

Native Wildflowers



American Columbine (*Aguilegia canadensis*) herbaceous perennial that grows to 1 foot in height; produces red and yellow flowers in May; flowers attract both hummingbirds and butterflies; tolerates full sun to full shade; prefers dry, sandy soil.



Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) herbaceous perennial that produces clusters of orange to yellowish-red flowers in July that are particularly attractive to butterflies; grows to 2 feet in height; prefers sunny, well drained soils.



Spike Gayfeather (*Liatris spicata*) herbaceous perennial 1 to 5 feet in height; produces a beautiful spike of purple flowers from mid-July through early September; grows best in sunny, moist soils; flowers are excellent in attracting butterflies, hummingbirds and bees.



New England Aster (*Aster novae-angliae*) a showy herbaceous perennial that grows 2-5 feet in height; produces clusters of purple blossoms in September; reseeds itself; prefers moist sites with sun to partial shade; bloom attracts butterflies and bees.



Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) herbaceous perennial that grows 2-3 feet in height; produces crimson red flowers in August that provide nectar for butterflies and hummingbirds; grows well in shady, moist soils; needs to be mulched in winter.



Lanceleaf Coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*) herbaceous perennial that grows to 3 feet in height; produces daisy-like yellow flowers in June which attract butterflies; requires full sunlight and dry to moist soils.



Spotted Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*) herbaceous perennial that grows to 1 foot in height; produces violet-colored flowers in May-June; grows in part shade to full sun, dry to moist soil.



Blue Flag (*Iris versicolor*) herbaceous perennial with sword-shaped leaves; can reach 3 feet in height; blooms grow in May on a tall stalk; flowers are purple-blue splashed with yellow; grows in full sun or light shade in moist soils.



Obedient Plant (*Physostegia virginiana*) herbaceous perennial that grows to 3 feet in height; produces pink, snap dragon-like flowers in July-August which are excellent at attracting butterflies; can form thick stands to act as a ground cover; grows best in sunny, moderately moist soils.



Cutleaf Coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata*) herbaceous perennial that grows 5-8 feet tall; produces yellow blossoms with green centers in August; prefers full sun and moist soils; plant provides food and cover for birds.

Why Use Native Plants?

When landscaping, native plants are often a wiser choice than ornamental species because they are hardy and more likely to withstand extreme weather conditions. When carefully selected, natives can provide just as many benefits: natural color and beauty, food and shelter for wildlife, shade, erosion control and increased property value.

Because of the biodiversity of plants and animals in the New England area, native species are plentiful. The plants listed in this brochure are considered natives of New England according to the New England Wild Flower Society. These particular species are also readily available at local nurseries and lawn and garden centers.

Native plants are also friendly to wildlife. Native trees, shrubs, grasses, ground covers and even flowers provide food and shelter for wildlife. Natives can be planted strategically to attract butterflies and other beneficial insects, birds, mammals, reptiles and other wildlife. For example, migrating and nesting birds rely on insects for energy to travel long distances and raise their young. In the fall, birds will seek out fruit-bearing trees for food and shrubs for their nesting habitat. The leaves, flowers, fruit, nuts, acorns and branches are all important to wildlife.

Native Trees



Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*) a beautiful deciduous tree that can grow 15-40 feet tall; spring produces tiny clusters of greenish-white flowers which are surrounded by a quartet of showy, petal-like white bracts; fall brings a shiny red fruit which provides good fall food for birds; foliage turns a beautiful scarlet in fall; plant in moist rich soil.



Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) a deciduous tree that can grow to massive size, often attaining a height of 100 feet; has distinctive mottled whitish-brown bark and unique ball-shaped fruit in autumn which persist through the winter; typically found in moist soil conditions but grows well in a variety of conditions.



American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) an attractive deciduous tree which can grow to 90 feet tall; bark is smooth and gray; toothed leaves turn yellow and brown in the fall and often last through the winter; suckers will sprout at the base; produces edible beech nuts which are an excellent food source for a variety of wildlife; grows best in moist, rich soils.



White Spruce (*Picea glauca*) a horizontal branching evergreen tree that grows to 60 feet in height; stiff, 1 inch long needles are blue-green in color; extremely hardy; provides winter cover and browse for some wildlife; prefers moist soils.



White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) the largest northeastern conifer; grows to 100 feet; has large horizontal limbs; needles are long (2-5"), soft and flexible; prefers well drained, sandy soils; withstands shearing; provides winter cover for various wildlife and birds.



Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) a medium sized evergreen (to 70 feet) with graceful, drooping branches and short, shiny dark green needles; cones are small (to 1 inch) and brown; grows best in cool, moist locations; can be used as hedging; provides winter cover for various wildlife.



Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) evergreen tree with narrow, columnar growth; trunk is often angled and buttressed at base; grows 40 to 60 feet in height; foliage is dark green; wood is very aromatic; produces dark blue berries in the fall which provide food for various wildlife throughout the winter; can grow in a variety of conditions from uplands to flood plains.



Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) a fast-growing deciduous tree that can reach a height of 80 feet; leaf stems are reddish in color as are spring flowers; the winged fruits are eaten by many birds and squirrels; leaves turn a brilliant scarlet in fall; grows rapidly in moist, wet soils.



Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*) a deciduous tree with a rounded crown and dense foliage that grows to 60 feet; leaves turn reddish-brown in fall; acorns provide excellent fall food for wildlife; transplants easily and is hardy in city conditions.



American Linden (*Tilia americana*) a deciduous tree with large, somewhat heart-shaped leaves; reaches a height of 60 to 80 feet; produces clusters of fragrant, creamy white flowers in summer which are strongly attractive to bees; often used as a shade tree or street tree; prefers moist soils.



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