



Hummingbird Hill Native Plant Nursery

July/August Newsletter

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Warm weather is here! Thank you to everyone who's come out to the nursery! We will continue to be open through the summer on Fridays and Saturdays 10:00 to 5:00.

Gardening in the Shade

There's nothing like shade during Virginia's hot summers! As heat lingers over our area, we've found ourselves migrating to the shade section of the nursery, out of the hot sun. Though spring ephemerals are often the early stars of shade gardens, these areas don't have to retreat to boredom once they've faded below ground. By adding plants that are showy all summer long, shade gardens can be exciting even during the heat of summer, when we need their respite most!

Choose plants with attractive foliage that persist even after they've finished blooming. Plants like Coral Bells and Hairy Alumroot look good even when they're not in bloom. Coral Bells have attractive green foliage that lasts throughout summer, and Hairy Alumroot displays leaves with reddish-purple undersides. Solomon's Plume (also called False Solomon's Seal) has glossy dark green foliage that persists throughout the season, while its spring blooms turn into attractive red berries. Another source of interesting foliage, Early Meadow Rue has unique delicate foliage that adds textural interest and contrasts well with coarser plants.



Sedges provide structure and interest. Sedges are the shade world's equivalent to ornamental grasses, providing texture and structure in areas without loads of sunlight, while proving to be deer resistant. And many thrive in difficult dry shade: Silver Sedge has unusual frosty silvery-green foliage and remains evergreen. Wood's Sedge, with narrow green foliage, is an adaptable species that withstands dry conditions as well. Or choose from Plantain-Leaved Sedge (left), with vibrant bright

green foliage that pops in shade, or Pennsylvania Sedge, a popular choice for its short stature of 6 to 12 inches.

Ferns add lushness in hot weather. In hot weather, seeing a lush grouping of ferns can almost convince me that it's cooler. Rhizomatous ferns like New York Fern fill in quickly to form a clump and have bright green foliage that stays nice throughout summer. And there's a fern for every site, from the evergreen Christmas Fern to the delicate texture of Maidenhair Ferns.



Include groundcovers for variety. Including short groundcovers in shady areas is a great way to add height variation. But the options go far beyond nonnative periwinkle! Wild Ginger, Creeping Mint, and Green and Gold are all interesting substitutes that have long-lasting appeal. Golden Ragwort is a tough option that can compete with aggressive invasives. Barren Strawberry (above, right), with cheerful bright yellow spring flowers and strawberry-like foliage, is a quick grower and stays semi-evergreen. Violets, like Common Blue Violet, Striped Cream Violet, and Long-Spurred Violet bloom throughout spring and early summer and can be easily grown in part shade. Plus, they support fritillary butterfly caterpillars!



Plant natives that bloom throughout the year. The arrival of summer doesn't have to signal the end of color for shade gardens! Though spring ephemerals have retreated beneath the ground, other plants are just beginning their show. Shrubs can add interest through the seasons---Wild Hydrangea (below, right) thrives in partial

shade (even dry sites) and has white flowers and showy panicles in June. Bursting Heart, another shade lover, has interesting greenish flowers in spring that turn into brilliant fuschia seedpods with red berries. It carries the show right into autumn with bright red fall foliage. Native sunflowers, despite their name, thrive in partial shade, their yellow flowers beginning around the first of July, just as Virginia summers are well underway. Woodland Sunflower (above, left), Narrow-Leaf Sunflower, and Ten-Petaled Sunflower can all add cheerful color to a shady area. Zig-zag Goldenrod and Bluestem Goldenrod thrive in partial shade. And at last, asters jump into the scene. White Wood Asters are an easy care option, growing in dry shade. Or try their relatives, Large-Leaf Aster and Blue Wood Aster.

**More Shade Plants
with Summer Interest:**

Doll's eye
Black Cohosh
Thimbleweed
Canada Anemone
White Snakeroot
Bowman's Root
Dwarf Crested Iris
Partridgeberry
Jacob's Ladder
Creeping Sedge
Hairy Wood Rush
Marginal Wood Fern
Cinnamon Fern



————— What's New at the Nursery —————

Summer bloomers are now flowering at the nursery! We've been excitedly watching the many insects and caterpillars that are using their nectar and foliage!

New Species:

- Slender Goldenrod (*Solidago erecta*)
- Round-leaved Boneset (*Eupatorium rotundifolium*)

New Species that will be Available Soon:

- Ostrich Fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*)
- Poverty Oatgrass (*Danthonia spicata*)
- Bowman's Root (*Gillenia trifoliata*)



Pictured: Ostrich Fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*) is a remarkably tall, tropical-looking fern with a typical garden height of 3-5 ft.

Flower of the Month



Mistflower (*Conoclinium coelestinum*)

Also called Wild Ageratum. A compact long bloomer, Mistflower is a great choice for pollinator gardens. Its purple flowers are full of nectar that butterflies and other insects can't resist!

Full Sun to Part Shade

Soil Moisture: Medium to Wet

Height: 2-3 ft

Spread: 1-2 ft

Bloom Time: July-October

*Albemarle County Native



We were featured on the television show Virginia Home Grown for the month of June. Check out the interview on our Facebook page.

7 Native Plants That Aren't Well Known...Yet!

Showy Tick Trefoil (*Desmodium canadense*) - Blooming in summer, Showy Tick Trefoil has clustered pink to purple blooms that turn into the classic “stick tight” seedpods. Growing around 3 ft tall, this species is also a host plant for the delicate Eastern Tailed Blue butterflies.



Showy Tick Trefoil

Swamp Rose Mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*) - At 5 ft tall, Swamp Rose Mallow has large showy flowers around 5 inches across. This species is also a host plant for the beautiful Io Moth.



Monkey Flower

Monkey Flower (*Mimulus ringens*) - A host plant for Buckeye butterflies, Monkeyflower is named after its curious looking flowers that resemble the head of a monkey. With dozens of purple flowers on a single stem, it's a great plant to help add color to a flower bed.

Silver Sedge (*Carex platyphylla*) - Named for its silvery leaves, Silver Sedge has a much different appearance than other sedges. Thriving in part shade to shade as well as drier soils, Silver Sedge grows well in conditions that other plants can't tolerate.



Silver Sedge



Black Swallowtail Caterpillar on Golden Alexander

Golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*)- One of Black Swallowtails host plants, Golden Alexanders benefits insects long after their clustered yellow flowers have faded. With attractive divided leaves and blooms in spring, this plant is the perfect way to add early color to your wetland.



Golden Alexanders

Whorled Rosinweed (*Silphium trifoliatum*) - Similar to Cup Plant, Whorled Rosinweed also has showy yellow flowers that bloom midsummer. With attractive whorled leaves and a height of up to 7 ft, it's a great plant to fill in the back of a flower bed.

Barren Strawberry (*Waldsteinia fragaroides*) - Although Barren Strawberry doesn't produce fruit like other strawberries, it does have bright yellow flowers that bloom April to May. Growing in either full sun or part shade, Barren Strawberry works well as a groundcover and is deer resistant.



Whorled Rosinweed