

TREES

Japanese Maple



Special features: Beautiful foliage

Description: Simply beautiful. Native to Asia, the Japanese maple is now grown worldwide. They are a popular bonsai trees.

Lilac



Special features: Attracts Butterflies, Deer Resistant, Drought Tolerant, Beautiful foliage

Description: Perhaps no other shrub embodies the character of Central New York gardens quite as well as lilac. Lilacs were planted on farms and homesteads way back when, and are still some of the most evocative and sensual flowering shrubs in the world. Most new landscapes today use lilacs bred for compact habit and smaller size, but unlike roses, most of the new lilacs are still fragrant. We offer Miss Kim for a midsize, manageable lilac, but we also like to grow some of the old standby, *Syringa vulgaris*, the common lilac.

Red Bud



Special features: Attracts Hummingbirds, Deer Resistant, Drought Tolerant, Beautiful foliage

Description: Native small tree of upland sites where drainage is good and soils don't remain wet. Brilliant magenta flowers bloom early in Spring right on the stem wood and before leaves

emerge, making for a pure show of color that gives way in the hot weather to rounded heart-shaped leaves. There are too many glowing features of this plant to include here, but a few others are the unique and arching shapes and habits of older redbud trees, the flaky bark, and hanging seed pods later in the year. Redbuds are one of the best small trees and they do well here in the Finger Lakes as long as you don't plant them in low wet areas. Can be pruned to form a multi-stemmed habit as a very large shrub, or trained to a single leader.

PERENNIALS

Columbine



Special features: Attracts Hummingbirds, Deer Resistant

Description: One of those elite perennials graced with elegant beauty and hardscrabble toughness. Ferny rosettes emerge in early spring; the long-spurred, nodding red and yellow flowers stretch into bloom ahead of many other garden perennials. Often found in the wild on shale cliffs, roadcuts and in rocky soil in dappled shade, columbines can handle any conditions except permanent standing water. Like white wood aster, they do well in dry shade but really turn it on in good soil. Self sows passively, allowing you time to decide where you want new seedlings to establish, and which ones to eradicate.

Jack-in-the-pulpit



Special features: Cooler than other flowers.

Description: Most people know this one from time spent in the woods. Found in a range of habitats, but generally on the forest floor of rich moist woods, and along swamp margins. Mature plants bear 2 leaves, each with 3 parts (leaflets), and the cleft where the two leaves diverge is where the peculiar 'flower' emerges. The flowering parts are actually a club of male and female flowers separated along the stumpy axis (spadix) that's shrouded by the mottled and striated sheath, or spathe. The whole effect is a bit eerie but drop-dead gorgeous as well. Most kids seem to remember this one from an early age if they grew up near woods. Flowers are followed by red fruits that light up the forest in late summer. Overwinters as a corm, and self-sows pretty easily. Protect from wind in the garden.

Butterfly Weed



Special features: Attracts Butterflies, Attracts Hummingbirds, Deer Resistant, Drought Tolerant

Description: Small plant but packs a big punch of color when in bloom, in that rare hue of true orange. As with all milkweeds, this one is a larval host for monarch butterflies. In some landscapes, I have seen this plant reach 3' across and 2' tall, but in most cases it's a little smaller. Grows from a caudex-like mass of thick taproot with buds coming off the crown that make new shoots each year. This plant is for dry sunny sites, and will suffer from overwatering or waterlogged soils, to the point of death. If you have sharp drainage, this one will perform.

Siberian Iris



Special features: Deer Resistant, Drought Tolerant

Description: From the northern regions of Eurasia hails this truly classic garden perennial. Recently, horticultural breeders and marketers have flooded the trade with questionable cultivars and untested introductions. Siberian iris is NOT one of them. This iris loves to grow in wet or moist soils but also seems to be drought-tolerant in the landscape. Flowers can range from white to purple and all shades in between, but the traditional color is a deep purple-blue, with markings of gold, yellow or white. Few plants offer such neat, vertical foliage without looking spent in summer. And, like all irises, it's deer proof!

Purple Coneflower



Special features: Attracts Butterflies, Deer Resistant, Drought Tolerant

Description: A workhorse of the garden, this staple perennial has a little of everything--dreamy pink summer flowers, adaptability to hard clay and dry exposures, tolerance of occasionally soggy soil, and late season persistent seed heads for migrating songbirds. Thrives in all conditions except dense shade or very soggy soil. Great large-scale weaver or in drifts through a big perennial bed or border.

Bleeding Heart



Special features: Attracts Hummingbirds, Deer Resistant, Drought Tolerant

Description: A classical garden perennial known for its evocative, hanging heart-shaped flowers with little protrusions of white, we appreciate this long-loved perennial anew for its ability to thrive in clay, shade and among deer. Once the flowers are done, the foliage may stay green, or brown out and fade away for the season. While the coarse ferny foliage is nice, Dicentra's reputation is staked on its flowers, and deservedly so.

GROUND COVERS

Lamb's Ear



Special features: Attracts Butterflies, Deer Resistant, Drought Tolerant

Description: Lamb's ears is one of those old-time great garden perennials that brings back memories and conjures feelings for formal or stately landscapes. But here in the Finger Lakes, it has enjoyed some modest new glory as a totally deer proof perennial. Hailing from the Mediterranean region, it can be hard to give this plant what it really wants--a dry summer--but with proper placement in the garden it does seem to thrive here in Central New York. Avoid sites where water will collect, and thin out old dead foliage to encourage air flow around the crown, and this plant will become a focal point in any bed.

Sedum



Special features: Attracts Butterflies, Deer Resistant, Drought Tolerant

Description: Sedum is a genus wide-ranging in its distribution and also its forms. Ideally suited for rock gardens, groundcovers where drainage is good, full sun exposures, front borders and any dish gardens or clay pots, Sedum is a plant that will surprise you more the closer you look, even if you think you know them well enough. Flowers tend to be either sulfur yellow, bright pinks or pale pink/white/purple. Little succulent leaves in tight rosettes or on short running stems that root at the nodes make Sedum easy to propagate as well. A marginal sect in Humboldt County, CA, says that Sedum grows on the moon--I wouldn't doubt it.

Anemone



Special features: Deer Resistant

Description: One of those choice woodland wildflowers you might find on a nice quiet amble in the forest understory. Usually found growing in moderate shade, this one will spread slowly in a manner befitting its delicate appearance. But don't be fooled--the slender stems, which arise from slender rhizomes, are much tougher than they look and rue anemone will add a durable dose of delightful grace to the woodland garden. May go summer dormant in hot, dry summers.