



# NATIVE PLANTS

Gill Cemetery Commission – Green Burial Cemetery

## ABSTRACT

A list of native plants available from Nasami Farm/Native Plant Trust and other local garden centers that are suitable for dry woodland sites.

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# Ferns

## *Dennstaedtia punctilobula*

### hayscented fern

This fern spreads vigorously via rhizomes, making it a great choice for any shady to partially sunny spot in need of lush groundcover. This is one of a handful of native species which can be considered a 'solution plant,' as it will grow in almost all conditions once established.

<https://plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/plant/Dennstaedtia-punctilobula>

**Height:** 12-24 in

**Spread:** 3-4 ft



## *Dryopteris marginalis*

### marginal fern

This wood fern is semi-evergreen and of moderate size. It grows easily in a wide variety of shady conditions. Its foliage is glossy and the rachis (stems) are covered with beautiful golden scales. The foliage remains green through much of the winter, dying back in early spring as new fiddleheads emerge.

<https://plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/plant/Dryopteris-marginalis>

**Height:** 18-24 in

**Spread:** 18-24 in



## **Polystichum acrostichoides**

### **Christmas fern**

The fronds of Christmas fern emerge red in the early spring and mature to a glossy green. This fern is tolerant of dry shade, and is prized as a "solution plant" that has the added bonus of remaining green year-round, shedding the previous year's leaves only once new growth has commenced in the spring.

<https://plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/plant/Polystichum-acrostichoides>

**Height:** 8-16 in

**Spread:** 12-24 in



# Perennials

## *Actaea rubra*

### red baneberry

Red baneberry is one of the early-blooming species of *Actaea*, with a fluffy white flower followed by vibrant red berries eaten by birds and small mammals. This is one of the very first woodland plants to produce showy fruits during the summer months.

<https://plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/plant/Actaea-rubra>

**Height:** 24-24 in

**Spread:** 12-18 in



## *Asarum canadense*

### Canada wild ginger

A great groundcover for shady situations, large heart-shaped leaves hug the ground and work to hide the flowers which form at the base of the plant, pollinated by flies, ants and beetles. The large, silky leaves pair well with fine-leaved spring perennials such as *Dicentra* or *Sanguinaria*.

<https://plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/plant/Asarum-canadense>

**Height:** 3-6 in

**Spread:** 12-16 in



## *Chrysogonum virginianum*

### green and gold

Vibrant yellow flowers bloom in spring and rebloom sporadically throughout the growing season. As one of the only plants to bring touches of color to deep, shady understories, this is a species no native woodland garden should be without.

<https://plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/plant/Chrysogonum-virginianum>

**Height:** 10-12 in

**Spread:** 10-12 in

**Bloom Color:** Yellow



## *Eurybia divaricata*

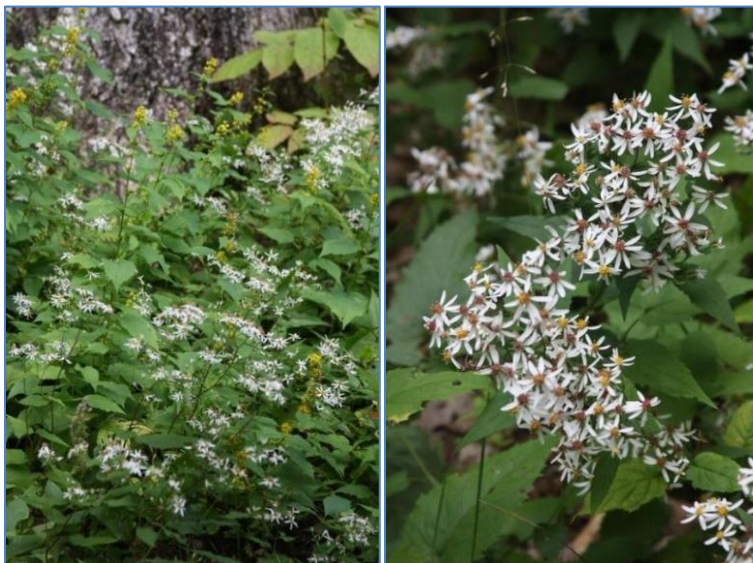
### white wood-aster

White wood aster is one of several native flowers that thrive in the dry, acidic shade so typical of New England. Blooming well into fall and yielding fluffy bunches of seeds thereafter, this easy-going species works just as well in all but full-sun.

<https://plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/plant/Eurybia-divaricata>

**Height:** 12-24 in

**Spread:** 12-18 in



## **Eurybia macrophylla**

### **big leaf aster, lumberjack toilet paper**

This aster is unlike any other, with large, textural leaves, ideal for use as a groundcover in shade (or for a slightly scratchy wipe when you're stranded in the woods). This plant is quite tolerant of dry soils once established, and flowers heavily in later summer and early fall.

<https://plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/plant/Eurybia-macrophylla>

**Height:** 6-18 in

**Spread:** 16-24 in

**Bloom Color:** Purple



## **Gaultheria procumbens**

### **wintergreen**

Wintergreen's evergreen leaves are the original source of wintergreen flavoring and make for a great trail-side snack. In the wild, these plants tend to form trailing, sporadic patches in shady woodlands. Give them a bit more sun and they can fill out nicely.

<https://plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/plant/Gaultheria-procumbens>

**Height:** 1-4 in

**Spread:** 6-12 in

**Bloom Color:** White



***Geranium maculatum*****wild geranium, spotted crane's bill**

This native geranium is adaptable, resilient, and blooms repeatedly from spring through late summer and fall. The seeds are forcibly ejected from the plant making for an intriguing show during the later months of the season. Important pollinator plant for native bees.

<https://plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/plant/Geranium-maculatum>

**Height:** 12-18 in

**Spread:** 8-12 in

**Bloom Color:** Purple

***Mertensia virginica*****Virginia bluebells, eastern bluebells**

Virginia bluebells lend a festive splash of color to the spring understories in New England, where they are also native. Among the earliest plants to flower, the eponymous blue bells persist for many weeks. Plant in quantity for an amazing spring display.

<https://plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/plant/Mertensia-virginica>

**Height:** 12-18 in

**Spread:** 10-14 in



## *Podophyllum peltatum*

### mayapple

Mayapple forms dense patches of umbrella-like leaves in sun as well as shade, spreading quickly via rhizomes. This partially ephemeral species wilts down in the heat of summer but may pick back up on cool or wet days.

<https://plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/plant/Podophyllum-peltatum>

**Height:** 6-12 in

**Spread:** 3-5 ft

**Bloom Color:** White



## *Sanguinaria canadensis*

### bloodroot

Bloodroot is so named for its reddish rhizome, which grows shallowly and can form huge a huge flower patch over the years. The buds are cloaked by emerging leaves that later unfurl to reveal the striking flowers in early spring; this ephemeral will then disappear into dormancy as temperatures rise and canopies close up.

<https://plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/plant/Sanguinaria-canadensis>

**Height:** 4-8 in

**Spread:** 4-12 in

**Bloom Color:** White





***Solidago caesia* (*Solidago axillaris*)****wreath goldenrod, axillary goldenrod**

Goldenrods normally like it sunny and dry, but wreath goldenrod grows happily under the shade of deciduous trees. It does fine in less well-draining soils, brightening up late-season woodlands with its vibrant flowers. This is a pollinator powerhouse.

<https://plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/plant/Solidago-caesia>

**Height:** 18-30 in

**Spread:** 12-24 in

**Bloom Color:** Yellow

***Solidago flexicaulis*****zig-zag goldenrod**

Zigzag goldenrod is a woodland species tolerant of shade and clay soils, and earned its common name from the stems, which sometimes grow in a zig-zag pattern. As with other goldenrods, this species is a pollinator powerhouse, supporting dozens of species of butterflies, moths, and bees.

<https://plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/plant/Solidago-flexicaulis>

**Height:** 1-3 ft

**Spread:** 1-3 ft

**Bloom Color:** Yellow



## *Stylophorum diphyllum*

### celandine poppy

Celandine poppy starts blooming along with some of the more ephemeral spring-blooming understory plants, but keeps right on going after the others have entered dormancy. Its seeds have a protein-rich cap that entices ants to disperse them, and it provides much-needed nectar and pollen in the early season.

<https://plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/plant/Stylophorum-diphyllum>

**Height:** 12-18 in

**Spread:** 8-12 in

**Bloom Color:** Yellow



## *Symphotrichum cordifolium* (Aster cordifolius)

### blue wood aster

This great shade-tolerant aster adds a perfect touch of color to the woodland garden. In autumn when little else is in bloom, it emerges with clouds of pale blue to purple flowers, seeding itself out readily and serving as a great late-season nectar source for pollinators.

<https://plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/plant/Symphotrichum-cordifolium>

**Height:** 12-36 in

**Spread:** 18-24 in



***Trillium erectum*****red wakerobin, stinking Benjamin**

*T. erectum* is probably the most widespread and easily grown *Trillium* in New England. Its not called 'stinking Benjamin' for its pleasant aroma, but it's best to let people discover this for themselves. This is a pedunculate species with a red flower.

<https://plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/plant/Trillium-erectum>

**Height:** 8-14 in

**Spread:** 10-18 in

**Bloom Color:** Red

***Uvularia sessilifolia*****sessile leaved bellwort**

Sessile-leaved bellwort is surprisingly common in the deciduous woodlands of the northeast, emerging in early spring, with bell-shaped flower and arching stems. Ideal for woodland edges and partially shaded garden areas.

<https://plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/plant/Uvularia-sessifolia>

**Height:** 4-9 in

**Spread:** 12-18 in



# SHRUBS

## *Hydrangea arborescens*

### smooth hydrangea, American hydrangea

Most common garden Hydrangea sport few if any fertile flowers-- the typical broad four-petaled flowers are in fact sterile, but our native Hydrangea sports a broad umbel of tiny, spiky fertile flowers at the center, surrounded by showier sterile structures.

<https://plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/plant/Hydrangea-arborescens>

**Height:** 2-4 ft

**Spread:** 3-5 ft

**Bloom Color:** White



## *Kalmia latifolia*

### mountain laurel

Striking in sun or shade and great for massing and foundation planting, mountain laurel has an open, gnarled habit, with flowers budding out deep pink and eventually lightening to white. Great for native bees and the Northern Blue butterfly.

<https://plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/plant/Kalmia-latifolia>

**Height:** 4-10 ft

**Spread:** 4-8 ft



## *Rhododendron minus* Piedmont Rhododendron

Piedmont Rhododendron comes from further south, but is surprisingly hardy to Zone 5. With evergreen leaves and a diminutive size compared to our typical Rhododendron maximum, this profuse spring-bloomer will surprise and delight in well-drained soils.

<https://plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/plant/Rhododendron-minus>

**Height:** 3-6 ft

**Spread:** 3-6 ft

**Bloom Color:** Pink



## *Rhododendron vaseyi* pink shell azalea

Pink-shell azalea is among the most beautiful spring-flowering azaleas, reaching heights somewhat taller than other species. This plant can be a splendid border shrub, preferring organically rich, well-drained soils.

<https://plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/plant/Rhododendron-vaseyi>

**Height:** 10-15 ft

**Spread:** 8-10 ft

**Bloom Color:** Pink



## ***Vaccinium angustifolium*** **lowbush blueberry**

Many people overlook the attractive flowers and vibrant fall foliage that make this plant ornamental as well as edible. Lowbush blueberry is capable of growing in shady, dry soils that are usually barren of other plants. Host plant for the Brown Elfin butterfly.

**Height:** 1-2 ft

**Spread:** 1-3 ft



## ***Vaccinium pallidum*** **Hillside blueberry**

A common low blueberry of xeric sites, such as hillsides, *Vaccinium pallidum* has glabrous (smooth) twigs; the leaves are glaucous (whitened) beneath. Hillside Blueberry flowers in mid-April. The flowers are greenish-white, tinged with red.

<https://gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org/species/vaccinium/pallidum/>

**Height:** 1-2 ft

**Spread:** 1-3 ft



## **Viburnum acerifolium** **maple leaf viburnum**

The three lobed, maple-like leaves lend this plant its common name. White flowers in the spring are followed by berries, maturing to a deep blue color. Its fall foliage is a vibrant red. From sun to shade, moist to dry, maple-leaved viburnum tends to grow anywhere.

<https://plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/plant/Viburnum-acerifolium>

**Height:** 3-6 ft

**Spread:** 3-5 ft



## **Xanthorhiza simplicissima** **yellowroot**

This plant is often overlooked, though it provides wonderful texture and color in shady spots and woodland edges. Deeply cut compound leaves emerge with purple flowers atop individual canes in late spring. Fall foliage is a wonderful mix of reds and purples.

<https://plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/plant/Xanthorhiza-simplicissima>

**Height:** 1-3 ft

**Spread:** 1-3 ft

**Bloom Color:** Purple

