

Wildflowers for Wildlife Diversity in Conservation Plantings

Maryland NRCS is working to increase the diversity of wildflowers in conservation plantings and thereby increase the ability of these plantings to support a greater diversity of wildlife throughout the seasons. Several wildflower studies are being conducted at the National Plant Materials Center in Beltsville, Maryland including: renovation of warm-season grasses for greater plant diversity, wildflower persistence in warm-season grasses, and wildflower species evaluation.

Wildflowers are food for insect larvae and are used by pollinators as a pollen and nectar source. A diverse mix of wildflowers that provide blooms throughout the growing season is especially valuable to pollinators, and helps support populations of beneficial insects, such as those that prey on crop pests. Wildflowers in grass plantings provide a varied food source and structural complexity to support a diverse community of birds, mammals and insects.

This fact sheet includes a listing of some of the wildflowers that NRCS is evaluating in Maryland for future use in conservation plantings. Three mixes are being developed, each with species adapted for Dry, Moist or Wet sites.



Maryland Native Wildflowers for Conservation Plantings

Scientific Name	Common Name	Bloom Period	Flower Color	Soil Moisture
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp Milkweed	Summer	Red	Moist / Wet
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Common Milkweed	Summer	Pink	Dry / Moist
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly Milkweed	Summer	Orange	Dry / Moist
<i>Baptisia australis</i>	Wild False Indigo	Late Spring	Purple	Dry / Moist
<i>Bidens aristosa</i>	Bur Marigold	Late Summer – Early Fall	Yellow	Moist / Wet
<i>Bidens cernu</i>	Nodding Bur Marigold	Summer – Early Fall	Yellow	Wet
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh Marigold	Spring	Yellow	Wet
<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>	Partridge Pea	Summer	Yellow	Dry / Moist
<i>Coreopsis tinctoria</i>	Golden Tickseed	Late Spring	Yellow	Moist
<i>Desmodium canadense</i>	Showy Tick Trefoil	Summer	Purple	Dry / Moist
<i>Doellingeria umbellata</i>	Flat-topped White Aster	Late Summer	White	Moist / Wet
<i>Eupatoriadelphus maculatum</i>	Spotted Joe-Pye Weed	Summer	Purple	Moist / Wet
<i>Eupatorium fistulosum</i>	Joe-Pye Weed	Summer	Purple	Moist / Wet
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	Boneset	Summer – Early Fall	White	Moist / Wet
<i>Geum laciniatum</i>	Rough Avens	Late Spring	White	Moist / Wet
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	Smooth Oxeye	Summer – Early Fall	Yellow	Dry / Moist
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower	Summer – Early Fall	Red	Moist / Wet
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Blue Lobelia	Late Summer	Blue	Moist / Wet
<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	Wild Blue Lupine	Late Spring	Blue	Dry / Moist
<i>Monarda didyma</i>	Bee Balm	Summer	Red	Moist / Wet
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Wild Bergamot	Summer	Pink	Dry / Moist
<i>Monarda media</i>	Purple Bergamot	Summer	Pink	Moist
<i>Oligoneuron rigidum</i>	Stiff Goldenrod	Late Summer	Yellow	Dry / Moist
<i>Packera aurea</i>	Golden Ragwort	Early Spring	Yellow	Moist / Wet
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	Tall White Beard Tongue	Late Spring	White	Dry / Moist
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Black-eyed Susan	Summer	Yellow	Dry / Moist
<i>Senna hebecarpa</i>	American Senna	Summer	Yellow	Moist
<i>Senna marilandica</i>	Maryland Senna	Summer	Yellow	Dry / Moist
<i>Solidago canadensis</i>	Canada Goldenrod	Late Summer	Yellow	Dry / Moist
<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>	Gray Goldenrod	Late Summer	Yellow	Dry
<i>Solidago patula</i>	Rough-leaved Goldenrod	Late Summer – Early Fall	Yellow	Wet
<i>Symphyotrichum ericoides</i>	White Heath Aster	Summer – Early Fall	White	Dry / Moist
<i>Symphyotrichum laeve</i>	Smooth Blue Aster	Summer	Purple	Dry
<i>Symphyotrichum lateriflorum</i>	Calico Aster	Summer	White	Moist
<i>Symphyotrichum novae-angliae</i>	New England Aster	Late Summer	Purple	Moist
<i>Symphyotrichum novi-belgii</i>	New York Aster	Summer – Early Fall	Purple	Moist / Wet
<i>Symphyotrichum oblongifolium</i>	Aromatic Aster	Late Summer – Early Fall	Purple	Dry / Moist
<i>Symphyotrichum prenanthoides</i>	Crooked-stem Aster	Late Summer	Blue	Moist
<i>Verbena hastata</i>	Blue (Swamp) Vervain	Summer – Early Fall	Blue	Moist / Wet
<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>	New York Ironweed	Summer	Purple	Moist / Wet
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Golden Alexanders	Late Spring	Yellow	Moist

For more information please visit the following web sites:

Maryland NRCS < <http://www.md.nrcs.usda.gov> >

Plant Materials Program < <http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov> >