

A Selection of Garden-worthy Native Plants of the Catskills

Trees & Shrubs

Species	Common name	Form	Conditions	Comments
<i>Acer spicatum</i>	Mountain Maple	Small tree (20')	Some shade	Upright flower spikes; Fall foliage
<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	Allegheny Serviceberry	Small tree (20')	Moist, some shade	Spring flowers, summer berries Fall foliage; Humans
<i>Comptonia peregrina</i>	Sweetfern	Groundcover (3')	Poor soil	Fragrant foliage
<i>Cornus amomum</i>	Silky Dogwood	Medium shrub (10')	Moist/Adaptable	Blue berries for birds; Red twigs
<i>Dirca palustris</i>	Leatherwood	Small shrub (5')	Moist/Adaptable	Deer-resistant?; Skin-irritant
<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>	Wintergreen	Groundcover (<1')	Moist well-drained acidic soil	Berries for birds
<i>Gaylussacia baccata</i>	Huckleberry	Dwarf shrub (3')	Acid; Ericaceous Sun for fruit; Dry soil	Spring flowers; Summer berries Fall Foliage
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Witch Hazel	Small tree (20')		Fall flowers & foliage; Trouble free
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Smooth Winterberry	Medium shrub (10')	Moist/Adaptable	Fall/winter fruits; Pollinator needed
<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	Mountain Laurel	Medium shrub (10')	Some sun; Cool; Acid Ericaceous	Spring flowers; Evergreen foliage; Form Many new cultivars
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spicebush	Medium shrub (10')	Moist; some shade	Berries for birds Larval food for Spicebush Swallowtail
<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	Trumpet Honeysuckle	Vine to 20'		Red or yellow flowers - hummingbirds; berries
<i>Morus rubra</i>	Red Mulberry	Large Tree (50')	Moist/Adaptable	Berries in summer; Male & female needed
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Black Gum	Large Tree (50')	Swampy/Adaptable	Fall foliage; Inconspicuous berries for birds
<i>Photinia pyrifolia</i>	Red Chokeberry	Medium shrub (10')	Moist/Adaptable	Spring flowers; Red berries; Fall foliage
<i>Rhododendron canadense</i>	Rhodora	Dwarf shrub (3')	Moist/wet	Good for naturalizing
<i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i>	Pinxterbloom	Medium shrub (8')		Light pink flowers; fairly shade tolerant
<i>Rhododendron viscosum</i>	Swamp Azalea	Medium shrub (8')	Moist	Early summer fragrant flowers; Fall foliage
<i>Rosa palustris</i>	Swamp Rose	Small shrub (5')	Moist	Spring flowers; Summer hips; Fall foliage
<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	Sassafras	Large Tree (50')		Fall foliage and berries; Male & female needed
<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>	Lowbush Blueberry	Groundcover (1')	Acid; Ericaceous Sun for fruit; Dry soil	Spring flowers; Summer berries Fall Foliage
<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	Highbush Blueberry	Medium shrub (8')	Acid; Ericaceous Sun for fruit	Spring flowers; Summer berries Fall Foliage; Red or yellow winter twigs
<i>Viburnum alnifolium</i>	Hobblebush	Medium shrub (8')	Part shade; Moist	Spring flowers; Summer berries; Fall foliage
<i>Viburnum nudum</i> var. <i>cassinoides</i>	Withe-rod	Medium shrub (8')	Adaptable	Spring flowers; Summer berries; Fall foliage

A Selection of Garden-worthy Native Plants of the Catskills

Herbaceous perennials Summer or Fall bloomers

Species	Common name	Form	Conditions	Comments
<i>Actaea racemosa</i>	Black Cohosh, Bugbane	Foliage to 3'	Moist woodland conditions	Great background plant; soaring white flower spikes
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp Milkweed	Upright (3-5')	Moist/wet/ave; Sun/Part Sun	Pink & white flowers; butterflies, bees, cut flowers
<i>Asclepias verticillata</i>	Whorled Milkweed	Fine foliage (1-2')	Average to dry soils; Sun	White flowers; butterflies, bees, cut flowers
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Round-leaved Bellflower	Delicate (1-1.5')	Moist to dry; Sun/Part sun	Blue, bell-shaped flowers over a long season
<i>Cassia hebecarpa</i>	Wild Senna	Imposing (3-6')	Moist to dry; Part sun	Dramatic form; interesting yellow flowers
<i>Chelone glabra</i>	Turtlehead	Upright (3')	Moist/wet/ave; Sun/Part Sun	Interesting white flowers; Naturalizes in wet areas
<i>Eupatorium fistulosum</i>	Joe Pye Weed	Imposing (3-8')	Moist to wet; Sun/Part sun	Pinky-purple flowers; butterflies, bees
<i>Eurybia divaricata</i>	White Wood Aster	Upright (1-2')	Average to dry soils; Shade	White flowers; tough plant for dry shade
<i>Gentiana clausa</i>	Closed Gentian	Sprawling (1-1.5')	Moist; Part sun	Beautiful blue-violet flowers to end the year
<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	Helen's Flower	Upright (3-5')	Moist to average; Sun	Adds a bright splash of color to late-season borders
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	Ox-eye Sunflower	Upright (3-5')	Average soils; Sun	Dependable
<i>Heuchera americana</i>	Alumroot	Ground cover (1')	Moist to dry; Part sun	Attractive dark green foliage with burgundy veining
<i>Hypoxis hirsuta</i>	Yellow Stargrass	Ground cover (6-8")	Moist to dry; Sun/Part sun	Tiny yellow flowers over a fairly long season
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower	Upright (2-4')	Moist to wet; Sun/Part sun	Spectacular crimson flower spikes; Hummingbirds
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Great Blue Lobelia	Upright (2-3')	Average to wet; Sun/Part sun	Thick blue flower spikes; Naturalizes by self-seeding
<i>Monarda didyma</i>	Bee balm	Upright (3-4')	Moist to average; Sun/Part sun	Red flowers attract hummingbirds
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Wild Bergamot	Upright (3-4')	Average; Sun to light shade	Violet/pink flowers also attract hummingbirds
<i>Oenothera perennis</i>	Small Sundrops	Flowers to 1'	Average to moist; Sun	Dainty yellow flowers; Rock gardens or edger
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	Foxglove Beardtongue	Upright (2-4')	Average to moist; Sun	Common meadow species; Husker Red cultivar
<i>Pycnanthemum incanum</i>	Hoary Mountain Mint	Upright (3-4')	Moist to dry; Sun/Part sun	Superior nectar plant for bees & butterflies
<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	Tall Coneflower	Imposing (3-6')	Moist; Sun/Part sun	Great background plant & good for naturalizing
<i>Rudbeckia triloba</i>	Thin-leaved Coneflower	Upright (2-5')	Moist; Sun/Part sun	Short-lived but reseeds - good for naturalizing
<i>Silene stellata</i>	Starry Campion	Sprawling (1-2')	Moist to dry; Sun to light shade	Intricate nodding flowers - good for naturalizing
<i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>	Blue-eyed Grass	Clumper (1')	Moist; Sun/Part sun	Beautiful blue flowers with yellow eyes
<i>Tradescantia virginiana</i>	Common Spiderwort	Clumper (1-2')	Moist to dry; Sun to shade	Tough adaptable plant with attractive blue flowers
<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>	New York Ironweed	Upright (4-8')	Moist to wet	Easy to grow; good background plant; butterflies
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	Culver's Root	Upright (3-6')	Moist	Excellent architecture; spikes of white flowers

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Herbaceous perennials Spring bloomers

Species	Common name	Form	Conditions	Comments
<i>Actaea pachypoda</i>	Doll's Eyes	Upright (1-2')	Moist; Part sun/Shade	Interesting berries; mildly poisonous
<i>Actaea rubra</i>	Red Baneberry	Upright (1-2')	Moist; Part sun/Shade	Interesting berries; mildly poisonous
<i>Anemone quinquefolia</i>	Wood Anemone	Diminutive (3-6")	Moist; Shade	Ephemeral; Best in colonies
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Wild Columbine	Upright (1-2')	Well-drained; Sun/Light Shade	Common along roadsides; Hummingbird favorite
<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	Jack-in-the-Pulpit	Upright (1-2')	Moist; Shade	Variable color of flowers; Bright berries in fall
<i>Asarum canadense</i>	Wild Ginger	Groundcover	Moist; Shade	Flowers at ground level; pollinated by beetles
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh Marigold	Clumper (1-2')	Moist to wet; Sun to shade	Brilliant color for the bog garden or along streams
<i>Caulophyllum thalictroides</i>	Blue Cohosh	Upright (2-3')	Moist; Shade	Blue berries in fall
<i>Claytonia caroliniana</i>	Spring Beauty	Diminutive (3-6")	Moist; Part sun/Shade	Ephemeral; Best in colonies
<i>Clintonia borealis</i>	Bluebead Lily	Clumper (8-12")	Moist; Shade	Brilliant blue berries in fall
<i>Cornus canadensis</i>	Bunchberry	Groundcover	Moist; Part sun/Shade	Common at higher elevations
<i>Cypripedium acaule</i>	Pink Lady-slipper	Clumper (1')	Average; Light shade	Not for the home garden; enjoy in the wild
<i>Dentaria diphylla</i>	Twin-leaf Toothwort	Clumper (8-12")	Moist; Shade	Ephemeral; Host for West Virginia White
<i>Dentaria laciniata</i>	Cut-leaf Toothwort	Diminutive (4-6")	Moist; Shade	Ephemeral; Attractive foliage
<i>Dicentra canadensis</i>	Squirrel Corn	Diminutive (3-5")	Moist; Part sun/Shade	Later bloom than Dutchman's Breeches; Ephemeral
<i>Dicentra cucullaria</i>	Dutchman's Breeches	Diminutive (3-5")	Moist; Part sun/Shade	Ephemeral
<i>Erythronium americanum</i>	Trout Lily	Diminutive (2-6")	Moist; Shade	Ephemeral; Flowers short-lived
<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>	Wintergreen	Groundcover	Moist to dry; Part sun/Shade	Flowers in summer; berries last through spring
<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	Wild Geranium	Upright (1-2')	Moist; Sun/Light shade	Spectacular in the garden; white form available
<i>Hepatica nobilis</i> var. <i>obtusata</i>	Round-lobed Hepatica	Diminutive	Moist; Part sun/Shade	Flower color variable
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	Northern Blue Flag	Clumper (2-3')	Moist to Wet; Sun/Light shade	Brilliant color for the bog garden or along streams
<i>Maianthemum canadense</i>	Canada Mayflower	Groundcover	Moist to dry; Part sun/Shade	Our most common woodlander
<i>Mainthemum racemosum</i>	False Solomon's Seal	Upright (1-3')	Moist; Part sun/Shade	Berries change colors as they mature
<i>Mitchella repens</i>	Partridgeberry	Groundcover	Moist to dry; Part sun/Shade	Evergreen; long-lasting bright red berries
<i>Panax quinquefolius</i>	Ginseng	Upright (8-16")	Moist, well-drained; Shade	Associated with Sugar Maple
<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	Mayapple	Upright (8-16")	Moist to dry; Part sun/Shade	Deer-proof?; Fruits eaten by box turtles
<i>Polygonatum biflorum</i>	Solomon's Seal	Upright (1-3')	Moist; Shade	Polyploid form (<i>commutatum</i>) reaches 5-6'
<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	Bloodroot	Clumper (1')	Moist to ave; Part sun/Shade	Interesting foliage; brilliant but brief flowering
<i>Streptopus amplexifolius</i>	White Mandarin	Upright (1-3')	Moist; Shade	Brilliant red berries in fall
<i>Symplocarpus foetidus</i>	Skunk Cabbage	Clumper (1-2')	Wet; Sun/Shade	First to flower
<i>Thalictrum thalictroides</i>	Rue Anemone	Diminutive (4-8")	Moist; Part sun/Shade	Ephemeral; Double cultivars available
<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	Foamflower	Groundcover	Moist; Part sun/Shade	Common; Numerous cultivars
<i>Trillium erectum</i>	Purple Trillium	Clumper (1-2')	Moist; Part sun/Shade	Brilliant color; easy in the garden
<i>Trillium undulatum</i>	Painted Trillium	Clumper (1-2')	Moist; Part sun/Shade	Brilliant color; not so easy in the garden
<i>Uvularia sessilifolia</i>	Wild Oats	Groundcover	Moist/ave; Part sun/Shade	Light yellow bell-flowers; tolerates dry shade
<i>Viola canadensis</i>	Canada Violet	Clumper (1')	Moist; Part sun/Shade	Long-bloomer
<i>Viola pubescens</i>	Downy Yellow Violet	Clumper (1')	Moist; Part sun/Shade	Valuable yellow color for the spring woodland