



Perennials

Water-Loving Clay Tolerant Plants: Northeast Natives

	Plant Name	Preferred Site	Light	Soil	Form	Notes
	Black-Eyed Susan <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Meadow		Dry, Medium, Wet	1-3' H 1-2' W (clumps)	Yellow flowers with black centers bloom throughout the summer. Deer resistant, attractive to pollinators and birds.
	Blue Flag Iris <i>Iris versicolor</i>	Forest edge				
	Boneset <i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	Meadow		Medium, Wet	4-6' H 3-4' W (clumps)	Large white wildflowers bloom in late summer. Attractive to pollinators, suitable for rain gardens.
	Cardinal Flower <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Forest edge, Wetland				
	Dense Blazingstar <i>Liatris spicata</i>	Meadow, Wetland		Medium, Wet	3-5' H 1-2' W (clumps)	Purple flower stalks bloom in late summer. Attractive to birds and pollinators.
	Goldenrod <i>Solidago sp.</i>	Meadow		Dry, Medium, Wet	3-4' H 2-6' W (spreads)	Bright yellow flowers bloom in late summer. Attractive to pollinators, deer and rabbit resistant.
	Joe-Pye Weed <i>Eutrochium dubium</i>	Meadow, Wetland		Medium, Wet	3-6' H 2-4' W (spreads)	Showy pink flowers on stalks with toothed leaves. Attractive to pollinators, suitable for rain gardens.
	King Solomon's Seal <i>Polygonatum biflorum</i>	Forest edge, Forest				
	Marsh Marigold <i>Caltha palustris</i>	Meadow, Forest, Wetland				
	Mountain Mint <i>Pycnanthemum sp.</i>	Meadow, Forest edge				
	New England Aster <i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	Meadow, Forest edge		Medium, Wet	3-6' H 1-3' W (spreads)	Showy purple flowers bloom in late summer. Deer resistant, attractive to pollinators.

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 Full Sun  Partial Sun  Full Shade



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	New York Ironweed <i>Veronia noveboracensis</i>	Meadow, Forest edge		Medium, Wet	4-7' H 3-4' W (spreads)	Tall upright stalks with intense purple flowers. Great for meadow gardens.
	Nodding Onion <i>Allium cernuum</i>	Meadow		Medium, Wet	1-2' H 1' W (spreads)	Grassy stems with delicate umbels of pink flowers. Deer resistant, attractive to pollinators.
	Oxeye Sunflower <i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	Meadow		Dry, Medium, Wet	3-6' H 1-3' W (spreads)	Bright yellow sunflowers bloom through the summer. Deer resistant, attractive to birds and pollinators, suitable for rain gardens.
	Sensitive Fern <i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	Meadow, Forest, Wetland		Medium, Wet	3-4' H 3-4' W (spreads)	Hardy fern with triangular, bright green fronds. Deer resistant.
	Swamp Mallow <i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	Meadow		Medium, Wet	3-7' H 2-4' W (spreads)	Large pink hibiscus flowers. Attractive to pollinators.
	Swamp Milkweed <i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Meadow		Medium, Wet	2-4' H 1-3' W (clumps)	Showy pink flowers. Host plant for monarch and swallowtail butterflies, suitable for rain gardens.
	Tall Bellflower <i>Campanula americana</i>	Forest edge		Medium, Wet	3-5' H 1-2' W (spreads)	Tall stalks boast bright blue blooms. Attractive to pollinators.
	White Turtlehead <i>Chelone glabra</i>	Meadow, Forest edge		Medium, Wet	2-4' H 1-2' W (spreads)	Distinctive white turtlehead-shaped flowers. Attractive to pollinators, suitable for rain gardens.
	White Wood Aster <i>Eurybia divaricata</i>	Forest edge		Medium, Wet	2-4' H 1-2' W (clumps)	Small daisy-like flowers bloom in late summer. Attractive to pollinators.
	Wild Geranium <i>Geranium maculatum</i>	Forest edge		Medium, Wet	1-2' H 1' W (spreads)	Bright lavender flowers bloom in spring. Attractive to pollinators, can be a groundcover if planted densely.
	Windflower <i>Anemone canadensis</i>	Meadow, Forest edge		Medium, Wet	1-2' H 1-2' W (spreads)	Bright white flowers with yellow centers. Suitable for rain gardens or as a groundcover.

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Grasses

Plant Name	Preferred Site	Light	Soil	Form	Notes
 Common Rush <i>Juncus effusus</i>	Wetland		Wet	2-4' H 2-4' W (spreads)	Smooth upright grass with showy brown seedheads and yellow fall foliage.
 Fox Sedge <i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	Meadow		Medium, Wet	1-3' H 1' W (spreads)	Densely mounded grass with bronze seedheads. Deer resistant, suitable for rain gardens.
 Gray Sedge <i>Carex grayi</i>	Forest edge, Wetland		Medium, Wet	2-3' H 1-2' W (clumps)	Showy spiked seedheads can be used in floral arrangements. Deer resistant, suitable for rain gardens.
 Switchgrass <i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Meadow		Dry, Medium, Wet	3-6' H 2' W (clumps)	Upright grass with beautiful, showy seedheads. Deer resistant, suitable for rain gardens.



Shrubs

Plant Name	Preferred Site	Light	Soil	Form	Notes
 Aronia <i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	Meadow, Forest edge		Dry, Medium, Wet	3-10' H 3-6' W (spreads)	White flowers in early spring, black berries in summer can be used for jams or syrups, red foliage in fall. Suitable for rain gardens.
 Buttonbush <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Meadow, Forest edge		Medium, Wet	5-12' H 4-8' W (clumps)	Showy globe-like white flowers. Attractive to birds and pollinators, suitable for rain gardens.
 Elderberry <i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	Meadow, Forest edge		Medium, Wet	5-12' H 5-12' W (spreads)	Dark berries have medicinal properties, but need to be cooked first. Attractive to pollinators, birds, and deer.
 Highbush Cranberry <i>Viburnum trilobum</i>	Forest edge, Wetland		Medium, Wet	8-12' H 5-10' W (clumps)	Tart red berries excellent for jam and desirable to many birds. Cross pollination from at least two shrubs needed for fruit.
 Meadowsweet <i>Spirea alba</i>	Meadow, Forest edge		Medium, Wet	2-5' H 2-4' W (clumps)	Whitish-pink flowers attractive to pollinators and birds. Suitable for rain gardens.

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	Plant Name	Preferred Site	Light	Soil	Form	Notes
	Nannyberry <i>Viburnum lentago</i>	Meadow, Forest edge	 	Medium, Wet	10-15' H 5-10' W (clumps)	Large upright shrub with edible blue berries and burgundy fall foliage. Cross pollination from at least two shrubs needed for fruit.
	Red Twig Dogwood <i>Cornus sericea</i>	Meadow, Forest edge	 	Medium, Wet	6-9' H 5-10' W (clumps)	White ornamental fruits in late summer and beautiful red branches are showy in winter. Attractive to birds.
	Shrubby St. John's Wort <i>Hypericum prolificum</i>	Meadow	 	Medium, Wet	2-4' H 3-4' W (clumps)	Dense foliage of small green leaves with yellow flowers in the summer. Attractive to pollinators and birds.
	Silky Dogwood <i>Cornus amomum</i>	Meadow, Forest edge	 	Medium, Wet	6-12' H 6-12' W (clumps)	Large shrub with attractive blue berries and reddish-orange fall foliage.
	Spicebush <i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Meadow, Forest edge, Forest	 	Medium, Wet	6-12' H 6-12' W (clumps)	Plant gives off a spicy citrus aroma. Leaves and twigs can be used in tea. Host plant for swallowtail butterfly.
	Swamp Rose <i>Rosa palustris</i>	Meadow		Wet	3-6' H 3-6' W (spreads)	Fragrant pink roses with yellow centers can bloom to be 2" in diameter. Leaves may turn red in fall.
	Sweet Pepperbush <i>Clethra anifolia</i>	Meadow, Forest edge, Wetland	 	Medium, Wet	3-8' H 4-6' W (clumps)	Fragrant white flowers in summer followed by dark brown seed capsules. Attractive to birds and butterflies, suitable for rain gardens.
	Winterberry <i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Meadow, Forest edge	 	Medium, Wet	4-10' H 4-10' W (clumps)	Fabulous, showy red fruit in the fall and winter. Attractive to birds. Suitable for rain gardens.
	Pussy Willow <i>Salix discolor</i>	Wetland		Wet	10-20' H 5-10' W (spreads)	Silky catkin blooms provide pollen for native bees. Suitable for rain gardens.
	Speckled Alder <i>Alnus incana</i>	Forest edge, Wetland	 	Medium, Wet	10-25' H 15-25' W (spreads)	Multi-stemmed trunk with spotted bark. Great for forming hedges or thickets.

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Trees

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	Plant Name	Preferred Site	Light	Soil	Form	Notes
	Black Willow <i>Salix nigra</i>	Meadow, Forest edge, Wetland	 	Medium, Wet	30-60' H 30-60' W (spreads)	Fast growing tree with finely toothed leaves. Excellent for erosion control. Leaves may have a yellow hue in fall.
	Pin Oak <i>Quercus palustris</i>	Meadow, Forest		Medium, Wet	50-70' H 40-60' W (clumps)	Glossy dark green leaves, rounded acorns, and deep bronze to red fall foliage.
	Red Maple <i>Acer rubrum</i>	Meadow, Forest	 	Medium, Wet	40-70' H 30-50' W (clumps)	Showy red fall foliage. Attractive to birds, suitable for rain gardens.
	River Birch <i>Betula nigra</i>	Meadow, Forest edge, Wetland	 	Medium, Wet	40-70' H 40-60' W (clumps)	Quickly growing tree with beautifully mottled bark and yellow fall foliage. Suitable for rain gardens.
	Silver Maple <i>Acer saccharinum</i>	Meadow, Forest	 	Medium, Wet	50-80' H 35-70' W (clumps)	Quickly growing tree, leaves have silvery undersides and turn yellow in fall. Suitable for rain gardens.
	Tamarack <i>Larix laricina</i>	Meadow, Wetland		Medium, Wet	40-80' H 15-30' W (clumps)	Needles turn a showy yellow before shedding in the fall. Tall tree with an open pyramid shape.
	Swamp White Oak <i>Quercus bicolor</i>	Meadow, Wetland		Medium, Wet	50-60' H 50-60' W (clumps)	Silver scaled bark, green leaves with silver undersides. Host plant to many native insects. Suitable for rain gardens.
	Sycamore <i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	Meadow, Wetland		Medium, Wet	75-100' H 75-100' W (clumps)	Lovely whitish-brown mottled bark. Female trees produce fuzzy spherical seed pods.

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