

**Perennials**

**Common Name** [Common Yarrow](#)

**Botanical Name** *Achillea millefolium*

A common roadside bloomer has fern-like foliage with a spicy aroma. Drought and deer tolerant. Attracts butterflies. Grows 2-3 feet tall. Produces white flowers in the summer. Prefers full sun in well-drained, sandy soil.

**Common Name** [Nodding Onion](#)

**Botanical Name** *Allium cernuum*

Native to New York and Pennsylvania. Delicate flowers in summer start out white and change to pink. Prefers rich, yet well drained soils and full sun. Grows 12-16 inches tall.

**Common Name** [Bluestar](#)

**Botanical Name** *Amsonia hubrichtii*

Native to New England in the state of Massachusetts. Light blue flowers in spring. Grows to 3 feet tall. Prefers sun to light shade. A very hardy plant!

**Common Name** [Pearly Everlasting](#)

**Botanical Name** *Anaphalis margaritacea*

This plant prefers full sun in well-drained soil and will grow 1-3 feet tall. Its foliage is a woolly, silvery green. Blooms in the late summer. White flowers attract butterflies and is a host plant for American and Painted Lady caterpillar.

**Common Name** [Field Pussytoes](#)

**Botanical Name** *Antennaria neglecta*

This plant prefers full sun and dry conditions. It works well in rock gardens. Grows 6-12 inches tall. Develops white, cottony flower tufts in the spring. Host plant for American and Painted Lady caterpillar.

**Common Name** [Woman's Tobacco](#)

**Botanical Name** *Antennaria plantaginifolia*

This member of the aster family produces white flowers in the spring. Grows 3-16 inches tall. Prefers dry soil. It produces male and female flowers on separate plants. Host plant for American and Painted Lady caterpillar.

**Common Name** [Common Milkweed](#)

**Botanical Name** *Asclepias syriaca*

Largest of the milkweeds, 3-5 feet. Bloom time is summer with fragrant pink clusters. Caution-Needs lots of elbow room. Prefers moist to dry soils with full sun. Host plant for Monarch Butterfly and caterpillar.

**Common Name** [Butterfly Weed](#)

**Botanical Name** *Asclepias tuberosa*

Eye catching, bright orange flower clusters in summer. Prefers a sunny site with rich, well drained soils. Will grow 1-2 feet tall. Host plant for Monarch caterpillar and butterfly.

**Common Name** [Whorled Milkweed](#)

**Botanical Name** *Asclepias verticillata*

This milkweed grows 1-2 feet tall and has a delicate texture to leaf and flower. Blooms in the summer. The flowers are greenish white. Prefers dry, open slopes.

**Common Name** [Fragrant Aster](#)

**Botanical Name** *Aster oblongifolius*

Blue-violet or purple rays, drought tolerant, clay, dry, shallow-rocky soil.

**Common Name** [White False Indigo](#)

**Botanical Name** *Baptisia alba*

Pea-like flowers in late spring. Dry to medium soil, drought tolerant

**Common Name** [Blue False Indigo](#)

**Botanical Name** *Baptisia australis*

Blooms June thru July, with blue spikes of pea-shaped flowers. Deep rooted, slow growing. Prefers rich, well drained soils. 4 feet tall at maturity. Great in meadow gardens.

**Common Name** [Thousand Flower Aster](#)

**Botanical Name** *Boltonia asteroides*

Good in average to dry soils, enjoys sun. Blooms August to October with a profusion of pink, daisy like flowers. Grows 4-5 feet tall. Attracts butterflies.

**Common Name** [Harebell/Bluebell](#)

**Botanical Name** *Campanula rotundifolia*

Lavender- Blue, bell shaped flowers in summer to early fall. Great in rock gardens due to preference of well drained soils. Partial shade to sun. Flowers on spikes up to 2 feet tall.

**Common Name** [Partridge Pea](#)

**Botanical Name** *Chamaecrista fasciculata*

Annual re-seeder, clusters of bright yellow blooms. 12-26" tall, drought tolerant, dry, sandy, well-drained soils. Great groundcover.

**Common Name** [Fireweed](#)

**Botanical Name** *Chamerion (Epilobium) angustifolium*

This plant is called Fireweed because it is often one of the first plants to regrow after a forest fire. Showy pink flowers bloom in the summer. Grows 3-6 feet tall in partial shade to full sun. Prefers moist soil but adaptable. Its seeds are covered by whitish, cottony tufts of hair.

**Common Name** [Golden Aster](#)

**Botanical Name** *Chrysopsis mariana*

Grows in sandy woods and barrens. Blooms in the late summer or early fall. Produces small, dainty, yellow, daisy-like flowers. Grows 8 inches tall. Sun and drought tolerant.

**Common Name** [Lance-leafed Tickseed](#)

**Botanical Name** *Coreopsis lanceolata*

Yellow flowers attract butterflies. Blooms in the late spring to early summer. Grows 1-2 feet tall and 1 foot wide. Prefers full sun and dry sandy soil.

**Common Name** [Tall Coreopsis](#)

**Botanical Name** *Coreopsis tripteris*

A very strong plant and a great birdfeeder. Handles dry soils. Produces yellow blooms July through September. Grows 4-8 feet tall.

**Common Name** [Tickseed](#)

**Botanical Name** *Coreopsis verticillata*

Yellow daisy-like dainty flowers from summer till frost. Prefers sun and can handle drier soils. 12-18 inches tall.

**Common Name** [Showy Tick Trefoil](#)

**Botanical Name** *Desmodium canadense*

Very adaptable perennial with beautiful pink spikes of flowers in the summer. It grows 2-6 feet all. Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies. Drought tolerant.

**Common Name** [Pale Coneflower](#)

**Botanical Name** *Echinacea pallida*

This pale purple version of the cornflower is stunning. It likes lots of sun and prefers rich, well-drained soil. It is a butterfly magnet.

**Common Name** [Button Eryngo or Rattlesnake Master](#)

**Botanical Name** *Eryngium yuccifolium*

This plant was used medicinally by the Native American Indians. Its flowers are white and bristly. This plant prefers full sun and sandy soil. It blooms in the summer. Grows 2-5 feet tall.

**Common Name** [Hyssop-leaved Boneset](#)

**Botanical Name** *Eupatorium hyssopifolium*

This plant blooms in the late summer or early fall. It produces cloud-like white flowers. It has finely textured leaves. Prefers dry, sandy soil in a sunny location. Grows 1-3 feet tall.

**Common Name** [Showy Aster](#)

**Botanical Name** *Eurybia spectabilis* (*Aster spectabilis*)

Bright blue-violet rays. Prefers sandy soils.

**Common Name** [Virginia Strawberry](#)

**Botanical Name** *Fragaria virginiana*

This 3-6 inch tall plant produces delicious wild strawberries! It has white flowers in the spring and prefers the sun. Great ground cover for dry and shady to full sun.

**Common Name** [Oxeye Daisy](#)

**Botanical Name** *Heliopsis helianthoides*

Golden yellow flowers on 3-5 foot stems. Prefers a sunny garden with average to dry soils. A carefree, long lasting plant.

**Common Name** [Daylily](#)

**Botanical Name** Hemerocallis

Summer blooms in many varieties and colors.

**Common Name** [Bluets](#)

**Botanical Name** Houstonia caerulea

Also called Quaker Ladies, this tiny plant produces pale blue to white flowers with yellow centers in the spring. Grows 2-8 inches tall. Prefers sun and average to lean soils. Will self sow.

**Common Name** [Stiff-leaved Aster](#)

**Botanical Name** Ionactis linariifolius (Aster linariifolius)

A late summer flowering aster with pale purple flowers with yellow centers. It grows 6-18 inches tall. Has stiff, needle-like leaves and prefers dry, poor soil conditions and full sun.

**Common Name** [Wood Iris](#)

**Botanical Name** Iris cristata

Native to the New England state of Massachusetts. Very pretty, light blue flowers bloom in spring. Green foliage remains throughout summer. Only 4- 8 inches tall. Contrast nicely with Tiarella or Sedums. Needs well drained soils with part sun to shade. Great in rock gardens.

**Common Name** [Dwarf Dandelion](#)

**Botanical Name** Krigia virginica

This member of the Aster family grows 3-12 inches tall. It prefers a sunny location with dry, sandy soil. Produces bright yellow flowers that last from late spring through summer. Spreads quickly.

**Common Name** [Round-Headed Bush Clover](#)

**Botanical Name** Lespedeza capitata

This drought tolerant plant has leaves with dense white hairs that make the foliage look silvery. Prefers dry, sandy soil in a sunny location. Grows 2-5 feet tall. Produces yellow/white flowers with purple centers in the late summer.

**Common Name** [Hairy Bush Clover](#)

**Botanical Name** Lespedeza hirta

The foliage of this plant has a velvety, fuzzy texture. It fixes nitrogen in the soil. Grows 1-3 feet tall. Prefers sunny locations with dry, well-drained, sandy soil. It is attractive to birds and butterflies.

**Common Name** [Blue Sundial Lupine](#)

**Botanical Name** Lupinus perennis

Tall spikes of many blue-violet flowers. Needs full sun and grows in sandy, poor soils and can fix nitrogen. It is the only food of the Karner Blue Butterfly, an endangered species.

**Common Name** [Wild Bergamont \(Bee Balm\)](#)

**Botanical Name** Monarda fistulosa

This plant prefers sun to partial shade. Grows 3-4 feet tall. Grows along dry hillsides and woodland margins. Produces light purple blooms in the summer.

**Common Name** [Dotted Mint, Horsemint](#)

**Botanical Name** *Monarda punctata*

Produces purple-spotted, tubular yellow flowers in late summer. Likes moist to dry, well-drained soils. Can grow 2-3 feet high and wide. Great nectar plant. Self-seeds.

**Common Name** [Common Evening Primrose](#)

**Botanical Name** *Oenothera biennis*

Grows 3-5 feet tall in sunny locations with well-drained soil. Naturalizes well. Night Hawk Moths pollinate the plant's yellow flowers at night. Blooms in the summer. Drought tolerant. Attracts birds and pollinators.

**Common Name** [Prickly Pear Cactus](#)

**Botanical Name** *Opuntia humifusa*

This rare Connecticut native prefers sandy, dry soil and full sun. Yellow flowers bloom in the early summer. Grows 4-12 inches tall. Produces red, egg-shaped, edible fruits called tunas that are said to taste like watermelon!

**Common Name** [Beardtongue](#)

**Botanical Name** *Penstamen digitalis*

White with shades of pink blooms that look something like a delicate foxglove. Prefers rich soils and sun to partial shade. Will grow 2-4 feet tall and blooms in early summer. It is drought tolerant once established.

**Common Name** [Russian Sage](#)

**Botanical Name** *Perovskia*

Lavender-purple flower spikes, silver leaves, summer and fall bloom, drought tolerant, low maintenance, can grow to 5 feet tall.

**Common Name** [Prairie Phlox](#)

**Botanical Name** *Phlox pilosa*

Produces pink flowers in early summer up to 2 feet tall. Prefers average garden soil. It will spread by runners to form a mass.

**Common Name** [Creeping Phlox Lavender/Pink](#)

**Botanical Name** *Phlox subulata*

This semi-evergreen grows like a carpet. It has lavender or pink flowers that bloom in the late spring. It prefers moist, well-drained soil in a sunny or slightly shady location. Grows up to 6 inches tall and 2 feet wide.

**Common Name** [Short Toothed Mountain Mint](#)

**Botanical Name** *Pycnanthemum muticum*

This plant has a spearmint-like scent. It is a good nectar plant. Prefers sun to part shade with moist to dry soils. Grows 3-4 feet tall. Blooms in late summer. Creates the perfect backdrop for Phlox or Monarda.

**Common Name** [Narrow-leaved Mountain Mint](#)

**Botanical Name** *Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*

This plant grows in fields and thickets. Grows 1-3 feet tall. Blooms in the summer. Flowers are white with pale purple spots.

**Common Name** [Black-eyed Susan](#)

**Botanical Name** Rudbeckia hirta

Cheery yellow with rust colored center summer through fall. Each a bit different than the next. Fuzzy leaves. Full sun and rich, well drained soils. Grows 2-3 feet tall. Will self sow. Sometimes considered a biennial.

**Common Name** [Brown-eyed Susan](#)

**Botanical Name** Rudbeckia triloba

This plant grows 2-5 feet tall and up to 4 feet wide. Blooms in late summer through fall. Flowers are yellow daisies with dark brown centers. Used for borders and mass plantings. Sometimes considered biennial, but self-seeds easily.

**Common Name** [Ruellia caroliniana](#)

**Botanical Name** Wild Petunia

Blue-violet flowers, blooms late spring to late summer. Many varieties, sun to part shade. Drought tolerant.

**Common Name** [Heartleaved Skullcap](#)

**Botanical Name** Scutellaria ovata

Native to Pennsylvania. Shade loving beauty covered in tiny purple flowers in the summer. Does well in dry soils. Grows up to 18 inches tall.

**Common Name** [Sedum 'Autumn Joy'](#)

**Botanical Name** Sedum

Bright pink flowers on large heads, easy care, very adaptable.

**Common Name** [Wild Senna](#)

**Botanical Name** Senna hebecarpa

Bright yellow pea like blooms from July through September. Grows 3-5 feet tall and has locust-like leaves. Enjoys sandy, well drained soils with sun to part shade. Very hardy. Salt and drought tolerant.

**Common Name** [Carolina Pink](#)

**Botanical Name** Silene caroliniana

This plant does very well in containers and also naturalizes well. Attracts butterflies with its deep pink flowers that bloom in the late spring. Grows 4-10 inches tall. Prefers a sunny area with well-drained, rocky or sandy soil.

**Common Name** [Silverrod](#)

**Botanical Name** Solidago bicolor

This is the only Goldenrod that is NOT bright yellow! It gets cream white flowers in the summer. Grows 1-3 feet tall.

**Common Name** [Early Goldenrod](#)

**Botanical Name** *Solidago juncea*

As its name implies, it is one of the earliest blooming Goldenrods producing bright yellow flowers in the summer. Flowers attract many pollinators. Grows 1-4 feet tall. Prefers full sun with dry, sandy soil.

**Common Name** [Gray Goldenrod](#)

**Botanical Name** *Solidago nemoralis*

This plant is the perfect choice for difficult locations. It blooms later in the fall than other goldenrods. Prefers a dry, sunny location. Its flowers are yellow and it grows 6-30 inches tall.

**Common Name** [Rough-leaved Goldenrod 'fireworks'](#)

**Botanical Name** *Solidago rugosa* 'fireworks'

Blazing shades of yellow flower clusters. Grows to 5 feet tall.

**Common Name** [Seaside Goldenrod](#)

**Botanical Name** *Solidago sempervirens*

This goldenrod has fleshy, waxy leaves. It prefers dry, sunny locations. Produces yellow flowers in the early fall. It is typically found on beaches, dunes or salt marshes.

**Common Name** [Showy Goldenrod](#)

**Botanical Name** *Solidago speciosa*

This goldenrod grows 2-3 feet tall and wide. Produces yellow flowers in the summer. Prefers full sun and dry soil.

**Common Name** [Smooth Aster](#)

**Botanical Name** *Symphyotrichum laeve* (*Aster laevis*)

Prefers average to dry soils. Produces violet flowers in fall. Grows 1-3 feet tall. Pretty with blue gray leaves.

**Common Name** [Calico Aster](#)

**Botanical Name** *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* (*Aster laterifolius*)

Prefers average to dry soil. Develops white to purple tinged blooms. Grows 1-4 feet tall.

**Common Name** [Wild Goat's Rue](#)

**Botanical Name** *Tephrosia virginiana*

This plant has feathery silver foliage. Blooms are pink with yellow and occur in the early summer months. Prefers full sun. A great choice for poor, sandy and dry soil conditions. Grows 1-2 feet tall and wide.

**Common Name** [Birdfoot Violet](#)

**Botanical Name** *Viola pedata*

This violet has frillier foliage than other violets. Produces purple to blue flowers in the spring. Prefers a sunny location in dry, sandy soil. Grows 4-10 inches tall.

**Common Name** [Ovate-leaved Violet](#)

**Botanical Name** *Viola sagittata (fimbriatula)*

This tiny violet only grows to be up to 6 inches tall. It prefers dry, sandy soil. Its blooms are dark purple and appear in the spring.

**Common Name** [Adam's Needle or Needle Palm](#)

**Botanical Name** *Yucca filamentosa*

An evergreen with that Southwestern look. Tolerates more cold and wet than other varieties of Yucca. Prefers a sunny location. Attracts butterflies with its creamy white flowers and is also a larval host for them. Usually grows 1-4 feet tall. Develops green/brown fruit capsules after flowering.

## Herbs

<a href="#">Tarragon</a>	<i>Artemisia dracunculus</i>
<a href="#">Clove Pink</a>	<i>Dianthus caryophyllus</i>
<a href="#">Lavender</a>	<i>Lavendula angustifolia</i>
<a href="#">Spearmint</a>	<i>Mentha spicata</i>
<a href="#">Catmint</a>	<i>Nepeta x faassenii</i>
<a href="#">Basil</a>	<i>Ocimum basilicum</i>
<a href="#">Parsley</a>	<i>Petroselinum crispum</i>
<a href="#">Rosemary</a>	<i>Rosemarinus officinalis</i>
<a href="#">Sage</a>	<i>Salvia officinalis</i>
<a href="#">Thyme</a>	<i>Thymus vulgaris</i>

## Shrubs, Vines, Trees

**Common Name** [Bearberry, Kinickinick](#)

**Botanical Name** *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*

Evergreen groundcover that can be 3-8 inches high, and 2-4 feet wide. Flowers are pink-white bells in spring. It gets small red berries in fall. The leaves stay a deep red from fall thru winter. Full to partial sun. This plant handles the worst soils.

**Common Name** [Red Chokeberry](#)

**Botanical Name** *Aronia arbutifolia ( Photinia arbutifolia)*

Produces red berries in fall that are great for birds. Has red foliage in Fall. Handles moist to dry soil conditions and full sun.

**Common Name** [Bitternut Hickory](#)

**Botanical Name** *Carya cordiformis*

This rapid growing Hickory produces bitter nuts in the fall which gives it its name. Grows 50-70 feet tall. It has striking yellow buds in the spring.

**Common Name** [Shagbark Hickory](#)

**Botanical Name** *Carya ovata*

Grows 50-70 feet tall. This slow growing Hickory produces sweet edible nuts in the fall. It has large strips of exfoliating bark. Likes sun to partial shade. Tolerates a variety of soil conditions.

**Common Name** [Sweetfern](#)

**Botanical Name** *Comptonia peregrina*

Shrub 4 feet high and wide with glossy, green fern-looking leaves. Likes dry, sandy, acidic soils and sun to partial sun. Good on sandy hillsides. Aromatic foliage.

**Common Name** [American Filbert](#)

**Botanical name** *Corylus Americana*

Medium to large shrub, dense spreading or spherical shape, edible nuts between July and October.

**Common Name** [Bush Cinquefoil](#)

**Botanical Name** *Dasiphora floribunda* (*Potentilla fruticosa*)

This shrub grows 1-4 feet high and 2-4 feet wide. It gets bright yellow or white flowers that last from June until the first frost. Tolerates poor, dry soils. Prefers full sun to partial shade.

**Common Name** [Northern Bush Honeysuckle](#)

**Botanical Name** *Diervilla lonicera*

Grows 1-2 feet tall. This shrub has gorgeous bronze green foliage. Tolerant of windy conditions. Produces yellow flowers in the early summer. Prefers dry, sandy soil.

**Common Name** [Rose of Sharon](#)

**Botanical Name** *Hibiscus syriacus*

Shrub with colorful flowers in shades of white, red, pink and purple. May re-seed abundantly.

**Common Name** [Common Juniper](#)

**Botanical Name** *Juniperis communis*

This is possibly the most widely distributed tree in the world. Prefers to grow in dry, rocky, wooded hillsides or exposed slopes. This shrub is dioecious.

**Common Name** [Creeping Juniper](#)

**Botanical Name** *Juniperus horizontalis*

Low-growing evergreen shrub, many cultivars.

**Common Name** [Easter Red Cedar](#)

**Botanical Name** *Juniperus virginiana*

An evergreen tree that grows 40-50 feet high by 8-20 feet wide. Can handle very poor sandy soils; acidic to basic. This plant likes full sun. Great for screens and specimen plantings. Cedar waxwings love the fruit, chickadees love the cover and the exfoliating bark makes great nesting material. It is dioecious.

**Common Name** [Northern Bayberry](#)

**Botanical Name** *Morella caroliniensis* (*Myrica pennsylvanica*)

This shrub grows 5-12 feet high and wide. Thrives in poor, sandy soils. Prefers full sun to partial shade. Its waxy, aromatic berries are an excellent food source for birds. Salt tolerant. It requires a male and female pairing to produce fruit..

**Common Name** [Beach Plum](#)

**Botanical Name** *Prunus maritima*

This shrub grows 4-10 feet high with rounded, white flowers in May. Fruits are purple to yellow and sometimes crimson. They ripen in August. Great salt tolerance. Prefers sandy, rocky soil and full sun.

**Common Name** [Creeping Sand Cherry](#)

**Botanical Name** *Prunus pumila* var. *depressa*

Shrub with masses of snowy white blooms in spring, sandy, rocky soil.

**Common Name** [White Oak](#)

**Botanical Name** *Quercus alba*

An oak of true grandeur. This beauty can reach more than 80 feet tall and 40 feet wide. It can grow in bottomlands on slopes and upland forests. Its acorns are a great food source. The wood is strong and somewhat rot resistant. It looks good by itself in a field or in the forest.

**Common Name** [Scrub or Bear Oak](#)

**Botanical Name** *Quercus ilicifolia*

This drought resistant oak produces acorns that are so bitter only bears eat them. Produces monoecious catkins in the spring. Its leaves resemble some Holly leaves. Grows 10-20 feet tall. Prefers full sun with poor, dry, sandy soil.

**Common Name** [Fragrant Sumac](#)

**Botanical Name** *Rhus aromatica*

This shrub can reach 6 feet tall and 10 feet wide. Found in moist to dry rocky or sandy soils. Leaves are three on a stem. Should not be confused with poison ivy-this plant is not poisonous. Fall color is scarlet to burgundy and females have a red fruiting body in the fall. Great for sandy bank stabilization. It is dioecious.

**Common Name** [Shining Sumac](#)

**Botanical Name** *Rhus copallinum* (*copallina*)

This 7-15 foot tall shrub has gorgeous red foliage in the fall. It flowers with yellow/green blooms in the summer and then produces clusters of dark red berries. It requires a male and female pairing to produce fruit.

**Common Name** [Staghorn Sumac](#)

**Botanical Name** *Rhus hirta* (*typhina*)

This spreading shrub can grow 15-25 feet high and 25-40 feet wide in the open. Has bright green foliage in the summer and scarlet leaves in the fall. Red fruit forms dense hairy pyramid-shaped masses at the tips of the branches in late August. Berries are a great food source for birds. It requires a male and female pairing to produce fruit. Good for dry and poor soil conditions. Prefers full sun. Attractive in open fields. A good massing plant.

**Common Name** [Bush Roses](#)

**Botanical Name** *Rosa*

Many cultivars.

**Common Name** [Carolina Rose](#)

**Botanical Name** *Rosa carolina*

This shrub can be found in dry soils in full sun or half shade. It has glossy green leaves that turn red in the fall. It produces pink flowers that are 2-3 inches wide.

**Common Name** [Meadowsweet](#)

**Botanical Name** *Spiraea alba (latifolia)*

This shrub grows 2-4 feet tall. It has fluffy white to pink flowers in summer at the ends of its branches which attract butterflies as well as hummingbirds. Enjoys moist to rocky soils in full sun.

**Common Name** [Panicked/Gray Dogwood](#)

**Botanical Name** *Swida (Cornus) racemosa*

Shrub 7-10 feet tall and wide. Flowers are terminal, small, and white. Fruits are white with red stalks. Found on roadsides and in thickets.

**Common Name** [Common Lilac](#)

**Botanical Name** *Syringa vulgaris*

Fragrant flowering shrub, many cultivars.

## Grasses

**Common Name** [Big Bluestem](#)

**Botanical Name** *Andropogon gerardii*

Very important to prairies, this grass grows in a diverse set of conditions. It can become 5-8 feet tall in a sunny location. In late August, the seed heads produced resemble turkey feet and provide a food source for many species. After the first frost, the stems turn a beautiful bronze.

**Common Name** [Sea Oats](#)

**Botanical Name** *Chasmanthium latifolium*

Native to New Jersey and Pennsylvania. A wide leaved grass with lovely nodding clusters of oat like seed heads. It grows 2-5 feet tall and more than 2 feet wide. Its leaves and flower heads turn a rich tan to reddish bronze color in the winter.

**Common Name** [Poverty Grass](#)

**Botanical Name** *Danthonia spicata*

This grass thrives in dry, rocky, poor soil areas. The twisted, curly foliage gives it a nice compact shape. Grows up to 12 inches tall. Prefers full sun to partial shade. Drought tolerant.

**Common Name** [Tall Panic Grass or Switch Grass](#)

**Botanical Name** *Panicum virgatum*

This grass develops pink-tinged blooms in the summer. Grows 3-6 feet tall and 2-3 feet wide. Attracts birds. Prefers moist, sandy soil in the sun.

**Common Name** [Little Bluestem](#)

**Botanical Name** *Schizachrium scoparium*

A native, warm season grass for poor soils. Does best in full sun. Great red fall color. Grows 2-3 feet tall. Best in well drained soils.

**Common Name** [Indian Grass](#)

**Botanical Name** *Sorghastrum nutans*

This ornamental grass is excellent for planting on slopes to prevent erosion. It prefers full sun and well-drained soil. Grows 3-8 feet tall. Produces brown panicles in the summer.

**Common Name** [Prairie Cordgrass](#)

**Botanical Name** *Spartina pectinata*

This grass has dark green, glossy blades. It is salt tolerant. Grows 4-6 feet tall. Prefers sun to light shade.

**Common Name** [Northern Dropseed](#)

**Botanical Name** *Sporobolus heterolepis*

This attractive grass likes a sunny spot with dry, rocky, well-drained soil. It grows 2-3 feet tall. Its green foliage turns a golden orange in the fall. It attracts many types of birds. The pink to brown flowers bloom in the summer and smell like coriander.

**Common Name** [Purple-top Tridens](#)

**Botanical Name** *Tridens flavus* (flava)

This grass grows 3-5 feet tall and up to 3 feet wide. Its flower spikes develop on purple panicles in the summer. Does not like wet sites. Prefers sun to partial shade.

## Ferns

**Common Name** [Hay-scented Fern](#)

**Botanical Name** *Dennstaedtia punctilobula*

This fern tends to be aggressive and spreads readily. Great for erosion control. Gets its name from the scent of its crushed leaves. Can handle sunny locations.

## Resources:

Jessica Lubell, Dept Plant Science & Landscape Architecture, University of CT.

Vickie Wallace and Alyssa Siegel-Miles, UConn Extension, College of Agriculture, Health & Natural Resources.

Larry Weaner, Landscape Associates.

[www.earthtonesnatives.com](http://www.earthtonesnatives.com).

CT Section American Water Works Association – Water Conservation Committee

The Connecticut Water Company – Xeriscape Gardening.

New England Wildflower Society

