The Betsy Dotson Memorial Garden showcases native plants that grow locally. Why are native plants important?

**Host plants for pollinators.** Native plants are hosts to specific pollinators, providing the place where insects lay their eggs, and larvae can safely eat. Pollinators and plants co-evolved to serve each other. The flowers’ shapes, colors, scents, and bloom time attract their specific pollinators. Even the insects’ body parts match the flower shapes where they pick up pollen and drink nectar. Our natives evolved in a balanced ecosystem that maintained these vital functions.

**Preferable to harmful invasive plants.** Plants native to distant environments, called exotics, have no competitors from their own native ecosystems to keep them in check. When exotics are grown here, they may become invasive, replacing the natives that are crucial to our insects, birds, and other fauna. Using native plants eliminates the chance for exotics to become invasive.

**Provide food and shelter.** Food and shelter provided by native plants have been reduced by habitat destruction. Planting natives at home and in public parks helps restore wildlife.

**Reduce use of chemicals and excess water.** Native plants are adapted to our soils and so require no fertilizers or pesticides, reducing the flow of chemicals into our waterways. They are adapted to the normal rainfall here and may use less water. They are easier to maintain.

**Beauty.** Colorful native plants may have showy flowers, interesting fruits, seeds and bark plus attractive foliage and fall color.

**A sense of place.** Native plants typify what is “at home” in our own “ecological neighborhood” and are unique to our locale.

You might plan a home garden based on the information provided here. Visit www.locustgrove.org for a brochure about the Betsy Dotson Memorial Garden.

### Why Native Plants?

**Ferns**

- **Maidenhair Fern**, *Adiantum pedatum*  
  Soil Moisture: M  
  Sunlight: PS  
  Height: 1-2’

- **Christmas Fern**, *Polystichum acrostichoides*  
  Soil Moisture: M  
  Sunlight: PS, SH  
  Height: 1.5-2’

- **Lady Fern**, *Athyrium filix-femina*  
  Soil Moisture: W, M  
  Sunlight: PS, SH  
  Height: 1-3’

- **Sensitive Fern**, *Onoclea sensibilis*  
  Soil Moisture: W, M  
  Sunlight: PS, SH  
  Height: 1-2’

- **New York Fern**, *Thelypteris noveboracensis*  
  Soil Moisture: W  
  Sunlight: PS, SH  
  Height: 1.5’

- **Wood Fern**, *Dryopteris marginalis*  
  Soil Moisture: M  
  Sunlight: PS, SH  
  Height: 2-3’

**Herbaceous**

- **Wild Ginger**, *Asarum canadense*  
  Soil Moisture: M  
  Sunlight: PS, SH  
  Height: <1’
  Flower Color: Brown  
  Bloom Time: Apr-May

- **Wild Columbine**, *Aquilegia canadensis*  
  Soil Moisture: M, D  
  Sunlight: SU, PS  
  Height: 2’
  Flower Color: Red-Yellow  
  Bloom Time: Apr-May

- **New England Aster**, *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*  
  Soil Moisture: M, D  
  Sunlight: SU, PS  
  Height: 6’
  Flower Color: Purple  
  Bloom Time: Sep-Oct

- **Wild Bleeding Heart**, *Dicentra eximia*  
  Soil Moisture: M  
  Sunlight: SH  
  Height: 1.5’
  Flower Color: Pink, White  
  Bloom Time: Apr-Sep

- **Bottle Gentian**, *Gentiana clausa*  
  Soil Moisture: M  
  Sunlight: SU  
  Height: 1.5’
  Flower Color: Blue  
  Bloom Time: Aug-Sep

- **Cardinal Flower**, *Lobelia cardinalis*  
  Soil Moisture: W  
  Sunlight: M  
  Height: 3’
  Flower Color: Blue  
  Bloom Time: Aug-Oct

- **Virginia Bluebells**, *Mertensia virginica*  
  Soil Moisture: M  
  Sunlight: PS  
  Height: 1’
  Flower Color: Blue  
  Bloom Time: Mar-Apr

- **Foamflower**, *Tiarella cordifolia*  
  Soil Moisture: M  
  Sunlight: SU, PS, SH  
  Height: 1’
  Flower Color: White  
  Bloom Time: Apr-Jul

- **White Turtlehead**, *Chelone glabra*  
  Soil Moisture: W, M  
  Sunlight: PS  
  Height: 3’
  Flower Color: White  
  Bloom Time: Aug-Oct

- **White Snakeroot**, *Ageratina altissima*  
  Soil Moisture: M  
  Sunlight: D  
  Height: 3.5’
  Flower Color: White  
  Bloom Time: Jun-Aug

- **Wild Geranium**, *Geranium maculatum*  
  Soil Moisture: M  
  Sunlight: PS, SH  
  Height: 2’
  Flower Color: Pink, Purple  
  Bloom Time: Apr-Jul

- **Blue-eyed Grass**, *Sisyrinchium angustifolium*  
  Soil Moisture: M  
  Sunlight: SU, PS  
  Height: 1’
  Flower Color: Green, White  
  Bloom Time: Apr-Jun

- **White Wood Aster**, *Eurybia divaricata*  
  Soil Moisture: M  
  Sunlight: SU, PS  
  Height: 1-3’
  Flower Color: White  
  Bloom Time: Jul-Aug

- **New York Ironweed**, *Vernonia noveboracensis*  
  Soil Moisture: M  
  Sunlight: SU  
  Height: 4-8’
  Flower Color: Purple  
  Bloom Time: Aug-Oct

**SHRUBS and TREES**

- **Hazelnut**, *Corylus americana*  
  Soil Moisture: M  
  Sunlight: PS  
  Height: 10-15’
  Flower Color: White  
  Bloom Time: Mar-Apr

- **Spicebush**, *Lindera benzoin*  
  Soil Moisture: M  
  Sunlight: D  
  Height: 6.5-16’
  Flower Color: Yellow  
  Bloom Time: Mar-May

- **Highbush Blueberry**, *Vaccinium corymbosum*  
  Soil Moisture: M  
  Sunlight: SU, PS  
  Height: 6-12’
  Flower Color: White, Pink  
  Bloom Time: Apr-May

- **Southern Arrowwood**, *Viburnum dentatum*  
  Soil Moisture: M  
  Sunlight: SU, PS  
  Height: 10’
  Flower Color: White  
  Bloom Time: May-Jun

- **Winterberry**, *Ilex verticillata*  
  Soil Moisture: M  
  Sunlight: SU, PS, SH  
  Height: 6-12’
  Flower Color: White  
  Bloom Time: May-Jun

- **Red Chokecherry**, *Prunus virginiana*  
  Soil Moisture: M  
  Sunlight: SU, PS  
  Height: 6-12’
  Flower Color: White  
  Bloom Time: May-Jun

- **American Holly**, *Ilex opaca*  
  Soil Moisture: M  
  Sunlight: SU, PS  
  Height: 65’
  Flower Color: White  
  Bloom Time: May-Jun

- **Sweetbay Magnolia**, *Magnolia virginiana*  
  Soil Moisture: M  
  Sunlight: SU, PS, SH  
  Height: 30’
  Flower Color: White  
  Bloom Time: May-Jul

**Key:**

- **W** = Wet
- **M** = Moist
- **D** = Dry
- **SU** = Full Sun
- **PS** = Part Shade
- **SH** = Full Shade