Tips on gardening with native plants in many habitats: 
**Woodland, Meadow, Edge, Sand and Gravel**
Krissy Boys, October 28, 2023

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:** What is a native plant? What is a local genotype? What is an ecoregion? Do ecoregions define local genotypes? What are straight species? Can we use cultivars? *Please choose cultivars with discernment- refer to the research of Annie White.*

**USFS DESCRIPTION OF THE ECOREGIONS OF THE UNITED STATES** by Robert G. Bailey, March 1995:
Ecoregions are areas of land and water defined by similar geology, landforms, climate, vegetation and ecological processes.

**PLANT HABITATS - VEGETATION TYPES OF CENTRAL NY**
*(Mohler, Marks and Gardescu 2006 “Guide to Plant Communities of the Central Finger Lakes Region”)*
- **Dry Uplands:** e.g., Oak Forest
- **Moist Uplands:** e.g., Hemlock-Beech-Birch Forest
- **Floodplain Forest:** e.g., Sycamore-Cottonwood Forest
- **Swamp Forests:** e.g., Red/Silver Maple Swamp
- **Wetlands:** e.g., Cattail Wetlands, Rich Fens
- **Bogs:** e.g., Leatherleaf Bog
- **Old Fields**
- **Unique habitats:** e.g., Lake Cliffs

**THINK ABOUT PLANT COMMUNITIES DURING THE PLANNING PHASE.** “An understanding of the vegetation types allows prediction of what sort of plant community is likely to grow in a certain place.” *(Mohler, Marks and Gardescu 2006 “Guide to Plant Communities of the Central Finger Lakes Region”)*

**REFERENCES:**
- BONAP-Floristic Synthesis of North America
- USDA PLANTS
- NY FLORA ASSOCIATION
- FINGER LAKES NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
- NEW ENGLAND WILDFLOWER SOCIETY

**QUESTIONS:** Are these plants available in the trade? Will *local* growers supply plant materials? Are these straight species or cultivars? Will you plan 2-5 years prior to planting? Is there time to collect seeds and grow plugs?

**TIMELINE:** Lead time needed to “contract grow” local genotypes (not Trillium spp.) is 1 year if the site is weed free. **Year 1:** plan/collect/ grow / Collect seeds: 7 months. June - December- stratify seeds in cooler@40° for 30/60/90 days February, March, unless broadcast seeding a meadow  **Grow plants:** 8-12 weeks April May. **Plant Plugs:** June, July, August

**WHY PLANT NATIVE PLANTS?**
• Manage biodiversity/plant foraging hubs (e.g., Tallamy 2007)
• Resource for pollinators, native insects and other animals
• Beautiful, interesting, educational
• Requires less: fertilizer, pesticides, water, time, mowing.
• Honor sense of place

**ELEMENTS OF A NATIVE PLANT LANDSCAPE**

• Trees
• Shrubs
• Herbaceous
  • Forbes
  • Grasses
• Vines  *Use herbaceous forbs, grasses and vines as groundcovers.

**PLANT LIST IN ORDER OF BLOOM**

*Symphoricarpos foetidus*,- look for above ground buds in the fall. Blooms **Feb. Mar.**

*Caltha palustris*,- marsh marigold grows in moist to wet soil- it likes wet feet- do not allow it to dry out. ht. 2’ **April**

*Sanguinaria canadensis*,- bloodroot- grow in shade or part sun, moist to dry soils- prefers alkaline soils- ht. 6” April

*Asarum canadensis*, wild ginger- grow in shade to part sun ht. 3-5” **April**.

*Stylophorum diphyllum*,- wood poppy- grow in part sun to full shade -moist to dry soils, ht. 18-24” **May**

*Phlox divaricata*,- wild phlox- grow in shade to part sun- moist to dry soils ht. 18”

*Aquilegia canadensis*,- wild columbine- grow in full sun or shade, moist or dry soils. ht. 18-36” depending on the amount of light and moisture- May.

*Geranium maculatum*,- wild geranium- grow in part sun or full shade- low growing edge plant
No deer browse ht.18” May.

*Mertensia virginica*,- Virginia blue bells- found in drifts on shady stream banks-grow in shade or part sun. ht. 18” May

*Zizia aurea*,- golden alexanders- grow in sun or shade, wet or dry sites-2-3’

*Packera aurea*,- golden ragwort- easy to grow from division or seeds-grow in wet or dry soil in full shade to full sun. **foliage is a 4- season ground cover**- May.

*Amelanchier spp.*,- shad bush provides year-round interest with flowers, fruit, fall color and bark.

*Staphlea trifolia* – bladdernut a suckering shrub -excellent sub for woody non-native honeysuckle.
Height: 10-15’ spread- 10-20’ grow in part sun to full shade. April-May

*Tiarella cordifolia* foam flower- low growing edge plant- grow in part sun to full shade, moist to dry soil. Height 12’” May

*Chrysogonum virginianum*,- green and gold-grow in full sun to part shade- requires good drainage Height 6” May

*Iris versicolor*, blue flag iris -grow in full sun to part shade in wet to moist soil- flowers in sun Height 2½’ combine with *Caltha palustris* no deer browse.

*Penstemon hirsutus*, - hairy beardtongue- grow in full sun or part shade in well-drained soil or gravel. no deer browse- low growing edge plant- naturally a west facing cliff dweller.
reduce stem length.

York.

Elymus virginicus

Sorghastrum nutans

Elymus riparius

Elymus canadensis

Symphiotrichum cordifolium

Symphiotrichum novae-angliae

Asclepias tuberosa

Asclepias incarnata

Lobelia siphilitica

Lobelia cardinalis

Asclepias incarnata

Physocarpus opulifolius

Lobelia siphilitica

Lobelia cardinalis

Eurybia divaricata

Lobelia siphilitica

Lobelia cardinalis

Veronicastrum virginicum

Helenium autumnale

Veronicastrum virginicum

Eupatorium maculatum

Helenium autumnale

Monarda fistulosa

Helenium autumnale

Asters can fit into a more formal setting. Cut them by half or to the ground mid-season to reduce stem length.

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Eurybia divaricata

Symphiotrichum novae-angliae

Symphiotrichum laeve

Symphiotrichum sagittifolium

Symphiotrichum latifolium

Symphiotrichum cordifolium

Elymus canadensis

Elymus hystrix

Elymus riparius

Elymus virginicus

Sorghastrum nutans

Fall Asters, Grasses and Goldenrods: The cornerstones of a meadow planting in central New York. Asters can fit into a more formal setting. Cut them by half or to the ground mid-season to reduce stem length.

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Fall Asters, Grasses and Goldenrods: The cornerstones of a meadow planting in central New York. Asters can fit into a more formal setting. Cut them by half or to the ground mid-season to reduce stem length.
**Schizachyrium scoparium**- little bluestem – full sun- dry- lean soil- ht. 2’

**Solidago juncea**- early goldenrod- full sun- dry-moist-h.1-4 ft. July

**Solidago caesia**- wreath goldenrod- part shade- dry–moist ht. - 18-24” August

**Solidago nemoralis**- goldenrod-full sun-dry-moist ht. 18-24” September

**Solidago sempervirens** - seaside goldenrod- full sun- dry-moist ht. 18-24” October and November

**Solidago flexicaulis**- zig-zag goldenrod- part shade- dry–moist- ht. 1-4’ August

**Solidago bicolor**- silver rod- full sun-dry-moist ht. 4-14” September

**Clematis virginiana**- virgin’s bower- a vine- ground cover or screen- wet or dry soils- flowers best in full sun- August.

**Partheocissus quinquefolia**- Virginia creeper- host plant for the Pandorus Sphinx moth- sun or shade, moist or dry- fall color- September- October

**Viburnum acerifolium**- maple-leaved Viburnum- acid soils - moist-dry shade- slow growing-h. 5’

**Lindera benzoin**- spice bush -slow growing, medium sized shrub- moist to dry site. Height 8-10’

**Shrubby dogwoods**- fall fruits are high quality fatty food source for migrating/ overwintering birds

**Cornus racemosa**- grey dogwood-colonizer, moist to dry soil, full sun to part shade, 10’

**Cornus amomum**- silky dogwood – moist to wet soil- sun to part shade- 5-8’

**Cornus sericea**- red-twigged dogwood – moist to wet soil-sun to part shade- 4-5’

**Cornus alternifolia**- alternate-leaved dogwood- part shade to full sun-h. 15-20’

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**NON-NATIVE NON-INVASIVE SPECIES USED IN THE EAST AND WEST ENTRANCE AREAS OF THE MUNDY WILDFLOWER GARDEN**

- wood poppy, *Stylophorum diphyllum*
- creeping phlox, *Phlox stolinifera*
- smooth phlox, *Phlox glaberrima*
- downy phlox, *Phlox pilosa*
- garden phlox, *Phlox paniculata*
- anise hyssop, *Agastache foeniculum*
- beartongue, *Penstemon digitalis*
- hairy beartongue, *Penstemon hirsutus*
- giant solomen’s seal, *Polygonatum commutatum*
- purple Cone Flower, *Echinacea purpurea*
- New York Ironweed, *Vernonia spp.*
- Joe Pye weed, *Eutrochium spp.*, southern genotype

**GET TO KNOW NATIVE PLANTS IN THEIR HABITATS**

- Wildflowers of the Field and Forest, Clemants and Gracie, 2006
- Newcomb’s Wildflower Guide, Lawrence Newcomb, 1977
- Peterson’s Field Guide, McKenny and Peterson, 1998

**HOW TO GROW NATIVE PLANTS**
Sources for Native Plants in the Finger Lakes

- Plant sale: mid-May
- October: FLNPS seed collecting
- December: FLNPS Seed Exchange

Local nurseries:
- Grow Wild! A Native Plant Nursery www.growwildnatives.com
- Go Native! perennials gonativeskan@gmail.com
- Plantsmen www.plantsmen.com
- White Oak Nursery www.whiteoaknursery.biz
- Amanda’s Garden www.amandagarden.com

Remember: When choosing native plants as habitat plants, select mostly straight species, not cultivars, propagated from seeds. Do not dig plants from the wild or purchase dug plants. Ask your supplier how the plants were grown.