



Crocker Nurseries

Groundcovers for Lawn Alternative:

**indicates native to New England*

- ***Arctostaphylos- Bearberry:** Evergreen foliage, very drought tolerant. Light pink-white blooms appear in spring followed by berries in fall. Sun/ part sun. Controls soil erosion well
- ***Asarum canadensis-Wild ginger:** deciduous ground cover for part shade
- **Asarum europaeum- European wild ginger:** semi-evergreen during mild winters. Can be used as under planting to trees including black walnut. Part shade/ shade
- **Asarum splendens-Chinese wild ginger:** semi-evergreen quickest growing ginger. Part shade/shade
- **Anacyclus- mat daisy:** very prostrate mat forming groundcover for full sun. Interesting gray foliage and white flowers early summer. Good for well-draining gravel soil
- **Antennaria 'Rubra'- pussy toes US native:** Very drought tolerant silver foliage plant that loves full sun. Must have gritty well drained soil. Fuzzy pink flowers in June
- **Epimedium 'Sulphureum'- barrenwort:** Best to grow in dry shade, under trees. Semi- evergreen and flowers in April-May.
- **Liriope- lilyturf /variegated lilyturf:** spreading grass-like groundcover that likes part shade. Resembles lawn grass with wider blades. Purple flower June- July
- **Mazus reptans:** vigorous spreading groundcover for sun/ part sun, foot friendly, with small purple flowers June-July
- **Omphalodes verna - Blue-eyed Mary:** semi-evergreen with blue forget-me-not flowers in May/June. Part shade, best to let naturalize along woodlands, great for hiding fading spring bulbs.
- **Potentilla tridentate - Wineleaf Cinquefoil US Native:** vigorous ground cover that can tolerate light foot traffic, semi-evergreen with bronze fall color. Great for dry areas in full sun. White flowers June-July
- **Prunella - self heal US native:** long blooming purple flowers June-Aug. Vigorous and roots along stems, best in part sun
- **Sedum- stoncrop/ternatum US native:** drought tolerant and can also withstand shade
- **Thymus- Thyme:** Very foot friendly and one of the best spreading ground cover perennials. Pink flowers in summer over fragrant foliage. Full sun and good drainage are imperative

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Other great Lawn Alternatives that will be available in spring:

- **Anemone canadensis- US native:** easily grown in medium to wet soil in part shade. White flowers bloom in spring.
- **Cerastium- Snow in Summer:** groundcover with silver foliage, blooms May to June with white flowers. Tolerates full sun.
- ***Cornus canadensis- Bunchberry:** native groundcover with Dogwood shaped flowers June-July. Part shade and moist soil are ideal. Nice red fall foliage
- ***Hay scented Fern- Dennstaedtia punctilobula:** Shade/sun with moist woodland soil. Very aggressive spreader
- ***Geranium maculatum- perennial geranium:** Woodland shade geranium that naturalizes, part shade to shade
- ***Gaultheria-wintergreen:** native evergreen groundcover with wintergreen scented foliage and red berries in fall. Part shade and well-drained soil are ideal.
- **Heuchera villosa- coral bells- US native:** best in part shade to shade in moist well-drained soil.
- **Iberis semperviens- Candytuft:** Semi-evergreen drought tolerant plant that has white flowers in spring-early summer. Full sun and well-drained soil is ideal
- **Laurentia/ Isotoma- Blue star creeper:** part shade groundcover that spreads rapidly and can withstand foot traffic. Blue star shaped flowers appear in spring.
- **Phlox subulata- moss Phlox:** vigorous spreading, mat-forming and sun loving, blooms early spring
- ***Podophyllum-Mayapple:** Woodland groundcover that emerges early spring with glossy green umbrella-like foliage. Flower and fruit follow (important food for Box turtles). Naturalizes easily
- **Sagina subulata- Irish or Scottish moss:** part shade to full shade with adequate moisture. Native mosses can be transplanted and propagated easily.
- ***Tiarella- Foamflower:** groundcover for shade- part shade that spreads well from rhizomes. White cream colored flowers bloom in spring through summer and have interesting foliage.
- **White Clover:** available by seed. More drought tolerant than grass but still requires water. No fertilizer necessary and it will attract pollinators. Clover can tolerate moderate foot traffic. May deter rabbits from eating more valuable perennials.
- **Wildflower mixes:** Can be tricky to get going and usually require 3 years before they look amazing. There are many different mixes to choose from that focus on certain criteria such as full sun or pollinator friendly. Check percentages of annual seeds.



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Native Pollinator Plants

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- ***Actaea rubrifolia - Appalachian Bugbane:** endangered in native range. Late season white spike flower that grows up to 4'. Maple leaved foliage 2', prefers more alkaline soil in part sun/ shade
- **Amsonia hubrichtii- Arkansas Blue Star:** best when hot and dry, with well-drained soil. Great fall foliage and texture. Light blue flowers in spring. Milky sap discourages pests. 2-3' Full sun
- **Aruncus diocicus- Goats beard:** good substitute for shrub- grows to 4' part shade/shade. White flowers in May, allow 4' spread
- ***Asclepias incarnate - Swamp Milkweed and Asclepias tuberosa - Butterfly weed:** Host for Monarch caterpillar. Best grown in full sun in an area it can naturalize
- ***Asters- New England/ 'Purple Dome':** full sun to part sun with well-drained soil. Late season bloom for pollinators
- ***Caltha palustris- Marsh Marigold:** naturalizes along wet areas, early buttercup flower goes dormant after bloom in spring
- ***Chelone glabra- white turtlehead:** naturalizes boggy soil, grows 2-3' blooming with white flowers in late summer. Host plant for Baltimore Checker Spot Butterfly.
- **Dicentra eximia:** shaded woodland perennial with long bloom time and does not go summer dormant. 12-18" tall
- **Echinacea tenesseeensis- coneflower:** tough in poor soil and humidity. Loves full sun/ part sun and blooms from mid-summer to frost
- **Echinacea purpurea- coneflower:** prairie wildflower that has large showy flowers and great seed head the birds love to eat. 24-36" Best in full/ part sun
- **Eupatorium- Joe Pye Weeds:** native across the US and most prefer moist, but well-drained soil which is why it is a #1 choice for rain gardens. Give these plants space with heights ranging from 24-72" tall and 36-48" wide. Full/ part sun
 - E. coelestinum (bluemist) – Hardy Ageratum: Fast spreading Midwest native with light blue button like flower heads. Naturalizes easily and a pollinator favorite
 - E. *perfolium (boneset): A high nectar plant for many butterfly species. A late blooming white flower 48-72" tall
 - E. *rugosum (Chocolate) - White Snake Root: Dark foliage adds contrast to the garden and late season white flowers
 - E. dubium (Baby Joe): Dwarf variety only grows 24-30" with maroon flowers
- ***Helenium autumnale- sneezeweed:** prolific native wildflower that responds well to being cut back in June
- ***Monarda fistulosa- Wild Bergamot:** clay soil tolerant, spread by rhizomes
- ***Pycnanthemum muticum:** Nectar plant late season for butterflies and predatory wasps
- ***Ruellia humilis- wild Petunia:** dry and shallow soils or rock gardens- rare
- ***Senna hebecarpa-Wild senna:** tolerant of salt
- ***Spiranthes odorata- fragrant lady tresses Orchid:** adaptable orchid late summer bloom. Forms colonies in wet areas, fragrant
- ***Veronicastrum virginicum- Culvers Root:** very large perennial, blooms July and August, winter interest

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Other great pollinator plants available spring 2021:

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- **Aquilegia canadensis*- native columbine: naturalizes along part shade woodland gardens. Spring bloom with red/yellow flowers.
- **Geranium maculatum*-spotted cranesbill: Part shade to shade, with a late spring pink flower. Grows 12-24"
- **Liatris spicata*: Lavender flowers on 24" tall plants in summer
- **Lobelia cardinalis*: Cardinal flower: red flowers attractive to bees butterflies and hummingbirds, likes moist gardens with part sun.
- **Lobelia siphilitica*- great blue Lobelia: blue flowers late summer. Part sun/ sun with adequate moisture.
- **Penstemon digitalis*- beard tongue: white flowers in late spring that bees love.
- **Solidago caesia*- goldenrod: 24" best late season pollinator, my favorite spring azure butterfly host plant
- *Thalictrum thalictoides*- meadow rue: 4' tall airy perennial with anemone type flowers in early summer. Grows best in part sun

Ferns US NATIVE

- *Adiantum pedatum* (Maidenhair Fern) Grows well in moist to well-drained soil. Height to 2.5 feet.
- *Matteuccia struthiopteris* (Ostrich Fern) A common fern of flood plains, this species has beautifully shaped fronds, and grows to a height of 4'.
- *Dennstaedtia punctilobula* (Hay-Scented Fern) Common woodland fern. Lacy texture, similar in appearance to New York Fern. Forms large colonies.
- *Osmunda cinnamomea* (Cinnamon Fern) A common fern of wooded wetlands. Provides foraging areas for wildlife. Ruby-throated hummingbirds line their nests with fur from the stem of this fern.
- *Osmunda regalis* (Royal Fern) A fern often found in wet conditions, graceful appearance.
- *Onoclea sensibilis* (Sensitive Fern) This common fern is found from forested wetlands to wet meadows.
- *Polystichum acrostichoides* (Christmas Fern) A robust, leathery fern that forms clumps and stays green year-round. Easily established in cool, moist well-drained soils under shade.
- *Thelypteris novboracensis* (New York Fern) Spreads rapidly from shallow, black roots to form a dense ground cover. Lacy fronds from 1-2 ft.

Ornamental Grasses NEW ENGLAND NATIVE

- *Andropogon gerardii* - Big bluestem
- *Carex pennsylvanica*
- *Eragrostis spectabilis* - Purple love grass
- *Panicum virgatum* - Northern switch grass
- *Sporobolus heterolepis* - Prairie dropseed
- *Schizachyrium scoparium* - Little bluestem

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