

The Naples and Gibbs Pollinator Garden 2025

Comments by Laura Perras, Garden Founder:

The Naples/Gibbs pollinator patch was inspired by Lincoln teachers sharing about their garden that was supported in part by a Brookline Education Foundation Idea Lab teacher grant. Neighbors love it. The garden is truly a much appreciated and enjoyed addition to the block and a good example of how important green spaces are to the wellbeing of individuals living in an area.

It definitely contributes to the quality of my own life, I'm so grateful I get to take care of it.

Plant	Conditions and Size	Seasonal Interest	Wildlife Value	Ecological Notes
swamp milkweed <i>(Asclepias incarnata)</i>	Moist to moderate Sun to part shade 2-4' high 1-2' apart	Pink summer flowers.	Supports bees and butterflies. Provides nectar for at-risk bumblebees and monarch butterflies. Hosts 12 species of lepidoptera, including monarch and queen butterflies and milkweed tussock moths	Found in stream banks, pond edges, and meadows. Used in rain garden basins and swale bases. Deer and rabbit resistant.
butterfly weed <i>(Asclepias tuberosa)</i>	Moderate to dry Sun 1-3' high 1-2' apart	Orange summer flowers.	Supports bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Provides nectar for at-risk bumblebees and monarch butterflies. Hosts monarch and queen butterflies and milkweed tussock moths	Used in vegetated buffers, rock gardens, and the slopes of rain gardens and swales. Grows well in urban environments. Drought and salt tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.

Plant	Conditions and Size	Seasonal Interest	Wildlife Value	Ecological Notes
Carolina rose <i>(Rosa carolina)</i>	Moist to moderate Sun to part shade 2-4' high 3-4' apart	Pink summer flowers.	Supports bees, butterflies, songbirds. Provides pollen for at-risk bumblebees. Larval host for Polyphemus moths	Used in vegetated buffers, rain gardens, and hedges. Provides erosion control and soil stabilization. Drought and salt tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
Eastern white coneflower <i>(Echinacea purpurea 'White Swan')*, **</i>	Moderate Sun 2-3' high 1-2' apart	White summer flowers.	Supports bees and butterflies.	**Cultivar of a southeast coastal native species. Drought tolerant.
wild geranium, spotted crane's bill <i>(Geranium maculatum)</i>	Moist to moderate Sun to part shade 1-2' high 1' apart	Pink summer flowers.	Supports bees, and butterflies. Keystone larval host for many species, including leafmining and white-marked tussock moths	Used in rain gardens. Grows well in urban environments. Deer and rabbit resistant.

Plant	Conditions and Size	Seasonal Interest	Wildlife Value	Ecological Notes
orange coneflower <i>(Rudbeckia fulgida)*</i>	Moderate to dry Sun to part shade 1-3' high 1-2' apart	Yellow summer flowers.	Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Larval host for silvery checkerspot butterflies and wavy-lined emerald moths.	Mid-Atlantic and southeast coastal native. Used in rain gardens. Grows well in urban environments. Drought and salt tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
wild bee-balm <i>(Monarda fistulosa)</i> aka wild bergamot	Moderate Sun to part shade 2-4' high 1-2' apart	Pink flowers summer through fall	Supports bees, butterflies, songbirds, and hummingbirds. Provides nectar to at-risk bumblebees and monarch butterflies. Larval host for raspberry pyrausta butterflies.	Used in rain garden slopes. Grows well in urban environments. Deer and rabbit resistant.
blue mist flower <i>(Conoclinium coelestinum)*</i>	Moist to moderate Sun to part shade 1-2' high 2-3' apart	Fuzzy blue flowers late summer through fall.	Supports bees and butterflies. Provides nectar for monarch butterflies. Larval host for 13 species, including Eastern tailed-blue, hackberry emperor, American snout, and aster flowerhead moths.	Mid-Atlantic and southeastern coastal native. Used in rain gardens. Grows well in urban environments. Drought and compaction tolerant.

Plant	Conditions and Size	Seasonal Interest	Wildlife Value	Ecological Notes
showy goldenrod <i>(Solidago speciosa)</i>	Moist to dry Sun 2-7' high 2-3' apart	Yellow fall flowers.	Supports bees and butterflies. Larval host for the wavy-lined emerald moth.	Found in meadows.
switchgrass <i>(Panicum virgatum)</i>	Moderate to dry Sun 3-6' high 2-3' apart	Purple cloud-like late summer seed heads.	Supports butterflies and songbirds Keystone larval host for many species, including pink streaks, northern broken-dash skippers, Delaware skippers, and dotted skippers.	Used in rain garden and swale slopes and in vegetated buffers. Provides erosion control and soil stabilization. Grows well in urban environments. Drought and salt tolerant.
prairie dropseed <i>(Sporobolus heterolepis)</i>	Moderate to dry Sun to part shade 1-3' high 1-2' apart	Golden fall color.	Supports songbirds.	Used in rain gardens. Grows well in urban environments. Drought and salt tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.

*Not native to Massachusetts but native elsewhere in the U.S.

**This is a cultivar. Cultivars whose leaves change colors are typically inaccessible as larval hosts.