

SMALL SPACE GARDENING

SMALL NATIVE TREES:

American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*)
Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)
Downy Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*)
Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis* 'Little Woody')
River Birch (*Betula nigra* 'Little King')
Arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis* 'Emerald')

SMALL NATIVE SHRUBS:

Black Chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*)
Dwarf Fothergilla (*Fothergilla gardenii*)
Inkberry (*Ilex glabra* 'Shamrock')
Sweet Pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*)
Virginia Sweetspire (*Itea virginica* 'Little Henry')
Lowbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*)

NATIVE VINES:

Carolina Jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*)
American Wisteria (*Wisteria floescens*)
Trumpet Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*)
Virgin's Bower (*Clematis virginiana*)

NATIVE GRASSES & SEDGES:

Bottlebrush Grass (*Elymus hystrix*)
Pennsylvania Sedge (*Carex pennsylvanica*)
Muhly Grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*)
Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)

NATIVE PERENNIALS:

Spring Flowers:

Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginica*)
Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*)
Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)
Golden Ragwort (*Packera aurea*)
Beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis* 'Husker Red')

Summer Flowers:

Gayfeather (*Liatris spicata*)
Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)
Anise Hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*)

Summer to Fall Flowers:

Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)
Great Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*)
Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
Scarlet Rose Mallow (*Hibiscus coccineus*)
Scarlet Beebalm (*Monarda didyma*)

Woodland Sunflower (*Helianthus divaricatus*)
Goldenrod sp. (*Solidago spp.*)
Orange Coneflower (*Rudbeckia fulgida*)
Alumroot (*Heuchera villosa*)
White Wood Aster (*Eurybia divaricata*)

Late Fall Flowers:

Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum muticum*)
Aromatic Aster (*Symphyotrichum oblongifolium*)

Host Plants for Butterflies

Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)
Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
Parsley Family Herbs (e.g. Fennel)
Golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*)

PLANTS FOR HUMMINGBIRDS

VINE:

Trumpet Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*)

PERENNIALS:

Eastern Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)

Scarlet Beebalm (*Monarda didyma*)

Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)

Canada Lily (*Lilium candense*)

Indian Pink (*Spigelia marilandica*)



CONTAINER GARDENING FOR POLLINATORS

Design: Multi-Season Plant Combinations

- Plants for **shade**:
- Prioritize leaf color and texture
- Ferns
- Alumroot
- Wild Geranium
- Bottlebrush Grass
- Sedges



Bottlebrush Grass (*Elymus hystrix*)

Ostrich Fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*)

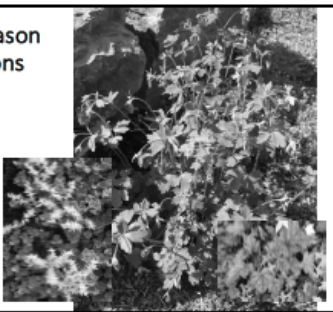
Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)

Plantainleaf Sedge (*Carex plantaginea*)

Alumroot (*Heuchera villosa* 'Autumn Bride')

Design: Multi-Season Plant Combinations

- Plants for **part shade**:
- **Thriller**: Eastern Columbine (spring)
- **Filler**: American Alumroot (summer)
- **Spiller**: Wild Stonecrop (spring)



Eastern Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)

American Alumroot (*Heuchera americana*)

Wild Stonecrop (*Sedum ternatum*)

Design: Multi-Season Plant Combinations

- Plants for **part shade**:
- **Thriller**: Bottlebrush Grass (late spring to fall)
- **Filler**: Great Blue Lobelia (summer)
- **Spiller**: Blue Mist Flower (summer to fall)



Bottlebrush Grass (*Elymus hystrix*)

Great Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*)

Blue Mist Flower (*Conoclinium coelestinum*)

Design: Multi-Season Plant Combinations

- Plants for sun:
- **Thriller:** Purple Coneflower (summer)
- **Filler:** Beardtongue (spring)
- **Spiller:** Heath Aster (fall)



Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)

Beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis* 'Husker Red')

Heath Aster (*Symphotrichum ericoides*)

Design: Multi-Season Plant Combinations

- Plants for sun:
- **Thriller:** Gayfeather (summer)
- **Filler:** Smooth Blue Aster (fall)
- **Spiller:** Creeping Phlox (spring)




Gayfeather (*Liatris spicata*)

Smooth Blue Aster (*Symphotrichum laeae*)

Creeping Phlox (*Phlox subulata*)

Design: Multi-Season Plant Combinations

- Species for **wetland planter:**
- **Thriller:** Swamp Rose Mallow OR Scarlet Rose Mallow (summer to fall)
- **Filler:** Blue Flag (spring to summer)
- **Spiller:** Soft Rush (summer)



Swamp Rose Mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*)

Scarlet Rose Mallow (*Hibiscus coccineus*)

Blue Flag (*Iris virginica*)

Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*)

BEST GARDENING PRACTICES FOR POLLINATORS

- Purchase locally grown native plants
- Purchase from a reputable nursery that doesn't use systemic insecticides
- Provide a continuous succession of plants blooming from spring to fall
- Plant in groups of one variety
- Plant white, yellow, and blue flowers for **bees**
- Plant pink, purple, red, yellow, and orange for **butterflies**
- Plant red or orange flowers for **hummingbirds**
- Include larval host plants in landscape
- Provide a shallow source of water and refresh every three days
- Eliminate pesticide use
- Use compost or leaf mulch to build soil fertility

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR CONTAINER GARDENING WITH NATIVE PLANTS

Plants:

- Use perennials rather than summer-blooming annuals
- Rely more on color and texture of foliage for visual interest
- Match plants more carefully to growing conditions
- Start with 1-gallon nursery pots for adequate growth
- Use more compact cultivars but retain flower color and shape of straight species

Containers:

- Consider material (terra-cotta, ceramic, plastic, fiberglass, metal, wood, cement)
- Consider color (dark vs light)
- Consider shape (opening; square vs round)
- Consider size (large vs smaller)
- Most important: **Good drainage** (pot shards not needed)

Soil:

- Use organic potting soil, avoiding additives to retain moisture
- Use inert bulk material or compost at bottom of very large pots
- Add compost for nutrients and to keep soil biology going
- Consider adding mycorrhizae

Assembling Containers:

- Add potting mix, pressing down to eliminate air pockets
- Allow adequate space for growth
- Be sure roots are not exposed
- Be sure base (where roots meet stem) is not buried
- Leave 1-inch space from soil line to rim
- Top with mulch
- Water plants thoroughly
- Use mulch to retain soil moisture and for more finished look
- Use clay feet for better drainage
- Assemble very large pots in place or use wheeled plant dollies to move them and rotate for even sun exposure

Caring for Containers:

- Water plants regularly
- Feel soil and check appearance
- Water at base of plants
- Irrigate until water level rises to edge and runs out bottom
- Best time to water is morning
- Some plants may wilt from heat
- Native plants need little fertilizing
- Trim plants occasionally
- Overwinter in frost-proof pots
- Shield plants on south side of a wall
- Heel-in with leaves or cover with blankets
- Don't overwater dormant plants
- Uncover when weather warms

WHERE TO LEARN MORE:

Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia
Tried & True Native Plant Selections for the Mid-Atlantic
Fact sheets at MGNV.ORG

Urban Landscaping for Wildlife with Native Plants
projects.ncsu.edu/goingnative

National Wildlife Foundation (Collaboration with Entomologist Doug Tallamy)
<https://www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder/Plants>

“Creating Inviting Habitats”
Virginia Cooperative Extension Publication
pubs.ext.vt.edu

Missouri Botanical Garden – Container Gardening with Native Plants
www.missouribotanicalgarden.org

WHERE TO SEE NATIVE PLANTS:

Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens
See descriptions and addresses at MGNV.ORG

Nature Conservancy Native Plant Garden, Arlington, VA

Meadowlark Botanic Gardens, Fairfax County, VA

Regional Garden, National Garden, U. S. Botanic Garden, Washington, DC

Fern Valley, U. S. National Arboretum, Washington, DC

WHERE TO BUY NATIVE PLANTS:

See Plant NOVA Natives web site
www.plantnovanatives.org