

Recommended Sustainable Plants for Connecticut Schools

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Plants for schools are considered sustainable if they have the ability to withstand the often challenging conditions found in CT school landscapes. The plants listed in this document are all drought tolerant once established and native to the northeast United States, except where noted.

Key:

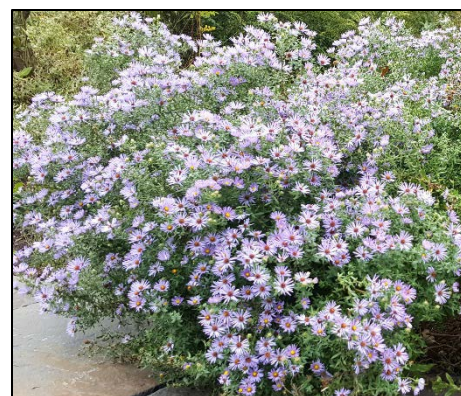
- ♥ Flowers or has ornamental interest in spring or fall, when students are present.
- ★ Attracts butterflies
- ☺ Deer resistant

Perennials (except where noted) (for full sun):

- ♥★☺ Anise hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*) – 2-4'; may re-seed
- ♥☺ Barren strawberry (*Walsteinia fragarioides*) – 6"; also part shade
 - ★☺ Bee balm (*Monarda punctata*, *M. didyma*, *M. fistulosa*) – 2-3'
- ♥★☺ Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) – 2-4'; biennial; re-seeds itself
- ♥★ Blue wood aster (*Symphotrichum cordifolium*) – 2-5'; also part shade
- ♥★☺ Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) – 1-2'; takes time to establish
- ♥☺ Catmint (*Nepeta x faassenii*) – 1-2'; not native to U.S.; attracts bees
- ♥★ Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) – 2-5'
- ♥★ Culver's Root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*) – 4-6'; takes time to establish
- ♥☺ Foxglove Beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*) – 3-4'
- ♥★ Golden Alexander (*Zizia aurea*) – 1.5-2'; also part shade
- ♥★☺ Moss phlox (*Phlox subulata*) – 6"; salt tolerant
- ♥★☺ New England aster (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*) – 3-5'
- ♥★ Partridge pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*) – 1-3'; annual; re-seeds itself
- ♥★☺ Sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*) – 3-5'; not drought tolerant, requires medium to wet conditions; does not induce sneezing or cause allergies
- ♥★☺ Stonecrop (*Sedum* spp.) 1-3', not native to U.S.
 - ★☺ Threadleaf coreopsis (*Coreopsis verticillata*) – 1.5-2'; salt tolerant
- ♥★☺ Thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*, *T. Praecox*) – 6"
- ★☺ Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) – 1-3'; salt tolerant



Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)



Blue wood aster (*Symphotrichum cordifolium*)



Purple lovegrass (*Eragrostis spectabilis*)

Perennials (for part shade):

- ☺ Canada wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*) – 6"-1'
- ♥☺ Creeping phlox (*Phlox stolonifera*) – 6"-1'; also full sun
- ♥☺ Foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*) – 6"-1'; also full shade
- ♥☺ Fringed Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra eximia*) – 1-1.5'
- ♥☺ Green and gold (*Chrysogonum virginianum*) – 6"-1'; also full shade
 - ☺ Marginal shield fern (*Dryopteris marginalis*) – 1.5-2'
- ♥★ White wood aster (*Eurybia divaricata*) – 1-2.5'; spreads by seed; also full shade



Adam's Needle (*Yucca filamentosa*) flower

Ornamental Grasses and Sedges (full sun, except where noted):

- ♥☺ Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) – 2-4'; salt tolerant
- ♥☺ Northern switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) – 2-4'; salt tolerant
- ♥☺ Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*) – 1'; also wet soils; part to full shade
- ♥☺ Purple lovegrass (*Eragrostis spectabilis*) – 1-1.5'

Shrubs (full sun to part shade, except where noted):

- ♥ ☺ Adam's Needle (*Yucca filamentosa*) – 3-5'; evergreen
- ♥ ☺ Bayberry (*Morella pensylvanica*, *M. caroliniensis*) – 5-10'
- ♥ Chokeberry (*Aronia* spp.) – 3-10'; salt tolerant
- ♥ ☺ Dog hobble (*Leucothoe fontanesiana*) – 2-3'; part to full shade only
- ♥ Fothergilla (*Fothergilla* spp.) – 2-10'; great fall color
- ♥ ☆ ☺ Fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatica* 'Gro-Low') – 1.5-2'; salt tolerant
- ♥ ☆ Highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) – 6-10'
 - ☺ Inkberry (*Ilex glabra*) – 3-5'; salt tolerant
- ♥ ☺ Leucothoe (*Leucothoe axillaris*) – 2-4'; part shade only
- ♥ ☆ ☺ Northern bush honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*) – 3'
- ♥ Serviceberry (*Amelanchier* spp.) – 15-25'
- ♥ ☆ ☺ Shrubby cinquefoil (*Potentilla fruticosa*) – 2-4'; also part shade
- ♥ ☆ ☺ Smooth witherod viburnum (*Viburnum nudum*) – 5-12'
- ♥ ☆ Summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia*) – 3-8'; salt tolerant
 - ☺ Sweetgale (*Myrica gale*) – 3-6'; thrives in wet conditions but adapts to dry
- ♥ ☺ Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) – 3-10'; salt tolerant
- ♥ ☆ Witherod viburnum (*Viburnum cassinoides*) – 5-10'; prefers wet soils
- ♥ ☆ ☺ Mapleleaf viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*) – 3-6'; part to full shade only



Northern bush honeysuckle
(*Diervilla lonicera*)



Fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatica* 'Gro-Low')

Plants that spread aggressively – “living mulch” (Perennial, except where noted):

These plants spread aggressively by suckers (roots). Use where no other competing plants are desired, such as in parking lot islands.

- ♥ Canada mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*) – 3-8"; part to full shade
- ♥ ☺ Canada windflower (*Anemone canadensis*) – 1-2'; full sun or part shade
- ♥ ☺ Hay scented fern (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*) – 1-2'; part to full shade
- ♥ Staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*) – 8-12'; shrub; full sun or part shade
- ♥ ☺ Wild strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*) – 6"; full sun or part shade
- ♥ ☺ Yellowroot (*Xanthorhiza simplicissima*) – 3'; shrub; full sun or part shade

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Plant Sources: (Inclusion in this document does not equate endorsement.)

SEED:

Ernst Seeds, 8884 Mercer Pike, Meadville, PA 16335; (800) 873-3321 (814) 336-2404; www.ernstseed.com

Harts Seed, 304 Main Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109; 1-800-326-HART Wethersfield, CT, hartseed.com

Lavoie Horticulture, East Granby, CT; (413) 355-0200; lavoiehorticulture.com (seed and plants)

New England Wetland Plants, 820 West Street, Amherst, MA 01002; (413) 548-8000; <http://newp.com> (seed and plants)

Valley Green, Inc., 642 S. Summer Street, Holyoke, MA 01040 (Corporate Headquarters); valleygreenusa.com

PLANTS - retail:

Broken Arrow Nursery, 13 Broken Arrow Road, Hamden, CT 06518; (203) 288-1026; www.brokenarrownursery.com

Earth Tones Native Plant Nursery, 212 Grassy Hill Rd, Woodbury, CT; (203) 263-6626; www.earthtonesnatives.com

Natureworks, 518 Forest Road, Northford, CT 06472 (203) 484-2748; naturework.com

Perennial Harmony Garden Center, 144 Boston Post Road, East Lyme, CT 06333; (860) 440-3653; www.perennialharmony.com

PLANTS - wholesale:

Canterbury Horticulture, 351 Brooklyn Road, Canterbury, CT 06331; (866) 287-0893; www.canterburyhorticulture.com

Judge's Farm Perennials, 3 Old Shore Road, Old Lyme, CT 06371; (860-434-0822; www.judgesfarm.com

North Creek Nurseries, 388 North Creek Road, Landenberg, PA 19350; (610) 255-0100; www.northcreeknurseries.com

Planters' Choice Nursery, Newtown, CT; (203) 426-4037, and Watertown, CT; (860) 945-6588; planterschoice.com

Prides Corner Farms, 122 Waterman Rd, Lebanon, CT; (800) 437-5168; www.pridescorner.com

Summer Hill Nursery, 888 Summer Hill Road, Madison, CT 06443; (203) 421-3055; www.summerhillnursery.com

The Plant Group Perennial Nursery, 117 Pond Rd- Route 207, Franklin, CT 06254; (800) 864-2670; plantgrouponnursery.com