

Container Gardening with Native Plants

Native Plant Selection

Ferns

- [Christmas Fern \(*Polystichum acrostichoides*\)](#)
- [Marginal Wood Fern \(*Dryopteris marginalis*\)](#)
- [Royal Fern \(*Osmunda spectabilis*\)](#)
- [Ostrich Fern \(*Matteuccia struthiopteris*\)](#)
- [Video: Common Native Ferns of the Mid-Atlantic](#)

Grasses

- [Switchgrass \(*Panicum virgatum*\)](#)
- [Little Bluestem \(*Schizachyrium scoparium*\)](#)
- [Purple Lovegrass \(*Eragrostis spectabilis*\)](#)
- [Pink Muhly Grass \(*Muhlenbergia capillaris*\)](#)
- [Bottlebrush Grass \(*Elymus hystrix*\)](#)

Sedges

- [Pennsylvania Sedge \(*Carex pensylvanica*\)](#)
- [Appalachian Sedge \(*Carex appalachica*\)](#)
- [Plantain-leaved Sedge \(*Carex plantaginea*\)](#)
- [Gray's Sedge \(*Carex grayi*\)](#)
- [Video: Native Grasses, Sedges & Rushes for the Home Garden](#)

Colorful Perennials

- [Eastern Bluestar \(*Amsonia tabernaemontana*\)](#)
- [Blue Wild Indigo \(*Baptisia australis*\)](#)
- [Garden Phlox \(*Phlox paniculata*\)](#)
- [Beebalm \(*Monarda didyma*\)](#)
- [Turk's-cap Lily \(*Lilium superbum*\)](#)
- [Oxeye \(*Helianthus helianthoides*\)](#)
- [Video: Native Blooms for the Summer Garden](#)
- [Video: Native Flowers, Fruit & Foliage for Fall](#)

Keystone Perennials for Lepidoptera & Pollen Specialist Bees

- [Blue-stemmed Goldenrod \(*Solidago caesia*\)](#)
- [Gray Goldenrod \(*Solidago nemoralis*\)](#)
- [Rough-stemmed Goldenrod \(*Solidago rugosa*\)](#)
- [Blue Wood Aster \(*Symphyotrichum cordifolium*\)](#)
- [Swamp Sunflower \(*Helianthus angustifolius*\)](#)
- [Woodland Sunflower \(*Helianthus divaricatus*\)](#)
- [Black-eyed Susan \(*Rudbeckia hirta*\)](#)
- [Cutleaf Coneflower \(*Rudbeckia laciniata*\)](#)
- [Maryland Golden Aster \(*Chrysopsis mariana*\)](#)
- [Lanceleaf Coreopsis \(*Coreopsis lanceolata*\)](#)
- [Autumn Sneezeweed \(*Helenium autumnale*\)](#)
- [Container Friendly Keystone Plants, Homegrown National Park](#)



Container Gardening with Native Plants

Bog Plants

- [Soft Rush \(*Juncus effusus*\)](#)
- [Pickeralweed \(*Pontederia cordata*\)](#)
- [Blue Flag Iris \(*Iris virginica*\)](#)
- [Cardinal Flower \(*Lobelia cardinalis*\)](#)
- [Marsh Marigold \(*Caltha palustris*\)](#)
- [Pitcher Plant \(*Sarracenia* spp.\)](#)
- [Fragrant Water-lily \(*Nymphaea odorata*\)](#)
- [Yellow Pond-lily \(*Nuphar lutea* ssp. *advena*\)](#)
- Blog Post: [Create a Mini Bog Garden](#), Mt. Cuba Center

Vines

- [American Wisteria \(*Wisteria frutescens*\)](#)
- [Coral Honeysuckle \(*Lonicera sempervirens*\)](#)
- [Carolina Jessamine \(*Gelsemium sempervirens*\)](#)
- [Passionflower \(*Passiflora incarnata*\)](#)
- [Cross-vine \(*Bignonia capreolata*\)](#)
- [Trumpet Vine \(*Campsis radicans*\)](#)
- [Virgin's-bower \(*Clematis virginiana*\)](#)
- Video: [Native Vines for the Home Garden](#)

Small Shrubs

- [Wild Hydrangea \(*Hydrangea arborescens*\)](#)
- [Common Yucca \(*Yucca filamentosa*\)](#)
- [New Jersey Tea \(*Ceanothus americanus*\)](#)
- [Dwarf Fothergilla \(*Fothergilla gardenii*\)](#)
- [Inkberry \(*Ilex glabra* 'Gem Box'\)](#)
- [Yaupon \(*Ilex vomitoria* 'Nana'\)](#)
- [Winterberry \(*Ilex verticillata* 'Berry Poppins' & 'Mr. Poppins'\)](#)
- [Red Twig Dogwood \(*Cornus sericea* 'Arctic Fire'\)](#)
- [Black Chokeberry \(*Aronia melanocarpa* 'Low Scape Mound'\)](#)
- [Virginia Sweetspire \(*Itea virginica* 'Little Henry'\)](#)
- Video: [Native Trees & Shrubs for Pollinators](#)
- Video: [Native Alternatives to Overused Foundation Plants](#)



Container Gardening with Native Plants

Stand-Alone Pots

Controlling Spreaders

- [River Oats \(*Chasmanthium latifolium*\)](#)
- Mint Family members, including *Pycnanthemum*, *Monarda*, *Physostegia* spp.
- Coneflowers (*Rudbeckia* spp.)
- [Blue Mist Flower \(*Conoclinium coelestinum*\)](#)

Corralling a Prickly Plant

- [Eastern Prickly-pear \(*Opuntia humifusa*\)](#)
- [Rattlesnake Master \(*Eryngium yuccifolium*\)](#)

Controlling Soil pH

- [Highbush Blueberry \(*Vaccinium corymbosum*\)](#)
- [Mountain Laurel \(*Kalmia latifolia*\)](#)
- [Pinxterbloom Azalea \(*Rhododendron periclymenoides*\)](#)

Specimen/Accent Plants

- [Jacob's Ladder \(*Polemonium reptans*\)](#)
- [Eastern Blue-star \(*Amsonia tabernaemontana*\)](#)
- [Culver's-root \(*Veronicastrum virginicum*\)](#)
- [Common Moonseed \(*Menispermum canadense*\)](#)
- [Pitcher Plant \(*Sarracenia* spp.\)](#)
- [Foamflower \(*Tiarella cordifolia* 'Running Tapestry'\)](#)
- [American Beauty-berry \(*Callicarpa americana*\)](#)
- [Pink Muhly Grass \(*Muhlenbergia capillaris*\)](#)
- [Ostrich Fern \(*Matteuccia struthiopteris*\)](#)



Seasonal Plant Combinations

Single-Season Pots (Plant NoVA Natives)

- Perennial combination for sun in spring:
 - [Foxglove Beardtongue \(*Penstemon digitalis*\)](#)
 - [Blue-eyed Grass \(*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*\)](#)
 - [Moss Phlox \(*Phlox subulata*\)](#)
- Perennial combination for part-shade to shade in spring:
 - [Wild Bleeding Heart \(*Dicentra eximia*\)](#)
 - [Woodland Phlox \(*Phlox divaricata*\)](#)
 - [Blue-eyed Grass \(*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*\)](#)
- Perennial combination for sun in summer:
 - [Switchgrass \(*Panicum virgatum*\)](#)
 - [Orange Coneflower \(*Rudbeckia fulgida*\)](#)
 - [Yarrow \(*Achillea millefolium*\)](#)
- Perennial combination for part-shade to shade in summer:
 - [Great Blue Lobelia \(*Lobelia siphilitica*\)](#)
 - [Blue Mistflower \(*Conoclinium coelestinum*\)](#)
 - [Pennsylvania Sedge \(*Carex pensylvanica*\)](#)
- Perennial combination for sun in fall:
 - [Aromatic Aster \(*Symphyotrichum oblongifolium*\)](#)/[New England Aster \(*S. novae-angliae*\)](#)
 - [Rough Goldenrod \(*Solidago rugosa* 'Fireworks'\)](#)/[False Goldenrod \(*S. sphacelata* 'Golden Fleece'\)](#)
 - [Pink Muhly Grass \(*Muhlenbergia capillaris*\)](#)/[Purple Lovegrass \(*Eragrostis spectabilis*\)](#)
- Perennial combination for part-shade to shade in fall:
 - [Maidenhair Fern \(*Adiantum pedatum*\)](#)
 - [Blue Mistflower \(*Conoclinium coelestinum*\)](#)
 - [Alumroot \(*Heuchera americana*\)](#)



Container Gardening with Native Plants

Multi-season Pots (Glencarlyn Garden, MGNV Demonstration Garden)

- Three perennial combinations for sun:
 - [Blazing Star \(*Liatris spicata*\)](#)
 - [Butterfly-weed \(*Asclepias tuberosa*\)](#)
 - [Wild Strawberry \(*Fragaria virginiana*\)](#)
 - [Purple Coneflower \(*Echinacea purpurea*\)](#)
 - [Switchgrass \(*Panicum virgatum* 'Shenandoah'\)](#)
 - [Lanceleaf Loosestrife \(*Lysimachia lanceolata* 'Burgundy Mist'\)](#)
 - [Clustered Mountain-mint \(*Pycnanthemum muticum*\)](#)
 - [Virginia Creeper \(*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*\)](#)
- Two perennial combinations for part-shade to shade:
 - [Alumroot \(*Heuchera americana*\)](#)
 - [Marginal Wood Fern \(*Dryopteris marginalis*\)](#)
 - [Creeping Phlox \(*Phlox stolonifera*\)](#)
 - [Thimbleweed \(*Anemone virginiana*\)](#)
 - [Christmas Fern \(*Polystichum acrostichoides*\)](#)
 - [Foamflower \(*Tiarella cordifolia* 'Running Tapestry'\)](#)

Multi-season Pots (Small Space Garden, MGNV Demonstration Garden)

- Perennial combination for sun:
 - [Orange Coneflower \(*Rudbeckia fulgida*\)](#)
 - [Butterfly-weed \(*Asclepias tuberosa*\)](#)
 - [Heath Aster \(*Symphyotrichum ericoides* 'Snow Flurry'\)](#)
- Perennial combination for part-shade:
 - [Alumroot \(*Heuchera americana*\)](#)
 - [Wild Geranium \(*Geranium maculatum*\)](#)
 - [Blue-eyed Grass \(*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*\)](#)
- Perennial combination for shade:
 - [Marginal Wood Fern \(*Dryopteris marginalis*\)](#)
 - [Foamflower \(*Tiarella cordifolia*\)](#)
 - [Wild Stonecrop \(*Sedum ternatum*\)](#)

Multi-season Pots (Mt. Cuba Center)

- Perennial combination for sun:
 - [Switchgrass \(*Panicum virgatum* 'Shenandoah'\)](#)
 - [Blue Wood Aster \(*Symphyotrichum cordifolium* 'Avondale'\)](#)
 - [Coral Bells \(*Heuchera* 'Citronelle'\)](#)
- Shrub/perennial combinations for shade:
 - [Dwarf Fothergilla \(*Fothergilla gardenii*\)](#)
 - [Woodland Phlox \(*Phlox divaricata*\)](#)
 - [Cherokee Sedge \(*Carex cherokeensis*\)](#)
 - [Dwarf Bigleaf Magnolia \(*Magnolia ashei*\)](#)
 - [Coral Bells \(*Heuchera* 'Palace Purple'\)](#)
 - [Wild Stonecrop \(*Sedum ternatum*\)](#)



Container Gardening with Native Plants

Multi-season Pots (Northern Virginia Bird Alliance)

- Shrub/perennial combination for sun:
 - [Smooth Sumac \(*Rhus glabra*\)](#)
 - [Anise Hyssop \(*Agastache foeniculum*\)](#)
 - [Purple Lovegrass \(*Eragrostis spectabilis*\)](#)
- Small tree/perennial combination for part-sun to part-shade:
 - [Serviceberry \(*Amelanchier arborea*\)](#)
 - [Christmas Fern \(*Polystichum acrostichoides*\)](#)
 - [Blue-stemmed Goldenrod \(*Solidago caesia*\)](#)
- Shrub/perennial combination for part-shade to shade:
 - [Flowering Raspberry \(*Rubus odoratus*\)](#)
 - [Bottlebrush Grass \(*Elymus hystrix*\)](#)
 - [Blue Wood Aster \(*Symphyotrichum cordifolium*\)](#)

- Two perennial combinations for sun:
 - [Rattlesnake Master \(*Eryngium yuccifolium*\)](#)
 - [Purple Coneflower \(*Echinacea purpurea*\)](#)
 - [Thread-leaf Coreopsis \(*Coreopsis verticillata*\)](#)
 - [Turk's-cap Lily \(*Lilium superbum*\)](#)
 - [New York Aster \(*Symphyotrichum novi-belgii*\)](#)
 - [Clustered Mountain-mint \(*Pycnanthemum muticum*\)](#)
- Wetland planter for sun:
 - [Swamp Rose-mallow \(*Hibiscus moscheutos*\)](#)
 - [Blue Flag \(*Iris virginica*\)](#)
 - [Soft Rush \(*Juncus effusus*\)](#)

Multi-season Pots (Missouri Botanical Garden)

- Large perennial combination for shade:
 - [Cinnamon Fern \(*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*\)](#)
 - [Gray's Sedge \(*Carex grayi*\)](#)
 - [Blue Mistflower \(*Conoclinium coelestinum*\)](#)
 - [Alumroot \(*Heuchera americana*\)](#)
 - [Common Dittany \(*Cunila origanoides*\)](#)
 - [Foamflower \(*Tiarella cordifolia*\)](#)
 - [Pennsylvania Sedge \(*Carex pensylvanica*\)](#)

Container Garden for Hummingbirds

- On trellis:
 - [Trumpet Honeysuckle \(*Lonicera sempervirens*\)](#)
- In containers:
 - [Wild Columbine \(*Aquilegia canadensis*\)](#)
 - [Scarlett Beebalm \(*Monarda didyma*\)](#)
 - [Cardinal Flower \(*Lobelia cardinalis*\)](#)
 - [Turk's-cap Lily \(*Lilium superbum*\)](#)
 - [Indian Pink \(*Spigelia marilandica*\)](#)



Resources

- [Captivating Containers with Native Plants](#), Northern Virginia Bird Alliance
- [Container Gardening for Earth Renewal](#), Plant NoVA Natives
- [Container Friendly Keystone Plants](#), Homegrown National Park
- [Container Gardening with Native Plants](#), Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
- [Container Gardening with Native Plants](#), Missouri Botanical Garden
- [Garden Myth Busters! Improving Container Drainage with Gravel](#), MGNV
- [High-Rise Gardening: Nine Native Perennials to Brighten Your Balcony](#), MGNV
- [How to Clean and Disinfect Plant Containers](#), Iowa State University Extension
- [Kusamono](#), Young Choe
- [Native Plant Container Gardening](#), Grow Native!
- [Native Plant Gardening for Patios and Balconies](#), National Wildlife Federation
- [Pollen Specialist Bees of the Eastern United States](#), Jarrod Fowler & Sam Droege
- [Pollinators of Native Plants](#), Heather Holm

