



All-Stars Gallery

If you have a sheltered spot in your yard with sun for 2 to 4 hours, you can create a native woodland garden that attracts **pollinators** and birds.



Species habitat adaptation

Prairie – dry meadow

Full sun: Six or more hours of direct sunlight.

Dry-average: Drought tolerant. Water drains quickly. Soil feels dry between rains and water doesn't puddle. Soil may be sandy, gravelly or rocky.

Moist meadow-woodland edge

Sun/Part shade: Four to six hours of direct sunlight

Average-moist: Soil is cool and damp after rain but water drains quickly. Soil feels dry between rains and water doesn't puddle.

Dry or moist woodland

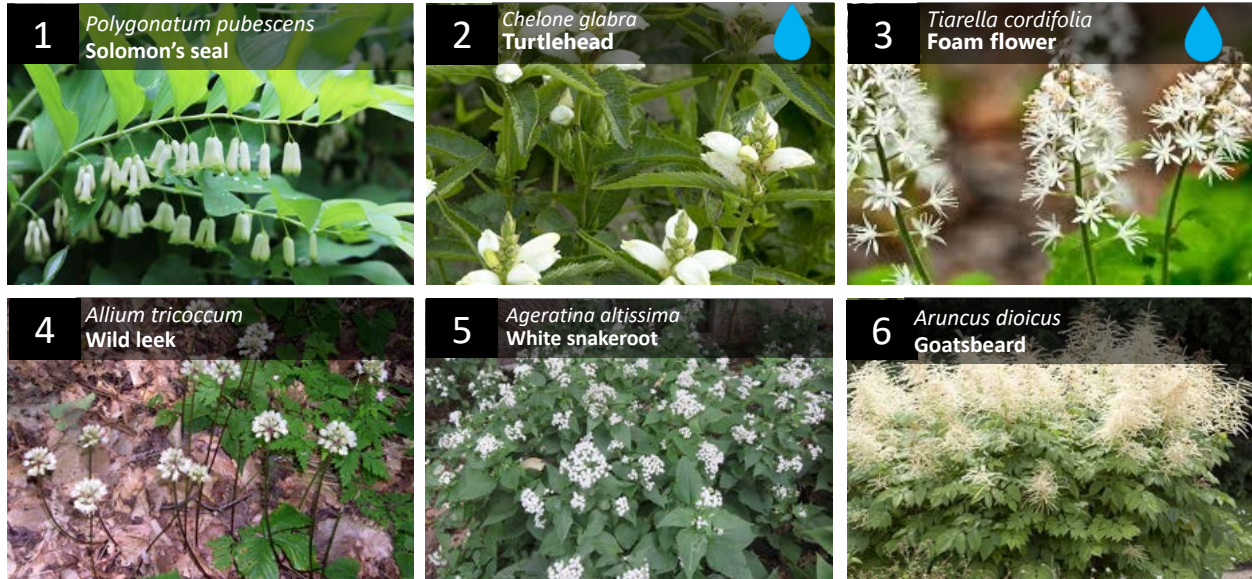
Part shade/Full shade: Zero to four hours of direct sunlight

Average-moist: moist in spring, dry in summer.

Moist-wet: Soil feels damp most of the year and drains slowly. Water puddles easily. This is common in low-lying sites.

BLOOMING BOULEVARDS: WILDFLOWER ALL-STARS FOR SHADE

Presentation by Jeanne McRight



1. *Polygonatum pubescens* **Hairy Solomon's seal**

Carolinian species. The flowers attract the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, honeybees, bumblebees, and probably other bees. These floral visitors feed primarily on the nectar, although some of the bees also collect pollen for their larvae.

part shade, shade; average to moist soil; rich woods, thickets, wooded slopes Bloom season: May - June Plant height: 12 to 40 inches

2. *Chelone glabra* **Turtlehead**

best in full sun or part sun in wet or moist soil. Plants thrive in soils high in organic matter and tolerate seasonal flooding. This lovely plant will flourish in garden situations if irrigated. It can also be planted in a water garden or moist perennial border. After establishment, excess shade, competition from neighboring plants or drought are the only conditions that hinder growth. Plants can be pruned or pinched back in spring to encourage growth of a shorter sturdier plant. This is usually not necessary unless plants are growing in full shade.

host plant that provides larval food for the lovely orange and brown Baltimore Checkerspot butterfly. It also attracts other butterflies, bumblebees and ruby-throated hummingbirds. A good choice for heavy, wet to moist soils, it produces upright stems bearing flowers from late summer into fall. Great for border and wet meadow plantings. *Chelone glabra* grows best in some shade, but tolerates full sun.

Late Summer; Full Sun to Part Shade; 2' - 5'

Sand to Clay; Medium to Moist

3. *Tiarella cordifolia* **Foam flower**

grows from a rhizomatous root system that sometimes produces stolons for vegetative growth. Foamflower requires moist to moderately moist soils with partial sun to light shade such as found in forests. The genus *Tiarella*, is from two Latin words, *tiara*, meaning 'turban' and *ella*, meaning 'diminutive', which together refer to the shape of the seed capsule, which also can be said to resemble a bishop's mitre - this the alternate common name of "false mitrewort". The species name, *cordifolia*, is also from the Latin and refers to the heart shaped leaves.

4. *Allium tricoccum* **Wild leek "Ramps"**

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This woodland wildflower is somewhat unusual because its foliage has withered away by the time the flowers bloom. Both the foliage and flowers are attractive; edible but now overharvested. Flowers attract various kinds of bees, and other pollen and nectar-foraging insects. Not bothered by mammalian herbivores.

5. *Ageratina altissima* **White snakeroot**

Grows in partial shade in disturbed sites, woodland and path edges in various soils as long as the moisture level is moist to mesic. It has a rhizomatous root system which allows vegetative growth and it will easily self-seed along the edges of a woodland or spread via the root system. Family is Eupatorium - like Joe Pye and Boneset - named after Mithridates Eupator the ruler of Pontus in old Asia Minor, who lived from 135-63 BC. The principal method of disposing of ones enemies in those days was by poison so he began using plants in his medicine and in his personal quest to become insensitive to poisons. By ingesting a slight amount of plant poisons each day along with various plant based antidotes, Mithridates was able to build an immunity to many poisons, such that when he wished to commit suicide following his defeat, poison would no longer work and he had to have a military associate slay him by the sword.

6. *Aruncus dioicus* **Goatsbeard**

Light: Full sun – Part Shade

Soil: All types

Moisture: Average – Moist – Dry

Benefits: Pollinators, Cut-flower, Deer-resistant, Easy

Height: 4-5 feet

Blooms: June – July

Foliage: Textured, Fern-like Green

Spacing: 3-4 feet

Growth Habit: Clumping

7. *Sanguinaria canadensis* **Bloodroot**



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Bloodroot plants, *Sanguinaria canadensis*, get their name from the dark red sap found in the stems and roots, which resembles blood. The colored juice from the stems of bloodroot plants can also be used to make red, pink, and orange dyes. Needs moist, organic soils.

To keep the plant from entering dormancy, you should keep the soil moist. In fact, regular watering, twice a week, will allow the leaves to remain throughout much of summer. This can be reduced in fall and winter so it can go dormant.



8 *Actaea racemosa*
Black cohosh/Bugbane
Mt. Cuba Center, Hockessin Delaware

8. *Actaea racemosa* Black cohosh/Bugbane

Native perennial which occurs in rocky woods. It typically grows to a total height (foliage plus flowering spikes) of 4-6', but under optimum conditions can reach 8'. Small, numerous, creamy white, fragrant flowers appear in late summer to early fall in long, terminal racemes resembling fluffy spires (typically 1-2' long) rising well above the foliage on wiry stems. Astilbe-like, deeply cut, tripinnate foliage is an attractive deep green. Synonymous with and formerly known as *Cimicifuga racemosa*. All plants in the genus *Cimicifuga* have recently been transferred to the genus *Actaea*.

The common name of bugbane is in reference to the odoriferous insect repellent properties of this plant. Cohosh comes from an Algonquin word meaning rough in reference to the appearance of plant rhizomes.

No serious insect or disease problems. Rust and leaf spot are occasional problems. Foliage generally does not need staking, but taller flower spires may need some support. Flower spires tend to bend toward bright light, particularly when plants are grown in substantial shade. Leaf margins may brown up (scorch) and growth may slow down if soils are not kept consistently moist.



9. *Maianthemum stellatum* Starry false Solomon's seal

False Solomon's Seal prefers shadier habitats, has more, smaller flowers, plus its leaves do not clasp the stem and are wider than Starry False Solomon's Seal. Smooth Solomon's Seal has racemes of flowers on the underside of the arcing stem, rather than a cluster at the end.

Light Requirement: Part Shade , Shade

Soil Moisture: Dry , Moist

Soil Description: Moist, especially sandy, soils.

Conditions Comments: This species adapts to a variety of sites and soils and increases rapidly. It can be used as a ground cover.



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10. *Elymus hystrix* **Bottlebrush grass**

Cool season bunchgrass with a narrow open habit. Plants often reseed to form small colonies. The inflorescences mature into tan or brown prickly seed clusters. The flower and fruit display is striking in summer or early autumn.

Plants attain 3-5' height with 1-2' spread.

CULTURAL & MAINTENANCE NEEDS: *Elymus hystrix* prospers in partly shaded sites with moist soils. This grass will tolerate difficult dry shade and will take some sun if moisture is present.

Plants endure drought, heavy clay and alkaline pH.

Like other cool season grasses, this species greens up early and grows mostly in spring & early summer. In garden situations, old foliage and seed stalks can be cut to the ground in late winter before this new growth begins. This species often self-seeds especially in gardens with good growing conditions.

Plants provide grain-like seed to birds and small rodents. Grazing animals feed on the foliage early in the season. Later in the year, the bristly flowers can cause injury to browsers. Caterpillars of Northern Pearly Eye butterfly feed on the foliage.



11. *Uvularia grandiflora* **Large-flowered merrybells**

12. *Erythronium americanum* **Trout lily**

13. *Trillium luteum* **Yellow trillium**

14. *Solidago flexicaulis* **Zigzag goldenrod**

15. *Helianthus divaricatus* **Woodland sunflower**

16. *Viola pubescens* **Downy yellow violet**



17. *Eurybia macrophylla* Big leaf aster

Lowest leaves are large and heart-shaped, up to 8 inches long and 6 inches wide, on long stalks, becoming progressively smaller, more egg-shaped, and shorter stalked as they ascend the stem. Flowering plants have basal leaves that wither away by flowering time; the basal leaves of non-flowering plants may persist longer. Plants can create sizable, dense colonies from branching rhizomes.

Habitat: part shade, shade; open woods. Plants host caterpillars of the Pearl Crescent and Checkerspot Butterflies.

Bloom season: July – October

Plant height: 1 to 4 feet

18. *Eurybia divaricata* White wood aster

Flowering and form are best, however, in partly shaded sites where plants have 3 hours or so of sun. *Aster divaricatus* is drought tolerant and somewhat unpalatable to deer and rabbits.

To encourage density, plants can be cut back to 6” in late spring.

Bloom Time: Aug , Sep , Oct , Nov

Light Requirement: Part Shade , Shade

Soil Moisture: Dry

Soil pH: Acidic (pH<6.8) , Circumneutral (pH 6.8-7.2)

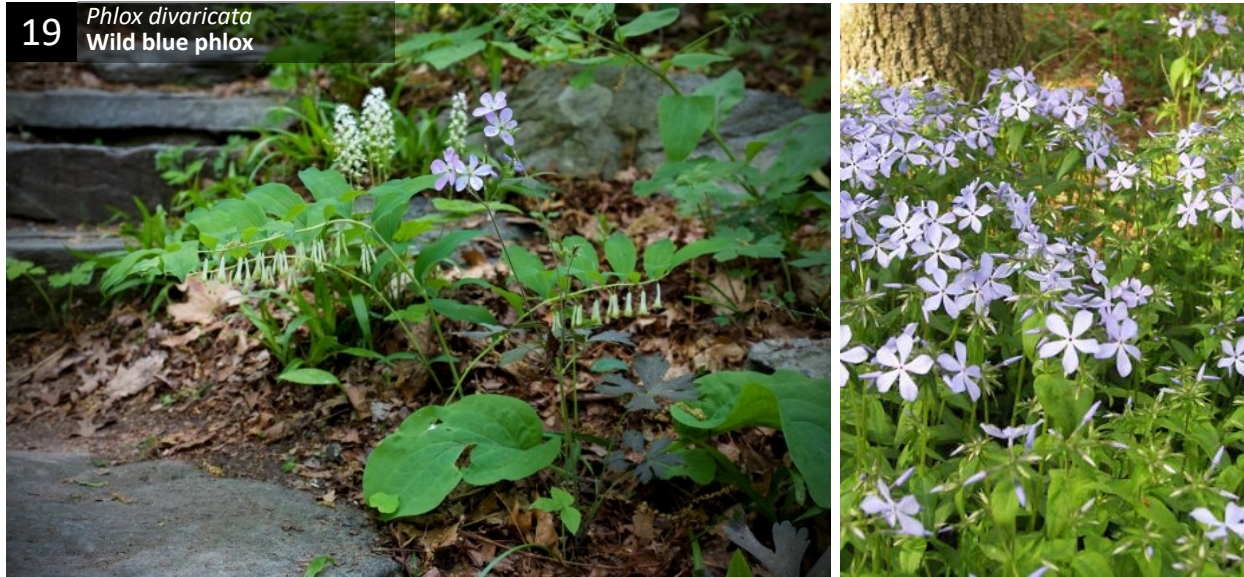
Drought Tolerance: Medium

Soil Description: Tolerates dry soil, shade to part shade neutral to slightly acidic conditions.

Conditions Comments: Vigorous or aggressive, even in dry shade.

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19. *Phlox divaricata* Wild blue phlox

The flowers, atop sticky stems, are slightly fragrant and range in color from pale blue to lavender to violet. Deer seem to have little interest in Phlox, but rabbits especially like Wild Blue.

Dame's Rocket, an invasive, non-native plant in the mustard family is often confused as being a native Phlox. It blooms at relatively the same time as *Phlox divaricata*, *P. pilosa*, and *P.*

maculata. The easiest way to distinguish Dame's Rocket is the four flower petals while true native Phlox have five petals. Dame's Rocket also has alternate leaves and Phlox has opposite leaves.

Sun Exposure Partial, Shade

Soil Moisture Medium-Wet, Medium, Medium-Dry

Height 12 inches

Bloom Time April, May, June



20 *Hydrophyllum virginianum*
Virginia waterleaf

Top: Flower variations, depending on plant maturity

Bottom: Leaf variations

20. *Hydrophyllum virginianum* Virginia waterleaf

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Best grown in consistently moist, well-drained soils in a light shady spot. Can grow aggressively in optimum conditions. Genus name comes from the Greek words hydor meaning water and phyllon meaning leaf in reference to markings on plant leaves which give the appearance of being water spots

Height: 1.00 to 2.00 feet

Spread: 1.00 to 2.00 feet

Bloom Time: May to June

Bloom Description: White to lilac

Sun: Part shade

Water: Medium to wet



21. *Geranium maculatum* Wild Geranium

Mostly found in woodlands in the wild, it does just as well in full sun! Interestingly, *Geranium maculatum* has a unique way of spreading its seeds. Each seed is packed into a pod and the pods are attached to a structure that resembles a crane's bill. As the bill dries, it literally catapults the seeds away from the parent plant (see corresponding photo). Each seed has a small tail-like structure attached to it that bends and moves in response to changes in humidity, which helps to drive the seed into the soil where it can safely germinate.

Exposure Full, Partial, Shade Soil; Moisture Medium, Medium-Dry

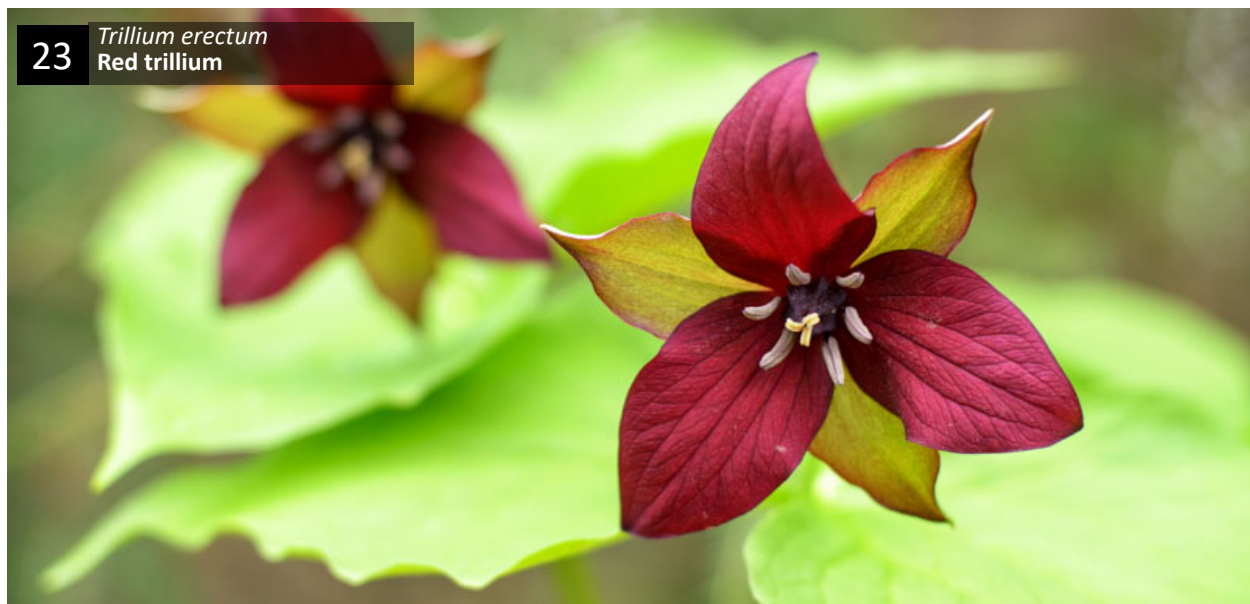
Height 12 inches Bloom Time April, May, June, July

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22. *Lobelia cardinalis* Cardinal flower
Not usually long lived but will sometimes self-seed where happy. Clumps may be divided in early spring
Moist to wet, humus-rich soil. Medium Loam, Clay Loam, Limestone-based, Sandy, Sandy Loam, Clay.
Blooming Time Mid Summer - Early Fall
Height 90-120 cm 35-47 inches



23. *Trillium erectum* Red trillium

“Wake Robin” nickname

Has no nectar and is pollinated by flies (Diptera) and beetles (Coleoptera). The petals of the flowers exude an odor that attract carion flies and beetles which pollinate the flower.

It’s best to avoid planting them with very aggressive species.

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Seed germination - The trillium flower produces a fruit, the seeds of which are spread about by ants and mice. Through the summer the seeds is kept warm and moist for 90 or more days. This conditioning is followed by germination when a root will emerge from the seed. In general, trillium seedlings do not produce a green leaf during their first season. The sprouted seeds are then kept damp and cool for 90 to 120 days. The seedling develops in the dark, underground, for almost a year before sending a green leaf up to find the light. Mulch with leaf litter.



24. *Dryopteris carthusiana* Spinulose wood fern

The preference is light shade to dappled sunlight, moist conditions, and a slightly acidic soil containing sand or rocky material. The leaves remain in good condition throughout the summer and may persist during the winter where winters are not severe.

25. *Fragaria virginiana* Wild Strawberry

26. *Gymnocarpium Dryopteris* Oak fern

Prefer deep shade, but they will do well in partial shade. They like neutral to slightly acidic soil that is sandy or loamy. They need good drainage but lots of moisture and prefer rich, leafy, or compost heavy soil. Propagated by spores or division. Collect the spores from the undersides of the fronds in late summer or fall and plant them in the spring, or divide rhizomes in the spring. Easy to transplant, also spread slowly through spores and rhizomes.

27. *Podophyllum peltatum* May apple

Mayapple colonizes by rhizomes, forming dense mats in damp, open woods. The common name refers to the May blooming of its apple-blossom-like flower. Although the leaves, roots, and seeds are poisonous if ingested in large quantities, the roots were used as a cathartic by Native Americans. The edible, ripe, golden-yellow fruits can be used in jellies. Height: 12-18 inches

28. *Polystichum acrostichoides* Christmas fern

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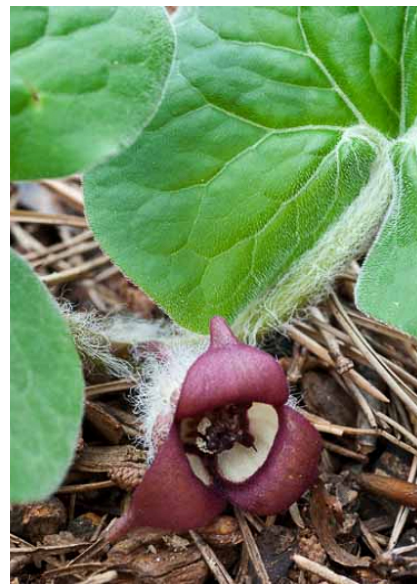
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Christmas fern got its name because it stays green right through the holiday season. It is a robust, leathery fern which has glossy, green fronds year-round. The fronds grow in clusters from a crownless rootstock and range from 1-2 ft. in length. Fertile fronds are taller. The once-divided fronds with pointed pinnae result in a medium to coarse texture. The silvery fiddleheads emerge in early spring.

Christmas fern is very easy to establish and grow where conditions are right. It requires cool, moist, well-drained soil in shade. In the right spot, it can be a good, evergreen border or accent plant. Though often used as a groundcover, it is a clumping fern, not forming a continuous, undifferentiated carpet the way some ferns do.

29. *Matteuccia struthiopteris* Ostrich fern

Grows in vase-shaped clumps called crowns. The showy, arching, sterile fronds are plume-like and reminiscent of the tail feathers of the bird from which the common name is derived. When growing an ostrich fern, you'll notice other, shorter fronds that emerge a few weeks after the initial fiddleheads. These are the fertile fronds that produce spores for reproduction. These fertile fronds are much shorter, only 12-20 inches (30.5 to 51 cm.) long, and will remain standing long after the larger fronds have died back in dormancy. Spreads by rhizomes. Sun-tolerant but prefers part shade/shade.



30. *Asarum canadense* Wild Ginger

Attractive, low-growing ground cover suited for shaded areas. Grows to about a half foot tall with 6 inch diameter heart shaped leaves. Unlike many spring understory plants, wild ginger will keep its foliage throughout the season. A dark red-purple flower appears under the plant for a short period in early spring.

Native American tribes used wild ginger as a seasoning or to treat colds and fevers. European settlers used the root as a ginger substitute. **WARNING:** Contains toxic amounts of strong diuretic. Only consume steeped in tea at your own risk.

31 *Carex pensylvanica*
Pennsylvania sedge



31. *Carex pensylvanica* Pennsylvania sedge

low, clumped, grass-like perennial, 6-12 in. high, with a cluster of brown seed capsules clinging high on the stem. Foliage is pale-green in spring and summer, turning sandy-tan in fall.

Rhizomatous turf-forming with pale-green arching leaves. Forms ground cover in forest or savannah (oak/pine or sugar maple) Prefers light-textured soils. Resistant to deer grazing.

Light Requirement: Sun , Part Shade , Shade

Soil Description: Dry to moist soils.

Conditions Comments: This is a fine ground cover, spreading relentlessly by rhizomes. Older patches may be invaded by other plants, probably because of the soil enrichment produced by the sedge.

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