

Lawton Park Community Garden
Pollinator Garden Native Plant List 2025

Plant	Conditions and Size	Seasonal Interest	Wildlife Value	Ecological Notes
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.
eastern bluestar <i>(Amsonia tabernaemontana)*</i>	Moderate Sun 2-3' high 2-3' apart	Blue spring flowers.	Supports bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Larval host for eastern tiger swallowtail butterflies.	Southeastern coastal native. Used in rain gardens.
foxglove beardtongue <i>(Penstemon digitalis) *, **</i> This garden includes a mix of 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 midget moths.	Mid-Atlantic and southeastern coastal native. Used in rain garden slopes. Grows well in an urban environment. Drought tolerant.
green and gold <i>(Chrysogonum virginianum)*</i>	Moderate Sun to part shade 1' high 1' apart	Yellow spring flowers.	Supports bees.	Mid-Atlantic and southeastern coastal native. Deer and rabbit resistant.

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.	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.
purple Joe-Pye weed, sweet Joe-Pye weed <i>(Eutrochium purpureum)</i>	Moist to moderate Sun to part shade 3-8' high 3-4' apart	Purple summer flowers.	Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Provides nectar for monarch butterflies and at-risk bumblebees.	Used in swale basins and rain gardens. Grows well in urban environments. Compaction tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.

Plant	Conditions and Size	Seasonal Interest	Wildlife Value	Ecological Notes
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.
tall meadow rue <i>(Thalictrum pubescens)</i>	Moist to moderate Sun to part shade 2-5' high 1-3' apart	Fluffy white summer flowers.	Supports bees and butterflies Larval host for Canadian owlet, pink-patched looper, and hitched arch moths.	Used in rain gardens. Deer and rabbit resistant.
virgin's-bower <i>(Clematis virginiana)</i>	Moist to moderate Sun to part shade 3-8' high 3-5' apart	White summer flowers in a beautiful vine.	Supports bees and butterflies larval host for white-marked tussock moths.	Grows well in urban environments. Compaction tolerant.
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.

Plant	Conditions and Size	Seasonal Interest	Wildlife Value	Ecological Notes
grass-leaved goldenrod <i>(Euthamia graminifolia)</i>	Moist to dry Sun 3-4' high 2-6' apart	Yellow summer flowers.	Supports bees and butterflies. Provides nectar for monarch butterflies.	Drought 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.
woodland sunflower <i>(Helianthus divaricatus)</i>	Moderate to dry Sun to part shade 2-4' high 1-3' apart	Yellow late summer flowers.	Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Provides nectar for monarch butterflies. Keystone larval host for many species, including silvery checkerspot, clymene haploas, reversed haploas, and giant leopard moths.	Used in rain gardens. Grows well in urban environments. Drought and salt tolerant.
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.

Plant	Conditions and Size	Seasonal Interest	Wildlife Value	Ecological Notes
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</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. Grows well in urban environments. Deer and rabbit resistant.
black-eyed Susan (<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>)	Moderate to dry Sun to part shade 1-2' high 1' apart	Yellow flowers summer through fall	Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Larval host for silver checkerspot butterflies, emerald moths, and common eupithecia moths.	Used in rain garden slopes. Grows well in urban environments. Drought and salt tolerant. Deer and rabbit resistant.
jewelweed (<i>Impatiens capensis</i>)	Moist Part shade to shade 3-5' high 1-2' apart	Orange flowers on a vine summer through fall.	Supports bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.	An annual that reseeds easily. Found in pond edges and woodlands. Used in rain gardens.

Plant	Conditions and Size	Seasonal Interest	Wildlife Value	Ecological Notes
early goldenrod <i>(Solidago juncea)</i>	Moderate to dry Sun to part shade 3' high 1-3' apart	Yellow flowers summer through early fall.	Supports bees, butterflies, and songbirds. Larval host for wavy-lined emerald moths.	Grows well in dry, rocky soils and on slopes.
tall goldenrod <i>(Solidago altissima)</i>	Moist to dry Sun to part shade 2-6' high 1-2' apart	Yellow flowers late summer through fall.	Supports, bees, butterflies, and songbirds.	
anise hyssop <i>(Agastache foeniculum)*</i>	Moderate to dry Sun to part shade 2-4' high 1-2' apart	Purple flowers summer through fall.	Supports bees and butterflies.	Canadian and US midwestern native. Grows well in urban environments. Drought 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.