

Coolidge Corner Library Pollinator Garden

Native Plant List 2025

Plant	Conditions and Size	Seasonal Interest	Wildlife Value	Ecological Notes
wild blue phlox, woodland phlox <i>(Phlox divaricata)</i>	Moderate Part shade to shade 1' high 1' apart	Blue spring flowers.	Supports bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds	
Canada anemone <i>(Anemone canadensis)</i>	Moist to dry Sun to part shade 1-2' high 3-5' apart	White spring flowers.	Supports bees and butterflies. Larval host for veiled ear moths and the one-lined Sparganothis.	Compaction tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant. Use instead of lawn, barberry, Japanese pachysandra, or vinca.
Virginia sweetspire <i>(Itea virginica)*</i>	Moderate to dry Sun to part shade 3-5' high 3-5' apart	White spring flowers.	Supports bees, butterflies, and birds.	Mid-Atlantic and southeastern coastal native. Used in rain gardens and hedges. Drought tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
narrow-leaf bluestar <i>(Amsonia hubrichtii)*</i>	Moderate Sun 2-3' high 2-3' apart	Blue spring flowers.	Supports bees and butterflies.	Southeastern US native. Used in rain gardens. Drought tolerant.

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Jacob's ladder <i>(Polemonium reptans)*</i>	Moderate Sun to part shade 1-2' high 1' apart	Blue-violet spring flowers.	Supports bees.	Mid-Atlantic and southeastern coastal native.
red columbine <i>(Aquilegia canadensis)</i> aka Canada columbine	Moderate to dry Sun to part shade 1-2' high 1' apart	Red flowers in late spring.	Supports bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Larval host for 12 species of moths and butterflies, including the columbine duskywing butterfly.	Used in vegetated buffers, rock gardens, rain gardens slopes, and swale slopes. Grows well in urban environments. Drought and salt tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant
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.
golden Alexanders <i>(Zizia aurea)</i>	Moist to moderate Sun to part shade 1-2' high 1' apart	Yellow flowers spring through summer.	Supports bees and butterflies. Larval host for black swallowtail butterflies.	Used in rain garden basins and swale slopes.
New Jersey tea <i>(Ceanothus americanus)</i>	Dry Sun 2-3' high 2-3' apart	White summer flowers.	Supports bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Larval host for 37 species, including spring azure and mottled duskywing butterflies.	Used in rock gardens. Drought tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.

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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.
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.
oxeye, sunflower everlasting <i>(Heliopsis helianthoides)*</i>	Moderate to dry Sun to part shade 3-6' high 2-4' apart	Yellow summer flowers.	Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Larval host for silvery checkerspot butterflies.	Mid-Atlantic and southeastern coastal native. Used in rain gardens. Grows well in urban environments. Drought tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
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.

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spotted Joe-Pye weed <i>(Eutrochium maculatum)</i>	Moist to moderate Sun to part shade 3-7' high 3-4' apart	Pink summer flowers.	Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Provides nectar for at-risk bumblebees. Larval host for three-lined flower moths and ruby tiger moths.	Used in vegetated buffers, rain garden basins, and swale bases. Grows well in urban environments. Compaction tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
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.
steeplebush, rose meadowsweet <i>(Spiraea tomentosa)</i>	Moist to moderate Sun to part shade 2-5' high 2-4' apart	Pink summer blooms.	Supports bees and butterflies.	Used in rain gardens and hedges. Grows well in urban environments. Provides soil stabilization and erosion control. Compaction tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.

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broad-leaf mountain mint <i>(Pycnanthemum muticum)</i>	Moist to dry Sun to part shade 2-4' high 1-3' apart	White summer flowers.	Supports bees and butterflies.	Spreads aggressively. Grows well in urban environments. Compaction tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
thread-leaf tickseed <i>(Coreopsis verticillata)*</i>	Moderate to dry Sun 2-3' high 1-2' apart	Yellow summer flowers.	Supports bees and butterflies.	Southeastern coastal native. Drought tolerant. Deer resistant.
Culver's root <i>(Veronicastrum virginicum)</i>	Moist to moderate Sun to part shade 3-5' high 1-3' apart	White late summer flowers.	Supports bees and butterflies. Larval host for buckeye butterflies.	Used in rain garden slopes. Compaction tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
red turtlehead <i>(Chelone obliqua) *</i>	Moist to moderate Sun to shade 1-3' high 1-2' apart	Pink to purple flowers summer through fall.	Supports bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Unlike the white turtlehead, this is not a known larval host for Baltimore checkerspot butterflies.	Southeastern coastal native. Used in rain gardens.
common sneezeweed <i>(Helenium autumnale)</i>	Moderate Sun to part shade 3-5' high 2-3' apart	Yellow flowers summer through fall.	Supports bees and songbirds. Larval host for dainty sulphur butterflies.	Used in rain garden basins. Drought and compaction tolerant. Grows well in urban environments.

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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.
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.
scarlet bee-balm <i>(Monarda didyma, 'Jacob Kline') *, **</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 the hermit sphinx, orange mint, and raspberry pyrausta.	Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern coastal native. This cultivar was wild-found in Virginia. Grows well in urban environments. Deer and rabbit resistant.
common evening primrose <i>(Oenothera biennis)</i>	Moderate to dry Sun to part shade 6' high 1-2' apart	Yellow flowers summer through fall.	Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Larval host for primrose moths.	Deer resistant.

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nodding onion <i>(Allium cernuum)*</i>	Moderate to dry Sun to part shade 2' high 1' apart	White and pink flowers summer through fall.	Supports bees and butterflies. Larval host for hairstreak butterflies.	Southeastern coastal native. Used in rain gardens. Grows well in urban environments. Drought 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.
bluestem goldenrod or wreath goldenrod <i>(Solidago caesia)</i>	Moderate to dry Sun to shade 1-3' high 1-2' apart	Yellow early fall flowers.	Supports bees, butterflies, songbirds, and hummingbirds. Keystone larval host for many species, including small blackberry loopers, brown-hooded owlets, and goldenrod flower moths.	Used in rain gardens. Grows well in urban environments. Drought tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
seaside goldenrod <i>(Solidago sempervirens)</i>	Dry Sun 2-4' high 1-2' apart	Yellow fall flowers	Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Provides nectar for monarch butterflies. keystone larval host for many species, including wavy-lined emerald moths.	Used in vegetated buffers and rain garden slopes. 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.