

Native Plants of Howard County, MD

Using Them to Attract Wildlife to Your Yard

Who I am and What We Do

- Environmentalist, plant lover, nature lover- early memories of playing with milkweed plant pods, building stone walls, designing and planting gardens
- Owner of eco friendly garden business that prioritizes environmental conservation through the use of sustainable gardening practices such as:
- Weeding by hand, no use of herbicides
- Natural care for plantings- no use of pesticides
- Use permaculture and sustainable design practices
- Recycle all materials, compost yard waste
- Plant neonicotinoid free plants
- Promotes/educates community about natives, natural lawn and garden care
- Rain gardens, conservation landscaping, natives
- Donates money from native plant sales to local eco friendly community groups

Attracting Wildlife to Your Yard

- Provide food
- Provide cover
- Provide water
- Don't discourage wildlife through use of pesticides, herbicides or any other chemicals

Attracting Wildlife to Your Yard

1. Plant a variety of locally native plants

Some plants are marketed as native but aren't locally native

It's ok to sprinkle in some plants that are not locally native, just know that they haven't coevolved with the local flora and fauna so may not be of as much value as a local native would be.

In a case where a local native is not readily available in commerce I will substitute with a genus that is similar and grows in the East, Northeast or Southeast US

Using natives supports local wildlife by creating habitat AND a food source

Using Native Plants

It's now easier to use native plants in your garden. There is a wealth of information available on which plants are native and their benefits on the local ecology.

I have compiled a list of my favorite natives, most of which are native to the Maryland Piedmont. A few are favorites that are native to the Eastern US, Northeastern US or Southeastern US- they are all from close locations and are the most beneficial for our local wildlife.

Native Plant Selection

It can be tricky to find a large selection of locally native plants at local nurseries. I have made this presentation to cover the plants we have had success using locally and that you can also purchase locally.

It is ideal to purchase plants that have been grown locally and have not been harvested from the wild

Native Plant Selection

There is an accompanying chart that I created that is available on our website www.laurensgardenservice.com. It is called Native Plants of Howard County and gives all the information you need to find the right plant for your property. It includes information on which wildlife the plants benefit and which terrible conditions the plants will tolerate. There is also a lot of other great information on gardening, rain gardens and using natives that is all information from our experience gardening in Howard County, MD and the surrounding areas.

Native Plant Selection



LAUREN'S GARDEN SERVICE
LET US PLANT IT FOR YOU

Native Plants of Howard County

Compiled by Lauren Turner based on easy to grow plants and local availability

Please contact us with any questions at laurengardens@gmail.com

Much more information on plants and other garden info at www.laurengardenservice.com

Plant Type	Latin Name	Common Name	Beneficial	Native to MD Piedmont										Flower Color	Bloom Season	Height	Deer Resistant	Sheep slopes	Rain Garden	Living Privacy Border	Evergreen	Foundation Plantings	Perennial Border	Wildflower Meadow	Winter Interest	Woodsedge Planting	Woodland Garden	Cut Flower	Notes		
				Low	Medium	Tall	Wet Soil	Moist Soil	Dry Soil	Full Sun	Part Sun	Shade																			
F	<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	Christmas Fern	protection for toads and lizards	x				x			x	x			1.5-2'	x				x							x		Rocky soil		
F	<i>Dryopteris marginalis</i>	Evergreen Wood Fern	protection for toads and lizards	x		x		x				x			2-3'	x		x		x	x						x				
F	<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	Maidenhair Fern	protection for toads and lizards	x					x			x			1-2'												x				
F	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	Royal Fern	protection for toads and lizards	x				x	x		x	x	x		2-3'	x		x									x		Wet soil		
G	<i>Carex pennsylvanica</i>	PA Sedge	Birds	x	x				x	x		x	x		May-Jun	5-1'	x	x	x			x					x			Damp, shady area	
G	<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	Northern Sea Oats	Birds	x	x				x	x		x	x		Jul-Sep	3'	x						x	x	x					Almost any soil	
G	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Switchgrass	Birds, Butterflies	x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x		Jul-Oct	3-4'	x			x			x	x						Erosion control on slope, poor dry soil	
G	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little Bluestem	Birds	x	x				x	x		x	x		Aug-Oct	3-4'	x	x					x	x							
Gcvr	<i>Asarum canadense</i>	Wild Ginger		x	x				x			x			6-12"	x											x				
Gcvr	<i>Phlox subulata</i>	Moss Pinks	Butterflies	x	x					x	x	x		Red, Purple, Pink	Apr-May	4-6"	x	x			x									stepable plant for pathways or patios, rock gardens	
Gcvr	<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i> 'Brandywine'	Foam Flower	Bees, butterflies	x	x				x		x	x		White	Apr-May	8"											x				
Gcvr	<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i> 'Oakleaf'	Foam Flower	Hummingbirds		x				x		x	x		Pink	May	8-10"											x				
P	<i>Amsonia hubrechtii</i>	Threadleaf Blue Star	Butterflies			x			x	x		x		Blue	May	2-3'	x		x			x	x							Bright yellow fall foliage	
P	<i>Anemone canadensis</i>	Anemone		x		x		x	x	x		x		White	Apr-Jun	12-18"	x					x	x					x		Clay soil	
P	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Columbine	Butterflies, Hummingbirds	x	x				x			x		Red/Yellow	May-Jun	10"											x	x		Container and rock gardens	
P	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp milkweed	Butterflies, Hummingbirds	x		x	x		x	x		x		White, Pink	Jul-Sept	3-4'	x		x			x	x								Clay soil, Feeds Monarch caterpillars
P	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly Weed	Butterflies, Hummingbirds	x		x			x	x		x		Orange	Jun-Aug	1-2'	x	x	x			x	x								Tolerates dry, rocky soil, erosion
P	<i>Chelone glabra</i>	White Turtlehead	Butterflies, Hummingbirds	x		x			x	x		x		White	Aug-Oct	2-3'			x							x	x			Erosion, wet soil	
P	<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>	Tickseed	Butterflies	x	x				x	x		x		Yellow	Jun-Oct	1.5'	x	x	x			x									
P	<i>Dicentra eximia</i>	Cutleaf Bleeding Heart	Butterflies, Hummingbirds	x		x			x			x		Pink, Purple	Apr-Jul	1-1.5'	x											x		Tolerates rabbits	
P	<i>Eupatorium dubium</i>	Baby Joe Joe Pye Weed	Butterflies	x		x			x	x		x		Mauve	Jul-Sept	4-6"	x	x	x			x	x								Clay soil
P	<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	Joe Pye Weed	Butterflies	x		x			x	x		x		Mauve	Jul-Sept	4-6"	x		x			x	x		x	x					
P	<i>Baptisia australis</i>	Blue false indigo																													
P	<i>Geranium maculatum</i> 'Espresso'	Cranesbill	Butterflies	x	x				x	x	x	x	x	Pink, Purple	Apr-May	15"	x		x									x			Rabbit, Deer, Drought, Dry Soil
P	<i>Helianthus helianthoides</i>	Ox-eye Sunflower	Butterflies	x			x		x	x		x				3-6'	x		x			x	x				x			Clay or rocky soil, erosion	
P	<i>Hepatica americana</i>	Hepatica		x	x				x			x		White, Blue	Mar-Apr	5-7.5"												x			
P	<i>Heuchera americana</i>	Coral Bells	Butterflies, Hummingbirds	x	x				x	x	x	x		Green-White	Jun-Aug	1-2'															
P	<i>Iris versicolor</i>	Blue Flag Iris	Butterflies	x		x			x	x		x		Purple	May-Jun	2-3'	x		x								x			Wet roots	
P	<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Common Rush		x					x	x		x			Jun-Sep	2-3'	x		x								x			Wet roots	

Native Plant Selection

The list I have created also includes the correct species of plants. Some sellers list a genus of plant, which may have another species that is actually native. Example- *Liatris graminifolia* is a locally native plant. Catalogs list 'Liatris' under their native section but they actually have *Liatris spicata* which is not a locally native species. In this case *Liatris spicata* is of good benefit to local wildlife and the locally native *Liatris graminifolia* is tough to find in commerce.



Liatris graminifolia



Liatris spicata

A Note About Invasives

- Invasive plants create habitat for wildlife but don't feed them.
- Invasives have no natural predators so they out compete native plants and use up their space and resources.
- Planting invasives is making it harder for birds and butterflies (and other wildlife) in your neighborhood to survive.
- Non native species actually support $\frac{1}{4}$ of the species native plants support.

Avoid These Invasives

- Remove these from your property if possible:
- Barberry- supports Lymes
- English ivy- kills trees, outcompetes natives quickly
- Kudzu
- Lesser celandine
- Vinca
- Liriope
- Japanese knotweed
- Mile a minute
- Japanese stilt grass
- Canada thistle
- Garlic mustard
- Bradford pear
- Multiflora rose
- Autumn olive

Attracting Wildlife to Your Yard

Use mostly regular natives, with a few 'cultivars' sprinkled in

A cultivar is a plant that has been produced in cultivation, by selective breeding, to demonstrate desirable characteristics like flower showiness, foliage variations or flower color variations to name a few. Plants are now being selected and cultivated to grow more compactly, resist pests and diseases, tolerate adverse weather conditions like heat and humidity, cold tolerance, drought tolerance, etc.

Cultivars

A cultivar is a plant that has been produced in cultivation, by selective breeding, to demonstrate desirable characteristics like flower showiness, foliage variations or flower color variations to name a few. Plants are now being selected and cultivated to grow more compactly, resist pests and diseases, tolerate adverse weather conditions like heat and humidity, cold tolerance, drought tolerance, etc.

Cultivars

There is some debate as to whether the introduction of numerous cultivars is beneficial to wildlife. For example, it has been observed that butterflies and pollinators do not visit Echinacea varieties nearly as much as the original plants.

Some argue that cultivars with showier flowers are easier to find for pollinators than their original counterparts

As of now not much research has been gathered. I believe keeping it as close to the way nature intended it makes the most sense. I do use cultivars and varieties, I just make sure I use more of the truly native plants.

Variety

A plant Variety is a cultivar that is protected legally by the original grower.

Often the 2 are use interchangeably incorrectly. A grape 'variety' is actually a cultivar.

Attracting Wildlife to Your Yard

Plant a mix of grasses, ferns, groundcovers, trees, shrubs and perennials, planted densely.

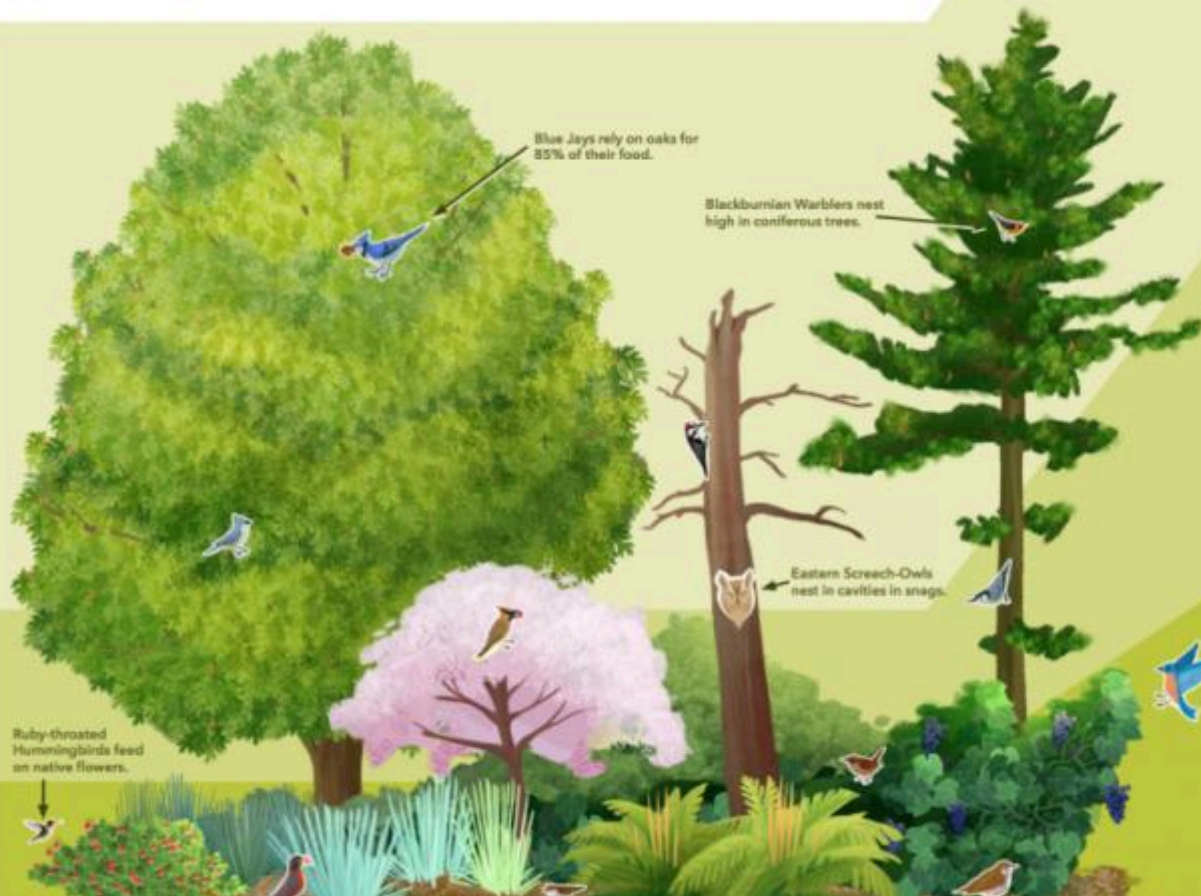
Creating a mixture of heights and different types of plants will attract the widest range of wildlife.

Use at least 3 of each for perennials, ferns, grasses and shrubs. Start with 5 of each of the groundcover plants.

Layer plantings- tall, medium, low

yardmap

Using three layers of vegetation to maximize habitat potential



Native trees such as red oak, black cherry, pine, and spruce provide birds with places to nest and roost. Birds can also escape danger or inclement weather by hiding in dense foliage or tree cavities. Trees supply fruits, nuts, and seeds for birds to eat along with opportunities to glean insects from bark and leaves. Standing dead trees, or snags, are valuable to birds because they support a great deal of insect life and contain cavities for nesting and roosting.



RED OAK
(*Quercus rubra*)



WHITE PINE
(*Pinus strobus*)



SNAG

MIDSTORY (MID-LEVEL VEGETATION)

Clusters of shrubs, including evergreens, provide ideal cover and nesting habitat for many species. Mid-level shrubs also connect the overstory to the understory, allowing birds to safely move about, well-protected by vegetation. Many native shrubs such as serviceberry, viburnum, and dogwood, as well as vines such as fox grape, produce berries and seeds that contain high levels of fat, carbohydrates, and protein, making them an important food source for migratory and overwintering birds.



SERVICEBERRY
(*Amelanchier alnifolia*)



FOX GRAPE
(*Vitis labrusca*)



SOUTHERN ARROWWOOD
(*Yucca bicolor*)

UNDERSTORY (LOW VEGETATION)

Short plants provide essential cover and food for birds. Understory is made up of various types of ground cover including leaf litter, rock piles, and vegetation—including native flowers (such as goldenrod and purple coneflower), grasses, and ferns. All of these provide either seeds or a supply of insects that birds can eat. Nectar-producing plants, such as columbine, are important to hummingbirds and pollinating insects. The understory also provides a safe place for birds to hide, especially newly fledged young.



Attracting Wildlife to Your Yard

Create a water source if you don't already have one

Small pond

Small fountain

Bird bath

Vernal pond- seasonally filled with water at a low point, usually in grasslands

Water dish for butterflies

Attracting Wildlife to Your Yard

Provide constructed habitat

Bat houses

Bee hives

Squirrel chairs



Attracting Wildlife to Your Yard

Provide constructed habitat

Bird houses- [Cornell Yard Lab](#)

Mason bee houses



Attracting Butterflies

Use native flowering plants that are red, yellow, orange, pink and purple

Use flowers that are flat topped, clustered or have short flower tubes

Butterfly plantings should be located in full sun from mid morning to mid afternoon

Plant for continuous bloom to keep a steady nectar supply

Do not use insecticides, not even Bt which kills caterpillars

Use flat stones in your garden in the sun to provide a place for butterflies to rest.

Put sand in a flat pan and insert pan into soil in butterfly garden area to provide a place for butterflies to drink water.



Attracting Butterflies

- Use plants that have nectar that feed the butterflies
- Also make sure to plant a variety of plants that will feed the larval stage throughout summer-fall. You can cutback milkweed so there are tender new shoots for the caterpillars in summer and fall.
- Plant milkweed, butterfly weed, Joe Pye weed and Oak trees to feed the larval stage of butterflies

Native Plants for Attracting Butterflies

- Switchgrass
- Phlox
- Foamflower
- Amsonia
- Columbine
- Swamp milkweed
- Butterfly weed
- Turtlehead
- Tickseed
- Bleeding heart
- Joe Pye Weed
- Geranium
- Heuchera
- Iris
- Liatris
- Lobelia
- Black eyed Susan
- Goldenrod
- Ironweed
- Sweetshrub
- Fothergilla
- Hydrangea arborescens
- Blueberry
- Sweetspire

Attracting Monarchs

Favored Nectar Plants:

Buckwheat (Eriogonum)

California Lilac (Ceanothus)

Citrus (Citrus)

Coneflower (Echinacea)

Coreopsis (Coreopsis)

Cosmos (Cosmos)

Daisy (Aster and
Chrysanthemum)

Dianthus (Dianthus)

Heliotrope (Heliotropium)

Lantana (Lantana)

Marigold (Tagetes)

Milkweed (Asclepias)

Pincushion Flower (Scabiosa)

Rabbit Brush (Chrysothamnus)

Rock Cress (Arabis)

Salvia (Salvia)

Senecio (Senecio)

Star Clusters (Pentas)

Sweet Alyssum (Lobularia)

Verbena (Verbena)

Wall Flower (Erysimum)

Zinnia (Zinnia)



Attracting Birds

To create an effective habitat for birds, the entire life-cycle needs to be considered. Habitat features can double as locations where they raise their young.



It's important to have two different habitats for the birds to engage in courtship one for mating and the other where they bear and raise their young.

Some examples of habitats are mature trees, nesting boxes and dense shrubs.

Attracting Birds

Water is a critical element for birds for drinking and bathing. Birds also look for water because it attracts insects they eat.



A suspended bird bath can protect birds from other predators. Make sure to change the water 2-3 times per week during warm weather when mosquitoes are breeding.

If you want to create a habitat for birds here are some suggested water features; birdbath, seasonal pool, water garden/pond, butterfly puddling area and rain garden.

Attracting Birds

Planting native forbs, shrubs and trees can provide berries, seeds and nectar that birds can feed on.



When natural food sources aren't as available its important to provide food sources such as bird feeders.

Distributing seeds and grain throughout your lawn will provide food for birds.

Native Plants for Attracting Birds

- Carex
- Virginia Switchgrass
- Northern Sea Oats
- Little Bluestem
- Liatris
- Fothergilla
- Sweetspire
- Pinxterbloom azalea
- Elderberry
- Blueberry
- Vibrunum
- Bayberry
- Beautyberry
- Buttonbush
- Inkberry holly
- Leucothoe
- Serviceberry
- Magnolia
- Dogwood
- Holly
- Sassafrass

Attracting Bees

Pollinators are a vital part of a healthy environment and help ensure the growth of seeds and fruits.

Native plants are the best source of food for bees!

To attract bees plant a wide range of plants that will provide flowers throughout the whole growing season.

Native bees are attracted to blue, purple, violet, white and yellow.

Planting a variety of flower shapes will attract a variety of bees.

Plant flowers in clumps four feet in diameter or larger.

Plant flowers that are single, not double and are flat like zinnias, daisies, coneflower

Attracting Bees

- Don't use plants that are treated with neonicotinoids (used by bog box stores) which kills bees and beneficial insects
- Refrain from using any pesticides and herbicides in your lawn or gardens- even 'natural' kills beneficial insects



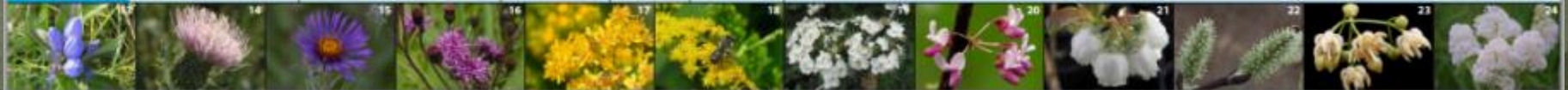
Native Plants for Attracting Bees

- Foam flower
- Jacob's ladder
- Fothergilla
- Elder
- Viburnum
- Inkberry holly
- Shamrock holly
- Sassafras
- Blueberry
- Joe Pye weed
- Redbud
- Goldenrod
- New York Ironweed
- New England Aster

Native Bee Friendly Plants



Bloom Period	Common Name	Scientific Name	Flower Color	Max. Height (feet)	Water Needs	Notes
	Forbs				<small>L: low; M: med.; H: high</small>	All species are perennials, unless otherwise noted
Early	1 Foxglove beardtongue	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	white	3	M	Semi-evergreen; prolific nectar producer; visited by many butterflies, moths, and bees, including honey bees
Early – Mid	2 Lance-leaved coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	yellow	3	L	This early bloomer can hold its own among grasses and taller species; bees and syrphid flies are common visitors
	3 Wild indigo	<i>Baptisia tinctoria</i>	yellow	3	L	Fixes nitrogen that can be used by other plants and attracts a wide diversity of pollinators including the beautiful lo moth
Mid	4 Blazing star	<i>Liatris spicata</i>	purple	4	M	Blazingstars support a broad community of butterflies; including monarchs, swallowtails, skippers, and sulfurs
	5 Butterfly milkweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	orange	3	L	Host plant for monarchs and a nectar source for many bees; swamp and common milkweed are also recommended
	6 Great blue lobelia	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	blue	3	H	An exceptional bumble bee plant; excellent for rain gardens; tolerates heavy shade
	7 Mountain mint	<i>Pycnanthemum</i> spp.	white	3	M	Mountain mints have fragrant foliage, and are visited by blue and copper butterflies, bees, and more
	8 Purple coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	purple	4	M	Visitors include bees in the genera <i>Bombus</i> , <i>Melissodes</i> , and <i>Svastra</i> , and the leafcutter bee (<i>Megachile pagana</i>)
Mid – Late	9 Wild bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	purple	4	M	Hawk moths, hummingbirds, and long-tongued bumble bees (such as <i>Bombus pensylvanicus</i>) are common visitors
	10 Helen's flower	<i>Helianthus autumnale</i>	yellow	5	M – H	Striking flowers with domed centers and distinctive tri-lobed rays; attracts leaf-cutter bees, bumble bees, and honey bees
	11 Joe Pye weed	<i>Eutrochium maculatum</i>	pink	7	H	Both <i>E. maculatum</i> and <i>E. purpureum</i> (pictured above) attract butterflies and bees, prefer moist soils, and tolerate partial shade
	12 Wingstem	<i>Verbesina alternifolia</i>	yellow	6	H	A major honey producer and great as a shade-tolerant rain garden or wetland edge plant; may be hard to find in nurseries
Late	13 Bottle gentian	<i>Gentiana andrewsii</i>	blue	2	M	Pollinated almost exclusively by bumble bees, which pry open the closed flowers and climb inside to collect pollen
	14 Field thistle	<i>Cirsium discolor</i>	purple	6	M	Not to be confused with non-native thistles; a now uncommon but important plant for butterflies and bumble bees
	15 New England aster	<i>Symphoricaricum novae-angliae</i>	purple	6	M	One of the latest fall-blooming plants; frequented by honey bees and pre-hibernation bumble bee queens
	16 New York ironweed	<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>	purple	7	H	Tall upright plant, great for back borders; attracts many butterflies and bees, including some specialist longhorn bees
	17 Seaside goldenrod	<i>Solidago sempervirens</i>	yellow	6	L	Highly attractive to monarchs and other butterflies, especially when planted in large clumps; tolerates high salinity
	18 Wrinkleleaf goldenrod	<i>Solidago rigosa</i>	yellow	3	M – H	Goldenrods are frequented by beneficial solitary wasps, pollen-eating soldier beetles, hover flies, and much more
	Shrubs and Trees					
Early	19 Cockspur hawthorn	<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i>	white	20	L	Tough native tree that attracts bumble bees, honey bees, and mining bees (genus <i>Audrena</i>), as well as songbirds
	20 Eastern redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	pink	30	M	Showy flowers create a dramatic display in spring; pollinated primarily by long-tongued bees
	21 Highbush blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	white/pink	12	M – H	Well-loved by humans, and also provides food for mining bees, mason bees, and long-tongued bumble bees
Early – Mid	22 Pussy willow	<i>Salix discolor</i>	yellow/green	15	M – H	Silky gray catkins open into flowers that provide spring forage for bees; also a host plant for mourning cloak butterflies
Mid	23 Basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>	cream	60	M	Also called "bee tree" for its abundance of very fragrant, nectar-rich flowers that are extremely attractive to bees
	24 New Jersey tea	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	white	4	M	Pollinator magnet that attracts many species of flies, wasps, bees, and butterflies; slow growing and prone to deer browsing



Attracting Turtles, Frogs and Lizards

Reptiles and amphibians have different habitat needs but can often use the same space.

Adding features such as ponds, rock walls and brush piles can provide places for these species to reproduce, feed, shelter and hibernate.

Logs, woods and plants close to your pond can provide more shelter and provide natural basking sites.



Attracting Turtles, Frogs and Lizards

Ponds are the best way to provide water for these species and should be at least 20 feet deep and be planted so the vegetation rises above the water line.

Plants are important in the pond as they provide oxygen, reproductive sites and protection during weather events.

Native plants are a good choice because they will be familiar to the wildlife and won't outcompete other plants.

Plant ferns, joe pye weed, milkweed, butterfly weed, clethra, iris, juncus, and other plants that will tolerate wet soil, around your water feature



Attracting Hummingbirds

To attract hummingbirds to your yard you can plant red flowers, put up a hummingbird feeder or provide a reliable water source such as a mister or dripper.



Hummingbirds exert a great deal of energy while flying so they feed constantly and can consume up to twice their weight in nectar a day.



Create a solution of four parts water to one part sugar and make sure to clean your feeder about every four days using warm water and a soft brush.

Natives to Attract Hummingbirds

- Foam Flower
- Columbine
- Milkweed
- Butterfly weed
- Turtlehead
- Bleeding heart
- Coral bells
- Liatris
- Lobelia
- Goldenrod
- Honeysuckle
- Clematis
- Campsis
- Catawba rhododendron

Gardening Practices

- Leave leaves in beds until spring
- Don't cutback perennials until the following spring
- Prevent pests and diseases by selecting the proper plants for your soil type and sun exposure
- Properly prune and thin shrubs and trees as needed over the years, try to avoid shearing- helps air flow through the base of the plant
- Weed by the root before the weed goes to seed and then apply mulch

Lawn Practices

- Reduce lawn area
- Use a mulching mower to mulch leaves and grass clippings into grass- feed grass and eliminates need to apply fertilizer
- Apply thin layers of compost to lawn instead of fertilizers
- Mow to the correct height- too high or too low will promote weed growth
- Fill in bare spots with grass seed to outcompete weeds

Gardening for Life

The 20 most valuable wood in terms of supporting biodiversity in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

Woody Plants		
Common Name	Plant Genus	Butterfly/Moth Species Supported
Oak	Quercus	534
Black cherry	Prunus	456
Willow	Salix	455
Birch	Betula	413
Poplar	Populus	368
Crabapple	Malus	311
Blueberry	Vaccinium	288
Maple	Acer	285
Elm	Ulmus	213
Pine	Pinus	203
Hickory	Carya	200
Hawthorn	Crataegus	159
Spruce	Picea	156
Alder	Alnus	156
Basswood	Tilia	150
Ash	Fraxinus	150
Rose	Rosa	139
Filbert	Corylus	131
Walnut	Juglans	130
Beech	Fagus	126
Chestnut	Castanea	125

Gardening for Life

The 20 most valuable perennial genera in terms of supporting biodiversity in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

Perennials		
Common Name	Plant Genus	Butterfly/Moth Species Supported
Goldenrod	Solidago	115
Asters	Aster	112
Sunflower	Helianthus	73
Joe pye, Boneset	Eupatorium	42
Morning glory	Ipomoea	39
Sedges	Carex	36
Honeysuckle	Lonicera	36
Lupine	Lupinus	33
Violets	Viola	29
Geraniums	Geranium	23
Black-eyed susan	Rudbeckia	17
Iris	Iris	17
Evening primrose	Oenothera	16
Milkweed	Asclepias	12
Verbena	Verbena	11
Beardtongue	Penstemon	8
Phlox	Phlox	8
Bee balm	Monarda	7
Veronica	Veronica	6
Little bluestem	Schizachyrium	6
Cardinal flower	Lobelia	4

*List developed by Dr. Doug Tallamy, Department of Entomology, University of Delaware

Ferns

- Ferns are great for moist, shady locations
- Ferns provide protection for frogs and lizards
- They work well in rain gardens
- Royal fern will grow in sunnier conditions

Polystichum acrostichoides

Christmas Fern

Height: 1.00 to 2.00 feet

Spread: 1.00 to 2.00 feet

Sun: Part shade to full shade

Water: Dry to medium

Maintenance: Low

Leaf: Evergreen



Other: Winter Interest

Tolerate: Rabbit, Deer,

Drought, Heavy Shade,

Erosion, Dry Soil, Shallow-

Rocky

Dryopteris marginalis

Evergreen Wood Fern

Height: 1.50 to 2.00 feet

Spread: 1.50 to 2.00 feet

Sun: Part shade to full shade

Water: Medium

Maintenance: Low

Leaf: Evergreen



Other: Winter Interest

Tolerate: Rabbit, Heavy Shade

Adiantum pedatum

Maidenhair Fern

Height: 1.00 to 2.50 feet

Spread: 1.00 to 1.50 feet

Sun: Part shade to full shade

Water: Medium

Maintenance: Low

Suggested Use: Naturalize

Tolerate: Heavy Shade



Woodland garden, shaded
rock garden, edging

Protection for toads and
lizards

Osmunda regalis --Royal Fern

Height: 2.00 to 3.00 feet

Spread: 2.00 to 3.00 feet

Sun: Part shade to full shade

Water: Medium to wet

Maintenance: Low

Ponds, Streams, Bogs, Water garden, Rain Garden

Tolerate: Rabbit, Heavy Shade, Wet Soil



Woodland garden, shaded
rock garden, near water

Protection for toads and
lizards

Grasses

- Grasses tend to be most beneficial for birds for seed and nesting
- Replace invasive grasses that grow vigorously and can be really hard to control or divide
- Liriope is a notable 'grass' that can be replaced with *Carex pennsylvanica*

Carex pennsylvanica

Pennsylvania Sedge

Height: 0.50 to 1.00 feet

Spread: 0.50 to 1.00 feet

Bloom Time: May

Bloom Description: Greenish

Sun: Part shade to full shade

Water: Dry to medium

Maintenance: Low



Works well as a groundcover and its a great replacement for Liriope spp

Tolerates wet soil and deep shade

Great to plant in areas that are eroding

Chasmanthium latifolium

Northern Sea Oats

Height: 2.00 to 5.00 feet

Spread: 1.00 to 2.50 feet

Bloom Time: August to September

Bloom Description: Green

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Medium to wet

Maintenance: Low



Flower: Showy, Good Cut, Good Dried

Leaf: Good Fall

Other: Winter Interest

Tolerate: Black Walnut

Tends to spread- plant in a place where it has room to do that!

Panicum virgatum---Switchgrass

Height: 3.00 to 6.00 feet

Spread: 2.00 to 3.00 feet

Bloom Time: July to February

Bloom Description: Pink-tinged

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Medium to wet

Maintenance: Low

Living privacy border, rain garden

Flower: Showy, Good Cut, Good Dried



Nice fall foliage

Attracts butterflies and birds

Other: Winter Interest

Tolerate of Drought, Erosion, Dry

Soil, Wet Soil, Black Walnut, Air

Pollution

Schizachyrium scoparium ---Little Bluestem

Height: 2.00 to 4.00 feet

Spread: 1.50 to 2.00 feet

Bloom Time: August to February

Bloom Description: Purplish bronze

Sun: Full sun

Water: Dry to medium

Low maintenance



Nice fall foliage

Good for winter interest, privacy border

Tolerates Deer, Drought, Erosion, Dry Soil, Shallow-Rocky Soil, Black Walnut, Air Pollution

Groundcovers

- Groundcovers are low to medium in height and can be used to fill in bare spots in the garden
- They provide cover for birds and insects and food for pollinators
- Some invasive ground covers to take out would be English ivy, kudzu, Japanese honeysuckle

Asarum canadense

Wild Ginger

1-1.5' Height and Spread
April to May
Part shade to full shade
Water: Medium to wet
Low maintenance



Use as a ground cover, in a woodland garden, rain garden

The flower is usually hidden by foliage in spring and is a nice maroon color.

Tolerates deer, heavy shade, erosion, wet soil

Phlox subulata

Moss Pinks



Height: 0.25 to 0.50 feet
Spread: 1.00 to 2.00 feet

Blooms in March to May

Many varieties with various colors-
Red-purple to violet-purple to pink to
white

Full sun
Moist soil

Use as a ground cover, rock garden,
sunny slope

Attracts butterflies

Tolerates deer, drought, erosion and air
pollution

Tiarella cordifolia 'Brandywine'

Brandywine tiarella



1-2 ft wide and .5-1ft tall

White or pink flowers bloom in May
Part shade to full shade

Moist soil

Low maintenance

Use as a ground cover, rain garden,
woodland garden

Attracts bees and butterflies

Nice fall foliage

Tolerates rabbit and deer



Tiarella cordifolia 'Oakleaf'



6 inches to 1 foot tall and 6 inches to 1 foot wide

White flowers bloom in May

Part shade to full shade

Tolerates rabbit and deer

Amsonia hubrechtii- Threadleaf Blue Star



2 to 3 feet tall and 2 to 3 feet wide
Powdery blue flowers blooming in
April to May in full sun to part shade.

Low maintenance

Suggested use is a rain garden

Attracts butterflies and tolerates deer.

Aquilegia canadensis

Columbine 'Little Lanterns'



9 to 12 inches tall and 9 to 12 inches wide

Red/Yellow blooms in April to May in full sun or part shade

Can be used to naturalize an area.

Attracts hummingbirds

Tolerates rabbit, deer. drought and dry Soil.

Asclepias incarnata

Swamp milkweed

2 to 4 feet tall and 1 and a half to 2 feet wide.

Pink and purple blooms in June to October with full sun and part shade.

Suggested use in a rain garden.

Flower is fragrant.

Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds and tolerates deer, clay soil and wet soil.



Chelone glabra - White Turtlehead



3 to 4 feet tall and 2 to 3 feet wide.

White blooms in August to October with part shade.

Suggested use is a rain garden and to naturalize.

Attracts butterflies and tolerates erosion and wet soil.

Coreopsis verticillata

Tickseed

2.5 to 3 feet tall and 1.5 to 2 feet wide.

Yellow blooms in June to September with full sun.

Suggested use to naturalize.

Attracts butterflies and tolerates deer, drought, dry soil and shallow-rocky soil.



Eupatorium dubium

'Baby Joe' Joe Pye Weed



3 to 4 feet tall and 1 foot wide.

Fragrant light pink blooms in late summer with part sun.

Attracts butterflies and tolerates deer.

Baptisia australis

Blue false indigo



3 to 4 feet tall and 3 to 4 feet wide.

Indigo blue blooms in May to June with full sun to part shade.

Suggested use to naturalize.

Attracts butterflies and tolerates rabbit, drought, erosion, clay soil, dry soil and shallow-rocky soil.

Geranium maculatum 'Espresso'

Cranesbill

1.5 to 2 feet tall and 1 to 1.5 feet wide.

Pale pink, deep pink and lilac
blooms
in April to May in full sun to part
shade.

Attracts butterflies and tolerates
rabbit, deer drought and dry soil.



Heuchera americana

Coral Bells

1 to 3 feet tall and 1 to 1.5 feet wide.

Pink blooms in May to June in full sun or part shade.

Drought tolerate.



Juncus effusus

Common Rush

2 to 4 feet tall and 2 to 4 feet wide.

Yellowish-green blooms in June to August with full sun.

Suggested use as a water plant, to naturalize and rain garden.

Erosion and wet soil tolerant.



Liatrix spicata

Gayfeather

2 to 4 feet tall and 1 to 2 feet wide.

Reddish purple blooms in August to October with full sun.

Suggested use to naturalize.

Attracts birds, hummingbirds and Butterflies.



Lobelia cardinalis - Cardinal Flower

2 to 3 feet tall and 2 to 2.5 feet wide.

Red blooms in July to September in full sun to part shade.

Suggested use rain garden.

Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies.

Tolerates rabbit, deer and wet soil.



Lobelia siphilitica - Blue Cardinal Flower



2 to 3 feet tall and 1 to 1.5 feet wide.

Blue blooms from July to September
in full sun to part shade.

Suggested use to naturalize and rain
garden.

Tolerates deer, heavy shade and wet soil.

Phlox subulata- Moss Pinks

3 inches to 6 inches tall and 1 to 2 feet wide.

Red-purple to violet-purple to pink to white blooms in March to May in full sun.

Suggested use as ground cover and to naturalize.

Attracts butterflies.

Tolerant to deer, drought, erosion and air pollution.



Polemonium reptans - Jacob's Ladder

1 to 1.5 feet tall and 1 to 1.5 feet wide.

Blue blooms in full sun to part shade.

Suggested use to naturalize.

Deer tolerant.



Rudbeckia fulgida var fulgida

Black eyed Susan



2 to 3 feet tall and 1 to 2 feet wide.

Yellow blooms with black center
from June to September in full sun.

Suggested use to naturalize and
rain garden.

Attracts butterflies.

Tolerant of deer, drought, clay soil,
dry soil and air pollution.

Solidago caesia - Blue Stem Goldenrod

1.5 to 3 feet tall and 1.5 to 3 feet wide.

Yellow bloom from August to September
in full sun to part shade.

Attracts butterflies.

Tolerant of deer drought and clay soil.



Vernonia novabonariensis

NY Ironweed

4 to 6 feet tall and 3 to 4 feet wide.

Purple blooms from August to September in full sun.

Suggested use to naturalize and rain garden.

Tolerant of deer, clay soil and wet soil.



Calycanthus floridus 'Hartlodge Wine'

Sweet shrub

8 to 10 inches tall and 6 to 8 inches wide.

Purple to violet blooms in the spring – summer with full sun to part shade.

Tolerant of deer and clay soil.



Clethera alnifolia - Summersweet

3 to 8 feet high and 4 to 6 feet wide.

White blooms in July to August in full sun to part shade.

Suggested use a hedge, to naturalize and rain garden.

Attracts butterflies.

Tolerates heavy shade, erosion, clay soil and wet soil.



Fothergilla major 'Mt Airy' - Dwarf Fothergilla

3 to 5 feet tall and 3 to 5 feet wide.

White blooms in April to May with
full sun to part shade.

Suggested use as a hedge.



Hamamelis virginiana - Witch Hazel

15 to 20 feet tall and 15 to 20 feet wide.

Yellow sometimes tinged with orange and red blooms from October to December with full sun to part shade.

Suggested use as a hedge, to naturalize and rain garden.

Tolerates deer, erosion and clay soil.



Hydrangea arborescens 'Annabelle'

Smooth Hydrangea



3 to 5 feet tall and 4 to 6 feet wide.

White blooms from June to September in part shade.

Suggested use in a rain garden.

Tolerates rabbit, erosion, clay soil, dry soil, wet soil and shallow-rocky soil.

Itea virginiana 'Little Henry'

Sweetspire

1.5 to 2 feet tall and 2 to 2.5 feet wide.

White blooms from June to July with full sun to part shade.

Suggested use as a hedge or in a rain garden.

Tolerates heavy shade, erosion, clay soil and wet soil.



Kalmia latifolia - Mountain Laurel

5 to 15 feet tall and 5 to 15 feet wide.

Rose to white with purple marked blooms in May with part shade.

Tolerates rabbit and deer.



Rhododendron maximum

Rose Bay or Great Rhododendron

2 to 3 feet tall and 2 to 5 feet wide.

White to pink blooms in May with part shade to full shade.

Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies.

Tolerates rabbit.



Rhododendron periclymenoides

Pink azalea, Pinxterbloom



3 to 6 feet tall and 4 to 7 feet wide.

White or pink blooms in April to May with full sun to part shade.

Suggested use as a hedge.

Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies.

Sambucus canadensis

Elderberry

5 to 8 feet tall and 5 to 8 feet wide.

White blooms from June to July with full sun to part shade.

Suggested use as a hedge, to naturalize and rain garden.

This plant is edible!

Tolerates erosion, clay soil and wet soil.



Vaccinium corymbosum 'Patriot'

Highbush Blueberry



5 to 8 feet tall and 5 to 8 feet wide.

White blooms in May with full sun to part shade.

Suggested use a a hedge.

Attracts butterflies and birds.

Edible!

Ilex verticillata- Winterberry

3 to 6 feet tall and 3 to 6 feet wide.

Greenish white blooms from May to June with full sun to part shade.

Suggested use as a hedge or in a rain garden.

Attracts birds.

Tolerates erosion, clay soil, wet soil and air pollution.



Callicarpa americana - Beautyberry



3 to 6 feet tall and 3 to 6 feet wide.

Lavender and pink blooms June to August with full sun to part shade.

Attracts birds.

Tolerates clay soil.

Ilex glabra 'Shamrock' – Shamrock Holly

3 to 4 feet tall and 3 to 4 feet wide.

Greenish-white blooms from May to June in full sun to part shade.

Suggested use as a hedge or in a rain garden,

Attracts birds.

Tolerates rabbit, deer, erosion, wet soil and air pollution,



Leucothoe axillaris- Coastal Leucothoe



2 to 4 feet tall and 3 to 5 feet wide.

White blooms in May with part shade.

Suggested use as a hedge.

Fragrant

Trees

They provide cover for birds and insects and food for pollinators

Help drainage and erosion issues by helping the absorption of water into the ground

Provide upper layer of woodland border

Help reduce CO₂, improving air quality

Amalanchier canadensis - Serviceberry

25 to 30 feet tall and 15 to 20 feet wide.

White blooms from April to May with full sun to part shade.

Attracts birds.

Edible!

Tolerates clay soil.



Cercis canadensis - Redbud



4 to 10 feet tall and 4 to 10 feet wide.

Lavender pink bloom in April with full sun to part shade.

Attracts hummingbirds.

Tolerates deer, clay soil, black walnut.

Ilex opaca – American Holly

15 to 30 feet tall and 10 to 20 feet wide.

Creamy white blooms in May with full sun to part shade.

Attracts birds,

Tolerates deer, clay soil and air pollution,



Cornus florida - Dogwood



15 to 30 feet tall and 15 to 30 feet wide.

White blooms from April to May with full sun to part shade.

Attracts birds and butterflies.

Tolerates deer, clay soil and black walnut.

Magnolia virginiana – Sweetbay Magnolia

10 to 35 feet tall and 10 to 35 feet wide.

White blooms from May to June with full sun to part shade.

Suggested use in a rain garden.

Tolerate of clay soil, wet soil and air pollution,



Sassafrass albidum - Sassafrass



30 to 60 feet tall and 25 to 40 feet wide.

Greenish-yellow blooms from April to May in full sun to part shade.

Tolerates deer, drought and clay soil.

Vines

Provide cover

Provide nectar

Be careful to keep them under control!

Campsis radicans - Trumpet Vine

25 to 40 feet tall and 5 to 10 feet wide.

Orange and scarlet blooms in July in full sun to part shade.

Suggested use to naturalize.

Attracts hummingbirds.

Tolerates deer, drought and clay soil.



Clematis virginiana- Virgin's Bower



12 to 15 feet wide and 18 to 36 inches wide .

White blooms in mid summer with full sun to part shade.

Fragrant!

Attracts bees, butterflies and birds.

Lonicera sempervirens - Honeysuckle

8 to 15 feet tall and 3 to 6 feet wide.

Scarlet or orange with yellow blooms from May to June with full sun .

Suggested use to naturalize.

Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies.

Tolerates deer, clay soil, black walnut.



Favorite Books on Native Plants

Resources

Doug Tallemly's Bringing Nature Home

Frank Porter's Back To Eden

Barbara Ellis Chesapeake Gardening and Landscaping

Carol Gracie Spring Wildflowers

Planting in a Post Wild World- Claudia West and Thomas Rainier

[Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping](#)- DNR book

Garden Revolution- Larry Weaner

[Howard County Cleanscapes](#) reimbursement program for rain gardens, rain barrels, pervious paver installs, conservation landscapes and more

Local Groups That Promote Natives:

Watershed Stewards

Master Gardeners

Baywise Garden Tour

Outstanding Fields



Lauren's Garden Service

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Citations

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<http://www.wildflower.org>

<http://www.abnativeplants.com>

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<http://www.nwf.org/How-to-Help/Garden-for-Wildlife/Gardening-Tips/How-to-Attract-Butterflies-to-Your-Garden.aspx>

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<http://www.wbu.com/education/hummingbirds.html>

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http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/MidAtlanticPlantList_web.pdf

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