

Native Perennials for a Sunny Garden

A half-dozen dependable choices for full sun to part shade that are unusual enough to be called Bowood favorites:

Allium cernuum - Nodding Pink Onion

Late summer bloomer that attracts butterflies and pollinators; strong, grass-like foliage; naturalizes by self-seeding and offsets; deadhead (cut flowers for bouquets!) to discourage seeding; deer resistant.

<u>Height:</u> 12" – 18" <u>Light:</u> Full sun – part shade <u>Blooms:</u> June-August

Width: 8" – 12" Moisture: Dry to medium; tolerates drought

Baptisia australis - Blue False Indigo

Shrub-like perennial; lovely, blue-green foliage - looks great even when pea-like blue blooms are finished; blue-black seedpods in late summer; needs time to establish; develops a deep taproot so choose a permanent site; rabbit resistant.

Height: 30" – 36" Light: Full sun – part shade <u>Blooms:</u> May-June

Width: 36" – 48" Moisture: Medium; tolerates drought

Eryngium yuccifolium - Rattlesnake Master

Twisting, sword-shaped, silvery-green foliage; spiky, greenish-white, thistle-like flowers add texture to the garden and in mixed arrangements; deer and rabbit resistant.

Height: 48" – 60" <u>Light:</u> Full sun <u>Blooms:</u> July-August

Width: 24" - 36" Moisture: Dry; extremely drought tolerant

Iris virginica var. shrevei – Southern Blue Flag

Fragrant, violet-blue flowers with yellow and white crests; attracts butterflies; sprawling, graceful foliage; lovely addition to water features or rain gardens; deer resistant.

Height: 18" – 24" Light: Full sun Blooms: June

Width: 18" – 24" <u>Moisture:</u> Medium to wet

Lobelia siphilitica – Great Blue Lobelia

Spikes of rich blue flowers for late summer color; lush, spinach-like, crinkled foliage; attracts butterflies and hummingbirds; deer resistant.

Height: 24" – 36" <u>Light:</u> Full sun <u>Blooms:</u> July-August

<u>Width:</u> 12" – 18" <u>Moisture:</u> Dry; extremely drought tolerant

Rudbeckia maxima – Dumbo's Ears

Cabbage-like, powder blue basal leaves; super-tall stems are topped with deep gold flowers with very tall cones that attract butterflies, bees and finches; very dramatic yet easy-going; deer resistant.

Height: 60" – 84" Light: Full sun <u>Blooms:</u> June-July

Width: 36" – 48" Moisture: Medium to wet; tolerates heat and drought

Native Perennials for a Shady Garden

These lovely choices for a shade garden are reliable as well as unique and have earned their place in our gardens:

Aquilegia canadensis - Wild Columbine

Nodding yellow and red flowers on tall graceful stems; provides an early nectar source for butterflies and hummingbirds; naturalizes when content; cut back foliage to rejuvenate after blooming.

Blooms:

April-May

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Height: 12" – 24" <u>Light:</u> Part shade

Width: 10" – 12" <u>Moisture:</u> Medium

Chelone obliqua - Rose Turtlehead

Spikes of cheerful, rosy flowers in late summer; makes a great cut flower; prune back hard in late spring to promote compactness; forms a vigorous clump; attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.

Height: 24" – 36" Light: Part shade – full sun Blooms: July-August

Width: 14" – 18" <u>Moisture:</u> Medium to wet

Geranium maculatum - Wild Geranium

Lilac-pink blooms on tall stems above deeply cut foliage; appears very delicate but is deer and rabbit resistant; naturalizes under optimum conditions; attracts butterflies.

Height: 18" – 24" Light: Part shade – full sun Blooms: April-May

Width: 12" – 18" Moisture: Medium; tolerates poor soils

Phlox divaricata - Wild Sweet William

Clusters of small pale blue, star-shaped flowers are great tulip companions; forms a tight mat of semi-evergreen foliage; attracts butterflies and hummingbirds and is deer resistant.

Height: 12" – 16" Light: Shade – part shade Blooms: April-May

Width: 10" – 12" <u>Moisture:</u> Medium

Sedum ternatum - Native Stonecrop

Bright white clustered flowers cover the low-growing, succulent foliage in spring; great for underplanting; attracts pollinators; the only sedum that will grow in shade; deer and rabbit resistant.

Height: 2" – 4" Light: Part shade – full sun Blooms: April-May

Width: 6" – 12" Moisture: Dry; extremely drought tolerant

Spigelia marilandica - Indian Pink

Stunning, bright red blooms that reveal yellow throats; sturdy upright stems and attractive foliage; attracts hummingbirds; rare.

Height: 12" - 24" Light: Shade - part shade Blooms: June

Width: 12" – 18" <u>Moisture:</u> Medium

More favorites!

Of course, we couldn't stop with just a dozen - here are some more wonderful natives:

Asarum canadense Wild Ginger Liatris spicata Marsh Blazing Star

Callirhoe involucrata Purple Poppy Mallow Mertensia virginica Virginia Bluebells

Dicentra cucullaria Dutchman's Breeches Oenothera macrocarpa Missouri Evening Primrose

Echinacea paradoxa Yellow Coneflower Polygonatum biflorum Small Solomon's Seal Iris fulva Copper Iris Stylophorum diphyllum Celandine Poppy