

# Favorite Native Plants for Suburban Yards

*Aquilegia canadensis*, Wild Columbine



*Arisaema triphyllum*, Jack-in-the-Pulpit



*Mertensia virginica*, Virginia Bluebells



*Geranium maculatum*, Wild Geranium



A list of native plants selected by Stewardship Grant committee members and organized by bloom time. Refer to this list for native plant ideas for your yard!



## Keystone Plants

Keystone plants are ecosystem superstars! Find these plants on this list by looking for the key symbol (🗝️) following scientific names.

## Plant form symbols



Wildflower



Grass/sedge



Tree (deciduous)



Shrub



Tree (evergreen)

An asterisk (\*) identifies plants that are spring ephemerals, which die back early and go dormant until the following year.

Scientific name	Common name	Soil type	Sun exposure	Form	Staff notes
<b>SPRING BLOOMING</b>					
<i>Allium tricoccum</i>	<a href="#">Wild Leek</a>	Medium to moist	Part/full shade	🌸	Edible plant. Great foliage. Can take a while to establish.
<i>Anemone canadensis</i>	<a href="#">Canada Anemone</a>	Medium to moist	Full/part sun	🌸	Excellent low-growing groundcover. White flowers.
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	<a href="#">Columbine</a>	Dry to medium	Full sun-full shade	🌸	Early bloomer providing important nectar source for bees.
<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	<a href="#">Jack-in-the-Pulpit</a>	Medium to moist	Part shade	🌸	Bright red berries are eaten by birds and mammals.
<i>Asarum canadense</i>	<a href="#">Wild Ginger</a>	Dry to medium	Part/full shade	🌸	Attractive low-growing foliage. Deer resistant.
<i>Baptisia alba</i>	<a href="#">Wild White Indigo</a>	Dry to medium	Full/part sun	🌸	Quick to grow in spring. White flowers attract many insects.
<i>Baptisia australis</i>	<a href="#">Blue False Indigo</a>	Medium	Full/part sun	🌸	Bush-like perennial. Showy, short-lived, blue blooms.
<i>Baptisia bracteata</i>	<a href="#">Cream Wild Indigo</a>	Dry to medium	Full/part sun	🌸	Long-lived. Tolerates part shade. Cream-colored flowers.
<i>Dodecatheon meadia</i>	<a href="#">Midland Shooting Star</a> *	Medium to moist	Full/part sun	🌸	Early blooming, white or pale pink/purple flowers.
<i>Eurybia macrophyllus</i>	<a href="#">Big-Leaved Aster</a>	Dry to medium	Part/full shade	🌸	Large heart-shaped leaves. Works well as ground cover.
<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	<a href="#">Wild Strawberry</a>	Dry to medium	Full/part sun	🌸	White flowers. Produces tiny edible fruit.
<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	<a href="#">Wild Geranium</a>	Medium	Full sun-shade	🌸	Interesting foliage. Pink or purple flowers.
<i>Hydrophyllum virginianum</i>	<a href="#">Virginia Waterleaf</a>	Medium to wet	Part/full shade	🌸	Spring bees love this plant. Pale pink/blue flowers in clusters.
<i>Iris cristata</i>	<a href="#">Dwarf Crested Iris</a>	Medium to moist	Part/full shade	🌸	Short plant with short bloom period. Spreads once established.
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	<a href="#">Blue Flag Iris</a>	Moist to wet	Full/part sun	🌸	Great shoreline plant with attractive blue flowers.
<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	<a href="#">Virginia Bluebells</a> *	Medium to moist	Part/full shade	🌸	Lovely blue flowers. Forms colonies over time.
<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	<a href="#">Wild Blue Phlox</a>	Medium	Part/full shade	🌸	Nicely scented purple/blue flowers. Will spread over time.
<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	<a href="#">Mayapple</a>	Medium	Part/full shade	🌸	Grows well under pines. "Umbrella" leaves. Aggressive grower.
<i>Polemonium reptans</i>	<a href="#">Jacob's Ladder</a>	Medium	Full sun-full shade	🌸	Cute, light blue, short-lived flowers. Deer resistant.
<i>Polygonatum biflorum</i>	<a href="#">Solomon's Seal</a>	Medium to moist	Part/full shade	🌸	Attractive leaves. Grows well in full shade. Spreads slowly.
<i>Thalictrum dioicum</i>	<a href="#">Early Meadowrue</a>	Medium	Part/full shade	🌸	Excellent shade garden plant. Delicate, lobed leaves.
<i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i>	<a href="#">Ohio Spiderwort</a>	Dry to moist	Full/part sun	🌸	Purple flowers. Looks great with Foxglove Beardtongue.
<i>Trillium grandiflorum</i>	<a href="#">Large-flowered Trillium</a>	Dry to medium	Part/full shade	🌸	Beautiful spring flower. White flowers eventually turn pink.
<i>Uvularia grandiflora</i>	<a href="#">Bellwort</a>	Dry to medium	Part/full shade	🌸	Long-lived plant with elegant droopy, yellow flowers.
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	<a href="#">Golden Alexanders</a>	Medium to wet	Full sun-full shade	🌸	Tiny yellow flower clusters. Food source for Black Swallowtail.
<i>Acer saccharum</i> 🗝️	<a href="#">Sugar Maple</a>	Medium to moist	Full/part sun	🌳	Great reddish fall color. Seeds out heavily.
<i>Betula nigra</i> 🗝️	<a href="#">River Birch</a>	Medium to wet	Full/part sun	🌳	Very adaptable tree with interesting bark.
<i>Carya cordiformis</i> 🗝️	<a href="#">Bitternut Hickory</a>	Moist	Full sun-full shade	🌳	Compound leaves. Bitter nut. Prefers rich soils (pH 6.8 to 7.2).
<i>Ostrya virginiana</i> 🗝️	<a href="#">Ironwood</a>	Medium to moist	Full sun-full shade	🌳	Hardy tree that does well in shade. Orange fall color.
<i>Pinus strobus</i> 🗝️	<a href="#">White Pine</a>	Dry to moist	Full/part sun	🌲	Transplants easily. Good for privacy screening. Grows fast.
<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	<a href="#">Quaking Aspen</a>	Medium to moist	Full sun-part shade	🌳	Leaves flutter in a breeze. Nice yellow fall color.



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Grass/sedge



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Shrub



Tree (evergreen)

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<b>SPRING BLOOMING (CONTINUED)</b>					
<i>Prunus americana</i> 🔑	<a href="#">American Plum</a>	Medium to moist	Full sun-full shade	🌳	Produces edible fruit. Great for erosion control.
<i>Prunus serotina</i> 🔑	<a href="#">Black Cherry</a>	Medium	Full/part sun	🌳	Dark red fruit can be messy but important food source for birds.
<i>Quercus alba</i> 🔑	<a href="#">White Oak</a>	Medium	Full sun-part shade	🌳	Long-lived. Keeps some leaves through winter.
<i>Quercus bicolor</i> 🔑	<a href="#">Swamp White Oak</a>	Medium to moist	Full sun-full shade	🌳	Widely adaptable tree that thrives in medium soils.
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> 🔑	<a href="#">Bur Oak</a>	Dry to moist	Full sun	🌳	Oaks are important keystone species for pollinators.
<i>Salix discolor</i> 🔑	<a href="#">Pussy Willow</a>	Moist	Full sun	🌳	Fast growing tree. Excellent for stabilizing shorelines.
<i>Salix humilis</i> 🔑	<a href="#">Prairie Willow</a>	Dry to moist	Full sun	🌳	Prefers moist soil. Flowers early before leaves emerge.
<i>Amelanchier laevis</i> 🔑	<a href="#">Smooth Serviceberry</a>	Dry to medium	Full sun-part shade	🌳	White flowers. Reddish fruit is excellent for drying or jamming.
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	<a href="#">Black chokeberry</a>	Dry to moist	Full/part sun	🌳	Adaptable, hardy shrub. Tolerates wide variety of soil textures, densities, pH levels and moisture conditions. Black fruit.
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i> 🔑	<a href="#">Pagoda Dogwood</a>	Medium to moist	Partial shade	🌳	Attractive leaves. White flowers. Excellent landscape shrub.
<i>Cornus racemosa</i> 🔑	<a href="#">Gray Dogwood</a>	Dry to moist	Full sun-full shade	🌳	Very adaptable large shrub. Pale fruit on red stalks.
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	<a href="#">Ninebark</a>	Dry to moist	Full/part sun	🌳	Great year-round interest. Rabbit resistant.
<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	<a href="#">Nannyberry</a>	Medium to moist	Full/part sun	🌳	Flowers, fruit, and fall color excellent for year-round interest.
<i>Carex pensylvanica</i>	<a href="#">Pennsylvania Sedge</a>	Dry	Part sun-full shade	🌿	Can struggle establishing in clay soil. Great filler plant.
<i>Carex sprengeii</i>	<a href="#">Long-beaked Sedge</a>	Dry to medium	Full sun-part shade	🌿	Excellent groundcover sedge.
<b>SUMMER BLOOMING</b>					
<i>Agastache foeniculum</i>	<a href="#">Anise Hyssop</a>	Dry to medium	Full/part sun	🌸	Blue/purple flowers provide long-term nectar source.
<i>Allium cernuum</i>	<a href="#">Nodding Onion</a>	Medium to moist	Full sun	🌸	Pom-pom-like pinkish flowers. Great filler plant that spreads.
<i>Amorpha canescens</i>	<a href="#">Leadplant</a>	Dry to medium	Full sun	🌸	Purple flowers spikes. Long-lived and deer resistant.
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	<a href="#">Swamp Milkweed</a>	Medium to wet	Full sun-part shade	🌸	Dark pink flowers. Deer resistant. Prefers moist soils.
<i>Asclepias speciosa</i>	<a href="#">Showy Milkweed</a>	Dry to moist	Full sun	🌸	Spidery flower balls. Not as aggressive as Common Milkweed.
<i>Asclepias sullivantii</i>	<a href="#">Sullivant's Milkweed</a>	Medium	Full sun	🌸	Pink-purple flowers. Less aggressive than Common Milkweed.
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	<a href="#">Butterfly Milkweed</a>	Dry to medium	Full sun	🌸	Bright orange flowers. Thrives in well-drained soil.
<i>Campanula americana</i>	<a href="#">American Bellflower</a>	Medium to moist	Full/part shade	🌸	Star-like blue flowers. Annual or biennial plant. Self-seeding.
<i>Chelone glabra</i>	<a href="#">White Turtlehead</a>	Medium to wet	Full sun	🌸	Excellent nectar source for butterflies and other pollinators.
<i>Dalea purpurea</i>	<a href="#">Purple Prairie Clover</a>	Dry to medium	Full/part sun	🌸	Bright purple, thimble-shaped flower. Low growing.
<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	<a href="#">Rattlesnake Master</a>	Dry to medium	Full sun	🌸	Unique, whitish spiked flowerhead. In yucca family.
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	<a href="#">Common Boneset</a>	Medium to wet	Full sun	🌸	Clusters of white flowers. Best in rich, moist soil.
<i>Eutrochium purpureum</i>	<a href="#">Sweet Joe Pye Weed</a>	Medium	Full sun-full shade	🌸	Butterflies love it. Does well in part shade. Can get very tall.
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	<a href="#">Ox Eye Sunflower</a>	Dry to moist	Full sun	🌸	Tall plant at 5 to 6 feet in height. Large yellow flowers.
<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>	<a href="#">Prairie Blazingstar</a>	Medium to moist	Full sun	🌸	Purple spikes attract many pollinators. Does well in clay soils.
<i>Liatris spicata</i>	<a href="#">Dense Blazing Star</a>	Medium to moist	Full sun	🌸	Pollinators love this plant. Purple spikes with feathery leaves.
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	<a href="#">Foxglove Beardtongue</a>	Medium	Full/part sun	🌸	Looks great with Spiderwort. White to pale pink flowers.
<i>Phlox glaberrima</i>	<a href="#">Marsh Phlox</a>	Medium to moist	Full/part sun	🌸	Shorter plant. Blooms earlier than other phlox.
<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	<a href="#">Obedient Plant</a>	Medium to moist	Full/part sun	🌸	Not obedient; aggressive spreader. Tubular purplish flowers.



*Prunus americana*, American Plum



*Rosa blanda*, Wild Rose



*Eryngium yuccifolium*, Rattlesnake Master



*Liatris pycnostachya*, Prairie Blazing Star



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<b>SUMMER BLOOMING (CONTINUED)</b>					
<i>Ratibida columnifera</i> 🔑	<a href="#">Prairie Coneflower</a>	Dry to medium	Full/part sun	🌻	Attracts many insects. Works well with many plants.
<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	<a href="#">Gray-headed Coneflower</a>	Dry to moist	Full sun	🌻	Easy grown from seed or transplants. Works in almost any soil.
<i>Rosa blanda</i> 🔑	<a href="#">Early Wild Rose</a>	Dry to medium	Full sun-part shade	🌻	Large red rosehips in fall create great color and wildlife food.
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> 🔑	<a href="#">Black-eyed Susan</a>	Dry to moist	Full/part sun	🌻	Short-lived but easily self-sows on exposed soil.
<i>Vernonia fasciculata</i>	<a href="#">Common Ironweed</a>	Moist	Full sun	🌻	Needs large area. Can get very tall. Bright purple flowers.
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	<a href="#">Culver's Root</a>	Medium to moist	Full/part sun	🌻	Stately with clean lines. Clusters of long white flowers.
<i>Tilia americana</i>	<a href="#">American Basswood</a>	Dry to moist	Full sun-full shade	🌳	Produces suckers. Great shade tree. Yellow fall color.
<i>Ceanothus americanus</i> 🔑	<a href="#">New Jersey Tea</a>	Dry to medium	Full/part sun	🌳	Nice short garden shrub. White flowers. A favorite of rabbits.
<i>Corylus americana</i> 🔑	<a href="#">American Hazelnut</a>	Dry to moist	Full/part sun	🌳	Produces edible nuts. Red/yellow fall color.
<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	<a href="#">Bush Honeysuckle</a>	Dry to moist	Full sun-full shade	🌳	Excellent low-growing, part shade shrub. Yellow flowers.
<i>Cornus rugosa</i> 🔑	<a href="#">Round-leaf Dogwood</a>	Dry to medium	Full sun-part shade	🌳	Clusters of creamy white flowers. Provides year-round interest.
<i>Cornus stolonifera</i> 🔑	<a href="#">Red Osier Dogwood</a>	Medium to wet	Full/part sun	🌳	Fast growing. Red twigs, white fruit, and reddish fall color.
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	<a href="#">Winterberry</a>	Medium to wet	Full sun-full shade	🌳	Great winter interest. White flowers. Bright red fruit. Need male and female plant for fruit production.
<i>Viburnum rafinesquianum</i>	<a href="#">Downy Arrowwood</a>	Dry to moist	Part sun-full shade	🌳	Great medium shrub for shady locations. White flowers. Dark purple fruit.
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	<a href="#">Side Oats Grama</a>	Dry to medium	Full sun-part shade	🌿	Good alternative to Prairie Dropseed and Little Bluestem.
<i>Elymus hystrix</i>	<a href="#">Bottlebrush Grass</a>	Dry to moist	Full/part sun	🌿	Great woodland grass. Interesting "bottlebrush" seedheads.
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	<a href="#">Indian Grass</a>	Dry to moist	Full sun	🌿	Tall golden brown seedheads provide nice fall color.
<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	<a href="#">Prairie Dropseed</a>	Dry to medium	Full sun	🌿	Elegant clumped grass. Not recommended for clay soil.
<b>FALL BLOOMING</b>					
<i>Aster cordifolius</i> * 🔑	<a href="#">Heart Leaved Aster</a>	Dry to medium	Shade/part shade	🌻	Great for shady spots. Short. Makes excellent cut flowers.
<i>Aster prenanthoides</i> 🔑	<a href="#">Crooked Stem Aster</a>	Medium to moist	Full sun-part shade	🌻	Zigzag stems. Grows well in damp areas. Pale purple flowers.
<i>Eurybia divaricata</i> 🔑	<a href="#">White Woodland Aster</a>	Dry to medium	Part/full shade	🌻	Star-like, white flowers with yellow center. Does well in shade.
<i>Liatris ligulistylis</i>	<a href="#">Meadow Blazingstar</a>	Medium to moist	Full sun	🌻	Ultimate nectar source for Monarchs. Spikes of purple flowers.
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	<a href="#">Great Blue Lobelia</a>	Medium to moist	Full/part sun	🌻	Can form colonies. Not aggressive. Excellent for damp, clay soil.
<i>Rudbeckia subtomentosa</i> 🔑	<a href="#">Sweet Black-eyed Susan</a>	Medium	Full sun-part shade	🌻	Longer lived than Black-eyed Susan. Classic yellow flower.
<i>Solidago caesia</i> 🔑	<a href="#">Blue-stemmed Goldenrod</a>	Medium	Full/part sun	🌻	Well-behaved woodland flower. Slender and arching with yellow flowers.
<i>Solidago flexicaulis</i> 🔑	<a href="#">Zigzag Goldenrod</a>	Medium	Part/full shade	🌻	Can be an aggressive grower. Bright yellow flowers.
<i>Solidago rigida</i> 🔑	<a href="#">Stiff Goldenrod</a>	Dry to medium	Full sun-part shade	🌻	Nice fall color. Can be an aggressive grower.
<i>Solidago speciosa</i> 🔑	<a href="#">Showy Goldenrod</a>	Dry to medium	Full sun-part shade	🌻	Blooms later than most goldenrods.
<i>Symphotrichum laevis</i> 🔑	<a href="#">Smooth Blue Aster</a>	Medium	Full sun-part shade	🌻	Long-lived fall-blooming flower. Light to medium blue/purple flowers with yellow center that turns reddish with age.
<i>Symphotrichum oolentangiense</i> 🔑	<a href="#">Sky Blue Aster</a>	Dry to medium	Full/part sun	🌻	Tolerates part shade. Heart-shaped leaves with pale to bright blue flowers with yellow center that turns reddish with age.
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	<a href="#">Little Bluestem</a>	Dry to medium	Full sun	🌿	May struggle to establish in clay soil. Excellent fall color.



*Ratibida columnifera*, Prairie Coneflower



*Cornus rugosa*, Round-leaved Dogwood



*Liatris ligulistylis*, Meadow Blazing Star



*Solidago rigida*, Stiff Goldenrod