

## SCCLT/THF Homeowner Plant List: Good for Nature, Beautiful for Your Yard

### TREES AND SHRUBS

*“The best time to plant a tree is yesterday.”*

Care of these native plants:

- Watch a YouTube video on planting. Keep it simple.
- Mulch around the base of the tree, being careful not to place the mulch directly touching the tree trunk. Avoid mowing or foot traffic around the base.
- Water once per week for 2-3 months with the following method: run your hose to the base of the tree, turn water on to a medium flow, and count two minutes. It cannot be overstated how important “watering in” is to establish deep roots.
- After establishment, no care is required except possibly fertilizer, which may boost growth.

**Large trees give shade and are a good investment.**

Species	Why?	Notes
White Oak <i>Quercus alba</i>	One of the top animal- and insect-friendly large trees for our area	Allow 50 ft diameter, do not plant under power lines; needs full sun or nearly full sun.
Tulip Poplar <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Fast growing, beautiful in all seasons	Allow 50 ft diameter, do not plant under power lines; needs full sun or nearly full sun.
White Pine <i>Pinus strobus</i>	One of the top animal- and insect-friendly large trees for our area; evergreen, works well as a screen for privacy	Allow 20 ft diameter; best on yard perimeter, do not plant under power lines.

**Small flowering trees have seasonal interest such as spring blooms.**

Species	Why?	Notes
Allegheny Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	Spring flowering (white), fruit edible to birds and humans.	Sun to part sun; medium size to small tree.
Pagoda Dogwood <i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	Spring flowering (white), fruit edible to birds.	Sun to part sun; medium size tree.
Eastern Redbud <i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Beautiful pink to purple spring flowers.	Sun to part sun; medium size tree that does well at the periphery of a yard.

**Shrubs create an established yard and have great bird value for nesting.**

Species	Why?	Notes
Red Osier Dogwood <i>Cornus sericea</i>	White flowers in spring, and red canes in winter.	Sun/part sun. Plant at periphery. Final size 10 ft tall by 8 ft wide.

Species	Why?	Notes
Black Elderberry <i>Sambucus nigra</i>	A cultivar of the elderberry, but with a more controlled growth habit and beautiful pink flowers in early summer and black foliage.	Sun to part sun. Final size about 6 ft tall by 6 ft wide. Can easily be pruned to control size.
Diabolo Ninebark <i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> 'Diabolo'	Fountain-like growth structure, flowers in spring that change from pink to red, and lush leaves.	Sun to part sun. Final size about 8 ft tall by 12 ft wide.

## **EASY CARE PERENNIAL GARDEN PLANTS**

*“The first year they sleep, the second year they creep, the third year they leap.”*

Care of these native plants:

- Watch a YouTube video on planting. You might want to “amend” (supplement) your garden soil with bags of compost.
- To establish garden plants, water a couple of times a week generously, and then whenever the weather is hot and dry.
- These plants are all perennials, meaning they return each year. Because of this, site your garden beds to optimize permanency. In spring, cut back the dead growth.

### **Pollinators will thank you for putting in these plants.\***

Species	Why?	Notes
Black-eyed Susan <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Bright yellow flowers mid-summer through fall	Full to part sun; place at front of bed. 2-3 feet tall.
New England Aster <i>Symphyotrichum novae-angliae</i>	Bright purple flowers, in bushy clumps, late summer to late fall	Full to part sun; place at front of bed. 2-3 feet tall.
Bee Balm <i>Monarda didyma</i> <i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Pink, purple, or magenta blooms mid-summer	Full to part sun; place at middle of bed. 3-4 feet tall.
Joe Pye Weed <i>Eupatorium fistulosum</i>	Dusty pink flowers on tall stems in large clumps; late summer	Full to part sun; place at back of bed. Up to 8 ft tall.
New York Ironweed <i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>	Deep purple flat topped flowers on tall stems; late summer	Full to part sun; place at back of bed. About 6 ft tall.
Green (cutleaf) coneflower <i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	Bright yellow daisy-like flowers on tall stems; summer to fall. Seeds loved by finches.	Full to part sun; place at back of bed. About 6 ft tall.

\*For small yards, common milkweed and some forms of goldenrod, though highly desirable for pollinators, are not suggested due to their aggressive spreading potential. Some species of milkweed, such as swamp milkweed and poke milkweed make excellent garden plants.