

Recommended Native Plants for Gardeners
The Native Plant Center at Westchester Community College
Compiled by Carolyn Summers

Shade Perennials, including ferns

Groundcovers

<i>Anemone canadensis</i>	Canada anemone
<i>Asarum canadense</i>	wild ginger
<i>Aster divaricatus</i>	white wood aster
<i>Carex pensylvanica</i>	oak sedge (sim. to grass)
ferns	ladyfern, hayscented, NY
<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	wild geranium
<i>Heuchera americana</i>	alum-root
<i>Iris cristata</i>	woodland iris
<i>Isopyrum biternatum</i> [Extirp.]	false rue-anemone
<i>Maianthemum canadense</i>	Canada mayflower
<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	may-apple
<i>Polemonium reptans</i>	Jacob's ladder
<i>Sedum ternatum</i>	stonecrop
<i>Senecio aureus</i>	golden ragwort
<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	foamflower
<i>Viola adunca</i>	Labrador violet
<i>Viola blanda</i>	sweet white violet
<i>Viola canadensis</i>	tall white violet
<i>Viola sororia</i>	common violet
<i>Viola striata</i>	cream violet

Spring ephemerals (foliage dies back by mid-summer; intersperse with ferns or other groundcovers)

<i>Cardamine diphylla</i>	toothwort
<i>Dicentra cucullaria</i>	Dutchman's breeches
<i>Dodecatheon meadia</i> [Extirp.]	shooting star
<i>Erythronium americanum</i>	trout lily
<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	Virginia bluebells
<i>Polygonatum pubescens</i>	Solomon's seal
<i>Thalictrum thalictroides</i>	rue anemone
<i>Uvularia sessilifolia</i>	wild-oats

Small and medium sized perennials for specimens and groupings

<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	wild columbine
<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	Jack-in-the-pulpit
<i>Caulophyllum thalictroides</i>	blue cohosh
<i>Dicentra eximia</i> [E]	wild bleeding heart
<i>Jeffersonia diphylla</i>	twin-leaf

<i>Maianthemum racemosum</i>	Solomon's plume
<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	woodland phlox
<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	bloodroot
<i>Silene caroliniana</i> var. <i>pensylvanica</i>	wild pink
<i>Solidago caesia</i>	blue-stem goldenrod
<i>Uvularia grandiflora</i>	bellwort
<i>Zizia aptera</i>	golden alexanders

Taller perennials for wood's edge or as understory "shrubs"

<i>Aruncus dioica</i>	goat's-beard
<i>Aster cordifolius</i>	blue wood aster
<i>Cimicifuga racemosa</i>	fairy candles
<i>Collinsonia canadensis</i>	stoneroot
<i>Dryopteris</i> spp.	wood ferns
<i>Eupatorium rugosum</i>	white snakeroot
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	cardinal-flower
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	great lobelia
<i>Phlox maculata</i> [T]	wild sweet-william
<i>Porteranthus stipulatus</i> [Extirp.]	American ipecac
<i>Porteranthus trifoliatu</i> s	Indian physic
<i>Pycnanthemum muticum</i> [T]	mountain mint

Generally speaking, shade perennials require at least average moisture. Very few plants do well in dry shade. Sunshine makes everything bloom better, but the more sun filtering into your shade garden the more moisture your plants will require.

Key: T = threatened in NYS, E = endangered in NYS, Extirp. = extirpated from NYS

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