KEYSTONE plants: Plants CRITICAL to the food web!
CNY is in Ecoregion 8.1 “Mixed Wood Plains” within Ecoregion 8 “Eastern Temperate Forests.” Learn more about Keystone plants at nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/About/Native-Plants/keystone-plants-by-ecoregion

KEYSTONE TREES
Oak (Quercus spp.) – Oaks are especially important plants for biodiversity!
  White (Q. alba), Swamp white (Q. bicolor), Scarlet (Q. coccinea),
  Bur (Q. macrocarpa), Chestnut (Q. montana), Pin (Q. palustris),
  Northern Red (Q. rubra), Black (Q. velutina)
Cherry (Prunus): Black cherry (P. serotina)
Birch (Betula): River (B. nigrum), Sweet (B. lenta), Yellow (B. alleghaniensis),
  Paper (B. papyrifera), Gray (B. populifolia)
Poplar (Populus): Quaking aspen (P. tremuloides), Cottonwood (P. deltoids)
Maple (Acer): Sugar (A. saccharum), Striped (A. pensylvanicum),
  Red (A. rubrum), Silver (A. saccharinum), Mountain (A. spicatum)
Hickory (Carya): Bitternut (C. cordiformis), Shagbark (C. ovata)
Pine (Pinus): Eastern white pine (P. strobus), Red pine (P. resinosa)
White spruce (Picea glauca)
American basswood (Tilia americana)
American beech (Fagus grandifolia)
American larch (Larix laricina)
Dogwood (Cornus) [Syn. Suvida]: Pagoda (C. alternifolia), Flowering (C. florida)
  Canadian hemlock (Tsuga canadensis)
Serviceberry (Amelanchier): Downy (A. arborea), Shadbush (A. canadensis),
  Alleghany (A. laevis)

KEYSTONE SHRUBS
Cherry (Prunus): Chokecherry (P. virginiana), American plum (P. americana),
  Beach plum (P. maritima)
  Highbush blueberry (Vaccinium corymbosum)
Pussy willow (Salix discolor) (but not weeping willow)
  Alder (Alnus): Speckled (A. incana), Black (A. serrulata)
  Flowering raspberry (Rubus odoratus)
Hazelnut (Corylus): American (C. americana), Beaked (C. cornuta)

Northern bayberry (Myrica pensylvanica) (need a male for females)
Rose (Rosa): Swamp, (R. palustris), Climbing (R. setigera), Virginia (R. virginiana)
Dogwood (Cornus): Silky (C. americum), Gray (C. racemosa),
  Roundleaf (C. rugosa), Red twig (C. sericea)

KEYSTONE FLOWERING PERENNIALS
Goldenrod (Solidago): Note: They DO NOT cause allergies!
  Silverrod (S. bicolor), Blue-stemmed (S. caesia), Zigzag (S. flexicaulis),
  Late (S. gigantea), Early (S. junccea), Gray (S. nemoralis),
  Swamp (S. patula), Stiff (S. rigidia), Wrinkleleaf (S. rugosa),
  Seaside (S. sempervirens), Showy (S. speciosa), Bog (S. uliginosa),
  Elm-leaved (S. ulmifolia)
Asters (Symphyotrichum): Heartleaf (S. cordifolium), Smooth (S. laeve),
  Panicled (S. lanceolatum), Calico (S. lateriflorum),
  New England (S. novae-angliae), New York (S. novi-belgii),
  Shale (S. oblongifolium), Sky blue (S. oelentangiense), Frost (S. pilosum),
  Crooked-stem (S. pinnatifolium), Swamp (S. pumicenum),
  White arrowleaf (S. urophyllum)
Sunflowers (Helianthus): Woodland (H. divaricatus), Tall (H. giganteus)
  Sneezeweed (H. autumnale), Thin-leaved (H. decapetalus),
  Rudbeckia (Rudbeckia): Brown-eyed Susan (R. hirta), Cutleaf (R. lacinata),
  Brown-eyed susan (R. triloba)
Maryland golden-aster (Chrysopsis mariana)
Pink tickseed (Coreopsis rosea)
Beggartick (Bidens): Small (B. discoidea), Devil’s (B. frondosa)
Wingstem (Verbesina alternifolia)
Feabane (Eriogonum): Annual (E. annuus), Robin’s plantain (E. pulchellus)
New York ironweed (Vernonia noveboracensis)
Grass–leaved goldenrod (Euthamia graminifolia)
Primrose (Oenothera): Evening (O. biennis), Sundrops (O. fruticosa)
Sneezeweed (Helenium autumnale)
Oxeye (Heliopsis helianthoides)

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ADDITIONAL NATIVE PLANTS

SHRUBS
Winterberry (Ilex verticillata) – needs a male for females for berries
Summersweet (Clethra alnifolia)
Spicebush (Lindera benzoin) – need a male for females for berries
Eastern red cedar (Juniperus virginiana)
Elderberry (Sambucus): Black (S. canadensis), Red (S. racemosa)
Chokeberry (Aronia): Red (A. arbutifolia), Black (A. melanocarpa)
Ninebark (Physocarpus opulifolius)
Sumac (Rhus): Fragrant (R. aromaticia), Winged (R. copallinum),
  Staghorn (R. typhina)
New Jersey tea (Ceanothus americanus)
Shrubby St. John’s wort (Hypericum prolificum)
Viburnum (Viburnum): Nannyberry (V. lentago), Arrowwood (V. dentatum)
  American cranberrybush (V. americanum) (NOT European variety!)

* We recommend using scientific names, such as Quercus rubra to be sure you’re getting the plant you want.
* Please select the straight species, NOT cultivars (i.e. “named” varieties).
* Where to buy native plants? Us our FREE Native Plant Shopping Guide available at hgcny.org/projects/shopping/.

Connect with us at:
hgcny.org
facebook.com/hgcny
ourhabitatgarden.org
info@hgcny.org
GRASSES and SEDGES
Grasses: Northern dropseed (Sporobolus heterolepis)
    Hair grasses (Deschampsia): Tufted (D. cespitosa), Wavy (D. flexuosa);
    Switch grass (Panicum virgatum); Indian grass (Sorghastrum nutans),
    Little bluestem (Schizachyrium scoparium),
    Big bluestem (Andropogon gerardii)
Sedges (Carex): Plantain (C. plantaginea), Upland (C. appalachica)
    Gray's (C. grayi), Pennsylvania (C. pensylvanica), Eastern star (C. radiata)

FLOWERING PERENNIALS
Milkweed (Asclepias): Essential for monarch caterpillars!
    Swamp (A. incarnata); Butterflyweed (A. tuberosa), Common (A. syriaca),
    Poke (A. exaltata), Whorled (A. verticillata)
White turtlehead (Chelone glabra)
Wild columbine (Aquilegia canadensis)
Pussytoes (Antennaria): Field (A. neglecta), Plantain-leaved (A. plataginofolia)
Black cohosh (Actaea racemosa)
Joe-pye (Eupatorium): Spotted (E. maculatum), Purple (E. purpureum)
Boneset (Eupatorium): Common (E. perfoliatum), Upland (E. sessilifolium)
Lobelia (Lobelia): Great blue (L. syphilitica), Cardinal flower (L. cardinalis)
Culver's root (Veronicastrum virginicum)
Violet (Viola): Dooryard (V. sororia), Sweet white (V. blanda),
    Small white (V. pallens), Labrador (V. labradorica), Downy (V. pubescens)
Jack-in-the-pulpit (Arisaema triphyllum)
Wild ginger (Asarum canadense)
Blue cohosh (Caulophyllum thalictroides)
Wild geranium (Geranium maculatum)
Alumroot (Heuchera americana)
Rose-mallow (Hibiscus): Crimson-eyed (H. moscheutos), Swamp (H. palustris)
Northern blue flag (Iris versicolor)
Monarda (Monarda): Oswego tea (M. didyma), Wild bergamot (M. fistulosa)
Obedient plant (Physostegia virginiana)
Jacob's ladder ( Polemonium reptans)
Bloodroot (Sanguinaria canadensis)
Foamflower (Tiarella cordifolia)
Jewelweed (Impatiens): (I. capensis), (I. pallida); a reseeding annual
Blue vervain (Verbena hastata)

FERNS
Maidenhair fern (Adiantum pedatum)
Sensitive fern (Onoclea sensibilis) – can spread
Christmas fern (Polystichum acrostichoides)
New York fern (Thelypteris noveboracensis)

VINES
Trumpet coral honeysuckle (Lonicera sempervirens) – NOT Japanese varieties!
Virgin's bower (Clematis virginiana) – NOT Japanese Clematis terniflora!

Invasive Plants to AVOID and ELIMINATE
IMPORTANT: Make sure the “invasive” you're about to remove is not a native look-alike! Check “Mistaken Identity” from the NY Botanic Gardens:
ynb.org/files/scientists/rnaczi/Mistaken_Identity_Final.pdf

Some suggested native alternatives to these invasives are labeled “ALT”.

TREES
Norway maple - ALT: American beech, sugar maple, black gum, red maple
    NOTE: Cultivars such as ‘Crimson King’ are Norway maples, too!
    Olives - ALT: spicebush, No. bayberry, gray dogwood, winterberry
    Bradford/Callery pear - ALT: redbud, serviceberry, black haw

VINES
Japanese honeysuckle - ALT: trumpet creeper, coral honeysuckle
    Asian bittersweet - ALT: native bittersweet, coral honeysuckle, fox grape
Japanese virgin's bower (Clematis terniflora) -
    ALT: native Virgin's bower (Clematis virginiana)
Porcelainbrier - ALT: virgin's-bower, trumpet creeper, coral honeysuckle
    English ivy - ALT: wild ginger, lady fern, creeping phlox, foamflower
    Periwinkle/Myrtle/Vinca - ALT: Va. creeper, wild ginger, creeping phlox,
    NY fern

SHRUBS
Japanese barberry - ALT: clethra, bayberry, highbush blueberry, pasture rose
    Burning bush - ALT: red chokeberry, silky dogwood, highbush blueberry
    Butterfly bush / Buddleia - ALT: butterflyweed, clethra, NY ironweed
    Privet - ALT: inkberry, spicebush, red or black chokeberry
Japanese bush honeysuckles - ALT: bayberry, spicebush, red/black chokeberry
Japanese spirea - ALT: clethra, silky dogwood
    Multiflora rose - ALT: common blackberry, flowering raspberry
    Buckthorn - ALT: Black chokeberry

AQUATIC
Anacharis (Elodea densa) - ALT: Canada pondweed (Elodea canadensis)
    Parrot–feather – ALT: Coon's tail (Ceratophyllum demersum)
    Water chestnut – ALT: Floating pondweed (Potamogeton natans)
    Yellow iris (Iris pseudororus) – ALT: Blue iris (Iris versicolor)

HERBACEOUS
Common daylily – ALT: Canada lily, Turk's cap lily, three-lobed coneflower
    Bishop's goutweed – ALT: Golden alexander
    Star of Bethlehem – ALT: foamflower, bloodroot
    Dame's rocket - ALT: garden phlox
    Purple loosestrife - ALT: Joe-pye, cardinal lobelia, NY ironweed
    Japanese knotweed - ALT: Goat's beard, clethra, fragrant sumac, buttonbush
    Bamboos - ALT: big bluestem, bottlebrush grass, little bluestem, Indian grass

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