

Wildflower Plant Characteristics for Pollinator and Conservation Plantings in the Northeast

scientific name	Common name	pollinator ranking*	USDA hardiness zones	Bloom Time	bloom color	ht (ft)	Wetland Indicator	ph	light needs	Veg-etative spread	seeds/#	Cost (lb) (\$) 2012**	other
<i>Agastache scrophulariifolia</i>	purple giant hyssop	very high	4-6	july-sept	purple	2-4	FACW	6.5-7.0	full	n/a	1,488,000	\$80	attractive to bees and butterflies,birds, RARE
<i>Apocynum cannabinum</i>	indian hemp	very high	4-8	june-aug	white	2-4	FACU	4.5-7	full	some	500,000	\$280	extensive root system, fairly aggressive
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	common milkweed	very high	3-9	june-aug	pink purple	1-4	FACU	5.6-7.5	full to partial	high	64,000	\$160	attracts monarchs; cuttings will bloom in first year, seeds may not
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	swamp milkweed	very high	3-7	july-aug	pink	2-4	OBL	5-8	full to partial	slow	75,000	\$280	good for wetlands; great for monarch; high deer resistant
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	butterfly milkweed	very high	4-9	late june-aug	orange	1-2	FAC	4.8-6.8	full to partial	none	70,000	\$300	attractive to monarchs
<i>Baptisia australis</i>	blue false indigo	medium	3-8	late may-june	purple/blue	3-5	FACU	5.8-7.2	full	none	63,140	\$140	native legume, great for mixes, bushy habit, good ground cover
<i>Baptisia tinctoria</i>	wild indigo	medium	3-9	june-aug	yellow	1-3	FAC-	5.8-7	full	none	300,000	\$400	very low maintenance
<i>Chelone glabra</i>	white turtlehead	medium	3-8	july-aug	White	2-4	FACW	5.1-6.5	full-shade	slow	1,560,000	\$600	good for shady woods
<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>	partridge pea	high	3-8	june-aug	yellow	2-5	FACU	5.5-7.5	full to partial	none	65,000	\$10	good for wildlife and erosion control; legume, very prolific re-seeder (can become weedy)
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	blue chicory	very low	4-8	july-sept	purple	1-4	FACU	6.0-7.5	full to partial	none	426,400	\$16	roadsides, open fields
<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	lanced-leaved coreopsis	medium	3-8	june-july	yellow	2-4	FACU	6.0-7.0	full	none	210,000	\$14	can tolerate regular mowing
<i>Coreopsis tinctoria</i>	plains coreopsis	low	4-6	june-aug	yellow	2-4	FAC-	5.2-7.8	full	none	3,222,222	\$12	flowers in short period of time, may become invasive
<i>Desmodium canadense</i>	showy tick trefoil	medium-low	3-6	july-sept	pink/purple	2-5	FAC	5.6-6.5	full to partial	n/a	88,000	\$140	legume, can become invasive
<i>Doellingeria umbellata</i>	flat top white aster	medium-low	3-8	july-sept	white	2-4	FACW	5.6-7.5	full	n/a	859,000	\$180	host to pearl crescent, and silvery checkerspot
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	purple coneflower	high	3-8	july-oct	purple	2-4	FAC	6.5-7.2	full to partial	mod	115,000	\$28	easy to grow

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<i>Eupatoriadelphus maculatus</i>	spotted joe pye weed	high	5-9	july-aug	pink-purple	2-5	FACW	5.5-7	full to partial	slow	2,880,000	\$220	attracts butterflies
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	boneset	high	4-7	july-sept	white	2-5	FACW+	6.1-7.8	full to partial	n/a	1,520,000	\$200	from seed, flowers in 2nd to 3rd year. may attract pests
<i>Eurybia macrophylla</i>	bigleaf aster	medium	3-8	july-oct	purple	2-4	FACU	4.9-6.9	full	mod	800,000	\$240	provides wildlife habitat, can tolerate some shade
<i>Euthamia graminifolia</i>	grass-leaved goldenrod	medium-low	2-8	aug-sep	yellow	3-5	FAC	n/a	full	fast	5,600,000	\$360	food and cover for wildlife
<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	common sneezeweed	high	3-8	aug-sept	yellow	2-5	FACW+	4.0-7.5	full	none	2,000,000	\$80	attracts butterflies, flowers late
<i>Helianthus giganteus</i>	giant sunflower	medium	5-11	july-sept	yellow	6-9	FAC	6.1-7.8	full	none	160000	\$280	large plant, small flowers
<i>Helianthus mollis</i>	ashy sunflower	medium	4-10	aug-sept	yellow	2-6	UPL	5.7-8.0	full	high	125,000	\$180	covered with hairs
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	ox eye (false) sunflower	low	3-9	july-aug	yellow	2-5	FAC	6.1-7.8	full to partial	n/a	103,900	\$48	deer and birds love this plant
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	St Johnswort	medium	4-8	july-oct	yellow	1-3	FAC	5.1-7.5	partial	slow	1,800,000	\$80	
<i>Lespedeza capitata</i>	round-headed lespedeza	low	4-6	aug-sept	white	2-4	FACU-	5.7-8.2	full	none	159,000	\$180	provides food for birds and small wildlife
<i>Liatris aspera</i>	tall (rough) blazing star	high	3-8	july-aug	purple	2-4	FACU	6.6-7.5	full	slow	256,000	\$400	scarify seed helps, shortest and last to bloom of liatris
<i>Liatris spicata</i>	marsh blazing star	high	3-9	july-aug	purple	2-4	FAC+	5.6-7.5	full to partial	slow	100,000	\$148	good for rain gardens
<i>Linum perenne</i>	perennial blue flax	low	4-9	june-july	blue	2-3	FAC	6.1-7.8	full to partial	slow	320,000	\$20	not native and short lived
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	cardinal flower	high	4-8	june-aug	red	1-4	FACW+	5.8-7.8	full to partial	none	7,320,000	\$560	provides nectar for bees and hummingbirds, butterflies
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	great blue lobelia	very high	3-8	july-sept	purple	2-5	FACW+	6.0-7.5	full to partial	n/a	6,400,000	\$260	takes a few years to establish

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<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	wild lupine	high	3-9	late may-june	blue	1-2	FACU	4.6-7.2	full to partial	none	18,800	\$200	provides food and habitat for butterflies, not for restoration
<i>Mimulus ringens</i>	Alleghany monkey flower	medium	3-9	july-aug	light purple	1-3	OBL	5.6-7.5	full to partial	n/a	36,800,000	\$160	provides cover for wildlife
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	wild bergamot	very high	3-7	june-july	purple/ dark pink	2-5	UPL	6-8	full to partial	mod	1,200,000	\$220	provides nectar for bees and hummingbirds, butterflies
<i>Monarda media</i>	purple bergamot	very high	4-9	june-aug	purple	2-4	FACW	6.0-7.8	full to partial	mod	1,120,000	\$196	attracts bees and butterflies
<i>Monarda punctata</i>	spotted beebalm	very high	5-10	july-aug	pink/ white	1-3	UPL	6.8-7.2	full	mod	1,440,000	\$180	sensitive to overwatering
<i>Oenothera biennis</i>	evening primrose	medium	4-8	june-aug	yellow	4-5	FACU	6.1-7.8	full	none	1,376,000	\$32	may become weedy or invasive
<i>Oligoneuron riddellii</i>	Riddell's Goldenrod	high	3-7	sept-oct	yellow	2-4	OBL	7.0-8.0	full	some	1,424,000	\$200	listed as species at risk, Not Native to NY
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	tall white beard tongue	high	4-8	may-july	white	2-5	FAC	5.5-7	full to partial	mod	2,000,000	\$108	a durable early plant
<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i>	hairy beardtongue	high	4-9	july-aug	Pale violet	2-3	FACU	6.0-7.5	full-shade	none	4,000,000	\$240	shorter stature than P. digitalis
<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	Virginia mountain mint	very high	4-8	july-aug	white	1-3	FAC	5.0-7.5	full to partial	slow	3,840,000	\$480	very fragrant
<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	gray-headed coneflower	medium	3-7	july-aug	yellow	3-5	FAC	5.6-6.8	full to partial	none	625,000	\$48	
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	black-eyed susan	medium-low	5-9	june-sept	yellow/ orange	2-3	FACU	6-7	full to partial	none	1,500,000	\$24	food and cover for birds
<i>Senna hebecarpa</i>	wild senna	medium	4-9	july-aug	yellow	4-6	FAC	6.5-7.5	full to partial	n/a	22,680	\$20	short flowering legumes
<i>Solidago caesia</i>	bluestem goldenrod	high	3-9	aug-oct	yellow	1-4	FACU	5.5-7	full to partial	slow	4,640,000	\$450	wood edges
<i>Solidago juncea</i>	early goldenrod	high	4-8	july-sept	yellow	2-5	UPL	5.0-7.0	full to partial	n/a	700,000	\$200	first goldenrod of the season to bloom

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<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>	gray goldenrod	high	4-8	aug-oct	yellow	1-3	UPL	6.5-7.5	full	rapid	1,008,000	\$240	survives in low fertility soil, provides nectar for butterflies
<i>Solidago patula</i>	rough goldenrod	high	3-8	sept-oct	yellow	4-5	OBL	4.5-7	full-partial	rapid	700000	\$320	
<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	showy goldenrod	high	5-9	aug-sept	yellow	2-5	UPL	5.1-7.5	full to partial	n/a	1,600,000	\$160	very attractive to butterflies, bees, ants, beetles
<i>Symphotrichum laeve</i>	smooth blue aster	high	4-6	aug-oct	blue/purple	2-5	FACU	5.8-7.8	full	mod	880,000	\$200	fibrous root system
<i>Symphotrichum lateriflorum</i>	calico aster	high	3-6	aug-sept	white/ changing	2-5	FACW-	6.1-6.5	full-shade	some	4,000,000	\$260	found in forested areas, horizontal branches
<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>	new england aster	high	4-8	aug-oct	purple	2-6	FACW	5.6-7.5	full to partial	n/a	700,000	\$248	provides food and cover for wildlife and butterflies
<i>Symphotrichum novibelgii</i>	NY aster	high	4-8	aug-oct	purple	3-5	FACW	5.5-7	full	mod	700000	\$220	prone to mildew
<i>Symphotrichum prenanthoides</i>	zigzag (crooked stem) aster	high	4-8	july-sept	pink/purple	2-4	FAC	5.5-7.2	partial to shade	mod	700,000	\$180	provides nectar for butterflies
<i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i>	Ohio spiderwort	high	4-9	late may-july	purple	2-3	FAC	6.6-7.5	full to partial	n/a	128,000	\$160	self seeds, can become invasive
<i>Tradescantia subaspera</i>	zigzag spiderwort	high	5-9	late may-aug	purple	2-3	FACW	5.6-7.8	partial	n/a	130,000	\$54	bloom period fairly long. Pollinated by bees, syrphid flies
<i>Trifolium hybridum</i>	alsike clover	medium-high	2-10	early may-june	pink-white	1-3	FAC	5.6-7.5	full	none	680,400	\$2	introduced
<i>Verbena hastata</i>	blue vervain	medium	3-8	june-aug	purple	2-5	FACW+	5.6-7.5	full to partial	n/a	1,544,000	\$54	easily seeded
<i>Verbena stricta</i>	hoary vervain	medium	3-9	july-aug	purple	4-6	FACU	5.6-7.5	full	slow	480,000	\$80	does not compete with vigorous grasses
<i>Verbena urticifolia</i>	white vervain	medium	4-9	june-aug	white	3-5	FACU	6.6-7.5	full to partial	n/a	1,000,000	\$120	will flower in the first year
<i>Verbesina alternifolia</i>	wingstem	high	4-6	july-sept	yellow	3-7	FAC	n/a	full to partial	n/a	239,000	\$140	threatened in NYS

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<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>	NY ironweed	high	5-9	aug-sept	purple	4-6	FACW+	5.1-7.5	full to partial	none	300,000	\$210	deer and rabbit resistance
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	culver's root	high	4-8	july-aug	white	2-5	FAC	6.6-7.8	full to partial	n/a	12,400,000	\$640	attracts butterflies and bees
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	golden alexanders	medium-low	3-8	late april-june	yellow	1-2	FAC	6.1-7.8	full to partial	n/a	176,000	\$160	one of the earliest blooming natives

*Pollinator rankings are from Xerces Society and current and past research (values updated May 2012)

**All prices from Ernst Conservation Seed

INFORMATION: [Xerces Society](#) [Michigan State University](#) [Native Plant Network](#) [NYS Flora Atlas](#)
 [NRCS PLANTS database](#) [pollinator.org](#) [USDA Forest Service](#) [New England Wildflower Society](#)
 [www.wildflower.org](#) [CT Botanical Society](#) [NYS Natural Heritage Program](#) [Flora Of North America Association](#)

~Note that all native perennial wildflowers benefit from a period of cold stratification to improve germination and vigor



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