

Maidenhair Fern

Adiantum pedatum shade, wet rich soils

Northern Maidenhair Fern has delicate, 8-20" fronds, with dark, shiny stems. They form a graceful, fan-like pattern that is unique among native ferns. Burgundy-red fiddleheads appear in early spring. It spreads slowly by creeping, branching rhizomes to form large colonies over time. It grows in moist, shaded, rich woodlands, especially in ravines or under wet, rock banks.

Short's Aster

Symphotrichum shortii part sun-shade, dry soil

Short's Aster, unlike the name suggests, is a medium-sized aster and quite tall for a shade blooming plant. It reaches heights of 3-4 feet and produces abundant light purple flowers. As with most asters, it blooms late summer to early fall, lasts for about one to one and a half months, and attracts a wide range of bees, butterflies and other pollinators looking for their last bit of nectar and pollen for the season. The preference is partial sun, mesic to dry-mesic conditions, and soil that contains loam or some rocky material with decaying organic matter. Calcareous ground with a higher than normal pH is tolerated. Short's Aster is a woodland Aster that can grow well in full shade. This makes it a great addition to wooded lots or homes with a tall canopy. Short's Aster is one of those plants that will flop over just about when it is time to bloom. This is due to the weight of the numerous flowerheads. To prevent this or reduce the likelihood, you should [cut it back](#) in mid June by 1/2 it's height

Blue Wild Indigo

Baptisia australis Sun dry soil

This Indigo has a neat, bushy growth habit and abundant racemes of indigo blue to purple very showy flowers. Flowers are replaced with oblong seed pods characteristic of plants in this genus. It is nitrogen fixing, drought tolerant and prefers slightly acidic soils *it* grows best in [lime-free](#), well-drained stony soil in full sun to part shade. It grows to about 90 to 120 cm (3.0 to 3.9 ft) tall in height with a similar spread. Like other members of the genus, it has a very deep taproot, which makes it quite difficult to move once planted. It thrives in full sun and requires water only in times of low rainfall. One slightly negative feature it that the leaves tend to drop early in the fall, but this may be avoided by cutting the dead stems as they die back. It is commonly employed as a border plant in gardens; attractive to many pollinators and birds

Cardinal flower

Lobelia cardinalis Sun-part shade moist soils

Cardinal Flower is named for its beautiful scarlet flowers that are a nectar source for hummingbirds and swallowtail butterflies. The flowering spikes of the *Lobelia cardinalis* open from the bottom to the top and bloom from July- September reaching 2-4' in height. They grow best in moist, rich soils in full sun to partial shade. This is a showy plant that's great for the garden, especially in moist areas. Its blossoms also make excellent cut flowers.

Celandine Poppy

Stylophorum diphyllum Part sun moist soils

The bright yellow blooms of Celandine Poppy are such a treat in spring, complimenting the purples and whites of other early bloomers well. Its blooms occur mid to late spring and last at least 3 weeks. Once seed pods ripen, they disperse an abundance of seeds, causing the formation of colonies. Seeds are further distributed by ants that enjoy the elaiosomes on the seeds. If planted in shaded areas, foliage will stay green all summer long. Exposure to too much sun during hot months can cause scorching of the leaves

Monarda or Wild Bergamot

Monarda fistulosa Sun-part shade well drained soil

Wild bergamot is a clump-forming, mint family member that grows 2-4' tall. Flowers are lavender in color, sit solitary on top of each stem, and are a favorite of bees and butterflies. This plant tolerates somewhat poor soils and some drought, but needs good circulation. Deadhead flowers to prolong summer bloom. Tends to self-seed and can create large colonies in the right conditions.

Common Milkweed

Asclepias syriaca Sun-part sun adapts to most soils part

One of the most durable and underrated of the *Asclepias* genus. The fragrance of the flowers alone makes this one of the must-haves for a garden that can spare a little space, not to mention that it seems to be one of the most visited by our favorite pollinators and other insects. It can handle bad soil conditions of all types as long as it is not too wet. We recommend that you plant only a handful at most because it may "run" on the unsuspecting gardener. Host for the Monarch caterpillar as well as many other pollinator

