



# Hart Seed Library

## Planting for Pollinators 10 Things Pollinators Need



1. A Pesticide Free Landscape
2. Include Lots of Native Plants
3. Host Plants for Butterfly Larvae
4. A Diversity of Flower Types
5. A Variety of Flower Colors – bees are attracted to blue, white and yellow; butterflies like red and orange; and hummingbirds prefer red and red-purple.
6. Grouping Flowers of Kind
7. Continuous Bloom – plant for 3-season color. Many native bees, such as the mason bee, are only active in spring. Bumble bee queens need early pollen sources to start a new colony from scratch each year. Monarch butterflies benefit from fall-blooming plants to fuel their migration.
8. Water – pollinators, like all creatures, need a clean, reliable source of water for drinking and bathing. A dish or bath must have shallow sides to prevent drowning.
9. Shelter – different layers of plants, shrubs and trees, a dead limb, uncovered soil, clumping grasses, and leaf litter
10. Overwintering Habitat - bumble bee queens and many butterflies overwinter under leaf litter. Try not to be too tidy with fall cleanup. Leave plant stalks and canes – bees and beneficial insect larvae are overwintering inside.



from: [www.propollinators.org](http://www.propollinators.org)

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## NATIVE PLANTS Donated by Hilltop Hanover Farm



*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*  
New England Aster

This large, showy aster is an important source of pollen and nectar long after summer blooming flowers have faded. Clusters of composite flowers consist of yellow disk florets surrounded by numerous lavender/purple ray florets.

**Height:** 3-6ft

**Bloom time:** August-October

**Sun:** full sun to part shade

**Soil:** medium- moist

**Wildlife value:** visited by various bees, butterflies and skippers, larval food to many moths and butterflies

**DEER RESISTANT**  
**LOCAL ECOTYPE**



*Asclepias incarnata*  
Swamp Milkweed

Large rose colored clusters of flowers, smelling fragrantly of vanilla, sit atop upright, branching stems. Although usually a swamp plant, this milkweed grows surprisingly well in medium, regular garden soil. It is a great addition to any perennial wildflower garden, rain garden or situated near a pond.

**Height:** 2-5ft

**Bloom time:** June-September

**Sun:** full sun to part shade

**Soil:** average to wet

**Wildlife value:** very attractive to butterflies as a nectar source, host plant for larvae of the Monarch and Queen butterflies

**DEER RESISTANT**  
**LOCAL ECOTYPE**



*Schizachyrium scoparium*  
Little Bluestem

Ornamental warm season prairie grass which gets its name from the color of the stem base in spring. Turns a reddish brown color in the fall and forms a stunning display when planted en masse.

**Height:** 3ft

**Bloom time:** July-November

**Sun:** full sun to part shade

**Soil:** medium to dry, will not tolerate wetlands

**Wildlife value:** Seeds are eaten by songbirds, host plant to several species of skippers

**DEER RESISTANT**  
**Local Ecotype**



*Monarda fistulosa*  
Wild Bergamot

A clump forming, tough, mint family perennial grows well in many garden settings. Tolerates drought and poor, dry soil. Deadhead flowers to prolong summer bloom. Lavender two-lipped flowers attract many nectar seeking insects.

**Height:** 2-4ft

**Bloom Time:** July to September

**Sun:** full sun to part shade

**Soil:** medium to dry

**Wildlife value:** attracts many butterflies, bees and hummingbirds and a host plant of the Raspberry pyrausta butterfly

**DEER RESISTANT**  
**LOCAL ECOTYPE**



*Rudbeckia hirta*  
Black-eyed Susan

This long blooming wildflower is a biennial or short lived perennial. It blooms in the second year and freely self seeds to persist for many years in the garden. Bright yellow daisy like flowers attract many pollinators.

**Height:** 2-3ft

**Bloom time:** June-October

**Sun:** Full sun

**Soil:** medium to dry

**Wildlife value:** A great source of pollen and nectar for bees, as well as butterflies, flies and beetles. A larval host plant for the Silvery Checkerspot Butterfly.

**LOCAL ECOTYPE**



*Aquilegia canadensis*  
Eastern Red Columbine

Woodland wildflower with showy red, drooping, bell shaped flowers. One of the first to provide nectar in the spring and tolerates a wide range of soil and light conditions. Delicate foliage remains attractive throughout the growing season. Good deer resistance.

**Height:** 2ft

**Bloom time:** April-May

**Sun:** full sun to part shade

**Soil:** moist to dry

**Wildlife value:** attracts hummingbirds, bees and butterflies, host plant to the Columbine Duskywing



# Hart Seed Library

## NATIVE PLANTS Donated by Hilltop Hanover Farm (cont.)

### *Eutrochium dubium*

#### Joe Pye Weed

A tall perennial with strong stems that support large, domed, pink to purple inflorescence. Can make a big architectural statement in the garden when grouped together in the back of a perennial bed. Its large flower heads are a great visual attractant for many pollinators and the numerous tiny disc florets supply them with a large quantity of nectar. This species generally likes moist conditions but does well in average soil when given the room to grow.

**Height:** 5-7ft

**Bloom time:** July to September

**Sun:** full sun to part shade

**Soil:** medium to wet

**Wildlife value:** nectar magnet for many species of butterflies, long tongued bees, skippers and moths. Host plant for the Three-Lined Flower Moth and the

Ruby Tiger Moth

**DEER RESISTANT**

**LOCAL ECOTYPE**



### *Vernonia noveboracensis*

#### New York Ironweed

Tall, coarse, upright perennial. Usually grows wild in moist thickets, lowlands or along streambanks. Great in the back of a perennial bed or wildflower garden.

Terminal flower heads feature an attractive spray of many fluffy, deep purple flowers.

**Height:** 4-6ft

**Bloom time:** August-September

**Sun:** full sun to part shade

**Soil:** medium to wet

**Wildlife value:** Flowers attract butterflies and seed heads attract birds

**DEER RESISTANT**

**LOCAL ECOTYPE**

### *Penstemon digitalis*

#### Foxglove Beardtongue

Penstemon is a clump forming, fast growing prairie plant. White to pinkish small tubular flowers on panicles atop rigid stems. It's distinct seed head and semi-evergreen basal foliage adds winter interest. It looks nice grouped in a garden setting.

**Height:** 3-5ft

**Bloom time:** April-June

**Sun:** full to partial sun

**Soil:** medium to dry

**Wildlife value:** tubular flowers attract long-tongued bees, a host plant for the

Chalcedon checkerspot and Edith's

checkerspot

**DEER RESISTANT**

**LOCAL ECOTYPE**



### *Solidago speciosa*

#### Showy Goldenrod

True to its common name, this goldenrod's big, yellow inflorescence is 1 ft long and quite showy! The panicle, made up of small yellow compound flowers, sits atop smooth, erect central stems reddish in color.

**Height:** 2-3ft.

**Bloom Time:** July- September

**Sun:** Full sun to part sun

**Soil:** Medium to Dry

**Wildlife Value:** attracts honeybees, bumblebees, ants, beetles and the occasional

moth or butterfly

**DEER RESISTANT**

**LOCAL ECOTYPE**

Hilltop Hanover Farm recommends using these websites:

[prarie.moon.com](http://prarie.moon.com),

[gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org](http://gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org),

[eco59.com](http://eco59.com)

& [wildseedproject.net](http://wildseedproject.net)