

LOCAL ECOTYPE PROGRAM

VAN BERKUM NURSERY



SELT

2026

VAN BERKUM

WHAT WE'RE ALL ABOUT

Uniquely Curated Perennial Collection

Rooted in VBN's eccentric, joyful heart, we grow a wide, carefully curated collection of character-full perennials—celebrating the full breadth of what New England gardens can hold.

New England Woodlanders®

Native New England shade plants that are nursery propagated

New England Meadows®

Our sunny native meadow cultivars

Wicked Ruggeds

A selection of plants that truly stand the test of time in our harsh climate

Local Ecotype

New England native plants grown from locally collected 'wild' seed

Eco 50 Plug Program

An economical, environmentally sound way to establish native perennial plantings at scale. Local Ecotype, New England native, seed-grown plants that honor genetic diversity, strengthen regional resilience, and support the living communities that depend on them.

Customer Service

The best in the industry. From the ordering process through to the delivery, we strive to be helpful and informative.

Excellent Availability

We produce a weekly list through the busy season for both landscapers and garden centers, with ratings for every plant in the nursery. You can sign-up to receive emails on the Availability Page of our website.

Informative Resource Guide and Website

Photos and information that you and your clients can use as a resource. Call us for the price list and availability password.
www.vanberkumnursery.com



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Local Ecotype

Our Local Ecotype (LE) line celebrates the ecological integrity and natural resilience of New England's native flora. Every plant we offer in this collection is grown from seed—never propagated from cuttings—to ensure strong genetic diversity and regional adaptation. We begin with wild-collected seed sourced responsibly from within the political boundaries of the 6 New England states, primarily from ecoregions 58 and 59, with some collections from ecoregions 82 and 84. These seeds are used to establish on-site seed increase gardens at our nursery and at Sanborn Hill Seed Farm, located on the boundary between ecoregions 58g and 59h. Increase gardens allow us to grow large numbers of Native New England plants while minimizing impact on wild plant populations.

By allowing plants from across New England to cross-pollinate naturally, we cultivate a diverse, regionally adapted gene pool—a true New England genetic generalist. The result is a line of native plants that are resilient, genetically diverse, and ecologically beneficial.

Our Local Ecotype natives:

- Encourage biodiversity and support pollinators and wildlife
- Preserve and promote local genetic diversity
- Thrive in New England's varied and changing climate
- Integrate easily into gardens and landscapes alongside cultivars
- Require minimal maintenance once established

Rooted in place and grown with care, our Local Ecotype plants embody the wild beauty and ecological strength of New England.

VBN Local Ecotype Terms and Concepts:

- All plants offered in our LE line have been seed-grown.
- We use wild-collected seed to create on-site seed increase gardens, thereby limiting our dependence and impact on wild plant populations.
- Our nursery and Sanborn Hill Seed Farm, where seed is grown for production, lies on the boundary between ecoregions 58g and 59h.
- All wild-collected seed used for seed increase gardens has been collected within the political boundaries of the 6 New England states.
- Most, but not all, collected seeds have come from ecoregions 58 and 59, but collections may also include seed from ecoregions 82 and 84.
- All seeds have been collected either by VBN professionals or sourced from a small group of trusted New England professionals.
- Species offerings grown in our seed increase plots are typically comprised of plants grown from seed with varying origins, all within New England, allowed to cross-pollinate, thus leading to a New England genetic generalist plant.





Sanborn Hill Seed Farm

In recent years, awareness of the critical role native plants play in environmental health and ecosystem stability has grown considerably. Native plant species, particularly those with known regional provenance, are now widely recognized as foundational to the resilience of local ecosystems, both large and small. These plants, having co-evolved with local climates and wildlife, provide essential ecological services to the web of life that sustains us all. In conversations with a diverse range of stakeholders across the Northeast, one theme has continued to emerge. While many great people and organizations are working on solutions, there is currently no reliable source of regionally appropriate native seed or plants to meet the demands of large-scale planting projects. As a result, seed and plugs from a wide range of sources are often used in New England, despite not having a local point of origin.

The demand for native plants of New England wild seed origin, grown in New England, is here and growing stronger every day. Our answer to this growing need is Sanborn Hill Seed Farm.

Sanborn Hill Farm's 23-acre hillside perch boasts impressive views, historic charm, and a central New England location, ideal for seed increase and native plant education.

It is also one of the most beautiful and historic properties in Epsom, having been owned by only three families since its construction in 1794: the Sanborn Family, the Clark Family, and now, Sanborn Hill Seed Farm. In addition to seed increase, the farm offers unique opportunities as a mixed-use property, including:

- Native seed production, processing, and storage
- Meeting and event space for Van Berkum Nursery
- Educational facilities for industry partners and small professional groups

We envision Sanborn Hill Farm as a hub for native plant professionals across the Northeast. We invite you to join us!



Eco 50 Plug Program

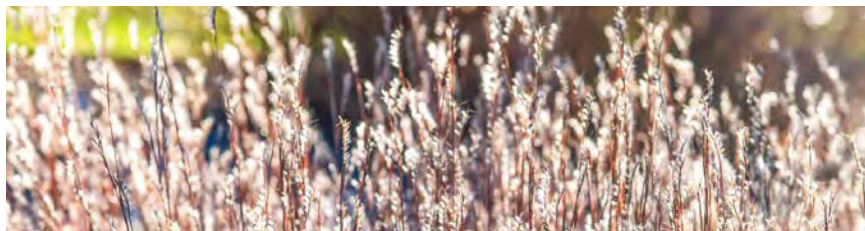
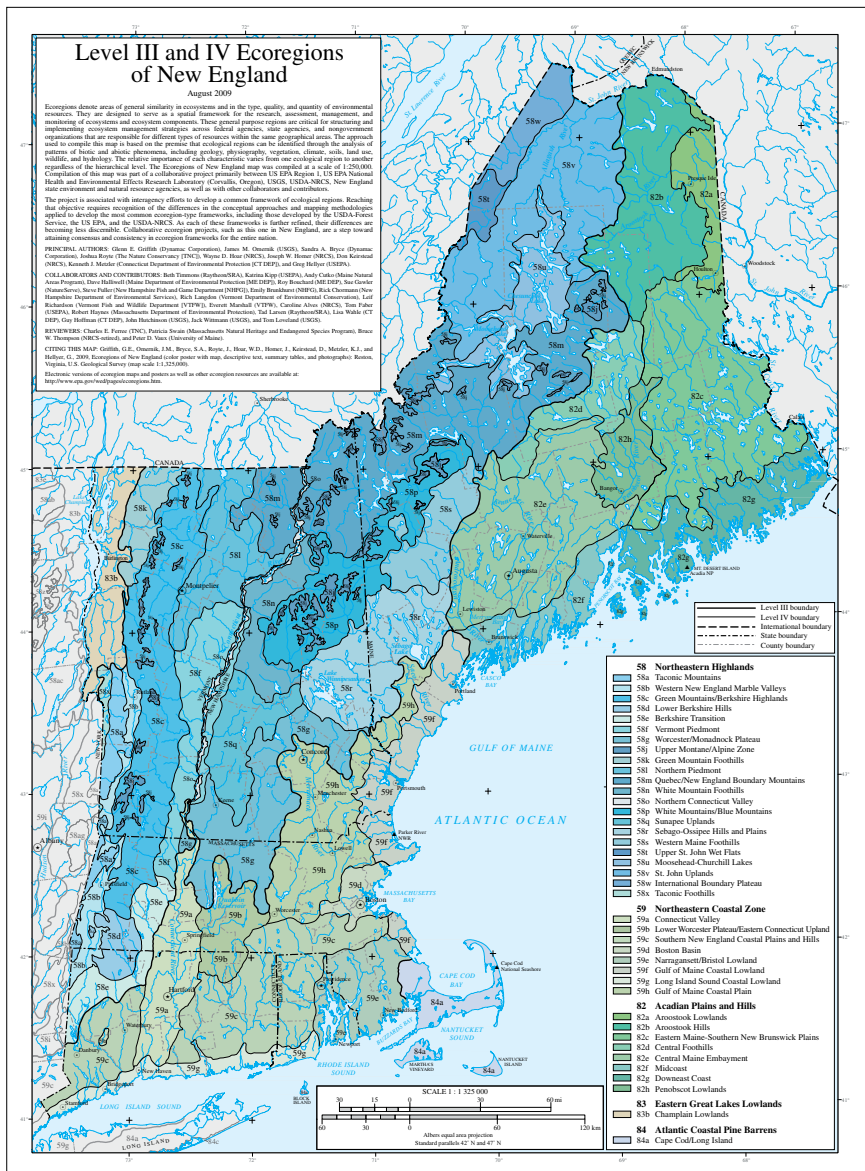
Our Eco 50 Plug Program offers an economical, ecologically sound way to establish native perennial plantings at scale. Each plug is a Local Ecotype New England native, seed-grown for genetic diversity and regional adaptability. Grown in deep 4.5-inch cells, Eco 50 plugs develop strong root systems that establish quickly, need less watering, and support soil stability. Ideal for meadows, restoration projects, and large-scale gardens, our Eco 50s help create resilient, self-sustaining landscapes rooted in New England's native ecology.



Anticipated 2026 Eco 50 offerings

<i>Achillea millifolium</i>	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>
<i>Ageratina altissima</i> (<i>Eupatorium rugosum</i>)	<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i>
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	<i>Pycnanthemum muticum</i>
<i>Chelone glabra</i>	<i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i>
<i>Dollingeria umbellata</i>	<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>
<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>	<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	<i>Saxifraga virginensis</i>
<i>Eurybia divaricata</i>	<i>Solidago bicolor</i>
<i>Eurybia macrophylla</i>	<i>Solidago caesia</i>
<i>Eutrochium dubium</i>	<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>
<i>Eutrochium maculatum</i>	<i>Solidago rugosa</i>
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	<i>Solidago sempervirens</i>
<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	<i>Symphiotrichum cordifolius</i>
<i>Helianthus decapetalus</i>	<i>Symphiotrichum leave</i>
<i>Helianthus divaricatus</i>	<i>Symphiotrichum novae-angliae</i>
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	<i>Symphiotrichum novae-belgii</i>
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	<i>Symphiotrichum puniceum</i>
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	<i>Thalictrum pubescens</i>
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	<i>Verbena hastata</i>





LOCAL ECOTYPE OFFERINGS

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KEY

Attracts pollinators	Host Plant	Groundcover
Erosion Control	Rabbit Resistant	Deer Resistant
Drought Tolerant	Salt Tolerant	Wetland Buffer
Ornamental foliage	Wicked Rugged	Seed Grown

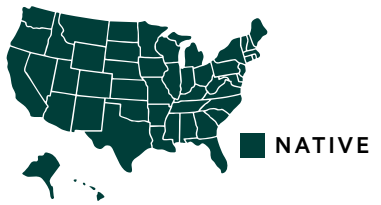


Achillea millefolium

(Common Yarrow)

History of use as medicine, insecticide and fumigant. Grows well in disturbed areas and lean soils. Good groundcover for dry areas. Cutting back flower stems after bloom will create a sturdier plant.

- Zone:** 3-9
- Eco region:** 58 59 82 83 84
- Bloom color:** white
- Soils:** dry to average
- Light:** Sun
- Spread:** 2-3'
- Height:** 24-36"
- Host:** Painted Lady butterfly
- Pollinators:** Cinquefoil Masked bee, Sanicle Masked bee

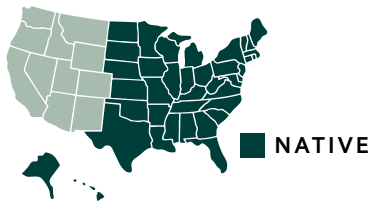


Ageratina altissima

(White Snakeroot)

Flat topped branching clusters of fuzzy white flowers with large, toothed, heart shaped deep green leaves. Great shade tolerance and can take wet to dry soils. If allowed to set seed, this plant will spread. Makes a great woodland groundcover.

- Zone:** 3-8
- Eco region:** 83 59 84 82 58
- Bloom color:** white
- Soils:** moist to dry
- Light:** shade/sun
- Spread:** 24-36"
- Height:** 24-36"
- Host:** Clymene moth, Dusky Groundling moth, Hitched Arches moth





Antennaria plantaginifolia (Plantain pussytoes)

Naturally does well in thin, acidic soils, making it great in a rock garden setting or even as a lawn alternative. Its charming and unique flowers add ecological value to various possible habitats. *A. plantaginifolia* has broader leaves with 3-5 prominent veins. Note: *A. plantaginifolia* and *A. neglecta* can be challenging to differentiate; their primary differences exist in their leaves.

Zones: 3-8

Eco region: 58, 59, 82, 83, 84

Bloom Color: white

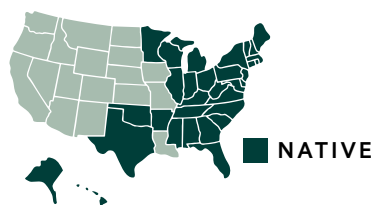
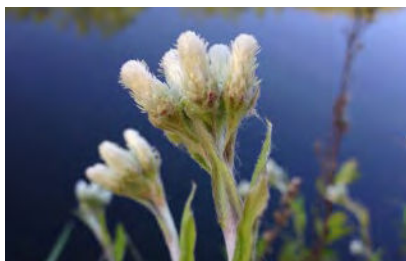
Soils: average to dry

Light: sun

Spread: 12-24"

Height: 1-3"

Host: American Painted lady and host for certain insect-induced galls



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Antennaria neglecta (Field pussytoes)

Prefers well-drained, lean, gritty soil. This stoloniferous, mat-forming perennial has woolly foliage and produces small, white, aster-like blooms. It's excellent for sun-drenched rock gardens, dry lawns, or planting at the base of trees.

Antennaria neglecta and *A. plantaginifolia* can be difficult to distinguish; their primary differences are in the leaves. *A. neglecta* typically has narrower leaves with one to two prominent veins and tends to grow shorter than *A. plantaginifolia*.

Zones: 3-8

Eco region: 58, 59, 82, 83, 84

Bloom color: white

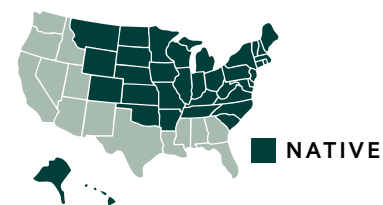
Soils: dry to average

Light: sun/ pt. shade

Spread: 6-12" **Height:** 1-3"

Host: American painted lady butterfly

Pollinators: Important to early season pollinators, *Andrena* (mining bees), *Lasioglossum* (small sweat bees), *Halictus* (sweat bees), and *Nomada* (cuckoo bees)



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Aquilegia canadensis (Red Columbine)

A tough native. Prefers well drained soil with good moisture. Amazing yellow/red bell flowers are a native food source for Hummingbirds! Foliage will remain attractive all summer with enough moisture. Good resistance to leaf miner damage.

Zone: 2-10

Eco region: 58 59 82 83 84

Bloom color: red-yellow

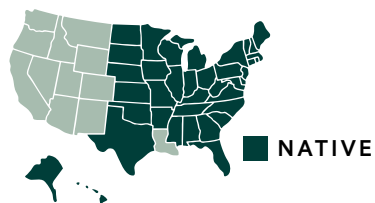
Soils: moist to normal

Light: sun/pt. shade

Spread: 8-12"

Height: 24"

Host: Columbine Duskywing butterfly



Aralia racemosa (American Spikenard)

Large bushy native with handsome foliage and wide branching habit. Flowers in a long cluster of umbels, then bears purple berries in the fall. In the ginseng family, noted for its aromatic root. Fills a large area.

Zone: 5-9

Eco region: 58 59 82 83

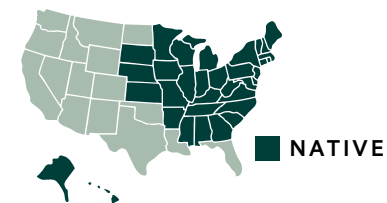
Bloom color: whitish

Soils: moist to normal

Light: sun/pt. shade

Spread: 2-4'

Height: 36-60"





Asclepias incarnata (Swamp Milkweed)

Showy pink flowers with a slight vanilla scent and attractive seed pods. Host for Monarch butterflies and food source for other beneficial insects. Native to most of the US. Long-lived and easy to grow. Late to emerge in the spring.

Zone: 3-8

Eco region: 58 59 82 83 84

Bloom color: pink

Soils: wet to normal

Light: sun/pt.shade

Spread: 12-24"

Height: 24-48"

Host: Monarch butterfly

Pollinators: Many species of bumble and honey bees



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Asclepias syriaca (Common Milkweed)

This native has stout upright stems with thick leaves and umbels of fragrant, dusty pink blooms. Leaves are food for Monarch caterpillars and blooms are a nectar source for other pollinators. Will spread by seed and rhizomes.

Zone: 3-9

Eco region: 58 59 82 83 84

Bloom color: purple

Soils: dry to normal

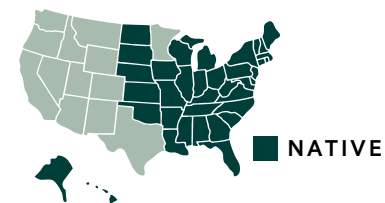
Light: sun/pt.shade

Spread: 36-60"

Height: 24-36"

Host: Monarch butterfly

Pollinators: Many species of bees beetles and wasps



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Chamerion angustifolium (Fireweed)

Large fuchsia floral spikes from mid-summer to frost, this robust native colonizer prefers rich loose soils with normal to wet moisture, and can tolerate full sun to part sun locations. Quite versatile for use in gardens and meadows.

Zone: 2-7

Eco region: 58 59 82 83 84

Bloom color: pink vivid

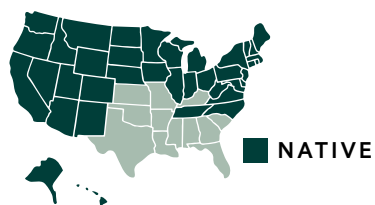
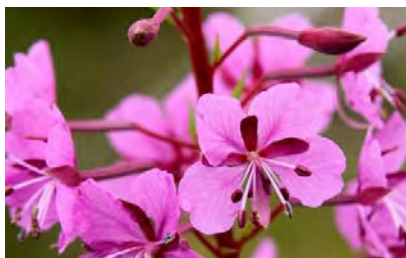
Soils: moist to normal

Light: sun/pt. shade

Spread: 2-3'

Height: 36-72"

Host: Fireweed Clearwing moth,
Bedstraw Hawkmoth moth, Nessus
Spinx moth



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Chelone glabra (White Turtlehead)

White flowers that stand out against the dark green foliage. It is rhizomatous so it's best to let it naturalize. Does well in boggy soils. Attracts butterflies.

Zone: 3-9

Eco region: 58 59 82 83 84

Bloom color: white

Soils: moist to normal

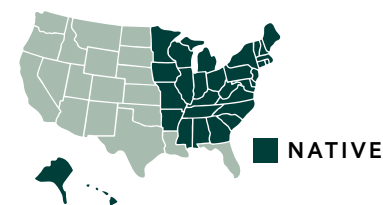
Light: sun/pt. shade

Spread: 12-24"

Height: 8-20'

Host: Baltimore Checkerspot larvae,
Buckeye Butterfly

Pollinators: Bumblebees



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Clematis virginiana (Virgin's-Bower)

Wonderful small flowered clematis will twine itself up through shrubs and trees, but never strangles branches. Ideal on a trellis, this vine is dioecious, but male and female plants will both form white flower displays.

Zone: 3-9

Eco region: 84 82 58 83 59

Bloom color: white

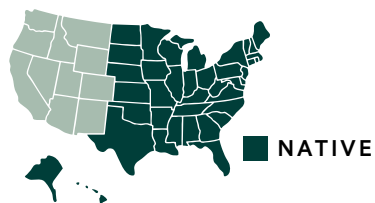
Soils: average/normal

Light: sun/pt. shade

Spread: 3-5'

Height: 8-20'

Host: Clematis Clearwing moth,
Brown Bark Carpet moth and
several other species of moths



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Doellingeria umbellata (Flat Topped Aster)

Robust and summer blooming, with white to cream flowers and yellow centers. Prefers wet to moist conditions in sandier soils. Great for the back of the border.

Zone: 3-9

Eco region: 84 82 58 83 59

Bloom color: white

Soils: moist to dry

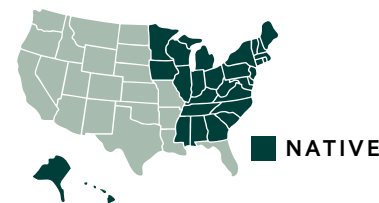
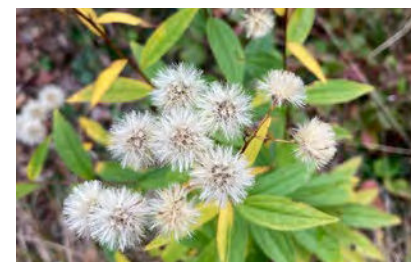
Light: sun/pt. shade

Spread: 3-4'

Height: 24-60"

Host: Pearl Crescent Butterfly,
Silvery checkerspot Butterfly

Pollinators: several species of
moths



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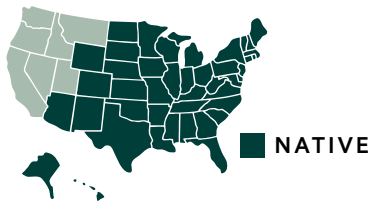


Eragrostis spectabilis

(Purple Lovegrass)

This native grass forms drifts like soft purple clouds. Native to most areas east of the Rockies. Tolerates infertile, sandy soils, is clump forming and self-sowing. Imagine sunny mixed borders, roadsides, driveways, naturalized areas.

- Zone: 5-9
 - Eco region: 82 58 83 59 84
 - Bloom color: purple
 - Soils: dry to normal
 - Light: sun
 - Spread: 10-16"
 - Height: 18 -24"
 - Host: Zabulon Skipper caterpillar
-

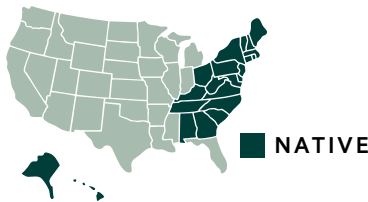


Eurybia divaricata

(White Wood Aster)

This low mounding aster features dark green heart to oval shaped leaves and starry white flowers late in the season. Perfect for lighting up shady areas, this is a tough and adaptable colony-forming native.

- Zone: 3-8
 - Eco region: 58 59 82 84
 - Bloom color: white
 - Soils: dry to normal
 - Light: sun/shade
 - Spread: 12-18"
 - Height: 12-18"
 - Host: Silvery Checkerspot butterfly, Pearl Crescent butterfly
-

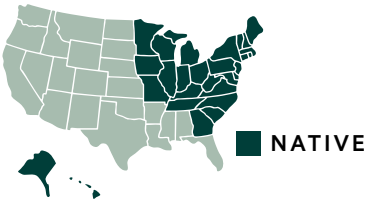




Eurybia macrophylla *(Big Leaf Aster)*

Tall stems bear open clusters of bright violet flowers in late summer. Forms a dense and handsome groundcover. Will take dry wooded conditions and prefers dappled shade or morning sun. Host for the Pearl Crescent butterfly.

- Zone:** 3-8
- Eco region:** 83 59 84 82 58
- Bloom color:** purple
- Soils:** dry to normal
- Light:** sun/pt.shade
- Spread:** 16-24"
- Height:** 24-48"
- Host:** Harris' Checkerspot butterfly, Pearl Crescent butterfly
- Pollinators:** several species of moths



Eutrochium dubium *(Coastal Plain Joe-Pye Weed)*

Bright green leaves are whorled around purple spotted stems and bear large clusters of mauve-pink flowers. A naturally compact grower, and prefers sunny moist sites.

- Zone:** 4-8
- Eco region:** 58 59 84
- Bloom color:** mauve
- Soils:** wet to normal
- Light:** sun/pt. shade
- Spread:** 2-4'
- Height:** 24-60"
- Host:** Ruby Tiger moth, Clymene moth, Bonset Borer moth
- Pollinators:** Late-flying bees and butterflies



Photo credit: Master Gardeners, NVA

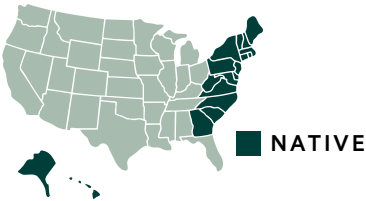




Photo credit: Wildflowers of the National Capital Region



Eutrochium maculatum (Spotted Joe Pye Weed)

Tall and clump forming, with whorls of large bold green foliage and sturdy pink tinted stems. Large clusters of mauve pink flowers top unbranching stems. Prefers consistently moist soils. Leaf scorch may occur in dry conditions.

Zone: 2-7

Eco region: 83 59 84 82 58

Bloom color: mauve

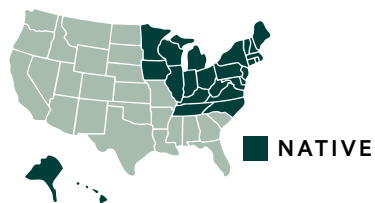
Soils: wet to normal

Light: sun/pt.shade

Spread: 3-4'

Height: 36-72"

Host: Ruby Tiger moth, Clymene moth, Bonset Borer moth



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Eupatorium perfoliatum (Boneset)

A favorite nectar source of pollinators with a showy white flower. Late bloomer for borders, woodland gardens, or pond banks. Indigenous to wet edges and alluvial woods. Upright and sturdy, will form a small colony. Medium to wet soil.

Zone: 3-8

Eco region: 83 59 84 82 58

Bloom color: white

Soils: wet to normal

Light: sun/shade

Spread: 3-4'

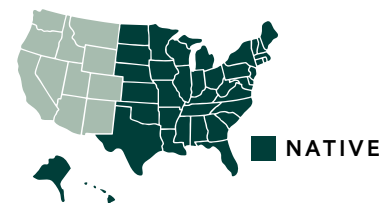
Height: 36-72"

Host: Three Lined Flower moth, Bonset Borer moth, Clyme moth

Pollinators: Several species of bumble bees



Photo credit: creative commons



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Euthamia graminifolia (Flat-top Goldenrod)

Grassy like stems with smooth and narrow leaves hold up flat-topped flower clusters of bright yellow. Tough and vigorous, adaptable to many soils types. Happiest in moist, sunny sites, but can take dry conditions with part shade.

Zone: 3-9

Eco region: 84 82 58 83 59

Bloom color: yellow

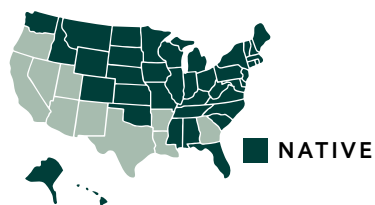
Soils: moist to dry

Light: sun/pt. shade

Spread: 2-6'

Height: 24-48"

Host: Goldenrod Hooded Owlet moth, Wavy-lined Emerald moth, Brown-hooded Owlet moth



Fragaria vesca (Woodland Strawberry)

A wonderful native groundcover. Plants spread by runners - may have to keep in check in good soil. Sweet white flowers give way to small edible strawberries. Perfect for naturalized or woodland spaces, but happy in any garden.

Zone: 5-9

Eco region: 58 83 59 84 82

Bloom color: white

Soils: average/normal

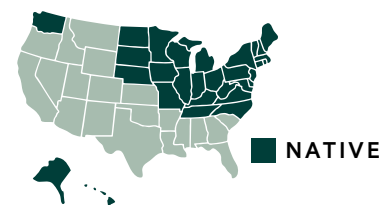
Light: sun/pt. shade

Spread: 6-12"

Height: 3-12"

Host: Purple-lined Sallow moth, Smeared Dagger moth

Pollinators: Andrena Melanochora bee





Geranium maculatum (Spotted Cranesbill)

Drought-tolerant once established, but spreads vigorously in moist soil to form a dense, attractive patch. Soft green foliage and pink-lavender blooms pair beautifully with taller woodland plants or spring bulbs—a valuable pollinator plant, native geranium provides both nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies, and birds. It also supports the specialist bee *Andrena distans*, which depends on geraniums for survival.

Zone: 3-9

Eco region: 82, 58, 83, 59, 84

Bloom color: soft purple pink

Soils: moist to average

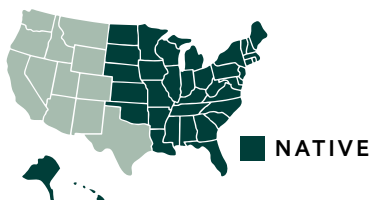
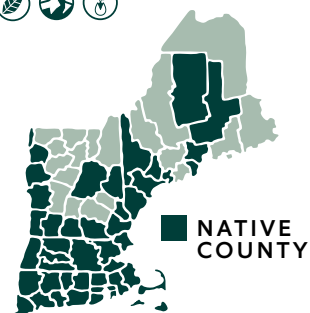
Light: sun/ pt. shade

Spread: 8-12"

Height: 12-18"

Host: White-Marked Tussock moth and the Leaf-mining moth

Pollinators: A pollinator powerhouse



**VAN
BERKUM**

Helenium autumnale (Sneezeweed)

Large yellow single daisy-like flowers are held on strong stems. Responds well to pinching and has low fertilizer needs. Prefers moist soils, even clay, in full sun, but will tolerate periods of drought. Great for the butterfly garden.

Zone: 3-8

Eco region: 84 82 58 83 59

Bloom color: yellow

Soils: moist to dry

Light: sun

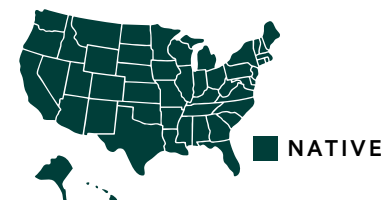
Spread: 2-3'

Height: 36-60"

Host: Dainty Sulphur butterfly, Rigid Sunflower Borer moth



Photo credit: creative commons



**VAN
BERKUM**



Helianthus decapetalus

(Thin-leaved sunflower)

Eastern U.S. native that can tolerate some shade. Found wild in wet open woods, clearings, meadows, and river banks. Also called 10 petaled sunflower. Host plant for the checkerspot butterfly.

Zone: 4-9

Eco region: 58 59 82 83 84

Bloom color: yellow

Soils: average/normal

Light: sun/pt.shade

Spread: 2-3'

Height: 48-60"

Host: Checkerspot butterfly



Photo credit: creative commons

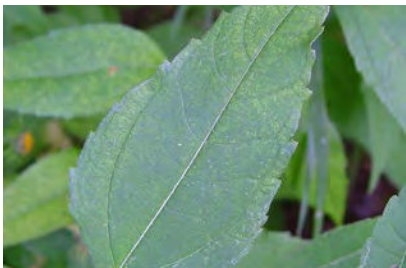
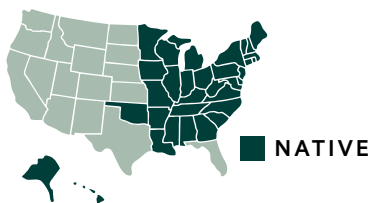


Photo credit: NPT



Hibiscus moscheutos

(Swamp Mallow)

Our native hibiscus features pink, sometimes white, flowers with bright green foliage. With a long bloom time, this stately plant is slow to emerge in spring but will fill a large area. Prefers medium to wet soils - a regular deep watering is ideal.

Zone: 4-9

Eco region: 59 84

Bloom color: pink, white

Soils: moist to normal

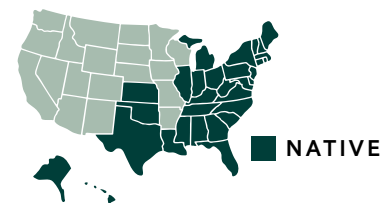
Light: sun

Spread: 2-4'

Height: 36-84"



Photo credit: creative commons





Ionactis linariifolia (Stiff Aster)

Small purple flowers with yellow centers and unusual needle-like foliage that stays neat and low. Likes drier soils and almost never has a mildew problem. Best in full sun. Can be used as a groundcover.

Zone: 4-8

Eco region: 58 59 84

Bloom color: violet

Soils: dry to normal

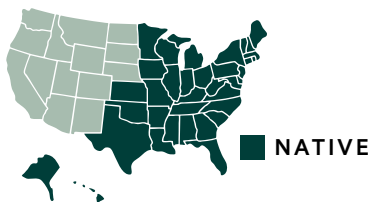
Light: sun/shade

Spread: 6-10"

Height: 12-24"

Host: Pearl Crescent butterfly, Silvery checkerspot butterfly

Pollinators: several species of moths



Iris versicolor (Blue Flag)

A graceful native found in marshy areas but suitable for average garden culture. Will take standing water. Can be left undisturbed for years. A New England Meadow perennial.

Zone: 4-9

Eco region: 58 59 82 83 84

Bloom color: blue

Soils: wet to normal

Light: sun/pt.shade

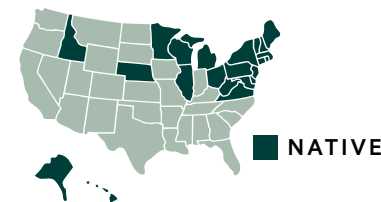
Spread: 24-36"

Height: 24"

Host: 13 species of Lepidoptera larvae, Virginia Ctenucha moth



Photo credit: creative commons





Liatris n.a. var. novae-angliae

(New England Blazing Star)

This native wildflower has tall spikes of red purple button like flowers. Likes dryer conditions, and can be found wild in sand barrens and coastal habitats. Will not tolerate wet winter soils.

Zone: 3-9

Eco region: 83 58 84 59

Bloom color: purple

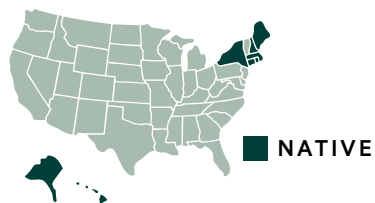
Soils: dry to normal

Light: sun

Spread: 10-14"

Height: 12-42"

Host: Liatris Borer moth, Liatris Flower moth, Wavy lined Emerald moth



VAN
BERKUM

Lobelia cardinalis

(Cardinal Flower)

One of our most amazing natives! Scarlet red spikes develop and bloom almost all summer. An important food source for hummingbirds. Constant moisture needed for this wetland plant. Can be short lived, allow to reseed to enhance population.

Zone: 3-9

Eco region: 84 82 58 83 59

Bloom color: scarlet

Soils: wet to normal

Light: shade/pt. shade

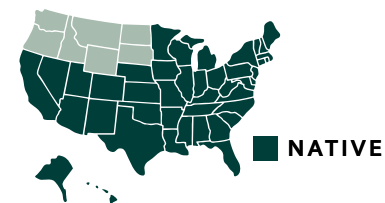
Spread: 8-12"

Height: 24-48"

Host: Pink-washed Looper moth, Greater Black-letter Dart moth



Photo credit: creative commons



VAN
BERKUM



Photo credit: creative commons



Lobelia siphilitica

(Great Blue Lobelia)

A clump forming native that thrives in boggy situations. Short lived but reseeds readily. Thick stems are topped with light blue flowers, although occasionally blooms are white due to recessive color gene. Best in masses.

Zone: 3-9

Eco region: 58 59 83 84

Bloom color: blue clear

Soils: wet to normal

Light: shade/pt. shade

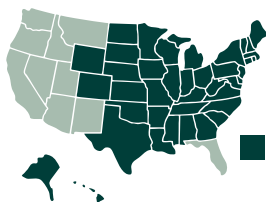
Spread: 12-16"

Height: 24-36"

Host: Pink-washed Looper moth,
Greater Black-letter Dart moth



Photo credit: creative commons



VAN
BERKUM

Micranthes virginensis

(Early Saxifrage)

An early native bloomer, with crisp, scalloped leaves and white flowers on hairy stems. Loves rocky outcroppings. Tolerant of a wide variety of sun and moisture conditions as long as it is well drained, but don't consider it drought tolerant.

Zone: 3-8

Eco region: 84 82 58 83 59

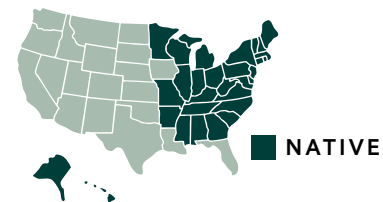
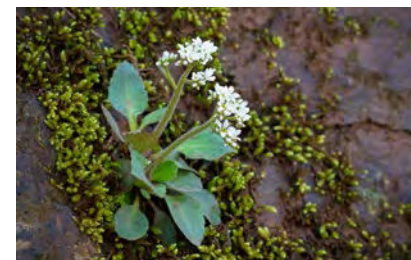
Bloom color: white

Soils: average/normal

Light: sun/shade

Spread: 4-8"

Height: 4-10"



VAN
BERKUM



Mimulus ringens

(Square Stem Monkey Flower)

Native wetland plant, commonly found along streams, ponds, swamps, and wet meadows. Needless to say, this monkey flower needs consistently wet soils. Flowers are lilac purple to pink and resemble snap dragons.

Zone: 3-8

Eco region: 58 59 82 83 84

Bloom color: purple

Soils: wet to normal

Light: sun/pt.shade

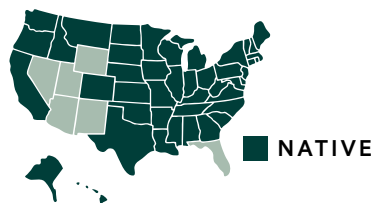
Spread: 6-12"

Height: 12-36"

Host: Baltimore checkerspot butterflies and Common Buckeye butterfly



Photo credit: Arie Tal- botphoto.com (NPT)



VAN
BERKUM

Monarda fistulosa

(Wild Bergamot)

Native bee balm with lavender-pink flowers and will spread slowly with runners. Lighter green foliage than other bee balm. Likes good air circulation and will tolerate clay soils.

Zone: 3-9

Eco region: 59 84 82 58 83

Bloom color: pink

Soils: moist to dry

Light: sun/pt. shade

Spread: 12-18"

Height: 24-48"

Host: Hermit Sphinx moth, Orange Mint moth, Raspberry Pyrausta moth

Pollinators: Many Bumble bees

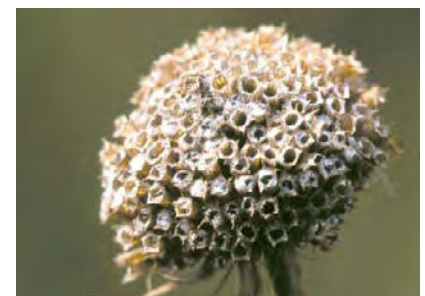
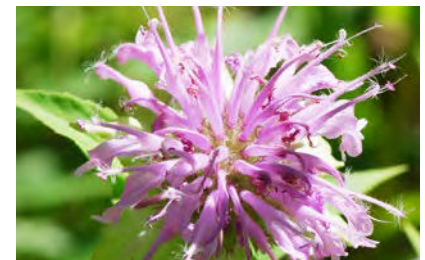
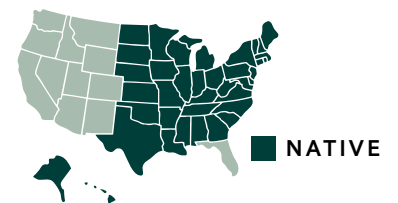


Photo credit: creative commons



VAN
BERKUM



Photo credit: Ariele Tal - batphoto.com (NPT)

Panicum virgatum (Switchgrass)

With a strong vase-like shape and airy clouds of pink tinged flowers, it's hard to go wrong with this easy to grow native. Tolerant of a wide variety of soil types, and fall color goes from yellow-orange to tawny-beige.

Zone: 3-9

Eco region: 58 59 82 83 84

Bloom color: pink tint

Soils: moist to normal

Light: sun

Spread: 2-3'

Height: 36-72"

Host: Several Skipper caterpillar species



VAN
BERKUM



Penstemon digitalis (Foxglove Beardtongue)

White to pink flowers held on strong spikes flower for at least a month on this prized native. Deep green leaves with red highlights. Tolerates a wide variety of light and soil situations. Very adaptable!

Zone: 3-9

Eco region: 83 59 84 82 58

Bloom color: white w/purple

Soils: moist to dry

Light: sun/shade

Spread: 14-18'

Height: 12-36"

Host: Chalcedony Checkerspot moth, Baltimore Checkerspot moth

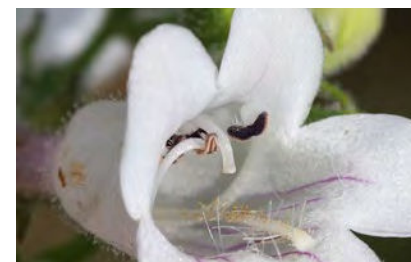
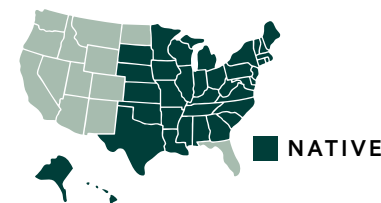


Photo credit: Wildflowers of the National Capital Region



VAN
BERKUM



Penstemon hirsutus (Northeastern Beardtongue)

Drooping trumpet-shaped purple flowers on open racemes. Host plant for several species of checkerspot butterflies. Found in a variety of habitats and tolerates medium-wet to dry soils.

Zone: 3-9

Eco region: 58 83 59 84 82

Bloom color: purple-wht

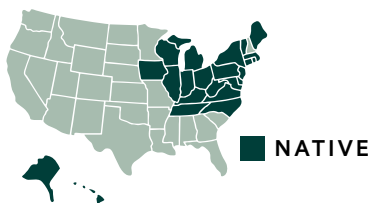
Soils: moist to dry

Light: sun/shade

Spread: 12-24"

Height: 18-24"

Host: Baltimore Checkerspot moth,
Chalcedony Checkerspot moth



**VAN
BERKUM**

Pycnanthemum muticum (Broad Leaf Mountain Mint)

A great clump-forming native that likes moist woods and meadows. Fragrant pointed oval leaves turn silver in late summer. Vigorous grower that can spread by rhizomes. Nectar plant for butterflies and other pollinators.

Zone: 3-9

Eco region: 84 59 83 58

Bloom color: white

Soils: moist to normal

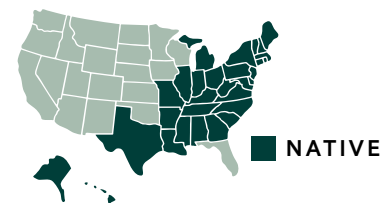
Light: sun/pt.shade

Spread: 12-36"

Height: 24-36"

Host: Hermit Sphinx butterfly

Pollinators: Attracts a vast diversity
of pollinators



**VAN
BERKUM**



Pycnanthemum tenuifolium

(Narrow Leaved Mountain Mint)

Name has slender, silvery leaves with a nice multi-branched erect habit. White flowers form in clusters at the tips of the stems. All parts of the plant emit a mint like aroma when crushed. Takes dry to wet, well drained soil.

Zone: 4-8

Eco region: 59 84 82 58 83

Bloom color: white

Soils: dry to normal

Light: sun/pt.shade

Spread: 12-36"

Height: 24-36"

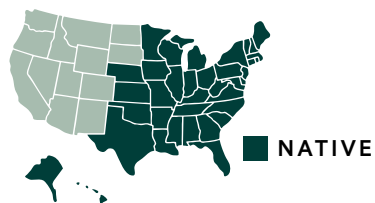
Pollinators: Attracts a vast diversity of pollinators



Photo credit: wildflowers of the National Capital Region



NATIVE COUNTY



NATIVE

**VAN
BERKUM**

Pycnanthemum virginianum

(Common Mountain Mint)

Stout and multi-branched, this native mint has strongly scented green foliage with silver bracts when in flower. Tolerates wet and moist sites, and is great for erosion control in wet areas. Not as aggressive as other species.

Zone: 3-7

Eco region: 84 82 58 83 59

Bloom color: whites

Soils: wet to normal

Light: sun/pt.shade

Spread: 1-2'

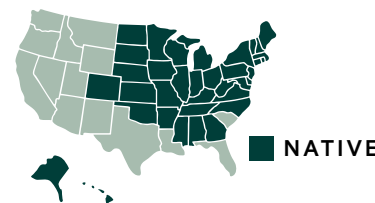
Height: 24-36"

Host: Hermit Sphinx butterfly and Tobacco Budworm moths

Pollinators: Attracts a vast diversity of pollinators



NATIVE COUNTY



NATIVE

**VAN
BERKUM**



Rubus odoratus (Flowering Raspberry)

A deciduous shrub with hairy but thornless stems. Long summer bloom of fragrant pink/purple flowers produce a bland raspberry. Best in naturalized gardens with some growing space.

Zone: 3-8

Eco region: 58 83 59 84 82

Bloom color: pink-purple

Soils: average/normal

Light: sun/pt.shade

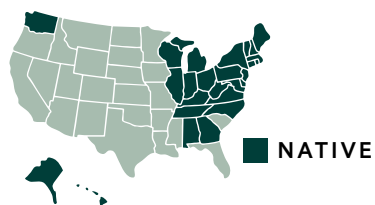
Spread: 4-6'

Height: 36-72"

Host: Lettered Habrosyne moth



Photo credit: creative commons



VAN
BERKUM

Rudbeckia laciniata (Cutleaf Conflower)

Tall, clump-forming, with sunflower like flowers and domed green centers. Indigenous to wet meadows and shady banks, colonizes by rhizomes. Sometimes called the Outhouse Flower since it was used to hide such places.

Zone: 3-9

Eco region: 58 59 82 83

Bloom color: yellow

Soils: wet to normal

Light: sun/ lt. shade

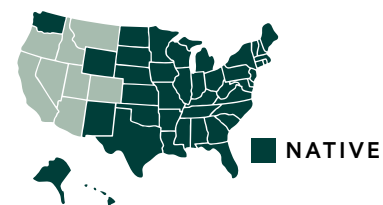
Spread: 24-42"

Height: 36-96"

Host: Silvery Checkerspot butterfly



Photo credit: creative commons



VAN
BERKUM



Photo credit: creative commons

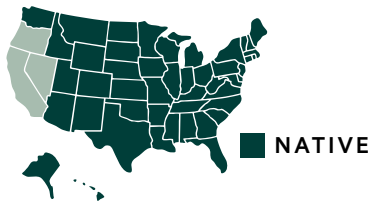


Schizachyrium scoparium

(Little Bluestem)

This highly adaptable native grass has upright narrow blue-green foliage with fall color, changing from orange bronze to tan. Floral shoots emerge with a purple tinge and give way to silver seed heads. Likes lean soils. 2022 Perennial Plant of the Year.

Zone: 3-9
Eco region: 83 59 84 82 58
Bloom color: purple-silv.
Soils: dry to normal
Light: sun
Spread: 8-24"
Height: 24-48"
Host: Several Skipper caterpillar species



Sibbaldiopsis tridentata

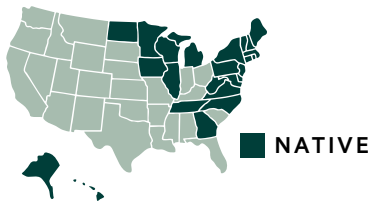
(Wineleaf Cinquefoil)

Vigorous ground cover for dry banks or rock gardens. Leaves resemble shrub potentillas and take on a reddish fall color. Small strawberry-like flowers.

Zone: 2-8
Eco region: 58 59 82 83 84
Bloom color: white
Soils: dry to normal
Light: sun
Spread: 8-18"
Height: 2-6"



Photo credit: NPT





Solidago bicolor (White Goldenrod)

Distinctive to the Solidago genus, this goldenrod has white petals with abundant yellow pollen. An excellent solution for poor, dry, and rocky soils in sunny spots and along woodland edges.

Zone: 3-9

Eco region: 58 59 82 83 84

Bloom color: white

Soils: dry average

Light: shade/pt. shade

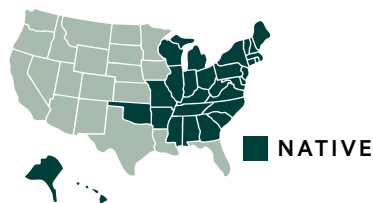
Spread: 1-2'

Height: 12"

Host: Baltimore Checkerspot butterfly, Brown-hooded Owlet moth, Wavy-lined Emerald moth



Photo credit: Jasmin Callahan



Solidago caesia (Wreath Goldenrod)

Native to the central and eastern U.S. and tolerates dry, poor soils. Clump forming and will not spread aggressively, and has arching and wiry glabrous blue tinged stems. Flowers strongest in full sun but will grow happily in part shade.

Zone: 4-8

Eco region: 58 83 59 84 82

Bloom color: yellow

Soils: moist to dry

Light: sun/pt.shade

Spread: 12-24"

Height: 18-36"

Host: Goldenrod Hooded Owlet moth, Green Leuconycta, Wavy-lined Emerald moth

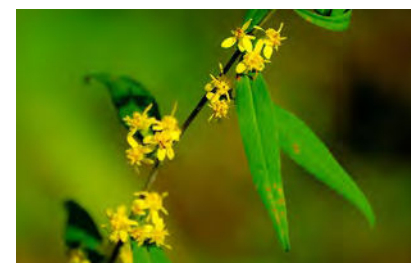
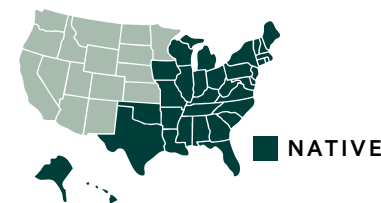


Photo credit: creative commons





Solidago flexicaulis (Zig-Zag Goldenrod)

Stems have a distinct zig-zag pattern, with delicate yellow flowers in each axil. Perfect in sun-dappled settings and looks lovely in open shade areas at the base of trees. Substantial basal foliage helps control erosion.

Zone: 3-8

Eco region: 82 83 59 84

Bloom color: yellow

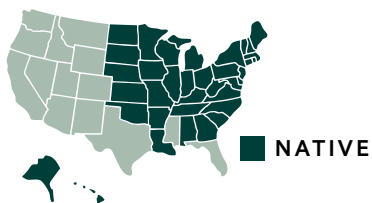
Soils: moist to dry

Light: sun/pt. shade

Spread: 1-3'

Height: 12-36"

Host: Brown-hooded Owlet moth,
Bilobed Dichomeris moth, Twirler
moth



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BERKUM

Solidago nemoralis (Gray Goldenrod)

Upright, un-branched foliage on this tough and highly adaptable goldenrod. Yellow, wand like flowers appear in late season and flower for months. Excellent plant for difficult areas. Keep dry to prevent aggressive spreading.

Zone: 3-9

Eco region: 58 83 59 84 82

Bloom color: yellow

Soils: dry to normal

Light: sun/pt. shade

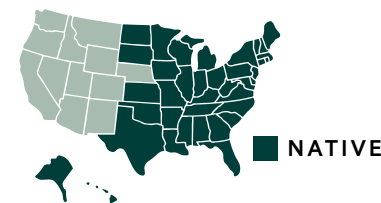
Spread: 8-12"

Height: 12-30"

Host: Goldenrod Hooded Owlet
moth, Wavy-lined Emerald moth



Photo credit: creative commons



VAN
BERKUM



Solidago puberula

(Downy Goldenrod)

Dense wand-like spikes of yellow have a long bloom time. A wonderful addition to any garden. Stays stout and erect, a fantastic cut flower and dries well. Tolerates poor and dry sandy soils and won't run rampant.

Zone: 3-9

Eco region: 58 83 59 84 82

Bloom color: yellow-gold

Soils: moist to dry

Light: sun/pt.shade

Spread: 12-24"

Height: 12-36"

Host: Goldenrod Hooded Owlet moth, Wavy-lined Emerald moth

Pollinators: Goldenrod Hooded Owlet moth, Wavy-lined Emerald moth

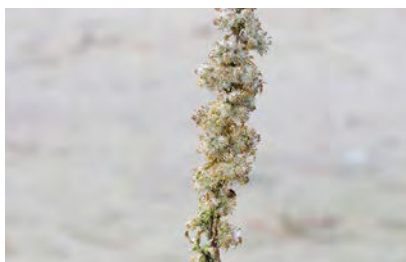
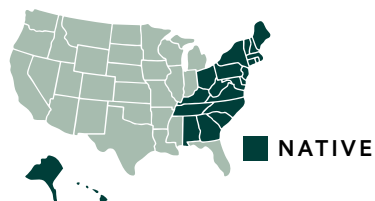


Photo credit: ArieH Tal-botphoto.com



VAN
BERKUM



Solidago rugosa

(Rough goldenrod)

Arching spikes of light yellow flowers cover this clump forming native in late summer, attracting a variety of native fauna. Leaves have a rough, wrinkled appearance. Tolerates a wide variety of sun and soil types, but prefers consistent moisture to look its best all season.

Zone: 4-8

Eco region: 59 84 82 58 83

Bloom color: yellow lt.

Soils: wet to normal

Light: sun/pt. sun

Spread: 2-5'

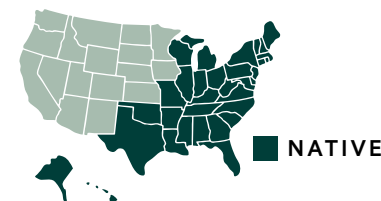
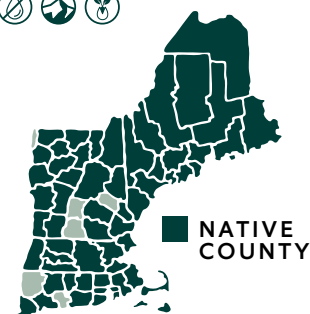
Height: 36-60"

Host: Wavy-lined Emerald moth, American lady butterfly, Orange Sulpher butterfly

Pollinators: Several species of mining bees



Photo credit: creative commons



VAN
BERKUM



Solidago sempervirens (Seaside Goldenrod)

A succulent, salt, and drought tolerant late season bloomer that provides bright visual interest with late yellow flowers. A vital food source for pollinators, and adapts well to gardens.

Zone: 3-9

Eco region: 84 59 82

Bloom color: yellow

Soils: moist to dry

Light: sun/pt. shade

Spread: 18-30"

Height: 24-40"

Host: Wavy-lined Emerald moth

Pollinators: Aster Mining bee
Beach Dune Cellophane bee



Symphyotrichum cordifolium (Blue Wood Aster)

Light blue flowers with light yellow centers. Tolerates most soil conditions, but prefers moist rich soils. Happiest in full sun to part shade. Will self sow if not deadheaded. Host plant for the Pearl Crescent butterfly.

Zone: 3-8

Eco region: 58 59 82 83 84

Bloom color: pale blue

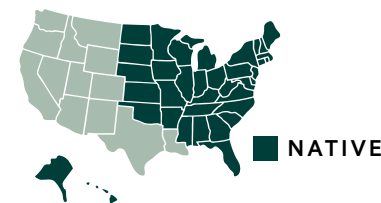
Soils: moist to dry

Light: sun/pt. shade

Spread: 18-24"

Height: 24-60"

Host: Silvery Checkerspot butterfly,
Pearl Crescent butterfly and several
species of moths.





Symphyotrichum laeve (Smooth Aster)

Robust plants with blue-gray glaucous foliage and violet blue starry flowers on panicle-like clusters. Provides a heavy dose of purple flowers in August and blooms for weeks. Sturdy, clump forming, and highly adaptable.

Zone: 3-8

Eco region: 58 59 83 84

Bloom color: purple

Soils: moist to dry

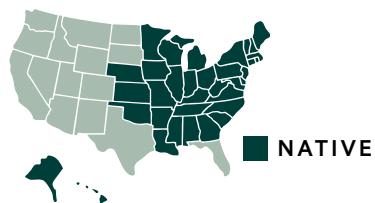
Light: sun/ lt. shade

Spread: 12-18"

Height: 24-48"

Host: Pearl Crescent butterfly,
Silvery checkerspot butterfly

Pollinators: several species of moths



VAN
BERKUM

Symphyotrichum novae-angliae (New England Aster)

Late season bloomer with flowers in shades of purple, pink, and white. Can get up to 6ft tall if left unpinched. Tolerates clay soils and likes good air circulation. Good for naturalizing.

Zone: 4-8

Eco region: 83 59 84 82 58

Bloom color: purple

Soils: moist to dry

Light: sun

Spread: 2-3'

Height: 36-72"

Host: Pearl Crescent Butterfly,
Silvery checkerspot butterfly



VAN
BERKUM



Symphyotrichum novi-belgii (New York Aster)

Smooth gray-green lance-shaped leaves give rise to tall sprays of purple flowers. Sturdy and clump forming, likes sunny sites and well-drained soils. Host plant for several native moths.

Zone: 4-8

Eco region: 84 82 58 83 59

Bloom color: purple

Soils: dry to normal

Light: sun/pt.shade

Spread: 1-2'

Height: 36-48"

Host: Pearl Crescent Butterfly, Silvery checkerspot butterfly and Painted Lady butterfly

Pollinators: several species of moths



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Thalictrum pubescens (Tall Meadow Rue)

Fluffy starry white flowers rise up from lacy blue green foliage like spikes of cotton candy. Can tolerate full sun with very moist soil, but otherwise is happiest in moist to average soils in part shade. Very striking with Ostrich Fern.

Zone: 3-8

Eco region: 84 82 58 83 59

Bloom color: white

Soils: wet to normal

Light: shade/sun

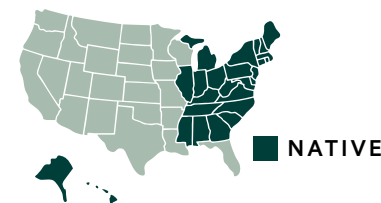
Spread: 18-36"

Height: 36-84"

Host: Canada Owlet moth, Pink-Patched Looper moth, Hitched Arch moth



Photo credit: creative commons



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Verbena hastata

(Blue Vervain)

Narrow spikey panicles of small purple flowers rise up tall in early summer. Likes moist or wet soils. Attracts a multitude of pollinators, and is the host plant for Common Buckeye butterfly. Indigenous to wet meadows and marshes.

Zone: 3-8

Eco region: 83 59 84 82 58

Bloom color: purple

Soils: wet to normal

Light: sun/pt. shade

Spread: 12-18"

Height: 24-60"

Host: Buckeye butterfly

Pollinators: Many Species of
Bumble bees



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Vernonia noveboracensis

(New York Ironweed)

This native Ironweed is a large, robust clumping perennial with deep green leaves and thick stems. They provide showy, rich purple flowers in late summer and are great background plants for the border or for use in meadow areas. Songbirds enjoy eating her seeds. Drought tolerant.

Zone: 5-8

Eco region: 83, 58, 84, 59

Bloom color: rich purple

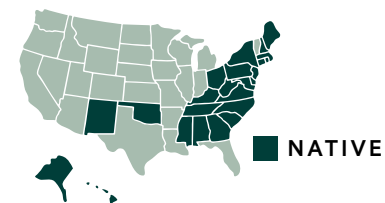
Soils: wet to average

Light: sun/ pt. shade

Spread: 3-4'

Height: 4-7'

Host: American Lady butterfly
and various skipper butterflies
like the Crossline Skipper and
Sachem, Ironweed Borer moth,
Bombus citrinus (Lemon Cuckoo
Bumble bee)



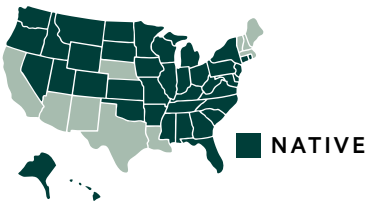
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Zizia aptera *(Heart-Leaved golden Alexander)*

Deep green, heart-shaped basal leaves shaped like tiny shovels distinguish this species from its cousin *Zizia aurea*, along with its greater drought tolerance and lush evergreen foliage. In late spring, delicate, lacy yellow umbels brighten the garden, followed by attractive purplish seed capsules. A vigorous colonizer and reliable nectar source, it supports native bees and butterflies throughout the season. Thriving in moist soils, this resilient perennial adds enduring texture, color, and ecological value to naturalized landscapes.

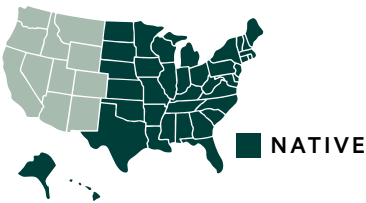
- Zones:** 4-9
- Eco region:** 59, 83, 84
- Bloom color:** bright yellow
- Soils:** Average
- Light:** sun/ pt. Shade
- Spread:** 8-12"
- Height:** 12-18"
- Host:** Swallowtail butterfly



Zizia aurea *(Golden Alexanders)*

Grows large, spreads fast, and prefers a moist site. Yellow flowers top rich green leaves in the late spring. *Z. aurea* has compound, divided basal leaves. Supports native pollinators and often blooms multiple times a year. Late flower buds will even overwinter for early bloom the next spring.

- Zone:** 4-9
- Eco region:** 58, 59, 82, 83, 84
- Bloom color:** Yellow
- Soils:** average-wet
- Light:** sun/pt. Shade
- Spread:** 10-14"
- Height:** 12-24"
- Host:** black swallowtail
- Pollinator:** small beneficial bees, wasps, and flies



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