

27 Osborne Road Pollinator Garden Native Plant List 2025

Plant	Conditions and Size	Seasonal Interest	Wildlife Value	Ecological Notes
wild strawberry <i>(Fragaria virginiana)</i>	Moderate to dry Sun to part shade 2-5" high 1-2' apart	White spring flowers. Edible red summer berries.	Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Keystone larval host for 75 species, including gray hairstreak butterflies and purple-lined swallow moths.	Used in rain garden and swale slopes. Grows well in urban environments. Drought tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
Common blue violet <i>(Viola sororia)</i>	Moist to moderate Part shade to shade 4-6" high 4-6" apart	Blue spring ephemeral flowers.	Supports bees, butterflies, songbirds, and hummingbirds Keystone larval host for many species, including fritillaries butterflies.	Grows well in urban environments. Deer and rabbit resistant. Use instead of pansies.
Virginia spiderwort <i>(Tradescantia virginiana)*</i>	Moderate to dry Sun to part shade 1-3' high 1-2' apart	Blue spring flowers.	Supports bees.	Mid-Atlantic and southeastern coastal native. Used in rain gardens. Grows well in urban environments. Drought tolerant.

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hayscented fern <i>(Dennstaedtia punctilobula)</i>	Moderate to dry Sun to shade 1-2' high 3-4' apart		Supports birds and small amphibians.	Grows well in urban environments. Drought tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
ostrich fern <i>(Matteuccia struthiopteris)</i>	Moist to moderate Sun to shade 2-3' high 2-4' apart	Early fiddleheads can be cooked and eaten.	Supports birds and small amphibians. Larval host for the host for the ostrich fern borer moth, a species of special concern.	Used in vegetated buffers and rain gardens. Compaction tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
sensitive fern <i>(Onoclea sensibilis)</i>	Moist to moderate Sun to shade 1-2' high 2-3' apart		Supports birds and small amphibians. Larval host for the sensitive fern borer moth.	Used in rain garden basins. Compaction tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
foxglove beardtongue <i>(Penstemon digitalis)</i> *, ** This garden includes both native and cultivar types	Moderate to dry Sun to part shade 1-4' high 1-2' apart	white flowers in late spring	Supports bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Provides nectar to at-risk bumblebees. Larval host for dotted checkerspot butterflies and chalcid midges.	Mid-Atlantic and southeastern coastal native. Used in rain garden slopes. Grows well in an urban environment. Drought tolerant.

Plant	Conditions and Size	Seasonal Interest	Wildlife Value	Ecological Notes
lance-leaf coreopsis <i>(Coreopsis lanceolata)*</i>	Moderate to dry Sun 2' high 1' apart	Yellow spring and summer flowers.	Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds.	Southeastern coastal native. Deer resistant.
common milkweed <i>(Asclepias syriaca)</i>	Moderate to dry Sun to part shade 2-4' high 3-5' apart	Pink to light purple summer flowers.	Supports bees and butterflies. Provides nectar for monarch butterflies. Larval host for monarch butterflies.	Grows well in urban environments. Drought and salty tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
blue vervain <i>(Verbena hastata)</i>	Moist to moderate Sun to part shade 2-4' high 1-2' apart	Blue summer flowers.	Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Larval host for buckeye butterflies and verbena moths.	Used in the slopes of swales and in rain garden basins or slopes. Compaction tolerant.
eastern purple coneflower <i>(Echinacea purpurea) *</i>	Moist to dry Sun to part shade 2-4' apart 1' apart	Purple summer flowers.	Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Larval host for silvery checkerspot butterflies and wavy-lined emerald moths.	Southeastern coastal native. Used in rain gardens and rock gardens. Drought and salt tolerant. Deer resistant.
great rosebay, great laurel <i>(Rhododendron maximum)</i>	Moist to moderate Part shade to shade 6-15' high 6-15' apart	Pink summer flowers.	Supports bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.	Evergreen. Used in hedges. Grows well in urban environments. Drought and compaction tolerant.

Plant	Conditions and Size	Seasonal Interest	Wildlife Value	Ecological Notes
narrow-leaf mountain mint <i>(Pycnanthemum tenuifolium)</i>	Moderate to dry Sun to part shade 1-2' high 1-3' apart	White summer flowers.	Supports bees and butterflies. Provides nectar for monarch butterflies and at-risk bumblebees. Larval host for great hairstreak butterflies and wavy-lined emerald moths.	Used in rain gardens. Grows well in urban environments. Drought and salt tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
Maximilian's sunflower <i>(Helianthus maximiliani)*</i>	Moist to dry Sun to part shade 7' high 3-4' apart	Yellow late summer flowers.	Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Larval host for bordered patch butterflies.	Native to the US central prairie. Found in meadows.
scarlet bee-balm <i>(Monarda didyma) *</i>	Moderate Sun to part shade 2-4' high 2-3' apart	Red flowers summer through fall.	Supports bees, butterflies, songbirds, and hummingbirds Provides nectar for at-risk bumblebees. Larval host for hermit sphinx moths, orange mint moths, and raspberry pyraustas.	Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern coastal native. Grows well in urban environments. 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.

Plant	Conditions and Size	Seasonal Interest	Wildlife Value	Ecological Notes
cutleaf coneflower <i>(Rudbeckia laciniata)</i>	Moist to moderate Sun to part shade 3-4' high 2-4' apart	Yellow flowers summer through fall.	Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Larval host for 23 species, including wavy-lined emerald months and silvery checkerspot butterflies.	Used in vegetated buffers and rain garden slopes. Compaction tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
blue lobelia <i>(Lobelia siphilitica)</i>	Moist to moderate Sun to part shade 2-3' high 1-2' apart	Blue flowers in early fall.	Supports bees and butterflies. Provides nectar to at risk bumblebees.	Used in rain garden basins. Drought tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.

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

**Note this is a cultivar