fall, the foliage turns attractive shades of red and purple, adding seasonal interest.

Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

# *Cornus florida*

## Flowering Dogwood (tree)



- BLOOM: White bracts, Apr-May
- HEIGHT: 15-30 feet
- LIGHT: Full Sun - Partial Shade
- SOIL: Grows best in moist, well-drained, acidic soils rich in organic matter.
- HABIT/FORM: Small, deciduous tree with a rounded or spreading crown. The tree has a graceful, horizontal branching pattern.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Flowers attract many pollinating insects and fruits provide fall food for songbirds.
- OTHER: Ideal for residential gardens, woodland settings, and naturalized areas, offering both aesthetic and wildlife value.

Photo: North Carolina Extension

# *Gaylussacia baccata*

## Black Huckleberry (shrub)



Photo: Josh Fecteau

- BLOOM: Purple, April-May
- HEIGHT: 1 - 3 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial, Shade
- WATER/SOIL: Dry to Moist, well-drained soils. Prefers acidic, poor to average clay, gravel/rock, loam or sand
- HABIT/FORM: Densely-branched mound, use multiple plants to form thicket
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Keystone plant used by 48 species of Lepidoptera as a caterpillar host plant. Fruit and twigs used by many forms of wildlife.
- OTHER: Excellent fall color. Grows better in dry shade and poor soils than lowbush blueberry, but fruit production is better in full sun.



# *Hamamelis vernalis*

## Vernal or Ozark Witch Hazel (tree)



- BLOOM: yellow to red, January-April
- HEIGHT: 6-10 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER: Moist to average
- SOIL: Prefers slightly acidic sandy, gravelly to clay soils, more tolerant of high pH than *H. virginiana*.
- HABIT/FORM: Shrub borders, woodland gardens. Good as screen or tall hedge. Slow growing, can be pruned to shape. Remove root suckers to prevent colonial spread. Flowers before new leaves emerge in spring.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Nesting sites for many different birds, food and shelter for a variety of insects. A very early season food source for small native bees, honeybees, gnats and flies on warm winter days.
- OTHER: Colorful fall foliage and late winter flowers that may last up to 4 weeks. While native to south central US, it is popular as a late winter flowering shrub in the Northeast.

Photos: Missouri Botanical  
Garden

# *Hamamelis virginiana*

## Witch Hazel (tree)



- BLOOM: yellow, November-December
- HEIGHT: 8-12 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER: Moist to Dry
- SOIL: acidic, average, clay, gravel/rock, loam, poor, sand
- HABIT/FORM: A vase-shaped large shrub or small tree with single or multiple stems.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Nesting sites for many different birds, food and shelter for a variety of insects.. A very late season nectar source.
- OTHER: Great fall foliage color followed by fragrant, bright yellow flowers after the leaves drop. A tough, adaptable small tree that can be used in a shrub border, rain garden or woodland edge planting, easily grown in any well-drained soil. Remove suckers to prevent spreading. Used by 68 species of butterflies and moths as a caterpillar host plant.

Photo (flowers): Native Plant  
Trust

# *Hypericum prolificum*

## Shrubby St. John's Wort (shrub)



Photo: Prairie Moon Nursery

- BLOOM: Yellow, Jul-Aug
- HEIGHT: 4 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER: Med Wet to Dry. Tolerates wide range of soils, including dry rocky or sandy soils. Also tolerates some drought.
- HABIT/FORM: A compact, deciduous, rounded shrub with an erect habit.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Host plant for a variety of caterpillars and very attractive to a wide array of pollinators. Bumblebees are especially fond of the bright yellow flowers
- OTHER: Deer Resistant, Great addition to a native garden as it provides aesthetic appeal as well as ecosystem function. Not ecotypic in CT.

# *Ilex verticillata*

## Winterberry (shrub)



Photo: American Beauties

- BLOOM: White, late spring (May-June)
- HEIGHT: 7-8 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER: Wet to mesic
- HABIT/FORM: Dense, round or vase form with lustrous green foliage.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Tiny honey-scented white flowers are not showy, but attract many small insect pollinators. Used by caterpillars of more than 40 species of butterflies and moths. Birds eat berries.
- OTHER: Separate male and female plants (sex of seed-grown plants is unknown until they flower) Both are needed for females to produce red berries that provide winter interest and food for birds.

# *Leucothoe axillaris*

## Coast Doghobble (shrub)



Photo credit: Conn Coll  
Arboretum

- BLOOM: White/Pink, May
- HEIGHT: 2-6 feet
- LIGHT: Partial, Shade
- WATER/SOIL: Medium
- HABIT/FORM: Suckering shrub
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Bees pollinate the waxy, urn-shaped flowers
- OTHER: Glossy-leaved evergreen makes a great low hedge. Slightly shorter and less spreading than the mountain doghobble (*L. fontanesiana*). A southeastern native, protect from drying winds and drought.

# *Lindera benzoin*

## Spicebush (shrub)



Regina Kreger  
CC BY-NC 2.0



Photo: William Avery Hudson

- BLOOM: Yellow, Mar-Apr
- HEIGHT: 6 - 12 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial, Shade
- WATER: Wet to dry (needs more moisture to grow in full sun.)
- HABIT/FORM: A single- or few-stemmed deciduous understory shrub. Spreads by root suckers to form colonies.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Fragrant flowers (forsythia substitute) provide resources to earl spring bees. Fall berries fuel migration for 24 species of birds. Larval host for spicebush swallowtail.
- OTHER: Dioecious (separate male and female plants). Aromatic foliage turns yellow in fall. Tolerates deer. Grows denser and more floriferous in sunny locations.

# *Myrica pensylvanica*

## Northern bayberry (shrub)



- BLOOM: Yellowish-green (catkins), May
- HEIGHT: 6 - 10 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial, Shade
- WATER: Moist to Dry, prefers sandy acidic soil, but adaptable to wide range of conditions.
- HABIT/FORM: Suckering, thicket-forming.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: food for birds, erosion control, hedgerow, pollinator favorite, rain gardens, deer resistant
- OTHER: Dioecious (separate male and female plants). Salt and drought tolerant. Glossy, aromatic, semi-evergreen foliage, fragrant, waxy berries. Erosion control, hedgerow, rain gardens. Deer resistant. Synonym *Morella pensylvanica*, *Morella caroliniensis*.

Photos: Jim Robbins CC BY-NC-ND

4.0

# *Myrica pensylvanica* 'Bobzam'

## Bobbee™ Northern bayberry (shrub)



Lower Photo: Jim Robbins [CC](#)

BY NC ND 4.0

- BLOOM: Yellowish-green (catkins), May
- HEIGHT: 6 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Part sun
- WATER/SOIL: Moist to Dry, prefers sandy acidic soil, but widely adaptable
- HABIT/Form: Suckering, thicket-forming.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: food for birds, erosion control, hedgerow, pollinator favorite, rain gardens, deer resistant
- OTHER: Adaptable to poor soils, salt tolerant. Spreads by root suckers to form colonies. Aromatic, waxy fruits used to scent bayberry candles and soap. Bobbee™ ('Bobzam') is a compact-growing female selection of Northern bayberry with a mounded shape and foliage that is larger, glossier and wavy compared to the straight species. Introduced by Lake County Nursery (Perry, OH). Synonym *Morella pensylvanica*, *Morella caroliniensis*.



# *Nyssa sylvatica*

## Black gum, Tupelo (tree)



- BLOOM: Green, May-June
- HEIGHT: 40 feet
- LIGHT: Full
- WATER: Wet to Dry
- SOIL: Tolerates flooding, drought, compaction, salt
- HABIT/FORM: Pyramidal when young, dense horizontal branches create an irregular crown
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Dark blue fruits (female trees) nutritious for birds and small mammals. Larval host for more than 28 species of butterflies and moths.
- OTHER: Dioecious. Red fall color. Good residential shade tree or urban street tree.

# *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*

## Virginia Creeper) (vine)



Photo: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

- BLOOM: Greenish White, May-June
- HEIGHT: 30 to 50 feet when staked
- LIGHT: Full sun to full shade
- WATER: Prefers well-drained soils but can grow in a variety of soil types, including sandy, loamy, or clay soils.
- HABIT/Form: Deciduous, woody vine that climbs by tendrils with adhesive pads. It can grow vertically or spread horizontally as a dense ground cover.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: The blue-black berries produced in fall are a significant food source for birds and small mammals.
- OTHER: It is ideal for use as a climber on structures or as a ground cover in naturalized areas or erosion control projects

# *Pinus strobus*

## Eastern White Pine (vine)



Photo: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

- **BLOOM:** Yellow (male cones), May-June
- **HEIGHT:** 50 to 80 feet tall
- **LIGHT:** Full sun to partial shade
- **WATER:** Thrives in moist, well-drained, acidic soils.
- **HABIT/FORM:** Tall, pyramidal conifer in youth, becoming more open and irregular with age. It has soft, flexible, blue-green needles grouped in bundles of five.
- **WILDLIFE VALUE:** Seeds are an important food source for various wildlife, including birds (finches, chickadees), squirrels, and small mammals.
- **OTHER:** It provides year-round cover and habitat for birds and small animals, making it valuable for wildlife conservation.

# *Prunus maritima*

## Beach Plum (tree)



Photo: Connecticut College  
Arboretum

- BLOOM: White, April-June
- HEIGHT: 6 -10 feet (may grow slightly larger in favorable garden settings)
- LIGHT: Full
- WATER: Moist to Dry, good drainage essential.
- HABIT/FORM: Typically grows as a multi-branched shrub, flowers open before leaves emerge.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: *Prunus* is a keystone genus supporting more than 400 Lepidoptera species. Flowers support native bees. Fruits eaten by birds and mammals.
- OTHER: Salt and drought tolerant. Cross-pollination improves fruit set. Edible fruit makes jams and jellies.

# *Rhus aromatica*

## Fragrant Sumac (tree)



Photo: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

- BLOOM: Yellowish-green, Mar-May
- HEIGHT: 2 to 6 feet tall
- LIGHT: Full sun to partial shade
- WATER: Prefers well-drained, sandy, or rocky soils
- HABIT/FORM: Low-growing, spreading deciduous shrub with a mounding form. It spreads by root suckers and forms dense thickets.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Attracts pollinators, particularly bees, to its early-season blooms. The red, hairy fruits (drupes) are a valuable food source for birds and small mammals in the fall and winter.
- OTHER: The foliage turns vibrant shades of red, orange, and purple in the fall, providing excellent seasonal interest

# *Rosa carolina*

## Carolina Rose (shrub)



- BLOOM: Pink, May-June
- HEIGHT: 0.5 - 3 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER: Wet to Dry. Grows in most well-drained soils, poor to rich, loamy or sandy acidic.
- HABIT/FORM: low-growing shrubby plant with a creeping habit, suckers readily to form colonies.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Hips eaten by birds and small mammals, pollinator favorite Keystone genus used by 115 species of butterflies and moths as a caterpillar host plant. Of special value to native bees and bumblebees; provides nesting material or shelter for native bees.
- OTHER: drought tolerant, fragrant flowers, rock gardens, pond/stream margin planting



# *Rubus occidentalis*

## Black Raspberry (shrub)



- BLOOM: White, May-June
- HEIGHT: 3 to 6 feet tall
- LIGHT: Full sun
- WATER: Grows best in well-drained, loamy soils with consistent moisture
- HABIT/FORM: Arching, deciduous shrub with thorny stems that often form dense thickets. It spreads by rooting at the tips of canes (tip layering).
- WILDLIFE VALUE: fruits are a valuable food source for birds, mammals, and insects.
- OTHER: The plant spreads vigorously and can form dense thickets, so it should be managed carefully in garden settings to prevent excessive spread.

Photo: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

# *Rubus odoratus*

## Purple-Flowering Raspberry (shrub)



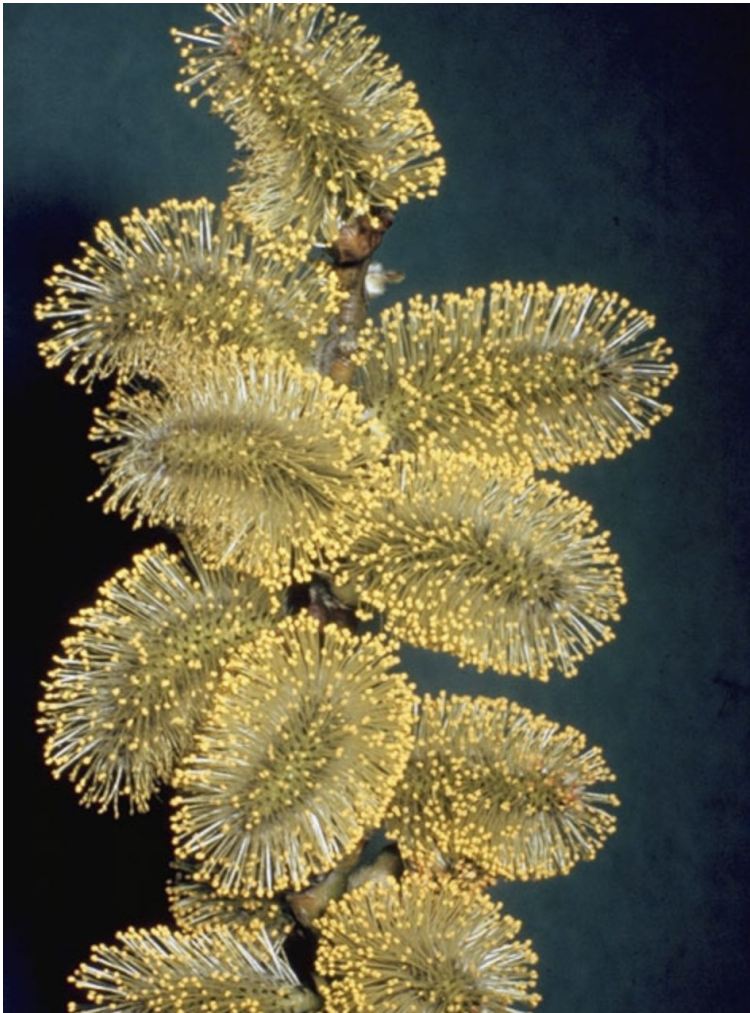
- BLOOM: Rose to magenta, June to Aug
- HEIGHT: 3 to 6 feet tall
- LIGHT: Prefers partial shade to full sun
- WATER: Grows well in moist, well-drained soils
- HABIT/FORM: Deciduous, multi-stemmed shrub with a spreading, arching habit. It forms thickets through suckering and can spread over time.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Attracts pollinators, including bees and butterflies, to its large, showy flowers.
- OTHER: Is thornless, unlike many other raspberry species, making it easier to manage and more appealing for ornamental plantings.

Photo: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



# *Salix discolor*

## Pussy Willow (Shrub)



- BLOOM: Silvery-gray catkins that mature to yellow, Feb-Apr
- HEIGHT: 6 to 20 feet tall
- LIGHT: Prefers full sun but can tolerate partial shade
- SOIL: Thrives in moist to wet soils and is often found in wetlands.
- HABIT/FORM: Deciduous, multi-stemmed shrub or small tree with an upright, spreading habit.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: earliest sources of pollen and nectar in the spring, making it highly valuable to bees and other pollinators.
- OTHER: It is dioecious, meaning male and female flowers are produced on separate plants. The male plants are particularly valued for their ornamental catkins

Photo: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

# *Salix eriocephala*

## Heart-leaved Willow (Shrub)



- BLOOM: Tan, early-mid spring
- HEIGHT: 10'-20' (25')
- LIGHT: Full
- WATER/SOIL: Moist to wet
- HABIT/FORM: Small, multi-stemmed tree or shrub
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Larval host for the mourning cloak butterfly
- OTHER: The catkins (flowers) and undersides of the leaves are silky

Photo credit: © 2024 Donald  
Cameron

# *Salix lucida*

## Shining Willow (Shrub)



Photo credit: © 2024  
Arthur Haines

- BLOOM: Green, early-mid spring
- HEIGHT: 12'-20'
- LIGHT: Full, partial, shade
- SOIL/WATER: Moist to wet; Near neutral pH
- HABIT/FORM: Broad shrub with pyramidal form
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Larval host plant to the acadian hairstreak butterfly
- OTHER: Gets its name from its glossy, dark green leaves

# *Salix pyrifolia*

## Balsam Willow (Shrub)



Photo credit: Stephen M.  
Young

- BLOOM: Green/brown, Mid-spring
- HEIGHT: Up to 15'
- LIGHT: Full
- SOIL/WATER: Moist to wet
- HABIT/FORM: Small, multi-stemmed tree or shrub
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Willows are both wind and animal pollinated, providing early pollen sources to bees and flies
- OTHER: Dried leaves smell like balsam fir; shiny reddish buds and twigs make it stand out in the winter landscape

# *Salix serissima*

## Autumn Willow (Shrub)



- BLOOM: Yellow/green/brown, mid spring
- HEIGHT: 3'-10' (15')
- LIGHT: Full
- SOIL/WATER: Wet; Prefers high pH soils
- HABIT/Form: Small, multi-stemmed tree or shrub
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Willows are both wind and animal pollinated, providing early pollen sources to bees and flies
- OTHER: Resembles shining willow with its glossy leaves

Photo credit: © 2024  
Arthur Haines

# *Sambucus canadensis*

## Black Elderberry (Shrub)



Photo: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

- BLOOM: Creamy white, Jun-Jul
- HEIGHT: 5 to 12 feet tall
- LIGHT: Prefers full sun to partial shade
- SOIL/WATER: Thrives in moist, well-drained soils but is adaptable to various soil types.
- HABIT/FORM: Upright, multi-stemmed, deciduous shrub with an open, spreading habit. It can form colonies through root suckers.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Attracts a variety of pollinators, especially bees and butterflies, with its abundant, fragrant flowers.
- OTHER: This plant is fast-growing and can be pruned annually to control its size or shape.

# *Spiraea alba var. latifolia*

## Meadowsweet (shrub)



- BLOOM: White, June-Aug
- HEIGHT: 3-5 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER/SOIL: Wet to Dry (once established), not fussy about soil type
- HABIT/FORM: fast-spreading, mounding shrub, can tolerate infrequent mowing (e.g., for meadow maintenance)
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Larval host for 86 species of butterflies and moths. Provides special value to native bees and beneficial (predatory) insects.
- OTHER: Salt-tolerant. Use in mass planting, meadow plantings, hedge.

Photo © Jennifer Cole 2012

# *Spiraea tomentosa*

## Steeplebush (shrub)



Photo credit: Lydia Pan

- BLOOM: Pink, July-Sept
- HEIGHT: 2-4 feet
- LIGHT: Full sun
- WATER: Wet to Medium, prefers acidic loam, sand or clay soils
- HABIT/FORM: Small, mounding deciduous shrub. Nonbranching stems topped by dense plumes of flowers
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Flowers attract bees, beetles, butterflies. Larval host for Isabella tiger moth, dark-spotted looper moth, many other Lepidoptera.
- OTHER: Wet meadow, rain garden, can be mowed or cut to promote bushier growth.



# *Swida amomum* (syn. *Cornus amomum*)

## Silky dogwood (shrub)



Photo: Go Botany

- BLOOM: Yellowish white, May-June
- HEIGHT: 6-12 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER: Med to Wet. Prefers moist, organically rich, slightly acidic soils.
- HABIT/FORM: Open-rounded form
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Host plant for the Azure butterflies. Butterflies nectar at its blooms. Its fruits are eaten by a variety of birds and mammals.
- OTHER: Tolerant of wet soil, black walnut. heat, drought, and soil compaction. Good for erosion control.

# *Swida racemosa* (syn. *Cornus racemose*)

## Gray Dogwood (shrub)



- BLOOM: White, May-June
- HEIGHT: 3-10 ft
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER/SOIL: Wet to Dry, favoring moist soils, but highly adaptable
- HABIT/Form: Mounded, suckering deciduous shrub forms thickets
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Flowers attract pollinators, berries relished by birds, larval host for Spring Azure
- OTHER: Salt-tolerant, erosion control, hedgerow, riparian buffer, rain garden, swale

Photo credit: Native Plant Trust  
Garden Plant Finder

# *Swida sericea* (syn. *Cornus sericea*)

## Red Twig Dogwood (shrub)



Photo credit: Native Plant Trust

- BLOOM: White, May-June
- HEIGHT: 3-10 feet
- LIGHT: Full, Partial
- WATER/SOIL: Wet to medium. Tolerant of soil compaction and salt.
- HABIT/FORM: Mounded, suckering shrub, cardinal red twigs provide winter interest
- WILDLIFE VALUE: Flowers provide nectar and pollen. Keystone genus supports more than 100 Lepidopteran species. Birds eat berries.
- OTHER: Good for shrub border, rain garden, massing at woodland edge, cut to ground every 2-3 years to maintain a bushier form and bright twig color.

# *Vaccinium angustifolium*

## Lowbush Blueberry (shrub)



Photo: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

- BLOOM: White to pale pink, May-Jun
- HEIGHT: 6 to 24 inches tall
- LIGHT: Full sun to partial shade.
- WATER: Prefers acidic, well-drained, sandy, or rocky soils. It thrives in poor, acidic soils with a pH between 4.5 and 5.5 and does not tolerate alkaline soils well.
- HABIT/FORM: Low-growing, deciduous shrub with a spreading, mat-forming habit. It spreads through rhizomes, forming dense colonies over time.
- WILDLIFE VALUE: The blueberries are a food source for birds, small mammals, and even larger animals like bears
- OTHER: The leaves turn brilliant shades of red and burgundy in the fall, making it an attractive ground cover with seasonal interest.