

Native Plant Suggestions from HGCNY



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* 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? Use our FREE Native Plant Shopping Guide available at hgcn.org/projects/shopping/.

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. nigra*), 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. *Swida*]: 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. amomum*), 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. juncea*), Gray (*S. nemoralis*),
Swamp (*S. patula*), Stiff (*S. rigida*), Wrinkleleaf (*S. rugosa*),
Seaside (*S. sempervirens*), Showy (*S. speciosa*), Bog (*S. uliginosa*),
Elm-leaved (*S. ulmifolia*)
Asters (*Symphyotrichum*): Heartleaf (*S. cordifolium*), Smooth (*S. laeve*),
Panicked (*S. lanceolatum*), Calico (*S. lateriflorum*),
New England (*S. novae-angliae*), New York (*S. novi-belgii*),
Shale (*S. oblongifolium*), Sky blue (*S. oolentangiense*), Frost (*S. pilosum*),
Crooked-stem (*S. prenanthoides*), Swamp (*S. puniceum*),
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. laciniata*),
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*)
Fleabane (*Erigeron*): 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*)

SOME 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. aromatica*), 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!)

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. plataginifolia*)

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:
nybg.org/files/scientists/rmaczi/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*)

Porcelainberry – **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 (*Egeria densa*) – **ALT:** Canada pondweed (*Elodea canadensis*)

Parrot-feather – **ALT:** Coon's tail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*)

Water chestnut – **ALT:** Floating pondweed (*Potamogeton natans*)

Yellow iris (*Iris pseudocorus*) – **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