

From Suburban Yard to Native Landscape

Steps to Create a Native Landscape

1. Inventory plants on property
2. Identify & remove invasives
3. Test the soil – fertility, pH. But don't enrich the soil with fertilizer
4. Identify possible ecological niches – observe the patterns of light, movement of water, etc.
5. Decide where you need lawn
6. Create a master plan
 - Set realistic goals, go slow, start small – one area at a time

References

Invasive Plants: Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Areas <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic>

PA DCNR Invasive Plant Website: <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/plants/invasiveplants/>

Natives: Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat <http://www.nps.gov/plants/pubs/chesapeake/>

Lists of plants in the gardens featured in the presentation

Some of the plants on Sassafras Hill

Latin name	Common name	Comments
<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	sassafras	Naturally forms groves of trees
<i>Rhus aromatica</i> 'Gro Low'	aromatic sumac	Low growing - spreads
<i>Comptonia peregrina</i>	sweetfern	Likes sunny edge
<i>Symphotrichum cordifolium</i>	blue wood aster	Likes shade - spreads
<i>Oenothera fruticosa</i>	narrow-leaf evening primrose	Seeded into sunny areas by itself
<i>Solidago rugosa</i> 'fireworks'	rough-stem goldenrod	Use on sunny edges
<i>Viola sororia</i>	common blue violet	Seeded into shady areas by itself

Some of the plants in the woodland area

Latin name	Common name	Comments
Trees		
<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	swamp white oak	
<i>Carya ovata</i>	shagbark hickory	
<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	hop hornbeam	
<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	serviceberry	Doesn't flower well in deep shade
Shrubs		
<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	aromatic sumac	Edge of woods – needs light
<i>Symphoricarpos orbiculatus</i>	coralberry	Small shrub used to edge the woodland
Perennials, Sedges, Ferns		
<i>Asarum canadense</i>	wild ginger	
<i>Polemonium reptans</i>	spreading Jacob's ladder	
<i>Spigelia marilandica</i>	Indian pink	
<i>Symphyotrichum macrophylla</i>	bigleaf aster	
<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	mayapple	
<i>Solidago flexicaulis</i>	zigzag goldenrod	
<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	Jack-in-the pulpit	
<i>Helianthus divaricatus</i>	woodland sunflower	
<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>	Ostrich fern	
<i>Carex pensylvanica</i>	Pennsylvania sedge	

Some of the plants in the white oak garden

Latin Name	Common Name	Comments
<i>Quercus alba</i>	white oak	
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> x 3	ironwood	Understory trees, planted around oak
<i>Fothergilla gardenia</i>	Fothergilla	
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	wild columbine	Prolific when trees were small. Much sparser now that there is competition from other plants.
<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	obedient plant	Planted in understory when trees were very small – much sunlight. Still persists at edges
<i>Oenothera fruticosa</i>	Narrow leaf evening primrose	“ “ “
<i>Amsonia tabernaemontana</i>	blue star	Likes edge of woods
<i>Spigelia marilandica</i>	Indian pink	Will grow in shade and sun
<i>Phlox glaberrima</i>	smooth phlox	spreads to create groupings at garden's edge
<i>Scutellaria serrata</i>	showy skullcap	Clumping, lovely perennial. Hard to find in the trade
<i>Chrysogonum virginianum</i>	green and gold	Nice groundcover for edges
<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	wild geranium	
<i>Heuchera americana</i>	coral bells	Thrives in dry shade
<i>Heuchera villosa</i> 'Autumn bride'	hairy alum root	Needs afternoon shade
<i>Sedum ternatum</i>	stonecrop	
<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	foamflower	
<i>Uvularia grandiflora</i>	merrybells	
<i>Uvularia perfoliata</i>	perfoliate bellwort	In middle of shade area. Very short
<i>Iris cristata</i>	crested iris	At edges. Likes part sun

<i>Waldsteinia fragaroides</i>	barren strawberry	Nice groundcover for shaded area. Will take morning sun, but not hot afternoon.
<i>Smilacina racemosa</i>	false Solomon's seal	Self-seeded into shady area of garden.
<i>Actaea racemosa</i>	black cohosh	Part shade to shade
<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	Christmas ferns	For shady areas. Evergreen

Some of the plants in the sunny meadow garden

Latin Name	Common Name	Comments
Grasses		
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	little bluestem	
<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	prairie dropseed	
Herbaceous Perennials		
<i>Baptisia australis</i>	wild blue indigo	Slow grower that eventually becomes quite large and shrub-like
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	smooth white penstemon	Penstemons seed into bare areas
<i>Penstemon calycosus</i>	calico penstemon	" " "
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	butterfly weed	Needs well drained soil, full sun. Can be crowded out by tall plantings.
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	purple coneflower	
<i>Solidago rugosa 'Fireworks'</i>	fireworks goldenrod	Spreads to form small grouping
<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>	New England aster	
<i>Rudbeckia fulgida var fulgida</i>	black-eyed Susan	Likes to seed into bare spots, especially at garden edges
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	false sunflower	Gets red aphids that attract predators: lady beetles, syrphid fly larva and lacewings
<i>Symphotrichum oblongifolium</i>	aromatic aster	Can be aggressive. Can handle very poor soils
<i>Tradescantia ohioensis</i>	Ohio spiderwort	Tends to hug and seed into edge areas

Native Plant Gardens – Maintenance

1. Water plants only until established. (Usually 1 year. Time depends on size of plant stock)
2. Cut perennial gardens back in early April. Shred and recycle the material as mulch or leave on the gardens
3. Do not use fertilizer. Fertilizer encourages invasives. (Native woodland plants benefit from compost)
4. Remove weeds as soon as they are apparent.
5. Mulch any bare ground with leaves.
6. Plants will move around and the gardens will evolve. Edit as desired.

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