Shade Garden for Pollinators

There are great native plant options for a shady spot. The plants featured here also selected for their beautiful foliage as well as continuous bloom from spring to fall.

Common

bees and

Yarrow attracts

butterflies and

blooms in the

hottest time of

when pollinator

the summer

foods are

scarce.

foliage.

sometimes

Beautiful lacy

A grass-like woodland ground-cover, Pennsylvania sedge provides habitat for nesting pollinators and larva. Low growing and fine textured,

Spring ephemerals
Yellow Violets
emerge and bloom before the other plants in the garden, providing valuable early food for pollinators.

A low-growing native coral bell, Alumroot provides early blooms and nectar and season-long foliage interest in a shady garden.

Solomon's Seal gracefully adds texture to a shady garden. It is pollinated by bumblebees and other native bees. Blue berries in late summer provide food for other wildlife. Pagoda
Dogwood a
sculptural small
tree, producing
copious flowers in
late spring. Violets
planted beneath
it will flower
before Pagoda
Dogwood leafs
out. Prune lower
branches to
allow space
for other plants.

1 plant

Wild Geranium is a beautiful scented, spreading powerhouse. It is easy to transplant and share its shallow rhizomes with your neighbors or your other gardens when it outgrows its space



Ohio Spiderwort flowers in the morning and closes its buds during the heat of day. It looks great planted in front of textured foliage plants like Solomon's seal and Spikenard. *won't survive in deep shade.

3 plants



Callico Aster's
lacy flowers look
best supported
by other plants.
It is a host plant
for Silvery
Checkerspot
larva. Blooms
last from
summer into
late fall. Fluffy
seed heads add
winter interest.



September-Oct.

PS 9 plants

Bloom Time



7 plants



SS 3 plants

May June July August Back (over time, Pagoda Dogwood foliage will spread to cover most of this garden) Note: To make this planting smaller, eliminate one side of the design. Keep plants ingroups to create more visual impact and make it easier for pollinators to forage efficiently. Low growing plants are in the front, taller plants in the back. 15 feet

Front



Featured Pollinator:
Silvery Checkerspot
Chlosyne nycteis

Caterpillar hosts include calico aster Nectar plants include Alumroot, Wild geranium, Pagoda Dogwood, and Common Yarrow

Substitutions for selected species

Use plants found within their natural range, this helps protect nearby native plant communities and provides plant species that are sure to be compatible with local insect populations.

Pennsylvania Sedge:

Wood Sedge, Oval Sedge, Wild Ginger, Woodland Pussytoes, Hepatica, Bloodroot, Rue Anemone, Common violet, Bishop's Cap, Blue Eyed Grass*,

Downy Yellow Violet:

Virginia
Bluebells,
Dutchman's
Breeches,
Hepatica,
Bloodroot,
Rue Anemone,
Common violet,
Bishop's Cap,
Bleeding
Heart•,
Spring Beauty,

Alumroot:

Bishop's Cap, Wild Columbine, Wild Ginger, Bloodroot, Hepatica, Large-flowered Bellwort, Sessile-leaf Bellwort, Foam Flower, Jack-in-the-Pulpit

Solomon's Seal:

False Solomon's Seal, Starry False Solomon's Seal, Hairy Solomon's Seal, Large-flowered Bellwort, Mist Flower, Ligularia •, Bugbane, Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle

Wild Geranium:

Harebells,
Turtlehead,
Rue Anemone,
Jacob's
Ladder, Foam
Flower, Blue
Giant Hyssop*,
Cardinal
Flower,
Foxglove
Beards-tongue,
Pale Corydalis*

Pagoda Dogwood:

Round leafed Dogwood, Red Osier Dogwood, Spikenard, White Bugbane, Red Baneberry, American Hazelnut, Service-berry, Redbud•

Ohio Spiderwort:

Woodland Phlox, Clasping Dogbane, Swamp Milkweed, Poke Milkweed, Bottle Gentian, Rough Blazing Star*, Blue Lobelia

Common Yarrow:

Turtlehead, Swamp Milkweed, Monarda*, Obedient Plant, Green-Headed Coneflower, Woodland Phlox, Virginia Mountain Mint*, Wood Lily

Calico Aster:

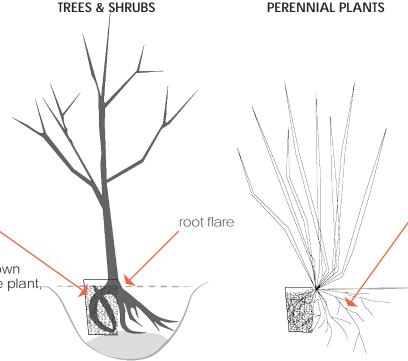
Big-leaf Aster, Heart-leaf Aster, Green-Headed Coneflower, Woodland Phlox, Virginia Mountain Mint*, Bottle Gentian, Rough Blazing Star*, Obedient Plant*

not native to MN

* Needs part-sun, will not thrive in dense shade.

Planting Tips for new gardeners

- Prepare your new garden bed. Use methods found on BWSR's Creating Residential Pollinator Habitat page
- Dig a hole as deep and 2-3 sizes wider than the pot. Remove the pot.
- Loosen roots and remove any roots that have growing a circle around the base of the plant.
- The soil level should be just below the flare of the tree or shrub and the base of your plant.
- Spread roots, then re-fill hole. Tamp soil down gently around the roots. Mulch around the plantbut don't place mulch against the trunk.
- Water immediately after planting, then once a week for the first summer



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