

### **Native Species**

eastern blue-star, *Amsonia tabernaemontana*

A spring blooming plant that grows in sun to light shade, prefers moist soil in sun, 2-3 foot upright perennial with light blue star shaped flowers in May. Conflicting sources on where it is native, generally wet to moist sandy soils along the coast. It is spreading from garden plantings and can be aggressive in the garden. It does feed early pollinators such as the mourning cloak.



red columbine, *Aquilegia canadensis*

Showy red and yellow flowers that bloom about the time the hummingbirds arrive. It grows to 2' tall, in sun to shade, in dry to moist soils. It grows well in limestone and rocky soils. Foliage is a delicate blue green. This plant will seed around the garden where there are openings.



swamp milkweed, *Asclepias incarnata*

Swamp milkweed goes in moist to wet meadows, however it grows well in typical garden soil. It produces a large display of light pink flowers in summer. It grows 2-4' tall and does not spread like common milkweed. It attracts numerous pollinators and feeds monarch caterpillars, which love this plant and can strip it of leaves. Recommend planting several to feed the monarchs.



butterflyweed, *Asclepias tuberosa*

Butterflyweed brings a beautiful orange flowers underscored by dark green foliage to the garden during the summer. It attracts numerous pollinators and provides food for monarch caterpillars. It thrives in well drained dry or gravelly soils. It grows to 36" in sun to light shade. Again, plant more than one for the monarchs!



common milkweed, *Asclepias syriaca*

Common milkweed has a wonderful sweet smell that will be a delight near your patio if you have a way to keep it contained; it can be grown in pots. It spreads through runners and is fabulous in your meadows. It can grow to over 5' producing pendulous clusters of pink & white flowers during the summer. Its large leaves provide food for monarch caterpillars. it grows in most soils and prefers full sun.



whorled milkweed, *Asclepias verticillata*

This delicate leaved milkweed has wonderful heads of delicate white milkweed flowers. It grows naturally in dry, open areas and does well in gardens. It grows 1-3' tall and prefers sun to light shade. It attracts numerous pollinators and is a food source for monarch caterpillars. It once was fairly common, though now it is hard to find. It is poisonous to livestock.



blue false indigo, *Baptisia australis*

Blue false indigo becomes shrub like during the growing season; it can reach a size of 3-5' tall by 3' wide. It produces large spikes, 10-12", of blue pea-like flowers in May and June followed by inflated seed pods. It grows well in sun to part sun. It attracts native bees and other pollinators. It is also a nitrogen fixer and will add nitrogen to your garden soil.



turtlehead, *Chelone glabra*

Turtlehead is named for the shape of the flower that blooms in the fall (Aug-Sept). It is fun to watch the bees push their way in to pollinate this flower. The plant is the host plant for the Baltimore Checkerspot butterfly. It prefers wet to moist part shade to shade garden settings. It grows to 3' or more.



green & gold, *Chrysogonum virginianum*

Green & gold is a great ground cover for moist to dry part sun to sunny areas. It produces 1" yellow flowers about 12" tall in spring and often reblooms in the fall. It spreads by stolons and runners. The leaves are about 6" high and medium to dark green.



purple coneflower, *Echinacea purpurea*

Purple coneflower is a great summer plant for a sunny to part shade garden. It attracts many pollinators, including lots of butterflies, during bloom. Leave the seed heads and watch the goldfinches balance on them to get the seed in the fall. It generally grows to 3' in the garden and blooms all summer long. It prefers drier soil. It readily reseeds itself and can be aggressive in the garden. While found throughout Maryland many consider it non-native as it is spreading from cultivation.



Joe-pye weed, *Eutrochium maculatum*

This fabulous plant grows to 4-6' tall by late summer at which time it is topped with large heads of pink purple flowers that keep your garden buzzing with pollinators. It prefers sun to part shade and will provide shade for early spring plants that require shade in the summer. It tolerates a wide range of soils and moisture conditions; does best with moist soils.



wild strawberry, *Fragaria virginiana*

Wild strawberry is a great ground cover to allow to wander under all your plants. It will serve as a green mulch layer and provide the sweetest, most delicious little strawberries for your kitchen. It is the plant from which the modern strawberry was developed. The plant is about 3", prefers sun in the early season and grows in most soils. It prefers moist to dry soil. It attracts early butterflies and is the larval host for the gray hairstreak butterfly.



blazingstar, *Liatris spicata*

This summer bloomer sends up a purple pink flower spike 24-40" high and is a great vertical element for your summer garden. It prefers full sun and moist soils. It attracts butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators.



photo: Ann Aldrich

cardinal flower, *Lobelia cardinalis*

A brilliant red flower spike attracts hummingbirds & butterflies in mid to late summer. This short-lived perennial grows in a variety of sunlight and moisture conditions, though must be moist to wet soils to thrive. It readily reseeds in bare soil, so just cut the flower pike when the seed capsules are brown and lay down on bare soil for a new crop next year. It is not the first plant deer will eat.



photo: Ann Aldrich

great blue lobelia, *Lobelia siphilitica*

This tall blue spiked lobelia also prefers moist to wet soils and sun to partial shade. The bloom spike can reach 3 feet. It blooms from late summer through fall. Like cardinal flower cut the stem when the seed capsules are brown and lay down on bare soil for new plants the next year. It attracts butterflies and many other pollinators, including hummingbirds.



photo: Ann Aldrich

red beebalm, *Monarda didyma*

The bright red firework flowers of the red beebalm will bring butterflies and hummingbirds to your garden from June to September. Red beebalm prefers moist soils and sun to part shade. It grows to 4' tall and is somewhat aggressive so either plant with other aggressive plants or plan on moving it around your landscape periodically. It is in the mint family and has similar growing attributes to peppermint and other mints. It has moderate deer resistance. Can be susceptible to mildew.



photo: Ann Aldrich

wild bergamot, *Monarda fistulosa*

This pale purple firework flower is a close relative of the red beebalm that prefers drier soils in full sun to part shade. The blooms, from late June - September attract butterflies and hummingbirds. It is also a mint and can be aggressive so plant with other aggressive plants, use to fill large spaces or plan to divide and move periodically. It has moderate deer resistance. Can be susceptible to mildew.



photo: wildflower.org

golden ragwort, *Packera aurea*

Golden ragwort is another wonderful groundcover for difficult areas. It grows in a variety of conditions, preferring sun to shade with moist soils. The sunnier the area the moister the soils. The dark green leaves with purple undersides are evergreen and are about 3" high. The plant sends up stalks with dense heads of yellow flowers in April and May. The flowers are important to early pollinators.



photo: Ann Aldrich

foxglove beardstongue, *Penstemon digitalis*

A tall spike, 1.5-3' tall, of white foxglove flowers grace our fields and road cuts in May and June. This plant adds late spring, early summer interest to our sunny to part shade gardens. The plants tolerate a wide range of soil and moisture conditions. The flowers will attract a wide range of bees, bumblebees and hummingbirds to your garden.



creeping phlox, *Phlox stolonifera*

Creeping phlox is a wonderful addition to your part shade to shade garden. Its blue purple flowers float about 6-10" above the ground in April or May. It prefers moist, rich soil. It will create a wonderful ground cover among ferns and other plants in your woodland garden.



clustered mountain mint, *Pycnanthemum muticum*

Clustered mountainmint is a pollinator magnet from mid-summer to fall. Its small delicate purplish flower head is subtended by large white leaves. It grows in a wide variety of soil and moisture conditions and reaches a height of 3'. It prefers full sun to part shade. It is an aggressive plant and should be planted with other aggressive plants or plan on dividing and moving periodically. A less aggressive mountainmint is the narrow leaf mountainmint, however it does not have the showy white leaves framing the flowers. Leaves can be used for mint tea.



narrowleaf mountain mint, *Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*

The narrowleaf mountain mint is less aggressive in the garden and is a fabulous pollinator plant, attracting all kinds of pollinators. It has thin leaves for a nice texture with broader leaved plants. It blooms from July to September. The flowers are 2-3' tall, white with purple spots. The plant tolerates a wide range of soils and moisture conditions, including dry soils. Leaves can be used for tea and when rubbed on skin will repel mosquitos.



eastern coneflower, *Rudbeckia fulgida var. fulgida*

This plant is similar to the black-eyed susan with golden yellow flowers with a dark center that flowers in late summer and fall. It grows to about 30" tall and prefers sun to part shade. It grows in a wide variety of soil and moisture conditions. This is a good nectar source for butterflies and other pollinators.



cutleaf coneflower, *Rudbeckia laciniata*

This plant has a flower head of many large yellow coneflowers that can reach 72 inches or taller, which blooms from mid-summer to fall. It grows in sun to shade and a wide variety of soils and moisture conditions. The plant is extremely aggressive in full sun and is therefore recommended for part shade to shade to control aggressive behavior. It spreads through underground stems. It is important for pollinators and goldfinches and other seed eating birds will entertain you as they seek the seed.



little bluestem, *Schizachyrium scoparium*

Grasses are important for garden structure and as a caterpillar source for skipper butterflies and others. Grasses interspersed through the garden will also help protect your palatable plants from deer. Little bluestem is a bunch grass which grows to 3-4' in height. Its blue green foliage turns golden in the fall. The bloom spike is delicate with finely tufted seeds that enhance the fall and winter garden. This grass prefers growing in dry soils, including clays, in sun to part shade.



gray goldenrod, *Solidago nemoralis*

Gray goldenrod is a 'well-behaved' goldenrod that will add spikes of gold to the garden from late June until fall. It grows to about 3' in sun to shade and prefers dry soils of any variety. Goldenrod does not cause hay fever or allergies- that is ragwort pollen that is inconspicuous and blooms at the same time. All goldenrods are important nectar and pollen sources for a wide variety of pollinators.



New-England aster, *Symphotrichum novae-angliae*

This large showy purple blue aster will draw many pollinators to your garden from late summer through the fall. The flower color can vary from lavender, rose purple to white. It grows between 3-6', however you can control its height by pinching the plant back in midseason. It grows in sun and part shade, preferring moist soils of varying textures. It can be aggressive so plant with grasses and goldenrods for a wonderful fall floral show. It is the larval host for the earl crescent and checkerspot butterflies.



Culver's root, *Veronicastrum virginicum*

A tall spike of dense small white flowers will attract many pollinators during its mid to late summer blooming time. It prefers moist, rich soils and grows well in sun to part shade in most gardens. The candelabra shaped flower spikes add a wonderful upright element to any garden. The flower spikes can reach a height from 3-6'. The long dark leaves are in whorls around the stem.



New York ironweed, *Vernonia noveboracensis*

The tall deep purple blooms of New York ironweed will draw many pollinators to the garden in late summer and fall. This plant grows naturally in wet meadows, however it does very well in the average garden with full sun to part shade. It is a tall plant, reaching 3-6', which is wonderful plant for the back of the border.



### **Cultivars**

Shenandoah switch grass, *Panicum virgatum* 'Shenandoah'

This is a small beautiful cultivar of our native switchgrass. It is compact at 3' and has wonderful red leaf margins, which turn deep purple in fall. The bloom spike is an open, airy, delicate spike. It grows in a variety of soil types and is drought tolerant once established. It prefers full sun to part shade.



photo: High Country

Golden Fleece goldenrod, *Solidago sphacelata* 'Golden Fleece'

This short yellow goldenrod, 1 – 1.5' in flower, is a great ground cover that spreads by rhizomes and forms a dense mat. It grows in a wide variety of conditions preferring well drained soils in full sun, though it can take some shade. Cut flower stalks for additional blooms. The blooms attract a variety of pollinators



photo: Perennial Farm

Iron Butterfly ironweed, *Vernonia* 'Iron Butterfly'

This is a 2-3' compact, mounding ironweed with thin leaves that produces a loose head of purple flowers in late summer. The plant grows well in full sun to part shade in moist to dry soils. Pollinators and hummingbirds are attracted to the showy purple flowers.



photo: High Country Gardens

Blue Fortune hyssop, *Agastache* 'Blue Fortune'

Blue Fortune is a compact, 2-3', giant hyssop with a spike of blue purple flowers from July to September. It prefers full sun and moist to dry well drained soil conditions. It is somewhat deer tolerant. This plant attracts pollinators.



photo: Walters Gardens

Little Joe-Pye Weed, *Eutrochium dubium* 'Little Joe'

This compact cultivar grows to 3-4' and will grow in a variety of moist garden soils in full sun to part shade. It is a pollinator magnet with large pink flower heads from July - September.



photo: North Creek Nursery

Blue-Eyed Grass, *Sisyrinchium angustifolium* 'Lucerne'

Delicate clump forming small plant with ½-1" diameter blooms that are blue with a yellow center during May and June. This cultivar does not self-sow as readily as the straight native species. It prefers moist, well drained soils in sun to part shade. The spiky blue-green foliage lasts all growing season.



photo: gardenia.net

Threadleaf Coreopsis, *Coreopsis verticillata* 'Zagreb'

A small mounding plant growing to 1-1.5' with same spread, which is covered by large yellow flowers in May and June. It grows best in well-draining rocky soils. Cutting the plants back after blooming can encourage a fall bloom. It tolerates deer and drought.



photo: Mt Cuba Center

## Shrubs

### Witch hazel, *Hamamelis virginiana*

Extend your garden bloom time by planting a common witch hazel shrub tree. This is a graceful, open, spreading, tall deciduous shrub that will grow to 10-15' and provide clusters of delicate yellow blooms from October into January. This provides food for pollinators when nothing else is in bloom. The leaves turn yellow in the fall. An extract of the plant is the astringent used in witch hazel lotions and solutions. It is wonderful in small gardens and will provide the shade for a woodland garden. The plant prefers rich, well drained soils in part shade to full shade.



### Serviceberry, *Amelanchier canadensis*

This large multi-stemmed shrub is a wonderful native replacement for the invasive Bradford pear. It has delicate white blooms that open before the leaves in April, which when pollinated produce edible red-purple berries. The leaves turn orange to rusty red in the fall. The plant grows to 6+ feet in average soils. It grows in sun to shade. The plant is attractive to pollinators and provides fruit for birds, animals and humans. The diseases to which it is susceptible are cosmetic rather than deadly.



### Nannyberry, *Viburnum lentago*

This is a tall slender shrub 12-16' by 12' wide has beautiful large 3-4" white flowerheads in May followed by blue black fruit in the fall. It grows in numerous conditions from full sun to shade and from moist to dry areas. It is important to pollinators and provides fruit for birds and small mammals. The glossy dark green leaves turn a deep red in the fall. This provides wonderful shade for a woodland garden and is a great replacement for the invasive bush honeysuckle.



### Arrowwood, *Viburnum dentatum*

Arrowwood is a 6-8' multi-stemmed shrub with 3" roundish, toothed dark green leaves that turn yellow to purple in the fall. The 2-4" inch flowerheads appear in May followed by blue-black fruit in the fall. This shrub grows best in moist gardens with sun to full shade. It can produce suckers from the base, which can be transplanted or allowed to create a dense shrub. The flowers are important to pollinators, it is a larval host for the spring azure butterfly and the seeds are important for birds.



### Buttonbush, *Cephalanthus occidentalis*

Buttonbush is a pollinator magnet that naturally grows in wet areas and also does very well in gardens. It is a well-rounded, glossy leaved shrub to 9' tall that has 1" globes of white flowers from mid-summer to early fall. The globes then ripen into reddish brown nutlets that often hang on the bush through the winter. It prefers sun though will grow in part shade to shade where it will produce fewer flowers.



Winterberry, *Ilex verticillata*

*Ilex verticillata* 'Winter Red' – female, *Ilex verticillata* 'Southern Gentleman' - male

This wonderful deciduous holly bears many 1/3" red berries on the female plants in the winter. Your garden must have both the female and male plants for the berry display in the winter. Plant the male shrub in a less conspicuous place in your garden. It can grow to 10' tall by 10' wide. It prefers moist to wet soils and grows in full sun to shade. This plant does well in the average garden. The more sun on the female plant, the more berries. The small whitish green flowers are important to pollinators during May and June and the fruit will be eaten by birds. The foliage turns light yellow in the fall. This shrub will send up suckers which can be removed or allowed to grow into a large clump.



photo: wildflower.org

Sweet pepperbush, *Clethra alnifolia*

Sweet pepperbush is another wetland plant that thrives in average garden soils. This slender shrub to 8' tall sends up 6" spikes of small, fragrant white flowers in July or August. The shrub grows in sun (more flowers) to shade and prefers moist to wet soils. The plant is a pollinator magnet in bloom and provides seed for birds in the fall and winter. The leaves turn a pale yellow to golden brown in the fall. Plant in a location next to your sitting area to enjoy its fragrance and to watch the pollinators close at hand.



photo: Ann Aldrich