Native Plant List

The following plants are native to or have naturalized in New York State. They all provide many benefits to wildlife as well as humans. Please click on each link to learn more about what conditions each plant grows best in. For more information on selecting proper plants please see the "Preparing, Designing and Maintaining Your Native Plant Garden" document.

Please note that cultivars of these plants may be used if the original species is not available. A cultivar is a selected form of a plant with a different trait like flower color or height. The cultivar name would be written as follows: Echinacea purpurea 'Magnus' with the cultivar name in apostrophes at the end of the scientific name. Be aware that some cultivars are less beneficial for pollinators and wildlife. For example, do not purchase any that have double flowers, as these are many times sterile, which means they won't have pollen. The double flower also makes it extremely difficult if not impossible for a pollinator to reach the nectar or pollen (if it exists) of the flower. Also, research has shown that varieties that change the flower or foliage color cause changes that result in reduced benefits for pollinators and other wildlife.

Also, it is very important that you purchase plants that have not been treated with neonicotinoid insecticides, which have been shown to greatly harm and kill pollinating insects.

Flowering Perennials: These provide nectar, pollen, and seeds for wildlife. Using at least two flowering plants per season (these can also be in the form of trees and shrubs) should provide pollinators resources they need to last the entire growing season. Planting at least one species of milkweed is highly encouraged as this is the host plant for the declining monarch butterfly and monarch conservation is an important goal for the Town who has taken the Mayors' Monarch Pledge with National Wildlife Federation. (This may be difficult if you are planting a shade garden.)

Spring Bloom
Black Cohosh (*Actaea racemosa*)
Jack in the Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)
Wild Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)
Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense*)
Blue Wild Indigo (*Baptisia australis*)
Wild Indigo (*Baptisia tinctoria*)
Dutchman's Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*)
Scarlet Strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*)
Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)
Blue flag Iris (*Iris versicolor*)
Foxglove beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*)*

Creeping Phlox (*Phlox subulata*)
Jacob's Ladder (Polemonium reptans)
Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*)
Barren Strawberry (*Waldsteinia fragarioides*)
Bluets (*Houstonia caerulea*)
Foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*)
Golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*)

Summer Bloom
Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)
Giant Hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*)
Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)
Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)
Lanceleaf Coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*)*
Tickseed Coreopsis (*Coreopsis verticillata*)*
Pink Threadleaf Coreopsis (*Coreopsis rosea*)
Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)*
Joe Pye Weed (*Eutrochium dubium*)
Spotted Joe Pye Weed (*Eutrochium maculatum*)
Purple Joe Pye (*Eutrochium purpureum*)
Wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*)
Round-headed bush clover (*Lespedeza capitata*)
Blazing Star (*Liatris spicata*)
Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
Great Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*)
Wild Blue Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*)
Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)
Scarlet Beebalm (*Monarda didyma*)
Smooth Oxeye (*Heliopsis helianthoides*)
Rough Sunflower (*Helianthus divaricatus*)
Woodland sunflower (*Helianthus strumosus*)
Coral Bells (*Heuchera americana*)
Garden Phlox (*Phlox paniculata*)
Blunt Mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum muticum*)
Slender-leaved mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*)
Virginia Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum virginianum*)
Black Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia fulgida*)*
Blue Vervain (*Verbena hastata*)
New York Ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*)
Eastern Prickly Pear Cactus (*Opuntia humifusa*)
Zig Zag Goldenrod (*Solidago flexicaulis*)
Blue Wood Aster (*Symphyotrichum cordifolium*)

Fall Bloom
Swamp Sunflower (*Helianthus angustifolius*)

New England Aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*)
New York Aster (*Symphyotrichum novi-belgii*)
Smooth blue aster *(Symphyotrichum laeve)*
Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*)
Big Leaf Aster (*Eurybia macrophylla*)
Sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*)
Stiff Goldenrod (*Solidago rigida*)
Rough Goldenrod (*Solidago rugosa*)
Showy Goldenrod (*Solidago speciosa*)
Early Goldenrod (*Solidago juncea*)
Gray Goldenrod (*Solidago nemoralis*)
Maryland Golden Aster (*Chrysopsis mariana*)

*These plants are not native to New York but are native to the US and have naturalized in NY. They are not invasive and are very beneficial to local pollinators and other wildlife species.

Grasses/ Sedges/ Rushes: These plants provide cover and seeds for wildlife. They add structure and an interesting aesthetic to the garden, especially in the fall and winter when perennials are dormant. Many skipper butterflies also use native grasses as host plants. Choosing one or two species of grass can provide these many benefits to your native plant garden.

Big Bluestem Grass (*Andropogon gerardii*)
Broomsedge (*Andropogon virginicus*)
Sideoats Grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*)
Pennsylvania Sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*)
Deer Tongue (*Dichanthelium clandestinum*)
Purple Lovegrass (*Eragrostis spectabilis*)
Common Rush (*Juncus effusus*)
Path Rush (*Juncus tenuis*)
Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)
Little Bluestem Grass (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)
Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)
Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*)
Purpletop (*Tridens flavus cupreus*)

Trees and Shrubs: These woody plants provide many resources for wildlife like berries, seeds, nectar, pollen, nesting materials as well as places to create a nest and many others. Many trees flower in early spring and are a good source of nectar and pollen during this time when it is scarce. Shade trees may not be a good choice for inside a small garden, but can be placed nearby, while smaller trees and shrubs can be beneficial in the garden itself.

Spring Bloom
Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)
Canadian Serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*)
Allegheny Serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis*)
Bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)

Red Chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*)
Black Chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*)
Sweet Birch (*Betula lenta*)
River Birch (*Betula nigra*)
Gray Birch (*Betula populifolia*)
New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*)
Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)
Sweetfern (*Comptonia peregrina*)
Pagoda Dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*)
Silky Dogwood (*Cornus amomum*)
Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)
Gray Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*)
Red-Twig Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)
Huckleberry (*Gaylussacia baccata*)
Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)
American Holly (*Ilex opaca*)
Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*)
Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)
Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)
Sweetbay magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*)
Northern Bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*)
Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)
Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)
Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)
Carolina Rose (*Rosa carolina*)
Swamp Rose (*Rosa palustris*)
Virginia Rose (*Rosa virginiana*)
Smooth Blackberry (*Rubus canadensis*)
Black Raspberry (*Rubus occidentalis*)
Flowering Raspberry (*Rubus odoratus*)
Pussy Willow (*Salix discolor*)
Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)
Lowbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*)
Highbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*)
Arrowwood Viburnum (*Viburnum dentatum*)
Blackhaw Viburnum (*Viburnum prunifolium*)
American Cranberry Bush (*Viburnum trilobum*)
Maple-leaved viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*)

Summer Bloom
Leadplant (*Amorpha canescens*)
Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)
Summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia*)
Bush Honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*)
Swamp Rose Mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*)
Inkberry (*Ilex glabra*)

Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra ssp. canadensis*)
Meadowsweet (*Spiraea tomentosa*)
Wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*)

Fall Bloom
Witchhazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)

Conifers and Insignificant Blooms
Common Juniper (*Juniperus communis var. depressa*)
Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)
Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*)
Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)
Common Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)
American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*)
White Oak (*Quercus alba*)
Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)
Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*)
Red oak (*Quercus rubra*)
Black Oak (*Quercus velutina*)

Ferns: Although these plants do not flower, they have very attractive foliage and can provide cover for wildlife. They are great plants for shade and moist garden locations.

Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum pedatum*)
Lady Fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*)
Ostrich Fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*)
Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*)
Cinnamon Fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*)
Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*)
Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*)