

2021 Fall Native Plant Sale

Sponsored by: Connecticut College Arboretum & Wild Ones Mountain Laurel Chapter

[Click here for online ORDER FORM.](#)

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! Plants marked (**Limited**) are available in limited supply.

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. 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). You can find help with native garden designs at

<https://nativegardendesigns.wildones.org>



Anise Hyssop (non ecotype)

Agastache foeniculum

This is the only plant in our sale that is not indigenous to New England (non ecotype). However, this American prairie native is a valuable pollinator garden plant. Blooms in late summer for up to 8 weeks. Height 3-4 ft.

Plant in full sun to part shade (favoring sun), average to dry, well-drained soil. This short-lived perennial can maintain itself 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)

Asclepius incarnata

Summer-blooming meadow and wetland wildflower. Used as a larval host plant by Monarch butterflies. Height 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. Pair with blue iris, boneset, blue vervain, New England aster.



Eastern Swamp Milkweed (Limited)

Asclepias incarnata ssp. *pulchra*

A subspecies of *Asclepias incarnata* predominantly found in lowlands of the eastern U.S. Plants are distinguished by broader leaves, bushier appearance, and deeper flower color than the common form (although they can be quite variable).

Bloom season, overall size, and growing conditions are similar to other forms of *Asclepias incarnata*.



Common Milkweed (Limited)

Asclepias syriaca

This species is the preferred larval host plant for Monarch and queen butterflies and used by many other insects. Blooms in early to mid-summer, often for over a month. Height is typically 3-4 ft but can get up to 6 ft under optimal growing conditions.

Prefers full sun and is adaptable to a wide range of soils. Established plantings are drought tolerant. Blooms are very fragrant.

Common milkweed is well suited to larger landscapes where it has room to spread by long rhizomes. (In small gardens, clumping species like *A. incarnata* or *A. tuberosa* are better behaved.)



Butterfly Weed (Limited)

Asclepias tuberosa

A clump-forming wildflower that blooms early to mid-summer, with an occasional secondary bloom from late summer to early fall. Height 2-3 ft.

Plant in full to part sun. A tuberous taproot makes the 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, clumps get 1-2 ft wide.

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 of bright white flower clusters on distinctive woolly green leaves that clasp vertical stems create a stately floral clump in wet spots in the garden. Height 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, and New England aster.



White Wood Aster (Limited)

Eurybia (Aster) divaricata

This is a woodland edge and understory wildflower of deciduous forests, a late summer-blooming aster.
Height 12-18 in.

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.



© 2001 Janet Novak

Grass-leaved Goldenrod

Euthamia graminifolia

A robust goldenrod relative with fine-textured linear foliage and golden flat-topped inflorescences. Blooms from late July to September. Height 2-4 ft. Clumps can get more than 3 ft wide.

Plant in full sun to part shade. Prefers moist, sunny conditions where it may spread somewhat aggressively by rhizomes, but is tolerant of poor, dry soils. Best used at woodland edges in a butterfly, rain, or wild garden where it has plenty of room.

Supports long-tongued bees, short-tongued bees, wasps, flies, butterflies, moths, and beetles. Additionally, it is a larval host plant for several types of moths. Small birds such as goldfinch and swamp sparrow enjoy the seeds and the foliage is forage for young woodland animals.



© 2000 Janet Novak

Coastal Joe Pye Weed

Eutrochium (Eupatorium) dubium

E. dubium has dusty pink flat-topped flower clusters appear in late summer to early fall. It is a bit more compact than other Joe Pye weeds, usually staying under 5 feet tall.

Plant in full to part sun, moist to average garden soil. Naturally occurring in sandy, acidic wetlands near the coast, this species is an excellent plant 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 out by butterflies and bees. Seeds provide late season food for songbirds. Plant with boneset, swamp milkweed, tall white aster, New England aster.



© 2000 Janet Novak

Spotted Joe Pye Weed

Eutrochium (Eupatorium) maculatum

A popular Joe Pye species similar to *E. dubium* but somewhat larger in stature with whorls of long strappy leaves. Blooms in late summer to early fall. Height 4-7 ft.

Grows in full sun to part shade (favoring sun), best in rich, moist soils, where it may form large colonies. It is frequently found in cooler northern or mountain wetlands and streambanks, often with sandy, mineral-rich soils.

Very attractive to butterflies and bees.



Joe Pye Weed

Eutrochium (Eupatorium) purpureum

Sometimes called sweet Joe Pye weed due to its vanilla-scented mauve-pink flowers blooming late summer to early fall. Whorls of 3-4 leaves tend to be less glossy than those of other Joe Pye weeds. Height 4-6 ft.

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

Very attractive to butterflies and bees.



Fall Sneezeweed

Helenium autumnale

Blooms late summer-early fall. Height 4 ft.

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

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 and slightly acidic sites. Multiple stems up to 5 ft tall 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.



Red Cardinal Flower

Lobelia cardinalis

An eye-catching summer-blooming wetland wildflower.
Height 2-3 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 iris in sunny areas, with ferns in the shade.



Wild Bergamot

Monarda fistulosa

Summer-blooming staple of pollinator gardens. Height 4 ft.

Plant in sun to part shade. Adaptable from moist to medium dry conditions.

Aromatic foliage for infusions, teas and medicinal use. Favored by butterflies, bees and hummingbirds. Pair with black or brown-eyed Susans, coneflowers, anise hyssop, butterfly weed.



Beardtongue

Penstemon digitalis

The long flowering season of this wildflower bridges the transition from spring into summer (June-July). Height 3-4 ft.

Plant in sun or part shade, average to dry soils. Good in meadow, woodland edge or clearing.

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. Height 1-2 ft.

Adaptable to a range of light, 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.



Short toothed Mountain Mint

Pycnanthemum muticum

Blooms mid-late summer with pale pink, sometimes spotted flowers. Height 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. Spreads by rhizomes. Mountain mints repel deer, but attract all sorts of pollinator insects!



Narrowleaf Mountain Mint

Pycnanthemum tenuifolium

Clusters of white blooms mid-to-late summer (July-September). Height 2-4 ft.

Plant in full to part sun. Prefers medium moisture but can tolerate fairly dry conditions. Spreads rhizomatosely to form small colonies.

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



Virginia Mountain Mint

Pycnanthemum virginianum

Late summer blooming. Height 3-4 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 1-3 ft.

Plant in part to full shade. Average to dry soil.

Goldenrods are important late season pollinator plants. This is the best goldenrod species for dry shade, 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 (Limited)

Solidago odora

Blooms late summer-early fall (Aug-Sept). Height 3 ft.

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

Clumping habit (not rhizomatous). Fine, licorice-scented foliage can be used to make teas. Pairs well with medium-sized asters (e.g. smooth aster), northern blazing star.



Showy Goldenrod

Solidago speciosa

Fall blooming (Sept-Oct). Height 5 ft.

Grow in full to part sun. Medium to dry, well-drained soils. One of the showiest goldenrods, its erect flower spikes sit atop tall reddish stems. Pair with New York asters, sweet black-eyed Susan, tall native grasses. Abundant flowers are irresistible to many bees.



Blue Wood Aster (Limited)

Sympyotrichum (Aster) cordifolius

Blooms Sept-Oct. Height 3 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

Sympyotrichum (Aster) novae-angliae

Fall-blooming (Sept-Oct). Height 4-5 ft if not cut back by mid-summer (or browsed by deer).

Plant in full or part sun, medium wet to medium dry soils.

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.



Purplestem Aster

Sympyotrichum (Aster) puniceum

Blooms in late summer-fall (Aug-Oct). Height 5 ft.

Grows in full sun to part shade. This aster needs a moist spot in the garden, in wetlands or at the edge of a stream or pond.

Large light blue flowers are similar in size to New England aster flowers. All parts of plant are used by insects.



Blue Vervain

Verbena hastata

Blooms mid-late summer (July-Sept). Height 4-5 ft.

Plant in full to part sun. Naturally occurs in wet meadows, pond and stream edges, but can thrive with medium moisture.

Can be a short-lived perennial, but self-seeds readily. Does not compete well with aggressive spreaders. Spikes of delicate purple flowers attract many insect and butterfly pollinators. Birds and small mammals relish the seeds. Deer-resistant.



New York Ironweed

Vernonia noveboracensis

Blooms late summer (Aug-Sept). Height 6-8 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 rust-colored seed heads. Attracts pollinating insects and butterflies. Deer-resistant foliage. Pairs well with boneset, swamp milkweed, tall goldenrods and asters. {Photo credit: Esther Westerveld, [CC BY-NC 2.0](#)}



Golden Alexander

Zizia aurea

Blooms in spring (May-June). Height 1.5-3 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.



Awl-Fruited Sedge

Carex stipata

Height 3 ft. Blooms in late spring (June).

Adapts to sun or shade, but needs consistently moist or wet soils.

A clump-forming perennial sedge that actively grows during the spring and fall (cool-growing). Suitable sites include riverbanks, shores, floodplain forests, wet meadows, and marshes. The plant establishes quickly in wetlands making it an excellent choice for restoration projects.



Soft Rush

Juncus effusus

Height 2 ft. Blooms in summer.

While considered a wetland plant, it grows well with average moisture.

Also known as Common Rush with soft, grass-like stems growing in clumps during spring and fall (when soil is cool). In the summer, a small cluster of greenish brown scaly flowers emerges from a slit on the side of each stem near its tip. Seeds are eaten by birds and small mammals. In its native wetland habitat, muskrats feed on the rootstalks, and birds find shelter among the stems.



Slender Rush

Juncus tenuis

Height 1-2 ft. Blooms in late spring.

Very adaptable with tolerance for 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 brown flowering stems, it makes a nice lawn alternative, ground cover or border plant.

TREES & SHRUBS

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.



New Jersey Tea

Ceanothus americanus

Height: 3-4 ft.

Spread: 3-4 ft.

Blooms: Cymes of white flowers in late spring-early summer

Easy to grow, drought tolerant, tap rooted.

Sweet flowers attract butterflies, small pollinators and hummingbirds.

Dense rounded form with yellow twigs for winter interest.

Leaves were used as tea substitute during Revolutionary War.



Common Witch hazel

Hamamelis virginiana

Height: 8-12 ft.

Spread: 6-10 ft.

Blooms: 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/shelter for a variety of insect herbivores, a very late season nectar source.

A tough, adaptable plant suited to a variety of garden uses.





Winterberry Holly

Ilex verticillata

Height: 7-8 ft.

Spread: 7-8 ft.

Blooms: Late spring

Separate male and female plants (sex of seed-grown plants is unknown until they flower.)

Dense, round form with deep green, lustrous foliage.
Tiny white flowers are not showy, but very attractive to insect pollinators.

Bright red berries in fall and winter are relished by birds.



Spicebush

Lindera benzoin

Height: 6-10 ft.

Spread: 6-10 ft.

Blooms: mid-late April

Separate male and female plants (sex of seed-grown plants is unknown until they flower.)

Grows in sun to part shade.

A single- or few-stemmed, deciduous understory shrub that blooms with tiny, yellow-green flowers before leaves appear.
Deep green leaves turn yellow in fall.
Foliage and bark smell spicy when crushed or scraped.

Flowers provide nectar for spring butterflies, and are pollinated by solitary bees and small flies.

Larval host of spicebush swallowtail butterfly. Berries provide energy-rich fall food for 24 species of birds.





Northern Bayberry

Myrica pensylvanica (aka *Morelia carolinensis*)

Height: 5-6 ft.

Spread: 8-10 ft.

Blooms: spring (ornamentally insignificant)

Most seed-grown plants are either male or female; sex is unknown until they flower.

Vigorous, spreading plants are great for massing (group plantings.)

Multi-season interest includes semi-evergreen, glossy foliage, deep burgundy fall color, silvery berries in winter.

Leaves and berries extremely aromatic.

While not ornamental, flowers are an important food source for early season pollinators.



Beach Plum

Prunus maritima

Height: 5-6 ft.

Spread: 8-10 ft.

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

Coastal native is salt tolerant.

Easy to grow in full sun and poor, dry soils.

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

Cross-pollination (at least 2 different plants) required for good fruit set with a heavy crop produced once every few years.

3/4-1" plums are great for jellies and jams.

Provides food and other resources for many birds and wildlife.





Pussy Willow

Salix discolor

Height: 20-25 ft.

Spread: 18-20 ft.

Blooms: early spring (fuzzy catkins)

Separate male and female plants (sex of seed-grown plants is unknown until they flower.)

Male catkins with yellow stamens are showier than smaller greenish female catkins.

Usually grows to a height of 6-15 ft as a large multi-stemmed shrub, but occasionally to 30 ft as a small tree.

Grow in average, medium to wet, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade (favoring sun). Thrives in moist areas, but tolerates more dryness than most other willows.

A keystone species of local ecosystems, supporting a large number of different insects, birds and butterflies.

Stems with flower catkins often used decoratively.

Not recommended near building foundations.



Nannyberry

Viburnum lentago

Height: 12-16 ft.

Spread: 8-12 ft.

Blooms: late May to June

A large, upright, multi-stemmed, suckering, deciduous shrub which may be pruned to grow as a small, single trunk tree by removing suckers.

Hardy and easy to grow.

Showy flowers in late spring attract butterflies and other pollinators.

Blue-black berry-like fruits in fall may persist into winter if not eaten by songbirds and wildlife.

Outstanding in a mixed border planting.