Wildflowers and Ferns

**Butterfly Milkweed** (*Asclepias tuberosa*): This wildflower is tolerant of dry, open sites and has conspicuous orange flowers (June-August) that attract butterflies.

**Smooth Aster** (*Aster laevis*): This species is tolerant of moist to dry soils and has violet-blue flowers with yellow centers in September to October. This species also attracts butterflies.

**Blue Lupine** (*Lupinus perennis*): Lupine thrives in open sites with dry soils and has showy blue, pink, or white flowers in May-June.

**Wild Bergamont** (*Monarda fistulosa*): This species tolerates moist to dry sites and forms dense colonies. The ornate pink flowers are present between June and September.

**Black-eyed Susan** (*Rudbeckia hirta*): This species is tolerant of dry soils and open, sunny conditions, its yellow blossoms are present between June and August.

**Christmas Fern** (*Polystichum acrostichoides*): This fern (up to 1.5') thrives in the shade of trees and is more tolerant of dry soils than most ferns. The fronds are evergreen and add color in the winter months.

**Marginal Woodfern** (*Dryopteris marginalis*): This fern (up to 2’ tall) has dark green, leathery fronds that also add interest during the winter months.
Why Use Native Plants in Yards and Gardens?

Native plants are adapted to the local climate, soils, and insects; therefore, they require little or no additional fertilizers, pesticides, or irrigation. As a result, the use of native plants minimizes the transport of nutrients and pesticides into the groundwater and improves the health of our nearby harbors and estuaries. Native plants provide butterflies, birds, and wildlife with shelter and food, including seeds, berries, and nectar.

Large Trees

**Oaks:** Several species of oak are native to Long Island including Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*), White Oak (*Quercus alba*), Chestnut Oak (*Quercus prinus*), and Black Oak (*Quercus velutina*). These large trees (50-80’) thrive in Long Island’s sandy soils and attract both birds and wildlife. Some oaks have pleasant red- or rust-colored foliage in autumn.

**Pignut Hickory (*Carya glabra***): Pignut hickory is a fast-growing tree (50-90’) that grows well in sandy soils. The leaves turn bright yellow in the autumn and the nuts are valued by wildlife.

**Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida***): This medium-sized (to 60’) tree grows well on infertile, sandy soils.

**Small Trees**

**Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida***): This small tree (10-40’) has large white flowers in the early spring and beautiful red to purple leaves in fall. Dogwoods prefer moist, slightly acidic soils.

**Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana***): This small evergreen tree (20-40’) can be used to provide screening and winter color. Red cedar tolerates a variety of soil types, but prefers full sun and dry sites. The dense foliage and berries provide shelter and food for various songbirds.

**Shrubs**

**Highbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum***): This medium-sized shrub (<12’) is best suited to moderate to moist sites and has aromatic white flowers in the spring. The berries are prized by people and wildlife and the leaves turn bright red in the fall.

**Bayberry (*Morella pennsylvanica***): This medium-sized shrub (to 10’) thrives in dry, open sites and is tolerant of salt spray in coastal areas. The waxy berries provide an important food source for songbirds during the winter.

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