



Plant by Plant:

***Aquilegia canadensis*, columbine**

Flower time: spring, usually late April into May

Flower color: red and yellow

Size: 10-24" x 8-12"

Light needs: sun to light shade

Soil preferences: slightly acid to neutral well drained soils

Wildlife value: Often pollinated by hummingbirds and butterflies. Also the only food source for the larvae of the Columbine Duskywing butterfly.

Maintenance notes: Foliage may need to be cut back after flowering, which will stimulate a flush of new growth. Will readily seed in and naturalize.

***Aralia racemosa*, American spikenard**

Flower time: summer, showy fruit set in fall

Flower color: white, fruits are maroon

Size: 3-5' x 3-5'

Light needs: full sun-shade

Soil preferences: moist well drained

Wildlife value: Berries are loved by birds

Maintenance notes: Spreads by rhizome and seeds in. Seedlings can be pulled if desired- they smell carrot-y. Can be cut back in the fall if leaves start to yellow

***Asarum canadense*, ginger**

Flower time: spring

Flower color: yellow brown, nondescript

Size: 6-8" x 12-16"

Light needs: shade

Soil preferences: moist well drained soil

Wildlife value: Alternative food source for the Pipevine Swallowtail butterfly

Maintenance notes: Appreciates water during drought

***Eurybia (Aster) divaricatus*, white wood aster**

Flower time: fall, late August to September

Flower color: white with yellow disks

Size: 1-2' x 12-18"

Light needs: sun to shade

Soil preferences: moist to dry

Wildlife value: Attracts many kinds of pollinators, seedheads are used by birds for food and nesting material, so leave until late winter or early spring.

Maintenance notes: Plants can be trimmed to 12" to make shorter in early summer for shorter, later blooms. Seeds in readily.

***Clethra alnifolia* 'Hummingbird', sweet pepper bush**

Flower time: summer

Flower color: white

Size: 3-8' x 4-6'

Light needs: full sun to part shade

Soil preferences: medium to wet soils

Wildlife value: Attracts pollinators, seed eaten by birds

Maintenance notes: This will tolerate heavy rejuvenative pruning, and blooms on new wood

***Chelone lyonii* 'Hot Lips', pink turtlehead**

Flower time: late summer, August to September

Flower color:

Size: 2.5-3' x 2'

Light needs: sun to part sun

Soil preferences: moist to wet, adapts to average garden soils as long as drought is avoided.

Wildlife value: Provides nectar for pollinators, and is also a food plant for the Baltimore Checkerspot butterfly larvae

Maintenance notes: Low growing and more branched plants can be achieved by pinching back in the spring. Deadheading does not lead to rebloom, but can be left for winter interest. Spreads by rhizome and can be divided every 4-5 years to keep vigorous.

***Chrysogonum virginianum*, green and gold**

Flower time: spring through early summer

Flower color: yellow

Size: 6-12" x 12-18"

Light needs: part sun to shade

Soil preferences: moist to dry

Wildlife value: Attracts native pollinators

Other value: semi-evergreen

Maintenance notes: This plant generally spreads by rhizome, and can be divided every 5 years or so, if desired. It can also be deadheaded to maintain appearance.

***Ilex verticillata* 'Red Sprite', winterberry**

Flower time: green

Flower color: June

Fruitset: fall through winter

Size: 3' x 3'

Light needs: full sun to part shade

Soil preferences: medium to wet soils

Wildlife value: Red berries attract birds for food.

Maintenance notes: A dioecious plant- if you find that you are having low fruitset through the next few seasons, I would get a male plant to complement the female plants. 'Jim Dandy' and 'Apollo' are best males to pollinate, if needed. Usually there is one somewhere nearby, so you might not need to worry about it. Pruning and thinning 1/3 of the stems every year or two in late winter after the berries are gone will help maintain vigor. Plants should not need to be pruned for size, as they are dwarf, but pruning to maintain vigor is recommended.

Cutting back old or weak canes should be removed in addition to any crossing branches. The thicker, older canes can also be removed as well.

***Fothergilla gardenii*, Fothergilla**

Flower time: spring

Flower color: white

Size: 1.5-3' x 2-4'

Light needs: full sun to part shade

Soil preferences: average well drained soils

Wildlife value: Attracts pollinators

Other value: Great fall color

Maintenance notes: Low maintenance; may need to occasionally prune dead or crossing branches or suckers.

***Gillenia trifoliata*, Bowman's root**

Flower time: early to mid summer

Flower color: white

Size: 2-3' x 2-3'

Light needs: full sun to light shade

Soil preferences: moist to dry soils

Wildlife value: Attracts butterflies and other insects.

Other value: great bronzy fall color

Maintenance notes: May be slow to establish, but is a long lived plant, and is drought tolerant once established.

***Maianthemum canadense*, Canada Mayflower**

Flower time: spring, May

Flower color: white

Size: 2-4" x 12"

Light needs: part sun to deep shade

Soil preferences: wet to dry

Wildlife value: Pollinated by small flies, bees and beetles, and the seeds are a food source for small mammals and birds.

Maintenance notes: Shallow rooted and easy to establish- will spread by rhizome.

***Mertensia virginica*, Virginia Bluebells**

Flower time: spring, April to May

Flower color: blue and purple, hints of pink

Size: 14-20" x 12-16"

Light needs: part sun to shade

Soil preferences: moist soils in spring

Wildlife value: Pollinated by a wide variety of long-tongued bees and butterflies, and can provide cover for insects and small animals as well.

Maintenance notes: Goes dormant after blooming and spreads via rhizome and seeds in.

***Penstemon digitalis* 'Husker's Red', beard tongue**

Flower time: early summer, June

Flower color: white, hints of pink, purplish

Size: 2-4' x 14-18"

Light needs: full sun

Soil preferences: moist well drained soils

Wildlife value: Seeds used for food by birds

Maintenance notes: The seed is used for food by birds, or can be cut back if aesthetics are more important. Dividing every few years maintains vigor of the plant

***Phlox divaricata* 'Blue Moon', woodland phlox**

Flower time: late spring, May

Flower color: bluish purple

Size: 3-10" x 2'

Light needs: part sun to shade

Soil preferences: moist well drained soils

Wildlife value: Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies

Maintenance notes: Can be cut back after flowering to remove dying stems and encourage new growth. Self seeding and colony forming. Appreciates water during drought.

***Polygonatum biflorum*, Solomon's seal**

Flower time: spring

Flower color: white

Size: 1-3' x 16-24"

Light needs: shade

Soil preferences: moist well drained soil

Wildlife value: Hummingbirds, bees and butterflies pollinate the flowers, and later in the season the berries provide food for birds and small mammals

Other value: Flowers turn into attractive blue berries seen later in the season

Maintenance notes: Has shallow thick rhizomes, can be divided every 5 or so years in spring or fall, if desired.

***Polystichum acrostichoides*, Christmas fern**

Flower time:

Flower color: evergreen

Size: 1-2' x 1-2'

Light needs: shade

Soil preferences: dry to medium soils

Maintenance notes: In the spring, cutting back the old fronds, as the new fronds will replace the old ones.

***Scutellaria serrata*, skullcap**

Flower time: spring

Flower color: purple

Size: 14-20" x 16-18"

Light needs: sun to shade

Soil preferences: moist to dry soils

Wildlife value: Attracts native pollinators and seeds are eaten by birds.

Maintenance notes: Easily transplantable. If the plant looks stressed after flowering, deadheading helps.

***Stylophorum diphyllum*, celandine poppy**

Flower time: spring

Flower color: yellow

Size: 1-1.5' x 1-1.5'

Light needs: part shade-shade

Soil preferences: moist well drained soils

Wildlife value: Leaves provide cover for small animals, and chipmunks enjoy the seedheads.

Maintenance notes: This plant will seed in and naturalize. Seed pods can be removed to prevent doing so, if desired. Leaves may yellow out in the fall and can be cut back. Be aware that the plant's orange sap stains.

***Symphotrichum novae-angliae* 'Vibrant Dome' and 'Purple Dome', dwarf New England aster**

Flower time: fall, September to October

Flower color: purple

Size: 1.5-2' x 3'

Light needs: full sun

Soil preferences: moist well drained soils

Wildlife value: Attracts many kinds of pollinators, host plant for certain butterflies

Maintenance notes: Lower leaves often die back before flowering, unless grown in consistently moist fertile soils. pinching in the early summer results in more compact habit. can be deadheaded if it seeds in too much, or cut to the ground after flowering. Can be divided every 2-5 years to maintain vigor

***Tiarella cordifolia*, foamflower**

Flower time: spring

Flower color: white

Size: 3-10" x 18-24"

Light needs: part sun to shade

Soil preferences: moist well drained soils

Wildlife value: Nectar source for pollinators, provides cover for small animals.

Maintenance notes: Does not like having wet feet, especially during winter, but also does not like soil to dry out either.

***Betula nigra*, likely 'Little King', dwarf river birch**

Flower time: spring, wind pollinated

Size: 20'

Light needs: full to part sun

Soil preferences: moist well drained soils but tolerates poor drainage

Wildlife value: A multitude of birds enjoy the seeds

Maintenance notes: As branches get shaded out and die, prune them out. Heading back some of the larger branches to open up the canopy will prove beneficial. Pruning is best done in the summer, since the sap runs in the spring.

Forsythia

Flower time: spring

Flower color: yellow

Size: 8-10'

Maintenance notes: In spring, after blooming, prune any dead canes, and remove the thickest of the canes as well. Look for any canes that are dipping down and might root in, or any that are sprouting in an odd direction, like through the center of the shrub, or a cane that is crossing another. Those should be removed as well. Any canes that have been pruned back to a bud in previous years can be cut as well. Keep in mind the natural vase like shape, and feel free to remove a few center canes for light and airflow. Overall, about a third of the canes should be cut each year. Be sure to cut canes as low to the ground as possible.