

## Sunny Meadow Pollinator Gardens in Brookline

These pollinator gardens are based on plant communities that thrive in sunny meadows and are an excellent opportunity to add restorative habitat and vegetated buffers to manage stormwater in sunny garden spaces that have moderate to dry soil.

### Key Considerations for Sunny Meadow Pollinator Gardens:

Gardens based on sunny meadow plant communities and are well-suited for garden spaces, balconies, or patios that have

- sunny exposures (6 or more hours of sun per day)
  - some plants will tolerate part shade, or only 3 hours of sun per day
- moderate to dry soils

Meadow Grasses	Height & Spacing	Wildlife Supported and Benefits
<b>big bluestem</b> ( <i>Andropogon gerardii</i> )	2-5' high 2-4' apart	Used in vegetated buffers. Soil erosion control and soil stabilization. Supports songbirds. Larval host for Delaware skippers, dusted skippers, and common wood nymphs. Drought, salt, and compaction tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
<b>Indian grass</b> ( <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> )	3-5' high 2-3' apart	Used in vegetated buffers. Soil erosion control and soil stabilization. Supports songbirds. Larval host for pepper-and-salt skippers Drought tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
<b>switchgrass</b> ( <i>Panicum virgatum</i> )	3-6' high 2-3' apart	Used in vegetated buffers. Soil erosion control and soil stabilization. Supports songbirds. Keystone larval host for many species, including broken dash, Delaware, and dotted skippers Drought tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
<b>little bluestem</b> ( <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> ) (tolerates part shade)	2-4' high 1-2' apart	Used in vegetated buffers. Soil erosion control and soil stabilization. Larval host for 9 skipper species, including cobweb skippers, crossline, and dusted skippers. Drought and salt tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
<b>purple lovegrass</b> ( <i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i> ) (tolerates part shade)	1' high 1' apart	Used in vegetated buffers. Soil erosion control and soil stabilization. Supports songbirds. Larval host for paradoxical grass moths.

		Drought and salt tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
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<b>Meadow Groundcovers, Sedges, and Ferns</b>	<b>Height &amp; Spacing</b>	<b>Blooms</b>	<b>Pollinators Supported</b>
<b>wild strawberry</b> <i>(Fragaria virginiana)</i> (tolerates part shade)	2-5" high 1-2' apart	White spring blooms, red edible summer strawberries	Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Keystone larval host for 75 species, including gray hairstreak butterflies, Smith's Darts, and crocus geometer moths. Drought tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
<b>bird's foot violet</b> <i>(Viola pedata)</i> (dry) (tolerates part shade)	3-5" high 4-6" apart	purple spring flowers	Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Hosts various fritillary butterflies, such as the coronis and variegated fritillaries.. Drought tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
<b>three-toothed cinquefoil</b> <i>(Sibbaldiopsis tridentata)</i> (dry)	4-6" high 1' apart	white flowers in spring	Supports bees. Drought and compaction tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
<b>Virginia creeper</b> <i>(Parthenocissus quinquefolia)</i> (tolerates part shade to shade)	4-40' long 3-12' apart	White spring flowers	Used in vegetated buffers. Supports bees Larval host for many species, including the grapeleaf skeletonizer, lesser grapevine looper, Virginia creeper sphinx, beautiful wood nymph, and copper underwing. Drought and salt tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
<b>Pennsylvania sedge</b> <i>(Carex pennsylvanica)</i> (tolerates part shade to shade)	6" tp 1' high 6" apart		Used in vegetated buffers. Soil erosion control and soil stabilization. Supports bees, butterflies, and moths Larval host for 36 species, including leaf miner moths and Appalachian brown butterflies Drought-tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
<b>sweet fern</b> <i>(Comptonia peregrina)</i> (tolerates part shade)	1-3' high 2-5' apart		Used in vegetated buffers. Soil erosion control and soil stabilization. Supports songbirds. Larval host for 62 species, including sweetfern underwings and gray hairstreaks. Drought and salt tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.

<b>Spring and Summer Perennials</b>	<b>Height &amp; Spacing</b>	<b>Blooms</b>	<b>Pollinators Supported</b>
<b>Eastern red columbine</b> ( <i>Aquilegia canadensis</i> ) (tolerates part shade)	1-2' high 1' apart	Red late spring flowers	Used in vegetated buffers. Supports bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Larval host for a dozen species, including columbine duskywings. Drought and salt tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
<b>foxglove beardtongue</b> ( <i>Penstemon digitalis</i> ) (tolerates part shade)	1-4' high 1-2' apart	White late spring flowers	Supports bees, including at-risk bumblebees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Larval host for chalcedony midget moths and dotted checkerspot butterflies. Drought tolerant.
<b>sundial lupine, wild lupine</b> ( <i>Lupinus perennis</i> ) (tolerates part shade)	1-2' high 1' apart	Blue flowers in early summer	Used in vegetated buffers. Supports bees, including at-risk bumblebees, and butterflies. Keystone larval host for many species, including Karner blue, frosted elfin, duskywing, painted lady, and orange and clouded sulphur butterflies. Drought and compaction tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
<b>spotted bee balm</b> ( <i>monarda punctata</i> ) (tolerates part shade)	2-3' high 1-2' apart	White and pink summer flowers	Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Larval host for the gray marvel moth and snout moth. Drought tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
<b>butterfly weed</b> ( <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> )	1-3' high 1-2' apart	Orange summer flowers	Used in vegetated buffers. Supports bees, including at-risk bumblebees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Larval host for monarch and queen butterflies and emerald tussock moths. Drought and salt tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
<b>flowering spurge</b> ( <i>Euphorbia corollata</i> ) (tolerates part shade)	1-3' high 1-2' apart	White summer flowers	Supports bees. Larval host for Sprague's pygarcia. Drought and salt tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
<b>nodding onion</b> ( <i>Allium cernuum</i> ) (tolerates part shade)	2' high 1' apart	White and pink summer flowers	Supports bees, including bumblebees. Larval host for hairstreak butterflies. Drought tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.

<b>yellow wild indigo</b> <b>(<i>Baptisia tinctoria</i>)</b> <b>(tolerates part shade)</b>	2-3' high 2-3' apart	Yellow summer flowers.	Supports bees, including at risk bumblebees, and butterflies. Larval host for indigo duskywing, clouded and orange sulphur, frosted elfin, and various skipper butterflies, and io moths. Drought and salt tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
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<b>Summer to Fall and Late Summer Perennials</b>	<b>Height &amp; Spacing</b>	<b>Blooms</b>	<b>Pollinators Supported</b>
<b>black-eyed Susan</b> <b>(<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>)</b> <b>(tolerates part shade)</b>	1-2' high 1' apart	Yellow flowers in summer and fall	Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Larval host for emerald moths, common eupithecia moths, silver checkerspot butterflies. Drought and salt tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
<b>downy goldenrod</b> <b>(<i>Solidago puberula</i>)</b> <b>(tolerates part shade)</b>	1-3' high 1-2' apart	Yellow summer and fall flowers	Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Keystone larval host for many species, including wavy-lined emerald moths. Drought and salt tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
<b>purple giant hyssop</b> <b>(<i>Agastache</i> <i>scrophulariaefolia</i>)</b> <b>(tolerates part shade)</b>	6' high 2' apart	Purple summer and fall flowers	Supports bees, including at risk bumblebees.
<b>blue wood aster,</b> <b>heart-leaved aster</b> <b>(<i>Symphyotrichum</i> <i>cordifolium</i>)</b>  <b>(tolerates part shade to shade)</b>	1-3' high 1-2' apart	blue late summer and fall flowers	Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Larval host for the pearl crescent. Drought-tolerant.
<b>wrinkleleaf goldenrod</b> <b>(<i>Solidago rugosa</i>)</b>	3-6' high 2-5' apart	Yellow summer and fall flowers	Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Keystone larval host for 122 species, including including brown-hooded owlet and goldenrod owlet moths. Drought and compaction tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
<b>hyssop-leaved thoroughwort,</b>	1-3' high 1-2' apart	White summer and fall flowers	Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds.

<b>hyssop-leaved boneset</b> <i>(Eupatorium hyssopifolium)</i> (tolerates part shade)			Keystone larval host for many species, including Clymene moths. Drought and salt tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
<b>sweet goldenrod</b> <i>(Solidago odora)</i> (tolerates part shade)	1-3' high 1-2' apart	Yellow flowers in late summer	Used in vegetated buffers Keystone larval host for over 100 species, including northern metalmarks and goldenrod gall moths. Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Drought and salt tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
<b>woodland sunflower</b> <i>(Helianthus divaricatus)</i> (tolerates part shade)	2-4' high 1-3' apart	Yellow flowers in late summer	Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Drought and salt tolerant. Keystone larval host for many species, including silvery checkerspot, common pugs, common loopers, clymene haploas and reversed haploas.
<b>gray goldenrod, old field goldenrod</b> <i>(Solidago nemoralis)</i> (tolerates part shade)	1-2' high 1' apart	Yellow flowers in late summer	Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Keystone larval host for over 100 species, including green leuconyctas and phanetas. Drought and salt tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.

<b>Fall Perennials</b>	<b>Height &amp; Spacing</b>	<b>Blooms</b>	<b>Pollinators Supported</b>
<b>white wood aster</b> <i>(Eurybia divaricata)</i> (tolerates part shade to shade)	1-2' high 1-2' apart	white fall flowers	Supports bees and songbirds. Larval host for 2 species of dichomeris moths. Drought-tolerant.
<b>bluestem goldenrod or wreath goldenrod</b> <i>(Solidago caesia)</i>  (tolerates part shade to shade)	1-3' high 1-2' apart	yellow early fall flowers	Supports bees, especially bumblebees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Keystone larval host for many species, including blackberry loopers, goldenrod hooded owlets, green leuconyctas, wavy-lined emeralds, and beautiful phanetas. Drought-tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
<b>zig-zag goldenrod</b> <i>(Solidago flexicaulis)</i>  (tolerates part shade to shade)	1-3' high 1-3' apart	yellow fall flowers	Supports bees, especially bumblebees, butterflies, and songbirds. Keystone larval host for many species, including twirlers, brown hooded owlets, and bilobed dichomeris moths. Drought-tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
<b>seaside goldenrod</b> <i>(Solidago sempervens)</i> (dry)	2-4' high 1-2' apart	Yellow fall flowers	Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Keystone larval host for many species, including the wavy-lined emerald. Drought and salt tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
<b>purple wood aster,</b> <i>(Eurybia spectabilis)</i>  (tolerates part shade)	1-2' high 1-2' apart	Purple fall flowers.	Used in vegetated buffers. Supports bees, butterflies, songbirds, and hummingbirds. Drought tolerant.
<b>New York aster</b> <i>(Symphotrichum novi-belgii)</i> (tolerates part shade)	1-3' high 1-2' apart	Purple fall flowers	Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Larval host for pearl crescents. Salt tolerant.

<b>Berry Bushes</b>	<b>Height &amp; Spacing</b>	<b>Seasonal Interest</b>	<b>Pollinators Supported</b>
<b>lowbush blueberry</b> <i>(Vaccinium angustifolium)</i> (tolerates part shade)	1-2' high 1-3' apart	White spring flowers, edible summer blueberries.	Used in vegetated buffers. Supports bees, including at risk bumblebees, butterflies, and songbirds. Preferred host of brown elfin butterflies. Keystone larval host for over 220 species, including pink-edged sulphur butterflies and pale tiger, chain-dotted geometer, and blueberry leaf-tier moths. Drought tolerant.
<b>black raspberry</b> <i>(Rubus occidentalis)</i> (tolerates part shade)	3-5' high 3-6' apart	White spring flowers, edible black raspberries in the summer	Used in hedges. Soil erosion control and soil stabilization. Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Keystone larval host for many species. Drought tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
<b>beach plum</b> <i>(Prunus maritima)</i>	3-6' high 3-6' apart	White spring flowers. Beach plums can be eaten fresh or made into jams or baked goods.	Soil erosion control and soil stabilization. Used in vegetated buffers. Used in hedges. Supports bees and songbirds. Keystone larval host for many species. Preferred larval host for the coastal heathland cutworm, a species of greatest conservation need in Massachusetts. Drought and salt tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
<b>Downy serviceberry,</b> <b>Canada serviceberry</b> <i>(Amelanchier canadensis)</i> (tolerates part shade)	15-25' high 12-20' apart	White early spring blooms.	Used in vegetated buffers. Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Larval host for many species, including striped hairstreaks, dotted grays, linden loopers, fringed loopers, and gray dagger moths. Drought and salt tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
<b>nannyberry</b> <i>(Viburnum lentago)</i> (tolerates part shade)	8-18' high 2-12' apart	White spring flowers, edible fall berries	Used in vegetated buffers. Used in hedges. Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Larval host for spring azure butterflies. Drought tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
<b>Black huckleberry</b>	1-3' high	Pink spring	Used in vegetated buffers

<b>(<i>Gaylussacia baccata</i>)</b> <b>(tolerates part shade to shade)</b>	2-3' apart	flowers, edible summer huckleberries	Soil erosion control and soil stabilization. Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Larval host for huckleberry sphinx moths and brown and Henry's elfin butterflies. Drought tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
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<b>Other Shrubs</b>	<b>Height &amp; Spacing</b>	<b>Seasonal Interest</b>	<b>Pollinators Supported</b>
<b>shrubby St. John's wort</b> <b>(<i>Hypericum prolificum</i>)</b> <b>(tolerates part shade)</b>	2-4' high 2-4' apart	Yellow late summer flowers.	Soil erosion control and soil stabilization. Used in hedges. Supports bees, including at-risk bumblebees, butterflies, and songbirds. Keystone larval host for many species, including gray hairstreak butterflies. Drought and salt tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
<b>Virginia rose</b> <b>(<i>Rosa virginiana</i>)</b> <b>(tolerates part shade)</b>	2-4' high 3-6' apart	Pink summer flowers	Used in buffers. Soil erosion control and soil stabilization. Supports bees, including at-risk bumblebees, butterflies, and songbirds.
<b>Small bayberry</b> <b>(<i>Morella caroliniensis</i>)</b> <b>(tolerates part shade)</b>	2-6' high 3-6' apart	Yellow spring flowers, red summer berries for birds.	Used in vegetated buffers. Used in hedges. Soil erosion control and soil stabilization. Supports songbirds. Larval host for Columbia silkmooths. Droughtand salt tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
<b>Eastern ninebark</b> <b>(<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>)</b> <b>(tolerates part shade)</b>	4-9' high 6-10' apart		Used in hedges. Soil erosion control and soil stabilization. Supports bees. Drought tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
<b>American hazelnut</b> <b>(<i>Corylus americana</i>)</b> <b>(tolerates part shade)</b>	5-9' high 4-6' apart	White spring flowers, edible fall hazelnuts	Used in hedges Supports songbirds. Keystone host for the saturniidae



			moths: luna, secropia, polyphemus, and io. Drought tolerant.
<b>prairie willow</b> <b>(<i>Salix humilis</i>)</b> <b>(tolerates part shade to shade)</b>	4-8' high 2-5' apart	Early spring catkins	Supports bees, including at-risk bumblebees. Larval host for many species, including Acadian hairstreak butterflies.

<b>Sub-canopy Trees</b>	<b>Height &amp; Spacing</b>	<b>Seasonal Interest</b>	<b>Pollinators Supported</b>
<b>Alternate-leaf dogwood, pagoda dogwood</b> <b>(<i>Swida alternifolia</i>)</b> <b>(tolerates part shade)</b>	10-12' high 6-15' apart	White spring flowers.	Used in vegetated buffers. Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Larval host for spring azure butterflies. Deer and rabbit resistant.
<b>chokecherry</b> <b>(<i>Prunus virginiana</i>)</b> <b>(tolerates part shade)</b>	4-12' high 8-18' apart	White spring flowers.	Used in vegetated buffers. Used in hedges. Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Keystone larval host for many species, including Columbia silkmths. Drought and salt tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
<b>Cockspur hawthorn</b> <b>(<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i>)</b> <b>(tolerates part shade)</b>	15-30' high 20-35' apart	White spring flowers	Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Larval host for striped, banded, soapberry, and gray hairstreak butterflies. Drought and compaction tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
<b>Gray birch, paperbark birch</b> <b>(<i>Betula populifolia</i>)</b> <b>(tolerates part shade)</b>	15-30' high 3-10' apart		Supports butterflies and songbirds. Keystone host for hundreds of species, including mourning cloak and eastern tiger swallowtail butterflies. Drought and salt tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
<b>Paper birch, white birch</b> <b>(<i>Betula papyrifera</i>)</b> <b>(tolerates part shade)</b>	25-45' high 15-25' apart	Yellow spring flowers.	Supports butterflies and songbirds Larval host for hundreds of species, including mourning cloak and eastern tiger swallowtail butterflies and luna

			moths. Drought and salt tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
<b>pin cherry, wild red cherry</b> <i>(Prunus pensylvanica)</i> (tolerates part shade)	15-35' high 8-18' apart	White spring flowers, tart red summer cherries, which are good for making jams and pies	Soil erosion control and soil stabilization. Supports bees and songbirds. Keystone larval host for hundreds of species, including viceroy butterflies, Columbia silkmoths, and wild cherry sphinx moths. Drought and compaction tolerant.

## References

More information about plants in meadow and prairie gardens and meadow plant communities is available from

- The Native Plant Trust, including their website and the book *The Northeast Native Plant Primer* by Uli Lorimer
- Grow Native Massachusetts (formerly the New England Wildflower Society), and the book *Native Plants for New England Gardens* by Mark Richardson and Dan Jaffe.
- *Designing Gardens with Flora of the American East* by Carolyn Summers and Kate Brittenham.
- *Planting for Climate Resilience in Northeast Landscapes* by the Wild Seed Project
- The Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center.
- Leaves for Wildlife
- Cornell Botanic Gardens