AAH Wildlife Waystations: Captivating Containers with Native Plants

By Leigh Pickering, ARMN co-coordinator for Audubon at Home Wildlife Sanctuary Certification Program

Overview/Introduction

If you live in an apartment or townhouse with a balcony, patio, or very small yard, you may like to use your outdoor space to connect to the natural world around you. In order to attract and support native wildlife in these settings, a garden comprised largely of native plants in containers or small planting areas provides an attractive and simple solution. A surprising number of insects, birds and even small mammals are drawn to container and pocket gardens.

The Audubon at Home program encourages you to beautify and increase the wildlife value of these small spaces. Although much of this content is directed to container gardening, patios and “pocket gardens” are merely larger extensions of the same concept, with the possible advantage of natural soils that need less additional replenishment.

Ten bees and a Skipper forage on Agastache in a pot

General considerations on gardening with native plants in containers

Many native plants make excellent specimens for container and small space gardening. As with any other type of planting, limitations include: site conditions such as sun and wind exposure, size of the mature plant, size of the container, and attractiveness of the plant’s appearance over time. Other factors unique to containers include: appropriate initial soil mix and ongoing maintenance needs. All of these factors are addressed in pages in this section.

Care in plant species selection can result in a more successful planting from the perspective of wildlife. Biomass and blooms make a big impact in attracting wildlife to container plantings. The biomass (stems, twigs, leaves, etc.) created by small shrubs and trees, vines, grasses, and herbaceous plants provides cover, nesting sites, and food for wildlife looking to use your garden, and is best created with plants that create a lot of top growth for their root mass. These plants are very desirable to wildlife. For this reason, vines are excellent container choices. Vines that cling may be
trained to a wall (Virginia Creeper) and vines that twine may be trained into living curtains or screens with either structural or shrub support (Passion vine, Scarlet Honeysuckle). Blooms on vines, shrubs and herbaceous plants provide instant impact in the appearance of containers, both to wildlife and viewers. Red, tubular blooms are a hit with hummingbirds, and the composite flowers of Asters, Goldenrod, Mountain Mint and Boneset are endlessly covered in pollinating insects and butterflies. Many birds will be attracted to your garden if you create a thicket-like habitat with twiggy shrubs and small trees—they will flit from feeder to "thicket" to water feature to thicket to feeder and return frequently if they are provided with the food, water and cover they need.

Choose an assortment of plants that will bloom throughout the growing season, spring, summer and fall. Although space may be limited in your container or patio garden, an assortment of plants that will bloom or provide food throughout the growing season will provide you with multi-season interest and wildlife with a reason to return to your way station on a daily basis.

An excellent resource on plants that are native to our region is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) document: Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping, Chesapeake Region, which is available for download at http://www.nps.gov/plants/pubs/chesapeake/. The plant lists on other pages in this Wildlife Waystation section are organized by small trees/shrubs, vines, grasses and herbaceous plants according to their light needs, and to some extent their moisture needs, and the suggested container combination plantings also group plants with similar needs. If you would like more specific information on a plant species, consult this FWS booklet or do a Google search on the species and you will find a number of websites that provide more information on the species' plant and wildlife associations and natural habitats in the wild.

**Small water gardens and features for balconies and patios**

Water is a primary draw for wildlife, especially in urban and suburban settings where most fresh water has been collected and piped underground. Try to include a water source near your native plants. Ponds and water gardens will draw the most birds and insects, but if a water garden seems daunting, consider providing a bowl- or wall-mounted fountain or a simple ground-level birdbath to accompany your plantings. The sound of water trickling and the reflections of light on water will draw wildlife in for a brief drink or a bath. Observe the water source to ensure that wildlife can actually access it. Steep sides will deter many birds from bathing or drinking, and splashing or excessively moving water will not allow bees and other insects to drink at the edges. If your water source is still, such as a bird bath, daily use by birds for bathing, the presence of fish, or changing the water every three days (in warm weather) will prevent any mosquitoes from breeding.
In order to create a pond planter or wet (bog) planter for your collection, you will need the following:

- A container that holds water - either watertight or lined with a ‘rubber’ (EPDM) liner
- A surface that supports water’s 8.3 pounds per gallon of weight - in addition to that of the container, stones and plants.
- A small electric pump that will circulate and aerate your water to reduce mosquito breeding and stagnation

Other factors include:

- Most emergent/aquatic plants in water gardens will need a minimum of 6 hours of direct sunlight per day.
- Water plants should remain in their pots in heavy clay soil with pea gravel on top of the soil to conserve it.
- Bricks or stones can be used to raise each plant to its preferred depth and also raise the pump outflow (or fountain) to the correct height in the water.
- A minimum of 20 gallons will help moderate water temperature swings and reduce water level fluctuations from evaporation.
- Shading the container itself will also reduce temperature and water-level swings.

**Choice, design and arrangement of containers**

- Use large enough containers – usually many times the size of the pot the plant came in. Larger pots hold moisture evenly, weigh enough to resist wind, and contain adequate soil volume for several years of growth. Use a saucer if it is difficult to soak the soil appropriately, if the plant is routinely too dry, or if the surface below needs protection. Use a set of wheels under large pots if you want to be able to move them easily. A wheeled platform is also an option for multiple pots.

- Match the container style to the type of plant and its growth habits. The container should visually (and physically) balance the plant. For example, an upright, multi-stemmed shrub would work best in a low, wide container. An arching grass might look best in an upright container, and a low creeping plant would look nice in a sculptural container such as a shell, boot or urn.

- Add interesting items to your containers, if you like. Your containers are a nice spot to place rocks, shells, driftwood or other weatherproof items you have collected in your travels to accent them. A container can become a small display or diorama for your own enjoyment when wildlife is absent.
• Group containers together. If the heights of the pots are very similar, raising one or two on cinder blocks will create a nice display. Some groupings can even be used to create privacy screening. Grouping containers together helps them insulate and shade each other and creates a more humid microclimate. Additionally, these groupings are more likely to attract wildlife than solitary pots. With careful plant species selection, a container grouping can offer something for wildlife year-round.

• Include a wet planter or a pond planter if you can. Cover 50-60% of the water surface and with plants and add a submerged plant or two. Snails and fish can be added for ecological balance. (Be sure never to release non-native organisms into the wild). Observe how wildlife accesses the water and make it easier if necessary.

• Properly support vines with shrubs, lattice, or deer/bird netting. Well-supported vines create highly desirable bird real estate for nesting. Unsupported vines grow poorly and look unattractive. Vigorous or aggressive vines might be best suited for those aware of their tendencies and interested in trying their hand at training the vines in small spaces. (Virginia Creeper, Trumpet Creeper).

Soil, planting material, container hygiene

Soils for containers should be somewhat light, drain easily yet retain moisture for a day or so depending on temperature, humidity and exposure. This is most easily achieved using commercial potting mixes. These mixes contain long-lasting (slowly biodegrading) organic matter, such as coir and sphagnum which keeps the soil mix loose for a few years. Many commercial mixes also contain time-release fertilizers which last for a few months. Potting mix with moisture-retention treatment is not recommended. Home soil mixes may be made with native topsoil, loamy compost and construction (not play) sand. A starting point for mixture proportions would be 50:25:25 – but this varies greatly based on the quality of the topsoil used. Woodland native plants will probably prefer soils with more organic matter (compost). A small piece of landscape fabric or screening over the drainage holes will help keep earthworms, sowbugs and ants from excavating soil from the bottom and helps retain soil.

Soil organic matter is constantly decomposing, yet the proportions in the soil should remain the same or the plants may suffer. Mulching in the fall and again in spring (if the fall mulch has thinned) is one way to add organic matter. Fertilizing with soil fungus and microbes using dilute fish emulsion and other natural extracts may help, although there is little research to support these products as benefiting the soil rather than the plants. Most container plants in commercial potting mix need to be repotted with fresh soil every few years for continued growth. Without repotting, container soils tend to accumulate mineral salts from watering with tap water and these salts kill the fine absorbing root hairs of the plants. Additionally, the loss of organic matter in the soil (from natural decomposition) reduces both the drainage (pore space) and the moisture-holding capacity of the soil resulting in “drought and deluge” watering cycles.
Plants that prefer dry, poor soils should have their container soils amended appropriately with sharp sand and/or gravel to avoid root rot. A product called Grani-grit (for chickens) is one of the best for pH-neutral amendments, but it is typically only available in larger amounts from feed stores or the internet. The pot size for these plants and for native succulents should be smaller in proportion to the plants’ above-ground size. Plants that like these conditions are excellent for wide bowl and tray gardens. Some native plants actually prefer a rock garden setting and will need extra gravel and rock in their containers. Crushed bluestone or ‘stone dust’ is a common patio base medium many of these plants seem to like, and they may reseed readily between the stones of a nearby patio or walk.

- Containers that never receive natural rainfall should be hosed down occasionally for health and hygiene.
- Mulching once or twice a year with composted leaf mulch should be enough fertility for most plants. Use compost tea or fish emulsion for additional fertility and for the rare feeding of rock garden planters

**Plant Selection**

- Consider planting together several plants with complementary shapes and, of course, similar maintenance needs. Some plants even prefer a companion plant or two. Consider plants that might be found in similar environments such as a woodland shrub and a groundcover (Spicebush and Lady Fern) for a shady, protected spot or a woody-stemmed meadow perennial and a grass (Goldenrod and Lovegrass) for a sunny, hot area.
- Some plants may not enjoy sharing space with others in a mixed planter and will either die or crowd out their companions. Other plants are actually biennial or short-lived perennials (i.e. Coneflowers- Rudbeckia and Echinacea) and will need replanting or re-seeding after a year or two. Some plants need slightly harsher growing conditions to avoid becoming weedy or outgrowing their pots too rapidly. If this happens, reduced but regular watering, thinning or dividing the root ball, and repotting in a smaller container will help.
- There are many cultivated varieties of native plants available for purchase, but they were not created with the needs of wildlife in mind (i.e. adequate pollen and nectar, proper bloom season). Buy the basic species, not the cultivar, if possible. Purchasing plants legally propagated from local plant populations is the best way to provide for your local wildlife populations, as the food and its consumers have evolved together in your location.

The native plants for containers are included here because of their small, space-appropriate size and restrained growth; relatively neat appearance when in good health; and attractiveness to wildlife. They are also generally available for sale by local retailers and non-profit groups. The plant lists here are by no means completely inclusive of all the wonderful native container plants that are out there. Most of them have been selected from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s document: "Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping, Chesapeake Region", which is available for download at [http://www.nps.gov/plants/pubs/chesapeake/](http://www.nps.gov/plants/pubs/chesapeake/). These species have varying moisture needs – most will take medium moisture conditions, but some prefer more moisture and some less.

In order to make grouping by needs simpler, at the end of the lists are suggestions of plant combinations for containers for any type of site conditions you may have. These suggestions are limited only by space available. Many great combinations still wait to be discovered by designers and wildlife!
Quick tips to attract particular species

- Native bees: Consider installing a Mason bee or Bumblebee home near your containers. These houses are a single block of prepared wood; small; and the bees are tame when untouched. Bee behavior is fun and relaxing to watch.

- Insects: If you have perennials with woody stems, leave as much of the stems on the plant as possible. Many insects overwinter or leave larvae inside the stems which then hatch in the spring. Upright stems are more protected from moisture and predators. If you must cut stems, pile them someplace unnoticed so they still serve as housing for a time. Debris from grasses and strap-leaved perennials will be used by nesting birds during the growing season.

- Hummingbirds: The top ten plants for hummingbirds include a small tree, a shrub, two vines, and six perennials (listed below). The excellent thing about these species is that together they bloom across the entire growing season, and the (aggressive) Trumpet Creeper provides excellent nest sites. A property with these species and protected nesting areas would likely have a pair of resident Hummingbirds every year.

Ten species that will attract hummingbirds in order of bloom time:

Columbine – Aquilegia canadensis
Red Buckeye – Aesculus pavia
Rosebay Rhododendron – Rhododendron catawbiense
Scarlet Honeysuckle – Lonicera sempervirens
Trumpet Creeper – Campsis radicans
Jewelweed – Impatiens capensis
Cardinal flower – Lobelia cardinalis
Canada Lily – Lilium canadense
Bee Balm – Monarda didyma
Indian Pink – Spigelia marilandica

The following is a list of butterfly species along with the plant species you may be able to attract them with:

Admirals: Willow, Birch, Aspens, Black Oaks, Poplar, Wild Cherry
American Copper: Sorrels, Docks
American Painted Lady: Pearly Everlasting, Pussytoes, related composites
Baltimore Checkerspot: Turtlehead, Plantains
Banded Hairstreak: Oaks, Hickory, Butternut
Buckeye: Plantains
Eastern Tailed Blue: Clovers, other legumes
Henry’s Elfin: Redbud, Blueberry, Maple Leaved Viburnum, Yaupon Holly
Fritillaries: Violets, Purslane
Gulf Fritillary: Passion Vines
Gray Hairstreak: many plants, especially legumes, Mallows
Long Tailed Skipper: Groundnut, climbing legumes (edible Beans, Peas)
Monarch and Queen: Common Milkweed, Butterfly weed
Mourning Cloak, Comma, Question Mark: Elms, Nettles, Hackberry, (Hops)
Painted Lady: Thistles, Composites
Pearl Crescent: Asters
Pygmy Blue: Lamb’s Quarters, Pigweed
Red Admiral: Nettles
Satyrs: Grasses and Sedges
Skippers: Grasses
Silver Spotted Skipper: Locusts, Wisteria, other Legumes
Snout and Hackberry Butterflies: Hackberry
Spring Azure: Dogwood, Wild Cherry, Meadowsweet
Sulphurs: Clovers, Legumes, Sneezeweed, Senna, Asters
Swallowtail, Black: Honewort, Sweet Cicely, (Parsley, Dill)
Swallowtail, Pipevine: Pipevine
Swallowtail, Spicebush: Spicebush, Sassafras
Swallowtail, Tiger: Black Cherry, Tulip Poplar, Sweetbay Magnolia
Swallowtail, Zebra: Paw Paw
Swallowtail, Giant: Prickly Ash, Hop Tree, Citrus family
Whites and Orange Tips: Mustards (Cabbage, Broccoli)

Vine species for containers and gardens
Annotations include: (EG) – Evergreen; (A) – Annual; (M) – Monarch larval food; (H) – Hummingbird favorite.

All species are twining and need appropriate diameter supports (except as noted).

- **Apios americana**  
  Groundnut

- **Clematis viorna** * 
  Leatherleaf Clematis

- **Clematis virginiana**  
  Virgin’s Bower

- **Lonicera sempervirens** (EG)(H) 
  Scarlet Honeysuckle

- **Parthenocissus quinquefolia**® 
  Virginia Creeper

- **Passiflora incarnata** 
  Passionflower, Maypops

- **Passiflora lutea** * 
  Yellow Passionflower

* These species are delicate enough to use shrubs for support, if desired.

® This species clings by discs and needs a flat surface for climbing; also used as groundcover.
These additional Vine species could be used in small patio gardens with structural support of a trellis, pergola or arbor

- *Bignonia capreolatus* (Crossvine)
- *Campsis radicans* (H) (Trumpet Creeper)
- *Celastrus scandens* (American Bittersweet)
- *Wisteria frutescens* (American Wisteria)
- *Vitis aestivalis* (Summer Grape)
- *Vitis labrusca* (Fox Grape)
- *Vitis vulpina* (Winter Grape)

**Woody species – Shrubs and small Trees**

Some larger species may outgrow containers over time; all are appropriate for small patio gardens and can be planted in patches of exposed ground or in containers.

Annotations include: (EG) – Evergreen; (A) – Annual; (M) – Monarch larval food; (H) – Hummingbird favorite

### Woody species for shade

- *Hamamelis virginiana* (Common Witchazel)
- *Hydrangea arborescens* (Smooth Hydrangea)
- *Kalmia angustifolia* (EG) (Mountain Laurel)
- *Kalmia latifolia* (EG) (Mountain Laurel)
- *Lindera benzoin* (Spicebush)
- *Rhododendron maximum* (EG) (Rosebay Rhododendron)
- *Rubus odoratus* (Flowering Raspberry)
- *Viburnum acerifolium* (Mapleleaf Viburnum)

### Woody species tolerant of or needing some shade

- *Amelanchier canadensis* (Thicket Serviceberry)
- *Arborvitae occidentalis* (EG) (Atlantic Whitecedar)
- *Aronia arbutifolia* (Red Chokeberry)
- *Ceanothus americanus* (New Jersey Tea)
- *Clethra alnifolia* (Summersweet, Sweet Pepperbush)
- *Chionanthus virginicus* (Fringetree)
- *Comptonia perigrina* (Sweetfern)
- *Eubotrys racemosa* (Swamp Doghobble, Sweetbells)
- *Ilex glabra* (EG) (Inkberry holly)
- *Ilex verticillata* (Winterberry)
- *Itea virginica* (Virginia Sweetspire)
- *Lyonia ligustrina* (Maleberry)
- *Magnolia virginiana* (s-EG) (Sweetbay Magnolia)
- *Photinia melanocarpa* (Black Chokeberry)
- *Photinia pyrifolia* (Red Chokeberry)
- *Rhododendron calendulaceum* (Flame Azalea)
- *Rhododendron periclymenoides* (Pinxterbloom Azalea)
- *Rhododendron viscosum* (Swamp Azalea)
- *Staphylea trifolia* (American Bladdernut)
- *Vaccinium angustifolium* (Late Lowbush (Sweet) Blueberry)
- *Vaccinium corymbosum* (Highbush Blueberry)
- *Vaccinium pallidum* (Early Lowbush Blueberry)
- *Vaccinium stamineum* (Tall Deerberry)
**Woody species for full sun**

- *Vaccinium vacillans*  
  Early Lowbush (Dryland) Blueberry
- *Viburnum trilobum*  
  American Cranberry Bush
- *Yucca filamentosa* (EG)  
  Adam’s Needle
- *Amorpha fruticosa*  
  Leadplant, Indigobush
- *Diervilla sessifolia*  
  Southern Bush Honeysuckle
- *Juniperus virginiana* (EG)  
  Eastern Red Cedar
- *Morella cerifera* (EG)  
  Southern Wax Myrtle
- *Morella pennsylvanica* (EG)  
  Bayberry
- *Rhus aromatica*  
  Fragrant Sumac
- *Rhus glabra*  
  Smooth Sumac
- *Yucca filamentosa* (EG)  
  Adam’s Needle

**Ferns and Grasses**

**Ferns**

All ferns need shade; but this may vary with the amount of moisture they receive. These are listed in order of drought tolerance after establishment (rather than alphabetical). Sensitive and Ostrich Fern will tolerate full sun with wet conditions.

- *Polystichum acrostichoides* (EG)  
  Christmas Fern
- *Dryopteris marginalis* (EG)  
  Evergreen Shield or Wood Fern
- *Onoclea sensibilis*  
  Sensitive Fern
- *Thelypteris novaboracensis*  
  New York Fern
- *Matteuchia struthiopteris*  
  Ostrich Fern
- *Athyrium felix-femina*  
  Lady Fern

**Grasses**

**Grasses for medium shade**

- *Carex blanda*  
  Eastern Woodland Sedge
- *Carex glauca*  
  Blue Sedge
- *Carex pensylvanica*  
  Pennsylvania Sedge
- *Carex plantagineae*  
  Plantain-Leaf Sedge
- *Carex platyphylla*  
  Broad-Leaf Sedge
- *Elymus hystrix*  
  Bottlebrush grass
- *Festuca rubra*  
  Red Fescue
- *Luzula echinata*  
  Spike Wood Rush

**Part shade-tolerant grasses**

- *Chasmanthium latifolium*  
  Sea or River Oats
- *Panicum virgatum*  
  Panic Grass

**Grasses needing full sun**

- *Andropogon virginicus*  
  Broomsedge
- *Carex intumescentis*  
  Greater Bladder Sedge
- *Carex lurida*  
  Lurid Sedge
- *Eragrostis spectabilis*  
  Purple Love Grass
Submerged and Emergent Aquatic Garden Species

Emergent Plants
These plants differ in the depths they prefer.

- *Peltandra virginica* Arrow Arum
- *Sagittaria latifolia* Arrowhead
- *Saururus cernuus* Lizard's Tail
- *Acorus calamus* Sweet Flag
- *Hibiscus moscheutos* Marsh Hibiscus
- *Iris versicolor* Blue Flag, Blue Water Iris
- *Juncus effusus* Soft Rush
- *Kosteletskyia virginica* Seashore Mallow
- *Nuphar lutea* Spatterdock, Yellow Water Lily
- *Nymphaea odorata* American or Fragrant Water Lily
- *Pontederia cordata* Pickerelweed
- *Typha angustifolia* Narrow-leaf Cattail

Submerged Plants
These provide oxygen to the water

- *Vallisneria sp.* Wild Celery
- *Cabomba canadensis*, *C. caroliniana* Fanwort

Herbaceous Perennials
Annotations include: (EG) – Evergreen; (A) – Annual; (M) – Monarch larval food; (H) – Hummingbird favorite

Herbaceous species for (mostly) part shade to full shade

- *Actaea racemosa* Black Snakeroot
- *Arisaema triphyllum* Jack-in-the-Pulpit
- *Asarum canadense* Wild Ginger
- *Campanula americana* American Bellflower
- *Chrysogonum virginicum* Green and Gold
- *Conoclinium coelestinum* Blue Mist Flower, Wild Ageratum
- *Cryptotaenia canadensis* (M) Honewort
- *Dicentra eximia* Fringed Bleeding Heart
- *Eurybia (Aster) cordifolius* Blue Wood Aster
- *Eurybia (Aster) divaricata* White Wood Aster
- *Heuchera americana* American Alumroot
- *Heuchera villosa* Hairy Alumroot
- *Iris cristata* Crested Iris
- *Maianthemum racemosum* False Solomon's Seal
- *Mertensia virginica* Virginia Bluebells
- *Mitchella repens* (EG) Partridgeberry
- *Pachysandra procumbens* (EG) Allegheny Spurge
- *Packera aurea* (EG) Golden Ragwort
Phlox divaricata  Wild Blue Phlox
Polygonatum biflorum  Solomon's Seal
Sedum ternatum (EG)  Wild Stonecrop
Solidago caesia  Bluestem or Wreath Goldenrod
Solidago flexicaulis  Broadleaf or Zig-Zag Goldenrod
Teucrium canadense  Wood Sage, American Germander
Tiarella cordifolia  Foamflower
Viola canadensis  Canada violet

**Herbaceous species for full sun to part sun**

Most of these species tolerate more sun with somewhat more, consistent moisture, except those preferring poor soils

Amsonia tabernaemontana  Blue Star Flower
Anemone canadensis  Canada Anemone
Antennaria plantaginoides, A. neglecta  Pussy-toes
Aquilegia canadensis (H)  Canadian, Wild Columbine
Cheolone glabra  White Turtlehead
Coreopsis verticillata  Threadleaf Tickseed
Eupatoradelphus fistulosus  Hollow Joe Pye Weed
Eupatorium hyssopifolium  Hyssop-leaved Boneset
Fragaria virginiana  Wild Strawberry
Geranium maculatum  Wild Geranium
Heliopsis helianthoides  Ox-eye, False Sunflower
Hypericum hypericoides  St Andrews Cross
Liatris spicata  Dense Gayfeather, Blazing Star
Lilium superbum  Turk's Cap Lily
Lobelia cardinalis (H)  Cardinal flower
Lobelia siphilitica  Great Blue Lobelia
Mimulus ringens, M. alatus  Monkey Flower
Monarda fistulosa  Wild Bergamot, Horsemint
Packera aurea (EG)  Golden Ragwort
Penstemon digitalis  Beardtounge Penstemon
Penstemon laevigatus  Smooth Penstemon
Phlox paniculata  Summer Phlox
Phlox stolonifera  Creeping Phlox
Phlox subulata (EG)  Moss Phlox, Moss Pink
Physostegia virginiana  Obedient Plant, False Dragonhead
Pycnanthemum muticum  Blunt Mountain Mint
Pycnanthemum tenuifolium  Narrow leaved Mountain Mint
Ruellia caroliniensis  Carolina Wild Petunia
Salvia lyrata  Lyre-leaf Sage
Solidago sphacelata  Autumn Goldenrod
Spigelia marilandica (H)  Indian Pink, Maryland Pinkroot
Symphyotrichum (Aster) ericoides  Heath or Dense-flowered Aster
Symphyotrichum (Aster) laevis  Smooth Blue Aster
Symphyotrichum (Aster) lateriflorum  Calico Aster
Symphyotrichum novae-anglae  New England Aster
Symphyotrichum novae-belgii  New York Aster
Sysyrinchium angustifolium  Blue-eyed Grass
Tradescantia virginiana  Virginia Spiderwort
Veronicastrum virginicum  Culver's Root
Zizia aurea (M)  Golden Alexanders
Herbaceous species for full sun

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Agastache foeniculum</td>
<td>Anise Hyssop</td>
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<td>Rudbeckia triloba</td>
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<td>Solidago juncea</td>
<td>Early Goldenrod</td>
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Combination Plantings – Shrub and perennial

The plant combinations below are selected for their similar light, moisture and soil needs. The shapes of the plants and the bloom times should be complimentary to one another.

For Shade to part shade

Flowering Raspberry, Bottlebrush grass, Blue Wood Aster

- Rubus odoratus, Elymus hystrix, Symphyotrichum cordifolius

Mountain Laurel, Christmas Fern, Wintergreen

- Kalmia latifolia, Polystichum acrostichoides, Gaultheria procumbens

Witchhazel, Wood Fern, White Wood Aster

- Hamamelis virginiana, Dryopteris marginalis, Symphyotrichum divaricata

Spicebush, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Canada Anemone

- Lindera benzoin, Arisaema triphyllum, Anemone canadensis

Winterberry, Christmas Fern, Blue Wood Aster

- Ilex verticillata, Polystichum acrostichoides, Eurybia cordifolia

For part Shade to more sun

Bladdernut, White Turtlehead, Virginia Spiderwort

- Staphylea trifolia, Cheolone glabra, Tradescantia virginiana

Serviceberry, Christmas Fern, Blu OEM Goldenrod

- Amelanchier canadensis, Polystichum acrostichoides, Solidago caesia

Sweetbay Magnolia, Bee Balm, Sensitive fern

- Magnolia virginiana, Monarda didyma, Onoclea sensibilis

Pinxterbloom Azalea, Blue Star Flower, White Wood Aster

- Rhododendron pericyclemenoides, Amsonia tabernaemontana, Symphyotrichum divaricata

Atlantic White Cedar, Solomon’s seal, Wild Strawberry

- Arbutus occidentalis (small cultivar), Polygonatum biflorum, Fragaria virginica

Fringetree, Hairy Alumroot, Pennsylvania Sedge

- Chionanthus virginicus, Heuchera villosa, Carex pennsylvanica

Red Chokeberry, Blue Wood Aster, New York Fern

- Aronia arbutifolia, Eurybia cordifolia, Thelypteris novaboracensis

Summersweet, Virginia Spiderwort, Obedient Plant

- Clethra alnifolia, Tradescantia virginiana, Physostegia virginiana

For full sun

Eastern Red Cedar, Broomsedge Bluestem, Early Goldenrod

- Juniperus virginiana, Andropogon virginicus, Solidago juncea

Northern Bayberry, Sweetfern, Butterlyweed

- Morella pennsylvanica, Comptonia perigrina, Asclepias tuberosa
Smooth Sumac, Anise Hyssop, Purple Lovegrass  
*Rhus glabra, Agastache foeniculum, Eragrostis spectabilis*

**Combination Plantings - Perennials only**

**For full sun to part shade**

Hyssop-leaved Boneset, Autumn Goldenrod, Spike Gayfeather  
*Eupatorium hyssopfolium, Solidago sphacelata, Liatris spicata*

Rattlesnake Master, Threadleaf Tickseed, Purple Coneflower  
*Eryngium yuccafolium, Coreopsis verticillata, Echinacea purpurea*

Hollow Joe Pye Weed, Autumn Goldenrod, Heath Aster, New York Aster  
*Eupatorium delphi, Solidago sphacelata, Symphyotrichum ericoides, Symphyotrichum nova-belgii*

Shrubby St John’s Wort, New York Aster, Northern Dropseed  
*Hypericum prolificum, Symphyotrichum nova-belgii, Sporobulus heterolepis*

Ox-eye, Spike Gayfeather, Purple Coneflower  
*Heliosis helianthoides, Liatris spicata, Echinacea purpurea*

Black-eyed Susan, Anise Hyssop, Spike Gayfeather  
*Rudbeckia fulgida, Agastache foeniculum, Liatris spicata*

Turk’s Cap Lily, New York Aster, Blunt Mountain Mint  
*Lilium superbum, Symphyotrichum nova-belgii, Pycnanthemum muticum*

Wild Geranium, Threadleaf Tickseed, Obedient Plant  
*Geranium maculatum, Coreopsis verticillata, Physostegia virginiana*

Narrow leaved Mountain Mint, Anise Hyssop, Heath Aster  
*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium, Agastache foeniculum, Symphyotrichum ericoides*

Panic Grass, Purple Coneflower, Brown-eyed Susan  
*Panicum virgatum, Echinacea purpurea, Rudbeckia hirta*

**For part Shade**

Ostrich Fern, Virginia Bluebells, Golden Alexanders  
*Matteuchia strutheropteris, Mertensia virginiana, Zizia aurea*

Culvers Root, Bee Balm, Monkey Flower  
*Veronicastrum virginicum, Monarda didyma, Mimulus ringens*

Blue Mist Flower, Great Blue Lobelia, White Turtlehead, Greater Bladder Sedge  
*Conoclinium coelestinum, Lobelia siphilitica, Chelone glabra, Carex intumesens*

**Vine and Perennials – for mostly sun**

Scarlet Honeysuckle, Creeping Phlox, Smooth Blue Aster  
*Phlox stolonifera, Lonicera sempervirens, Symphyotrichum laevis*

American Wisteria, White Turtlehead, Blue Sedge  
*Wisteria frutescens, Chelone glabra, Carex glaucoadea*

Groundnut, Blue Mist Flower, Bottlebrush Grass  
*Apios americana, Conoclinium coelestinum, Elymus hystrix*

**Rock Garden Planter – For part Shade**

These containers may be shallow, wide bowl - style, if desired.

Wild Columbine, Wild Stonecrop, American Alumroot  
*Aquilegia canadensis, Sedum tormatum, Heuchera americana*

St Andrew’s Cross, Pussytoes, Spike Wood Rush  
*Hypericum hypericoides, Antennaria neglecta, Luzula echinata*
Wetland Planter – for mostly sun

Ensure proper size and depth of these containers, as mentioned above.

Marsh Hibiscus, Blue Flag, Soft Rush
   *Hibiscus moscheutos, Iris versicolor, Juncus effusus*

Monkey Flower, Cardinal Flower, Lurid Sedge
   *Mimulus ringens, Carex lurida, Lobelia cardinalis*

Seashore Mallow, Great Blue Lobelia, Lurid Sedge
   *Kosteletskyia virginica, Carex lurida, Lobelia siphilitica*

Single Plant Containers

These plants form large columns or have circular rosettes of foliage which will fill and cover the edges of their pot. They have bold, architectural forms and will make excellent accent specimens.

Black Snakeroot – *Actaea racemosa* (shade)

Yucca – *Yucca filamentosa* (sun/part shade) (EG)

Rosebay Rhododendron - *Rhododendron maximum* (shade) (EG)

Red Cedar – *Juniperus virginiana* (sun) (EG)

AAH Wildlife Waystation Animal and Insect Species to Observe

Included here are some species that might occur in properties or balconies adjacent to or near natural areas and parks in our area (Hermit Thrush, Mourning Cloak butterfly) as well as some more urban-adapted species such as Eastern Chipmunk and Song Sparrow.

**Birds**
- Cooper’s Hawk
- Sharp-shinned Hawk
- Woodpecker Species
- White-breasted Nuthatch
- House Wren
- Eastern Phoebe
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- Golden-crowned Kinglet
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
- Hermit Thrush
- Tufted Titmouse
- Song Sparrow
- White-throated Sparrow

**Insects**
- Grasshopper species
- Katydid species
- Hummingbird Clearwing Moth
- Snowberry Clearwing Moth
- Flower Fly (Hover Fly or Syrphid Fly)

**Spiders**
- Orb Web Species

**Mammals**
- Bat Species
- Eastern Chipmunk

**Butterflies**
- Mourning Cloak
- Comma
- Question Mark
- Monarch