

NYU Schwartz Plaza Native Woodland Garden Plant List

	Botanical Name	Common Name
Trees	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	Serviceberry
	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	American Beech
Grasses, Sedges	<i>Carex albursina</i>	White Bear Sedge
	<i>Carex eburnea</i>	Bristle-leaf Sedge
	<i>Carex pennsylvanica</i>	Pennsylvania Sedge
	<i>Deschampia flexuosa</i>	Common Hairgrass
Ferns	<i>Dennstaedtia punctilobula</i>	Hayscented Fern
	<i>Osmunda claytoniana</i>	Interrupted Fern
	<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	Christmas Fern
	<i>Thelypteris noveboracensis</i>	New York Fern
Forbs	<i>Thalictrum thalictroides</i>	Rue Anemone
	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Wild Columbine
	<i>Aralia nudicaulis</i>	Wild Sarssaparilla
	<i>Asarum canadense</i>	Wild Ginger
	<i>Eurybia divaricata (Aster divaricata)</i>	White Wood Aster
	<i>Caullophyllum thalictroides</i>	Blue Cohosh
	<i>Cimicifuga racemosa</i>	Black Snakeroot
	<i>Dicentra cucullaria</i>	Dutchman's Breeches
	<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	Wild Geranium
	<i>Lillium superbum</i>	Turk's Cap Lily
	<i>Maianthemum canadense</i>	Wild Lilly of the Valley
	<i>Mitchella repens</i>	Partridgeberry
	<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	Blue Phlox
	<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	Mayapple
	<i>Polygonatum biflorum</i>	Solomon's Seal
	<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	Bloodroot
	<i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>	Blue-eyed Grass
	<i>Maianthemum racemosum</i>	Feathery False Lily of the Valley
	<i>Solidago caesia</i>	Blue-stemmed Goldenrod
	<i>Thalictrum dioicum</i>	Early Meadow Rue
	<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	Foam Flower
	<i>Euphorbia corollata</i>	Flowering Spurge
	<i>Viola sororia</i>	Common Violet
	<i>Viola pubescens</i>	Yellow Forest Violet

George P. Reis
NYU Garden Shop
August 19, 2009

Native Woodland Garden tips for Urban Yards and Containers

With all the shadows cast by buildings, city gardeners are always looking for plants that will thrive in shade. While buildings create a denser shade than the forest tree canopy, woodland plants are of great use to almost every gardener who tends a small plot or container in the city. Natives offer the advantage of lower maintenance, requiring supplemental watering only during the first year or two of establishment and soil amended with organic matter. (Note that containers dry out faster than garden beds, so they'll need more watering) Aim for a pH that is slightly acidic, say 5.5 to 6.5. Disturbed urban soils can be unpredictable, so it's always a good idea to get a soil pH and nutrient analysis test before you plant so you can get recommendations for amending the soil if necessary. You want the soil to contain at least 5% organic matter, so it's almost always a good idea to add compost.

Here are some of the flowering plants we are featuring in our Native Woodland Garden that are useful and available to home gardeners who are interested in using natives. All these plants are native not only to our region, but are believed to be native to Manhattan island.

- **Blue-eyed Grass** *Sisyrinchium angustifolium*
 - **One of my favorite plants we started using this year on campus. Blue-eyed Grass is not a true grass, but a member of the Iris family. It has thin, grass-like foliage and produces a lovely blue flower in late spring and early summer. The foliage continues through summer and into fall. 10-20 inches tall and 6-8 inches wide, it's great for a container or garden bed in sun or part sun. We stored some leftover plants this spring in a spot that only got a couple hours of sun a day, and this plant continued blooming for weeks, so it seems more tolerant of shade than the guides seem to indicate. Amend your soil with compost and keep the soil moist in summer, and you'll get repeated blooms. This plant will self-sow and form a nice dense colony. If you don't want it to self-sow, deadhead the plant before it sets seed. *S. angustifolium* 'Lucerne' is a cultivar with a more compact form excellent for edging in containers or garden beds.**
- **White Wood Aster** *Eurybia divaricata* (formerly *Aster divaricata*)
 - **Depending on whom you ask, this is either a weed or a venerable woodland native. Either way, it's a tough, carefree plant that produces tons of tiny white flowers in fall. In sun or shade, moist or dry soil, this plant is never fussy. The white flowers brighten up a shady spot in a container or garden bed. Give it a trim after it blooms**

if you don't want it to self sow. Grows 1-2 feet tall and about 18 inches wide.

- **Common (Dooryard) Violet and Yellow Forest Violet** *Viola sororia* and *V. pubescens*
 - Because they're so vigorous, native Violets are great groundcovers. These two species, in purple, white, or yellow, form large clumps and bloom in spring in sun or shade, growing up to about 18 inches tall. Very good for edging in containers and garden beds, but you'll need to keep them in bounds as they spread. *V. pedata*, Bird's Foot Violet, another native violet, is much better behaved for more formal settings. Labrador Violet, *V. labradorica* is another native violet I like very much.
- **Turk's Cap Lily** *Lillium superbum*
 - One of the easiest lilies to grow, the orange or red-orange blooms put on a great show in summer. A single, large plant can display as many as 30 flowers. Grows 3-8 feet tall and up to 2 feet wide. Grows well in sun or part sun in a large container or garden bed.
- **Blue Phlox** *Phlox divaricata*
 - William Cullina, the leading expert on native plants of the northeast, calls Blue Phlox "An indispensable spring ephemeral for eastern shade gardeners." Violet or lavender blue flowers appear in early spring on 12 inch stems. Cullina recommends pairing it with *P. stolonifera* for a succession of bloom. It will self sow and spread if not deadheaded. Great for edging in containers or garden beds.
- **Blue-stemmed Goldenrod** *Solidago caesia*
 - Goldenrod sometimes gets wrongly blamed for causing allergies to flare up because people mistake it for ragweed. We've planted Solidago 'Fireworks' elsewhere on campus to very good effect. This is the first year we're planting Blue-stemmed Goldenrod, so I'm eager to see how it performs. Cullina reports that it does well in the dry, dappled shade of the woodland edge. Golden yellow flowers bloom in fall and the plant grows from 16-50 inches tall and 16-20 inches wide.
- **Foam Flower** *Tiarella cordifolia*
 - This is one of my favorite groundcover plants for shade. A massed planting of this woodland native shows why it's name is so appropriate: the wispy flowers combine to an ethereal effect of a white or pinkish cloud hovering over the foliage in spring. There's a great mass planting of Foam Flower underneath some trees in Washington Square Park. While we are using the straight species in our Native Woodland Garden, there are now many cultivars of Foam Flower in a variety of foliage colors and shapes. A friend of mine laughs at me for buying what is a "weed" in the woods around her home in Vermont. I remind her that every plant started as a weed somewhere and that a plant tough enough to fend for itself in the wild deserves a chance in the city garden too. This one is a winner.

- **Wild Geranium** *Geranium maculatum*
 - **Pink or white, this adaptable plant likes to live in moist woodlands. It especially likes a moist spring when it blooms and then goes dormant after setting its seeds. Grows to about 18 inches in height. Not to be confused with the garden variety geraniums you see everywhere in sometimes garish colors, this native has a more subtle look as it flowers for several weeks in spring.**

Nurseries Selling Native Plants

* = RECOMMENDED

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*Atlantic Nurseries
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*Fort Pond Native Plant Nursery
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Riverhead, NY 11901-9879
Phone: 516-727-0124

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Fax: 968-3122

*Staten Island Greenbelt
Native Plant Center
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Staten Island, NY 10314
Phone: (718) 370-9044
FAX: (718) 370-0932

NEW JERSEY

*Arrowwood Nurseries Inc.
PO Box 418C Malaga Road
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FAX: (609) 753-1285

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Columbus, NJ 08022
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Fax: 298-6388

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370 East Veterans Highway
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*Pinelands Nursery
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Phone: (609) 296-3679
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PO Box 185
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Thompson & Morgan Seedman, Inc.
P.O. Box 1308
Jackson, NJ 08527
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(888) 446 4769 fax
seeds.thompson-morgan.com/us

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(908) 996 7500 fax
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Freehold, NJ 07728
(732) 308-9777 phone & fax
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Waynesboro, PA 17268-0087
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877) 743 4733
info@appnursery.com
www.appnursery.com

Aquascapes Unlimited
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Pipersville, PA 18947
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Fax: 766-8986
wetland@comcat.com

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Fax: (610) 869 2019
jcole@conard-pyle.com
www.conard-pyle.com

Department of Landscape
Architecture and Horticulture
Temple University
580 Meetinghouse Road
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www.edgeofthewoodsnursery.com
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Phone: 1-800-873-3321
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ernstsales@ernstseed.com

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Hummelstown, PA 17036
Phone: (717) 566-9875
meadowoodnursery@comcast.net

Native and Aquatic Nursery
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Harleysville , PA 19438
Phone: (610) 584-6302

Natural Landscapes) Jim Plyler
354 N. Jennersville Rd.
West Grove , PA 19390
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New Moon Nursery
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Kirkwood , PA 17536
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Fax: (717) 529 5657
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octoraro@epix.net

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www.redbudnativeplantnursery.com

*Sylva Native Nursery
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Where Can I Get These Plants?

Local and Regional Nurseries

Greenbelt Native Plant Center
3808 Victory Blvd
Staten Island, NY 10314
(718)370-9044

Catskill Native Nursery
607 Samsonville Road (County Rte 3)
Kerhonkson, NY 12446
(845)626-2758
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Fort Pond Natives
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26 South Embassy Street
Montauk, NY 11954
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<http://gloverperennials.com>

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(800)667-2729
www.pinelandnursery.com

Pleasant Run Nursery
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www.pleasantrunnursery.com
(not strictly native but good for cultivars)

Natural Landscapes Nursery
354 North Jennersville Road
West Grove, PA 19390
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Jim and Bethany Plyler
(excellent source for native Rhododendron)

New England Wild Flower Society Nasami Farm
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Whately, MA 01373
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Native Seed Source

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