



## **GREENWICH LAND TRUST PROPOSAL TO GREEN FINGERS GARDEN CLUB**

In early 2015, the Greenwich Land Trust will move our operations to the historic Mueller Preserve at 370 Round Hill Road. Once the farmstead serving a great estate of Greenwich, the property and its buildings represent a glimpse back to Greenwich's past. This generous land gift from local resident Louise Mueller will allow the Land Trust to create our first permanent home and a center for land conservation, for native plant education and propagation, and for community use.

### **PROPOSAL OVERVIEW**

Visitors will enter the Mueller Preserve via a new driveway on Round Hill Road with initial views of the greenhouse and stone potting shed in the foreground and the restored farmhouse in the background. The greenhouse was originally two sections of glass atop a low stonewall, but only the northern section is being restored. We propose to use the southern section and the areas outside the greenhouse walls on the west, south, and east sides to create the Kitty Starr Memorial Wildflower Garden. Mrs. Starr was a founder, land donor, and avid supporter of the Land Trust as well as playing a significant part in Green Fingers' history. She was also a lover of wildflowers. This wildflower garden would be highly visible to arriving visitors, to those walking the planned heritage trail, and to those approaching the farmhouse.

### **THE KITTY STARR MEMORIAL NATIVE WILDFLOWER GARDEN**

The Garden would be created along the east (50-feet in length), south (15-feet) and west (50-feet) sides of the potting shed and greenhouse. It would also include the 12-foot square area enclosed by a stone wall (formerly part of the greenhouse). These areas would be planted with native wildflowers to create a colorful variety of flowers throughout the growing seasons. The Garden will be a food source for many pollinators (butterflies, bees, hummingbirds) as well as an educational resource for visitors to learn about New England's native wildflowers. (Please see attached materials regarding plants, seasonal chart, garden layout, and photos of the area.) The Greenwich Land Trust will maintain this garden on a regular basis – spring cleanup and replanting, summer weeding, fall cleanup – with the schedule depending on weather and needs. There is no expectation of garden maintenance by Green Fingers. Signage wording would be approved by mutual agreement of the Green Fingers and the Land Trust.

### **THE COSTS**

The total cost of \$5,000 includes the labor and materials to create the garden beds, prepare the soil, and purchase native plants and seeds. Also included is signage to designate the named garden and its donor to inform visitors. Future maintenance of the Garden (watering, weeding, replanting, etc.) will be the responsibility of the Greenwich Land Trust.

### **SUMMARY**

Creation of a native wildflower garden in a highly visible location will offer scenic beauty and important habitat for butterflies, bees and birds. It will also provide educational opportunities to teach young and old about the varieties of beautiful wildflowers and their role in maintaining a healthy local ecosystem. The Garden's creation and naming in memory of Kitty Starr would be a lasting gift from Green Fingers in recognition of a Greenwich environmental leader who helped found both Green Fingers Garden Club and the Greenwich Land Trust to serve local residents then and for the future. We hope that Green Fingers will join with the Land Trust in creating the Kitty Starr Memorial Wildflower Garden.

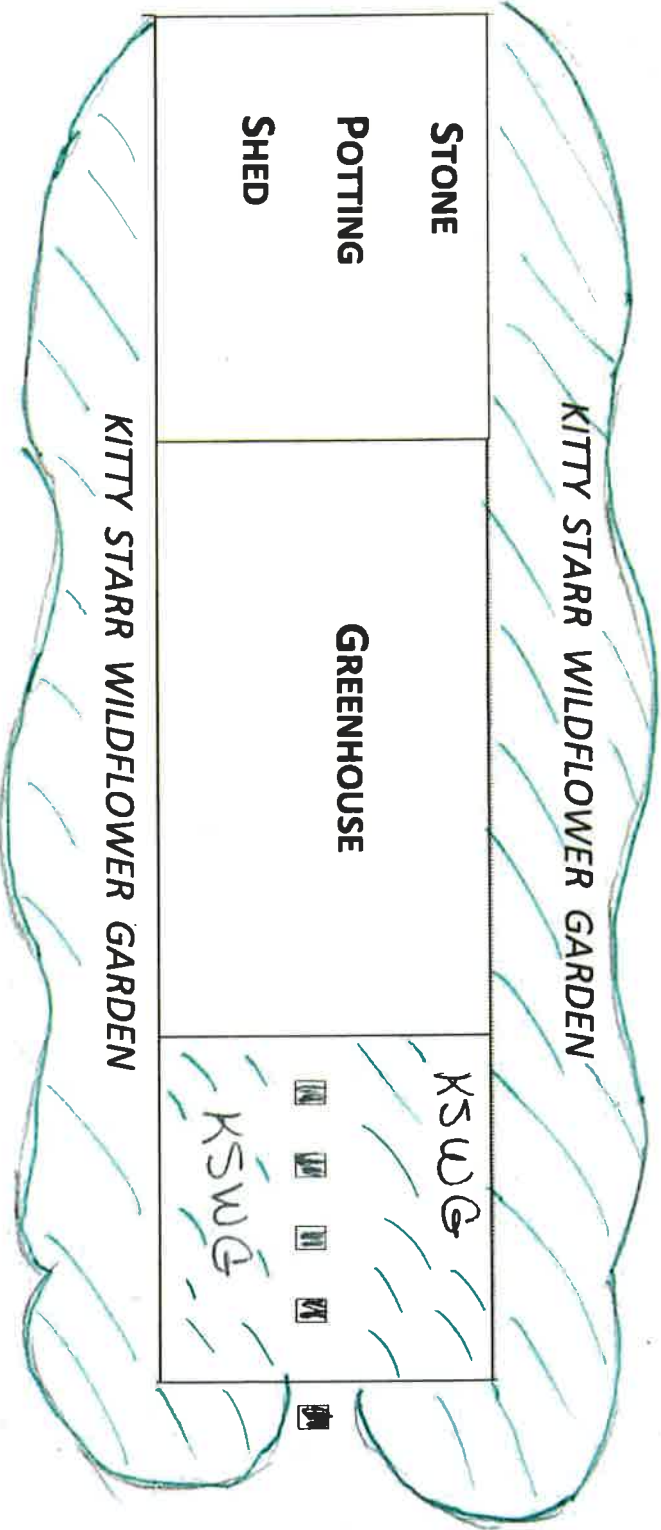
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.**

**THE LOUISE MUELLER PRESERVE**



ROUND HILL RD

THE LOUISE MUELLER PRESERVE  
KITTY STARR WILDFLOWER GARDEN SKETCH



WALKWAY

KITTY STARR WILDFLOWER GARDEN

STONE

POTTING

SHED

GREENHOUSE

KITTY STARR WILDFLOWER GARDEN

KSWG

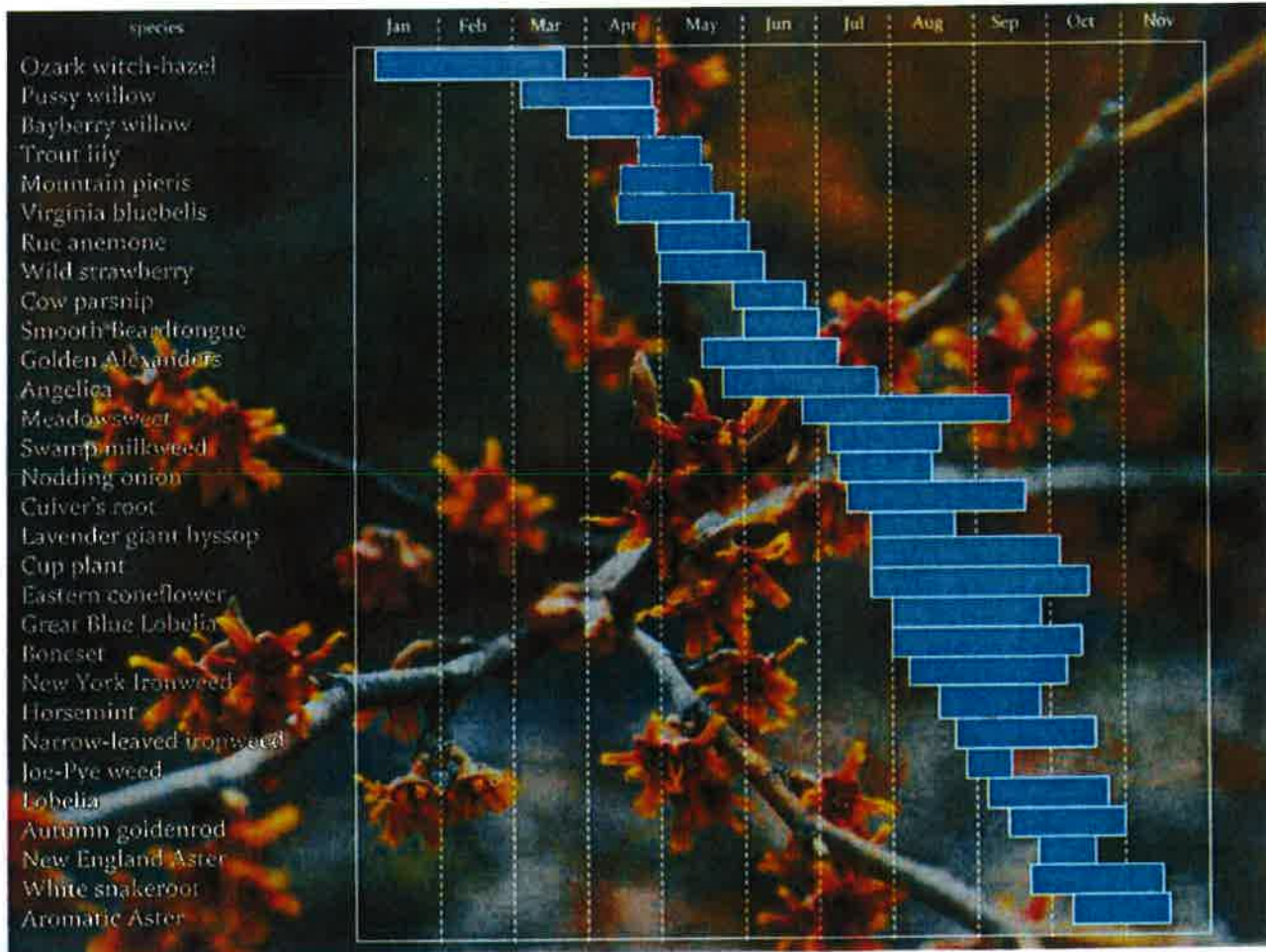
KSWG

DRIVEWAY

# Pollinator Plants by Month

**A selection of pollinator plants providing 11 months of bloom for bees**

The plants on this chart, created by Dr. Tristram Seidler, can ensure a steady flow of pollen for bees for 11 months of the year.





### Photos & Information

- [Wildflowers](#)
- [Ferns](#)
- [Rare Plants](#)
- > [Gardening with Native Plants](#)
- [Plant ID Guides](#)
- [Links](#)

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- [Meetings](#)
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## Connecticut Botanical Society

# Gardening with Native Plants

## Perennials, etc.

Many American gardeners have started to discover the benefits of gardening with natives. Native plants are by definition well-adapted to the climate, and they are generally low-maintenance. Connecticut has an abundance of beautiful native plants. Growing them helps preserve part of our natural heritage.

Listed here are some native plants that perform particularly well in the garden. Terms and symbols that describe garden conditions are explained [below](#).

## Don't take plants from the wild!

Nursery-propagated plants are available for every species listed on this page. There is no reason to despoil wild areas by removing plants. [Statement on collecting plants](#).

## Perennials



### Wild red columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)



average to moist soil      zones 3-9

It's hard to think of a more graceful plant than the wild columbine, with its spurred red-and-yellow flowers nodding on slender stems. These, like many red flowers, attract hummingbirds. The delicately scalloped leaves form a neat mound of foliage. Wild red columbine, like most columbines, tends to seed itself in the garden (though not such much as to be a nuisance). In the wild, this plant prefers growing in the alkaline soil of limestone rocks, but in the garden it will grow in anything except very strongly acidic soil. 1-2' tall.

### Bearberry, kinnickinick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)



dry to average soil      zones 2-6



Bearberry is a useful ground cover that is handsome year-round. The leaves are glossy and evergreen. Small pink or white flowers in late spring are followed by bright red berries, popular with ground-dwelling birds. In winter, the stems become red and the leaves take on a dark red tint. Bearberry grows well in exposed, rocky or sandy sites; it also tolerates acid soil and the salt spray of seaside locations. 4" tall. [More photos and information](#) from UConn.



### Wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*)



dry to moist soil

zones 3-8

An easy, tolerant plant that makes a good ground cover. Its bold, heart-shaped leaves create a pleasing texture in the garden. The roots smell very much like ginger, though this plant is not related to culinary ginger. Wild ginger has interesting triangular flowers in spring, but finding them requires getting down on hands and knees -- they bloom just above the ground. (Click on the photo to the left to see an image of wild ginger in bloom.) 6" tall.



### Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)



dry to average soil

zones 3-9

True to its name, butterfly weed is a marvelous for attracting butterflies. The "weed" label, however, is entirely undeserved; it's not weedy in its looks or habits. The handsome, dark green foliage is topped with bright orange flowers in July and August. Butterfly weed has a long tap root that makes the plant highly drought-resistant, but also makes mature plants tricky to transplant. Container-grown plants, however, transplant easily. Butterfly weed is considered a "Great Plant for American Gardens" by the American Horticultural Society. 2-3' tall.

### White wood aster (*Eurybia divaricata*, syn. *Aster divaricatus*)



dry to average soil

zones 4-8

A good ground cover for tough situations. White wood aster thrives in dry shade, so it can be planted beneath shallow-rooted trees such as



maples and elms. The flowers are not especially showy, but they are long-lasting, and an individual plant may be in bloom for two months. Foliage grows 6" high; flower stalks 18-24".



**New England aster (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*, syn. *Aster novae-angliae*)**



average to wet soil zones 3-9

There are hundreds of species of asters, but one of the best for gardens is our New England aster. (The American Horticultural Society lists it as a "Great Plant for American Gardens".) New England aster lights up the fall garden with its cheerful flowers, resembling purple daisies. This is a tall plant, good for the back of the garden. Frankly, its lower leaves can look tatty by fall, so keep it behind other plants. 3-5' tall.



**Marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*)**



moist to wet soil zones 2-7  
or water up to four inches  
deep

In the wild, marsh marigold grows in shallow water or marshy soil, but it doesn't need a marsh -- it will grow in moist garden soil. In mid-spring, its glossy, bright yellow flowers really grab one's attention. The plant goes dormant by mid-summer, so it makes a good companion for late-emerging plants, such as ferns. 1' tall.



**Wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)**



moist soil, preferably acidic zones 3-9

This charming woodland plant has soft lavender flowers in spring. Even when wild geranium is not in bloom, the distinctive, deeply cut leaves provide a decorative effect. If it is planted in a moist woodland spot, wild geranium may spread slowly by seed. 1-2' tall.

**Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)**

zones 3-9



moist soil in part shade, or  
wet soil in full sun

In the wild, cardinal flower grows mostly in sunny swamps, but it will grow in moist garden soil if given part shade. Cardinal flower blooms in mid- to late summer; the brilliant red flowers are a favorite of hummingbirds. It is considered a "Great Plant for American Gardens" by the American Horticultural Society. 3' tall.



### Solomon's plume (*Maianthemum racemosum*, syn. *Smilacina racemosa*)



dry to moist soil zones 4-8

This is a graceful plant for the woodland garden. In spring, clusters of starry white flowers are borne at the ends of arching stalks. Solomon's plume is easy to grow, and it spreads fast -- give it lots of room or be prepared to weed out excess. Its cousin [starry Solomon's plume](#) (*Maianthemum stellatum*) is another worthwhile garden plant, more restrained in its habits. Both plants have interesting berries; red-spotted in Solomon's plume, and striped like a beach ball in starry Solomon's plume. 1-2.5 feet tall.



### Partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*)



average to moist soil; zones 3-9  
prefers acidic soil

Partridgeberry is a member of that essential garden category, the shade-loving evergreen ground covers. It is one of the best choices for dark shade. Partridgeberry spreads across the ground by vining stems, growing only two inches high. Its leaves are small and dark green, often with light-colored veins. Partridgeberry has white flowers in early summer; in fall and winter it is ornamented by bright red fruits. 2 inches tall.



### Wild blue phlox (*Phlox divaricata*)



average to moist soil zones 3-8


Lightly fragrant clusters of lilac-colored flowers grace this woodland plant in spring. The flowers reward close inspection -- each petal is shallowly notched at the tip, and appears to have been pinched where it joins the center of the flower.



Wild blue phlox is considered a "Great Plant for American Gardens" by the American Horticultural Society. 1 foot tall.



### Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*)

 ● average to moist soil zones 3-8

Bloodroot is one of the earliest wildflowers of spring. In March, the delicate white flowers appear, each with a broad leaf wrapped protectively around its stalk. Bloodroot goes dormant around mid-summer. Ferns make good companions, as they tend to emerge late in spring. By the time bloodroot goes dormant, ferns can fill in the gap. 6 inches tall.



### Foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*)

 ● average to moist soil zones 3-8

Foamflower's charms have just recently begun to be appreciated by gardeners and plants breeders. Foamflower has spikes of fluffy white flowers that rise above a carpet of soft green leaves. It blooms strongly in late spring, and, if it has consistently moist soil, it will continue to produce the occasional flower spike until frost. Foamflower spreads by stolons, so it can be used as a ground cover. The leaves will stay green through mild winters. 8-12 inches tall.



### Barren strawberry (*Waldsteinia fragarioides*)

  ● dry to moist soil zones 4-9

Barren strawberry looks similar to strawberry plants, but with showy yellow flowers (and no edible fruit). Like strawberries, barren strawberry will spread quickly by runners, making it a good ground cover. The leaves are evergreen, at least during Connecticut's milder winters. Yellow flowers in spring and summer. 4-8 inches tall.

## Chart of Native Perennials

Find basic information on 130 native perennials in this chart. Organized by [scientific name](#) or by [common name](#).