

## TINKER PARK NATIVE PERENNIAL GARDEN

<u>Botanical Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Color, Bloom Time</u>	<u>Height</u>
<i>Allium cernuum</i>	(Nodding onion)	Lavender, midsummer	12-18"
<i>Amsonia tabernaemontana</i>	(Blue star)	Blue, late spring	2-4'
<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	(Pearly everlasting)	White, midsummer	1-3'
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	(Butterfly milkweed)	Orange, midsummer	24"
<i>Baptisia australis</i>	(False indigo)	Blue, early summer	3-4'
<i>Coreopsis grandiflora</i>	(Tickseed)	Yellow, midsummer	1-2'
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	(Purple coneflower)	Purple, midsummer	3-4'
<i>Eutrochium dubium</i>	(Joe Pye weed)	Pink, late summer	3-5'
<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	(Sneezeweed)	Orange&red, midsummer	2-3'
<i>Helianthus maximiliani</i>	(Maximillian sunflower)	Yellow, fall	4-6'
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	(False sunflower)	Yellow, midsummer	3'
<i>Liatris spicata</i> 'Kobold'	(Blazing star)	Lavender, midsummer	24-30"
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	(Great blue lobelia)	Blue, late summer	2-3'
<i>Monarda didyma</i>	(Bee balm)	Red, midsummer	2-4'
<i>Monarda media</i>	(Purple bergamot)	Purple, midsummer	2-3'
<i>Oenothera fruticosa</i>	(Sundrops)	Yellow, midsummer	18-24"
<i>Oligoneuron rigidum</i>	(Stiff goldenrod)	Yellow, late summer	3-5'
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	(Beardtongue)	White, early summer	2-3'
<i>Phlox subulata</i>	(Moss phlox)	Pink, lavender, spring	6"
<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	(Mountain mint)	White, midsummer	2-3'
<i>Rudbeckia lacinated</i>	(Cutleaf coneflower)	Yellow, late summer	3-5'
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	(Black-eyed Susan)	Yellow, midsummer	18-24"
<i>Salvia lyrata</i>	(Lyreleaf sage)	Lavender, midsummer	12"
<i>Senna hebecarpa</i>	(Senna)	Yellow, midsummer	3-5'
<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	(Showy goldenrod)	Yellow, late summer	3-5'
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	(Indian grass)	Red, late summer	5'
<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	(Prairie dropseed)	Lavender, midsummer	2-3'
<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>	(New England aster)	Purple, late summer	18-24"
<i>Vernonia lettermannii</i>	(Narrowleaf ironweed)	Purple, late summer	2-3'
<i>Vernonia novaboracensis</i>	(NY ironweed)	Purple, late summer	4-6'
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	(Culver's root)	White, midsummer	4'5'
<i>Yucca filamentosa</i>	(Variegated yucca)	White, late summer	4-6'
<i>Zizia aptera</i>	(Heart-leaved Alexanders)	Yellow, midsummer	1-3'

### The Importance of Native Plants

What is a native plant? Many horticulturalists consider a species to be native if it was present in North America prior to the arrival of Europeans. However, a more accurate definition is whether the plant is indigenous to a smaller, discrete region, such as the Mid-Atlantic area, New York State or even Monroe County. Not all wildflowers are native – many are naturalized species that originated on other continents and have escaped from gardens and become established in the wild. Some native plants grow in natural areas or in our gardens as the pure species, while others are cultivars, named varieties that have been selected by humans for certain traits, such as flower color

or leaf variegation. Because native plants have existed in New York for many centuries, they form an essential part of the ecosystem.

Numerous animal species have coevolved with these plants and are dependent upon them for food and habitat. In particular, caterpillars often require specific host plants in order to develop normally into butterflies and moths. By growing milkweed, we support the life cycle of the monarch butterfly. In addition, it has been reported that the pollen and nectar of native flowers contain the ideal balance of nutrients for the insects and hummingbirds that ingest them. Native plants are genetically programmed to attract native species of pollinators and other beneficials, such as tiny predatory wasps. Unfortunately, some cultivars of native plants, especially those with double flowers, are inferior sources of pollen and nectar.

Indigenous trees, shrubs, and vines produce tasty, bite-size fruits and synchronize timing of fruit ripeness with when the greatest number of animals or migrating flocks will be present. Nesting cedar waxwings and catbirds feast on serviceberries and black cherries and in turn, disperse the seeds. Similarly, squirrels are well adapted to gnaw through the bitter husk and rock-hard shell of black walnuts, but sometimes forget where they have cached an intact nut. By also providing shelter and protective cover, native woody plants attract a wide range of animals with mutually beneficial relationships. The hairy woodpeckers that drill out insect borers in a red oak and then hollow out a nest cavity are valuable tenants to that tree.

Native plants contribute to biodiversity in the environment. If there is a variety of different species planted in a garden, the chances are good that the majority will tolerate adverse soil conditions, pests, or weather extremes. Many native plants have built-in resilience and durability that help ensure their survival. They tend to be more reliable, more disease resistant, and lower maintenance than imported species. When selecting plants for your garden, research their suitability to the microclimate of the intended site and you may find that native plants have the greatest versatility and hardiness. As the solid foundation of your garden, native plants will not only welcome wildlife, but also provide beauty and a heritage that you can be proud of.

You can help restore native plant communities in your own backyard. Learn how to get started from these excellent books:

***Native Plants of the Northeast*** by Donald J. Leopold

***The Northeast Native Plant Primer*** by Uli Lorimer

***Native Plants for North American Gardens*** by Allan Armitage

***Growing and Propagating Wildflowers of the United States and Canada*** by William Cullina

***Native Trees, Shrubs and Vines – A Guide to Using, Growing and Propagating North American Woody Plants*** by William Cullina

And from these educational websites:

Cornell Botanic Gardens publication – Creating a Pollinator Garden for Native Specialist Bees of New York and the Northeast – [https://issuu.com/cornellbotanicgardens/docs/creating\\_a\\_pollinator\\_garden\\_for\\_specialist\\_bees\\_f](https://issuu.com/cornellbotanicgardens/docs/creating_a_pollinator_garden_for_specialist_bees_f)

NY Flora Atlas - <https://newyork.plantatlas.usf.edu/>

Finger Lakes Native Plant Society - <https://flnps.org/>

Pollinator-Friendly Plants for the Northeast US - <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/plantmaterials/nypmctn11164.pdf>

Judy Bigelow, 2023