



The Best Native Plants for Your Garden

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This is a selected list of my favorite blooming plants indigenous to the City of Philadelphia, surrounding Delaware Valley, and Mid-Atlantic region. These plants are indigenous to the Atlantic Coastal Plain and smaller area of Piedmont Upland of the northwest section of Philadelphia and beyond.

I grow most of these plants in my Philadelphia garden. All of these plants are readily available in a good nursery or native plant sale. These are straight species without cultivated varieties. There are many, many cultivated varieties. The cultivated varieties are bred for color, height, petal number, etc.

But if you want to attract pollinators, butterflies, and other animals, stick with the straight species. The breeding of cultivars has often bred out the qualities (prolific nectar production, easy to access pollen, etc. that animals rely on for survival.

I have an extensive list of Mid-Atlantic native plants broken-down by blooming season on my website at donnalong.com/gardeningbonuses

Botanical name - Common name - flower color - height - light- soil. Plants that spring up naturally in my garden are in **bold**.

Spring Blooming Native Plants

Spring Blooming Flowers

Aquilegia canadensis (Eastern Columbine) - red/yellow - 10-24" - sun/part. shade - moist

Baptisia australis (Blue False Indigo) - violet/blue - 36-48" - sun/pt. shade - moist/dry

Dicentra eximia (Bleeding Heart) - pink - 12" - shade to sun - moist

Heuchera species (Coral Bells), red - 2' - part sun/shade - moist

Iris versicolor (Blue Flag Iris) - blue-violet flowers - 1-3' - full sun - moist soil

Mertensia virginica (Virginia Bluebells) - pink to blue flowers - 1-2' - part to full shade - moist soil

Penstemon digitalis (Foxglove Beardstongue) - white - 24-48" - sun to partial shade - moist

Tiarella cordifolia (Heart-leaf Foamflower) - white - 3-10" - sun/shade - moist

Tradescantia virginiana (Spiderwort) - 1-3' - purple - pt./full shade - dry

Zizia aurea (Golden Alexander) - yellow flowers - 1-3' - sun/shade - moist

Spring Blooming Ground Covers

Phlox stolonifera (Creeping Phlox) - pink - 6-10" - pt.sun/shade - moist

Viola blanda. (Sweet White Violet) - white flowers - to 1' - sun/shade - moist

Viola, various species

Spring Blooming Vines

Coral Honeysuckle (Lonicera sempervirens), orange-red - 4' - 15' - sun/partial sun - moist

Spring Blooming Shrubs

The only shrub that I grow in my garden is the Highbush Blueberry. I get big, juicy berries in early summer, if I get there before the birds.

Cercis canadensis (Eastern Redbud) - deep pink - 25' - sun to shade - moist -

Lindera benzoin (Spicebush) - yellow - 6-12' - sun to shade - moist

Magnolia virginiana (Sweetbay Magnolia) - white - 25'+ - sun/shade - moist

Rhododendron calendulaceum (Flame Azalea) - orange - 10' - sun/pt. shade - moist

Rhododendron periclymenoides (Pinxter Azalea) - deep pink - 8' - sun/pt. shade - dry/wet

Vaccinium corymbosum (Highbush Blueberry) - white - 10' - sun/part. shade - moist, well-drained soils

Summer Into Fall Blooming Native Plants

All of these plants are great plants in my garden. The plants with the most species which bloom in the autumn are the goldenrods, tickseeds, asters, and sedums.

Many of these plants will start blooming in the summer and last until early autumn or the first frost, for the most part.

Summer into Fall Blooming Flowers (Herbaceous Perennials)

Asclepias incarnate (Swamp Milkweed) - rose pink - 2-6' - sun/pt. shade - moist soil

Asclepias syriaca (Common Milkweed) - pink flowers - 2-6' - full sun - dry

Asclepias tuberosa (Butterfly Weed) - orange - 1-2' - sun - dry

Aster novae-angliae (New England Aster) - bright purple/pink - 2-8' - full sun/part shade - moist

Baptistia tinctoria (Wild Indigo) - yellow pea-like flowers - 2-3' - full sun/part shade - dry soil

Coreopsis verticillata (Whorled Tickseed) esp. 'Moonbeam' yellow - height 1' -2', July - September

Echinacea pupurea (Purple Coneflowers) - magenta - 26 -36 " tall, sun/part. shade - moist soil

Eupatorium fistulosum (Joe-Pye Weed) - white - to 10'- sun/shade - moist

Eupatorium rugosum (White Snakeroot) - white - 24 - 36" - sun/part. shade - moist - blooms late summer into autumn

Helenium autumnal (Sneezeweed) - 2-6', - yellow flowers; full sun - moist soil

Helianthus giantess (Thin-leaved Sunflower) - yellow flowers - 2-5' - full sun - moist

Liatris Scariosa (Northern Blazing Star) - lt. purple - height 1' 2' - blue, August - September

Lillium canadense (Canada Lily) - yellow/orange/red - 2-5' - full sun/pt. shade - moist

Lillium superb (Turk's cap-lily) - orange, orange-red flowers 3-8' - full sun - moist

Lobelia syphilitic (Great Blue Lobelia) - white/blue flowers - 1-3' - full sun/part shade - moist

Monarda didyma (Bee-balm) - red flowers - 2-5' - full sun - moist (running habit)

Phlox paniculata (Summer Phlox) - magenta pink - 2-6' - sun/pt. shade - moist

Rudbeckia fulgida (Eastern Coneflower) esp. 'Goldstrum' - golden yellow - 20 -30" - sun/part. shade - moist

Rudbeckia laciniata (Black-eyed Susans) - golden yellow, 36 - 72" - sun/part. shade - moist

Sedum 'Autumn Joy' (Stonecrop) - pink flowers - 12"-23" - full/pt. shade - average/moist/dry

Solidago rugosa (Rough-leaved Goldenrod) - golden flowers, 24 - 72" - sun/part. shade - moist/dry

Solidago sempervirens (Sea-side Goldenrod) - yellow flowers - 3-5'- sun - dry

Solidago speciosa (Showy Goldenrod) - golden flowers, height 2' -5',

Tradescantia virginiana (Spiderwort) - purple - 1-3'; pt./full shade - dry

Zizia aura (Golden Alexander) - yellow - 1-3' - full sun/shade - moist

Summer Blooming Vines

Campsis radicans (Trumpet Creeper) - red - 40+ - sun/pt. sun - any soil

Ferns - Matteuccia pensylvanica (Ostrich Fern) - green - shade to part/sun - moist

Long Blooming Native Perennials

There are few native perennials that bloom for more than a month or two. I plant as many of these in my garden as possible.

Re-Bloomers

1. Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra exim*) - The initial bloom happens from April to May, but this charmer re-blooms all summer.
2. Goldenstar or Green-and-Gold (*Chrysogonum virginianum*) - blooms from May to June, re-blooms
3. Wherry's Foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia* var. *collina*) - April to May, then re-blooms sporadically throughout the summer.

The Long Bloomers

4. Mouse Ear Tickseed (*Coreopsis auriculata*) - May to October
5. Tall Coreopsis (*Coreopsis tripteris*) - July to October
6. Whorled Tickseed (*Coreopsis verticillata*) - July to September
7. White Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea* 'White Swan') - July to September
8. Coneflower, Tennessee Purple (*Echinacea tennesseensis*) - July to September
9. Trumpet Creeper (*Campsis radicans*) - July to Spetember
10. Mistflower (*Eupatorium coelestinum*) - August to November; fast spreader
11. Rattlesnake master (*Eryngium carollianus*) - July to September
12. White Snakeroot (*Eupatorium hyssipifolium* 'Chocolate') - July to October
13. Sunflower (*Helianthus decapetalus*) - July to September
14. False sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*) - June to August
15. Alum-root (*Heuchera americana*) - June to August
16. Great Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia syphilitic*) - July to September
17. Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*) - March to May
18. Spotted Bee-Balm (*Monarda punctata*) - August to October
19. Meadow Phlox (*Phlox maculata*) - June to August
20. Obedient Plant (*Physostegia virginiana*) - July to September
21. American Ipecac (*Porteranthus stipulates*) - May to July
22. Bowman's-root (*Porteranthus trifoliatius*) - May to July
23. Hoary Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum incacum*) - July to September
24. Orange Coneflower (*Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *fulgida*) - August to October
25. Wild Pink (*Silene Caroliniana* ssp *pensylvania*) - April to June
26. Stiff Goldenrod (*Solidago rigida*) - August to October
27. Wrinkle-leaf Goldenrod (*Solidago rugosa* 'Fireworks') - August to October
28. Blue Wood Aster (*Symphyotrichum laeve* 'Bluebird') - August - October
29. Aromatic Aster (*Symphyotrichum oblongifolium*) - August - October
30. Rue Anemone (*Thallictrum thalictroides*) - April - June