

2022 Fall Native Plant Sale

Sponsored by:

The Connecticut College Arboretum & Wild Ones Mountain Laurel Chapter

[Click here for online ORDER FORM](#)

Below are descriptions of plants that can be pre-ordered. There will also be member-donated plants for cash sale on pick-up day including species not available for pre-ordering.

Perennials & Graminoids (Ecotype 59 unless otherwise indicated)

Ecotype plug plants are young plants raised locally from wild collected native seeds, in individual cells ready to be transplanted to the garden. By planting these, you are helping to preserve the genetic diversity of native plants that have evolved to grow well in our region including in your garden. All the plants in our sale were grown in the Northeastern U.S., and local ecotypes are being offered as supplies permit. The unit of sale is 4 plugs of the larger DP32 size. Where DP32 is not available, we reserve the right to substitute 5 plugs of a slightly smaller DP50 size as the unit of sale. Note that some perennials have their tops cut back to expedite shipment; this is a common nursery practice and does not harm the plants. Rootstocks are healthy and will grow new tops in the spring. **Arboretum and Wild Ones members will be given priority for Ecotype plants marked (Limited), which are available in limited quantities.**

We recommend planting each type of plant in a mass or group of no fewer than 4 plants (which is one unit on our order form). To plant a 50 square foot bed (approximately 5' x 10'), we suggest using 32 plants. Sixteen plants will fill a 4' x 4' or 5' x 5' space. You can find resources for native garden designs at <https://nativegardendesigns.wildones.org> and <https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/native-garden-designs>.

Perennial Wildflowers



Anise Hyssop (non ecotype, **Limited**)

Agastache foeniculum

This plant is not indigenous to New England but is native to most of north central North America and is a valuable pollinator garden plant. Blooms in the summer (July-August) for up to 8 weeks.

Height: 3-4 ft. **Spread:** 1.5-3 ft.

Plant in full sun to part shade (favoring sun), average to dry, well-drained soil. This perennial may be short-lived, but can persist by self-seeding.

Anise-scented foliage deters browsing by deer or rabbits. Pair with brown-eyed Susan, coneflowers, early goldenrods and asters.



Swamp Milkweed (**Limited**)

Asclepias incarnata

Summer-blooming (July-August) meadow and wetland wildflower.

Height: 3-4 ft. **Spread:** 2-3 ft.

Plant in full sun to part shade. While native to moist areas, it adapts well to average garden conditions.

Clump-forming growth habit (not rhizomatous) is well suited to home gardens. Attracts many insect and butterfly pollinators. A larval host plant for Monarch butterflies. Pair with blue flag iris, boneset, blue vervain, New England aster.



Butterfly Weed (**Limited**)

Asclepias tuberosa

Blooms early to mid-summer bloom (June-August), with an occasional secondary bloom late summer to early fall.

Height: 2-3 ft. **Spread:** 1-1.5 ft.

Plant in full to part sun. A tuberous taproot makes this plant drought-tolerant and well adapted to poor, sandy, and rocky soils, but difficult to transplant. Easily grown in typical garden conditions, provided the soil is well-drained. Plant in groups since clumps are slow to form, and self-seeded plants may take 2-3 years to reach maturity.

Flowers are typically orange, but range from yellow to red. All color forms are attractive to pollinators. Larval host for Monarch butterflies. Pairs well with sundial lupine, hyssop-leaved boneset and smooth blue aster.



Hyssop-leaved Boneset

Eupatorium hyssopifolium

An underused and invaluable pollinator species for dry or well-drained soils. Fine-textured, whorled foliage. Blooms late summer to early fall.

Height: 2-4 ft. **Spread:** 1-1.5 ft.

Plant in full to part sun, average to dry soil that drains well. Native to dry sandy fields and open woodlands.

Its tendency to self-seed is helpful in meadows and restoration plantings; deadheading can control spread in gardens. Pairs well with butterfly weed, northern blazing star, goldenrods and asters.



Boneset

Eupatorium perfoliatum

Midsummer blooms (July-September) of bright white flower clusters above distinctive woolly green leaves that clasp vertical stems create a stately floral clump in wet spots in the garden.

Height: 4-6 ft. **Spread:** 3-4 ft.

Plant in sun to part shade, wet to moist soils, near streams, ponds, ditches or in rain gardens.

Attracts many butterflies and native bees. Pairs well with swamp milkweed, blue vervain, New York ironweed and New England aster.



White Wood Aster

Eurybia (Aster) divaricata

This is a woodland edge and understory wildflower of deciduous forests, a late summer-blooming aster (August-September).

Height: 1-1.5 ft. **Spread:** 1-1.5ft.

Plant in part to full shade. Grows in moist to dry soils.

Dark green, heart-shaped leaves with toothed edges make a low tidy clump from spring to mid-summer. In August, clusters of small white flowers have yellow centers that turn red when pollinated.

Attractive to butterflies and bees. Plant with spring blooming woodland wildflowers, ferns, blue lobelia, blue-stem and zig-zag goldenrods.



Coastal Joe Pye Weed

Eutrochium (Eupatorium) dubium

Dusty pink flat-topped flower clusters in late summer to early fall (July-September). A bit more compact than other Joe Pye weeds.

Height: 3-5 ft, **Spread:** 2-4 ft.

Plant in full to part sun, moist to average soil. Naturally occurring in sandy, acidic wetlands near the coast, this species is excellent for naturalizing in wet areas and rain gardens. Somewhat salt tolerant.

Whorls of oval to heart-shaped leaves with longer petioles set *E. dubium* apart from other Joe Pye species; however, all have flowers that are eagerly sought by butterflies and bees.

Seeds provide late season food for songbirds. Plant with boneset, swamp milkweed, tall white aster, New England aster.



Joe Pye Weed, Sweet Joe Pye Weed

Eutrochium (Eupatorium) purpureum

Blooms late summer to early fall (July-September).

Height: 4-6 ft. **Spread:** 2-4 ft.

Called sweet Joe Pye weed due to its vanilla-scented mauve-pink flowers. Whorls of 3-4 leaves are less glossy than those of other Joe Pye weeds.

Grow in part shade to shade with moist, fertile soil (e.g. woodland edge) where it can get by with somewhat less moisture than other Joe Pye weeds. Often found in or around lightly shaded upland woods.

Excellent at the back of borders or in cottage or meadow gardens. Very attractive to butterflies and bees.



Fall Sneezeweed

Helenium autumnale

Blooms late summer-early fall (August-October).

Height: 3-5 ft. **Spread:** 2-3 ft.

Plant in sun or part shade. Prefers evenly moist soils in full sun, but can tolerate some dryness in shadier sites. In a garden setting cut back in early spring to reduce height, encourage more branching and increase flowering.

A favorite of pollinators, including beetles, flies, solitary bees and butterflies. Good for wet areas such as retention basins, rain gardens, meadows, or the back of the border. Bitter leaves avoided by deer and rabbits (and may be toxic to livestock).



Swamp/Rose Mallow

Hibiscus moscheutos

A large, attractive plant suited to sunny, moist to wet, slightly acidic sites.

Height: 3-7 ft. **Spread:** 2-4 ft.

Multiple stems arise on this shrub-like perennial forb. Large leaves are dark gray-green and hairy on the underside. Stunning flowers in late summer are up to 6 in wide and come in 2 color forms: solid pink or white with a crimson "eye".

Plant in full or part sun, in moist to wet soils. Plant as a late-summer living fence, at a wetland edge or in rain gardens.



Versicolor Iris, Blue Flag Iris (Limited)

Iris versicolor

Violet blue blooms May-June.

Height: 2-2.5 ft. **Spread:** 2-2.5 ft.

Plant in full sun to part shade in a medium to wet location. Best flowering will occur in sunny areas of ponds or water gardens but it also does well in moist soil in borders or woodland gardens.

Can be grown in 2-4 inches of standing muddy water, such as in ditches, or in moist river and pond edge soils.

A clump forming iris, divisions of the rhizomes can be made after it blooms for propagation. The rhizome is poisonous, wear gloves.



Red Cardinal Flower

Lobelia cardinalis

An eye-catching summer-blooming (July-September) wetland wildflower.

Height: 2-3 ft. **Spread:** 1-2 ft.

Plant in sun or part shade. Needs a moist spot in the garden or at the water's edge. Flower spikes open from bottom to top over several weeks. A short-lived perennial that can reseed to maintain itself.

Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies. Pair with boneset and blue flag iris in sunny areas, with ferns in the shade.



Beardtongue, Foxglove Beardtongue (Limited)

Penstemon digitalis

The long flowering season of this wildflower bridges the transition from spring to summer (June-July).

Height: 3-4 ft. **Spread:** 1.5-2 ft.

Plant in sun or part shade, average to dry soils. Good in meadow, woodland edge or clearings. A good cut flower.

Tubular flowers in white to pale pink or lavender attract butterflies and hummingbirds. Deer resistant. Plant with golden alexanders, mountain mints, New England aster.



Hairy Beardtongue

Penstemon hirsutus

Blooms late May-June with flowers ranging from light purple to pinkish purple.

Height: 1-2 ft. **Spread:** 1-1.5 ft

Adaptable to a range of light conditions; plant in sun, part shade or shade. Moist to dry soils, must be well-drained.

Attracts bumblebees, butterflies, hummingbirds. Larval host plant for multiple kinds of checkerspot butterflies.

Short-lived perennial but can persist by self-seeding under favorable conditions. A good plant for the front of the border and for cut flowers.



Short toothed Mountain Mint

Pycnanthemum muticum

Blooms mid-late summer (July-September) with pale pink, sometimes spotted with silver flowers.

Height: 3 ft. **Spread:** 1-3 ft.

Sun/part shade. Prefers moist, well-drained soil but can tolerate some drought.

The leaves surrounding the flower clusters are highlighted with silver and have a strong mint aroma when crushed. Spreads by rhizomes. Mountain mints repel deer, but attract many pollinator insects!



Narrowleaf Mountain Mint

Pycnanthemum tenuifolium

Clusters of white blooms mid-to-late summer (July-September).

Height: 2-3 ft. **Spread:** 2-3 ft.

Plant in full to part sun. Prefers medium moisture but can tolerate fairly dry conditions. Spreads rhizomatously to form small colonies. A vigorous grower. Excellent plant for meadows and naturalized areas but also fits in well in mixed borders.

Fine-textured foliage has strong mint aroma when crushed. Mountain mints are pollinator insect magnets.



Virginia Mountain Mint

Pycnanthemum virginianum

Late summer blooming (July-September).

Height: 3-4 ft. **Spread:** 1-1.5 ft.

Plant in full to part sun. Grows well in moist to medium dry, well-drained soils.

Erect, branching stems. Flowers white to light purple, some with purple spots. Light green to grey-green, aromatic foliage. Clumping habit, not rhizomatous, but self-seeds readily.

Mountain mints are pollinator magnets, and the flower heads can accommodate many insects at once.



Blue-stem Goldenrod

Solidago caesia

Fall blooming.

Height: 1.5-3 ft. **Spread:** 1.5-3 ft.

Plant in full sun to part shade. Average to dry, well-drained soil. This clump forming plant does not spread aggressively.

Goldenrods are important late season pollinator plants. This is the best goldenrod species for dry shade, it is typically found throughout upland forests. Its delicate appearance with flowers along the top half of each stem give rise to the nickname "wreath goldenrod." Well-behaved, clumping habit (not rhizomatous).



Sweet Goldenrod

Solidago odora

Showy yellow blooms in late summer-early fall (Aug-Sept).

Height: 2-4 ft. **Spread:** 1-2 ft.

Grow in full to part sun. Medium to dry, well-drained soils.

Clumping habit (not rhizomatous) it does not spread aggressively but does have a tendency to self-seed. It is attractive to bees and butterflies.

Fine, licorice-scented foliage can be used to make teas. An interesting additions to borders and cottage gardens. Pairs well with medium-sized asters (e.g. smooth aster), northern blazing star.



Stiff Goldenrod

Solidago rigida (aka *Oligoneuron rigidum*)

Bright yellow blooms August-October the leaves have a nice orange to red fall color.

Height: 4 ft. **Spread:** 2 ft.

Plant in full sun to part shade in medium to slightly dry soil. It tolerates gravel and poor soils. If the soil is too rich it may flop over during blooming. It has deep roots that help stabilize the soil.

A great late-season pollinator plant it is also very rich in nectar. It will self-seed prolifically. In gardens remove spent blooms to encourage re-blooming and reduce self-seeding.



Blue Wood Aster

Symphyotrichum (*Aster*) *cordifolius*

Blooms in fall (Sept-Oct).

Height: 2-5 ft. **Spread:** 1.5-2 ft.

Best in part sun to full shade, average to medium dry soils. A very adaptable plant that thrives along woodland edges, in disturbed areas, in poor soil and urban settings.

Clouds of pale lavender blue flowers above heart-shaped leaves, attractive to bees and butterflies. Pairs well with white snakeroot, blue-stem goldenrod, and New York fern.



New England Aster

Symphyotrichum (Aster) novae-angliae

Fall-blooming (Sept-Oct).

Height: 4-5 ft. if not cut back or browsed by deer. **Spread:** 2-3 ft.

Plant in full or part sun, medium wet to medium dry soils. Prefers organically rich soil. It is easily grown from seed and may self-seed in the garden. Because these can get quite tall, cutting back around the first week of July (or browsing by deer) results in dense blooms on a more compact plant.

Flower colors ranging from bright purple to pink with yellow centers create late season interest in the garden or landscape and abundant nectar for bees and butterflies. Foliage is important for larval stages of many species. Use in meadows or plant with other fall bloomers.



Photo Credit: Esther Westerveld

New York Ironweed (Limited)

Vernonia noveboracensis

Blooms late summer (Aug-Sept).

Height: 6-8 ft. **Spread:** 3-4 ft.

Plant in full to part sun. Tolerates a range of soils, but prefers consistent moisture and rich, slightly acidic soil.

Tall, upright habit with deep purple flowers followed by attractive, rust-colored seed heads. Attracts pollinating insects and butterflies. Deer-resistant foliage. Pairs well with boneset, swamp milkweed, tall goldenrods and asters.



Golden Alexander (Limited)

Zizia aurea

Blooms in spring (May-June).

Height: 1.5-3 ft. **Spread:** 1.5-2 ft.

Grows easily in full sun to part shade. Can tolerate light shade but prefers sunnier spots. Easy to grow in moist to average soil.

Although a short-lived perennial, it will persist by self-seeding in many garden sites.

Important nectar source for short-tongued insects. Larval host for Black Swallowtail.

Grasses Rushes and Sedges



Big Bluestem

Andropogon gerardii

Reddish purple blooms in fall. This tall ornamental grass can be a focal point in the garden or serve as a screen.

Height: 3-6 ft. **Spread:** 2-3 ft.

This warm-growing grass is easy to grow in well-drained soil in full sun. It tolerates a wide variety of soils, but if soil is too rich it will get floppy. While developing its extensive root system it appears slow to establish. Once established, it is very drought tolerant and excellent for erosion control.

Leaf color varies across the seasons, starting blue green (spring), green with some red (summer) and reddish bronze with some purple (fall). Cut to the ground in late winter before new shoots emerge.



Pennsylvania Sedge

Carex pensylvanica

A cool-growing species that blooms in late spring (May).

Height: 0.5-1 ft. **Spread:** 0.5-1 ft.

Prefers dry to medium moisture in part to full shade and it expands slowly by creeping.

This clump-forming perennial sedge with soft arching leaves stays semi-evergreen in Connecticut.

Useful as groundcover, underplanting a shrub border or as a grass substitute for dry shady areas. Somewhat difficult to start from seed, it is more reliable to start with plants or plugs.



Slender Rush

Juncus tenuis

Flowering stems with tiny green blooms in late spring (May).

Height: 1-2 ft. **Spread:** .5-2 ft.

Very adaptable to a range of light and moisture, some salt tolerance. Grows actively during the spring and fall when soil is cool.

Also known as Path Rush because it can tolerate moderate foot traffic and compact soils, as in or near a "path."

Clump-forming with fine-textured leaves and erect flowering stems, it makes a nice lawn alternative, ground cover or border plant and can be used along the edge of a pond or in a gravel garden. It can help control erosion on steep banks.



Photo Credit: New Moon Nursery, LLC

Little Bluestem

Schizachyrium scoparium

Erect clumps with purplish-bronze flowers August-September **Height:** 2-3 ft. **Spread:** 1-2 ft.

Prefers full sun with dry to average moisture. Flowering stems and seedheads stand throughout the winter.

It is found in abandoned fields, meadows and rocky ridges. Deep fibrous roots make it valuable for erosion control and for use in sunny rain gardens. It provides nest, cover and food for birds and attracts butterflies. A larval host plant for many skipper butterflies.



Indian Grass

Sorghastrum nutans

Forms clumps with light brown flower panicles with yellow stamens that are up to 12" long in September. **Height:** 3-8 ft. **Spread:** 1-2 ft.

Prefers full sun with dry to average moisture and does well in poor, infertile soils.

The flowers mature to a bronze chestnut brown color and the foliage turns orange-yellow in fall. It provides nest, cover and food for birds and its flowers attract bees.

Woody Plants

These plants have been locally grown for multiple years (although stock plants may have originated elsewhere in the eastern U.S.) We are offering smaller pot sizes to be more affordable but also to provide plants that establish adequate root systems more quickly to enable rapid growth in the ground. In many cases, the tree or shrub that was smaller at planting time will outgrow a larger potted specimen within a few years.



Bottlebrush Buckeye

Aesculus parviflora

Height: 8-12 ft. **Spread:** 8-15 ft.

Blooms: Showy white cylindrical flowers with red anthers in summer (June-July).

Grows well in part to full shade with medium moisture and can be used in rain gardens, although it doesn't like to dry out.

A great summer flowering, multi-stem shrub for woodland gardens, its flowers attract butterflies and its leaves are golden yellow in fall.

It has a dense mounded form and spreads by suckers.



New Jersey Tea

Ceanothus americanus

Height: 3-4 ft. **Spread:** 3-4 ft.

Blooms: Showy white flowers in late spring-early summer (May-July). The fragrant flowers attract butterflies, small pollinators and hummingbirds, and are good as cut flowers.

Easy to grow, tolerates drought, Black Walnut and shallow, rocky soil. It prefers full sun to part shade. It is tap-rooted, so it doesn't transplant well.

Dense rounded form with yellow twigs for winter interest. Leaves were used as tea substitute during Revolutionary War.



Sweet Fern

Comptonia peregrine

Height: 2- 5 ft. **Spread:** 4-8 ft.

Blooms: Yellowish green catkins and tiny red female flowers in April-May.

Easily grown, this plant prefers well drained soil in full sun to part shade but can tolerate drought, wet conditions, poor soil, and wind.

It does not transplant well, but once established, it can spread rapidly to form a colony in favorable locations. A good plant for stabilizing slopes.

Aromatic foliage is fern-like in appearance (hence the common name). It fixes nitrogen, making it an excellent plant for areas with poor soil.



Silky Dogwood

Cornus amomum

Height: 6-12 ft. **Spread:** 6-12 ft.

Blooms: Showy, yellowish-white clusters, May-June.

Grows well in full sun to part shade with medium to wet, organically rich soil. It can tolerate almost full shade and attracts birds when its fruit ripens from white to blue in August.

It can be used in rain gardens or as a deciduous hedge and can be used along streams and ponds for erosion control.

When grown as a small tree, it has a rounded shape with an open branch system. If not pruned, it will spread to form thickets. Branches that touch the ground will root.



Common Witch hazel

Hamamelis virginiana

Height: 8-12 ft. **Spread:** 6-10 ft.

Blooms: Yellow tinged with orange, November-December

Great fall foliage color followed by fragrant, bright yellow flowers after the leaves drop.

Provides nesting sites for many different birds and food and shelter for a variety of insect herbivores. A very late season nectar source.

A tough, adaptable plant that can be used as a hedge or in a rain garden, it is easily grown in well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Remove suckers to prevent spreading.





Winterberry Holly

Ilex verticillata

Height: 7-8 ft. **Spread:** 7-8 ft.

Blooms: Late spring (May-June)

Easily grown in acidic loam with average moisture in full sun to part shade. It is tolerant of poorly drained soil, including swampy conditions. It has a dense, round form with lustrous green foliage.

Separate male and female plants (sex of seed-grown plants is unknown until they flower) are needed to produce red berries loved by birds. Tiny white flowers are not showy, but very attractive to insect pollinators.



Spicebush

Lindera benzoin

Height: 6-10 ft. **Spread:** 6-10 ft.

Blooms: Tiny, fragrant, yellow-green flowers before leaves appear in mid to late April; separate male and female plants (sex of seed-grown plants is unknown until they flower.)

Grows in part shade to part sun with average moisture. Tolerates full shade where branches become more open. In full sun it requires more moisture.

A single- or few-stemmed deciduous understory shrub. Deep green leaves turn yellow in fall. Foliage and bark smell spicy when crushed or scraped.

Flowers provide nectar for spring butterflies, pollinated by solitary bees and small flies. Larval host for the spicebush swallowtail butterfly. Berries are an energy-rich fall food for 24 species of birds.



Northern Bayberry

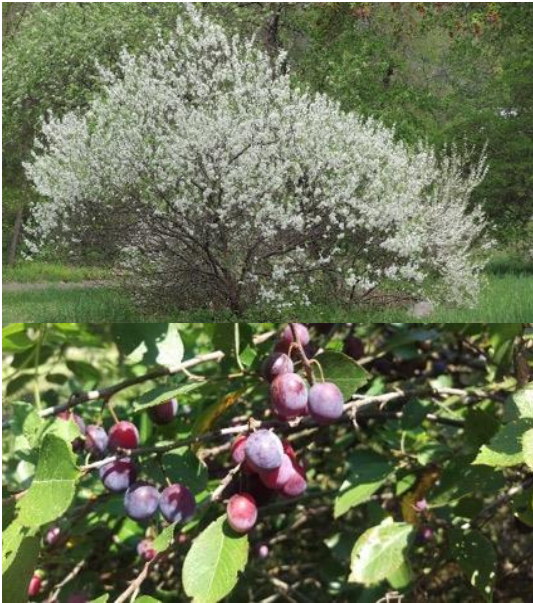
Myrica pensylvanica (aka *Morelia carolinensis*)

Height: 5-6 ft. **Spread:** 5-10 ft.

Blooms: Spring (May); flowers are ornamentally insignificant but are an important food source for early season pollinators.

Grows well in full sun to part shade in average to dry well-drained soil. Most seed-grown plants are either male or female; sex is unknown until they flower. The leaves and berries are extremely aromatic.

Vigorous, spreading plants are great for massing (group plantings.) Multi-season interest includes semi-evergreen, glossy foliage, deep burgundy fall color, silvery berries on female plants in winter if both male and female plants are present.



Beach Plum

Prunus maritima

Height: 5-6 ft. **Spread:** 8-10 ft.

Blooms: Late April to mid-May (white cherry-like flowers).

Easy to grow in full sun and poor, dry soils. Coastal native is salt tolerant.

Prune suckers for a multi-stemmed small tree or leave them to create a hedgerow.

Cross-pollination (at least 2 different plants) required for good fruit set with a heavy crop produced every few years. $\frac{3}{4}$ "-1" plums are great for jellies and jams.

Provides food and habitat for many birds and other wildlife.



Sweet Azalea

Rhododendron arborescens

Height: 8-20 ft. **Spread:** 8-20 ft.

Blooms: Showy white, fragrant flowers with red styles and stamens late May-July. Attracts butterflies.

Grows well in part shade with medium moisture and acidic, well-drained soil. It prefers sun-dappled or high partial shade and doesn't do well in very hot or poorly drained areas because its fibrous root system should not be allowed to dry out. Consider mulching to keep the roots cool and moist.

An upright shrub with loose branches that makes an excellent hedge or for use in woodland and open shade gardens. It is also effective as a specimen plant near the house.