

A Sample Roofdeck Pollinator Garden in Urban Brookline

This native plant pollinator garden is grown in containers on a very sunny roofdeck in North Brookline and brings hours of enchantment to its owners.

Plant	Conditions and Size	Seasonal Interest & Gardening Notes	Wildlife Support
Heart leaf golden Alexander (<i>Zizia aptera</i>)	Moderate moisture Sun to part shade 1-2' high 1' apart	Yellow spring flowers. Mid-Atlantic and southeastern coastal native. Grows well in urban environments. Drought tolerant.	Supports bees and butterflies. Host plant for swallowtail butterflies.
Obedient plant (<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>)	Moist to moderate soil Sun to part shade 1-2' high 2-3' apart	White to purple flowers summer through fall. Native to Maine and Virginia. Grows well in urban environments. Deer and rabbit resistant.	Supports bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Provides nectar for at-risk bumblebees and monarch butterflies. Larval host for Henry's elfin butterflies.
Butterfly milkweed (<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>)	Moderate to dry soil Sun 1-3' high 1-2' apart	Orange summer flowers. Grows well in urban environments. Drought and salt tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.	Supports bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Provides nectar for at-risk bumblebees and monarch butterflies. Hosts monarch and queen butterflies and milkweed tussock moths
Black-eyed Susan (<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>)	Moderate to dry soil. Sun to part shade 1-2' high 1' apart	Yellow flowers summer through fall. Grows well in urban environments. Drought and salt tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.	Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Larval host for silver checkerspot butterflies, emerald moths, and common eupithecia moths.

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Broad-leaf mountain mint (<i>Pycnanthemum muticum</i>)	moist to dry sun to part shade 2-4' 1-3'	White summer flowers. Grows well in urban environments. Compaction tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant. Spreads aggressively. Grows well in containers.	Supports bees and butterflies.
Scarlet bee balm (<i>Monarda didyma</i>)	Moderate moisture sun to part shade 2-4' high 2-3' apart	Red flowers summer through fall. Grows well in urban environments. Deer and rabbit resistant.	Supports bees, butterflies, songbirds, and hummingbirds. Provides nectar for at-risk bumblebees. Larval host for the hermit sphinx, orange mint moth, and the raspberry pyrausta.
Cardinal flower (<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>)	Moist soil sun to part shade 2-3' high 1' apart	Red summer to fall flowers. Deer and rabbit resistant.	Supports bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Larval host for several species, including the spicebush swallowtail
Gray goldenrod (<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>)	Moderate to dry soil Sun to part shade 1-2' high 1' apart	Yellow flowers in late summer. Grows well in urban environments. Drought and salt tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.	Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Keystone larval host for many species, including wavy-lined emerald moths.
Downy goldenrod (<i>Solidago puberula</i>)	moderate to dry sun to part shade 1-3' high 1-2' apart	Yellow flowers summer through fall. Grows well in urban environments. Drought and salt tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.	Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds Keystone larval host for many species, including wavy-lined emerald moths.

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Swamp milkweed <i>(Asclepias incarnata)</i>	moist to moderate sun to part shade 2-3' high 1-2' apart	pink summer flowers Deer and rabbit resistant.	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
Eastern purple coneflower <i>(Echinacea purpurea)</i>	moist to dry sun to part shade 2-4' apart 1' apart	purple summer flowers Southeastern coastal native. Drought and salt tolerant. Deer resistant.	Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds Larval host for silvery checkerspot butterflies and wavy-lined emerald moths
White wood-aster <i>(Eurybia divaricata)</i> (aka heart-leaved aster)	moderate to dry sun to shade 1-2' high 1-2' apart	White fall flowers Grows well in urban environments. Drought tolerant.	Supports bees and songbirds. supports predatory insects. Larval host for 2 species of dichomeris moths
New England aster <i>(Symphyotrichum novae-angliae)</i>	moist to moderate soil sun to part shade 2-4' high 2-3' apart	white and pink flowers in the late fall Grows well in urban environments. Drought tolerant.	Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Supports predatory insects. Provides nectar for monarch butterflies. Larval host for the pearl crescent butterfly and Canadian sonia moth
Red twig dogwood <i>(Swida sericea)</i>	moist to moderate sun to part shade 3-8' high 4-7' apart	White spring flowers. Grows well in urban environments. Salt and compaction tolerant.	Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Larval host for spring azure butterflies.

For more information:

<https://sites.tufts.edu/pollinators/2021/06/container-gardening-for-pollinators/>

<https://gegearlab.weebly.com/plant-list.html> Dr Gegear's 2023 list of which natives help endangered bees the most