



# Native Plantings of the Pollinator Meadow on MacPherson Road



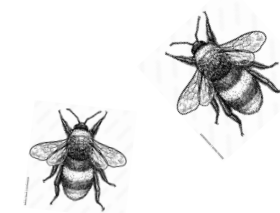
Photo October 2023 after June 2023 planting

- Native plants were selected for tolerance of dry, sandy soils, low maintenance requirements, deer resistance, and to achieve a broad bloom season.
- Plants planted were 2" Plugs purchased from New England Wetland Plants or donated from local gardeners and Grow Native Mass.
- Several plants are listed in Dr. Gegear's plant list as locally important for native bumblebee species. They are indicated with [Dr Gegear's List](#)





# Native Plantings List



Scientific Name	Common Name	Plant Type	Sun Needs	Soil Requirement	Bloom Time						Larval Host Plant	Dr. Gegeer's List	
					Early		Mid		Late				
					A	M	J	J	A	S	O		
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Red Columbine	Herb. perennial	Part Shade	Dry, med	x	x	x						
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Rose (swamp) milkweed	Herb. perennial	Full Sun	Med, wet				x	x			y	y
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly Milkweed	Herb. perennial	Full Sun - Part Shade	Dry, med			x	x				y	y
<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	Lance Leaved Coreopsis	Herb. perennial	Full Sun - Part Shade	Dry, med		x	x	x	x				
<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	Northern Bush Honeysuckle	Shrub	Full - shade	Dry, med		x	x	x	x				y
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Purple Coneflower	Herb. perennial	Full Sun - Part Shade	Dry, med			x	x					
<i>Monarda Fistulosa</i>	Wild bergamot	Herb. perennial	Full Sun - Part Shade	Med, wet				x	x	x			y
<i>Monarda punctata</i>	Spotted Beebalm	Herb. perennial	Full Sun - Part Shade	Dry, med			x	x	x				
<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i>	Hairy beard tongue	Herb. perennial	Full-Shade	Dry, med, wet		x	x					y	y
<i>Pycnanthemum virginiana</i>	Virginia Mountain Mint	Herb. perennial	Part Shade	Med, wet				x	x	x			
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Black-eyed Susan	Herb. perennial	Full Sun - Part Shade	Med, dry			x	x	x	x	x	y	
<i>Rudbeckia triloba</i>	Brown-eyed Susan	Herb. perennial	Full Sun - Part Shade	Med, wet			x	x	x	x	x	y	
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little Blue Stem	Grass	Full Sun - Part Shade	Med, dry						x	x	y	y
<i>Solidago puberula</i>	Downy Goldenrod	Herb. perennial	Full Sun - Part Shade	Dry, med					x	x	x		
<i>Solidago sempervirens</i>	Seaside Goldenrod	Herb. perennial	Full Sun - Part Shade	Med, wet					x	x	x		
<i>Symphotrichum cordifolium</i>	Blue Wood Aster	Herb. perennial	Full Sun - Part Shade	Dry, med, wet					x	x	x	y	
<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>	New England Aster	Herb. perennial	Full Sun - Part Shade	Med, wet					x	x	x		
<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>	Low Bush Blueberry	Shrub	Full Sun - Part Shade	Dry, med, wet			x	x					y

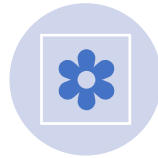
# Red Columbine

*Aquilegia canadensis*

This beautiful woodland wildflower has showy, drooping, bell-like flowers equipped with distinctly backward-pointing tubes, similar to the garden Columbines. These tubes, or spurs, contain **nectar** that attracts long-tongued insects and hummingbirds especially adapted for reaching the sweet secretion. It is reported that **Native** Americans rubbed the crushed seeds on the hands of men as a love charm. Height is 8 - 24 inches.



**Light Requirement:** Part Shade  
**Soil Moisture:** Dry, average



**Bloom Color:** Red , Yellow  
**Bloom Time:** Apr , May , Jun



**Conditions Comments:** Likes moisture but must be in well drained soil. Rich garden soil encourages rank vegetative growth and weak stems and shortens the plant's lifespan, while plants in thin, sandy soils maintain a tight, compact habit and can live for many years



**Use Wildlife:** Bees, butterflies, hummingbirds frequent this wildflower

**Nectar Source:** yes



Photographer: **Pyle, Lynn**



Photographer: **Mathews, Ray**



# Swamp Milkweed

*Asclepias incarnata*

Also known as Rose Milkweed, the large, bright, terminal blossoms of this tall, showy perennial are made up of small, pink flowers clustered at the top of a tall (3-5 ft.), branching stem, bearing numerous narrow, lance-shaped (3-6 in.) leaves. Elongated, tan-brown seed pods persist into winter. The juice of this wetland milkweed is less milky than that of other species.



**Light Requirement:** Sun to part shade  
**Soil Moisture:** Average to Wet



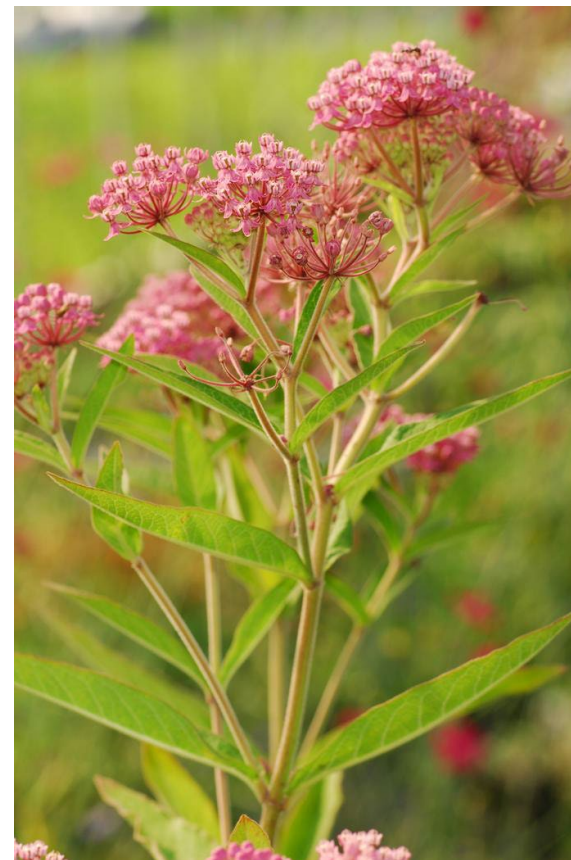
**Bloom Color:** Mauve, pink  
**Bloom Time:** Jul , Aug



**Conditions**  
**Comments:** Swamp milkweed is often a better choice than common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) in a garden setting, because swamp milkweed doesn't spread nearly as much as common milkweed



**Attracts:** Butterflies , Hummingbirds  
**Larval Host:** 2 species of butterfly use this plant as a host including the Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*)  
**Nectar Source:** yes  
**Deer Resistant:** High



**Monarch**  
(*Danaus plexippus*)



# Butterfly Weed

*Asclepius tuberosa*

This bushy, 1 1/2-2 ft. **perennial** is prized for its large, flat-topped clusters of bright-orange flowers. The leaves are mostly **alternate**, 1 1/2-2 1/4 inches long, pointed, and smooth on the edge. The flower clusters, 2-5 inches across, are at the top of the flowering stem. The tough root was chewed by Native Americans as a cure for pleurisy and other pulmonary ailments.

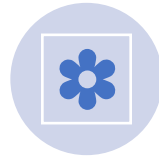


**Water Use:** Low

**Light Requirement:** Sun

**Soil Moisture:** Dry , Moist

**Drought Tolerance:** High



**Bloom Color:** Orange , Yellow

**Bloom Time:** Jun , Jul



**Conditions Comments:** This showy plant is frequently grown from seed. It may get aphids; you can leave them for ladybugs to eat or spray the insects and foliage with soapy water.

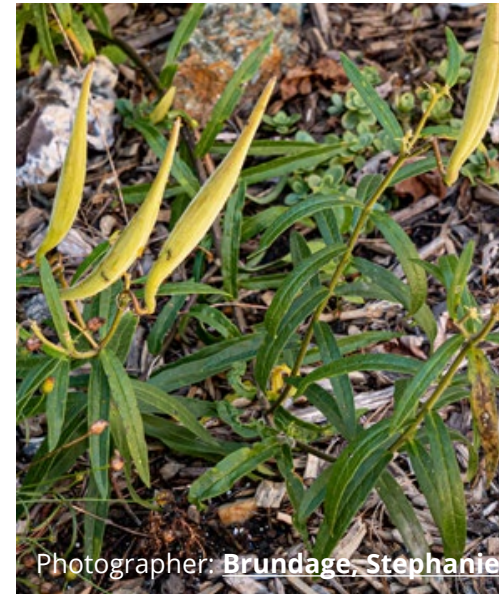


**Attracts:** Butterflies , Hummingbirds

**Larval Host:** Grey Hairstreak, Monarch, Queens

**Nectar Source:** yes

**Deer Resistant:** High



**Monarch**  
(*Danaus plexippus*)





# Lance Leaved Coreopsis

*Coreopsis lanceolata*

It is recognized by leaves all on the lower half of the stem, most leaves on the stem lack any lobes, while leaves at the base are often lobed. It has all-yellow flowers 2 to 3 inches across, the rays/petals toothed or shallowly lobed at the tips



**Light Requirement:** Sun to Part Shade  
**Soil Moisture:** Dry to Medium



**Bloom Color:** Yellow  
**Bloom Time:** May - Aug



## Conditions

**Comments:** Evergreen leaves add garden interest year-round. Easy to grow and can become weedy. It is drought tolerant but is not a reliably perennial, but self-sows readily.



**Use Wildlife:** Bees and butterflies frequent this wildflower. **Nectar Source:** yes



# Northern Bush Honeysuckle

*Diervilla lonicera*

Bush honeysuckle is native to cool woods and woodland edges, with a suckering, very broadly leafy habit. Though easily mistaken for *Lonicera japonica*, Japanese honeysuckle before it blooms, this shrub remains shorter (2-3 ft.) than that invasive species, with subtle yellow flowers that emerge in midsummer and great fall leaf color, and with significant benefits to native insects.



**Light Requirement:** Sun to Part Shade  
**Soil Moisture:** Dry to Average



**Bloom Color:** Yellow  
**Bloom Time:** May-July



**Conditions Comments:** Has attractive, multicolor fall foliage. The flowers are yellow until they have been pollinated at which point they turn red.



**Use Wildlife:** Bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds frequent this wildflower.  
**Nectar Source:** yes





# Purple Coneflower

*Echinacea purpurea*

A popular **perennial** with smooth, 2-4 ft. stems and long-lasting, lavender flowers with spiny, brownish centers. Rough, scattered leaves that become small toward the top of the stem. Flowers occur singly atop the stems and have domed, purplish-brown, spiny centers and drooping, lavender petals.



**Light Requirement:** Sun to Part Shade  
**Soil Moisture:** Medium to Dry



**Bloom Color:** Purple, pink  
**Bloom Time:** June-Aug



**Conditions Comments:**

Not considered native to New England but an important plant for birds and pollinators. It is also an important herb.



**Use Wildlife:** Bees and butterflies frequent this wildflower.  
**Nectar Source:** yes





# Wild Bergamot

*Monarda fistulosa*

Wild bergamot, known by many other common names, is a popular and showy perennial. Clusters of lavender, pink or white flowers, looking like ragged pompoms, bloom atop 2-5 ft., open-branched stems.

This showy **perennial**, frequently cultivated, has aromatic leaves used to make mint tea. Oil from the leaves was formerly used to treat respiratory ailments. The leaves smell minty.



**Light Requirement:** Sun , Part Shade

**Soil Moisture:** Med., Moist



**Bloom Color:** White , Pink , Purple

**Bloom Time:** Jul , Aug , Sep



**Conditions Comments:** Prone to mildew but can prevent by providing good drainage and air circulation..



**Use Wildlife:** Bees and butterflies and hummingbirds frequent this wildflower.



Photographer: Gammill, Lynn Crosby



Photographer: Muller, Thomas L.

# Spotted Beebalm

*Monarda punctata*

Also known as Horsemint, it is an aromatic, erect **perennial** up to 3 ft. tall. Rosettes of yellowish, purple-spotted, tubular flowers occur in whorls, forming a dense, elongated **spike** at the end of the **stem**. Each whorl has large, conspicuous, whitish, pink or purple-tinged, leaf-like bracts. Flowers with maroon spots are less visible than the pale pink bracts that surround them.



**Light Requirement:** Sun to part sun  
**Soil Moisture:** Dry to Average



**Bloom Color:** White , Pale Pink , Yellow , Green , Purple  
**Bloom Time:** June, July, Aug



**Conditions Comments:** It is in the mint family and will spread by runners, but not very aggressively. Year-round interest and pink or purple leaf-like bracts stand out around the flowers.



**Use Wildlife:** Bees and butterflies frequent this wildflower.  
**Nectar Source:** yes



Susan Strine



Karen Rawlins



# Hairy Beard Tongue

*Penstemon hirsutus*

Hairy Beardtongue gets its name from the fine hairs that grow along the upright stem, as well as those that appear on the fifth stamen of each flower. Grows up to 1-2 foot tall. Noted as a species of concern in Massachusetts.



**Light Requirement:** Full Sun to Part Shade  
**Soil Moisture:** Dry to Moist



**Bloom Color:** pink to lavender  
**Bloom Time:** May, June



## Conditions

**Comments:** Critical role providing pollen and nectar at the end of spring. Easy to add to the landscape as it's one of the smaller wildflowers. Seed heads are enjoyed by birds late in the season. .



**Use Wildlife:** Bees and butterflies frequent this wildflower.  
**Larval Host:** Baltimore checkerspot butterflies.  
**Nectar Source:** yes



Justin Wheeler

## Baltimore Checkerspot (*Euphydryas phaeton*)



Anna Fiedler

# Virginia Mountain Mint

*Pycnanthemum virginiana*

Virginia Mountain-mint is a stout **perennial**, becoming multi-branched toward top of its 2-3 ft. height. Tiny, white, mint-like flowers, often spotted with purple, are arranged in numerous small, dense clusters. The clusters, which bloom only a few at a time, arise from leaf axils at the **stem** tips. The foliage of this leafy plant is covered with a whitish bloom.



**Light Requirement:** Part  
Shade

**Soil Moisture:** Average to  
Moist



**Bloom Color:** White , Purple  
**Bloom Time:** Jul , Aug , Sep



**Conditions Comments:** Can  
be aggressive but is less so in  
drier soil.



**Use Wildlife:** Bees and  
butterflies frequent this  
wildflower.  
**Nectar Source:** yes



Photographer: Wasowski, Sally and Andy



Photographer: Makin, Julie



# Black Eyed Susan

*Rudbeckia hirta*

Exceptionally showy and easy to grow, *Rudbeckia hirta* has a prolonged floral display that attracts butterflies and other beneficial insects. The late season seedheads attract finches and other birds. It is a coarse, hairy, somewhat weedy plant that blooms throughout the summer atop stiff, leafy, upright stems growing 1-3' tall. Rough, hairy, lance-shaped leaves (3-7" long).



**Light Requirement:** Sun to Part Shade

**Soil Moisture:** Dry to Moist



**Bloom Color:** Yellow with dark brown center

**Bloom Time:** June-Oct



**Conditions Comments:** Black-eyed Susan is an opportunist that thrives easily in disturbed areas. A biennial, it blooms and completes its life cycle in its second year but will re-seed. .

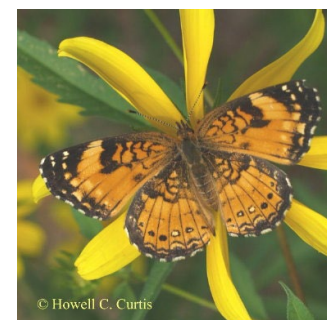


**Use Wildlife:** Bees and butterflies frequent this wildflower.

**Larval Host:** Silvery Checkerspot (*Chlosyne nycteis*)

**Nectar Source:** yes

Silvery Checkerspot  
(*Chlosyne nycteis*)



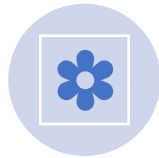
# Brown Eyed Susan

*Rudbeckia triloba*

Also known as Three-lobed Coneflower is an herbaceous biennial or short-lived perennial of 3-5 feet tall that tolerates heat, drought, deer predation, and a wide range of soils. The leaves often have 3 lobes and a rosette of leaves that originate at the base of the stem persists through the winter, creating an attractive winter ground cover. It has numerous daisy-like flowers with a long bloom time.



**Light Requirement:** Part Shade  
**Soil Moisture:** average, moist, well-drained soils.



**Bloom Color:** Yellow with black/brown center  
**Bloom Time:** June - Oct



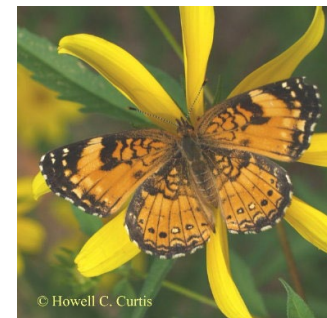
**Conditions Comments:** Self-seeds, it can re-emerge in the spring garden regardless of the survival of the original plant through the winter.



**Use Wildlife:** Bees and butterflies frequent this wildflower.  
**Larval Host:** Silvery Checkerspot (*Chlosyne nycteis*), and the Wavy-Lined Emerald (*Synchlora aerata*)..  
**Nectar Source:** yes



Silvery Checkerspot  
(*Chlosyne nycteis*),



© Howell C. Curtis



# Little Blue Stem

*Schizachyrium scoparium*

A small, non-spreading, clump-forming grass with blue-green leaves that turn reddish orange in the fall. Fluffy silver seed heads are ornamental through winter on 1-2 foot tall plants.



**Light Requirement:** Full sun to part shade  
**Soil Moisture:** Dry to moderate



**Bloom Color:** silver-white seed heads  
**Bloom Time:** Sep , Oct



**Conditions Comments:** This is an excellent short grass for the garden. Ideal for massed plantings. Provides food and cover for wildlife.



**Use Wildlife:** Shelter and food  
**Nectar Source:** yes  
**Larval Host:** 9 skipper species



Photos: (L) Wikipedia, (R) Denver Botanical Garden



Delaware Skipper  
(*Anatrytone logan*)

Photo: F. Model

# Downy Goldenrod

*Solidago puberula*

Downy Goldenrod (*Solidago puberula*), found in dry sites in eastern North America, has a very leafy **stem** covered with fine, spreading hairs. It grows up to 3 feet tall.



**Light Requirement:** Part Shade  
**Soil Moisture:** Dry, average



**Bloom Color:** Yellow  
**Bloom Time:** Aug , Sep , Oct



**Conditions Comments:** An important fall pollinator plant. Low maintenance, drought tolerant, and deer resistant.



**Use Wildlife:** Bees frequent this wildflower.  
**Nectar Source:** yes





# Seaside Goldenrod

*Solidago sempervirens*

This **perennial** produces a tight clump of narrow, **evergreen** basal leaves topped by leafy, erect or arching, 2-6 ft. stalks. The plants alternately arranged leaves are fleshy, dark green, oblong, lance shaped and are produced the entire length of the stem. The leaves at the base of the plant are the largest, up to 20 inches, and become smaller up the stem of the plant. The terminal or upper **axillary** flowering heads are dense and deep yellow.



**Light Requirement:** Sun  
**Soil Moisture:** Moist



**Bloom Color:** Yellow  
**Bloom Time:** Aug , Sep , Oct



**Conditions Comments:** An important fall pollinator plant. This goldenrod does not spread by rhizomes or become invasive. It is resistant to salt spray. Pinch the growing tips in June for a more compact plant.



**Use Wildlife:** Bees and butterflies frequent this wildflower.  
**Nectar Source:** yes



Photographer Renee Brecht



# Wood Blue Aster

*Symphyotrichum cordifolium*

Also known as Heart-leaved Aster, when summer flowers fade, this pretty and prolific bloomer attracts many pollinators. A stout, 3-5 ft., leafy plant with smooth, upright arching stems with 2-5 in sharply toothed leaves. Upper leaves are ovate and lower leaves are heart-shaped. The base is often deeply notched.



**Light Requirement:** Full sun to Part Shade  
**Soil Moisture:** Dry to Moist



**Bloom Color:** White to pale blue / violet  
**Bloom Time:** Aug , Sep , Oct



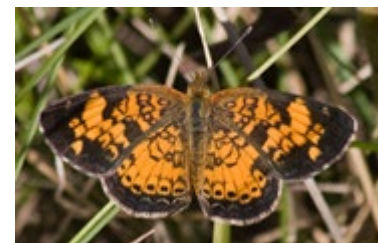
**Conditions**  
**Comments:** Pinching back the stems will lead to a bushier plant and hopefully avoid the need for staking.



**Use Wildlife:** Bees, wsps, and butterflies frequent this wildflower.  
**Larval Host:** Pearl Crescent (*Phyciodes tharos*).  
**Nectar Source:** yes



**Pearl Crescent**  
(*Phyciodes tharos*)



Elaine Mills



# New England Aster

*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*

New England American-aster is large and showy, growing to 6 or more ft. in height. The perennial's hairy, clasping leaves are arranged densely on its stout stems. Showy, bright, rose-purple flowers with orange-yellow centers bloom in profusion at the tips of the leafy branches. The flower color is variable, ranging from lavender to blue to white. A pink variety of this species is sometimes grown commercially.



**Light Requirement:** Part Shade  
**Soil Moisture:** Moist



**Bloom Color:** Pink , Yellow , Purple  
**Bloom Time:** Aug , Sep , Oct



**Conditions Comments:** New England aster flowers until frost. Its roots should be divided every several years to keep the plant growing vigorously. Can be aggressive.



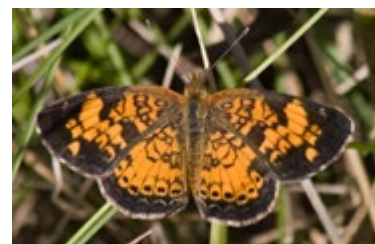
**Use Wildlife:** Bees and butterflies frequent this wildflower.  
**Larval Host:** Pearl Crescent (*Phyciodes tharos*) and checkerspot butterflies.  
**Nectar Source:** yes



Photographer: Reveal, James L.



## Pearl Crescent (*Phyciodes tharos*)





# Lowbush Blueberry

*Vaccinium angustifolium*

A low, straggling **shrub**, up to 2 ft. tall and wide with multiple stems and twiggy branches. Glossy foliage turns from red-green in spring to dark blue-green in summer to maroon-purple in fall. Small, white, pink-tinged, bell-shaped flowers are followed by edible blue fruit, smaller than most cultivated blueberries



**Light Requirement:** Sun to Part Shade  
**Soil Moisture:** Dry to Moist  
**Soil pH:** Acidic (pH<6.8)



**Bloom Color:** White or pink  
**Bloom Time:** June - July



## Conditions

**Comments:** Blueberries are very versatile plants that produce fruit and make excellent landscape shrubs and ground cover. They provide spring flowers, attractive foliage, colorful berries, and striking autumn color.



**Use Wildlife:** Bees and butterflies frequent this wildflower. Berries attract birds and mammals.  
**Nectar Source:** yes



R.W. Smith

