

# Plants for Challenging Conditions

## Plants for Dry Shade

Under Trees. In a Dry Woodland. Will also work in moist/average conditions.



### Herbaceous

**Aquilegia canadensis** Wild Columbine  
**Aster (Symphyotrichum) cordifolius** Heart leaved Aster  
**Aster (Eurybia) divaricatus** White Wood Aster  
**Heuchera villosa** Autumn Alumroot  
**Sedum ternatum** Stonecrop  
**Solidago caesia** Blue stemmed Goldenrod  
**Solidago flexicaulis** Zigzag Goldenrod  
**Viola species** Violets

### Ferns

**Polystichum acrostichoides** Christmas Fern\*\*

### Woody

**Calycanthus floridus** Carolina Allspice, Sweetshrub  
**Clethra alnifolia** Summersweet Clethra  
**Fothergilla gardenii** Fothergilla  
**Gaultheria procumbens** Wintergreen  
**Rhododendron calendulaceum, R. periclymenoides**

### Grasses

**Carex pensylvanica** Pennsylvania Sedge\*\*\*  
**Chasmanthium latifolium** Northern Sea Oats\*\*  
**Elymus hystrix** Bottlebrush Grass

## Plants for Wet Shade

Low spots with frequent standing water. Use these in moist/average conditions, also.



### Herbaceous

**Anemone canadensis** Canada Anemone\*\*\*  
**Arisaema triphyllum** Jack in the Pulpit  
**Caltha palustris** Marsh Marigold  
**Chelone glabra** White Turtlehead  
**Geum fragarioides** Barren Strawberry\*\*\*  
**Hydrophyllum canadense** Broad-leaved Waterleaf  
**Lobelia cardinalis** Cardinal Flower  
**Lobelia siphilitica** Blue Lobelia  
**Packera (formerly Senecio) aurea** Golden Ragwort\*\*\*  
**Polemonium reptans** Jacob's Ladder

### Woody

**Rhododendron viscosum** Swamp Azalea  
**Clethra alnifolia** Summersweet  
**Lindera benzoin** Spicebush  
**Euonymus americanus** Hearts-a-Burstin'

### Ferns

**Matteuccia pensylvanica** Ostrich Fern  
**Osmunda claytonia** Interrupted Fern  
**Osmunda cinnamomea** Cinnamon Fern  
**Osmunda regalis** Royal Fern  
**Onoclea sensibilis** Sensitive Fern

## Plants Whose Botanical Names Have Recently Changed

**Aster** is now **Symphyotrichum** for (new species names) cordifolium, ericoides, laeve, novae-angliae, and oblongifolium.  
**Aster** is now **Eurybia** for divaricata and spectabilis. ('sim fee oh TRY kum' 'you RIB ee ah' 'you TROH kee um')  
**Eupatorium** is now **Eutrochium** for dubium, fistulosum, maculatum, and purpureum. **E. coelestinum** is now **Conoclinium coelestinum**. You'll find them on our tables arranged alphabetically under **Aster & Eupatorium** for the time being.

# Plants for Challenging Conditions

## Plants for Dry Sun

Meadow, Mailbox. Will also do well in moist conditions.



### Herbaceous

**Allium cernuum** Nodding Wild Onion  
**Antennaria neglecta** Field Pussytoes  
**Asclepias tuberosa** Butterfly Weed\*  
**Aster (Symphyotrichum) ericoides** White Heath Aster\*  
**Aster (Eurybia) spectabilis** Showy Aster  
**Baptisia australis** False Indigo  
**Callirhoe involucrata** Wine Cups  
**Echinacea (All)** Purple Cone Flower\*\*  
**Phlox subulata** Moss Pinks  
**Rudbeckia triloba, R. hirta** Brown-/Black-eyed Susan  
**Solidagos: S. speciosa** Showy Goldenrod, **S. odora** Sweet Goldenrod, **S. nemoralis** Old Field Goldenrod, **S. juncea** Early Goldenrod, **S. rigida** Stiff Goldenrod  
**Thermopsis villosa** Carolina Bush Pea

### Woody

**Cornus sericea** Red Twig Dogwood\*\*  
**Ilex glabra**  
**Quercus macrocarpa** Bur Oak\*\*  
**Vaccinium angustifolium** Lowbush Blueberry  
**Vaccinium corymbosum** Highbush Blueberry

### Grasses

**Eragrostis spectabilis** Purple Love Grass  
**Muhlenbergia capillaris** Pink Muhly Grass  
**Panicum virgatum** Switchgrass\*\*  
**Schizachyrium scoparium** Little Bluestem\*\*  
**Sporobolus heterolepis** Prairie Dropseed\*\*  
**Sorghastrum nutans** Indian Grass\*\*  
**Tridens flavus** Purple Top

## Plants for Wet Sun

Low Spots with frequent standing water. At the edge of a stream or pond.



### Herbaceous

**Asclepias incarnata** Swamp Milkweed\*  
**Eryngium aquaticum** Rattlesnake Master  
**Eupatorium (Conoclinium) coelestinum** Mistflower  
**Eupatorium (Eutrochium) dubium, E. fistulosum, E. perfoliatum** Joe Pyes and Boneset  
**Iris versicolor** Blue Flag  
**Liatris spicata** Dense Blazing Star\*  
**Lobelia cardinalis** Cardinal Flower  
**Lobelia siphilitica** Blue Lobelia  
**Physostegia virginiana** False Dragonhead\*  
**Rudbeckia laciniata** Black eyed Susan\*\*  
**Silphium perfoliatum** Cup Plant  
**Solidago rugosa 'Fireworks'** Rough-stemmed Goldenrod  
**Vernonia noveboracensis** New York Ironweed

### Woody

**Betula nigra** River Birch\*\*  
**Cephalanthus occidentalis** Buttonbush  
**Chionanthus virginicus** Fringe Tree  
**Clethra alnifolia** Sweet Pepperbush\*\*  
**Fothergilla (All)** Fothergilla  
**Hamamelis virginiana** Witch Hazel\*\*  
**Ilex verticillata** Winterberry\*\*  
**Itea virginica** Virginia Sweetspire  
**Magnolia virginica** Sweet – bay Magnolia  
**Quercus bicolor** Swamp White Oak  
**Vaccinium corymbosum** High-bush Blueberry

### Grasses

**Panicum virgatum** Switchgrass  
**Scirpus cyperinus** Wool Grass

## A Native Sun Garden

### Herbaceous

*Amsonia tabernaemontana* Bluestar  
*Asclepias tuberosa* Butterfly Weed  
*Aster (Symphyotrichum) novae-angliae* New England Aster  
*Aster (Symphyotrichum) oblongifolius, cvs.* Crooked-stem Aster  
*Baptisia australis* False Indigo  
*Echinacea (All)* Purple Cone Flowers  
*Eupatorium (Eutrochium) dubium, E. fistulosum* Joe Pye Weed  
*Eupatorium (Conoclinium) coelestinum* Mistflower  
*Eupatorium perfoliatum* Boneset  
*Monarda fistulosa, Wild Bergamot, M. didyma* Bee balm  
*Parthenium integrifolia* Wild Quinine  
*Penstemon digitalis, P. hirsutus* Beardtongue  
*Phlox paniculata* Garden Phlox  
*Rudbeckia species*  
*Silene caroliniana* Wild Pink (Front of the border)  
*Solidago nemoralis, S. rigida, S. rugosa* Goldenrods

### Grasses

*Eragrostis spectabilis* Purple Love Grass  
*Schizachyrium scoparium* Little Bluestem  
*Sporobolus heterolepis* Prairie Dropseed

### Woody

*Cornus sericea* Red Twig Dogwood  
*Fothergilla (All)* Fothergilla  
*Hypericum prolificum* Shrubby St John's Wort  
*Physocarpus opulifolius* Ninebark  
*Viburnum dentatum, V. nudum, V. trilobum*  
*Chionanthus virginicus* Fringe Tree



## A Native Shade Garden

### Herbaceous

*Aquilegia canadensis* Wild Columbine  
*Arisaema triphyllum* Jack in the Pulpit  
*Asarum canadense* Wild Ginger  
*Aster (Symphyotrichum) cordifolius* Heart leaved Aster  
*Aster (Eurybia) divaricatus* White Wood Aster  
*Eupatorium (Conoclinium) coelestinum* Mistflower  
*Dicentra cucullaria* Dutchman's Breeches  
*Dicentra eximia* Wild Bleeding Heart  
*Geranium maculatum* Wild Geranium  
*Geum fragaroides* Barren Strawberry  
*Hydrangea arborescens* Smooth Hydrangea  
*Iris cristata* Dwarf Crested Iris  
*Mertensia virginica* Virginia Bluebells  
*Pachysandra procumbens* Allegheny Pachysandra  
*Phlox divaricata, P. stolonifera* Blue Phlox, Creeping Phlox  
*Polemonium reptans* Jacob's Ladder  
*Sedum ternatum* Stonecrop  
*Solidago caesia, S. flexicaulis* Blue-stem'd, Zigzag Goldenrods  
*Stylophorum diphyllum* Wood Poppy  
*Thalictrum polygamum* Tall Meadow Rue  
*Tiarella cordifolia* Foam Flower  
*Uvularia grandiflora* Merrybells  
*Viola species* Violets

### Woody

*Cercis canadensis* Redbud  
*Clethra alnifolia* Summersweet  
*Cornus florida* Flowering Dogwood  
*Hydrangea quercifolia* Oakleaf Hydrangea  
*Viburnum acerfolium, V. dentatum, V. nudum, V. trilobum*

### Grasses

*Carex pennsylvanica* Pennsylvania Sedge  
*Carex flaccosperma* Blue Wood Sedge  
*Carex laxiculmis* Creeping Sedge  
*Carex plantaginea* Seersucker Sedge  
*Chasmanthium latifolium* Wild River Oats  
*Deschampsia cespitosa* Tufted Hairgrass

### Ferns

*Adiantum pedatum* Maidenhair Fern  
*Matteuccia pennsylvanica* Ostrich Fern  
*Polystichum acrostichoides* Christmas Fern



## Butterfly and Pollinator Garden for Sun to Part Shade

### Herbaceous

**Asclepias (All)** Butterfly Weed  
**Chelone glabra** White Turtlehead  
**Echinacea purpurea** Purple Coneflower  
**Eryngium yuccifolium** Rattlesnake Master  
**Eupatorium (Eutrochium) (All)**  
**Liatris spicata** Dense Blazing Star  
**Monarda (All)** Wild Bergamot, Bee Balm  
**Physostegia virginiana** False Dragonhead  
**Pycnanthemum muticum** Short-toothed Mountain Mint  
**Pycnanthemum virginianum** American Mountain Mint  
**Rudbeckia fulgida, R. hirta, R. triloba**  
**Solidagos** Goldenrods  
**Veronicastrum virginicum** Culver's Root  
**Violas** Violets

### Grasses (To feed specific caterpillars)

**Eragrostis spectabilis** Purple Love Grass  
**Schizachyrium scoparium** Little Bluestem  
**Sporobolus heterolepis** Prairie Dropseed

### Woody

**Cornus florida, C. alternifolia** Flowering, Pagoda Dogwood  
**Juniperus virginiana** Eastern Red Cedar  
**Lonicera sempervirens** Trumpet Honeysuckle  
**Quercus (All)** Oaks - # 1 host for Caterpillars  
**Rhododendron periclymenoides, R. vaseyi, R. atlanticum and R. calendulaceum** Azaleas  
**Viburnum prunifolium** Blackhaw  
**Viburnum trilobum** American Cranberry Bush  
**Viburnum dentatum** Arrowwood  
**Viburnum nudum** Possumhaw



## Plants for Winter Interest

### Herbaceous

**Echinacea (All)** Purple Coneflower  
**Heuchera villosa** Hairy Alum Root  
**Monarda (All)** Wild Bergamot, Bee Balm  
**Rudbeckia species, R. laciniata** Black eyed Susan

### Woody

**Betula nigra** River Birch  
**Clethra alnifolia** Summersweet  
**Cornus sericea** Red Twig Dogwood (Shown above)  
**Ilex verticillata** Winterberry (Need male & females)  
**Ilex opaca** American Holly, *I. glabra* Inkberry

### Grasses

**Chasmanthium latifolium** Wild River Oats  
**Panicum virgatum** Switchgrass  
**Schizachyrium scoparium** Little Bluestem  
**Sporobolus heterolepis** Prairie Dropseed

### Ferns

**Matteuccia pennsylvanica** Ostrich Fern  
**Polystichum acrostichoides** Christmas Fern  
**Onoclea sensibilis** Sensitive Fern

## Groundcovers

**Anemone canadensis** Canada Anemone Sun-P/Sh  
**Asarum canadense** Wild Ginger P/Sh-Sh  
**Aster (Symphyotrichum) ericoides** White Heath Aster Sun  
**Erigeron pulchellus 'Lynnhaven Carpet'** Fleabane Sun  
**Geum fragarioides** Barren Strawberry Sun-P/Sh  
**Oenothera fruticosa** Sundrops Sun-P/Sh  
**Pachysandra procumbens** Allegheny Pachysandra P/Sh-Sh  
**Packera (Senecio) aurea** Golden Ragwort Sun-Sh  
**Phlox subulata** Moss Phlox (Shown below) Sun  
**Sedum ternatum** Stonecrop Sun-P/Sh  
**Viola species** Violets Sun-P/Sh  
**Xanthorhiza simplicissima** Yellowroot Sh  
**Zizia aurea** Golden Alexander Sun-P/Sh

### Grasses

**Chasmanthium latifolium** Northern Sea Oats  
**Carex pensylvanica** Pennsylvania Sedge

