

VT Pollinator Habitat Plant Palette

updated 22 Dec 22

Jane Sorensen Northeast Pollinator Plants, VT

Plant Name	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Sun/Shade	Value				Notes	
GC=Ground Cover	Info. Source: Xerces, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, USDA Plants						Be	But	Hun	Host		
PERENNIALS for Naturalized Gardens and/or Meadows short-lived, vigorous spreading and/or reseeding												
Dicentra cucullaria	.5'-1'	dutchman's breeches					part/sha	X				white bleeding hrt
Polemonium reptans	1'-1.5'		creeping jacob's ladder				sun	X				prolific reseeder
Prunella vulg.ssp lanceo. GC	.5'-1.5'		self-heal				sun/part	X	X			nice, low, early/flow.
Antennaria plantag. GC	.5 -1'		pussytoes				sun/part					attracts benefic. Ins.
Erigeron pulchellus	1.5'-2'		robin's plantain				sun/part	X	X			avoid rich soils
Osmorhiza claytonnii	1'-3'		sweet cicely/clayton's sweet root				shade/part	X				moist, shade
Viola sororia GC	.5'-.75'		common blue violet				sun/part	X				great ground cover
Zizia aurea		1.5'-3'		golden zizia			sun	X	X		X	prolific reseeder
Caltha palustris GC		.5'-1'	marsh marigold				sun/shade	X				moist, sun-shade
Aquilegia canadensis		2'-3'		canada columbine			sun/part	X	X	X	X	short-lived/reseeds
Echinacea pallida		2'-3'		pale purple coneflower			sun/part	X	X			narrow petals, reseed
Verbena stricta		wooly verb	1.5'-4'				sun	X	X		X	prolific reseeder
Geum rivale		water aven	.75'-1'				sun/part	X				boggy meadows
Achillea millefolium		yarrow	2'-3'				sun	X	X			tends to flop
Rudbeckia hirta		black-eyed	2'-3'				sun	X	X			short-lived/reseeds
Mimulus ringens		monkeyflow	1'-3'				sun/part	X	X		X	moist-wet, rain gard.
Anaphalis margaritacea GC		pearly everlastin	1'-3'				sun/part		X			grey foliage
Ascepias syriaca		common milkwe	2'-3'				sun/part	X	X		X	host to Monarchs
Asclepias exaltata		poke milkweed	3'-5'				sha/parr	X	X			dappled light
Asclepias incarnata		swamp milkweed	2'-4'				sun/part	X	X		X	host to Monarchs
Drymocalis [Potentilla] arguta		tall cinquefoil	2'-3'				sun/part	X				great for pest contr.
Chamerion angustifolium		fireweed	2'-3.5'				sun/part	X	X		X	prolific reseeder
Desmodium canadense		showy tick trefoil	3'-5'				sun/part	X	X	X	X	prolific reseeder
Euthamia graminifolia		flat-top goldenrod	2'-3.5'				sun	X				a billowy goldenrod
Apocynum cannabinum		indian hemp/dogbane	2'-4'				sun/part	X	X			toxic to dogs!
Thermopsis vilosa		carolina bushpea	3'-5'				sun	X	X			like a yellow lupine
Doellingeria umbellata		flat-topped aster	5'				sun/part	X	X		X	moist-wet, early aster
Lysimachia ciliata		fringe loosestrife	1'-2'				sun/part	X				wet, aggressive spr
Grindelia squarrosa		curlycup gumweed	.5'-3'				sun/part	X				bees of great concern
Salvia azurea		blue sage	3'-5'				sun	X	X			nice blue
Helianthus strumosus		pale-leaved sunflower	5'-8'				sun/part	X	X			aggressive spread
Rudbeckia laciniata		green-headed coneflower	2'-9'				sun/part	X				aggressive spread
Symphotrichum punideum		swamp aster	6'-8'				sun	X	X			moist-wet
Verbena hastata		blue verbena	2'-6'				sun	X	X		X	self-seed/spread
Lobelia cardinalis		cardinal flower	2/-4/				sun/part		X	X		short-lived/reseeds
Scutellaria lateriflora		mad-dog scullcap	2'-3'				sun/part	X				moist, beautiful
Solidago speciosa		showy goldenrod	2'-3'				sun	X	X			showiest gldnrod
Helianthus maximiliani		maximilian sunflower	3'-10'				sun	X				aggressive spread
Eurybia macrophylla		big-leaf aster	2'-4'				sun/sha		X		X	a woodland beauty
Solidago canadensis		canadian goldenrod	3'-6'				sun/part	X	X			self-seed/spread

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SHRUBS for Pollinator Habitat Enhancement											
Ceanothus americanus	3'-4'	new jersey tea					par/shd	X	X	X	use this!!
Salix species	varies	native willows					sun/sha	X	X	X	valuable, use
Shepherdia canadensis	4'-6'	russet buffaloberry					sun/sha	X			nice enough
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi	.6'-1'	kinnikinnick					sun/part	X	X	X	grd. Cover
Rosa species (not multiflora)	varies	native roses					sun/sha	X			bees/berries/birds
Lindera benzoin	6'-12'	spicebush					sun/part		X	X	big butterfly mag.
Ribes americanum	3'-6'	wild black currant					sun/part	X			bees/berries/birds
Ribes (gooseberry)	2'-5'	gooseberry					sun/sha	X			cool fruit
Rhododendron canadense	1'-4'	rhodora					sun/part	X	X	X	flower, rough plant
Viburnum opulus	8'-12'	europaean cranberrybush					sun/part	X	X		not native but bee
Physocarpus opulifolius	5'-8'	common ninebark					sun/part	X			great in garden
Rhus aromatica	5'-12'	fragrant sumac					sun/sha	X	X	X	try 'Gro-Lo" cutl
Rubus species	varies	native raspberry, blackberry, dewberry					sun/sha	X	X		great for all
Cornus sericea	7'-9'	redosier dogwood					part		X	X	nice stem color
Vaccinium angustifolium	.5'-2'	low-bush blueberry					sun/sha	X			low-bush blueberry
Vaccinium corymbosum	6'-12'	high-bush blueberry					sun/sha	X			highbush blueberry
Ribes tirste	1.5'-3'	swamp red currant					sun/sha	X			for wet
Symphoricarpos orbiculatus	2'-5'	coralberry					sun/part	X			bees/berries/birds
Viburnum dentatum	6'-8'	arrowwood viburnum					sun/sha	X	X	X	lots going for it
Amorpha fruticosa	6'-10'	false indigo bush					sun/part	X	X	X	fine texture
Rhododendron maximum	4'-15'	wild rhododendron					part	X			warm microclimate.
Rhus glabra	9'-15'	smooth sumac					sun/part	X	X	X	thicket
Rhus typhina	15'-25'	staghorn sumac					sun/part	X			thicket
Vaccinium vitum-idaea	.5'-1.5'	lignonberry					sun/sha	X			bees/berries/birds
Sambucus nigra [canadens.]	10'-18'	american black elderberry					sun/part	X			bees/berries/birds
Vaccinium macrocarpon	.5'-1"	cranberry					part	X			bees/berries/birds
Spiraea alba	3'-4'	meadowsweet					sun/sha	X	X	X	moist, long bloom
Clethra alnifolia	summersweet		6'-12'				sun/sha	X	X	X	use this!!
Diervilla lonicera	north bush-honeysuckle		1'-3'				part/sha	X			nice for shade
Spiraea tomentosa	steepleshub		3'-6'				sun/part	X	X	X	thicket
Daisphora fruticosa	shrubby cinquefoil		1'-4'				sun/part	X	X		long-flowering
Hypericum prolificum	shrubby st. johnswort		1'-4'				sun/shade	X			bumbles love this!
Cephalanthus occidentalis	common buttonbush		3'-6'				sun/part	X	X	X	warm microclimate.
VINES for Pollinator Habitat Enhancement											
Aristolochia macrophylla	15'-30'	Dutchman's Pipe					sun/part		X	X	pipevine swallo.
Lonicera sempervirens	8'-15'	trumpet honeysuckle					sun/part	X	X	X	native, use this!
Clematis virginiana		woodbine		12'-20'			sun/shade	X	X	X	aggress.spreader

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GRASSES for Gardens - long-lasting, minimal spreading and r												
Carex stricta		1'-3'	upright sedge				X					moist to in water
Deschampsia cespitosa		1'-3'	tufted hair grass				X	X			X	medium-wet, alkali.
Sporobolus compositus		sand drops	3'-5'				X					Long blooming grass
Panicum virgatum		switch grass		3'-6'				X			X	gorgeous plant,
Schizachyrium scoparium		little bluestem			2'-4'		X	X			X	gorgeous plant,
Andropogon gerardii		big bluestem				4'-6'	X	X			X	reseeds. cut winter
GRASSES for Naturalizing, Cottage Gardens and/or Meadows short-lived, vigorous spreading and/or reseeding												
Koeleria macrantha		1'-2'	junegrass				X					short-lived, reseeds,
Zizania aquatica			2'-8'	wild rice								
Tridens flavus		purpletop tridens			2.5'-7'		X				X	Part shade, massing
BEE LAWN: overseed lawn with clovers or replant with fescues and clovers, mow monthly at 3"-4". Source: Mary Meyer, UMN												
Trifolium repens		.25'-.5'	white dutch clover			sun/part	X					spread, bees love
Trifolium hybridum			.5'-1.5'	alsike clover		sun/part	X					spread, bees love
Festuca ovina, Festuca rubra and, Festuca brevipila - Fescue mix, good for less mowing						sun/part						mow monthly, 3"-4"
Scilla siberica	.25'	siberian squill				sun/part	X					early flowering bulb
Crocus sieberi Tricolor	.25'	sieber's crocus										early flowering bulb
Thymus vulgaris (Zone 5-9)		2'-2.5'	english thyme			sun/part	X	X				in warm microclim.
Prunella vulgaris			.5'-1'	self-heal		sun/part	X					self-heal, bees love
HERBS for Gardens, Containers and Beds - need to let flower for pollinators, generally native to Europe.												
Allium schoenoprasum		1''-1.5'	chives			sun/part	X	X				perennial, long last
Thymus vulgaris (Zone 5-9)		2'-2.5'	english thyme			sun/part	X	X				in warm microclim.
Symphytum officinale	comfrey	3'-5'				sun/part	X	X				Tap root, spreading
Nepeta faassenii	catmint	1'-2'				sun	X	X	X			great mass, showy
Salvia officinalis	common sage	2'-2.5'				sun/part	X	X				bees love
Origanum majorana	sweet marjoram	1'-2'				sun/part	X	X				grow as an annual
Anethum graveolens	dill	1'-3'				sun/part	X	X				grow as an annual
Borage officinalis	borage	2'-3'				sun	X	X				reseeds readily
Foeniculum vulgare	fennel	4'-6'				sun	X	X				reseeds readily
Lavandula spp. (Zone 5-7)	lavender	1'-3'				sun/part	X	X				in warm microclim.
Melissa officinalis	lemon balm	1.5'-3'				sun/part	X	X				spreads, contain it
Mentha spp.	mints	.5'-3'				sun/part	X	X				spreads, contain it
Origanum vulgare	wild oregano	1'				sun/part	X	X				spreads, contain it
Allium tuberosum	garlic chives				1'-2'	sun/part	X					garlicky , bees love.
Angelica archangelica	garden angelica				4'-6'	sun/part	X	X				biennial, moist,

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Annuals for Gardens, Containers and Beds - non-native, but plentiful pollen or nectar to provide extra foraging.											
Lobularia maritima	.25'-.75'		alyssum			sun/part	X				sweet odor, bee mag.
Salvia coccinea	1'-2'		salvia			sun/part	X	X	X		reseeds, nice plant
Lantana camara	1'-2'		lantana			sun		X			butterflies will flock!!
Zinnia spp.	.5'-2'		zinnia			sun	X	X			all colors, bees love
Cuphea spp.	.5'-2'		wi			sun/part	X	X	X		hummingbirds!!!
Dianthus spp.	.25'-1.5'		garden pinks			sun/part	X	X	X		beauty!, attracts all
Dimorphotheca (Osteospermum)	1'-1.5'		african daisy			sun/part	X	X			cool season flowers
Centaurea cyanus	1'-3'		batchelor's buttons			sun	X	X			avoid invas.per.
Calendula officinalis	.5'-1.5'		calendula			sun	X	X			attracts beneficials
Portulaca oleracea	.25'-.5'		portulaca			sun	X	X			hot dry sun,
Cleome hassleriana	1'-4'		cleome			sun	X	X	X		hot, dry sun,
Dahlia spp.	1'-4'		dahlia			sun/part	X	X	X		lots colors, easy
Tagetes	.5'-4'		marigold			sun		X	X		butters/hum
Helianthus (NO treated seed)	.5'-8'		sunflowers			sun	X	X			hot, dry, sun, bees
Amaranthus spp.	1'-7'		amaranthus			sun	X	X			back of border
Tithonia rotundifolia	4'-6'		mexican sunflower			sun	X	X			
NATIVE ANNUALS - tend to be very aggressive reseederers, plant one to have a colony, good for meadows.											
Collinsia parviflora	.5'-1'		maiden blue-eyed mary			prt/shd	X				dainty, early flowers
Clarkia pulchella	.5'-1.5'		deerhorn clarkia			sun	X				for cottage garden
Gaillardia pulchella	indian blan		1'-1.5'			sun	X	X			Great annual
Imptatiens capensis	jewelweed		2'-5'			sun/part	X	X	X	X	Wild annual, wet!
Cleome [Peritoma] serrulat	rocky mtn beepla		3'-6'			sun/part	X	X	X		showy, reseeds
Chamaecrista fasciculata	partidge pea		1'-3'			sun	X	X		X	great as cover crop.
Oenothera bienssa	common evening prim		2'-6'			sun/shd	X	X			short-lived, reseeds
Bidens cernua	nodding bur mariglod		.5'-3'			sun	X				bees, reseeds